

SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES SYRIAN AMBASSADOR

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison yesterday Dr. Idris Maya, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**



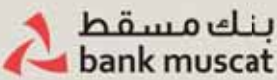
TOP-CLASS GOLF RETURNS TO OMAN IN 2023



The wait is over. More than 1,000 days have gone by since the Sultanate of Oman hosted a world-class golf tournament – Oman Open, a European Tour event – at the Al Mouj Golf. Come February and Muscat will be hosting the highly anticipated 2023 season with the inaugural leg of the Asian Tour to tee off as the International Series Oman. **>A3**

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ROYAL DECREE DECLARES OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS IN OMAN

Official holidays for units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, public legal entities and private sector establishments have been fixed

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Wednesday issued two Royal decrees, reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 88/2022 fixes official holidays.



Article (1) states that official holidays for units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, public legal entities and establishments of the private sector—with regard to Eids and other occasions listed below—shall be fixed as follows:

- Firstly,
(A) Hijri New Year's Day to be on 1 Muharram;
(B) The Prophet's Birthday to be on 12 Rabe' Al Awwal;
(C) Al Isra'a Wal Miraj to be on 27 Rajab;
(D) The National Day to be on 18 and 19 November;
(E) His Majesty the Sultan's Accession Day.

If any of the days of the weekly off coincides with the above-mentioned holidays, it shall be compensated by a single day. The dates of the above-mentioned holidays may be amended if public interest so dictates.

>A2

43RD GCC SUMMIT

On behalf of His Majesty, Sayyid Fahd to head for Saudi Arabia today

MUSCAT: Acting on behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, will lead the Sultanate of Oman's delegation on Thursday to the 43rd GCC Summit, the GCC-Chinese Summit and the Arab-Chinese Summit for Cooperation and Development.

Oman presses ahead with its

cooperation, alongside GCC states, in consolidating the GCC ties with friendly countries. Its approach seeks to realize the common interests of all, besides seeking ways to address the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. HH Sayyid Fahd will be accompanied by a number of ministers and other government officials.

— ONA



WILAYAT OF BARKA

Sayyid Theyazin patronises Omani Equestrian Festival



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth patronised the Omani Equestrian Festival held at Al Rahba Racecourse in the Wilayat of Barka on Wednesday.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth with the participation of the Royal Cavalry and Oman Equestrian Federation.

Organising the festival, which

also included horse races, comes within the framework of HH Sayyid Theyazin's attention accorded to equestrian sport and upgrading its level in the Sultanate of Oman.

The festival's race included five rounds; three of which were dedicated for pure Arabian horses, one for thoroughbred horses and the main round was dedicated for pure Arabian horses (local breed). The main round

carried the name of HH Sayyid Theyazin.

Diverse shows of equestrian sports were staged between the rounds of the race by male and female jockeys of the Royal Cavalry in accompaniment of musical pieces.

At the end of the event, HH Sayyid Theyazin honoured horse owners who achieved top places during the five rounds of the race.

— ONA

More photos on >A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Ministerial Council meeting held in Riyadh

1 Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman, presided over the 154th session of the Ministerial Council in preparation to the 43rd GCC Summit. The session was held at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General in Riyadh on Wednesday in the presence of the GCC foreign ministers and the GCC Secretary-General. **>A5**

WORLD

President Xi Jinping arrives in Riyadh

2 At the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China arrived in Riyadh on a state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. **>A6**

SPORTS

Bangladesh beat India by 6 runs

3 Bangladesh survived a late blitz from an injured Rohit Sharma to secure a narrow five-run win to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the ODI series at the Shere Bangla National Stadium. The gallant half-century from Rohit could not save India from defeat. **>B6**



December 2022

FLOATING TENDERS

Oman Airports Company announces the following tender:

Tender REF.NO	TENDER TITLE	DOC'S FEE OMR	Last date for DOC'S DISTRIBUTION	TENDER SUBMISSION DATE
ITC-221102	Provision Of General & Asset Insurance Policies For Oman Airports And Other Business Units for year 2023/2024	500	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023
ITC-221104	Salalah SAN Storage Refresh	100	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023
ITC-221105	Framework Tender for Airport Wayfinding Signage at Muscat International Airport	100	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023
PC-221107	Supply of LED fitting (Flood Lights) for Apron High Mast at Muscat International Airport	25	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023
PC-221108	Supply of Diesel for LV & MV System at Muscat International Airport	25	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023
PC-221109	Provision of Conceptual Design & Feasibility Study For Old Terminal Building of Muscat International Airport	25	15 th December 2022	26 th January 2023
ITC-220902	Provision of Specialized Analyst At Cyber Security Operation Center At Muscat International Airport (Retrofit)	100	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023
ITC-221111	Renovation, equipping, operation and maintenance of ambient air quality monitoring stations at Muscat International Airport	100	15 th December 2022	5 th January 2023

Tenders Collection: Specialized and registered companies may obtain Tender Documents/ Specifications from Procurement Department upon receipt of complete payment of tender fees by credit card and receive scanned copy of deposit Receipt along with a copy of Company Commercial Registration Certificate to Email: (financetenders@omanairports.com) provided with company name, tender number & contact person as a mandatory.

OAMC Bank Account Details:

Account Name: Oman Airports Management Co. S.A.O.C.

Account No: 0423010849180012

Name of Bank: BANK MUSCAT

Branch: Corporate Branch, CBD Area, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Required Bond: All participating Companies must provide a bank guarantee, issued by locally registered bank, for the sum of not less than 1% of the Tender value, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, valid for 90 days from the date of submission of the Tenders.

Submission: All Bids shall be submitted as per the instructions mentioned in the Tender documents and late bids will not be entertained.

All Technical Queries shall be sent to: oamctenders@omanairports.com

The committee is not bound to accept the lowest tender

Any payment received after last date of documents distribution will not be refunded

Headquarter Address:
Muscat International Airport
South Forecourt Building, First Floor
Oman Airports Management S.A.O.C
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Note: All Correspondence / Clarification / Enquiries send an e-mail: oamctenders@omanairports.com



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Top-class golf returns to Oman in 2023

International Series
Oman at Al Mouj
Golf from February
9-12 to tee off highly
anticipated 2023
Asian Tour

Oman Golf Association (OGA)
chairman Mundhir Al Barwani

confidence that the event will be a resounding success.”

The International Series was launched this year, through a partnership between the Tour and LIV Golf, with the aim of invigorating the game of golf in Asia, the Middle East and beyond.

“LIV Golf is proud to help establish new global events through the International Series that enhance player pathways to the world’s top competition,” LIV Golf CEO and Commissioner Greg Norman told the Asian Tour.

Two-time Major champion Norman from Australia designed the Al Mouj course. He said: “Al Mouj Golf is sure to present a challenging and rewarding experience for the Asian Tour’s very best while showcasing one of the most unique venues in this region of the world. This is a tremendous addition to the global golf calendar as the International Series gets bigger and better in 2023.

Al Mouj Golf will offer the Asian Tour membership an outstanding opportunity to play on one of the finest golf courses in the Middle East.”

It may be mentioned that the challenging 18-hole championship golf course at Al Mouj Golf is the first links-style golf course to be created in Oman.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The wait is over. More than 1,000 days have gone by since the Sultanate of Oman hosted a world-class golf tournament – Oman Open, a European Tour event – at the Al Mouj Golf.

Come February and Muscat will be hosting the highly anticipated 2023 season with the inaugural leg of the Asian Tour to tee off as the International Series Oman.

The Asian Tour announced on Sunday that Al Mouj Muscat, will be part of the new, exciting and lucrative series with prize money worth US\$2 million for the International Series Oman.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Oman Golf Association (OGA) Chairman Mundhir Al Barwani said: “With the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Oman Golf Association is delighted to welcome the Asian Tour to the Sultanate of Oman in 2023.

“We are excited to host the first Asian Tour International Series event in the Middle East and to be able to share the beauty of the Sultanate of Oman with the players and officials, as well as a wider audience through television.

“Al Mouj Golf is a Tour-proven golf course and coupled with the proximity to the Muscat International Airport and the official hotel we are certain that the players will

have an enjoyable and memorable week with us.”

The first chairman of the OGA added: “We commend the work that the Asian Tour have done in developing their international schedule and also in strengthening the Asian Development Tour, which will certainly have a positive impact on the growth of the elite amateur game within the region.

“We look forward to working closely with the key stakeholders and sponsors to deliver this event and to once again use the game of golf to showcase the investment and tourism opportunities that exist within Oman.”

Meanwhile, the Asian Tour confirmed that a total of 10 In-

ternational Series events will be held next season, each with prize money of at least US\$2 million – helping to build on the momentum gained in 2022 season, which saw seven of the upper-tier events positioned on the schedule, which features a total of 20 tournaments.

Cho Minn Thant, Commissioner & CEO, Asian Tour, said: “On the back of two outstanding weeks at International Series events in Morocco and Egypt, and last week’s season-ending BNI Indonesian Masters presented by TNE, also part of the International Series, the Asian Tour is excited to announce we will return to the Middle East early on in the new season for the International Series Oman.”

“The 2022 campaign was a highly successful one for us and it is great to see the profile of the Asian Tour being raised. Next year promises more of the same with Oman being confirmed as the venue further enhancing the profile, even before we have announced our 2023 schedule – one that promises to be the biggest and best in the history of the Tour.

“We are extremely grateful to the Oman Golf Association for being the conduit in helping to launch this pioneering new event in such an important golfing region; and, of course, we thank Al Mouj Golf for their commitment and support in this process. We have every

OMANI PENAL CODE

Drinking or dealing with alcohol a penal offence in Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani Penal Code has criminalised the consumption of alcohol and anyone consumes in it or deals in it will be penalised.

Article 286 of the Penal Code exclusively deals with cases related to consumption of alcohol in which the sentence includes imprisonment for a period of no less than one month and no more than six months and a fine of no less than OMR100 and no more than OMR500, or one of these two punishments.

The cases include anyone who consumes alcohol or intoxicating drinks in a public place, anyone who is found drunk in a public place, and anyone who creates a riot or causes disturbance to others or disturbs public peace because of his drunkenness.

The Omani Penal Code does not stop at this point. Article 285 deals with commercial and production side, prescribing a prison sentence of no less than six months and no more than three years, and a fine of no less than OMR300 and no more than OMR1,000, or one

of these two punishments, for the following cases: anyone who possesses, manufactures, imports or deals in liquor; anyone who sets up or arranges a place for the consumption of alcohol or intoxicants; and anyone who practices any activity related to alcohol without a licence from the competent authorities.

The law includes provision for confiscation of liquor, the machinery, the materials and the means used in its production or transportation, as well as the closure of the place where the crime occurred.

As for Article 287 regarding serving alcohol to children, the punishment includes imprisonment for a period of no less than one month and no more than one year, and a fine of no less than OMR100 and no more than OMR1,000, or one of these two penalties.

This is for anyone who offers alcohol or an intoxicating drink to a person who has not completed 18 years of age, or incites him to use it. The closure of the shop or the place where the crime has been committed can also be ordered.

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Omani Equestrian Festival held at Al Rahba Racecourse in Barka



EMPOWERING SMES

MoC inked on initiative to boost local content in energy sector



FACT: The agreement was signed by Eng. Azhar Ahmed Al Kindi, Technical Director of the NEP, Eng. Salim Said Al Kamyani, CEO of Mazoon Electricity Company, and Dr. Ayman Abdullah Al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy. -ONA

MUSCAT: The National Employment Programme (NEP), Mazoon Electricity Company and the Industrial Innovation Academy on Wednesday signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) to implement an initiative titled "Augmenting local content in the energy sector".

The MoC seeks to enhance co-operation among the three parties to develop and implement requirements of local content in the energy sector by empowering Omani small and medium enterprises

(SMEs) operating in the sector.

The MoC provides for allocating to the SMEs a number of services required by the energy sector, along with support and follow-up from the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR).

The signing ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Mansoor Talib Al Hinai, Chairman of the APSR, General Supervisor of the NEP. The agreement was signed by Eng. Azhar Ahmed Al Kindi, Technical Director of the NEP, Eng.

Salim Said Al Kamyani, CEO of Mazoon Electricity Company, and Dr. Ayman Abdullah Al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy.

This MoC will achieve a number of objectives. It will contribute to enhancing the participation of the private sector in the national economy by providing training and employment opportunities for Omanis, initiating training and operational programmes for Omani jobseekers and improving their readiness to

The MoC provides for allocating to the SMEs a number of services required by the energy sector, along with support and follow-up from the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR)

engage in the labour market and boosting the system of self-employment in the Sultanate.

