

RNO ORGANISES ROUSING RECEPTION FOR SHABAB OMAN II

The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) organised an official reception for the vessel (Shabab Oman II) at Port Sultan Qaboos after the ship's return from an international tour during which it participated in races and festivals. **>A4**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Hakainde Hichilema of the Republic of Zambia on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Hichilema and the people of his country. - **ONA**



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VISITING OFFICIAL

Oman playing a key role in regional security, peace: US



MUSCAT: The central role played by the Sultanate of Oman in backing endeavours to achieve regional security and peace have been underscored by Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs of the United States of America (USA).

Her visit to the Sultanate of Oman comes within the context of consultation and discussion of a range of topics and bilateral issues of regional dimension, she added in a press statement to

Oman News Agency (ONA).

She said that the advanced relations between the two countries and issues of common concern were discussed during meetings with Omani officials. She also said that her country aspires to further develop the bilateral relations between the two countries and expand the level of cooperation to cover areas of climate, education, culture and science, in addition to enhancing economic, trade and investment relations. **>A5**

HIS MAJESTY'S VISIT TO BOLSTER BILATERAL TIES WITH BAHRAIN

With many economic and tourism potentials in both the countries, the need for strong ties is even greater

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Relations between Oman and Bahrain are based on deep historical ties that are set to grow stronger with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's two-day state visit to Bahrain beginning Monday.

As relations between Oman and Bahrain are based on solid foundations, and deeply rooted in history, the official visit of His Majesty the Sultan will explore new areas of cooperation between the two countries to serve the aspirations of Omani and Bahraini people.

The ties span political, eco-



nomical, social and cultural fields and are accorded great attention by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain. In view of His Majesty the Sultan's visit, the Omani-Bahraini Committee has

worked on a number of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in cultural and tourism fields. With plentiful economic and tourism potentials in both Oman and Bahrain, the need for strong partnership is even greater. **>A2**

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Investment opportunities in green hydrogen

1 Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, unveiled the Sultanate of Oman's new climate commitment and its ambitious green hydrogen strategy on Sunday. Under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Oman has committed to reaching Net Zero Emissions in 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement's objectives of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. **>A4**

SPORTS

Kohli masterclass in India's victory

2 Former skipper Virat Kohli hit an unbeaten 83 as India pulled off a four-wicket victory over Pakistan in a final over thriller at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket in Melbourne. **>A8**

MARKET

Natural gas prices reach record levels

3 Global natural gas prices reached record highs during the third quarter of 2022 as a result of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war that continues to have a severe impact on energy prices. **>B1**

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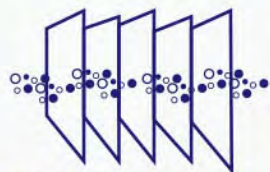
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MONDAY COLUMN

A reunion and a new perspective on generation gap

Saleh Al-Shaibany

Where have all the years gone? We sat for four hours tracing back the passage of time that was graced with college, career and marriage. We talked about our teachers and their methods of teaching. We realised that most of them had profound effect on our adult lives in very contrasting ways. We also tried to trace the lives of our classmates and wondered what had happened to them.

A school is a cultivating field, some crops reach their expectations, while the rest, maybe because of missed opportunities, lose their way. It would be nice, we thought, if we could meet every classmate, at least once in our lifetime -just once again -to talk about what we have individually achieved in our adult lives.

However, we both agreed that, the word 'achievement' is controversial. We did not contest that because, we both knew that, no one could put their life's accomplishments in a plastic bag and weigh it on a scale.

We did touch upon the lives of our school friends from what we heard from their relatives. We came to a conclusion that, as we went different ways to pursue separate careers, we left behind a life that was different to the one we lead now. "Work and responsibilities were far from our minds then," he told me, "we tried to strike a balance between play and education. I am not sure which of the two has influenced our lives more."

In the middle of these thoughts, I spared a thought for our children, who live in the age of laptops, mobile phones and virtual reality. Learning is much easier now with the presence of all this around them. Parents, eager to make something out of their children, provide extra tuition themselves or pay someone else to do it. Then, there is the array of educational software and the Internet to tap a wealth of information from. My children did not think much when I told them how I used to struggle to do my schoolwork. "We solely relied on the skills of our teachers," I told them, "there was no electronic media to fall back on nor parents knowledgeable enough to help."

They looked at me and their expressions asked, "so what?" My first reaction was to be angry, but then, on second thought, how could I blame them for something they were not responsible for? We all know how they take learning for granted but to them "too much still is not enough."

I wonder what my children would tell their offspring about their own school days. In this instance, history would repeat itself but in different circumstances. It would be nice if we could all sit together and compare the teachers and learning materials of three generations.

I have also learned, after the reunion of my long lost friend, to be more tolerant with my children's classmates even when they call at odd hours. I now appreciate more when they come over to discuss about their studies.

When my former classmate left, after an enlightening reunion, I adopted a different view and promised myself to tackle my children's life problems in a different and better way.

PROMOTE RELATIONS

<FROM A1> His Majesty's visit to Bahrain

The two countries' visions (Oman Vision 2040) and (Bahrain Vision 2030) provide ample scope for economic diversification, opening up opportunities for more investments.

Sayyid Faisal Hareb Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Bahrain, affirmed that the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to Bahrain and his meeting with King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa will bolster joint action and promote relations in diplomatic, economic, cultural and scientific fields.

Sayyid Faisal added that this co-operation has seen steady growth since the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the formation of a Joint Ministerial Committee and a Joint Business Council.

Dr Jumaa Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of Bahrain said the two countries enjoy strong relations that are deeply rooted in history, as seen through the centuries-old civilisations of Dilmun and Ma-jan. The relations are now in their prime stage, thanks to the directives of the wise leaderships of the two countries, he said.

Al Kaabi said the visit of His Majesty will open up prospects for co-operation that meet the aspirations of the people of two countries.

Al Kaabi pointed out that cooperation between the two countries covers many fields such as space science, information technology, stock exchange, social development, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship and meteorology.

PRESENTS

Times OF OMAN

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FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Indian expatriates gear up for Diwali



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Thousands of Indian families in Oman are ready to celebrate Diwali – the festival of lights in style.

Traditionally celebrated 20 days after the Indian festival of Dussehra, Diwali is a festival that signifies the defeat of evil by the forces of good, and the arrival of the traditional Indian winter harvest season. People celebrate this festival by lighting earthen lamps and distributing sweets.

Several homes and balconies across Oman are decked with strings of lights for the festival of lights, which is on Monday.

Many Indian schools in Oman will remain closed on Monday and Tuesday to allow pupils and

parents to make the most of the event.

Even Ruwi High Street was seen bustling with happy shoppers enjoying the festival.

Some jewellers also reported more customers on Dhanteras, which marks the beginning of the Diwali festival and is considered the most auspicious occasion for buying gold.

“This year, we have planned a get together with some local friends to celebrate Diwali,” said Suraj Kumar. “We have decided to go to a nearby temple and offer prayers tomorrow morning.”

Another expat, S Sharma said: “We will celebrate Diwali by lighting diyas and candles in our house. We switch on the fancy lighting and make colourful designs at our doorstep.”

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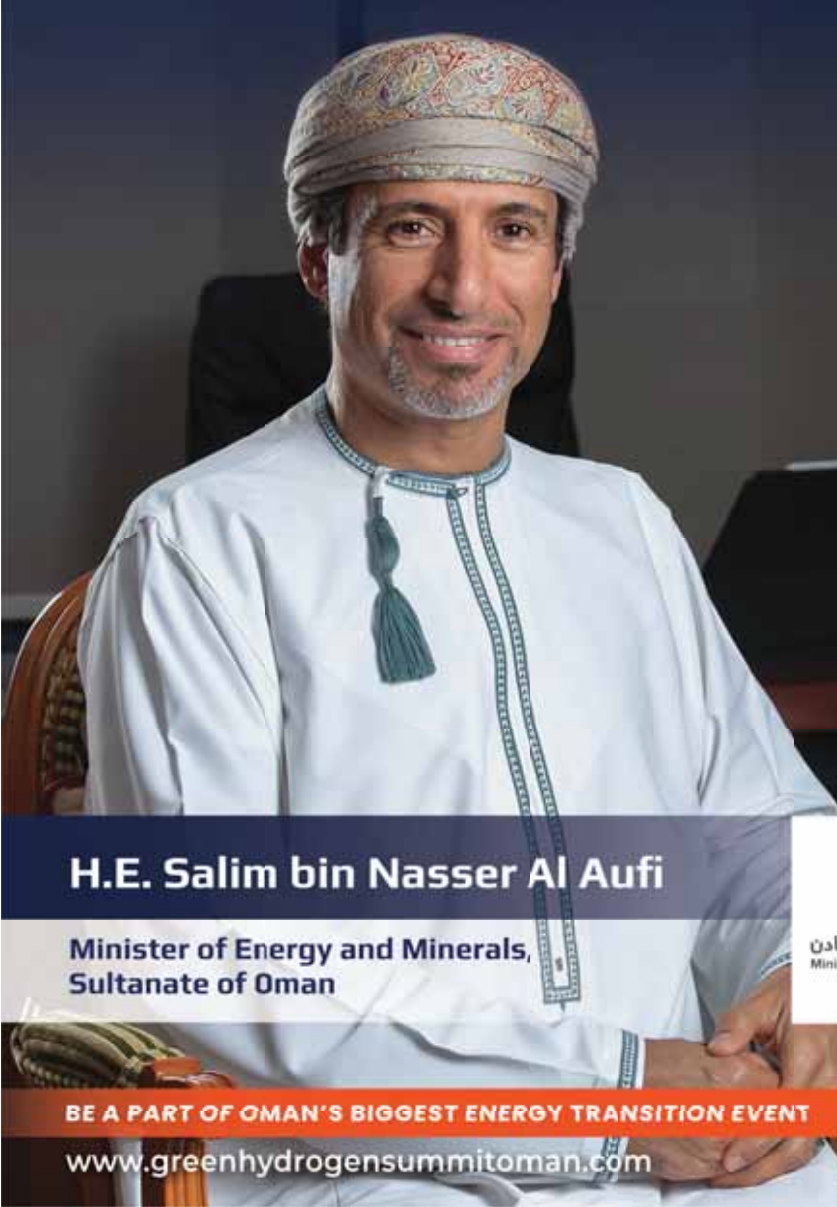


