

**STATE COUNCIL DISCUSSES
DRAFT OF STATE BUDGET**

The State Council discussed the draft of State Budget 2023. The deliberation took place during the council's second session of the 4th regular session of its 7th term. **>A5**



6 085010 120010

OMANI CIVILISATION EXHIBITION INAUGURATED IN SHARJAH

The "Omani Civilisation: Origin and Development" exhibition, organised by the National Museums in cooperation with Sharjah Museums Authority, was inaugurated at Sharjah Archeology Museum. The exhibition's opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Sheikh Dr. Sultan Mohammed Al Qasimi, UAE's Supreme Council Member and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 197 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)



Scan the code
or Call 24790000



"Someday" is today!

Grow your business with Najahi
Business Banking from Bank Muscat.



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

HONOURABLE LADY'S VISIT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES GET SPECIALISED SERVICES IN OMAN



Her Highness the Honourable Lady met, interacted and encouraged children with disabilities in Al Azaiba and inspected the facilities for them

MUSCAT: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, on Wednesday visited Association for Children with Disabilities (ACD) in Al Azaiba in the Governorate of Muscat.

She took note of the services, training, educational and reha-



bilitation programmes extended to children with disabilities.

She was accompanied by Her Highness Sayyida Hujaijah Jaifer Al Said, ACD Chairperson, and Dr. Lailla Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

During the visit, the Honourable Lady inspected the facilities of

the ACD, its halls, equipment and devices used for the rehabilitation and training of children with disabilities and enable them to merge into society.

She listened to a briefing about the efforts being exerted towards the welfare of the handicapped and the development of their

skills, as well as the ACD's role in assisting the families of the disabled to incorporate them into society.

The Honourable Lady toured the ACD's exhibition and lauded the innovative contribution of women volunteers.

She expressed her admiration for the products made by children with disabilities enrolled at the ACD.

Appreciation

At the conclusion of the visit, the Honourable Lady expressed her appreciation for the ACD staff and volunteers' sincere efforts and noble quest to help this segment of children get access to the best specialised services.

In their turn, ACD staff and volunteers expressed their overwhelming happiness at the visit of the Honourable Lady and listening to her directives which, they said, reflect her constant care and great attention to this segment of society. **-ONA**

His Majesty issues two Royal decrees

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

Royal decree No. (92/2022) conducts military appointments and promotions at the Ministry of Defence.

Article (1) appoints Maj. Gen Hamid Ahmed Said Sakroon as Head of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

Article (2) promotes Commodore Ali Abdullah Mohammed Al Shidi to the rank of Rear Admiral and appoints him as Commandant of the National Defence College.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (93/2022) refers to the Sultan's Armed Forces Day.

Article (1) states that the 11th of December every year shall be named as "Sultan's Armed Forces Day".

Article (2) stipulates that the Sultan's Armed Forces Day shall be an official holiday for all members of the Sultan's Armed Forces in all parts of Oman.

Article (3) cancels Royal Decree No. 49/76 on "Armed Forces Day". It also cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

— ONA

OMAN Over 200,000 meals distributed among needy

1 More than 200,000 meals were distributed among needy families in the Sultanate of Oman by a Muscat-based charity association, Nidaa Al Khair, in association with Protiviti Oman, a global consulting firm. **>A3**

OMAN National Research Award for 11 projects

2 Eleven winning research projects were named out of the 307 projects submitted this year for the ninth National Research Award (NRA) at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. **>A4**

MARKET World crude prices see partial recovery

3 Crude oil prices witnessed a partial recovery in December after recording the biggest weekly decline in 20 weeks last week, although prices continued to remain below the \$80 per barrel mark. **>B1**



Messi rolls back the years as the world is left in awe

A8



A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman



26°
MUSCAT



QATAR 2022 'Mjumba magic' leaves people spellbound

Times News Service

MUSCAT: At a time when football fans are in a race to predict the winners of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 matches, an Omani has become an instant celebrity in the Middle East for his 'precise predictions'.

Popularly known as 'Mjumba', Mohammed Al Hajri has been spot on in predicting the team to lose. All he does is to wear the jersey of the team and his 'magic' works as that particular team has loses. That has been his record since his first 'prediction'.

It may not have been the way he wanted things to go when he began as he put on the jersey of Qatar in their opening match on November 20 against Ecuador. The hosts lost and since then, Mjumba has been spot on with the team jersey he puts on going on to lose the match.

Buoyed by the instant celebrity



status in the Middle East, Arab fans have now implored Mjumba to wear the France jersey ahead of tonight's semi-final against Morocco.

Morocco made history when they became the first African and Arab nation to reach the World Cup semifinals.

On Tuesday, Mjumba wore a

Croatia jersey, and the result was Argentina winning the match 3-0.

The social media phenomenon has now even been followed by global agencies and social media websites with him being shown in a video clip that is widely circulated. On Tuesday night the clip with him wearing the Croatian na-

tional team shirt at Lusail Stadium against Argentina was widely followed, according to the Russian news site "Russia Today".

According to Twitterati, the Mjumba jinx spell has been spot on so far.

An Emirati website also mentioned that whenever Mjumba wears a jersey that appears to back them, the result has been negative and in the case of the quarter-final between Portugal and Morocco, he had put on the Portugal jersey. The result: Morocco won.

Mjumba had earlier announced his support for the Netherlands team against Argentina, with an orange jersey and that result also had the Dutch go out.

In the quarter-final between Brazil and Croatia, he had the yellow-and-green jersey to support the five-time champions but Neymar and Co bowed out.

In the group stage, another ex-

ample was when he wore the Argentina jersey against Saudi Arabia and the Gulf nation created one of the biggest upsets in the World Cup with a win over Argentina.

The examples of his jinx led to the right predictions for Spain, South Korea and the hosts Qatar.

'Mjumba' hashtag topped the list of leading hashtags on Twitter, following the historic victory of Morocco against Portugal in the quarter-finals.

With his jinx, Mjumba is now known as "the unluckiest person" in the World Cup. So popular has the Omani become that there are hordes of fans who wish to click a selfie with him and on Wednesday he was swamped by thousands asking him to wear a Les Bleus jersey against Morocco.

After all, the Middle East is hoping that it is time for an Arab and African nation to make it to the World Cup final.



YOU ORDER WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

REDUCED FINANCE PROFIT RATES



Transfer your salary now and avail lower profit rates starting from 4.5% p.a.

For Omanis
Minimum Salary OMR 300

For Expats
Minimum Salary OMR 500



Quick and hassle-free loan process



Easy loans transfer



MAISARAH

2477 5777 | www.maisarah-oman.com

[f /MaisarahOman](#) [@MaisarahIslamic](#) [@Maisarah.Islamic](#)

خدمات التمويل الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

NOBLE CAUSE

More than 200,000 meals distributed among needy in a unique charity campaign

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 200,000 meals were distributed among needy families in the Sultanate of Oman by a Muscat-based charity association, Nidaa Al Khair, in association with Protiviti Oman, a global consulting firm.

Reaching out to the needy families by providing them meals is one of the noblest causes and Nidaa Al Khair is an Oman-based organisation that promotes charitable work in all humanitarian aspects.

Protiviti had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nidaa Al Khair, and they completed by December 10 distributing meals among the underprivileged families that are affected by challenging times.

A total of 170 boxes along with bags of flour and rice were provided to 170 families and a total of 1,020 individuals were benefited that was equivalent to more than 200,000 meals.

As part of Protiviti's CSR initiatives, 'i On Hunger', the project aims to distribute millions of meals around the world to help alleviate hunger.



Shatha Al Maskiry, Managing Director of Protiviti Oman, said: "We are grateful to God that we have stayed strong as a firm, and we translate this gratitude by continuing to partner with Nidaa Al Khair as a socially responsible firm that continues to give back to our community, as well as to thriving to repeatedly raise the bar of our achievements, by distributing more meals every year."

"This year, we managed to distribute around 224,956 meals. The participation of our business partners, clients, friends, families and alumni was inspiring but more so, involving children truly reflected the values and unity of our Omani society and the humanitarian principles we instil in them from a very young age."

Rahma Al Amri, operations manager of Nidaa Charity, said: "It is heartwarming that Protiviti instils among its employees the love of giving and helping others by delivering food packages to underprivileged families. All thanks and appreciation for the efforts made and we hope Protiviti will continue the process of giving to underprivileged families so they can have a decent family life."



SAID BIN SULTAN NAVAL BASE

RNO celebrates SAF, Retirees Days



AL MUSANAA: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) on Wednesday celebrated the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Day, which falls on 11 December, and the Retirees Day, which falls on 7 December. The ceremony, held at Said bin Sultan Naval Base, was held under the patronage of Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. -ONA



Kempinski Hotel
Muscat
SULTANATE OF OMAN

FESTIVE WONDERLAND AT KEMPINSKI HOTEL MUSCAT

KIDS FESTIVITIES AT CAFE ONE

High tea with Santa & Dippy | OMR 18 | 20 - 23 December | 14:00 - 15:30 & 16:00 - 17:30
Master Class for little chefs | OMR 10 for little ones | 15, 24 December

FESTIVE AFTERNOONS AT AMWAJ

Advent Afternoon Tea | OMR 19 | 18 December | 16:00 - 18:00
Festive Gueridon | OMR 20 includes bubbly | 15 - 30 December | 18:00 to 19:00

CHRISTMAS MARKET WONDERLAND

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

A MERRY EVE DINNER

24 December | 19:30 - 23:00
The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive soft drinks, juices and mocktails.
The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of festive cocktails and house grapes.
Zale Restaurant & Lounge | OMR 48 inclusive of open house grapes and welcome bubbly.

A MERRY BRUNCH

25 December | 13:00 - 16:00
The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive soft drinks, juices and mocktails.
The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of festive cocktails and house grapes.
Zale Restaurant & Lounge | La Comida by Chef David Pastor | OMR 28 inclusive of tapas with a flow of selected beverages.

FESTIVITIES AT ZALE

15 November - 20 December | 19:00 - 22:00
Festive Goose Dinners | OMR 30 inclusive of grapes and bubbles.

BOXING DAY BRUNCH

26 December | Monday 13:00 - 16:00
The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive of soft drinks, juices and mocktails.
The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of Christmas cocktails and house grapes.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

31 December | 19:00 - 1:00
The Kitchen | OMR 70
Say goodbye to 2022 with a tailored buffet featuring live cooking stations, sweet delicacies and international flavours, inclusive of a wide selection of cocktails and house grapes.

Zale Restaurant & Lounge | OMR 80

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

Amwaj Lounge | Golden Beluga afternoon tea | OMR 120 inclusive soft beverages, juice and mocktails.
Amwaj Lounge | Golden Beluga afternoon tea | OMR 200 inclusive of premium beverages and bubbly.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH

The Kitchen | OMR 30 inclusive of soft drinks, juices and mocktails.
The Kitchen | OMR 48 inclusive of premium house beverages and signature cocktail bar | 13:00 - 17:00

CONTACT OUR CULINARY CONCIERGE
+968 2486 9000 | DINING.MUSCAT@KEMPINSKI.COM
Prior booking required. All prices in OMR, subject to 8% service charge, 5% VAT & all applicable governmental taxes

World-class Quality. UNBELIEVABLE PRICE



BAHAR Automatic
WINNER MOST TRUSTED BRAND AWARD





CORPORATE INSURANCE

WE OFFER PROPERTY, MARINE, PROJECT, PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY, WORKMEN COMPENSATION, FLEET, GROUP PA & EMPLOYEE BENEFIT INSURANCES
ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com



Oman United Insurance Co.
SAOG



OMAN



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om



The Honourable Lady visits Association for Children with Disabilities



Eleven research projects win National Research Award



FORUM: The event was held under the auspices of Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. - ONA



11 winning research projects were announced out of the 307 projects submitted this year for the 9th National Research Award

MUSCAT: The ninth cycle of the Annual Research Forum, organized by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation was held on Wednesday at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), in which the winners of the National Research Award and Upgrade programme were announced.

The event was held under the auspices of Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

During the event, Dr. Saif Abdullah Al Haddabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher

Education, Research and Innovation for Research and Innovation said that "the National Research Award contributes to directing research to serve national priorities, raising the quality of research publication in international peer-reviewed journals and periodicals, and strengthening the Sultanate of Oman's ranking in the Global Innovation Index."

Afterwards, the 11 winning research projects were announced out of the 307 projects submitted this year for the 9th National Research Award (NRA) divided into the best published research led by a PhD holder or equivalent (senior specialist or higher in the medical field) category and the best published research led by a young researcher (non-PhD holder) category.

Under the PhD Category, 'A novel drone-based system for accurate human temperature measurement and disease symptoms detection using thermography and AI' by Dr. Ahmed Said Al Maashri from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) won in the Information and Communication Technologies sector.