The MoC will also help localise some energy-related specialised jobs, besides supporting SMEs and enhancing their contribution to national economy based on innovation, in accordance with the objectives and priorities of Oman Vision 2040. Dr. Mansoor Al Hinai said that there will be a supervisory committee entrusted with following up and implementing the initiative.



The panel will also be tasked with getting the initiative and its main objectives endorsed, besides setting a time frame for the implementation plan, he added.

The committee will also be entrusted with the approval of criteria for listing SMEs, projects and services and the percentage of target contracts set to be allocated to selected institutions, addressing the challenges facing those institutions, monitoring and following up the progress of work on the initiative and providing support for realising its objectives in accordance with Oman Vision 2040.

Eng. Azhar Al Kindi introduced a visual presentation on the initiative. The presentation highlighted the initiative and the value chains of the global energy sector, by comparing it with the energy sector in Oman. It also showcased the services provided

at each stage of the supply chain and its organizational structure with the aim of understanding how it works.

Eng. Salim Al Kamyani said that the company strives to develop the energy sector in Oman and upgrade the in-country value (ICV) in the sector in line with its general trends, notably by supporting Omani small and medium enterprises.

Dr. Ayman Al Fudhaili, CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy said that the MoC constitutes one of the outcomes of the first phase of the Tawreed programme undertaken by the Academy as part of an agreement with the NEP.

He added that the Academy, according to this agreement, will work in conjunction with Mazoon Electricity Company and the NEP on following up the allocation of target services to the SMEs. -ONA



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Sayyid Badr presides over Ministerial Council meet

154th Ministerial Council session held in preparation for 43rd GCC Summit

RIYADH: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, presided over the 154th session of the Ministerial Council in preparation to the 43rd GCC Summit. The session was held at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General in Riyadh on Wednesday in the presence of the GCC foreign ministers and the GCC Secretary-General.

In his speech, Sayyid Badr affirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council is pressing ahead at a steady pace as outlined by the wise visions and directives of the



MEETING: The session was held at the headquarters of the GCC Secretariat General in Riyadh on Wednesday in the presence of the GCC foreign ministers and the GCC Secretary-General. -ONA

GCC leaders, in a manner that realises the aspirations of the GCC peoples in all fields of cooperation. The preparatory ministerial session for the 43rd GCC Summit is full of many files of joint Gulf cooperation, which will be submitted at the meeting of the GCC Supreme Council in its 43rd session. The prime aim is to enhance the blessed march of the GCC Council in a manner that achieves further progress and development for its countries and consolidates the foundations of security and stability in the region. -ONA

CAMPAIGN

Plan to combat invasive bird species in Dhofar

MUSCAT: A campaign to combat invasive bird species will be launched in the Governorate of Dhofar next week.

The most invasive birds are affecting the ecosystem of Oman and the balance of its components.

This came during a media meeting at the headquarters of the Environment Agency.

The participants at the meeting clarified that invasive bird called 'myna' and the Indian crow are considered ferocious and aggressive.

They feed on the chicks and eggs of other birds, reptiles, insects and rodents, in addition to agricultural crops, fruits and grains. -ONA



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**SULTANATE OF OMAN**

TENDERS NOTICE

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders: -

Tender no.	Description	Tender documents price (R.O)	Class	Last date for collection of documents	Last date for Submission of documents
792/2022/MAF WR/HQ-81	Supply Laboratory needs and equipment of the Animal Health Research Center for 2022/2023.	25/-	SPECIALIZED	Sunday 11/12/2022	Sunday 01/1/2023
830/2022/MAF WR/HQ-82	Supply and installation of 9 air conditioners for the Food Security Departments in Muscat and Al Dakhiliyah	25/-	SPECIALIZED	Sunday 15/5/2022	Thursday 7/6/2022
833/2022/MAF WR/HQ-83	Removal of mesquite trees in AL-Jifnain area, wilayat of seeb the first stage	25/-	FIRST	Sunday 18/12/2022	Thursday 5/1/2023
837/2022/MAF WR/HQ-84	Supply of concentrated feed for livestock research stations	25/-	SPECIALIZED	Monday 19/12/2022	Monday 9/1/2023
838/2022/MAF WR/HQ-85	Supply olive seedlings	25/-	SPECIALIZED	Monday 19/12/2022	Monday 9/1/2023
276/2021/MAF WR/HQ-30- Recall-3	Maintenance Works of Storage Dam In Wadi Akmon, Nyabet of Shatab Assaib in Wilayat Rakhyut Governorate of Dhofarr	25/-	FOURTH	Sunday 11/12/2022	Thursday 22/12/2022

- Interested Companies registered with Tender Board (in the above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- The Tenderer should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender), and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, And the bidders can contact the Esnad technical support team at the number listed below to find out how to request electronic guarantees from local banks.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: +968 24402200 or etendernd@mtcit.gov.om.
- Note: Bid Submission will be online only. Scan Copy of Tender Bond needs to be attached in system.

TENDERS COMMOTTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

**INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA**
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TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited from potential vendors / agencies / contractors / companies / individuals for providing the following service for the school.

- Cleaning contract for school building, playground and gardening.
- Pest Control
- Fire Fighting & Fire Alarm

The completed tender/s shall be submitted (in separate sealed envelopes) directly in the school office during school working hours (latest by 2.30 pm).

The tenders may also be sent via couriers/speed post to: **The Principal, Indian School Nizwa, PB No. 598, PC – 611, Thymasa, Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman.**

The respective tenders shall clearly describe the “**name of the service quoted for**” on each envelop by the bidding party.

The last date of submission of the tenders is within **10 days** from the date of this advertisement.

For more details, log on to: www.isrizwa.org (Home page ->RFQ)

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يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي هُوَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

«صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ»

THANKS FOR CONDOLENCES

With hearts that believe in the will and destiny of Allah the Almighty,
Basim Hamed Abdullah Al-Riyami,
Dr. Mazin Hamed Abdullah Al-Riyami,
Hazim Hamed Abdullah Al-Riyami,

And all their family members,
Extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who offered us condolences and sympathy on the death of our dear deceased
Dr. HAMED ABDULLAH NASSER AL-RIYAMI,

Your condolences had a good impact on our souls and eased our great affliction.

We pray to the Almighty to reward you all well and grant the deceased His mercy.

“To Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.”

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاغِبُونَ

PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARRIVES IN RIYADH

At the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Excellency President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China arrived in Riyadh on Wednesday evening, on a state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Upon his arrival at King Khalid International Airport, the President of China was received by Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Riyadh Region; Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Yasir Othman Al-Rumayyan, Governor of the Public Investment Fund, who is also the accompanying Minister; Saudi Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Abdulrahman bin Ahmed Al-Harbi; and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Chen Weiqing. — SPA



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SPACE CENTRE

Rashid Rover to land on Moon on Sunday

DUBAI: The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) confirmed the new date for the launch attempt of the Emirates Lunar Mission.

The inaugural launch of the Rashid Rover is now scheduled to take place on Sunday, 11th December, 2022, at 11:38 Gulf Standard Time (GST), or 02:38 Eastern US Time.

The initial launch attempt was postponed, allowing SpaceX to perform additional pre-flight checks of the launch vehicle. Once launched, the integrated spacecraft will take a low-energy route to the moon rather than a direct approach, which means the landing will take about five months after launch, in April 2023.

— WAM



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BRIEFS

Train collision outside Barcelona injures scores



MADRID: At least 155 people have been injured after two trains collided on the outskirts of Barcelona in Spain, emergency services have said. The crash, which occurred took place at a station in Spain's north-eastern Catalonia region. Local media reported that the trains had been travelling in the same direction and collided while one was parked at the station. Catalan police are investigating how the incident occurred. Emergency services told reporters at the scene that 155 people had been injured in the collision, with 14 passengers transferred to a local medical centre for further treatment.

UP is a model for the whole world, says Melinda Gates

LUCKNOW: Melinda Gates, co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence on Wednesday. At a special meeting, between Gates and the chief minister, enhancing technical cooperation in the fields of health, nutrition and agriculture were discussed. Adityanath tweeted: "Had a wonderful meeting with co-chair and trustee of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, at my official residence in Lucknow yesterday. We had a fruitful discussion regarding better technical cooperation in the field of health, nutrition, social security and agriculture in UP." During their discussion, Gates lauded the work done by Uttar Pradesh in recent years underlining the Covid management and encephalitis control despite a dense population. — Agencies



G20 presidency big opportunity for India: Modi

This G20 Summit is not only a diplomatic event, but it is also an opportunity to showcase India's capability to the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday

NEW DELHI: Before the start of the Winter Session of the Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that India receiving the G20 Presidency is a huge opportunity.

Addressing media persons before the start of the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament, PM Modi said, "It's the first day of Winter Session. This session is important because we met before 15th August. 75 years of Independence completed on 15th August and we are going ahead in Azadi ka Amrit Kaal. We are meeting at a time when India has received the opportunity to preside over the G20."

Global community

"The manner in which India has made a space in global community, the manner in which expectations with India have risen and the manner in which India is increasing its participation on global platform, at a time like this, India receiving the G20 Presidency is a huge opportunity," PM Modi said. "This G20 Summit is not only a diplomatic event, but it is also an opportunity to showcase India's capability to the world. Such a large country, mother of democracy, such diversity, such capability—it's an opportunity for the world to know India and for India to show its capability to the world," he added.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. — ANI

Last month, Indonesia handed over the G20 presidency to India in the presence of PM Modi at the Bali summit for the coming year. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union.

Group of 20

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1.

The winter session of the Parliament will begin on Wednesday. The session will have a total of 17 working days.

The BJP-led Central government's agenda for the winter session of Parliament includes 16 new bills. — ANI



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PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF FOR MOROCCO HERO BOUNOU



Having taken the long route to the top for club and country, goalkeeper Yassine Bounou helped Morocco make history at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Tuesday

DOHA: An unused substitute for the Atlas Lions back at Russia 2018, few could have predicted back then that Yassine Bounou would be performing heroics for Morocco at Qatar 2022.

Born in Montreal after his parents immigrated to Canada, before later returning to Morocco, 'Bono' started his pro career with Wydad Casablanca, where he broke into the first team aged 19. In 2012, he signed for Atletico Madrid, spending two seasons turning out for the club's B team.

Having previously played in the national team set-up at youth level, Bounou made his debut with Morocco's senior side in 2013 in a match against Burkina Faso, with his performance underlining his up-and-coming status to Moroccan fans.

Starved of opportunities to break into the first team at Atletico, Bounou left the club permanently in 2016 in favour of Girona, on the back of loan spells at Real Zaragoza during the 2014/15 and 15/16 campaigns.

Russia 2018: Second fiddle to Munir

Settling well with Girona and

helping the club win promotion to Spain's top flight, a promising season in La Liga in 2017/18 saw Bounou make the Moroccan squad at Russia 2018.

Then coached by Herve Renard, the French supremo opted instead to make Munir Mohamedi, Numancia goalkeeper at the time, Morocco's first-choice between the sticks.

Indeed, Bounou did not play a single minute as Morocco were eliminated from the group stage after games against Iran, Portugal and Spain. However, as fate would have it, the gifted shotstopper would work his way into a much better position four years later.

An example of perseverance

Thanks to his outstanding form with Girona, Bounou was given the opportunity to start with Morocco at the CAF Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt in 2019, and seemed he was going to firmly establish his position as the Atlas Lions' No 1.

Changes were also on the horizon at club level, with Bounou moving to Sevilla from Girona, relegated to the second division, initially on loan. Yet his route to a starting role was blocked by the brilliant performances of Czech keeper Tomas Vaclik.

An injury to the latter eventually gave Bounou his chance, the talented custodian seizing the opportunity to play a full part in the Andalusian club winning the 2019/20 UEFA Europa League.

Having underlined his credentials for a starting spot with Los Nervionenses, he continued to shine for the club and was also Morocco's No1 at the 2021 AFCON in Cameroon. What is more, during the 2020/21 season he won the coveted Ricardo Zamora trophy in La Liga, awarded to the goalkeeper with

the lowest ratio of goals per game conceded over the campaign.

Qatar 2022: Fate on Bounou's side

"I think we have to learn from our experience at Russia 2018," said Bounou, in an interview with FIFA+ ahead of Qatar 2022. "We have to be fully ready to play these games and qualify [for the knockout stages]."

And after years of relentless striving to nail down his position as Morocco's main man, and following a host of ups and downs at club level, Bounou appears destined to perform heroics for the Atlas Lions at Qatar 2022.

Drawn in a difficult Group F along with Croatia, Belgium and Canada, coach Walid Regragui started Bounou in two group matches, with the custodian missing out on one match due to injury. Regragui's charges topped the section to make the last 16, thus equalling the historic feats of the 1986 generation.