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HYDROM

Oman seeks investment opportunities in green hydrogen

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's focus on new low-carbon energy industry got a boost on Sunday when the Ministry of Energy and Minerals announced plans to invite estimated US\$140 billion investments in green hydrogen.

Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, unveiled the plans at a press conference on Sunday where the government also announced the establishment of a new hydrogen-centric energy company, HYDROM.

The new company will accelerate the country's vision for the growth of a green hydrogen-based energy future and help the Sultanate's pledge to achieve net zero emission by 2050.

Under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Oman has committed to reaching Net Zero Emission in 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement's objectives of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

And recently, His Majesty also set up Oman Sustainability Centre to lead the nation's transition towards a green economy.

The centre will be the leading body undertaking supervision and follow-up plans and programs of carbon neutrality.

Al Aufi said: "Oman is committed to decarbonise and help the world decarbonise. The pathway to net zero is an opportunity for Oman to create economic value,



increase industrial competitiveness and attract investments to help diversify and strengthen the country's economy.

"Green hydrogen presents itself as a key vector that enables Oman to pursue its decarbonisation, economic and energy security objectives. With abundant renewable energy resources Oman is blessed with and with the appropriate structuring of the sector via the creation of Hydrogen Oman as directed by His Majesty, Oman is positioned as one of the most attractive nations to produce green hydrogen competitively and on a

large-scale."

Oman has set an ambition to become one of the largest green hydrogen producers and exporters globally, targeting production of one million tons by 2030.

Mazin Al Lamki, Chief Executive Officer of Energy Development Oman, said: "We are delighted to announce the new brand identity of HYDROM, a fully owned autonomous subsidiary of EDO. Working in tandem with the ambitious Government plans, HYDROM will leverage the Sultanate of Oman's location and abundant solar and wind resources to pro-



duce green hydrogen and support the government's drive to reduce the carbon footprint and achieve the decarbonisation targets."

HYDROM's mandate includes the delineation of Government-owned land areas and the structuring of associated large-scale world-class green hydrogen projects, managing the process for their allocation to developers as well as facilitating the development of common infrastructure and connected ecosystem industries and hubs in close collaboration with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ).

On 6 November, HYDROM will be opening a first public bid round aimed at awarding the first land blocks by 2023 to meet the 2030 production target.

Dr Firas Al Abduwani, Acting

Managing Director of HYDROM, said: "We at HYDROM look forward to working with international partners to build the future of energy. The bid round we announced today is the first of its kind globally and we are convinced it will help accelerate the development of the green hydrogen industry in Oman and globally."

Eng Faiza Al Harthi, Head of Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Priority Support at Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit said: "The vision is to create effective, balanced, and resilient ecosystems to protect and sustain Oman's natural resources in support of the national economy. This will be done by setting targets, a measurement mechanism and a follow-up methodology for the initiatives and projects helping to achieve net zero emissions."

Eng Abdulaziz al Shidhani, Director General Renewable Energy and Hydrogen said: "Oman aims to become one of world's leading green hydrogen hubs. Over the last few months, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals has developed an ambitious green hydrogen strategy and defined the structure of the green hydrogen sector. The development of the green hydrogen economy will provide a strategic opportunity for Omani and international companies to participate and collaborate in driving local and global energy security, economic diversification and much needed climate change mitigation."

Al Shidhani said green hydrogen related investments will unlock

immense investment opportunities worth US\$140 billion across the value chain. It includes opportunities in the manufacture of solar panels, wind turbines, electrolyzers, hydrogen-derived products, storage and transportation, water desalination and other components. Oman's investments alone will encompass about 3 million solar panels, approximately 10,000 wind turbines, 5,200 electrolysis units and about 180 GW of renewable energy production capacity.

Later in a press statement, Najla Zuhair Al Jamali, CEO, Alternative Energy, OQ, said: "Oman's energy mix is undergoing a stimulus shift as the country forges ahead in its drive to build a hydrogen-centric economy that will support Vision 2040 diversification efforts."

"As an Omani integrated energy group, OQ, represented by OQ Alternative Energy, is well poised to enable the collective efforts to achieve our national economic goals and reach net zero by 2050. Working closely with Ministry of Energy and Minerals, and the Oman Sustainability Centre, OQ AE is charting a clear pathway for decarbonization and carbon neutrality. In addition to acting responsibly, we believe that the partnerships we are forging and projects that we are developing will place Oman on the global map for Green Hydrogen."

These new ambitious sustainability initiatives come a few weeks before COP27 in Egypt, in which Oman is set to take part.

With inputs from OMA

Rousing reception for Shabab Oman II after international trip

During its latest tour, which lasted 196 days and covered a distance of 16,805 nautical miles, the vessel dropped anchor at 25 ports in 18 countries

MUSCAT: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) organised an official reception for the vessel (Shabab Oman II) at Port Sultan Qaboos here yesterday, after the sail ship's return from an international tour during which it participated in races and festivals.

During the tour, Shabab Oman II visited many international ports and marinas as part of its sixth international voyage themed "Oman, the land of Peace" to the European continent.

The voyage was made in implementation of the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Taimur bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).



The ceremony began with the military salute to His Highness Sayyid Taimour, the patron of the occasion, who inspected the guard of honor. As the ship approached its berth, the Marine Arts Troupe of the Royal Navy of Oman performed a number of traditional marine arts with a visual presentation of the voyage.

As the ship anchored, the captain of the ship invited His Highness, their Highnesses and Excel-

lencies, leaders and senior guests to board the Shabab Oman II ship and they shook hands with its crew, greeted them on their achievements, and their active participation in the sixth international voyage (Oman, the Land of Peace). His Highness and the attendees viewed the awards received by the ship (Shabab Oman II).

The ceremony was attended by ministers, SAF commanders, members of the State Council,

senior officers of the SAF and other military and security departments, governors, ambassadors accredited to Oman and military attaches at the embassies of Arab and friendly countries.

Shabab Oman II is Oman's envoy of friendship and peace that roams world countries, offering strong presence for Oman through its active participation in all the international festivals.

During its latest tour, which last-



ed 196 days and covered a distance of 16,805 nautical miles, the vessel dropped anchor at 25 ports in 18 countries. It sailed through 30 terminals, with 63 trainees onboard. As many as 172,235 visitors

boarded Shabab Oman II, which organized several mobile exhibitions while on the move.

Along the way, Shabab Oman II participated in the Long Sail Ship Races and bagged many prizes. -OMA





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MEETING

HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP

IN RIYADH

Royal Office Minister receives top US official

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs of the United States yesterday.

The guest expressed her thanks and appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman. The two sides explored aspects of enhancing cooperation between the two countries. They also reviewed the march of relations binding Oman and the US in all fields and means of promoting them to achieve mutual interest.



The two sides also touched on several regional and international matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by Ambassador of the US. -ONA

Oman's peace efforts in Yemen praised

<FROM A1 Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs of the United States also commended the Omani benign efforts in relation to the situation in Yemen.

She dubbed such efforts as "irreplaceable".

She added that Oman's partnership, endeavours and diplomacy are "quite critical" in the same issue. Within the same context, the US official added that the Omani efforts have been central to US successful efforts together with

regional partners and the United Nations (UN).

She reiterated the good efforts of Tim Lenderking, US Special Envoy to Yemen to foster truce of two months and to keep extending it. The US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs said that she visited the National Museum of Oman.

She expressed her admiration of the exhibits depicting the deep, long, historical relationship between the United States and Oman, which is going back to 1833. -ONA

Oman and KSA review relations

RIYADH: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology met on Sunday with Eng. Saleh Al Jasser, Minister of Transport in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

This came on the sidelines of Al Ma'awali's participation in the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial Committee for Cybersecurity.