In the Cultural, Social and Basic Sciences sector, the award went to 'The complementarity of green supply chain management practices and the impact on environmental performance' by Dr. Anwar

Khamis Al Sheyadi from the University of Technology and Applied Sciences at A'Rustaq.

In the Environmental and Biological Resources sector, the award went to 'Energy recovery and carbon/nitrogen removal from sewage and contaminated groundwater in a coupled hydrolytic-acidogenic sequencing batch reactor and denitrifying biocathode microbial fuel cell' by Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mamun from SQU.

As for the Education and Human Resources sector it was awarded for the project 'Learner readiness for MOOCs in Omani higher education institutions: Disparities between projections and reality' by Dr. Aisha Salim Al Harthy from SQU.

'TMEM63C mutations cause mitochondrial morphology defects and underlie hereditary spastic paraplegia' by Dr. Fatema Abdullah Al Salmi of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences took the award in the Health and Social Services sector.

Further, in the Energy and Industry sector, the award went to 'Enhancing oil recovery by electric current impulses well treatment: A case of marginal oil field from Oman' by Dr. Svetlana Rudyk (SQU).

Under the Young Researcher's category, the award was won by

the project 'Self-Detection of Early Breast Cancer Application with Infrared Camera and Deep Learning' by Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Husaini from SQU in the Information and Communication Technologies sector.

For the Environmental and Biological Resources sector, the award went to 'Fresh-saline water dynamics in coastal aquifers: Sand tank experiments with MAR-wells injecting at intermittent regimes' by Shahad Mattar Al Yaqoubi from SQU.

In the Education and Human Resources sector, the award was won by 'The Role of the Technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Achieving the Requirements of Sustainable Development in Higher Education Institutions in the Sultanate of Oman' by Dr. Mashael Awad Al Saiari from the University of Technology and Applied Sciences at Salalah.

In the Health and Social Services sector, the award went to 'Efficacy of a Six-Week-Long Therapist-Guided Online Therapy Versus Self-help Internet-Based Therapy for COVID-19-Induced Anxiety and Depression: Open-label, Pragmatic, Randomized Controlled Trial' by Dr. Mohammed Salim Al Alawi from Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH).

In the Energy and Industry

sector, the award was given to 'Retrofitting and simultaneous multi-criteria optimization with enhanced performance of an industrial gas-cleaning plant using economic, process safety, and environmental objectives' by Debashish Tikadar from SQU.

The Annual Research Forum also announced the nine winning teams of the latest edition of the Upgrade programme.

Upgrade is a programme that transforms the top graduation projects into startups, and it is divided into two tracks: the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) track and the newly launched industrial track.

In the ICT track, the six winning projects went to 'Long-term Forecasting of Solar PV System Output Using Machine Learning' by Insiya Zehra, Wadhah Al Darii, Tamadher Al Hosni and Safa Al Baiti, 'Drilling Rigs Planning and Scheduling' by Ahmed Al Mazroey, Husam Al Nasser and Mazin Al Rubkhi, 'Mobile App for Handling Legal Issues' by Sara Al Si-nani, Balqees Al Ghafri and Maroa Al Dairi, 'Low-Cost Smart Poultry Farming Based on IoT' by Saif Al Janabi, Mohammed Al Shuaili, Aaisha Al Risi and Rahma Al Waili, 'Drone Jamming' by Dr. Selvarani Murugesan and Aflah Al Hajri, and 'Q Drop' by Ahmed Al Jabari and

Fatema Al Alawi.

As for the industrial track, the three winning projects went to 'Design of Photobioreactor for Microalgae Cultivation' by Mona Al Maashani, Maryam Al Balushi and Fatima Al Hina'i, 'Graphene-Based Polymeric Solar Cells' by Aisha Al Wahaibi, Al Hasnaa Al Adwani, Muzn Al Abri and Nusiba Al Kharusi, and 'Sustainable Fabric Production from Recycled Plastic Water Bottles' by Zainab Al Hajri and Jihan Al Busaidi.

In addition to announcing the NRA and Upgrade program winners, the forum also held 3 accompanying sessions to discuss research support programmes directed to the government sector, the industrial sector and the academic sector, the challenges they face and the appropriate proposals for their development.

The forum also included an exhibition with 23 posters on the winning NRA papers, the winning student projects of the Upgrade programme.

The Annual Research Forum aims to enhance the research and innovation culture in the Sultanate of Oman, promote creativity and entrepreneurship among Omani citizens, and develop new methods in a bid to transform to a knowledge-based economy and society. -ONA



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

TANUF

REFRESH
& RECYCLE



100% RECYCLABLE
100% RECYCLABLE
100% RECYCLABLE
100% RECYCLABLE
100% RECYCLABLE



SHARJAH ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM



Omani civilisation expo inaugurated in Sharjah

SHARJAH: The “Omani Civilisation: Origin and Development” exhibition, organised by the National Museum in cooperation with Sharjah Museums Authority, was inaugurated on Wednesday at Sharjah Archeology Museum. The exhibition runs till 7 June 2023.

The exhibition's opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Sheikh Dr. Sultan Mohammed Al Qasimi, United Arab Emirate's (UAE) Supreme Council Member and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah.

The event was also attended by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum, Sayyid Dr. Ahmed Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the UAE and Manal Ataya, Director General of the Sharjah Museums Authority.

The exhibition showcases a rare collection of 100 artefacts that highlight the deep-rooted ties between Oman and the UAE and the rich history of the region.

They also trace the social, and geographical developments witnessed by the Omani civilization throughout the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age until the early Islamic era.

Featured objects in the exhibition comprise fishing gears,



weapons, clay and stone pots, ornaments, stamps, farming equipment, and jewellery such as a rare golden necklace that dates back to the period between 300 BC and 400 AD.

Also displayed in the exhibition are a cuneiform tablet that dates back to 2100 to 2000 BC which lists materials needed to build a fleet of boats that could sail from 'Ur', a Sumerian city-state in Mesopotamia (Iraq) to Magan (Oman), a collection of daggers made of copper and silver, as well as a number of figurines, ceramics, and stamps including one with proto-literate signs that date back to 2200 BC.

Commenting on the event, Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum said: “The National Museum, through its participation in the “Omani Civilisation:

Origin and Development” exhibition took precedence as the first integrated museum exhibition from the Sultanate of Oman to be held in the United Arab Emirates, which reflects the qualitative level of cultural and museum co-operation between the National Museum and the Sharjah Museums Authority.”

He added: “The exhibition comes within the framework of the cultural diplomacy pursued by the National Museum with the aim of promoting knowledge, and in affirmation of the strong ties that link the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, through the exchange of artefacts and exhibitions, and providing access to the National Museum's collections to a wider segment of visitors from around the world, citizens and residents of the United Arab Emirates.” — **UNA**

EXPANDED ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT

State Council discusses 2023 draft budget

MUSCAT: The State Council on Wednesday discussed the draft of State Budget 2023. The deliberation took place during the council's second session of the 4th regular session of its 7th term.

The session focused on the report of the Expanded Economic Committee on the draft of state budget for the fiscal year 2023.

The report will be returned to the Council of Ministers, along with the recommendations of the State Council and Shura Council.

Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, said: “This session is held in secret, as per the provisions of Article (52) of the Law of Council of Oman.” Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Harthi, Chairman of the State Council's Economic Committee, said that the drafting of the budget coincided with exceptional global events and exceptional conditions in the global economic arena. — **UNA**



COUNTDOWN AT THE BAR

TURBINE & TAPS
31ST DECEMBER, 8:00 PM - 2:30 AM

Join us for an evening of sparkle at Turbine & Taps. we welcome you to party the night away in true style. For the ultimate grand finale.

OMR 35

THE PRICE IS INCLUSIVE OF VAT, TAXES AND SERVICE CHARGE. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.
FOR BOOKINGS OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL +96822364113 OR +96891295364

NOTICE

Date: December, 2022

Simplex Fire Detection Systems containing Simplex branded TrueAlert ES Addressable Notification Appliances

Tyco Fire Products LP ('Tyco'), the US manufacturer of 'Simplex' fire detection systems and products, has recently discovered an issue that potentially impacts certain fire alarm system Notification Appliances, such as sounders, horns and visual strobes. These are used primarily in commercial fire detection systems.

Simplex branded TrueAlert ES Addressable Notification Appliances (including sounders, horns and visual strobes) manufactured on or after January 19, 2021 (for Xenon type Notification Appliances) and on or after August 19, 2021 (for LED type Notification Appliances) contain a firmware issue that could result in a failure to alarm visually and/or with sound after a period of regular operation of 11 months or longer ("Impacted Notification Appliances"). Some but not all Impacted Notification Appliances with speakers may then "chirp." Any occupants in proximity to such Impacted Notification Appliances would need to be notified of an alarm in another manner, whether by other Notification Appliances in adjacent areas or through other means.

Initiating devices such as smoke sensors and heat sensors are not affected and will alert the control panel of a fire event, which then enables the control panel to alert Central Station Monitoring as required. The control panel will display any fire event visually, and unaffected Notification Appliances will operate as designed. Fire suppression systems such as sprinklers are not affected.

Tyco has performed advanced testing and implemented a remedy for the firmware issue. The issue is resolved through a firmware update to the control panel power supply and may include the replacement of some Impacted Notification Appliances.

The distributor has been requested to contact end users directly to schedule a visit to their site to address the issue.

Al Busaidy Mansoor Jamal & Co
For and on behalf of Tyco Fire Products LP

PROMO CODE
FIRSTORDER10

10 % DISCOUNT
ON YOUR FIRST
PURCHASE



Shop Now!

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



WORLD



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

RESCUE OPERATION

Rescue underway in English Channel after refugee boat sinks

LONDON: The UK and France announced on Wednesday that they had launched a rescue operation in the English Channel following reports that a refugee boat had sunk.

Details about the type of vessel involved and the number of people aboard remained unclear, but the British government reported that at least four people had died.

The crossing is extremely dangerous due to the Channel being one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and the frigid weather this time of year.

This has not stopped refugees attempting the crossing in small dinghies. In November 2021, 27 people drowned during a similar incident.

The rescue operation is a coordinated effort between the British and French navies, the UK border patrol, air ambulances and other emergency services.

Tens of thousands crossed the Channel in 2022

British Interior Minister Suella Braverman, who has controversially described it as her "dream" to deport UK asylum seekers to Rwanda, called the event "distressing."

"I am being kept constantly up-

dated while agencies respond and urgently establish the full facts," she wrote on Twitter. "My heartfelt thoughts are with all those involved."

According to the International Organization for Migration, at least 205 refugees have gone missing in the English Channel since 2014. This year alone, 43,000 asylum seekers have made the journey. **ow**



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

US achieves major scientific breakthrough in fusion technology

A team at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory conducted the first controlled fusion experiment in history



WASHINGTON: The United States has achieved a major scientific breakthrough in fusion technology that will pave the way for advancements in national defence and the future of "clean" power, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced on Tuesday.

A team at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California conducted the first controlled fusion experiment in history to achieve a "scientific energy breakeven" that "produced more energy from fusion than the laser energy used to drive it," the Energy Department said in a statement issued jointly with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). "This historic, first-of-its kind achievement will provide unprecedented capability to support NNSA's Stockpile Stewardship Program and will provide invaluable insights into the prospects of clean fusion energy, which would be a game-changer for efforts to achieve President Biden's goal of a net-zero carbon economy," the statement said.

US media reports have said that proponents of fusion hope to one-day produce nearly limitless, carbon-free energy and displace fossil fuels as well as other traditional energy sources. Experts said net energy gain has been an elusive goal because fusion happens at inordinately high temperatures and

pressures that are very difficult to control.

While producing energy that powers homes and businesses from fusion might be decades away, the achievement by the team at Lawrence Livermore is nonetheless significant, the reports said.

"We have had a theoretical understanding of fusion for over a century, but the journey from knowing to doing can be long and arduous. Today's milestone shows what we can do with perseverance," said White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Arati Prabhakar said.

US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said he has secured what he described as the "highest ever authorisation" of more than USD 624 million for this year to enable researchers to build on the fusion breakthrough.

"This astonishing scientific advance puts us on the precipice of a future no longer reliant on fossil fuels but instead powered by new clean fusion energy," he said. **ANI**

MAHATMA GANDHI'S BUST

UN chief, Jaishankar to unveil Mahatma Gandhi's bust at UN headquarters

NEW YORK: The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the premises of the UN headquarters in New York on December 14 (local time), India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj has announced in a video message posted on Twitter.

"Secretary-General and the External Affairs Minister of India will inaugurate a bust of Gandhiji which is to be placed in the prestigious north lawns of the UN building," Ruchira Kamboj said. Ruchira Kamboj further said, "The event will take place in presence of Council members, including the five new incoming members of the UN Security Council."

In a tweet, Kamboj noted that the bust will be the first sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi that will be placed at the UN headquarters.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said, "The bust, a gift from India to the United Nations, will be the first Gandhi sculpture that will be installed at the UN Headquarters."