Their next challengers were 2010 champions Spain, with a place in the history books at stake for Bounou and his team-mates in case of a win. After the match had ended in a goalless draw after normal and extra time, with Bounou required to save his team more than once, the game went to a penalty shootout.

There Bounou took centre-stage, saving spot-kicks from Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets after Pablo Sarabia had clanked Spain's first attempt off the post - with Bounou also having gone the right way for that effort.

So, thanks in part to Bounou's memorable saves, Morocco made the World Cup quarter-finals for the first time in their history. The 31-year-old goalkeeper has proved himself an example of perseverance, having achieved his dream and helped write a new chapter that Moroccan football fans will never forget. - **FIFA**

SPAIN'S EXIT

Enrique defends philosophy, delays decision on his future

DOHA: Luis Enrique believes it is "not the right time" to discuss his future after Spain slumped to a shock FIFA World Cup exit against Morocco, saying he could yet stay on as La Roja's head coach.

Spain arrived in Qatar as one of the tournament favourites but suffered a second consecutive last-16 elimination via a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw at Education City Stadium.

Pablo Sarabia, Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets all failed to convert as Morocco ran out 3-0 winners in the shoot-out, with the latter duo seeing their efforts saved by Yassine Bounou.

Spain have now lost four of their five penalty shoot-outs at the World Cup, more than any other side in the history of the tournament, with their latest loss throwing the future of Luis Enrique - whose contract is set to expire after the competition - into doubt.

Asked whether he would stay



on after the game, he responded: "I cannot tell you, I don't know this decision. This is not the right time to discuss my future, it's not relevant. My contract is going to end, but I am very happy with the national team, with the federation, and I have always had great support from [Jose Francisco] Molina, who is the sporting director.

"I could always carry on. I need to have peace of mind to decide what's best for me and the team."

The Spain coach also stood by his players, and his philosophy, following their World Cup exit. Spain racked up 1019 passes over 120 minutes of domination but a glaring lack of cutting edge stunted their attempts to find a goal with the game going to a penalty shoot-out in which Pablo Sarabia, Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets all missed.

Luis Enrique insisted he was happy with the way his team played and stood by his style of football. "We dominated but lacked a goal," he said. "We created chances, we were progressive but we met an opponent who performed to a high level.

"We could've created more and been more efficient but I was happy with my team. They represent me and represent my style and I can only praise them." - **FIFA**



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AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Occidental Mukhaizna LLC (Company) would like to announce an open invitation for the general public to participate in a sealed auction described in the table below:

Auction No.	Subject	Site Visit Date	Location	Bid closing date
AUCTION-MUK-001-2022	Steel Scrap, Wood and Plastic	11 - 17 December 2022	Mukhaizna Field	18 December 2022

Auction's Terms and Conditions:

- The scrap materials offered for sale can be viewed at its dedicated area mentioned above "As it is-where it is" from 8am – 5pm in the period of site visit days.
- Bidders are requested to collect "Bid Form" from the Company's reception office located in Al Ghubra South or from the location mentioned above. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Supply Chain Vice President of the Company. Envelopes to be clearly marked with the auction number referenced above. Bidders may submit the bids in the period of site visit days in Company's reception office located in Al Ghubra South during working hours.
- Bidders planning to visit the field should have the minimum personal protective equipment i.e. helmet, safety shoes and safety glasses and must coordinate with the auction coordinator in advance prior entering the field.
- Bidding applicants shall take into consideration that 5% VAT (Value Added Tax) will be added on top of the bid value in case they win the auction.
- Bidding applicants shall enclose with the bid a bank draft or a certified cheque with a sum of fifty thousand Omani Rial (ONR 50,000). Cheques must be addressed to "Occidental Mukhaizna LLC". This form of guarantee must be valid for ninety (90) days from the date of tender. This amount is refundable and shall be returned to the non-successful bidders after bid evaluation. Bidders who do not submit a bank draft or a certified cheque will be disqualified.
- Bidding applicants shall enclose scrap dealing permits and certification.
- The successful bidder is obligated to pay the value of the tender within ten (10) working days from the date of notification. If awarded bidder fails to pay the outstanding amount within the specified period, the bidder shall be disqualified, and the guarantee provided as part of the bid will be forfeited.
- The successful bidder shall clear the yard within a period of two (2) months from the commencement date of clearing. If the successful bidder is unable to clear the yard within a period of two (2) months, the successful bidder shall pay rental fees for each additional day of extension, and this will be stated in the signed contract.
- The bids will be opened by the representatives of Ministry of Energy and Mining, and the Company without the need of bidders' attendance.
- The Ministry and Company reserve the right to take any action it seems appropriate without giving any reason.
- For more details, please contact auction coordinator during site visit days (Sunday-Thursday) on Mob (+968 99226108).



WORLD CUP HAT-TRICK BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS: RAMOS

Coming into the Portugal starting line-up at the expense of Cristiano Ronaldo for Tuesday's last-16 tie against Switzerland, Goncalo Ramos was the star of the show in their 6-1 win



DOHA: Portugal boast one of the most international of followings at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Cheering them on as they overpowered Switzerland 6-1 in a round of 16 clash on Tuesday were Indians, Japanese, Koreans, Macedonians, Italians, Canadians, Americans and Mexicans, who mixed their national-team colours with those of the Iberian side, many of them wearing the famous No 7 jersey.

There is no question that Cristiano Ronaldo is a big reason why Portugal are a hit with fans around the world. So it must have come as quite a surprise to many in the crowd at Lusail Stadium when they found that coach Fernando Santos had chosen Goncalo Ramos to lead the attack instead of the great man, who was relegated to the bench.

Could the 21-year-old cope with the pressure? Here he was,

making the first World Cup start of his career, in place of the only man in history to score at five editions of the tournament, spearheading the front line of a side trying to reach the last eight for only the third time ever, a side that had lost its last two last-16 ties.

It did not take the youngster long to answer that question, 17 minutes in fact.

Receiving possession inside the area, the centre-forward showed he knew where the goal was by switching the ball from right foot to left and thundering a shot measured at 106 km/h past Yann Sommer and into the roof of the net.

It was a goal that brought the fans, who had come to see Ronaldo, to their feet, their only sight of



the legend so far coming when he appeared on the big screen during the playing of the Portuguese national anthem.

Emerging into the limelight from shadows cast by more illustrious team-mates is nothing new for Ramos.

When he shared attacking duties at Benfica with Darwin Nunez, the Portuguese occupied a more withdrawn role. But now that the Uruguayan has left for Liverpool, Ramos is playing closer to goal and thriving.

Ramos does not shy away from comparisons with Thomas Muller, with whom he shares a

goal celebration that has earned the rising Portuguese star the nickname Pistoleiro ("Gunfighter").

The striker has even said in the past that he has things in common with the Germany star, further proof that he is not overawed by the big names.

The No 26 struck two more in the second half, pointing the way in a 6-1 win for a side that had not scored more than twice in a World Cup knockout-phase game since the match for third place at England 1966.

His hat-trick was also the first in the tournament's knockout

rounds since Italy 1990.

"Not even in my wildest dreams did I imagine I'd score three goals in my first World Cup knockout match," said the man of the moment in the post-match press conference.

Fernando Santos did not disappoint the fans who had come to see Ronaldo and had begun to chant his name 15 minutes into the second half, bringing the No 7 on and giving Ramos a deserved rest.

They left Lusail Stadium happy, having seen their hero in action. But never will they forget that they also saw the Goncalo Ramos Show.

Portugal will face Morocco in their quarter-final at Al Thumama Stadium on Saturday.

- FIFA+

FRIDAY'S MATCHES

QUARTER-FINALS
December 9
7pm (Oman time)
CROATIA VS BRAZIL
Education City Stadium

11 pm
NETHERLANDS VS ARGENTINA
Lusail Stadium

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PORTUGAL

Everything is resolved with Ronaldo: Santos



DOHA: Portugal coach Fernando Santos insists his relationship with Cristiano Ronaldo is unchanged despite dropping the captain for Tuesday's 6-1 win over Switzerland at the FIFA World Cup.

Ronaldo was benched after Santos expressed his disappointment with the striker's attitude following his substitution during last week's defeat to South Korea.

Santos said on Monday the matter had been resolved internally, but Ronaldo was then dropped to the bench for the clash at Lusail Stadium, starting a major-tournament match among the substitutes for the first time since 2008 (31 games).

A fan poll on the website of Portuguese newspaper *A Bola* suggested 70 per cent of Portugal fans wanted Ronaldo out of the team, and the Portuguese went on to produce one of their best performances at a major tournament in years.

Goncalo Ramos replaced Ronaldo in the attack and had a hand in four goals, including a hat-trick, but Santos did not commit to keeping faith in the Benfica prospect for the quarter-final against Morocco.

Santos told reporters: "That's still something that has to be

Cristiano Ronaldo was dropped for Portugal's demolition of Switzerland, but Fernando Santos is adamant they remain on good terms

defined [who starts in the next game]. I already answered in yesterday's press conference [regarding Ronaldo]; there is no problem between us.

"I have a strong relationship with him, I always have. I have known him since he was young and at Sporting, and then it started to develop in the national team. This relationship only developed. We've been friends for many years, things don't affect us.

"I already explained everything was resolved. I said that and I repeat that now. This is something that's finished and resolved. How he came in with a lot of will, he set an example as a great captain."

In scoring his hat-trick, Ramos became the first player to net three times on his first

World Cup start since Miroslav Klose in 2002.

Similarly, it only took him 17 minutes to do what Ronaldo has never managed: score in a World Cup knockout game. For most, Ramos starting the quarter-final clash would be a simple decision to make, but Santos intends to keep people guessing.

"Obviously I have my ways to observe things, I always have," he continued.

"The players we have in this position obviously have many different characteristics. Andre [Silva] plays more advanced, Cristiano is more fixed, he plays in a determined area. Goncalo is dynamic.

"That's what he ended up showing us, but it was nothing new because he came on in two other games. I have three players I fully trust and for each match I will use what I think is the right strategy, as I have always done in my career."

It was a truly rampant performance, though Santos was particularly pleased that his team did not get carried away with the euphoria. "It's exactly what I said [to the players]; when we are euphoric, I think we can go beyond what we should do in a match." - FIFA+

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2023 reaching \$75, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$3 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$78. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,723.75 points, up by 1.41 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.59 per cent at 468.70 points. SMN Power Holding, up 18.92 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 33.33 per cent, was the top loser.

OQ acquires Exolum's stake in OQ Logistics

Through this acquisition, OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries now holds 100 per cent shareholding in OQ Logistics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Represented by the Refineries and Petroleum Industries sector, OQ has acquired the 40 per cent stake of Spanish company Exolum in OQ Logistics firm.

Through this acquisition, OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries now holds 100 per cent shareholding in OQ Logistics.

This is considered a significant step forward in the integration of the logistics infrastructure and regularisation of the business framework, which contributes to the growth of the petroleum industries' logistic services sector.

OQ Refineries and Petroleum Industries (formerly Orpic) signed an agreement to establish OQ Logistics in 2014, in partnership with the Spanish Company Logística De Hidrocarburos CLH holding a 40 per cent stake to build and operate a pipeline to transport multiple oil products in both directions linking the two OQ refineries in Muscat and Sohar other and linking them to a major storage facility in Al Jifnain area.

OQ Logistics owns Al Jifnain terminals in the Governorate of Muscat, which is the largest terminal for storing and distributing refined petroleum products in Oman, with a storage capacity of 170,000 cubic metres of oil derivatives, along with pipelines connecting Muscat - Sohar, MAF to Jifnain and Jifnain to Muscat Airport to transport refined petroleum fuel products.

Hilal Al Kharusi, Chief Executive of Commercial & Downstream commented, "We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partner Exolum for their contribution in jointly developing OQ Logistics and we are confident of Exolum's future growth and pros-



OQ Alternative Energy to explore green fuel bunkering in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a move set to harness the expertise of Omani and global organisations in search of a greener future, OQ Alternative Energy (OQAE) has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Asyad Group, A.P. Moller-Maersk and Sumitomo Corporation Middle East FZE (SCME) to conduct a joint feasibility study of green fuel bunkering in Oman.

The MoC, confirmed on the sidelines of the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman 2022, signals the intention to explore the commercial and technical viability of e-ammonia and/or e-methanol bunkering at the port of

Duqm and/or Salalah, for bunkering operations in Oman ports and potentially to other export markets.