The two sides explored areas of cooperation in the field of transport and logistics. They also discussed several matters of common interest and means of enhancing them in the interest of the two countries. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman and US discuss security in the region

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received here this evening Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs of the United States of America (USA).

Exchange of views

The two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries and means of promoting them.

They also exchanged views on

regional and international issues of common concern. Emphasis was laid on backing all efforts to consolidate pillars of security and stability in the region and the world at large.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashil Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department, Leslie M. Tsou, Ambassador of the USA to the Sultanate of Oman and officials from both sides. -ONA



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T/2443944-2/2022 (Re-float)	Replacing the Existing Distribution Pumps with the New Pumps in Rustaq Pumping Station	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/11/2022	28/11/2022
T/2453381/2022	Call off Contract for General Buildings Maintenance Works for Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company in Muscat Governorate	Small and Medium Enterprises holding Riyada card and specialized in the works mentioned.	Free	3/11/2022	21/11/2022
T/2453376/2022	Design, Supply, install and Commission a Centralized Odor Control System (OCU) at Samail Sewage Treatment Plant	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned.	R.O 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/11/2022	28/11/2022
T/2453344/2022	Upgradation of Hail Al Ghaf Sewage Treatment Plant	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned.	R.O 100 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/11/2022	05/12/2022
T/2453383/2022	Construction of Sewage House Connections in Al-Walajah, Ayint & Coastal Darsait Layouts and KIMS Oman Hospital Area	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned.	R.O 1500 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/11/2022	05/12/2022
T/2453384/2022	Re-engineering, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Wonderware SCADA System at Vacuum Stations in A'Seeb	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	3/11/2022	28/11/2022

The tender documents can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC) e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from the date of publication of this announcement until 3/11/2022. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through Supplier Login.

Applicants who are not registered with OWWSC shall register from <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> to have the login credentials of Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through OWWSC e-tendering page (Supplier Login).

All participating Companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope to OWWSC's Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 3:00 pm on the bid submission date. Bid Bond must be obtained from a Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of OWWSC.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through OWWSC e-tendering page not later than 3:00 pm on the date specified above.

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Rishi Sunak enters race for UK prime minister

It is the 42-year-old's second bid to become prime minister in a matter of months

LONDON: Britain's former finance minister, Rishi Sunak, announced Sunday his candidacy to replace Liz Truss as prime minister.

"The United Kingdom is a great country but we face a profound economic crisis," he said on Twitter.

"That's why I am standing to be leader of the Conservative Party and your next prime minister."

It is the 42-year-old's second bid to become prime minister in a matter of months. Sunak was defeated by Truss in a party leadership vote in September in the wake of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's downfall.

This time, Sunak appears have more party support than his rivals — former Defence Minister Penny Mordaunt and Johnson.

Mordaunt declared her candidacy on Friday. Johnson has not confirmed that he plans to run but was said to be lobbying party members for backing.

The leadership race follows Truss's decision to step down on Thursday after just 45 days in office. The Conservative party is



MORE PARTY SUPPORT THIS TIME: Sunak was defeated by Truss in a party leadership vote in September in the wake of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's downfall. — DW

holding an accelerated contest to finalise a new prime minister within a week.

Under the rules, only three candidates can take part in a vote by lawmakers on Monday. The party's 172,000 members will then decide between the top two in an online vote on Friday.

Candidates need 100 nominations from Tory lawmakers in order to qualify. According to unofficial tallies by Sky News and the BBC, Sunak has the backing of over 120 lawmakers.

"There will be integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level of the government I lead and I will work day in and day out to get the job done," Sunak said in a statement.

Help fix our problems

"I am asking you for the opportunity to help fix our problems."

Some 24 lawmakers have given their support publicly to Mordaunt, while Johnson is said to have the support of around 50. Dozens of Britain's 357 Conservative lawmakers have not yet said who they will back.

Johnson was forced out of office in July amid scandal after Sunak quit as finance minister, triggering a wave of resignations. The former prime minister's apparent comeback bid has received mixed reactions from within his own party. Supporters say he is a popular figure who can win votes, while critics warn his return would signal catastrophe for the future of the party.

"This isn't the time for Boris," Sunak-supporting Northern Ireland minister Steve Baker told Sky News. He said another Johnson-led government "would be a guaranteed disaster" and implode within months.

"Voters out there love him and he's a wonderful man — but he doesn't have that meticulous compliance with tedious rules," he added.

The main Labour opposition, meanwhile, is calling for a general election. "The country needs to get rid of this chaos," Labour leader Keir Starmer told the BBC. — DW

MUSCAT: The University of Technology and Applied Sciences will launch a hackathon (Oman a title of Beauty) to enrich the digital content of tourism in the Sultanate of Oman.

Jawaher Al Balushi, Assistant Lecturer at the College of Economics and Administrative Sciences at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences said: "In conjunction with the launch of the World Cup in the sisterly State of Qatar at the end of November 2022, large number of tourists and foreign visitors will flock to the countries in the Gulf region, and it is expected that these tourists will use the network. The internet is designed to plan short trips in the region, hence, the importance of this hackathon. It will aim to enrich the digital content on the internet to support digital tourism in the Sultanate of Oman."

The digital content will display brief information about certain tourist places in the Sultanate, and English will be the language of the content of these initiatives, so that it will be one of the guiding platforms for non-Arabic speaking tourists. It will encourage them to visit the Sultanate, knowing that the results of this hackathon will be about websites, articles and blogs, and it will be in the nature of initiative and volunteer work," Al Balushi added.

The hackathon will target the youth, including students and job-seekers, for participation. The hackathon is organized by the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Sohar Branch, along with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

HUMANITARIAN AID

Over 1.5mn children at risk as floods hit Nigeria

ABUJA: More than 2.5 million people in Nigeria are in need of humanitarian assistance — 60 per cent of which are children — and are at increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning and malnutrition due to the most severe flooding in the past decade, UNICEF warned.

Water-borne diseases

The floods, which have affected 34 out of the 36 states in the country, have displaced 1.3 million people. Over 600 people have lost their lives and over 200,000 houses have either been partially or fully damaged. According to UNICEF, cases of diarrhoea and water-borne diseases, respiratory infection, and skin diseases have already been on the rise. In the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe alone, a total of 7,485 cases of cholera and 319 associated deaths were reported as of 12 October.

As rains are expected to continue for several weeks, humanitarian needs are also expected to rise.

"Children and adolescents in flood-affected areas are in an extremely vulnerable situation," said Cristian Munduate, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria. "They are particularly at risk of water-borne diseases and emotional and psychological distress. UNICEF is working closely with the Government and other partners to provide life-saving assistance to those who are most in need." — ANI

INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION

Chandrayan-3 launch likely in June next year: ISRO chairman

SRIHARIKOTA: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Dr S Somanath on Sunday said that it is likely to launch its Chandrayan-3 mission in June next year.

Addressing a press conference, Somanath told the reporters that mission Chandrayaan-3 is almost ready to be launched in June of next year. "Chandrayaan-3 is almost ready. Final integration and testing are almost complete. Still, some more tests are pending, so we want to do it a little later. There were two slots available one in February and another in June. We would like to take June (2023) slot for the launch," he said.

Dr S Somanath was addressing the media after 36 communication satellites were launched in the heaviest rocket of ISRO, LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on Sunday.

"16 out of 36 satellites have been successfully separated safely, and the remaining 20 satellites will be separated," he said.

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a central public sector enterprise under the Department of Space, had earlier signed two launch service contracts with Bharti-backed OneWeb, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company.

"We have already started the (Diwali) celebration. 16 out of 36 satellites have successfully separated safely, and the remaining 20 satellites will be separated. The data will come a little later and the operation of observing is underway," ISRO Chairman said post-launch.

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this milestone, S Somanath said, "It is a historic mission. It has been possible because of PM Modi's support as he wanted LVM3 to come into the commercial market, with NSIL in the forefront, to operationalise our launch vehicles for exploring and expanding the commercial domain."

ISRO Chairman earlier conducted a special pooja on Saturday morning at Sri Chengalamma Parameshwari Devi Temple at Sullurpeta in the Tirupati district for the success of GSLV Mark-3 rocket launch.



MAKING A POINT: Dr S Somanath was addressing the media after 36 communication satellites were launched in the heaviest rocket of ISRO, LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on Sunday. — ANI

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ISRO's rocket LVM3 will carry 36 satellites of a private communications firm OneWeb, Somanath said earlier on Saturday evening.

"A 24-hour countdown to the launch has started. Another set of 36 OneWeb satellites will be launched by the LVM3 in the first half of next year," he had said.