Notably, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is in the United States for a two-day official visit. Upon arrival, Jaishankar held a meeting with the United Nations General Assembly President Csaba Korosi.

"Glad to meet @UN_PGA Csaba Korosi in New York. Discussed our UNSC experience, our G20 Presidency goals and importance of reformed multilateralism," Jaishankar tweeted. S Jaishankar also held a discussion with Japan's State Minister of Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji in New York.

Sharing details regarding his meeting, Jaishankar in a tweet wrote: "Good discussion with State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Yamada Kenji. As G4 members, India and Japan work together to advance reformed multilateralism. Spoke about the need to take forward IGN process more effectively."

During his visit, Jaishankar is scheduled to preside over two High-Level Ministerial signature events of India's ongoing Presidency of the UN Security Council on December 14-15. **ANI**



CATCH ALL THE LIVE ACTION OF FOOTBALL AT AFANDINA & WIN

GRAND PRIZE MG CAR WEEKLY PRIZES MOBILE, LAPTOP & GIFT VOUCHERS

Book Your Table Now

afandinalafandina

AL MAHA STREET, BAUSHAR 72297000 92667000

NO RELEASE

Peru court denies appeal for release of ousted president

LIMA: The Peruvian Supreme Court has denied an appeal for the release of former President Pedro Castillo, who was taken into custody after attempting to dissolve the country's legislature.

There are fears the decision could inflame violent protests across the country that have already turned deadly, with people demanding Castillo's freedom, the resignation of his successor and an immediate general election for a new president and Congress.



What did the court say?

Supreme Court Judge Cesar San Martin said Castillo's nationally televised announcement last week — in which he announced the dissolution of Congress by presidential decree — was "not a mere act of speech, but the concrete expression of a will to alter the constitutional system and the configuration of public powers."

The judge said evidence suggested that Castillo was intercepted as he tried to reach the Mexican embassy to claim asylum. He was taken into custody shortly after lawmakers voted to remove him from power. Castillo had sought to dissolve Congress ahead of an impeachment vote.

The judge said Castillo's appeal was "unfounded" while reading out the judgment at the end of a virtual hearing. Angry protests against the removal of Castillo have rumbled on since he was removed, leaving seven people dead

— six of them in the Apurimac region where new president Dina Boluarte was born.

With his background as a rural teacher and union leader, left-wing Castillo has his strongest support in the Andean regions, with far less backing in the coastal capital, Lima. An indefinite strike called on Tuesday by indigenous and agrarian organizations forced the train service between the city of Cusco and Machu Picchu to be suspended. Cusco airport was closed overnight after protesters tried to get inside.

Police said protesters had set up roadblocks in 13 of the country's 24 regions.

What did Castillo say?

"I will never give up and abandon this popular cause that brought me here," Castillo said at the court hearing.

"From here I would like to urge the armed forces and national police to lay down their arms and

stop killing these people thirsty for justice."

The former president said his arrest was unjust and arbitrary.

"I am not a thief, a rapist, corrupt or a thug," he added, before the judge interrupted and told Castillo to keep to legal arguments.

Why is Castillo being detained?

Castillo was removed from power while facing an impeachment vote — for the third time — against him. The authorities were investigating the president and his family members for alleged corruption.

His latest attempt to sideline the Peruvian parliament ended with Congress deciding to impeach him for "moral incapacity."

Although Castillo was provisionally detained for seven days, prosecutors said they would push for his detention for three years. **ow**

INCITEMENT OF HATRED

Meta sued for inciting hatred in Ethiopia

WASHINGTON: A new lawsuit has been filed against Facebook parent company Meta, claiming that the platform enabled the incitement of hatred in Ethiopia's civil war.

The suit was filed in Kenya on Tuesday by two Ethiopian researchers and a Kenyan rights group, the Katiba Institute. Ac-

cording to court documents, the plaintiffs accuse Meta of not only failing to moderate violent posts about the country's conflict in the Tigray region, but also amplifying the most virulent ones.

One of these posts preceded the murder of a plaintiff's father, their filing said.

Abraham Amare, a researcher and son of chemistry professor Meareg Amare, said that his father was targeted by a series of threatening posts because he was ethnically Tigrayan. He reported the posts, some of them shared over 50,000 times, to Facebook because they contained his father's address and called for his death. **ow**



Magical Messi leads La Albiceleste into World Cup final with a dominating victory over Croatia

DOHA: The dream that appeared to be going up in smoke when Saudi Arabia inflicted the shock of this FIFA World Cup is not only alive, it is 90 minutes from becoming reality. Lionel Messi is one match from crowning an extraordinary career with the prize he yearns the most as he led with his magical performance in Argentina's 3-0 win over Croatia in the first semi-final of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Lusail Stadium on Tuesday night.

What's more, with the penalty he scored to put his team in front here, Messi drew level with Kylian Mbappe on five goals in the Golden Boot tussle. The Golden Ball for best player? That's within his reach, too.

Messi was outstanding on Tuesday and so were Argentina, emerging from an even, edgy opening half-hour to grab the game by the scruff of the neck and never let go.

Dominic Livakovic made a straight forward stop from Enzo Fernandez after 25 minutes, while all Croatia could muster for their superior possession share was a deft effort floated too high by Ivan Perisic after Luka Modric prompted a fluent counter.

That would be the most we saw of Croatia's renowned technicians, ultimately suffocated by the speed and aggression and control of Lionel Scaloni's incessant players. Argentina led when Croatia centre-halves Dejan Lovren and Josko Gvardiol lost their bearings following a ball over the top, allowing Julian Alvarez to escape.

Alvarez toed the ball past Livakovic and the keeper resorted to illegal means to prevent the striker collecting it on the other side.

Livakovic has established a reputation as a penalty specialist after four shootout stops at this tournament. But the 27-year-old didn't have a hope with Messi's strike, belted into the roof of the net for a fourth goal from the spot - including shootouts - in Qatar.

Croatia's attempt to respond ultimately came back to bite them. A corner was worked to Marcelo Brozovic on the right of the box, but the cross was cleared and eventually helped on by Messi, applying a touch a fraction before he was upended.

Alvarez picked up possession on halfway and immediately made straight for goal. He was



KEY STATS

- »Excluding shootouts, only Eusebio (four for Portugal in 1966) and Rob Rensenbrink (four for Netherlands in 1978) have scored more penalties at a single World Cup than the three Lionel Messi has netted at the 2022 edition.
- »Messi is the first Argentina player to score five goals in a FIFA World Cup since Gabriel Batistuta in 1998.
- »Messi is the sixth player in World Cup history to score in the round of 16, quarter-finals and semi-finals in a single edition of the event following Salvatore Schillaci (1990), Roberto Baggio (1994), Hristo Stoichkov (1994), Davor Suker (1998) and Wesley Sneijder (2010).

"I don't know if it's my best World Cup or not. I've been enjoying this for a while. We were confident this group was going to pull it off. We know who we are, and we asked people to believe in us".

helped by right-back Nahuel Molina displaying the endurance of a cross-country runner to charge the length of the field, distracting defenders and clearing Alvarez's path.

Still, Alvarez didn't have it all his own way. He's a skilful player and sometimes appears to have Velcro attached to his instep. But in this instance, Alvarez chose

strength over finesse, barrelling through Josip Juranovic and Borna Sosa, before poking the finish past Livakovic. The keeper, once more, was helpless to resist.

Argentina went searching for the killer blow. Rodrigo De Paul's shot hit Gvardiol on the hand but the defender's arm was by his side. Alexis Mac Allister met the subsequent corner to force Liva-

kovic into an athletic stop leaping to his left.

Emiliano Martinez at the other end was all-but unemployed. He needed to get down sharply to divert behind a cross from Juranovic - and after the break, there was a good stop to deny Lovren after Modric curled over a left-wing free-kick.

But Argentina were in charge. Livakovic saved at his near post form the imperious Messi but the elusive forward would have the final say. Messi duped Gvardiol on the right, teasing the defender with a series of feints and tricks, eventually spinning 360 degrees to give the Croatian the slip at the byline. Alvarez was waiting for the low delivery and confidently beat Livakovic for his second goal.

Argentina could have had more - Mac Allister was narrowly wide with a volley, late on. But Messi and Co were already assured of their place back at Lusail Stadium on Sunday.

Key moment

Croatia won't be overly disturbed to find themselves one goal down, went the popular argument.

All Messi's emphatic penalty did, after all, was dump the 2018 runners-up in familiar territory.

Zlatko Dalic's team recovered deficits against Japan and Brazil to win both matches on penalties and reach this stage.

There is a level of cussedness, a refusal to concede defeat, embedded in this team. On the way

to the Russia final four years ago, Croatia came from behind in all three of their knockout matches.

A one-goal lead, then, was never going to sit entirely comfortably with Argentina. Indeed, for their part, Scaloni's team haven't always capitalised on getting their noses in front in Qatar.

Saudi Arabia trailed to a Messi penalty before securing a win that appears more extraordinary with each passing Argentina performance in this tournament.

Argentina had to rely on penalties to get past the Netherlands after surrendering a two-goal advantage in the quarter-final. Australia, too, put the frighteners on the South Americans when they struck to set up a grandstand finish after seeming out of contention at 2-0 down.

When Alvarez determinedly barged his way through to briskly turn one into two for Argentina, however, it felt like Croatia's race was run. The Europeans expended so much energy to progress to the last four - a core of these players were integral to the final run in Russia, too - and were powerless to dip into the well, once more.

Five breathless minutes was all it took for Argentina to transform a balanced contest, exerting a grip Croatia never threatened to release after the punch to the solar plexus administered by Manchester City forward Alvarez shortly before half-time. - **FIFA** -

SEMIFINAL DEFEAT

We will fight for third place: Croatia coach Dalic

DOHA: Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic vowed that his team would rebound from their FIFA World Cup elimination at the hands of Argentina on Tuesday.

The European side looked a shadow of the team that defeated Brazil in the quarterfinals, managing just two shots on target as Argentina prevailed 3-0.

"I'd like to congratulate Argentina for winning the semifinal and making it to the final," he said.

"Now we'll get back on our feet and try to win the match for third place [on Saturday]. We have to pull ourselves together, raise our heads. I can't blame the boys for anything - we are going into the fight for third place. We don't have much to complain about."

He singled out Lionel Messi, who scored one goal and set up



another, for special praise.

"Not much more needs to be said," Dalic told reporters. "He's probably been the best player in the world over the past few years. He makes a difference because of his explosiveness and



technical quality."

Dalic also said the disputed decision to award Argentina a penalty changed the complexion of match.

"Everything was in our hands. We played well for half an hour and had possession. We were not

a threat but did have control," said Dalic, who claimed his side should have been awarded a corner just before the penalty. We conceded a goal, which was very suspicious. The situation leading to the penalty... it was a little too cheap, a bit too easy to be honest."

"Our goalkeeper did what he did and these are the new rules," he added. "This goal took the match in a different direction."

Dalic also bemoaned his team's lack of a genuine goalscorer.

Dalic said his team created "good situations" but failed to produce clear-cut chances.

"We have prepared everything but we missed a real, genuine attacker," he said.

"We lost the match. I have nothing to complain about regarding the boys. They gave their best dur-

ing this whole tournament.... It is a deserved defeat."

Modric hopes Messi lifts the trophy

Croatia star Luka Modric, who was substituted in the closing minutes of the game, received a warm ovation from nearly all of the fans in the Lusail Stadium and after the final whistle.

The efforts of the 37-year-old were also recognised by several members of the Argentina side, including Lionel Messi and Angel Di Maria. Modric returned the generosity speaking to the Argentine press saying he wished Messi the best for the final.

"I hope Messi wins this World Cup. He is the best player in history and he deserves it," said Modric.

The veteran said: "That isn't a punishment for Croatia. We have had a great World Cup and now there is a bronze medal at stake and we have to prepare well, because that would be a success."

Modric's only criticism after the game was for Italian referee Daniele Orsata, who awarded Argentina a penalty which saw them open the scoring after a collision between Croatia keeper Dominik Livakovic and Julien Alvarez.

"We were comfortable, controlling the game and following a corner that the referee didn't give us, they got the penalty which changed everything," said Modric.

"The Argentinean dived and collided with our keeper. I can't believe he gave that penalty, which changed the game," he lamented. - **Agencies**

FIFA WORLD CUP

Qatar 2022

MESSI
ROLLS BACK
THE YEARS AS
THE WORLD IS
LEFT IN AWE

The Argentinian
star gave us another
memorable night
on Tuesday, and
was decisive in his
country's progress
to the final of
FIFA World Cup
Qatar 2022

The World Cup
record-breaker

A spotlight on the FIFA
World Cup records that
belongs to Lionel Messi
and the ones he is pursuing

» Messi is one of only
six men to have played
in five World Cups
alongside Antonio
Carbajal, Lothar
Matthaus, Rafa Marquez,
Andres Guardado and
Cristiano Ronaldo.