Two phases

The study will be split into two phases: the first will focus on the project's commercial viability, while the second will examine green fuel ship-to-ship bunkering operations and green fuel loading operations in Oman ports. The second phase will also establish an accurate and realistic timeframe for commencing green fuel bunkering operations in Oman, taking into consideration the technical readiness of critical green fuel-related equipment and the regulatory framework required.

pects, OQ intends to integrate its portfolio of refined petroleum business while also developing a strategic fuel reserve on behalf of the government to ensure continuous and sustainable delivery to the customers. With this acquisition, OQ now works to meet its strategic objective to consolidate and integrate OQ Logistics with other OQ logistics assets, creating a larger platform for logistics infrastructure business in Oman followed by establishing a contractual and commercial framework to then monetize the consolidated entity through an initial public offering (IPO). This would create an opportunity for a logistic infrastructure asset in Oman listing in Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX)."

Jorge Lanza, Chief Executive officer of Exolum said, "It has been an honour for Exolum to participate in this project, which was also our first foray into international markets. This joint venture with OQ opened the door to new business opportunities outside Spain and, partly thanks to it; Exolum is now present in the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Panama, Ecuador and Peru. From the outset, we were confident that this project would be innovative, contributing significantly to the country's prosperity, and that it would bring significant improvements to the petroleum products industry thanks to the experience and extensive track record of our almost 100-year-old company."

Workshop on regulatory frameworks of crowdfunding platforms organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) participated in a workshop titled 'Regulatory Frameworks of Crowdfunding Platforms, Regional and International Experiences' organised by the Arab Monetary Fund.

The workshop aimed to highlight the realities and prospects of crowdfunding platforms in the Arab world and to exchange expertise related to the regulatory frameworks of crowdfunding platform based on best regional and global practices through working papers presented by specialists and researchers from

the member countries.

CMA participated by working on papers on its crowdfunding platforms experience presented by Musab Mohammed Al Lawati, Director of Supervision and Compliance who supervised the regulation of the crowdfunding platforms activity.

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RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

RBI hikes repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25%

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the Monetary Policy Committee's decision of hiking repo rate by 35 basis points to 6.25 per cent.

The inflation trajectory has largely evolved in line with the outlook given by us in June 2022, Shaktikanta Das said, adding that going forward, food inflation is likely to moderate with the usual winter softening and the likelihood of a bountiful rabi harvest.

However, the governor said pressure points remained in the form of prices of cereals, milk and spices in the near-term. He added that the main risk was that core inflation (CPI excluding food and fuel) remains sticky and elevated. "Overall, the CPI price momentum remains high."

On RBI's inflation target, he said global commodity prices, including crude oil, have undergone some downward correction, but uncertainty continues to surround the near-term outlook in view of the prolonging geo-political hostilities. - **ANI**

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MSX index ends higher

SMN Power Holding, up 18.92 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 33.33 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,723.75 points, up by 1.41 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.59 per cent at 468.70 points. SMN Power Holding, up 18.92 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 33.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 690 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR11.49 million, with more than 35.72 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 25 advanced, 13 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR814,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR707,000, followed by GCC &

Arab investors for OMR107,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,655.10 points, up 1.25 per cent. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Oman Qatar Insurance, Muscat Finance, Ahli Bank, and Bank Dhofar were up by 5.71 per cent, 5.56 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.61 per cent and 2.53 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment and Al Madina Takaful were down by 3.64 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 1.19 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,040.24 points, down 0.08 per cent. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products and Oman Cement were up by 3.64 per cent and 1.34 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Hassan Engineering, National Aluminium, Al Maha Ceramics and Raysut Cement were down by 33.33 per cent, 8.11 per cent, 1.79 per cent and 0.94 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,723.75	4,648.34	4,723.75	4,658.29	65.46	1.41
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,658.72	7,544.33	7,655.10	7,560.55	94.55	1.25
Industry Index	6,072.50	6,034.82	6,040.24	6,045.35	-5.11	-0.08
Services Index	1,565.86	1,540.59	1,565.86	1,540.59	25.27	1.64
MSX Shariah Index	469.19	465.93	468.70	465.94	2.76	0.59
MSX TR INDEX	5,962.24	5,867.05	5,962.24	5,879.61	82.62	1.41
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,013.99	7,894.30	8,010.20	7,911.27	98.94	1.25
SERVICES TR IDX	1,650.08	1,623.45	1,650.08	1,623.45	26.63	1.64
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,322.22	6,282.99	6,288.63	6,293.96	-5.32	-0.08

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
35,724,440	11,492,363	690	23,648,889,402	25	13	12	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RM)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST HD	LAST OFF	PRV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	1,347	1,238	2	0.900	0.940	0.900	0.940	0.896	0.044	4.91	0.940	0.900	0.940	0.100	84,860,000
OM0000003989	ADREDA	2,216,716	931,963	35	0.410	0.424	0.410	0.424	0.410	0.014	3.415	0.424	0.422	0.422	0.100	276,680,354
OM0000002236	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	65,084	14,399	8	0.218	0.222	0.218	0.222	0.215	0.007	3.256	0.222	0.219	0.225	0.100	13,587,349
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	500,537	225,592	35	0.448	0.460	0.448	0.460	0.448	0.012	2.679	0.460	0.452	0.460	0.100	108,748,600
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	2,371,663	372,184	7	0.156	0.157	0.156	0.157	0.153	0.004	2.614	0.157	0.157	0.160	0.100	306,096,222
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	4,001,003	1,167,221	48	0.288	0.295	0.288	0.295	0.288	0.007	2.431	0.295	0.293	0.296	0.100	478,614,175
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	310,000	93,600	5	0.300	0.302	0.300	0.302	0.298	0.004	1.342	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.100	99,923,558
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	3,457,869	362,871	10	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	481,956,540
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	4,360,997	3,925,767	123	0.900	0.908	0.888	0.908	0.900	0.008	0.889	0.908	0.900	0.908	0.100	681,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	8,410,484	2,508,128	117	0.294	0.302	0.294	0.296	0.294	0.002	0.680	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.100	221,893,530
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	186,372	497,46	6	0.265	0.267	0.265	0.267	0.267	0.000	0.000	0.267	0.267	0.265	0.100	26,700,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN	158,000	20,540	10	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.127	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	8,000	12,640	3	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	0.000	0.000	1.580	0.000	1.580	0.100	141,726,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	181,517	64,964	9	0.354	0.366	0.354	0.358	0.358	0.000	0.000	0.366	0.366	0.366	0.100	78,760,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	30,000	6,060	2	0.202	0.202	0.202	0.202	0.202	0.000	0.000	0.202	0.198	0.202	0.100	25,223,388
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	5,485	598	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.110	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.100	15,260,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	234	103	1	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.448	-0.008	-1.786	0.440	0.442	0.448	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	10,714	739	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.072	-0.003	-4.167	0.069	0.069	0.073	0.100	6,210,000
Total	18	28,276,022	9,758,083	424												

Parallel Market

OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	186,900	8,196	10	0.040	0.044	0.040	0.044	0.037	0.007	18.919	0.044	0.041	0.044	0.100	8,783,966
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	60,986	4,457	5	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.074	0.070	0.004	5.714	0.074	0.071	0.074	0.100	9,018,750
OM0000000679	OMAN QATAR INSUR	80,120	152,270	19	0.170	0.195	0.165	0.190	0.180	0.010	5.566	0.190	0.190	0.195	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000001287	GULF MUSHROOM P.	1,129	254	3	0.225	0.230	0.225	0.228	0.220	0.008	3.636	0.228	0.220	0.228	0.100	9,486,002
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	8,000	891	4	0.111	0.115	0.111	0.115	0.111	0.004	3.604	0.115	0.112	0.115	0.100	3,450,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	46,682	5,364	9	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.111	0.004	3.604	0.115	0.110	0.115	0.100	17,888,296
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	59,625	3,548	8	0.059	0.062	0.059	0.062	0.060	0.002	3.333	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	19,043,072
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	1,366,836	220,340	13	0.155	0.163	0.155	0.162	0.158	0.004	2.332	0.162	0.162	0.165	0.100	485,408,933
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	80,900	3,398	3	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.041	0.001	2.439	0.042	0.040	0.042	0.100	61,429,261
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	352,000	39,424	16	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	11,200,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	131,230	8,199	6	0.062	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.064	0.001	1.563	0.065	0.064	0.066	0.100	22,694,387
OM0000001517	MADINA TAKAFUL	747,359	120,303	14	0.160	0.162	0.160	0.162	0.160	0.002	1.250	0.162	0.162	0.174	0.100	324,050,672
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	457,740	43,375	19	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	770	77	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	8,500,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	10,000	1,170	2	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.117	0.118	0.100	49,698,115
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	707	1,131	1	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000	0.000	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.100	80,000,000
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	15,000	1,482	4	0.100	0.100	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.100	0.100	17,843,683
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	3,349,650	595,852	35	0.176	0.178	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.000	0.000	0.176	0.175	0.178	0.100	35,725,614
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	24,400	2,586	7	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.945	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	21,000,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	14,995	1,247	4	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.082	0.088	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	113,450	8,395	4	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.333	0.074	0.073	0.082	0.100	14,800,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	80,155	2,325	7	0.030	0.030	0.029	0.029	0.030	-0.001	-3.333	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.100	19,571,735
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	150,350	4,360	10	0.029	0.030	0.029	0.029	0.030	-0.001	-3.333	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.100	20,717,784
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	12,000	821	2	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.074	-0.006	-8.198	0.068	0.069	0.075	0.100	2,263,859
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,000	900	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	1.000	-0.100	-10.000	0.900	0.000	1.000	0.100	55,147,500
Total	25	8,073,035	1,230,364	208												

OMAN BROADBAND

Pacts inked to provide more financing to extend broadband network coverage across Oman

MUSCAT: Oman Broadband has announced the signing of long-term financing agreements worth OMR171 million and spanning 15 years with several banks in Oman.

The agreements aim to refinance the loan of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for infrastructure investment, and for the provision of additional financing to support the expansion of Omani fibre optic network coverage across the Sultanate of Oman's governorates.

The agreements will also help to bridge the digital urban/rural divide, which is in line with Oman's National Broadband Strategy.

The long-term financing project takes the form of a mix of traditional and Islamic financing provided by a number of local banks, including Bank Muscat, Ahli Bank, Sohar International Bank, Bank Dhofar, National Bank of Oman, Sohar Islamic Bank, Ahli Islamic Bank, and Maisarah Islamic Bank.



Commenting on the agreement signing, Eng. Said Abdullah Al Manthari, Head of the Board of Directors at Oman Broadband said: "The signing of these agreements between the company and several local banks reflects the mutual trust, collaborative efforts, and long-term strategic partnership between both parties. "Through these agreements,

we foresee future growth prospects in strengthening plans for digital transformation, and the acceleration of its implementation throughout all governorates in Oman."

He also emphasised that the agreements reflect how confident the financial institutions are in terms of the company's operational and financial performance –

especially after the company managed to complete the first phase of the development plan very effectively and in record time.

Moreover, he pointed out that the agreements reflect the value that the company has achieved and delivered locally in Oman, by involving SMEs and Omani competencies in implementing its operational plans. —**OMA**

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA introduces online customer dissatisfaction monitoring service

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has recently introduced customer dissatisfaction monitoring service to facilitate interaction with the consumers and the general public to accelerate work and ensure rendering quality service continuously.

The online service monitors customers' dissatisfaction of the services rendered to the public and identifies the departments and sections at issue.

Remedial action

The service allows the consumers to file complaints related to the services provided by any of the sector, departments or sections of the CMA to know the obstacles and put in place remedial action to ensure solving the

problems further to improving the quality of the services.

The move comes to materialise the objects of sectors specified in the CMA's strategy for the period 2021-2025 such as enhancing the efficiency of the performance in line with the priorities of the national vision.

CMA asserts that it will continue upgrading all online services related to interaction with the public via its website and smart phone application to ease the services provided by the Institutional Services Department to the public. CMA currently provides thirteen services online contributing to enhancing communication with the insurance policyholders, investors and stakeholders, further to facilitating the procedures to save time and effort in the work process.

GLOBAL RECESSION EXPECTED

GCC outlook deteriorates on weaker global demand

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With a global recession expected for early next year, oil production cuts and rising borrowing costs, the 2023 GDP growth forecast for the Middle East has been revised down to 2.7 per cent.

However, regional growth is still expected to perform at over twice the pace of the world economy, according to the latest Economic Insight report for the Middle East, commissioned by ICAEW and compiled by Oxford Economics.

According to the Q4 report, the downgrade reflects more muted projections for activity in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies, where growth is set to moderate

SPORTS

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Oman Sail gears up to host 44Cup final at Al Mouj Muscat Marina

The RC44 is a lightweight, high performance one-design racing yacht co-designed by five-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts with naval architect Andrej Justin



PRESTIGIOUS EVENT: This will be the first time since 2014 that the RC44 fleet has visited the country when Oman also hosted the final round.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The five-stop international 44Cup tour will conclude in Muscat from 7-11 December 2022 with nine teams representing Great Britain, Monaco, France, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and a wild card entry from Oman helmed by Mussab Al Hadi.