"GSLV Mark-3 rocket countdown process will continue. The GSLV Mark-3 rocket will be launched from the second launch pad at 00.07 midnight today. GSLV Mark-3 is being launched with 36 satellites in the first phase as part of the agreement of 108 satellites with the UK. Thirty-six satellites are purely for communications. PSLV and SLV rockets will be tested this year," he further added. — ANI

IN HAMBANTOTA

South Asia's 1st Disneyland to open in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: Team from Disneyland has agreed to visit Sri Lanka in November to hold discussions on setting up South Asia's first Disneyland in Hambantota.

"Diana (State Tourism Minister) walking the talk! Team from Disneyland have AGREED to visit #SriLanka in Nov. to hold discussions on setting up South Asia's 1st Disneyland in Hambantota!" tweeted Jamila Husain, Associate Editor of Daily Mirror. Diana Gamage will be visiting US soon to discuss plans for the USD 18 billion investment following an invitation from Walt Disney," added Husain.

State Minister Diana Gamage earlier said that officials from Disneyland have been in discussions with her to open a Disneyland in Sri Lanka.

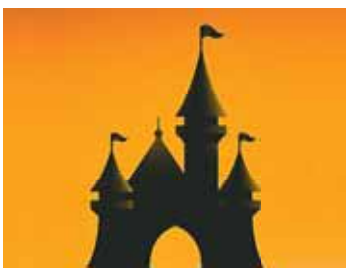
She said that this project would boost Sri Lanka's tourism sector.

Notably, Sri Lanka tourism will get a huge exposure after the country won the hosting rights for 'Miss Tourism World - International Finale 2022' in Colombo.

Croatia and Russia, which were the other two countries shortlisted to host the 75th edition of the 'Miss Tourism World 2022' global Pageant' voluntarily opted out to allow Sri Lanka to host this event, reported *Sunday Observer*.

This was because these two countries knew that the event would play a major role towards tourism revival in Sri Lanka, said Global Director of 'Miss Tourism World - International Finale 2022', David Singh.

Sri Lanka will host the event from December 8-21 with winners from 80 countries giving a destination value to Sri Lanka of nearly \$40 million.



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During the pageant, they will visit all the important places of tourism in Sri Lanka including Kandy, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Habarana, Ella, Arugam Bay, Mirissa, and Galle he said. This will in turn promote these destinations as well, reported Sunday Observer.

Sri Lanka is facing an unprecedented crisis due to economic mismanagement, corruption, and agricultural crises.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials. — ANI



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BRIEF INFORMATION

Hackathon to boost the digital content

Times News Service

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BRIEFS

Firefighters tackle blaze on Tanzania mountain

MOUNT KILIMANJARO: Hundreds of firefighters were struggling on Saturday to put out the blaze on Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, which began a day earlier. Police and local people were helping to tackle the flames. Their efforts have been hampered by strong winds and smoke that was hampering visibility on the mountain. A plane transporting officials from Tanzania National Parks Authority for a visit to evaluate the situation was unable to land on Saturday. "Large clouds and the smoke prevented us from reaching the fire zone," regional commissioner, Nurdin Babu, told journalists. "We will try again when the situation improves." Officials said the blaze wasn't posing a threat to tourists on the mountain. However, the fire was burning near the camp Karanga site used by climbers ascending the mountain, at about 4,000 meters altitude on the south side of the mountain. The cause of the fire is not clear. It comes almost exactly two years after another blaze that raged on the mountain for a week. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest summit, is popular with both trekkers and mountain climbers. Every year, around 50,000 people make their way to the summit.



Presidential election in Slovenia tests liberal govt

LJUBLJANA: Slovenians headed to the polls on Sunday in a presidential vote that is being seen as a test for the small EU country's liberal government. None of the seven candidates vying for president is expected to receive an absolute majority. That means a second round of voting featuring the top two contenders will likely be held in three weeks. The new president will replace Borut Pahor, a former fashion model who has already served two five-year terms. While the post is largely ceremonial, the president leads the army and is responsible for nominating several top officials, including the governor of the central bank. Opinion polls suggest right-wing candidate Anze Logar, who served as foreign minister under the former conservative government of Janez Jansa, will get around 30% of the vote, followed by centrist independent candidate Natasa Pirc Musar on 20%, and government-backed Social Democrat Milan Brglez on 17%. During the campaign, 46-year-old Logar sought to shed his populist image and pledged to be a president for "bringing together" people from across the political spectrum.



Two Indians missing in Kenya killed by cops

NAIROBI: Two Indian techies who went missing in Kenya in mid-July, were killed by a special unit of state police, according to an aide of President William Ruto. Former Balaji Telefilms COO Zulfiqar Khan and another Indian national Mohamed Zaid Sami Kidwai went missing more than two months ago after leaving a popular club in an affluent residential neighbourhood in Nairobi. Both Khan and Kidwai were in Kenya to join President William Ruto's election campaign Information and Communications Technology (ICT) team. "Asante sana (Thank you very much) President Ruto for DIS-BANDING the DCI Elite unit. This was one unit that was literally used to Kidnap, assault, maim and Kill innocent people. They targeted those who supported the election of Ruto as President. Zaid was such one person," Ruto's aide Dennis Itumbi said in a Facebook post. — ANI



KING OF BAHRAIN RECEIVES SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED



MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, received Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who is currently on an official visit to the Kingdom to participate in the 10th session of the UAE-Bahrain Joint Higher Committee.

The UAE top diplomat conveyed to King Hamad the greetings of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al

Nahyan, and his wishes for progress and prosperity to the Kingdom and to its people. King Hamad reciprocated the greetings.

King Hamad reiterated his pride of the deeply rooted, historical relations between the two nations, which, he said, are based on strong pillars of fraternity, common visions, understanding and close coordination.

The King lauded the fruitful results of the meetings of the joint higher committee on strengthen-

ing collaboration between the two nations in various fields.

The King valued the noble position of the UAE in support of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its people, commending the Emirates' pivotal, active role at the regional and international levels and its tireless efforts in defending the Arab nation's issues and supporting joint Arab action, as well as laying the foundation for security and stability in the region. -WAM

ARAB WORLD

King Abdulaziz University maintains top position in QS World University rankings

JEDDAH: King Abdulaziz University has continued to maintain its top position among the best Arab universities by QS World University Rankings by ranking first at the level of Arab world, according to the British institution specialized in higher education, Quacquarelli Symonds, which manages the QS rating.

King Abdulaziz University ranked first at the level of Arab world for 2023 edition, based on

huge data during the university classification, which included scientific research, the international research network, academic reputation, opinions of employers, the percentage of attracting international students and faculty members, and others.

The official spokesperson for King Abdulaziz University, Dr. Musab bin Faleh Al-Harbi, confirmed that the continuous

interest and support of the prudent leadership contributed to a development renaissance in all fields, including the education sector, which is proceeding with steady steps and clear-cut goals that are consistent with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, extending congratulations to the President of the University, and its employees, students, teaching, technical and administrative staff. -SPA

Read online
timesofoman.com

KING HAMAD LAUDS BAHRAIN-UAE TIES

MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa praised solid historic and fraternal relations binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, based on strong bonds of brotherhood, shared visions and joint coordination. »

.....

UAE, GERMANY CEMENT STRATEGIC ENERGY AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

ABU DHABI: To mark the arrival of the first-ever hydrogen-based ammonia test cargo from the UAE to Germany, Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change, along with Dr. Robert Habeck, German Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economy and Climate Action, will attend a ceremonial event in the headquarters of Aurubis AG (Aurubis) in Hamburg, Germany. »

COP27

Saudi Crown Prince announces second editions of Middle East Green Initiative Summit

RIYADH: His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Saudi Green Initiative announced the second editions of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit and the Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) Forum, held under the theme 'From ambition to action', taking place next month in tandem with COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The MGI Summit will be held on 7 November and the SGI Forum will be held on 11-12 November, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

HRH the Crown Prince said: "I would like to thank His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and the Egyptian government for hosting the MGI Summit and SGI Forum in Egypt this year. We are holding them in tandem with COP27, an event bringing nations from around the world together under one roof, to advance global climate ambitions by inspiring joint activity at the local, regional, and international levels. Our partnership with Egypt reflects a shared belief in the importance of collaborative action to address the environmental and climate challenges facing the region and the world today."

Building on the success of the inaugural Summit, which was hosted in Riyadh last year, the second edition of the MGI Summit will be held in conjunction with the COP27 World Leaders Summit, in partnership with Egypt. During the event the Kingdom will shed light on the key climate challenges facing the Middle East and North Africa Region, ensuring regional priorities are placed on the global stage.

The MGI Summit is a strategic regional platform that promotes cross-border cooperation, knowledge exchange and discussion between Heads of State, relevant government ministers and policy makers. The first-of-its kind summit contributes to accelerating the transition towards a green economy and building a more sustainable future for future generations.

The second edition of the SGI Forum will convene an elite lineup of climate experts and thought leaders to discuss the progress that has been made towards achieving the climate targets announced by the Kingdom last year. The theme of this year's forum, 'From ambition to action', reflects Saudi Arabia's determination to turn these targets into reality by catalyzing collective action to confront climate challenges that impact the entire world. -BNA

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Quote of the Day



DASUN SHANAKA,
SRI LANKA CAPTAIN

“Really happy the way we played. That is the kind of cricket we want to play. Want to continue with that confidence.”