» Lothar Matthaus and
Messi share the record
for the most World Cup
appearances (25). 'La
Pulga Atomica' will take
the outright lead if he
appears in the final.

» Messi has made a
record 18 appearances
as captain in the World
Cup. He is followed by
Rafa Marquez (17) and
Diego Maradona (16).

» Paolo Maldini has played
the most minutes in
World Cup history: 2,217.
Messi is on 2,194 and
could surpass the Italian
in the Qatar 2022 final.

» Messi is the only player
to register an assist in
five World Cups. His
closest challengers are
Pele, Grzegorz Lato,
Diego Maradona and
David Beckham, who set
up goals in three editions
apiece.

» Pele and Messi share
the record for the most
assists in the knockout
phase (6).

» Messi is Argentina's
joint-leading marksmen
in the World Cup on 11
goals. He is followed by
Gabriel Batistuta (10),
Diego Maradona (8),
Guillermo Stabile (8),
Mario Kempes (6) and
Gonzalo Higuain (5).

» Messi is the only player
to score in the World
Cup in his teens, 20s and
30s. Pele missed out on
accomplishing the same
by four months.

» Messi scored his first and
latest World Cup goals 16
years and 180 days apart.
The next biggest span
in World Cup history
belongs to Cristiano
Ronaldo at 16 years and
160 days.

» The Player of the Match,
first awarded in 2002,
has been given to Messi
an unequalled 10 times.
His four at Brazil 2014 is
a record for one edition
he shares with Wesley
Sneijder, who received
the same at South Africa
2010.

» Miroslav Klose has
played in 17 World
Cup victories. Messi is
currently on 16.

DOHA: Qatar's capital becoming a time machine worthy of Back to the Future is surely the only explanation for how Lionel Messi, at 35 and with a niggle in his left hamstring after six games in 21 days, could skip away from one of this FIFA World Cup's best defenders.

Josko Gvardiol - the 20-year-old man in the mask whose asking price seemingly increased exponentially with every Croatia game, and was hailed as "the world's best centre-back" by coach Zlatko Dalic - was the victim this time. But it could easily have been Jerome Boateng in 2015 or any number of defenders who've been left red-faced by this brilliant little Argentinian.

The run that led to his incredible assist for Julian Alvarez's second goal was more reminiscent of Messi the teenage prodigy. But the Qatar 2022 version of this all-time great seems to be as good, if not better, than ever.

Tuesday was another historic night in the career of Argentina's star man, another record in a World Cup campaign that already had its entry in the encyclopedia of great individual tournament performances. With his penalty against Dominik Livakovic, a powerful effort that gave the goalkeeper - who had achieved hero status against Japan and Brazil - no chance whatsoever, he surpassed Gabriel Batistuta to become his coun-

try's leading World Cup goalscorer.

He also drew level with Kylian Mbappe at the top of the scorer's charts for Qatar 2022.

At referee Daniele Orsato's final whistle, Messi sank to his knees in exhaustion and clenched his fists in celebration of everything that had happened and everything still to come.

Eight years on

from defeat in the 2014 final, he will have another opportunity to lift the only major trophy he does not have on his honour roll.

"It's not revenge," he explained in the press conference after the game. "It's an opportunity, just like I've looked for opportunities my whole career. It's my last World Cup, so to have the chance to say goodbye like this is fantastic"

Qatar 2022 has been a rollercoaster of emotions. The defeat against Saudi Arabia was the culmination of decades of collective and individual frustration for Messi. But after that initial shock, the resurrection began, with throwbacks to some of the greatest successes in Argentina's history.

Moreover, the wins that Messi has inspired have allowed Argentina to close old wounds: this victory over Croatia, by the reverse of the 3-0 scoreline when the two sides met at Russia 2018, leaves one of the biggest frustrations of Messi's career buried for good.

Between the 2014 final in the Maracana and the qualification for Sunday's showpiece, Messi has been the main character in a story that seemed unlikely to have a happy ending. The extra-time loss to Germany, the two Copa America penalty shoot-out defeats to Chile, and the chaotic collapse in Russia 2018 left scars

so deep that he almost gave up, as a short-lived retirement from international football in 2016 showed.

But 2021's Copa America proved to be the beginning of the redemption arc. Once again in the Maracana, the same theatre in which he had gazed through tears at the trophy that seemed set to elude him, Messi led Argentina to victory over Brazil, and cast off the curse that seemed to follow him round.

The Argentinian star gave us another memorable night, and was decisive in his country's progress to the final of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. That victory was the foundation stone for the team that Lionel Scaloni has built, made up of a younger generation for whom Messi is their undisputed leader: "My age makes me feel differently about it, I'm enjoying being in the squad in a completely different way. That's what it's all about, picking yourself up and trying again, in every aspect of life. Everyone gets knocked down, but the important thing is to try again and keep fighting for your dreams. I had doubts at times, of course, but thank God I came back to enjoy all this."

And that is the point: Messi is enjoying himself. He is smiling, all the time, wherever he is, like never before. And that smile is new, even if this rejuvenated Messi's performance triggered waves of nostalgia in those watching. - FIFA-

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by February 2023 reaching \$76.80, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.22 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$75.58. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,866.48 points, down by 0.66 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.27 per cent at 493.65 points. Dhofar Generating, up 8.89 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Investment, down 4.44 per cent, was the top loser.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB trims economic growth forecast for developing Asia region



FORECAST: The bank said developing Asia will still do better than other regions globally, both in terms of growth and inflation. - **Photo used for illustrative purpose only**

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered its economic growth forecasts for the developing Asia region, amid a worsened global outlook.

The Manila-based bank maintained the gross domestic product growth projections for India at 7 per cent this fiscal year and 7.2 per cent next fiscal year. The bank also added even with the downgraded forecast, developing Asia will still do better

than other regions globally, both in terms of growth and inflation.

Developing Asia's economy will grow 4.2 per cent this year and 4.6 per cent next year, ADB said in a regular supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2022, released. ADB estimated in September that the economy of the region would grow 4.3 per cent in 2022 and 4.9 per cent in 2023.

Monetary policy tightening by

central banks globally and in the region, the protracted Russian invasion of Ukraine, and recurring lockdowns in the People's Republic of China are slowing down developing Asia's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, ADB said.

"Asia and the Pacific will continue to recover, but worsening global conditions mean that the region's momentum is losing some steam as we head into the new year," said

ADB Chief Economist Albert Park.

"Governments will need to work together more closely to overcome the lingering challenges of Covid-19, combat the effects of high food and energy prices - especially on the poor and vulnerable - and ensure a sustainable, inclusive economic recovery."

ADB lowered its forecast for inflation in developing Asia and the Pacific this year to 4.4% from 4.5%. - **ANI**

World crude oil prices witness partial recovery

Uncertainty about demand recovery kept prices subdued despite several significant actions on the supply front, including the sanctions and price cap on Russian crude oil



supply front including the sanctions and price cap on Russian crude oil, the implementation of production cuts by Opec+ last month and the plateauing of US crude oil production and crude oil rig count," it added.

On the demand side, air travel global seat capacity still trails pre-pandemic levels by around 16 per cent, according to data from OAG Aviation. However, the faster-than-expected unwinding of COVID-19 restrictions in China resulted in a steep recovery in the country's domestic air travel market to around 65 per cent of pre-pandemic levels on 12 December 2022 from 22 per cent at the end of November 2022, according to data from VariFlight, a source of flight status data trusted by more than 300 million travellers and leading businesses across the globe.

"That said, authorities are also keeping a close eye on the rapid spread of the pandemic post the easing of the restrictions. For the full year, crude oil demand in China is expected to slide by 2 per cent in 2022, according to China

NPC's research unit."

On the other hand, there were warning signs on economic performance in the US as seen from the latest increase in unemployment projections for 2023 based on a Bloomberg survey of economists.

Meanwhile, crude oil demand in India remained robust with the latest data showing diesel demand jumping by 19 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) in November 2022 and overall oil product usage increasing by 10 per cent to the highest since March 2022. Furthermore, a report from Auto Trader showed the first post-pandemic decline in demand for electric vehicles led by higher cost of living as well as higher electricity costs. The report pushed the forecast for EVs accounting for 50 per cent of new car sales in the UK by a year to 2027.

On the supply side, oil production in the US remained range-bound and recorded an increase of 100 thousand barrels per day (tb/d) to reach 12.2 million barrels per day (mb/d) during the week ended 2 December 2022.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Crude oil prices witnessed a partial recovery in December after recording the biggest weekly decline in 20 weeks last week, although prices continued to remain below the \$80 per barrel mark, according to a new report.

"The recovery was mainly led by news of easing COVID-19 restrictions in China as well as oil pipeline leak at the Keystone Pipeline System, an oil pipeline system in Canada and the United States, that affected oil supplies," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest said in its Oil Market Monthly Report of December 2022.

"In addition, the news of declining well productivity in the US with the slowdown in fracking of drilled wells also gave underlying support to crude oil on the supply front. Nevertheless, uncertainty about demand recovery kept prices subdued despite several significant actions on the

novagram

Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
 Infomercials
 TV Ads
 Corporate Videos
 Insta Reels
 Video Editing
 Multimedia & Animation
 Studio Services

CALL US:
97211869
sales@novagram.com

مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

GLOBAL DIGITAL TRADE

Over \$5 billion of tentative deals inked at east China digital trade expo

HANGZHOU: A total of \$37.4 billion yuan (about \$5.37 billion) worth of tentative deals were reached at the just-concluded Global Digital Trade Expo held in east China's Zhejiang Province, according to the provincial department of commerce.

Themed "Connecting Digital Trade to the World," the first Global Digital Trade Expo was held from Sunday to Wednesday in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang. It was co-sponsored by the people's government of Zhejiang Province and the Ministry of Commerce.

The four-day event gathered more than 800 leading companies from home and abroad, and showcased 315 new digital products. A total of 89 major projects in the internet plus, new materials, and life and health industries were signed during the expo, with approximately 110 billion yuan of total investment agreed, the provincial department of commerce said at a press conference. - **Xinhua**

Exciting offers from SUZUKI... adding joy to your journeys

Offer includes:
0% VAT Charges
Insurance (Oman & UAE) + Registration
2 Years / 40,000 Kms Service
5 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty
Quality Window Tinting

Scan the QR Code to check out the SUZUKI RANGE

Offer is valid from 23.10.2022 to 22.12.2022 on all models. Insurance (Oman & UAE) & Registration is for the 1st year (Private yellow plate). Service is for 2 years or 40,000 Kms, whichever is earlier. 5 years/Unlimited mileage warranty is through third party in accordance with their terms & conditions. Sales to Government institutions & Ministries, Rent-A-Car companies, Taxi and Driving schools are excluded from the scheme. Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes only.

MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC
 94760010 Wattyah | 94106970: For branches at Salalah | Sohar | Nizwa | Sur | Ibri | 800 76 200

suzuki.moosagroup.com | suzuki.oman | suzukioman | Suzuki Global

MARKET



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Generating, up 8.89 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Investment, down 4.44 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,866.48 points, down by 0.66 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.27 per cent at 493.65 points.

Dhofar Generating, up 8.89 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Anwar Investment, down 4.44 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 688 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.63 million, with more than 15.77 million shares changing hands. Out of 49 traded securities, 12 advanced, 14 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR177,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR109,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR68,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,894.08 points, down 0.57 per cent. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Oman United Insurance, Al Madina Takaful, DIDIC, and Oman &

Emirates Investment were up by 4.00 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 1.35 per cent and 1.25 per cent respectively.

Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank, Ominvest and Bank Muscat were down by 5.26 per cent, 3.80 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.41 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,364.01 points, up 0.11 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cement, Oman Refreshment, and Abrasives Manufacturing were up by 5.26 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 0.66 per cent and 0.30 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Galfar Engineering and Al Maha Ceramics were down by 0.66 per cent, 0.57 per cent and 0.45 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.41 per cent before closing at 1,586.75 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating was up by 8.89 per cent. Prices of Ooredoo, National Gas, Al Jazeera Services, Oman Telecom, and Al Maha Marketing were down by 2.33 per cent, 1.87 per cent, 1.48 per cent, 0.86 per cent and 0.44 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 50 INDEX	4,902.69	4,863.66	4,866.48	4,898.86	-32.38	-0.66	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,958.59	7,894.08	7,894.08	7,939.39	-45.31	-0.57	
Industry Index	6,407.28	6,351.56	6,364.01	6,356.85	7.16	0.11	
Services Index	1,595.61	1,582.46	1,586.75	1,593.36	-6.61	-0.41	
MSX Shariah Index	495.92	493.65	493.65	494.97	-1.31	-0.27	
MSX TR INDEX	6,188.08	6,138.83	6,142.39	6,183.26	-40.87	-0.66	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,327.77	8,260.27	8,260.27	8,307.69	-47.41	-0.57	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,686.42	1,672.52	1,677.06	1,684.04	-6.99	-0.41	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,670.78	6,612.76	6,625.72	6,618.27	7.45	0.11	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
15,770,462	2,630,011	688	23,799,162,907	12	14	23	49

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST HD	LAST OFFR	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	214,008	9,654	7	0.045	0.049	0.045	0.049	0.045	0.004	8.889	0.049	0.045	0.049	0.100	10,889,760
OM0000001987	OMAN UNITED INSUR	435,008	19,826	13	0.275	0.290	0.275	0.290	0.280	0.010	3.571	0.290	0.275	0.290	0.100	29,000,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	79,900	17,963	10	0.225	0.225	0.224	0.224	0.220	0.004	1.818	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.100	27,977,143
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINS.	82,637	12,159	10	0.149	0.149	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.690	0.146	0.140	0.146	0.100	44,289,191
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	13,261	4,031	4	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.302	0.002	0.662	0.304	0.302	0.304	0.100	100,585,304
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	60,420	6,883	9	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.100	15,960,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	49,694	34,786	6	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.680	0.700	0.100	10,250,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVS&A FIN.	40,251	5,192	4	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.129	0.141	0.100	30,573,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	182,497	29,564	3	0.162	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.161	0.162	0.100	315,844,509
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	906,383	51,584	43	0.057	0.059	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	11,200,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	7,480	3,320	13	0.472	0.472	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.000	0.000	0.470	0.472	0.470	0.100	111,112,700
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	189,775	56,036	21	0.285	0.286	0.285	0.286	0.287	-0.001	-0.337	0.286	0.291	0.286	0.100	481,280,121
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM	8,000	7,264	1	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.912	-0.004	-0.439	0.908	0.908	0.912	0.100	62,652,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,691	744	3	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.442	-0.002	-0.452	0.440	0.440	0.448	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	146,201	133,702	44	0.924	0.928	0.900	0.920	0.928	-0.008	-0.862	0.920	0.912	0.920	0.100	690,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,266,996	371,762	67	0.295	0.295	0.293	0.293	0.296	-0.003	-1.014	0.293	0.293	0.295	0.100	1,199,374,339
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	40,000	16,800	2	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.426	-0.006	-1.408	0.420	0.416	0.420	0.100	280,713,479
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	120,701	32,406	15	0.271	0.271	0.267	0.267	0.271	-0.004	-1.476	0.267	0.260	0.269	0.100	16,341,541
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	2,042,883	222,275	6	0.110	0.110	0.107	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.108	0.109	0.100	495,728,727
OM0000005988	OOREDOO	88,100	37,458	23	0.428	0.428	0.420	0.420	0.430	-0.010	-2.326	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	273,396,577
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	69,000	5,304	6	0.079	0.079	0.076	0.076	0.079	-0.003	-3.797	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	6,840,000
Total	21	6,044,086	1,176,914	310												

Parallel Market																
OM0000003139	ALUMINIUM PROD.	2,000	160	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.076	-0.004	-5.263	0.080	0.076	0.079	0.100	2,685,716
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	13,100	1,650	5	0.125	0.130	0.125	0.130	0.125	0.005	4.000	0.130	0.125	0.130	0.100	217,023,300
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,224,200	109,698	35	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.088	0.002	2.273	0.090	0.086	0.093	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000001509	DHOAF INT.	126,132	18,920	5	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.002	1.351	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	61,386,947
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	280,000	21,065	25	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.079	0.081	0.100	9,871,875
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	188,400	15,201	9	0.079	0.082	0.079	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.100	38,637,284
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	100	166	1	1.655	1.655	1.655	1.655	1.650	0.005	0.303	1.655	1.655	0.000	0.100	82,750,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,412,718	228,860	9	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.000	0.000	0.162	0.160	0.170	0.100	324,059,672
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	364,945	23,728	26	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.100	19,964,511
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEMI	6,322	566	2	0.092	0.092	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.092	0.100	1,764,000
OM0000003287	GULF MUSHROOM P	3,400	819	1	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.241	0.000	0.000	0.241	0.228	0.249	0.100	10,026,870
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	709,230	46,858	25	0.099	0.099	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	23,392,676
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	577,087	101,007	13	0.175	0.179	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.175	0.179	0.100	524,361,501
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	17,646	4,094	2	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.000	0.000	0.232	0.224	0.239	0.100	27,840,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	16,980	747	3	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	8,783,966
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,853,341	183,339	28	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	223,685,303
OM0000004735	SEMCORP SALAH	172,030	10,794	13	0.062	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.062	0.064	0.100	61,092,605
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	397,000	11,128	12	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.100	18,886,848
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	180,000	5,060	15	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.027	0.029	0.100	20,003,378
OM0000005983	PRIME POWER	167,050	6,979	5	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.041	0.042	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	4,100	480	2	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.120	0.100	49,698,115
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	92,800	16,142	13	0.174	0.176	0.173	0.175	0.176	-0.001	-0.568	0.175	0.173	0.177	0.100	35,522,628
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	799,417	124,462	74	0.166	0.166	0.148	0.150	0.161	-0.001	-0.662	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	30,000,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	89,000	9,434	5	0.109	0.109	0.105	0.105	0.107	-0.002	-1.869	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	8,925,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	407,555	35,835	23	0.091	0.091	0.086	0.086	0.090	-0.004	-4.444	0.086	0.086	0.093	0.100	17,200,000
Total	25	9,064,533	977,092	353												

EQUITY MARKETS

Asian stocks rise on US inflation relief

SINGAPORE: Asian stocks advanced, bonds were firm and the dollar-nursed losses after data showed US consumer prices barely rose in November, stoking hopes inflation has peaked and interest rate increases will slow and eventually stop in 2023.

Nervousness about policymakers' next moves, though, kept the mood in check ahead of a Federal Reserve meeting later in the day and central bank meetings in Britain and Europe on Thursday. Investors are also turning watchful on the global economy, despite China's reopening from tight COVID restrictions, Reuters reported.

The US consumer price index increased 0.1 per cent last month, 0.2 percentage points slower than economists expected, and in the 12 months through November, headline CPI climbed 7.1 per cent - its slowest pace in about a year.

European markets were set for a higher open with pan-region Euro Stoxx 50 futures up 0.15 per cent, German DAX futures flat and FTSE futures rising 0.05 per cent. US



stock futures, the S&P 500 e-minis, meanwhile, advanced 0.35 per cent. In Asia, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 1 per cent. The index is up 1.2 per cent so far this month.

Japan's Nikkei was up 0.78 per cent while Australian shares advanced 0.67 per cent. China and Hong Kong stocks also jumped on Wednesday as easing COVID-19 curbs and refocus on economic growth underpinned sentiment.

China's blue-chip CSI 300 Index rose 0.3 per cent while the Hang

Seng Index climbed 0.89 per cent. "If CPI comes off and China fully reopens, that's still not really enough to go gung-ho in Asia markets, because we're facing a scenario where the more developed markets, the major markets are facing a recessionary environment in 2023," said Sat Duhra, Portfolio Manager at Janus Henderson Investors' Asia ex Japan Equity Team.

"There will be some upside from China reopening, but I think it's not enough to offset the negatives." Overnight Wall Street surged,

before paring gains to leave the S&P 500 up 0.7 per cent at the close. The index was up nearly 2.8 per cent at one stage, while the Nasdaq rose as much as 3.8 per cent before closing 1 per cent higher. The dollar, which is falling from 20-year highs as US interest rate expectations retreat, dropped broadly and sharply, while bonds rallied.



HAVE A HEADACHE?

TRY THESE SOOTHING TEAS ON INTERNATIONAL TEA DAY



In major tea-producing countries, December 15 is celebrated as International Tea Day. Since 2005, several nations such as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, and Tanzania, have commemorated this special day.

However, as the tea harvesting season starts in May in most tea-producing countries, the UN also declared May 21 as International Tea Day. This means now we have two International Days to celebrate.

Regardless of the type of headache you experience, consuming a warm cup of tea may help you to soothe the distracting, throbbing pain in your head, following the same, let's take a look at these soothing herbal tea options.



GINGER TEA

One of the most popular culinary spices with a variety of health advantages is ginger. It has potent antioxidants that aid in lowering inflammation.



CHAMOMILE TEA

Insomnia and anxiety are two conditions that are frequently treated with chamomile tea. While there isn't enough evidence to conclusively link chamomile tea to the treatment of headaches, its calming properties may be helpful for tension headaches.



FEVERFEW TEA

The use of feverfew as medicine dates thousands of years ago. The effectiveness of feverfew in treating migraines has been investigated in numerous studies. Feverfew is a herb that can be used to alleviate migraines as well as general headache pain.



CLOVE TEA

Indonesian-born and globally grown, clove is a priceless spice. For centuries, it has been used to cure a variety of pains, including headaches. Its antinociceptive qualities are probably to blame for this. Antinociceptives assist in preventing or lessening the experience of pain.



PEPPERMINT TEA

Originally from the Middle East and Europe, peppermint is widely cultivated all over the world. Indian herbal treatments for dyspepsia, colds, coughs, and other ailments sometimes use peppermint as a herb. Tea with peppermint flavour is made by steeping peppermint leaves in hot water. It is consumed for a variety of health advantages brought on by the vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants it contains.

-ANI

Iyer and Pujara hit half-centuries to guide India to 278/6 on day one

Iyer and Pujara rose to the occasion and scored crucial innings at a time when India was down and out

CHATTOGRAM: Brilliant half-centuries from Shreyas Iyer and Cheteshwar Pujara with a partnership stand of 149-run guided India to 278/6 against Bangladesh on the first day of the opening Test of the two-match series here at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Wednesday.

At the end of day one, Iyer was batting unbeaten at 82 runs in 169 balls. Iyer and Pujara rose to the occasion and scored crucial half-centuries at a time when India was down and out. India were at 174/5 when Pujara showed his attacking intent as he slammed Ebadot Hos-sain for a beautiful four runs. The duo of Iyer and Pujara kept piling runs while hitting boundaries at



regular intervals. Pujara showed his masterclass as he brought up his gritty half-century in 125 balls with stunning back-to-back fours. This was Pujara's first century since January 2019.

In the 63rd over of the game, Iyer also brought up his much-needed fifty with an outstanding

four in 93 balls. The duo continued kept piling runs, bringing up their 100-run partnership while taking India beyond the 200-run mark.

Iyer and Pujara kept rotating the strike as the vice-captain took a more aggressive role as the innings progressed. Bangladesh made several attempts but they were not

successful to break the partnership.

Taijul Islam gave India a big blow as he dismissed well-set batter Pujara. Taijul finally broke the blistering partnership stand of 149-run between the Indian vice-captain and Iyer in the 85th over of the game.

Pujara departed after playing

an excellent knock of 90 off 203 deliveries. The left-handed batter Axar Patel then came out to bat, but could not do much as he was dismissed by Mehidy Hasan Miraz on the last ball of the day for 14 off 26. India ended the first day of the match in a comfortable position.

India were at 174/4 at Tea due to an unbeaten 62-run stand between Iyer and Pujara.

India managed to score 89 runs for the loss of one wicket in 30 overs during the second session, placing the team in a respectable position. At tea, Iyer (41*) and Pujara (42*) were at the crease. Resuming the innings at 85/3, India looked dominant with Rishabh Pant continuing his onslaught as he became the fastest to hit 50 sixes in test matches.

After the lunch break, Bangladesh missed a trick when they dropped Pujara on the second ball after lunch.

Bangladesh got some respite in the wicket of Pant as he gave away his wicket while trying to dominate the bowlers. He looked in ominous touch in his 45-ball stay in which he scored 46 runs with the help of six boundaries and two towering sixes.

India's most successful batter in the ODIs this year, Shreyas Iyer walked into bat and had a stroke

of luck on his first ball as his edge landed just wide of slip. However, that was the only hiccup that the batter faced during the second session.

He played a steady and fluent knock continuing his rich vein of form in 2022.

Pujara did what he does best as he made sure to anchor one end and kept blocking the balls to ensure Bangladesh don't make further inroads.

The duo batted superbly to negate the turn that the bowlers were able to extract while playing delightful shots every once in a while. They ensured that India has the upper hand in the match as they took the team to 174/4 at the end of the second session.

Earlier, India opted to bat after winning the toss and ended the first session at 85/3. An unbeaten 37-run stand between Rishabh Pant and Chetehwar Pujara guided India to 85/3 in 26 overs at the time of lunch in Chattogram on Wednesday.