This will be the first time since 2014 that the RC44 fleet has visited the country when Oman also hosted

the final round, and this year the Al Mouj Muscat Marina will provide a stunning host venue for the thrilling 44Cup season finale.

The Omani team of 11 professional sailors, sponsored by Asyad Shipping company, consists of: Musab Al Hadi (Skipper), Nasser Al Mashari, Hussain Al Jabri, Ali Al Balushi, Waleed Al Kindi, Yasser Al Rahbi, Abdulrahman Al Mashari, Ahmed Al Hasani, Raad

Al Hadi, Haitham Al Wahaibi, Akram Al Wahaibi.

Watersports

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, Oman Sail CEO, said, "Oman has built a reputation for hosting big moments in international watersports, from World Championships to Olympic qualifiers, and the final round of the 44Cup Championship is another high-profile event we are

proud to bring to the country. Al Mouj Marina offers excellent sailing conditions and a great experience for spectators to get close to the action, and we are looking forward to an exceptional end to what has been an incredible season."

Jessica Gray, 44Cup Communications Manager, said, "We are delighted to return to Oman to conclude what has been another thrilling season. The racing with-

in the fleet is highly competitive with boats often finishing within seconds of each other. In October Monaco based team Charisma were crowned World Champions so everyone is now focused on the 2022 Tour Champion title and the Al Mouj Marina will provide the ideal setting for four days of ultra-close high-performance racing."

Shaun Michael, Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz Oman, said, "We are excited to partner with Oman Sail to bring the 44Cup back to Oman, enjoy the competition, but also raise environmental awareness."

'Electric Intelligence'

He added, "We have synergies with sailing when it comes to sustainability and we continue to lead by example and do our part. A paramount example is the Mercedes-Benz EQ, a range of electric vehicles that represents Mercedes-Benz in its most progressive way. EQ stands for 'Electric Intelligence' and we are systematically using human-centred innovation by incorporating intelligent services and networked charging solutions for our customers from the very start."

Since its launch in 2007, the 44Cup brings together the worlds of sailing and business, allowing

amateur owner drivers to race high performance one-design yachts against some of the world's best sailors. With its strict one-design format the 44Cup is a level playing field as you could wish to find in international yacht racing.

The RC44 is a lightweight, high performance one-design racing yacht co-designed by five-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts with naval architect Andrej Justin.

All participating boats are strictly identical in terms of construction, shape of hull, appendages, and weight and weight distribution, as well as a 50-50 split between amateurs and professionals in each eight-person crew.

Fleet racing is very short, intense, and action-packed, with a target race time of 40 minutes and boats frequently separated by just seconds at the finish line. With three to four races per day over a four-day regatta, the 44Cup offers the fleet more racing each season than any other owner driven racing circuit.

The 44Cup Oman is organised by Oman Sail and supported by official event partners Oman Air, Al Mouj Muscat, Kempinski Hotel Muscat, TanufWater, and the new EQ range from Mercedes-Benz Oman.

CRICKET

Bangladesh survive Rohit scare, beat India by 5 runs

DHAKA: Bangladesh survived a late blitz from an injured Rohit Sharma to secure a narrow five-run win to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series at the Shere Bangla National Stadium here on Wednesday.

Playing with a heavily bandaged left thumb, the gallant half-century from the Indian captain could not save India from a consecutive ODI series defeat in Bangladesh as Mustafizur Rahman defended 20 runs from the last over to secure a win for his team. Ebadot Hossain fired again with the ball and picked up three wickets while centurion Mehidy Hasan Miraz also chipped in with two scalps. Shreyas Iyer top-scored for India with a patient in-ning of 82 runs.

In a game that ebbed and flowed, India were tottering at 208/7 with no hope of making a match out of the run-chase, but the Indian captain came out to bat and went for the leather to give the Bangladeshi team a major scare. The skipper tried to pull a heist at the fag end of the innings but fell short of one big hit on the last ball of the inning.

India began the chase with star batter Virat Kohli opening the inning with Shikhar Dhawan instead of Rohit Sharma. The Indian captain did not open the inning after injuring his hand while fielding in the slip cordon.

The Indian team got off to a poor start as they lost both Virat and Dhawan in the first three overs. Virat played on while attempting a pull off Ebadot Hossain and was dismissed for 5(6).

Dhawan was beaten for bounce



as the ball bowled by Mustafizur Rahman crept in sharply, to take him by surprise and the Left-hander could only manage a glove as the ball looped up in air to be pounced by Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

Shreyas Iyer and Wahington Sundar tried to see off the first 10 overs, where the ball was moving around and probing the batsman but the left-hander was dismissed on the last ball of the 10th over to leave India tottering at 39/3 at the end of the first powerplay.

Sundar was promoted up the order given his recent robust performances with the bat in the last few innings but the all-rounder failed to grab the opportunity and was dismissed by Shakib Al Hasan trying to knock the ball into the leg-side with hard hands.

Left-handed all-rounder Axar Patel walked onto the crease and showcased his prowess with the willow as he smashed a superb fifty. The left-hander was fluent in his stroke-making and took the burden of the scoreboard pressure while keeping India in the

chase.

While Iyer reached his fifty in 69 balls in the 25th over, Axar brought up his fifty in the 36th over of 50 balls.

Iyer scored 82(102) and stitched a huge fifth-wicket partnership of 107 runs to keep India in the reckoning.

Earlier, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mahmudullah steadied Bangladesh after an early shock with a 148-run partnership for the seventh wicket to post a challenging 271/7 against India.

Miraz was the top scorer for Bangladesh with an unbeaten 100 of 83 balls while Mahmudullah played a crucial knock of 77 runs of 96 deliveries. For India, Washington Sundar bagged three while Mohammed Siraj and Umran Malik claimed two wickets each.

Brief Score: Brief score: Bangladesh 271/7 (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 100*, Mahmudullah 77, Washington Sundar 3-37) vs India 266-9 (Shreyas Iyer 82, Axar Patel 56; Ebadot Hossain 3-45).

-ANI

WEST INDIES

Pat Cummins ruled out of Adelaide Test; Smith to captain

ADELAIDE: Australia skipper Pat Cummins has been ruled out of the second Test against West Indies after not recovering from the quad strain he picked up in Perth.

Cummins failed to bowl during the final two days of Australia's 164-run victory over the West Indies in Perth and his spot in the XI for Adelaide will instead be taken by fellow quick Scott Boland. Boland hasn't played a Test since he collected 18 wickets from three Ashes Tests against England last summer but earns a recall after missing out on selection in Perth.

The absence of Cummins also means veteran batter Steve Smith will captain Australia once again after he stood in for the Australian skipper in the Adelaide Test against England last year when Cummins was deemed a close COVID-19 contact.

"Team medical staff commenced Cummins' recovery in Adelaide but selectors deemed there was not sufficient time for the fast bowler to be fully fit for the match, which starts tomorrow. Cummins is expected to return for the opening Test match against South Africa in Brisbane," a statement said as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

With Australia playing five Test matches in less than five weeks, handling the fast bowlers will be critical for the selectors. The four-Test visit of India will therefore begin in early February.

With Australia playing two series in Asia following the Ashes last summer, and then Josh Hazlewood returning in Perth last week, Boland has failed to add to his three caps. -ANI

OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

OOC participates in Riyadh forum

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) participated in the regional forum for Olympic Solidarity organised by Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Riyadh during the period from 4-7 December. OOC was represented in the forum by Counselor Salim bin Muhammad Al Busaidi, Chef de Mission for the 19th Asian Games (China 2023), and Hana bint Saeed Al Battashiya, Head of Coordination and Following-up department.

The forum included a review of reports on the latest developments related to the upcoming

Asian Games, and an online presentation on the developments of the Summer Olympic Games (Paris 2024) by the Organising Committee.

The Olympic Solidarity Committee of the International Olympic Committee also made a presentation regarding the support that will be provided to the Asian Olympic Committees organising the sessions in the administrative, technical and logistic fields.

The forum witnessed a joint presentation by OCA and International Olympic Solidarity on the programme of the Olympic Solidarity for development, the list of available projects and the budget allocated for the pro-

MUSCAT SPEEDWAY

Oman-UAE Rotax Max Challenge

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Automobile Association will be carrying out the Oman-UAE Rotax Max Challenge at Muscat Speedway on the 9 and 10 December, featuring local and UAE kart drivers.

The karting races are constructed as a practice for the drivers to see how they perform before they compete amongst international professional racers in the upcoming MENA Championship series. The event is divided into karting categories: Micro Max, Mini Max, Junior Max, Max, DD2, DD2 M, from

which the 84 participating drivers will be categorised into.

The Oman-UAE Rotax Max Challenge series has been taking place at OAA's Muscat Speedway Circuit during the last eight years. This year, with an increase in registrations, the Association is excited to see how far the drivers will go to challenge themselves and be amongst the best in an international scale.

The reception at OAA is open for inquiries and issuing international licences. Karting facilities at Muscat Speedway are open from 8am to 11pm, from Monday to Saturday.

AL-MANAR RACING

Al-Zubair teams up with Schiller, Stolz for Gulf 12 Hours

ABU DHABI: Oman's Al-Faisal Al-Zubair has teamed up with German professional drivers, Luca Stolz and Fabian Schiller, to tackle the Gulf 12 Hours in a Mercedes-AMG GT3 run by Al-Manar Racing by GetSpeed.

Absent from the international racing scene since finishing fourth in the Silver Cup category of the 2022 Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS - Endurance Cup with Schiller and Zimbabwe's Axcil Jeffries, Al-Zubair is relishing the prospect of challenging for overall honours in the race at the 5.281km Yas Marina circuit, which has attracted a full grid of 34 GT endurance cars and drivers from 25 nations.

Al-Zubair said: "I am extremely excited to be racing at the Gulf 12 again. This will be a very difficult race, as it has joined the Intercon-

tinental GT Challenge. Whereas, as usual, it is about 10 cars, this year there are over 30 cars confirmed. That will be tough and the entry includes nine more Pro cars and factory cars from Mercedes, Ferrari and Audi.

"It will definitely not be easy to get a great result. But I believe we have a great package, a great engineer and top team-mates. Hopefully, we can get the results to prove that. I am looking forward to getting back in the car and having a good result at the end of the 12 hours."

Back in January, the Omani finished fifth at the Hankook 24Hr Dubai with Dutchman Indy Dontje, Stolz and Austrian Martin Konrad.

Competition in the GT3 Pro category is intense and comes from the likes of the AF Corse MDK

Motorsport Ferrari 488GT3 of Formula 1 ace Kevin Magnussen, alongside his father Jan and Mark Kvamme, as well as 24 Hours of Spa winners, Jules Gounon, Daniel Juncadella and Raffaele Marciello, in one of two Mercedes-AMG GT3s entered by AMG Team GruppeM Racing.

The Gulf 12 Hours event was first held at the iconic Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix circuit back in January 2012, with 10 editions run to date, in addition to a special race in Bahrain in January 2021.

The weekend's action gets underway with open practice on Friday (December 9th), followed by two free practice and four qualifying sessions on Saturday and the race on Sunday, starting at 10.00hrs. This will be the first continuous 12-hour race without a break after six hours.





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ROUND-UP



Instant cash rewards with ahlbank’s salary transfer offer

The bank offers its Omani and expatriate new salary transfer customers the opportunity to enjoy a lucrative benefit

MUSCAT: Committed to providing exclusive offers and benefits to meet its customers’ expectations, ahlbank continues its special salary transfer reward for customers, where they receive an immediate one-time cash reward of 10% of their monthly salary, with a maximum cash reward amount capped at OMR 500.

Under the current offer, which runs until the end of December 2022, the bank offers its Omani and expatriate, new salary transfer customers the opportunity to enjoy a lucrative benefit. Customers who transfer their monthly salary to the Bank with an amount of OMR 1,000 and above are eligible for this reward offer.

Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution, said, “Through this offer we seek to strengthen and establish our relationship with our existing and new customers. The promotion reflects ahlbank’s leadership in being innovative when it comes to enhancing customer experience, and providing solutions that meet various customer requirements through tangible benefits. These could be in the form of cash rewards, cash-back, lifestyle promotions, and more.”

“This is not just a one-time benefit, but a strategic step encouraging customers to adopt practices which will bring them added value in the long-term,” Al Balushi further stated.