T20 WORLD CUP

Sri Lanka crush Ireland by 9 wickets

HOBART, AUSTRALIA: Sri Lanka commenced their Super 12 campaign with an impressive nine-wicket triumph over a disappointing Ireland on Sunday.

There were many fears for Sri Lanka when they were thrashed by Namibia in the opening match of the first round, but the reigning Asia Cup champions are slowly gathering some momentum.

While the nine-wicket victory over Ireland was expected by most, the way the island nation went about it was ultra-impressive as they clinically dispatched of their opponents in clinical style with plenty of improvement to come.

Star spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (2/25) took his eighth and ninth scalps of the tournament thus far and he was well supported by fellow spinner Maheesh Theekshana (2/19), who was thrust into the bowling crease during Ireland's batting Powerplay.

Not only did Sri Lanka take wickets at regular intervals, but they also kept the run rate down as Ireland's batters were unable to gather much momentum and were restricted to 128/8 from their 20 overs.

Sri Lanka's run chase was a mere formality, with in-form opener Kusal Mendis (68 from 43 balls) continuing his excellent tournament thus far with another half-century.

Much of the good Ireland managed from eye-catching victories over Scotland and the West Indies was undone against Sri Lanka, with the European side unable to back-up their strong showings from the first round. - *ICC*

Ireland vs Sri Lanka	Scoreboard
IRELAND P Stirling c Rajapaksa b D de Silva 34 A Balbirnie b Kumara 1 L Tucker b Theekshana 10 H Tector c Shanaka b Fernando 45 C Campher c Asalanka b Karunaratne 2 G Dockrell b Theekshana 14 G Delany c Karunaratne b Hasaranga 9 M Adair c Karunaratne b Hasaranga 0 S Singh not out 7 B McCarthy not out 2 Extras: (b 3, w 1) 4 TOTAL: 128/8 in 20 overs (RR: 6.40) Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-26, 3-55, 4-60, 5-107, 6-117, 7-117, 8-118	Bowling: B Fernando 4-0-27-1, L Kumara 2-0-12-1, M Theekshana 4-0-19-2, C Karunaratne 4-0-29-1, W Hasaranga 4-0-25-2, D de Silva 2-0-13-1 SRI LANKA K Mendis not out 68 D de Silva c Tucker b Delany 31 C Asalanka not out 31 Extras: (w 3) 3 TOTAL: 133/1 in 15 overs (RR: 8.86) Fall of wickets: 1-63 Bowling: J Little 4-0-45-0, M Adair 2-0-16-0, B McCarthy 2-0-16-0, G Delany 4-0-28-1, C Campher 1-0-8-0, S Singh 2-0-20-0

Points table						
GROUP 1						
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS NRR
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	0	+4.450 2
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	0	0	+2.467 2
England	1	1	0	0	0	+0.620 2
Afghanistan	1	0	1	0	0	-0.620 0
Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	-2.467 0
Australia	1	0	1	0	0	-4.450 0
GROUP 2						
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS NRR
India	1	1	0	0	0	+0.050 2
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	+0.000 0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	+0.000 0
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	+0.000 0
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	+0.000 0
Pakistan	1	0	1	0	0	-0.050 0



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KOHLI MASTERCLASS IN INDIA'S VICTORY

Kohli expertly guided India home in front of a crowd in excess of 90,000 at the MCG

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA: Former skipper Virat Kohli hit an unbeaten 83 as India pulled off a miracle four-wicket victory over Pakistan in a final over thriller at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Melbourne.

Not for the first time - and unlikely to be the last - former skipper Virat Kohli turned back the clock with a brilliant individual knock of 82 from just 53 deliveries that saved the day for India.

Kohli came to the crease in the second over when KL Rahul (4) was undone by Naseem Shah (1/23) and things looked forlorn for India when a fired-up Haris Rauf (2/36) reduced them to 31/3 after the batting powerplay.

But Kohli kept his nerve and, just like he has done so many times previously, expertly guided India home in front of a crowd in excess of 90,000 at the MCG in Melbourne.

India never looked like winning it, but with Kohli and Hardik Pandya at the crease there was always an outside chance they could pull a rabbit out of the hat.

There was 31 needed from the last two overs and Kohli hit Rauf for two massive sixes on the final two deliveries of the penultimate over to make the equation 16 the final six balls. - *ICC*



Pakistan vs India	Scoreboard
PAKISTAN M Rizwan c Kumar b Arshdeep Singh 4 B Azam lbw b Arshdeep Singh 0 S Masood not out 52 I Ahmed lbw b Shami 51 S Khan c Yadav b Pandya 5 H Ali c Yadav b Pandya 2 M Nawaz c Karthik b Pandya 9 A Ali c Karthik b Arshdeep Singh 2 S Afridi c & b Kumar 16 H Rauf not out 6 Extras: (b 2, lb 4, w 6) 12 TOTAL: 159/8 in 20 overs (RR: 7.95) Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-15, 3-91, 4-96, 5-98, 6-115, 7-120, 8-151 Bowling: B Kumar 4-0-22-1, Arshdeep Singh 4-0-32-3, M Shami 4-0-25-1, H Pandya 4-0-30-3, R Ashwin 3-0-23-0, A Patel 1-0-21-0	INDIA KL Rahul b Shah 4 R Sharma c Ahmed b Rauf 4 V Kohli not out 82 S Yadav c Rizwan b Rauf 15 A Patel run out 2 H Pandya c Azam b Nawaz 40 D Karthik st Rizwan b Nawaz 1 R Ashwin not out 1 Extras: (b 3, lb 1, nb 1, w 6) 11 TOTAL: 160/6 in 20 overs (RR: 8.00) Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-10, 3-26, 4-31, 5-144, 6-158 Bowling: S Afridi 4-0-34-0, N Shah 4-0-23-1, H Rauf 4-0-36-2, S Khan 4-0-21-0, M Nawaz 4-0-42-2

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South Africa vs Zimbabwe



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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,417.50 points, down by 0.8 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.87 per cent at 475.84 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.43 per cent, was the top gainer while Vision Insurance, down 9.48 per cent, was the top loser.

Natural gas prices reach record levels



Increased competition for LNG from South Asian importers due to higher demand caused by the weather phenomenon La Nina could always raise gas prices higher for the European countries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Global natural gas prices reached record highs during the third quarter of 2022 as a result of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war that continues to have a severe impact on global energy prices particularly natural gas, according to a new report. Recently, there has been a major disruption to Europe's gas supply infrastructure after the supplies from the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline have been disrupted.

"However, despite the escalating conflict and the growing threats to the European gas infrastructure, the EU countries have

succeeded in replenishing their depleted natural gas storage up to 90 per cent this year exceeding their 80 per cent goal to build stocks by November 2022," Kamco Invest said in its Natural Gas Quarterly Review: October-2022. "Furthermore, EU nations have continued their mission to increase their non-Russian gas supplies, importing more LNG and developing new natural gas infrastructure," he added.

According to Refinitiv, European countries could import 52 billion cubic metres (bcm) (5.5 per cent) more LNG than last year. Furthermore, increased competition for LNG from South Asian importers due to higher demand caused by the weather phenomenon La Nina could always raise gas prices higher for European countries.

Global competition

According to the IEA, the increase in European demand for LNG necessitated by their mission to wean themselves off from Russian gas has started a global competition for natural gas supplies despite gas demand declining in Europe and levelling off in Asia. This has been one of the main factors keeping natural gas prices elevated during 2022. To make up for the politicised and unstable Russian gas supplies and to adhere to sanctions on Russian energy exports due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, European countries have increased their LNG imports.

On the other hand, the US/EU sanctions on Russian energy exports have taken some effect. Gazprom, Russia's state-owned

energy company, has recently announced that natural gas deliveries to non-CIS countries have declined by almost 40 per cent to 84.8 bcm during the period between the beginning of 2022 till September-15-2022, according to Naturalgasintel.com The IEA estimates that European countries will import over 60 bcm of LNG in 2022 or more than twice the amount of global energy LNG export volume additions, that could result high international LNG prices for the short to medium term period.

Since the start of the war European countries has signed LNG contracts amounting to 16 bcm which is almost two times their five-year average LNG contracts. It is expected that as the Russia-Ukraine conflict drags on and European countries continue to look for alternatives to Russian gas, global natural gas prices are set to stay elevated and volatile.

According to the World Bank, US monthly natural gas prices for September 22 increased by 52 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to reach \$7.76/MMBtu compared to \$5.11/MMBtu on September 21. In context, US natural gas prices reached an all-time monthly average high of \$8.79/MMBtu in August 2022 as soaring global LNG prices maintain demand for US LNG exports putting upward pressure on US gas prices. Similarly, European monthly natural gas prices for September 2022 jumped 158.8 per cent y-o-y to reach \$59.1/MMBtu while monthly Japanese LNG price for September 2022 witnessed an 89.7 per cent y-o-y rise at \$21.7/MMBtu.