Rishabh Pant came when India was 48 for 3 and gathered 29*(26) before the lunch break on Day 1. Pujara was playing at an unbeaten 12 off 32 at lunch. Brief Score: India 278/6 (Cheteshwar Pujara 90, Shreyas Iyer 82*; Taijul Islam 3-84) vs Bangladesh. **ANI**

OMAN CRICKET

Wadi Kabir rout OCA in Women's League; ISWK Lions U16 outplay MCCC Yellow

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Wadi Kabir Women beat Oman Cricket Academy Women by 7 wickets in a Women's League match while Indian School Wadi Kabir Lions U16 beat Muscat Cricket Coaching Centre (MCCC) Yellow U16 by 56 runs in a Junior U16 League game.

In the Women's League match, OCA women rightly called the toss and elected to bat first. A steady partnership between Nitya Joshi and Nayan Anil took the OCA Women's past 50 at the halfway of the inning losing just 1 wicket.

However, Clarita Saldanha's tidy bowling spell saw her pick 3 wickets as OCA women lost wickets at regular intervals crumbling down to 103.

In response, a long-stand partnership of 64 runs at halfway mark between openers Shreya Prabhu and Clarita Saldanha almost ensured Wadi Kabir Women getting across the line.

However, OCA Women picked 3 wickets in quick succession but Pratima B's two boundaries



ensured the Wadi Kabir Women crossed the line.

Brief scores: OCA Women 103/7 in 20 overs (Nitya Joshi 23 (28) 3x4; Clarita Saldanha 11/3) lost to Wadi Kabir Women 104/3 in 18.1 overs (Shreya Prabhu 28 (62) 3x4; Anshita Tiwary 9/1).

In the U16 League match, ISWK Lions U16's won the toss and elected to bat first.

ISWK Lions lost 2 early wickets in the powerplay with the middle order asked to take control of

the team. ISWK's Saumya Sampat (67 of 67) and Shaunak Karvat (38 of 38) ensured that they get on a respectable total to fight for.

ISWK jotted 195 runs at the end of the innings losing 9 wickets courtesy Aditya Hegde's 3 wickets and 2 wickets a piece for Shravan Shridhar and Hardik Shah.

In response, MCCC Yellow U16 got off to a shaky start losing 3 wickets in the powerplay. Haider Sikora along with Mohd Imran Bohri and Yasin Asif tried get-



ting closer to the target as much as possible but fell short losing wickets to the mighty spinners of ISWK Lions. Dalwrik Khandheria and Pushkar Kumar bagged 3 wickets each and Mohd Hanzalah claimed 2 wickets.

Brief scores: ISWK Lions U16 195/9 in 30 overs (Saumya Sampat 67 (67) 5x4 ; Aditya Hegde 28/3) beat MCCC Yellow U16 139/10 in 24.2 overs (Haider Sikora 43 (48) 5x4 ; Pushkar Kumar 13/3).

ICC RANKINGS

Marnus Labuschagne equals Virat Kohli's career-high rating

DUBAI: Australia star and newly-crowned No.1 Test batter in the world Marnus Labuschagne has added to his resume by drawing level with India great Virat Kohli on the all-time list and bringing up a new career-high rating on the latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

Labuschagne has consolidated his position at the top of the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings with a career-best 937 rating points after compiling his third three-figure knock in the two-match ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series against the West Indies.

The right-hander amassed a whopping 502 runs for the two-match series, with his magnificent knock of 163 during the first innings of the second Test in Adelaide helping Labuschagne join Kohli on a career-high rating of 937 points.

Labuschagne, who had achieved the rare feat of scoring a double-century and a century in the same Test during the first match in Perth last week, notched 163 in the first innings of the second Test in Adelaide and bettered his previous high of 936 rating points attained in March.

The 28-year-old now has a lead



of 62 rating points over second-placed Steve Smith and is tied with Virat Kohli for the 11th-best rating points ever in the list led by Australia great Don Bradman, who went as high as 961 rating points. Smith is second in that list with 947 rating points while Ricky Ponting (fifth with 942) is the third Australian in the top 10.

Travis Head is back in the top 10 after his Player of the Match effort of 175 and 38 not out helped record a 419-run win over the West Indies to consolidate his team's top position in the WTC points table.

Head has gained six slots to reach seventh position, in the process overtaking the India pair of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli

among others.

In the latest weekly update that also considers performances in the second Test of the WTC series between England and Pakistan, Harry Brook (up 15 places to 55th) and Ben Duckett (up 60 places to 67th) have moved up the rankings for England, while Saud Shakeel progressed 33 places to 61st place.

In the rankings for Test bowlers, England spinner Jack Leach has gained two slots to reach 31st position after grabbing five wickets in the match, while seamers James Anderson (up one place to second), Ollie Robinson (up two places to sixth) and Mark Wood (up eight places to 34th) too advanced. **ANI**

PREMIER LEAGUE

Man Utd boss unaware of Sancho's return to club

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag stated that he is unaware of the return of 22-year-old Jadon Sancho and said that the winger is not in the proper physical or mental condition to rejoin the team.

Sancho is not travelling with the Man United team as they prepare for the return of the Premier League later this month after the conclusion of the World Cup in Qatar with a two-game trip to Spain. The winger is currently working one-on-one with coaches in the Netherlands, according to Ten Hag, in an effort to get back into playing fitness.

"He's not fit enough. We didn't see him in the last games for United as he wasn't in the right fitness state and he is now on an individual programme. We want him to finish that and hopefully see him back soon. We want to bring him back as quickly as possible but I can't give a prognosis of when that will be," Ten Hag was quoted by ESPN.

Since arriving to Old Trafford in the summer of 2021 for GBP 73 million from Borussia Dortmund, Sancho has struggled to consistently have an effect.



He had a promising start to the season, scoring three goals in his first eight Premier League and Europa League games. However, his form declined in October, and he was unable to play in the club's final four matches before the World Cup break due to sickness.

"He was good [in pre-season] but also when the league started he played some good games like Liverpool, Leicester and Arsenal. After we got a drop of level and what happens sometimes you don't know why or what is causing it. That is what we're doing now,

trying to research and now we try to get him back there. It's a combination of physical but also mental," added Ten Hag.

Despite playing at the European Championships last year, Sancho's deteriorating form caused him to lose his spot in the England squad and was not chosen by coach Gareth Southgate for the World Cup.

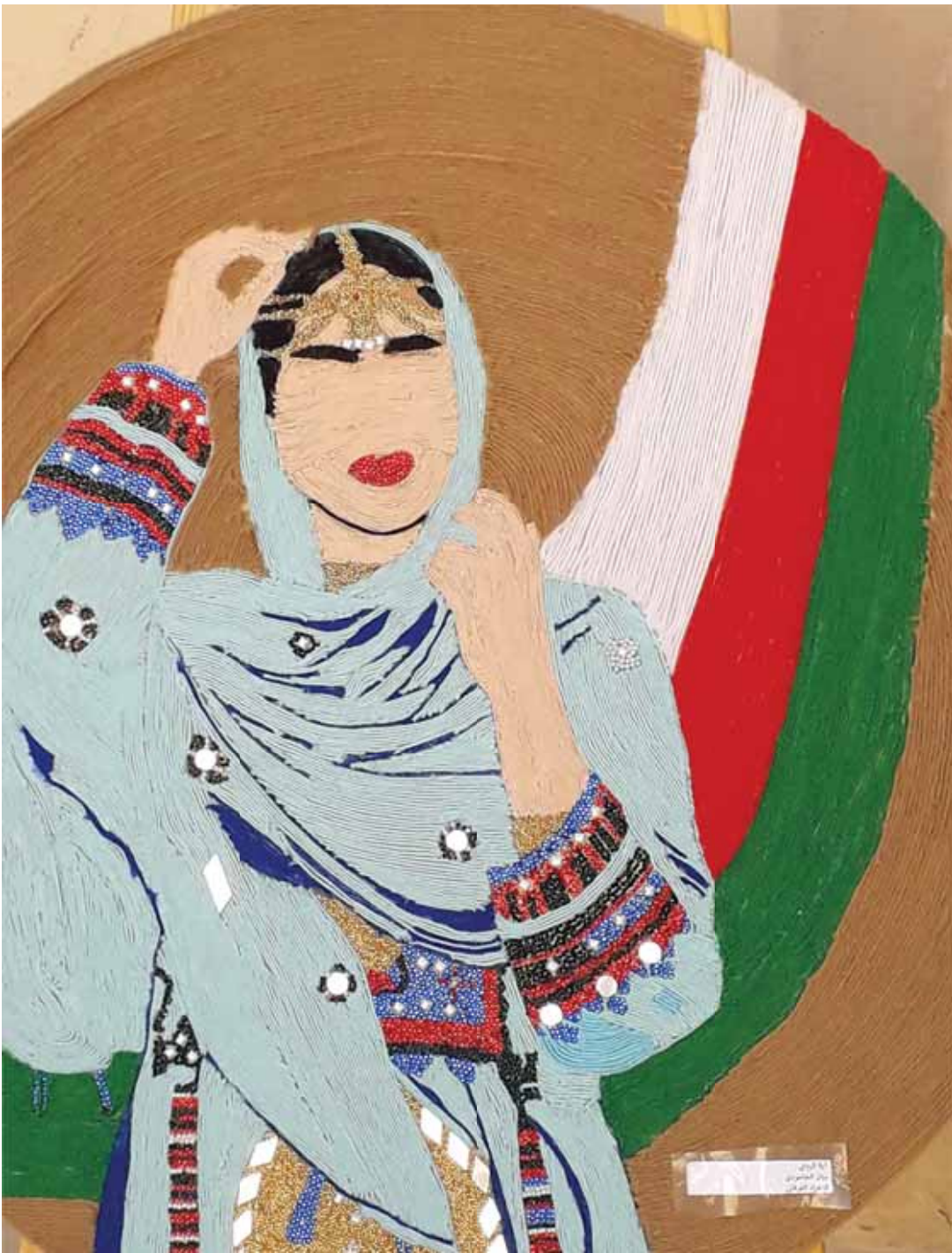
Both of Man United's exhibition games in Spain against Real Betis and Cadiz were losses. On December 21, they will play Burnley at home in the Carabao Cup to resume competitive play. **ANI**



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN



NIZWA

AN INSIGHT INTO THE PAST AND THE PRESENT



Mohammed Anwar Al Balushi

IT TOOK US about one hour and thirty-seven minutes to reach Nizwa from Al Maabala. We had left exactly at five past ten in the morning. It was a little difficult to drive from Al Rusayl industrial area to Bid Bid as some road-works were going on.

It was not my first time touring Nizwa, but it was for my wife.

Our exploration of Nizwa in the past hadn't been done the way it was this time, so I thought we must reach the Nizwa market before noon and we reached at around 11.30am. Having parked the car, we walked to the market from there.

My eyes couldn't believe the crowd that was there as there were tourists from different parts of the world, like Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Of course, many locals were there as well. Upon entering the market, we found "Souq Al Gharbia - The West Market" on the right and "Souq Al Sharqiyah - The East Market" on the left.

"I have been here at half past five since the market opened", said Mundhir, a young Omani seller who was selling Omani Sweets (Halwa). "You can have a taste, it was made today," he offered us politely. There was another young Omani who was selling honey to Mundhir's left.



Omani products were present in the entire market, which attracted tourists. Omani products included Omani Khanjar, bedouin jewellery, traditional wooden walking sticks, pottery, and clothes. In front of the Nizwa Fort, we saw some women cooking Omani food and tourists were busy eating, and their faces showed that they were enjoying it.

"Are you two?" said the young Omani lady who was selling the tickets cheerfully. "Yes, we are two", I replied. "You need to pay OMR 4.00", she said.

A visit to the Nizwa Fort gave us an insight not only into Oman's history but also how our ancestors lived, manufactured things, and established rules of living. Inside the fort, there were different rooms for different purposes.

"Painting is my passion, and I am studying economics at Sultan Qaboos University, in my final year," said Ibrahim Al Rashidi, a young Omani artist who was coaching kids and promoting his work. "When did you start painting?" I asked. "I've been doing it since I was a kid," he said.

"It is not only about painting, but I get immersed in a completely different world while I am painting. I forget all my troubles and sorrows, and according to some research, painting has become a tool for treating mental health patients in hospitals," he explained.





ROUND-UP



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



Engineering masterpiece INFINITI QX80 exudes luxury from every angle

The INFINITI QX80 is a versatile, comfortable, and safe full-size luxury SUV

MUSCAT: Engineered with exceptional capabilities and an inspired design that challenges the limits, INFINITI QX80 takes on a modern interpretation of upscale full-size SUV luxury.

INFINITI QX80 with its body-on-frame full-sized luxury SUV features a single, larger interior touchscreen and wireless smartphone charger to complement its opulent interior, across three enhanced grades: Sensory, Proactive and Black editions.