As the number of new entrants to the labor market increases, ahlbank looks to provide the best services that enhance its preferred status. This scheme is an effective step that reflects the Bank’s contribution to supporting the financial stability efforts of beneficiaries, thereby enhancing the economic and social level for individuals and society at large.

ahlbank is keen to invest in high-efficiency banking solutions using the latest innovations to support its customers’ goals and elevate its position in the market. The bank has earned a reputation for enabling its customers to benefit from the best services and products and providing more accessible and secure banking solutions.



Oman Computer Services wins NetApp 2022 META Partner Excellence Award

MUSCAT: Oman Computer Services (OCS Infotech), a subsidiary of the Zubair Corporation specialised in the telecommunications and information technology sector, has won the 2022 Partner Excellence Award for the Middle East, Turkey and Africa (META) region by NetApp, a leading hybrid cloud data services and data management company.

NetApp recently organised a ceremony to honour its partners in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa region. OCS Infotech, the Sultanate’s leading provider of digital solutions, won the award in recognition of the increased revenue and business growth it has achieved due to its commitment to its customers. Furthermore, it was recognised for introducing NetApp products to the Omani market and for its outstanding service and performance.

Speaking on this achievement, Qais bin Youssef Al Bahrani, Director of Sales of Technical Enterprise Solutions at OCS, said: “It is a pleasure and an honour to receive



the NetApp 2022 META Partner Excellence Award. We aim to further strengthen our relationship with NetApp, a company that provides industry-leading solutions for hybrid cloud storage, encryption, and management.

“In addition to providing the best global solutions in the field of cloud data and other digital solutions to our public sector and

private sector partners in the Sultanate, OCS Infotech is also committed to staying current with the most recent developments in an increasingly technologically advanced world.”

Maya Zakhour, Director Channel Sales – Eastern Europe, META, Iberia, & Latin America for NetApp commented: “We congratulate OCS Infotech on winning the excellence

reward this year. It was presented to them in recognition of their outstanding performance over the past year, which has strengthened our relationship with our customers in the Sultanate. We have also had a successful relationship with OCS Infotech for several years, which has contributed significantly towards the growth of our market share in Oman.”

OCS Infotech was established in 1981. The company is considered to be one of the first Omani technology companies. It offers a wide range of IT solutions, including data storage, virtual network simulations, cybersecurity, and data centre and infrastructure management services. In addition, it provides disaster recovery solutions for data infrastructure, maintenance services, after-sales technical support services, future technologies, and more. Moreover, customers have direct access to industry experts who provide integrated solutions ranging from consulting and planning to managing technology solutions



Toyota Gazoo Racing celebrates win at Rally Japan

MUSCAT: The Toyota Gazoo Racing (TGR) World Rally Team (WRT) claimed a podium finish recently at Rally Japan, with Takamoto Katsuta and Aaron Johnston securing third place in the No. 18 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle during the final race of the championship.

The result sealed a remarkable season in which Toyota celebrated its second consecutive FIA World Rally manufacturers’ championship title and the team achieved a clean sweep of the drivers and co-drivers titles, recording seven

wins in a total of 13 races.

The return of Rally Japan to the WRC calendar for the first time since 2010 created an exciting challenge for teams, drivers and co-drivers, with an entirely new event held on demanding and twisting asphalt roads in the mountains of the Aichi and Gifu prefectures. Face with an unfamiliar route and difficult weather conditions, Toyota’s GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric Vehicle rose to the challenge and performed strongly throughout the event, winning a total of 11 stages.

Avod: Oman’s non-hydrogenated products

MUSCAT: Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives (Avod) transformation strategy has always put health and customers’ wellbeing at the forefront, and this has gained it the distinction of being Oman’s Most Trusted Brand year after year.

The brand’s Unique Selling Proposition (USP) is its consistent delivery of products, which offer the ideal balance of nutrition, health and wellness and taste, and encourage consumers to adopt healthier lifestyles for themselves and their families.

‘Eat Right, Live Well’ philosophy is the epicentre of the company’s product development process and has made Avod a trustworthy specialist in refining, processing, packaging and distribution of high-quality trans fat free cooking oils, non-hydrogenated



margarines, vegetable ghee, fats and mayonnaise. The company’s continuous transformation takes a multi-pronged approach to create health-focused products. The state-of-the-art modern factory is constantly upgraded to meet stringent quality controls.

Packing materials such as tins, cans, plastic bottles, etc are manufactured in-house and filled immediately using automatic packing machines to ensure highest standards of hygiene. The company’s commitment

to safeguarding health and safety has earned it the ISO 9001 certificate for Quality Management System, ISO 14001 certificate for Environmental Management System and ISO 22000 certificates for Food Safety Management.”

Eng. Salem Bortmany, CEO – Avod, says, “Every product that comes out of the Avod stable is a testament to its commitment to offer consumers the best of health and value. After thorough research on the health risks that hydrogen-

ated and partially hydrogenated oils pose to the physical well-being, which is trans-fats is converted into saturated fat. Avod decided to invest in technology to ensure that all its products are non-hydrogenated and free from harmful trans-fats. All products go through a heart-friendly process which is recognized and recommended by WHO.

Avod is the first company in Oman to fortify and enrich its top-quality cooking oils with vitamins A & D, making them healthier choices in this category while Khafeef is the lightest frying oil, the first of its kind in the Sultanate. Our own transformation journey has mirrored that of our valued consumers. We are committed to building healthier and happier communities to ensure that our nation-building process is fortified further.”

Three new drinks from Kaldi Coffee

MUSCAT: Kaldi Coffee Oman are getting ready to welcome the winter season this year by offering three delicious drinks, namely, Marshmallow Mocha, Iced Marshmallow Mocha and Marshmallow Mocha Frappe.

Hot Marshmallow Mocha is the perfect winter drink, thanks to its unique taste of espresso with a rich chocolate flavor, topped with a layer of delicious cream and charming marshmallow pieces.

As for the “Iced Marshmallow Mocha” drink, it is distinguished by the rich coffee flavour mixed with chocolate and milk, topped with a layer of cream and marshmallows.

The “Marshmallow Mocha



Frappe” drink is one of the favorite drinks in the winter season, because it contains a mixture of roasted kaldi coffee and rich chocolate with a layer of cream of happiness and marshmallow pieces.

ICAI Muscat Chapter international seminar on December 9,10

MUSCAT: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Muscat Chapter (under the sponsorship of the College of Banking and Financial Studies) will be holding its 12th Annual International Seminar entitled “CA -- Success through Synergy”, at Crowne Plaza Muscat on December 9-10, 2022.

Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation; and Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman will preside over the seminar.

Dr Zahran Al Salti, Dean of the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS); CA (Dr.) Debashish Mitra, President of ICAI; and CA Aniket Sunil Talati, Vice President of ICAI will be the Guests of Honour.

The two-day seminar will highlight the correlation between success and synergy as these two ingredients have the right potential to lead economies, societies and cor-



porate entities towards sustainable and inclusive development.

An informative discussion on “Oman Vision 2040”, Moderator: Fatik Al Balushi, CFO, Oman Cement) will be a value addition. The panellists are Muneer Al Mughairy, Chief Audit Officer, Ominvest; Abdul Razak Al Bulushi, CFO, Ooredoo; Dr. Rashid Al Ghailani, CEO, Oman National Engineering and Investment Company SAOC; Jayaprakash Menon, CEO, Mohsin



Haider Darwish LLC (ITICS); and Mubeen Khan, former Chairman, ICAI Muscat Chapter.

Comprehensive presentations on various topics will be made by the following eminent speakers- CA (Dr.) T P Anand, Chief Strategist, Leap Business Excellence Advisory FZE; CA Nihar Jambusaria, former president of ICAI; Leen Kumar Sugumaran, Chief Risk Officer, Bank Dhofar; Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Dean –Centre of Ex-



cellence, ICAI; CA (Dr.) K. Rama Subramaniam, Cyber Criminologist, Information Security and Digital Forensic Consultant; CA San-geeta Shankaran Sumesh, author and business leadership coach; CA Gaurav Gupta, CEO and Co-founder of the Federation 100; CA Rachana Phadke Ranade, Equity Market Expert and famous YouTuber; and R. Narasimhan, GM-Wholesale Banking, Bank Nizwa.

CA Sajeev Surendran, Chair-



man, ICAI Muscat Chapter said, “It is a great honour for ICAI Muscat Chapter to organise this prestigious event, in the context of today’s rapidly changing global economic and business environment. We wholeheartedly welcome public and private sector decision-makers and accounting professionals to this informative seminar that will equip participants to focus on sustainable economic development, the crucial

role of sound accounting policies and practices in businesses, the prevailing trends in the domestic and global markets.”

Established under the sponsorship of College of Banking and Financial Studies in 2008, the prime objective of ICAI Muscat Chapter has been the development of accounting profession in Oman and sharing of knowledge and skills, and creating greater synergies. Over the last two decades, the Chapter has achieved an outstanding track record in organising high-level discussions on various issues pertaining to business and economic development and the role of accounting practices in sound governance. It has been organising professional learning events such as seminars and conferences for all nationalities. All events of ICAI Muscat Chapter are open to CEOs, CFOs, Internal Auditors, Finance & Accounts managers of various private and public sector organisations.

ROUND-UP



Muriya, SB Architects join hands for next stage of Hawana Salalah

Slated to be launched soon, the 1 million sqm game-changer will be the biggest residential project at Hawana Salalah to date



MUSCAT: Muriya, Oman's most diversified real estate developer, has engaged leading international architecture and design practice SB Architects, to design the next stage

of development at Hawana Salalah. Slated to be launched soon, the 1 million sqm game-changer will be the biggest residential project at Hawana Salalah to date.

Muriya, the developer of Hawana Salalah and Jebel Sifah, is a partnership between the internationally acclaimed developer of fully-integrated towns, Orascom Development Holding (ODH) and the leading government arm for tourism devel-

opment in Oman, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran). ODH prowess spans three continents as developers of luxurious waterfront destinations including El Gouna, Egypt; Andermatt, Switzerland; Luštica Bay, Montenegro; as well as Hawana Salalah and Jebel Sifah in Oman to name but a few.

Drawing inspiration from the beauty and diversity of Oman and the deep connection its people have with the land, SB Architects along with Muriya's team will create an authentic and organic feeling design, which fits seamlessly with the natural features of the site. Promising to be the anchor project of Muriya's flagship destination, Hawana Salalah, the new beach-facing residential project will feature four neighbourhoods, with distinct characteristics, leisure amenities, new hotels and

more offering resort living at its finest for its residents.

Seif El Khoully, Muriya Chief Development Officer, said, "From conception to completion, we have been dedicated to the highest quality standards when it comes to the development of our flagship destination, Hawana Salalah. We believe that our ability to provide such quality, while also further raising the benchmark, partly comes from our commitment to work with talented and world class professionals. Hence, we are happy to collaborate with the renowned SB Architects with whom we already have a longstanding working relationship as we successfully engaged them in the development of ORASCOM Holding's signature projects in Egypt. This latest collaboration will further add to the cutting-edge design of an Integrated Tourism

Complex that is fit for purpose and further contribute to the quality of life of its residents, visitors, tourists and surrounding communities, while simultaneously boosting the economic vitality of one of Oman's and the region's most sought-after destinations."

Richard Collings, Vice President of SB Architects said, "Using Oman's diverse topography and the Omani people's deep affinity with nature as a springboard, we imagined an authentic, luxury development, expressed through four different and distinct residential zones. We're excited to embark on this journey together with Muriya, whose vision and guidance has led to the creation a one-of-a-kind destination, where residents will discover and embrace the spirit of the region, against a backdrop of breathtaking landscapes."

PRIZE DRAWS

51 lucky winners of Bank Muscat fly to Doha to enjoy Fifa World Cup 2022

MUSCAT: The 51 lucky winners of Bank Muscat's special prize draws are at present flying to Doha in batches to enjoy matches at the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022, courtesy of Visa.

With each winner being eligible to take a companion along, as many as 102 people will be visiting Qatar over a one-month period and more than 60 people have already enjoyed the opening matches of the mega sports event. Speaking on the eve of their departure to Doha, the winners said that they were super excited to watch the Fifa World Cup in person. They thanked Bank Muscat and Visa for giving them a 'once in a lifetime' chance to win exciting hospitality packages and enjoy matches in Doha.

Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager - Personal Banking,



Bank Muscat, said: "First of all, we would like to thank Visa for partnering with Bank Muscat for this exciting campaign, which has brought great joy to many of our customers. We would also like to congratulate all the winners and

hope that they have the experience of a lifetime visiting Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022, courtesy of Visa. This campaign was a complete success at all levels and we thank all our customers for their valuable contributions and for their

trust and confidence in the bank. Our customers will also be excited to know that many more exciting products, services, features and prize draws will be launched by the bank in the future."