IN RIYADH

Oman participates in GCC Ministerial Committee for Cybersecurity meeting



RIYADH: Oman represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, took part in the meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee

for Cybersecurity, held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Omani delegation was headed by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport,

Communications and Information Technology. The meeting discussed a number of topics on the agenda. It also inaugurated the first GCC cyber security exercise. -ONA

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OPEN RADIO ACCESS NETWORKS

Omantel backs GCC telecoms' drive towards Open RAN

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication services in Oman, has expressed its full support to the adoption of Open Radio Access Networks (RAN), a new approach to building mobile networks that seamlessly connect smartphones and devices to the internet and other users.

Omantel is an active member of the joint GCC Consortium that seeks to accelerate the early adoption of Open Radio Access Network (Open RAN) solutions in the operators' networks with a robust regional ICT ecosystem.

The consortium has published a whitepaper that sets out the challenges of deploying Open RAN in brownfield networks, such as interoperability, operational complexity, cyber security, performance, and TCO issues. It also addresses potential opportunities, mainly 5G prospects, disaggregation, the path to 6G, and Automation.

Enhancements

Dr Ali Al Hashmi, General Manager of Network at Omantel, said, "Omantel shares the GCC operators' view that Open RAN development is rapidly accelerating towards a point of maturity with

major performance enhancements and capabilities, in particular for LTE and 5G technologies and beyond. Omantel has been playing a major role in contributing to the tech and telecom industry not just in Oman, but in the GCC. Our strong support to this project reflects Omantel's strong position as the main enabler for the future of tech and telecom in Oman."

Historically, RAN has undergone a series of developments in network architecture. Starting with traditional RAN, it progressed to centralised RAN (C-RAN) and virtualised RAN (vRAN), until the dawn of Open RAN. The first three were vendor lock-in, while Open RAN architecture provides openness and lays the foundation for 6G and future RAN.

Open RAN technology enables the creation of all software and hardware components of the RAN to be built to industry-wide specifications, ensuring interoperability between each component. Open Interfaces allow operators to select hardware from a variety of suppliers to mix and match during deployment. This gives operators wide options to choose from available options, and specifications and eventually achieve optimised costs and timelines.



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MSX index ends lower



Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.43 per cent, was the top gainer while Vision Insurance, down 9.48 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,417.50 points, down by 0.8 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.87 per cent at 475.84 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.43 per cent, was the top gainer while Vision Insurance, down 9.48 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of United Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 317 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.44 million, with more than 15.84 million shares changing hands.

Out of 40 traded securities, 4 advanced, 27 declined, and 9 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR80,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR51,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR29,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,044.42 points, down 0.85 per cent. Prices of Bank Nizwa, was

up by 1.05 per cent. Prices of Vision Insurance, United Finance, Muscat Finance, Al Batinah Development Company and Global Financial Investments were down by 0.69 per cent, 9.33 per cent, 6.78 per cent, 6.67 per cent and 5.77 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,038.02 points, down 0.39 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement was up by 0.69 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, Voltamp Energy, Oman Cables Industry, Gulf Mushroom Products, and Jazeera Steel Products were down by 3.75 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.27 per cent and 0.91 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.45 per cent before closing at 1,556.64 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah and Phoenix Power were up by 9.43 per cent, 2.33 per cent, respectively.

Prices of Al Suwadi Power, National Gas, Renaissance Services, Al Jazeera Services, and Ooredoo were down by 5.13 per cent, 2.66 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 2.08 per cent and 1.92 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES						
Index.....	High.....	Low.....	Value.....	Prev. Value.....	Diff.....	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX.....	4,459.44	4,417.50	4,417.50	4,452.96	-35.46	-0.80
FINANCIAL INDEX.....	7,116.24	7,044.42	7,044.42	7,104.65	-60.23	-0.85
Industry Index.....	6,061.71	6,032.34	6,038.02	6,061.71	-23.69	-0.39
Services Index.....	1,563.72	1,546.31	1,556.64	1,563.72	-7.07	-0.45
MSX Shariah Index.....	480.47	473.38	475.84	479.99	-4.15	-0.87
MSX TR INDEX.....	5,624.40	5,571.50	5,571.50	5,616.22	-44.73	-0.80
FINANCIAL TR IDX.....	7,446.35	7,371.20	7,371.20	7,434.22	-63.02	-0.85
SERVICES TR IDX.....	1,623.77	1,605.69	1,616.43	1,623.77	-7.35	-0.45
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....	6,291.03	6,260.55	6,266.45	6,291.03	-24.59	-0.39
Trading Summary						
Volume.....	Turnover.....	Trades.....	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....
15,846,412	2,442,338	317	23,088,778,297	4	27	9
						40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 23

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. IND.	DIFF %	LAST PO	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	9,600	3,168	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.100	220,560,591	
OM0000002440	AL SHARGHA INV	74,225	5,344	8	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,480,000	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	858,008	487,700	35	0.570	0.570	0.566	0.566	0.566	0.000	0.000	0.566	0.566	0.570	0.100	212,430,369	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,463,336	380,365	14	0.260	0.260	0.259	0.259	0.260	-0.001	-0.385	0.259	0.242	0.265	0.100	421,120,106	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	810	221	2	0.273	0.273	0.272	0.272	0.274	-0.002	-0.730	0.272	0.272	0.000	0.100	27,200,000	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	500	68	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.136	-0.001	-0.735	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.100	263,203,758	
OM0000001525	OMAN INVEST & FIN	5,086	647	2	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.128	-0.001	-0.781	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.100	30,099,000	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	33,700	7,410	6	0.220	0.220	0.218	0.218	0.220	-0.002	-0.909	0.218	0.204	0.218	0.100	27,227,755	
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	45,346	4,927	5	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.105	0.109	0.100	15,120,000	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	110,500	96,674	4	0.868	0.876	0.864	0.864	0.880	-0.016	-1.818	0.864	0.852	0.864	0.100	648,000,000	
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	10,500	16,695	3	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.620	-0.030	-1.852	1.590	0.000	1.570	0.100	142,623,000	
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	489,748	202,787	8	0.406	0.408	0.400	0.408	0.416	-0.008	-1.923	0.408	0.400	0.420	0.100	265,585,246	
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	104,214	10,037	10	0.098	0.098	0.095	0.095	0.097	-0.002	-2.062	0.095	0.091	0.095	0.100	436,055,318	
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	12,110	2,821	3	0.235	0.235	0.230	0.235	0.240	-0.005	-2.083	0.230	0.000	0.230	0.100	14,383,004	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	205,000	92,250	5	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.460	0.460	-0.010	-2.174	0.450	0.442	0.450	0.100	106,384,500	
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	2,000	192	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.099	-0.003	-3.030	0.096	0.000	0.095	0.100	24,831,533	
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	95,544	4,786	10	0.051	0.051	0.049	0.049	0.052	-0.003	-5.769	0.049	0.049	0.057	0.100	9,800,000	
Total	17	3,530,239	1,316,092	118													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	327,200	17,342	3	0.053	0.058	0.053	0.058	0.053	0.005	9.434	0.058	0.054	0.058	0.100	55,365,173	
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	162,206	7,125	10	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.326	0.044	0.043	0.044	0.100	64,354,464	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	103,000	9,888	9	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.093	0.096	0.100	214,747,491	
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	12,580	1,845	5	0.147	0.147	0.145	0.147	0.146	0.001	0.685	0.147	0.142	0.147	0.100	29,400,000	
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	16,990	1,650	4	0.097	0.100	0.097	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.097	0.100	0.100	18,977,840	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOOFAR	2,700,000	385,600	7	0.142	0.143	0.142	0.143	0.143	0.000	0.000	0.142	0.143	0.143	0.100	428,478,255	
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	67,325	2,895	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	10,750,000	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	2,200	81	1	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.100	24,970,835	
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	10,000	1,110	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.115	0.100	17,266,094	
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	720,500	113,839	7	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.159	-0.001	-0.629	0.158	0.144	0.158	0.100	316,049,421	
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	10,000	2,330	1	0.233	0.233	0.233	0.233	0.236	-0.003	-1.271	0.233	0.213	0.234	0.100	9,694,028	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	121,338	9,349	11	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	15,400,000	
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,000	940	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.137	-0.002	-1.460	0.135	0.135	0.139	0.100	4,050,000	
OM0000004768	MADINATAKAFUL	5,300	458	3	0.085	0.088	0.085	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.222	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	15,400,000	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	48,100	5,336	11	0.113	0.113	0.110	0.110	0.113	-0.003	-2.655	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.100	9,350,000	
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	12,000	1,044	6	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.090	-0.003	-3.333	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.100	7,082,039	
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	11,020	849	3	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.080	-0.003	-3.750	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	2,585,002	
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	38,000	1,388	3	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	0.039	-0.002	-5.128	0.037	0.036	0.040	0.100	26,433,035	
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV.	30,000	1,260	2	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.045	-0.003	-6.667	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.100	1,260,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	135,000	7,710	11	0.058	0.058	0.055	0.055	0.059	-0.004	-6.780	0.055	0.055	0.057	0.100	16,893,048	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	7,678,184	522,216	94	0.075	0.075	0.068	0.068	0.075	-0.007	-9.333	0.068	0.068	0.071	0.100	23,741,830	
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	22,000	2,332	3	0.105	0.116	0.105	0.105	0.116	-0.011	-9.483	0.105	0.000	0.105	0.100	10,500,000	
Total	22	12,237,893	1,096,187	198													

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT FIRM

Arcapita expands in Saudi Arabia

Times News Service

RIYADH: Arcapita Group Holdings (Arcapita), the global alternative investment firm, has formed Arcapita Capital Company, a new subsidiary licensed by the Capital Market Authority of Saudi Arabia with offices in Riyadh, as part of its strategic expansion in the Kingdom.