The INFINITI QX80 is a versatile, comfortable, and safe full-size luxury SUV. It has bold looks and comes with three rows of seating. There will be plenty of room for the whole family and all your gear in this SUV as it seats eight comfortably. It comes equipped with a 400hp 5.6L V8 that delivers 8,500 lbs. maximum tow capacity, making this SUV excellent for road trips.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, "INFINITI QX80 is liberally outfitted with thoughtful touches, with plenty of room to grow in. It is created to handle all of life's roads, so owners can make memories that last. A design and engineering work of art, QX80 exudes luxury from every angle, for every passenger."

The latest QX80 has a revised centre cluster featuring a single INFINITI InTouch 12.3-inch widescreen HD display that includes wireless Apple CarPlay and USB-based Android Auto compatibility for entertainment on the go. An all-new wireless smartphone charger is included along with a Bose® Premium Sound system.

A Smart Rearview Mirror is standard on ProACTIVE and Black Edition grades and can display a sharp view behind the luxury three-row SUV when engaged,



even if cargo or passengers obstruct rearward vision inside. An Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection and Front and Rear Sonar System is included to help make navigating tight parking spaces easier.

Additional driver-assistance systems are available for the flagship SUV, including Intelligent Cruise Control, Backup Collision Intervention, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Intervention, and Lane Departure Prevention.

Inside, the QX80 features leather or semi-aniline appointed seats in all three rows, with the option of second-row captain's chairs. Climate-controlled front seats are also available, as are Bose Performance Series Audio with 17 speakers.

The QX80 has bold proportions and commanding exterior details such as available 22-inch alloy wheels, dark chrome accents, and chrome exterior accents.

At its heart, the QX80 is powered by INFINITI's 5.6-litre V-8 that delivers 400 horsepower and 560 Newton-meters of torque, paired to a 7-speed automatic transmission. Equipped with INFINITI All-Mode® Four-Wheel Drive as standard, the new 2022 QX80 is as capable and comfortable as ever. The INFINITI QX80 offers a

four-wheel independent, double-wishbone suspension for a calm and confident ride. The standard hydraulic Body Motion Control System provides a more refined ride and rear automatic self-leveling suspension is standard on all models for more confident towing.

The new INFINITI QX80 SENSORY includes leather-appointed seating in all three rows, 22-inch alloy wheels, a 12.3-inch INFINITI InTouch display, a Bose® 13-speaker premium audio system, a power liftgate and more.

The ProACTIVE grade builds on that with INFINITI's ProACTIVE safety package, Towing package,

satin chrome exterior trim and more

The Black Edition grade (a GCC exclusive) includes 22" forged aluminium-alloy wheels with dark machined finish, as well as black and dark chrome exterior finishes including outside mirrors, front grill, side fender vents and more.

SBA is largely committed to supporting INFINITI Oman's growth in the Sultanate through a major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman.

With a national network of more than 40 showrooms, service centres and parts outlets, SBA has fur-

ther built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.

INFINITI Motor Company is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan with operations around the world including regional offices based in the Americas, China and INFINITI International Markets based in Dubai.

The INFINITI brand of premium automobiles is assembled in manufacturing facilities in Japan, North America and China. INFINITI design studios are located in Atsugi-Shi near Yokohama, London, San Diego and Beijing.

CASHBACK OFFER

ahli Islamic continues to offer 1% Hiba on Qitaf new-to-bank deposits



MUSCAT: Upholding its commitment to enhancing customers' banking experiences with products and services that are rewarding, ahli Islamic has extended its exciting 1% Hiba for new-to-bank deposits.

The cashback offer is eligible for all new-to-bank and existing customers of Qitaf for deposits of OMR5,000 and above, and the same who are seeking to grow their fortunes with the Qitaf Savings account that is based on the Sharia Mudaraba principle. As per the scheme, the 1% Hiba will be credited to the customer's Qitaf account after a three-month deposit period. There is, however, a cap of OMR 5,000 per cashback, per account.

Highlighting the benefits accruing from the Hiba offer, Noora Sultan, AGM – Head of Retail Banking ahli Islamic said, "We are leveraging the popularity of our Qitaf Savings Account to help new to bank customers establish a strong financial base with the added benefit of the gift. Our objective is to reward customers with an attractive cash-

back offer that will augment their financial strengths and inculcate a strong savings culture. We have, from the very beginning, demonstrated our intent to enhance our customers' banking experiences and financial inclusion with products and services that are tailored to meet the customers' immediate and future needs, and the one per cent Hibaon Qitaf deposits is aimed at precisely this factor. With the one per cent credited directly to the account, after the 3-month deposit period, we are opening investment avenues for our new customers an easy and convenient option to grow their finances. The offer is a part of our ongoing efforts to provide easy platforms for new-to-bank. We have taken constructive steps to create better awareness and understanding of Islamic banking, inspiring new customers to join our fold."

ahli Islamic's Qitaf Savings Account is an investment account that enables you to invest your money based on the Sharia principles of Mudaraba.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT



Annual Athletic Meet organised

MUSCAT: The much-awaited 47th Annual Athletic Meet and Drill Display was held on December 12, on the imposing Indian School Muscat (ISM) grounds, with great zeal, excitement and fanfare. After a hiatus of two years due to the lingering fear of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISM organised one of its signature events.

Amidst the display of colours created by scores of flags and decorations, the young athletes displayed their talents in the track and field events.

The chief guest of the day Engineer Said Saif Al Hadi, Vice-President, Oman Athletics Federation and the Guest of Honour, Ashwini Sawrikar, Finance Di-

rector, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, and members of the ISM Management Committee, Principal Dr Rajeev Kumar Chauhan, Senior Vice-Principal Administration, Vice-Principals and Assistant Vice-Principals of various sections of ISM attended the occasion.

The festivities began with the ceremonial March Past led by the head boy. The four house contingents marched majestically in unison to the beat and rhythm of the school band. The school band comprising 80 immensely talented students led by the band master, displayed a spectacular rhythmic performance with precision, which captivated the audience.




Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing

pH 9.1 to 9.5



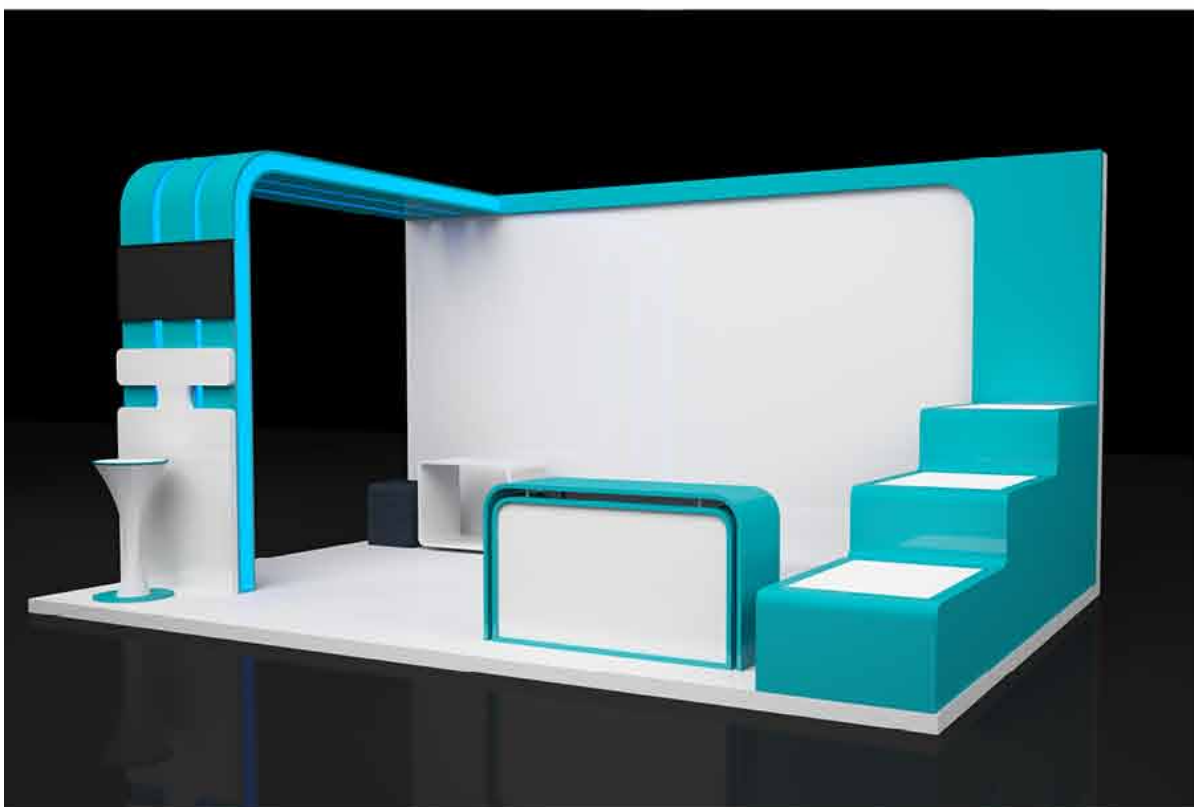
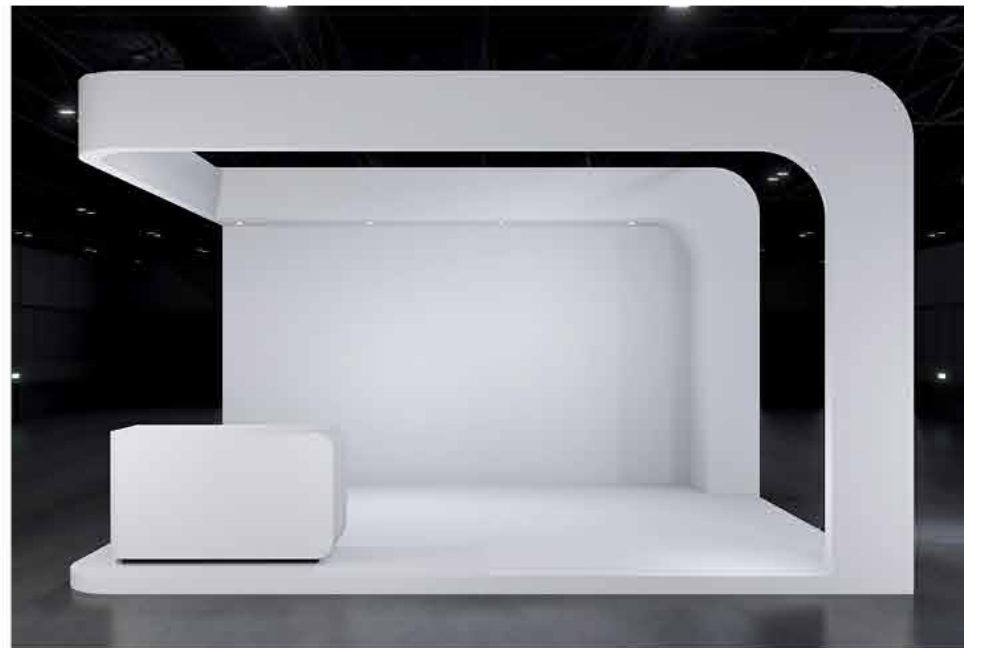
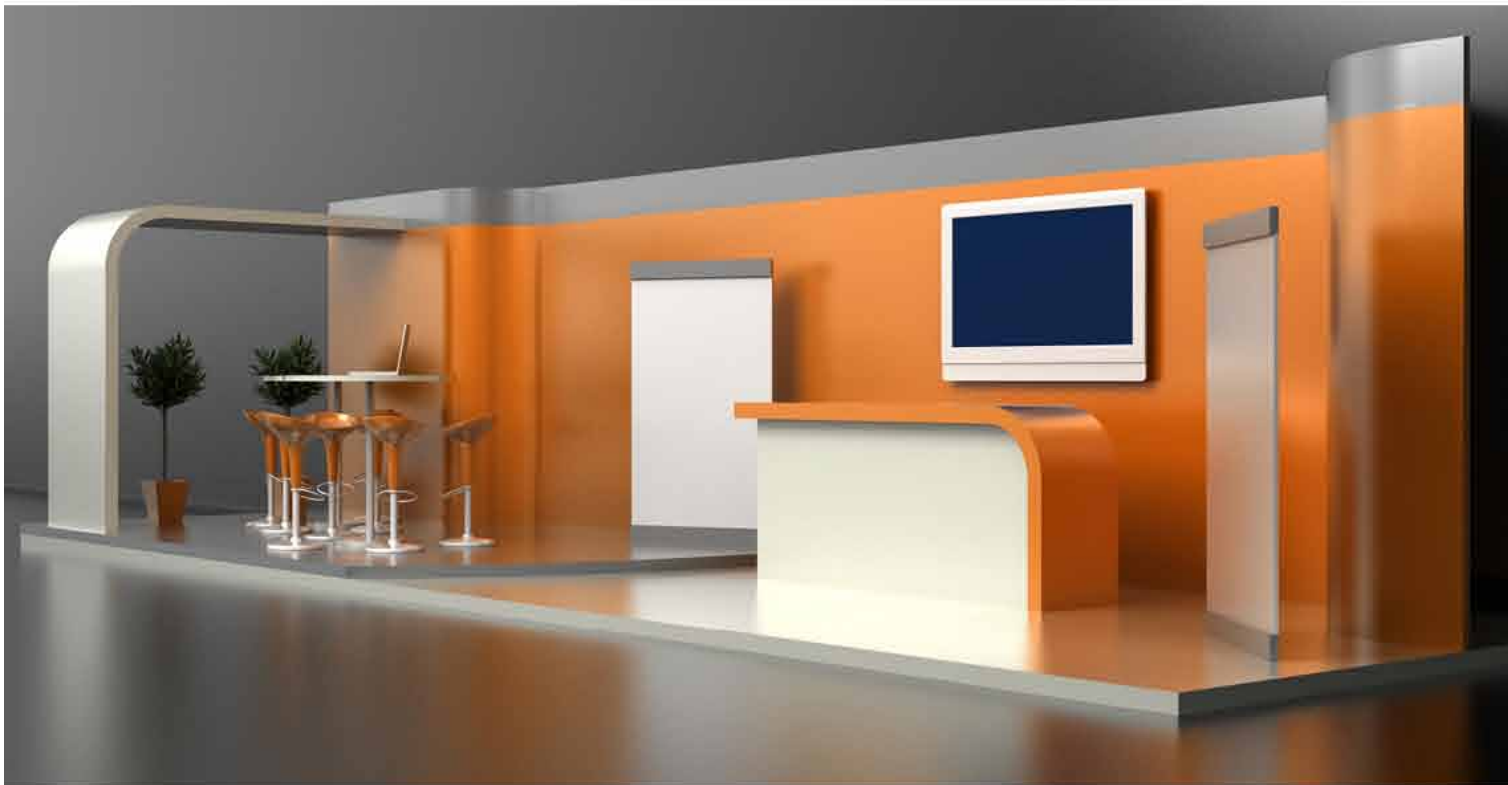
Toll-free
800 71 222 or
9275 5522