Manish Gautam, Visa's Country Manager for Oman, said: "We are delighted to partner with Bank Muscat in sharing Fifa World Cup excitement with football fans in Oman. This campaign was a great way to reward the bank's customers with a chance to win an exclusive experience every time they shopped using their Visa cards. Congratulations to all the winners and I look forward to more of these exciting collaborations with Bank Muscat that also support the government's efforts to promote digital commerce for the benefit of consumers and businesses in Oman."

RECOGNITION

Vodafone wins Cyber Security Award at Oman's Big Data & Analytics Meet



MUSCAT: Vodafone in Oman walked away with the prestigious Cyber Security Award at Oman's Big Data & Analytics Meet for its successful programme designed to protect its network and customers.

Hosted for the second consecutive year, the Big Data & Analytics award programme recognises and honours companies that have succeeded in showing how data, Big Data and analytics can boost corporate performance, improve customer experience, and drive product creation, sales and financial success.

Vodafone was recognised for its leading work in applied practice for Big Data in day-to-day cyber security operations; which allows the company to rapidly detect threats made at a scale and ensure comprehensive security controls. The

company's proven cost-efficient approach with the use of open-source technologies; orchestration and automation in a unified platform; and super-fast and scalable cloud deployment; were also lauded during the award ceremony.

"We are extremely proud to receive this award, which is testament to the skill, expertise and hard work of everybody involved in our Cyber Security function at Vodafone in Oman," said Jaifair Al Mamari, Head of Cyber Security. "This award demonstrates our success so far and how seriously we take the security of not only our network but also that of our customers, to whom we have been striving to provide world-class experiences since we began our story here in Oman."

FULLY ELECTRIC RACING CAR



Maserati MSG Racing unveils Tipo Folgore Gen3

MODENA: Maserati MSG Racing unveiled the livery of the Maserati Tipo Folgore Gen3 - the first fully electric racing car in the history of Maserati - that will compete in Season 9 of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship.

Unveiled on the streets of Modena, home of Maserati - the first Italian automotive brand to enter Formula E - the Maserati Tipo Folgore brings racing back to the people right in the heart of the city. Inspired by the Trident's iconic blue hue, the Maserati Tipo Folgore Gen3 is the ultimate in electrifying high performance,

efficiency and cutting-edge technology that will 'Race Beyond', a platform to transfer innovation from circuit to road.

The first racing car to bear the Trident logo was the Tipo 26, which debuted in 1926 at the Targa Florio, finishing first place with Alfieri Maserati at the wheel. Now, 96 years later, Tipo Folgore, audaciously portraying the Trident, enters the electrification era with a striking design personifying a lighting surge of new energy, accelerating forward with Maserati's commitment to its electric Folgore range.

NEW LOCATION



Alizz Islamic Bank announces transfer of its Al Mabelah branch operations

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank announced the transfer of all its banking operations in the Al Mabelah branch, which is located next to the Bin Rashid Markets, to its new branch, which is located in Al Mabelah in the industrial area and the new branch started providing its services to all customers.

It is possible to access the location of the new branch through the road network, whether via the highway or through Sultan Al Qaboos Street. It is also possible to enter the Alizz Islamic Bank website, which includes all details related to the branch such as the phone number and working times, or through the use of Google Maps that shows All the details surrounding the branch and the roads leading to it.

Commenting on the transfer operations in the Al Mabelah branch to new location in the industrial area Mohammed Al-Ghassani AGM Head of Customer Consumer said: "We chose a prime location for the branch to provide convenient services to customers. The selection process focused on the objective of bringing the bank's services closer to the largest number of customers. Several factors were taken into consideration when choosing the location of the branch, including

proximity, ease of access, population density, and availability of services. The new branch of Alizz Islamic Bank is in industrial area that includes many commercial services in order to facilitate real estate and car financing services and other financing products.

Added, "we are proceeding according to the strategy we have set to add more branches in different governorates. We will continue to remain committed to developing innovative ways to bring Islamic financing facilities even closer to each and every one of our loyal customers."

"Alizz Islamic Bank continues to extend its top-quality services and products to all customers, and the bank has been able to reformulate its banking services for institutions by reviewing its business strategy, which resulted in the growth of high quality banking facilities. During the past year, the bank introduced many new products including the Corporate Credit Card. It has also launched new wholesale banking services related to financial advisory, investment banking business services, corporate transaction banking and other initiatives," Al-Ghassani said.

The branch will be open from Sunday to Thursday, from 8am until 2pm.



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Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:17am

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Citizen murdered over family dispute in Seeb

MUSCAT: An Omani woman was killed by a citizen as a result of family dispute between them in the Wilayat of Seeb, Muscat Governorate. "A citizen was arrested on the charges of assaulting a woman with a weapon in

the Wilayat of Seeb, as a result of family dispute between them. The assault resulted in the death of the woman. Legal procedures are being initiated against the accused," the Royal Oman Police (ROP) said in a statement.

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SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES SYRIAN AMBASSADOR

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Wednesday Dr. Idris Maya, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Sultanate of Oman. The meeting reviewed the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them. It also discussed a number of matters of common interest. - ONA



ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN

RAFO marks graduation of new batch of officers

MUSCAT: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) celebrated yesterday the graduation of a new batch of officers and pilots, under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Taimur bin Asaad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

The celebration was organised at the military parade ground at Ghala Base and Sultan Qaboos Air Academy.

The celebration started with the military salute to His Highness Sayyid Taimur bin Asaad Al Said on his arrival at the celebration ground and RAFO troupe played the royal anthem.

Then His Highness inspected the first column of graduates which was followed by the graduates' slow march performance that proceeded before the main dais accompanied by playing of military pieces of music.

Sayyid Taimur conferred the



designated wings on pilots and gave away the sword of honour to officer cadet Mohammed bin Ali Al Badai, who secured first place at the overall category in the officers' cadet session. This was followed by the protocol of passing the flag of Sultan Qaboos Academy from the present session of

graduates to the new session currently undergoing training at the Academy.

On the conclusion of the celebration commemorative photos were taken for the graduates with His Highness Sayyid Taimur.

The celebration was attended by a number of members of the Royal Family, ministers, chairman of Majlis Al Shura, Commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and other military and security apparatuses, a number of members of the State Council, undersecretaries, senior officers of SAF and other security and senior state officials.

It was also attended by a number of military attaches accredited to the Sultanate, a number of retired commanders and senior officers, RAFO officers and non-commissioned officers and personnel, parents of graduates and invitees.

- ONA

OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS

Two Royal decrees

Secondly,

(A) Eid Al Fitr starts from the 29th day of the month of Ramadan and continues until the 3rd day of the month of Shawwal.

(B) Eid Al Adha starts on 9 Dhul-Hijjah and continues until the 12th of the same month.

Friday shall be compensated if it coincides with the first day of any of the abovementioned Eids.

Article (2) cancels Royal Decree No. 56/2020 and all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official

Gazette and enforced from the date of its issue.

Royal Decree No. (89/ 2022) on the ratification of an agreement of cooperation between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the security field signed in Manama on 24 October 2022.

Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. - ONA

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Oman and Georgia hold consultations

MUSCAT: The third round of political consultations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Georgia was held at the Foreign Ministry here on Wednesday.

The Omani side was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs, while the Georgian side was headed by Alexander Khvtisiashvili, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them in all spheres to serve the mutual interests.

Exchanged views

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern, as well as the efforts exerted to resolve them by peaceful means.

- ONA

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LIVING IN GREENER PLACES

IS LINKED TO BETTER MENTAL HEALTH AND LESS MEDICATION



MANY WELL-KNOWN HEALTH BENEFITS OF URBAN GREEN SPACE INCLUDE INCREASED LIFE EXPECTANCY, FEWER MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, AND IMPROVED COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR HOW MUCH GREEN SPACE IS REQUIRED TO BENEFIT PEOPLE'S HEALTH.

A new study led by ISGlobal, a centre supported by the “la Caixa” Foundation, has evaluated the relationship between better mental health and the 3-30-300 green space rule. According to this rule of thumb, everyone should be able to see at least three trees from their home, have 30% tree canopy cover in their neighbourhood and not live more than 300 metres away from the nearest park or green space. The rule was proposed by urban forester Cecil Konijnendijk and has been widely promoted by many other foresters and urban planners.

The findings of the study showed that full adherence

to the 3-30-300 green space rule was clearly associated with better mental health, less medication use and fewer visits to a psychologist, although the association was statistically significant only for the latter. Residential surrounding greenness, but not visibility of trees from windows or access to a major green space, was significantly associated with better mental health.

The findings indicate that only 4.7% of the surveyed population met all three criteria of the green space rule. Just over 43% of respondents had at least three trees within 15 metres of their home, 62.1% had a major green space within

300 metres and 8.7% lived in an area with sufficient surrounding greenness. However, nearly 22.4% had none of these elements.

This cross-sectional study was based on a sample of 3,145 Barcelona inhabitants aged 15-97 years who participated in the Barcelona Health Survey 2016 -made by The Barcelona Public Health Agency- and were recruited randomly. Mental health status was assessed with the 12-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12). Eighteen percent of participants reported poor mental health and 8.3% reported having visited a psychologist in the previous year. In addition, 9.4% reported using

tranquillisers or sedatives and 8.1% reported having used antidepressants in the previous two days.

“The study found that there is relatively little green space in Barcelona and that the 3-30-300 rule is satisfied only for a small percentage of people, despite its beneficial mental health effects,” explained Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, Director of the Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative at ISGlobal and lead author of the study.

“There is an urgent need to provide citizens with more green space. We may need to tear out asphalt and plant more trees, which would not only improve health, but also reduce heat island effects