The formation of Arcapita Capital Company will enable the firm to participate in private equity and real estate investments in the Saudi market. Arcapita intends to leverage growth opportunities driven by the National Industrial Development and Logistics Programme, and the Kingdom's National Investment Strategy, which aims to deploy \$3.3 trillion in investments across the economy by 2030.

As the largest economy in the MENA region, Saudi Arabia's socio-economic transformation under Vision 2030 is driving exceptional growth across several promising sectors. These include the industrial, logistics, fintech,



business services, and healthcare sectors, providing investors with a wealth of untapped opportunities for businesses to thrive.

Abdulaziz Hamad Aljomaih, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Arcapita, commented, "The opening of an Arcapita office in Saudi Arabia is a significant



milestone, allowing us to provide premium services to the growing Saudi market. We are very much looking forward to expanding our business and our new office enables us to work with our strategic partners to target further opportunities in the Kingdom."

Atif A. Abdulmalik, Chief Ex-

ecutive Officer of Arcapita said: "Establishing our first office in Saudi Arabia is a natural next step that demonstrates Arcapita's continued commitment to Saudi Arabia. Arcapita's new on-ground presence will enable us to capitalise on an abundance of opportunities in the market while forging even closer relationships with our clients and investment partners as we continue to grow our global footprint."

He also added: "Many sectors of the Saudi economy are poised to experience very healthy growth, driven by substantial infrastructure investment and demographic shifts. Bringing many years of experience and deep expertise in real estate, Arcapita is particularly well-placed to pursue opportunities in the industrial and logistics sectors. With the new office in place, we are already looking at a number of significantly sized transactions and are anticipating a very active investment pipeline in the coming years."



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Offer valid from 1st October to 31st December 2022. Raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Azaba with a total of 3 raffle draws. Dates: 3rd November, 5th December 2022 and 4th January 2023. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Promotion at Lulu, Nesto, Carrefour, Makkah Hypermarkets & The Sultan Center.



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FIRE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

OFSEC exhibition to begin on October 25

MUSCAT: OFSEC 2022 - Oman's only and most comprehensive exhibition on fire, safety and security, will be inaugurated by His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Kais Al Said. The exhibition is from October 25 - 26 2022, from 10am - 6pm at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, Muscat.

6th edition

OFSEC in its 6th edition will bring together over 70+ exhibitors from over 10 countries who will showcase their avant-garde solutions, latest technologies, cutting-edge innovations, cost-effective products and services to meet the requirements of governments, businesses, industrial and commercial entities, aviation, construction, infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing, oil and gas and utility sectors.

OFSEC is designed to meet the needs of the local, regional and international markets by linking practitioners, suppliers, distributors and manufacturers from the fire, safety and security industry, with key decision-makers from the government and private sectors making it a definitive networking platform, where new projects and partnerships are initiated and visionary objectives are implemented. This event also aims to create synergy and strengthen the collaboration between the authorities and the industries.

The event will lay a foundation and be the gateway to the current and future

SNACKING ON ALMONDS BOOSTS GUT HEALTH

Eating a handful of almonds a day significantly increases the production of butyrate, a short-chain fatty acid that promotes gut health, according to a recent study.

A team of researchers from King's College London investigated the impact of whole and ground almonds on the composition of gut microbes. The study, published today in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, is funded by the Almond Board of California. The gut microbiome consists of thousands of micro-organisms living in the gut. These play a vital role in digesting nutrients and can have a positive or negative influence on our health, including our digestive and immune systems. The mechanisms of how the gut microbiomes have an impact on human health is still being investigated, but evidence suggests eating specific types of food can positively influence the types of bacteria in our gut or what they do in our gut.

Researchers at King's College London recruited 87 healthy adults who were already eating less than the recommended amount of di-

etary fibre and who snacked on typical unhealthy snacks (e.g. chocolate, crisps). Participants were split into three groups: one group changed their snacks for 56 g of whole almonds a day, another for 56 g of ground almonds a day, and the control group ate energy-matched muffins as a control. The trial lasted four weeks.

Researchers found that butyrate was significantly higher among almond eaters compared to those who consumed the muffin. Butyrate is a short-chain fatty acid that is the main source of fuel for the cells lining the colon. When these cells function effectively, it provides an ideal condition for gut microbes to flourish, for the gut wall to be strong and not leaky or inflamed and for nutrients to be absorbed.

No significant difference was observed in gut transit time -- the time it takes for food to move all the way through the gut -- however whole-almond eaters had an additional 1.5 bowel movements per week compared to the other groups. These findings suggest eating almonds could also benefit

those with constipation.

Testing showed that eating whole and ground almonds improved people's diets, having higher intakes of monounsaturated fatty acids, fibre, potassium and other important nutrients compared to the control group.

Lead author Professor Kevin Whelan, Head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at King's College London, said: "Part of the way in which the gut microbiota impact human health is through the production of short-chain fatty acids, such as butyrate. These molecules act as a fuel source for cells in the colon, they regulate absorption of other nutrients in the gut, and help balance the immune system. We think these findings suggest almond consumption may benefit bacterial metabolism in a way that has the potential to influence human health."



The study, published today in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, is funded by the Almond Board of California. The gut microbiome consists of thousands of micro-organisms living in the gut. These play a vital role in digesting nutrients and can have a positive or negative influence on our health, including our digestive and immune systems.





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ASIA-PACIFIC AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Omani golfer Azaan to take part in AAC for eighth time

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Experienced Oman golfer Azaan Al Rumhy will be making a record eighth appearance at the 13th Asia-Pacific Amateur Championships (AAC), which will be played at the Amata Spring Country Club in Chonburi, Thailand from 27-30 October.

As the leading player in the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) from the Sultanate of Oman, Azaan received his invitation to compete against the region's top amateur golfers at the 2022 AAC, organised by the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC), the Masters Tournament and The R&A. As part of his preparations for the AAC, Azaan took a trip to Dubai where one of two programmes was organised by the AAC Academy earlier this year.

The AAC Academy programme concept was created following the tenth anniversary of the AAC in 2018. While catering to fit specific player needs, the programme focuses on key areas such as sport



Azaan at AAC Academy Dubai. - Supplied picture

psychology, strength and conditioning, swing analysis, short game instruction and technical swing improvement. Besides Dubai, this year the AAC Academy programme was held at Amata Spring Country Club.

Ahead of his participation in the AAC, Azaan said: "I am looking forward to competing in the

Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship once again. Amata Springs is a course where I have played in the past. My goal is to play well and to make the cut. I have been working hard to prepare for the event and thoroughly enjoyed the AAC Academy programme in Dubai in September. I am hoping to have my best display at the AAC and



Adam Al Barwani. - Supplied picture

improve my amateur ranking. I must thank Augusta National, The R&A, and the Asia Pacific Golf Federation for giving us this fantastic opportunity."

Heading to Thailand

Also heading to Thailand are Oman junior team members, Adam Al Barwani and Avi Hamlai.

Both will take part in the 88th SINGHA Thailand Junior World Golf Championships, which will be held at Royal Hua Hin Golf Course from 27-30 October.

Adam is in good form, having recently played at the Pan Arab Golf Championships in Tunisia where he finished fourth in individual category and also led

the national under-15 side to a fourth-place finish.

Mundhir Al Barwani, Oman Golf Association chairman said: "We wish Azaan, Adam, and Avi all the best for their upcoming trips to Thailand. For Azaan to be competing in his 8th Asia Pacific Amateur Championship is a great achievement. We know that the standard in this event is extremely high, so it is an opportunity for Azaan to measure himself against the best in the wider Asia-Pacific region. For Adam and Avi, the Thai Junior Championships will serve as a fantastic platform to develop their abilities and allow them to experience competing on a bigger stage. They have both been very active in our domestic GOJuniors Tour events."

"We must thank the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth for their ongoing support and also our partners and sponsors, Oman LNG, Sohar Aluminium, Moore Stephens, and Shell, for allowing us to continue to develop junior golf," he further added.