C.R. No.: 1365452



**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
EXHIBITION
BOOTHS/
DISPLAY
STANDS**

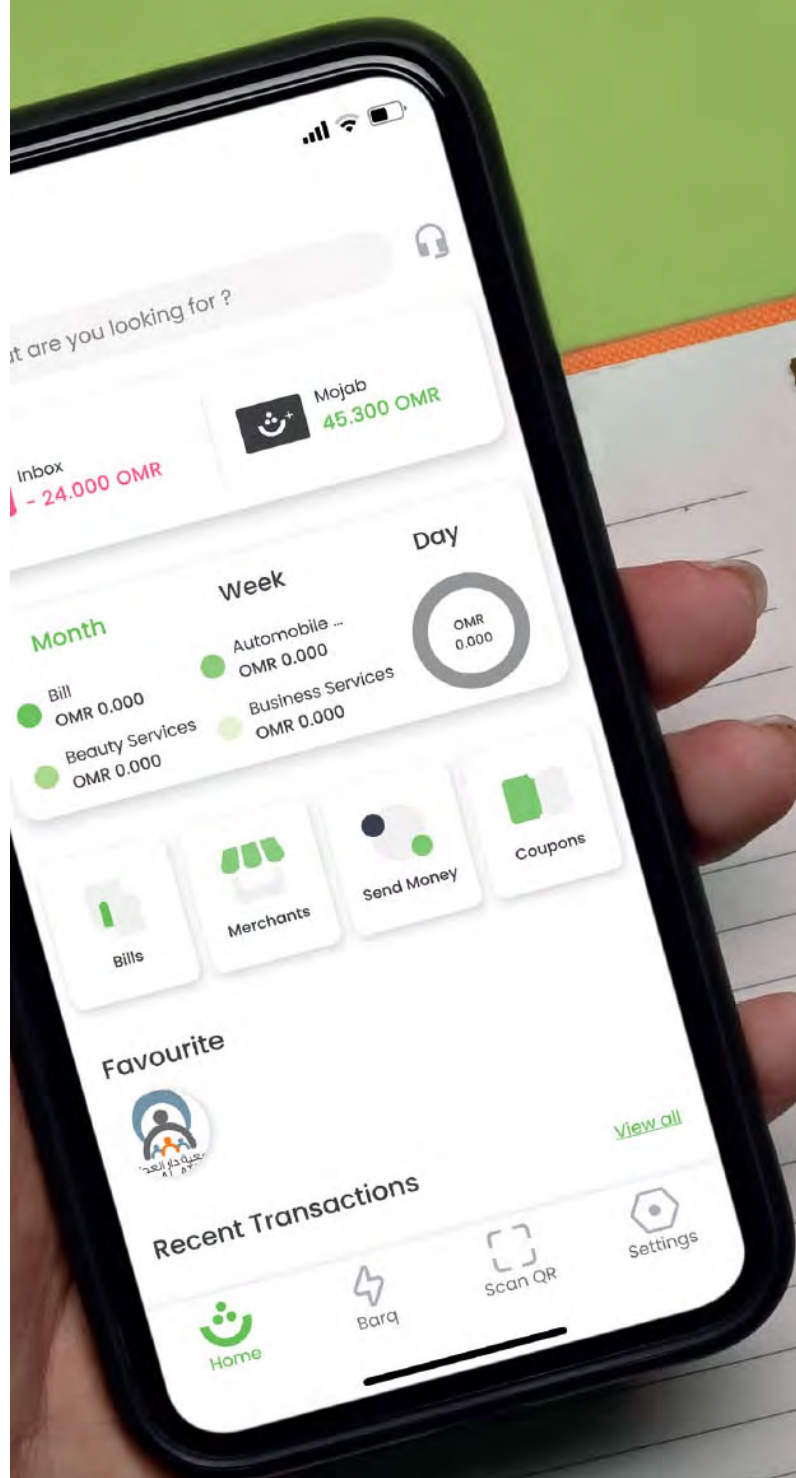
**Call us on
99614066**



**Contact us on wefix@mmg.com
or call/whatsApp 99614066/ 95405033
to make customized exhibition booths**



A card that is
delivered at
your doorstep



www.thawani.om

Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to download
and order your card for free



OMAN

SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:07pm

Asr.....3:07pm

Maghrib.....5:28pm

Isha.....6:43pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:21am

GRAB THE FAN CAN COLLECTION

Call Center Number
24 596 999

30 years

شركة تأجير المركبات ش.م.م
Vehicle Leasing Company (LLC)

ELANTRA

ACCENT

i10

SANTAFE

TUCSON

CRETA

EXPLORE OMAN WITH VLC

Available on
**DAILY
WEEKLY
MONTHLY
YEARLY**
rental basis

* Terms & Conditions apply on daily, weekly, monthly & yearly rentals

Call toll free
80050004

Whatsapp
97295158

INFORMATION MINISTRY

50th anniversary of Oman Daily's 1st edition celebrated

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information, represented by Oman Daily, the Arabic version paper, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The ceremony, held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, and attended by media personnel, intellectuals and the paper's founders from Oman and abroad.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abdullah said that newspapers around the world have become accustomed to marking their milestones by getting a pause during which they contemplate their accomplishments.

The minister pointed out that daily action in the field of press provides no room for celebration outside the 8 columns of the paper, both in print form and in electronic form.

The true celebration of journalism stems from a resolve to achieve more progress and realise success in all aspects of the profession, he added.

Dr. Abdullah said that Oman Daily constitutes the greatest evidence of achievements made throughout the march of the Sultanate of Oman—the nation, the state and society—over half a century. The paper “symbolises the Book of Life in the march of modern Omani renaissance,” he observed.

“Over the past five decades, Oman Daily's role was not limited to monitoring achievements and presenting them to society, but rather establishing social awareness, building a patriotic spirit that was essential at the start of the country's renaissance and contributing to the evolution of an ‘enlightenment discourse’ for shaping Omani identity,” the minister said. -OMA

AVATAR

THE WAY OF WATER

IN CINEMAS AND 3D

DECEMBER 15

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT
VOXCINEMAS.COM OR ON THE VOX APP

NATIONAL
DAY
OFFER

Times
OF OMAN
الشبابية



Individual subscribers who subscribe or renew Times of Oman or Shabiba for 1-year by paying RO 42 (with VAT) will get back vouchers worth RO 60.

PAY **42** OMR

and get gifts worth

60 OMR

- Every subscriber is a WINNER
- NO Lucky draw, NO Raffle draw

Call or whatsapp +968 72330999

Email: subscription@mmg.om

Limited period offer

The
Champ
SPORTS & ARTS

THE CHAMP
Gift voucher

زون
FUNZONE
COOLEST EVER

FUNZONE
1 hour bowling free

MUNH
مركز مسقط للتأهيل والتدريب
MUSCAT UROLOGY & NEPHROLOGY
HEALTHCARE CENTRE

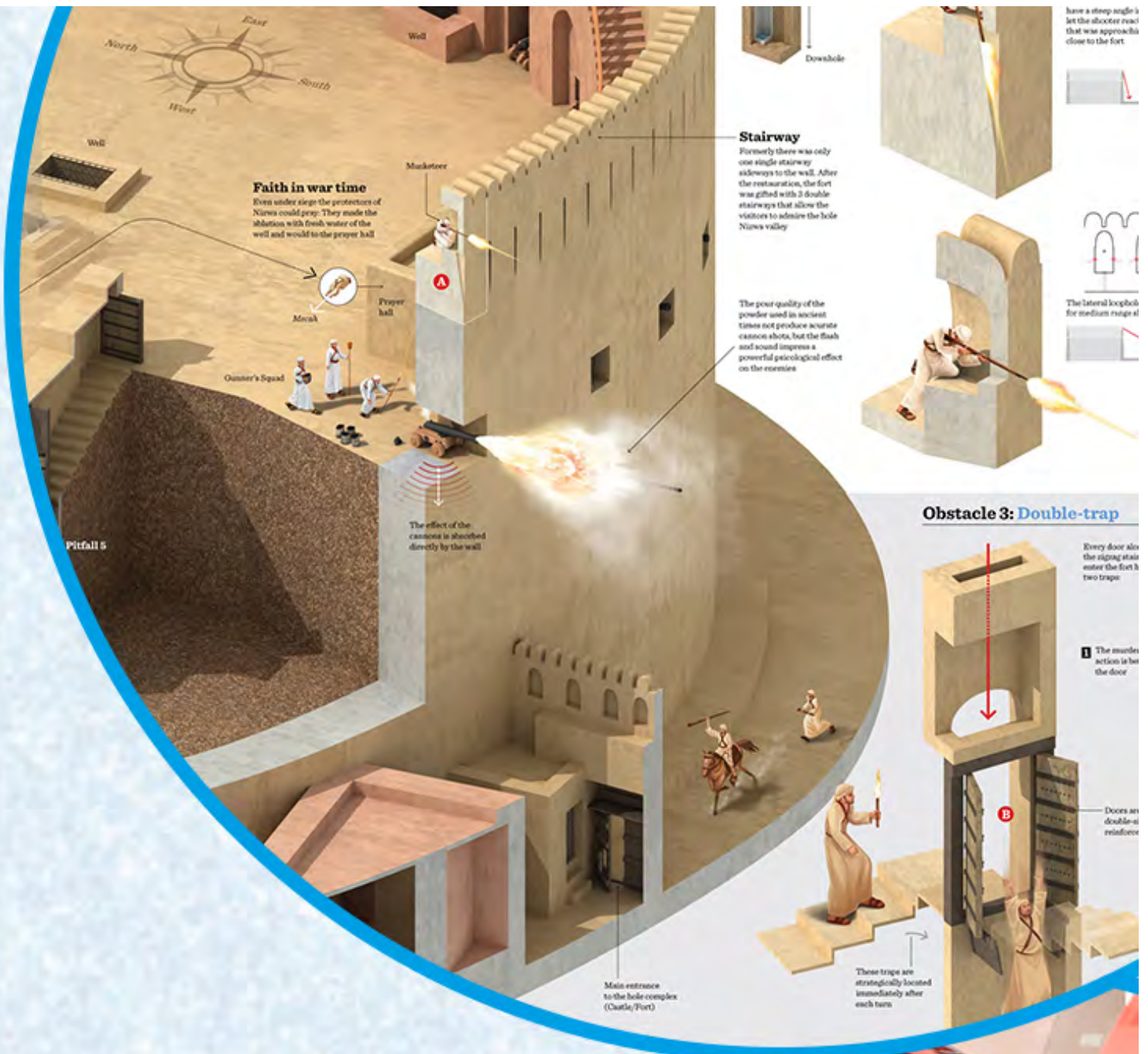
MUSCAT UROLOGY & NEPHROLOGY
HEALTHCARE CENTRE
Health check package



NATIONAL DETERGENT
COMPANY
Gift hamper (6 products)



novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
97211869

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