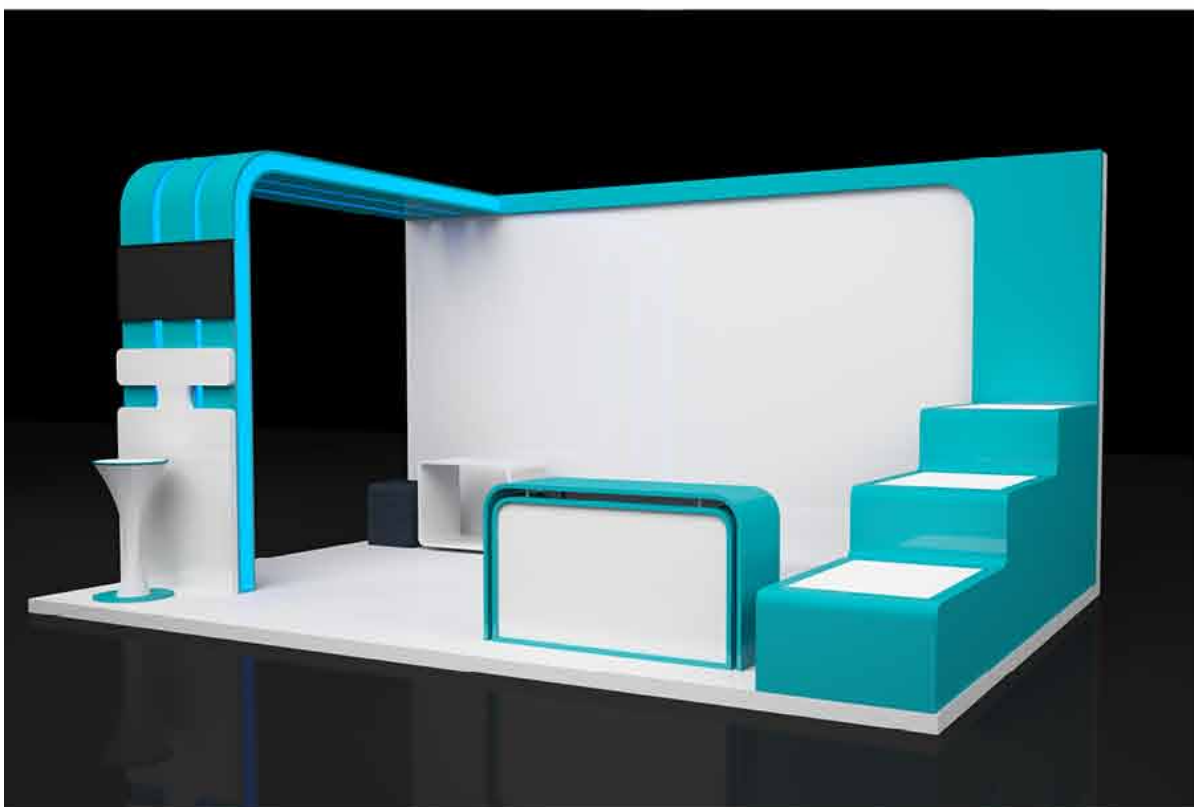
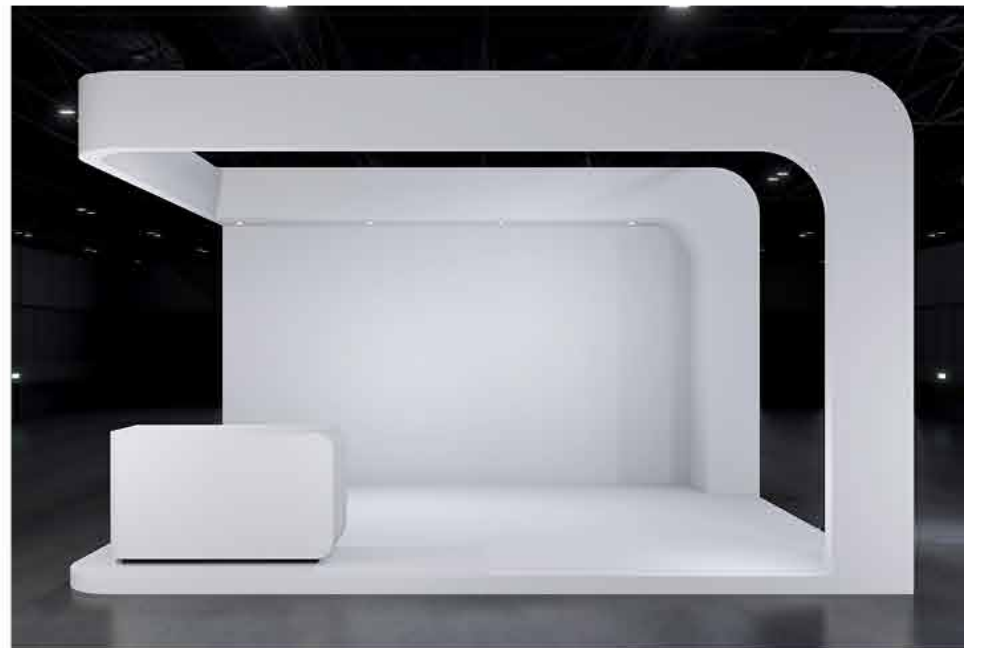
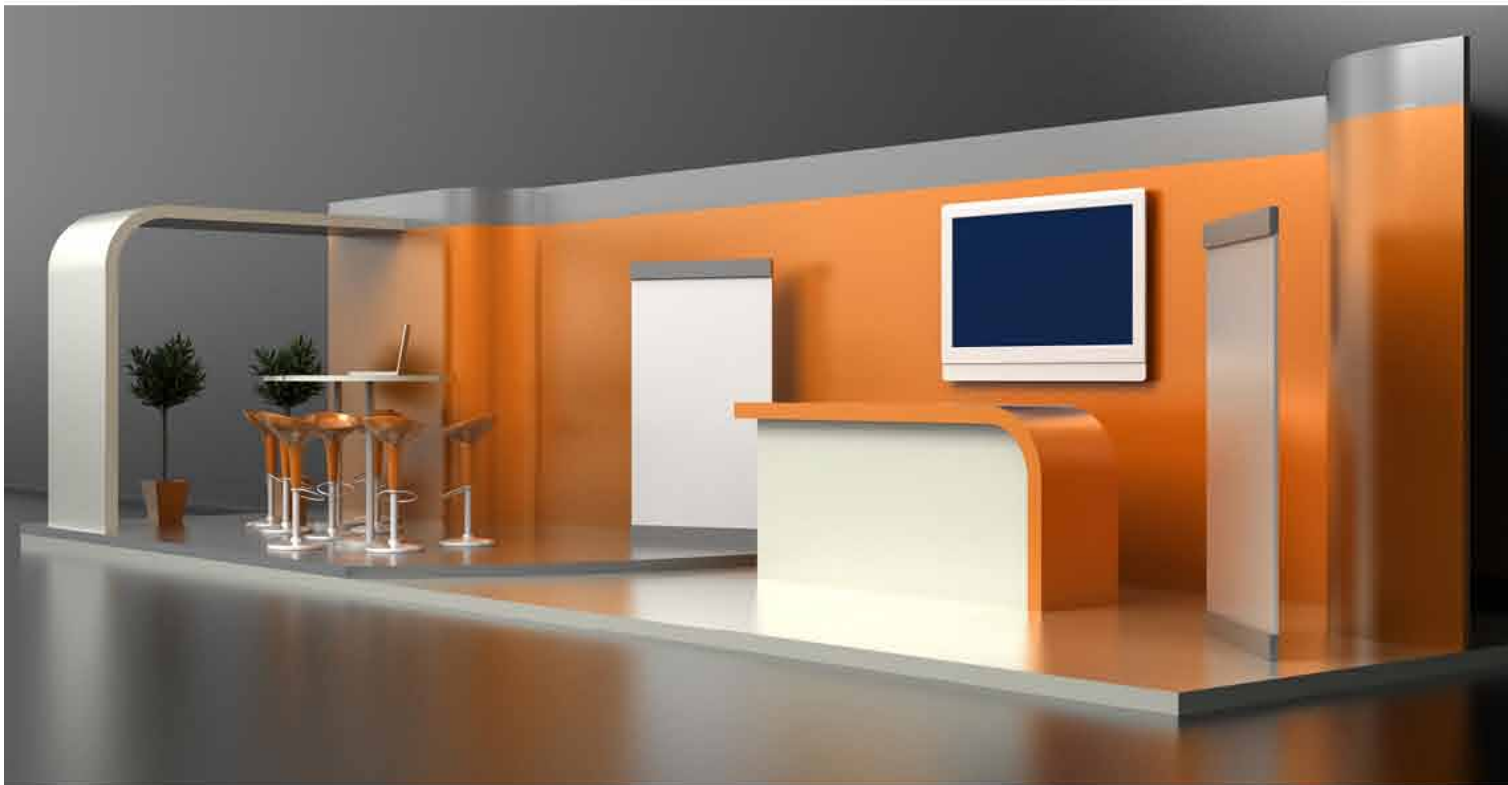
and contribute to carbon capture,” pointed out Nieuwenhuijsen. “Any initiative that leads to a greener city will be a step forward, the key message is that we need more and faster greening”, added the lead author of the study.

According to the research team, similar studies should be carried out in cities with more tree cover than Barcelona, since the lack of green space, especially sufficient tree cover, limits the ability to assess the 30% aspect of the 3-30-300 rule. “The question is to what extent 30% tree canopy cover is feasible, especially in compact cities,” the researchers concluded. -ANI



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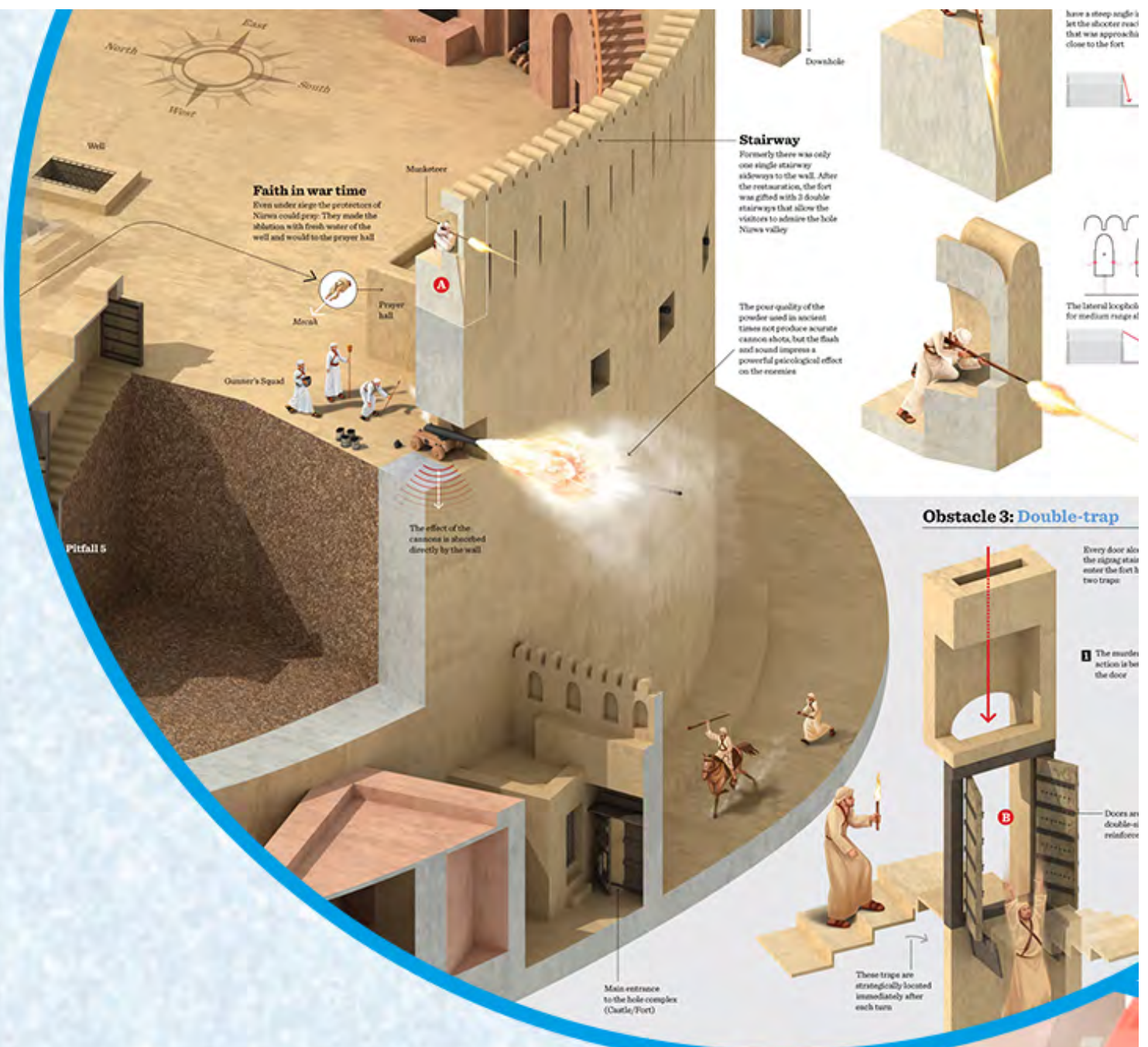
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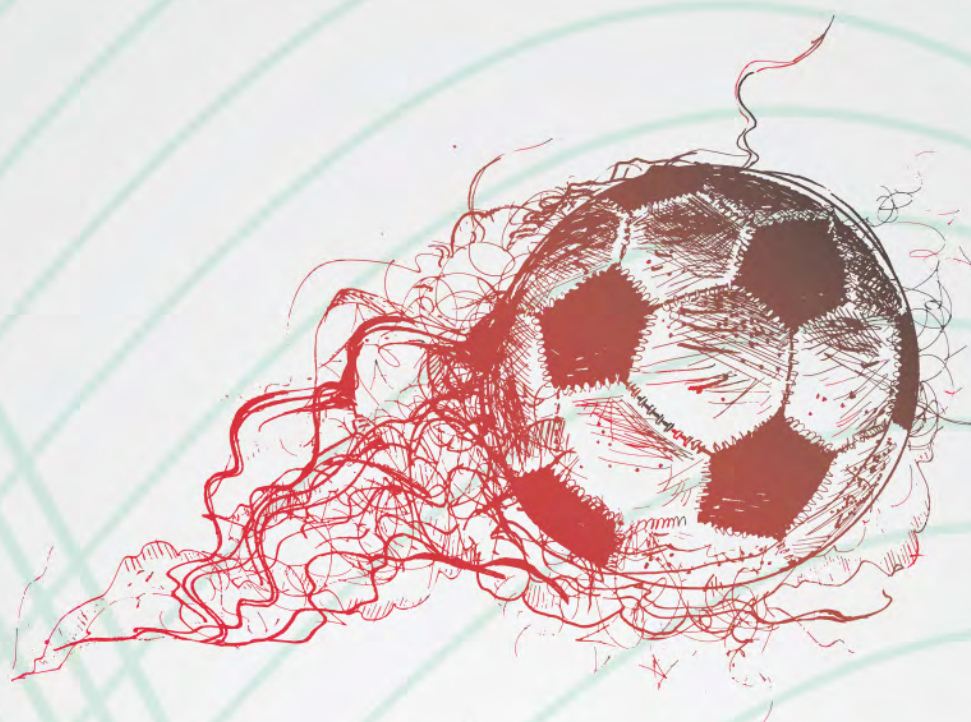
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