A dream come true, says Seeb coach Jaber

Rasheed Jaber on Saturday added a glorious chapter to the Oman football history as he led Seeb Club to AFC Cup title in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: He has guided the national team to many memorable wins as a coach and has been one of the most decorated coaches in the Sultanate of Oman. Meet Rasheed Jaber, who on Saturday, added a glorious chapter to the Oman football history as he led Seeb Club to AFC Cup title in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Seeb became the first Omani club to clinch a continental title as they outplayed Kuala Lumpur City 3-0 in the final of the 2022 AFC Cup, the 18th edition of the second-tier Asian club championship, organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Title triumph

A smiling Jaber in his post-match comments said: "This title triumph heralds the start of more success for the club. I can't explain my feelings.

"It's a dream come true. We've been waiting to realise for almost 50 years, and its real now."

The 58 year old Jaber, who took over as helm of Seeb in September earlier this year, said: "We worked hard from the beginning to reach this point, and my players did a really good job. They scored three goals and won the cup, which was excellent. "I'm happy for them, the club and Oman football. This is our first time becoming Asian champi-



Seeb Club coach, players and officials with the AFC Cup trophy. - Supplied picture



Rasheed Jaber — Supplied picture

ons, and hopefully this is just the beginning."

Prior to Seeb's stint, Jaber had coached Dhofar, Suwaiq and Muscat clubs in Oman. He has been at the helm of the national senior

team twice, first in 1995 and then in 2002.

A former Oman international, Jaber was also the U19 national team coach from 2014-17.

Despite the emphatic scoreline, KL City did have their moments in front of goal but simply couldn't get past goalkeeper Ahmed Faraj Al Rawahi and Jaber praised his charges for their mental fortitude. "They had some chances but we knew how they play and their strengths. If we allowed them free-kicks, it would be very dangerous for us. No. 28 (Paulo Josue) is a very talented and good player, and he can shoot from everywhere, but we managed to stop them."

"Tactically we proved ourselves on the field and that's why we won. Three goals in the final is not easy, (especially) against a well-organised defensive team. "But our players were mentally strong and fought from the beginning, and proved our system."

AFC chief lauds Seeb's title
Asian Football Confederation

(AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa congratulated Seeb Club after their maiden AFC Cup crown.

Shaikh Salman said: "On behalf of the Asian football family, I would like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to Al Seeb Club for securing their first-ever AFC Cup title.

"Everyone at the club, from the officials to the backroom staff deserve praise for working tirelessly to create history and I am confident that this achievement is just a sign of more to come from Al Seeb Club in the AFC's competitions." "We must also commend Kuala Lumpur City FC for showcasing incredible character and team spirit to emerge as only the second Malaysian club to reach the final." "The AFC has outlined its vision and mission to ensure our teams and players continue to develop through top class competitions, and the presence of two first-time finalists in this year's AFC Cup final is testament that we are steadfast in delivering on that promise."

EPIC CHASE AGAINST PAKISTAN



My best knock ever in T20Is, am lost for words: Kohli

MELBOURNE: Following his side's five-wicket win against Pakistan in their ICC T20 World Cup match, the star Indian batter Virat Kohli rated his match-winning knock as his best innings in the shortest format.

An explosive half-century by star batter Virat Kohli and a century stand with Hardik Pandya helped India defeat Pakistan by four wickets in their Group 2, Super 12 match of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday. "It is a surreal atmosphere, I have no words, no idea how that happened. I am really lost for words. Hardik believed we can do it, if we stayed till the end. When Shaheen bowled from the pavilion end, that is when we decided to take him down. Haris is their prime bowler, and I hit those two sixes. From 28 in 8, it came down to 16 to 6. I tried to stick to my instincts. The first one was back of a hand slower ball (the one over long-on). Standing here I just feel like it was meant to be. Till today Mohali was my best T20I innings. Today I will count this one higher. Hardik kept pushing me. The crowd has been phenomenal. You guys (fans)

kept backing me and I am grateful for your support," said Virat in a post-match presentation.

Babar Azam lauds Virat

Following his side's five-wicket loss to India in their ICC T20 World Cup match, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam lauded Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya for their performances and said that knocks of Shan Masood and Iftikhar Ahmed were the positives for his side.

An explosive half-century by star batter Virat Kohli and a century stand with Hardik Pandya helped India defeat Pakistan by four wickets in their Group 2, Super 12 match of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday. "Our bowlers bowled really well. All credit to Kohli and Pandya. It wasn't easy with the new ball. We had partnerships after 10 overs. We had a chance. We tried to stick to our plans. But credit to Virat Kohli. In the middle, we decided we wanted a wicket and held the spinner back. We had a lot of positives. The way Iftikhar played and the way Shan played," said Azam in a post-match presentation. -ANI

OMAN CRICKET LEAGUE

Strenserv, Fagor FCC register first victories in A Division

MUSCAT: The A division of the Oman Cricket League Season 2022-23 started with Strenserv closely beating Orient Travels by 2 wickets. Electing to bat first, Orient Travels started off a shaky start losing 3 wickets for just 33 runs. Small partnerships with lone standing Amandeep Singh guided the total to 185 for Orient Travels.

The mighty turner, Vijeesh Velunni was the wrecker for Strenserv picking 4 wickets in his quota of 10 overs. To oppose, Strenserv got off to a stable start with their 1st wicket falling for 42.

The key batter in the chase for Strenserv was Ali Muhammed scoring a quick fire 56 of 48 balls



with 8 fours to guide them to a convincing win. Strenserv play their next game versus Glam Homes on 28th October.

Brief Scores: Orient Travels 185/10 in 42.5 overs (Amandeep Singh - 52(68) 8x4; Vijeesh Velunni - 47/4) lost to Strenserv 189/8

in 42.1 overs (Ali Muhammed - 56(48) 8x4; Syed Amir Ali - 32/2) by 2 wickets.

In another A division match, Fagor FCC beat OCT ruwi by a massive margin of 121 runs to account their 1st win.

Winning the toss, OCT Ruwi

put Fagor FCC to bat first. With a stable start to the innings, Fagor FCC were looking to post a big total on the board but Mohammed Al Balushi's spell of 3 wickets restricted them to 190 losing all their batters in 46th over. The Fagor FCC bowlers were spot on with their plan as they bundled out OCT Ruwi for a mere 69 runs courtesy 3 wickets from Chirag Mandaviya and Pradeep Kumar.

Brief Scores : Fagor FCC 190/10 in 45.3 overs (Shazaf Ali 36(55) 3x4,1x6; Mohammed Al Balushi 44/3) won against OCT Ruwi 69/10 in 29.3 overs (Chirag Mandaviya 11/3 and Pradeep Kumar 13/3) by 121 runs.





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ROUND-UP

Exciting ‘Toyota Oubess’ campaign with exclusive benefits unveiled

Service from 2 years/20,000km up to 4 years / 40,000km (whichever is earlier) and insurance for one year or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR125 to OMR450



MUSCAT: Now own any of your favourite Toyota vehicle and get exclusive benefits. Service from 2 years/20,000km up to 4 years / 40,000km (whichever is earlier) and insurance 1 year or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR125 to OMR450. Customers owning any Toyota during the campaign get a chance to Scratch & Win prizes like iPhone13, Dell Laptop and Fuel Cards. Apart from this walk-in to any Toyota showroom and get a chance to win prizes like JBL Sound Bar and Samsung Galaxy

Watch 5. Social media fans who follow Toyota Oman on Instagram can get a chance to win one out of 5 Apple Airpods. The campaign is valid until December 21. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.) Toyota has a fantastic range in Oman. Customers can visit any showroom and experience a wide range that includes the Land

Cruiser, Hilux Adventure, All-New Yaris, Camry and more. The pride of the land – the Land Cruiser is a symbol of strength, durability and reliability. Rugged yet luxurious, the Land Cruiser delivers high-end performance and advanced off-roading capabilities and safety features. The Land Cruiser is equipped with a choice of two powertrain options. The V6 twin-turbo 3.5-liter petrol engine achieves class-leading performance that surpasses that of a conventional V8, producing 409

hp and up to 650 nm. This is paired to a 10-speed automatic transmission. Also available is a naturally aspirated 4.0-liter V6 petrol engine that produces 271 hp and up to 385 nm paired to a 6-speed automatic transmission. Every Toyota Hilux Adventure comes with high-end features that start with the mighty 4.0 Litre V6 Engine packing a mighty punch with 235 HP & 38.3 Kg-m Torque. It has an Auto Disconnect Differential to keep the tempo going. Equal importance has been provided to the technical superiority and safety features of the Hilux 4x4. The noteworthy features include a 2.7 Litre Petrol Engine that is available in 5-speed Manual Transmission and 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, outputting 164 HP. The all new Toyota Yaris promises a dynamic driving experience thanks to its four-cylinder engine that is equipped with 16-valve DOCH and dual VVT-I. The vehicle is available with 1.5-liter capacity engine, producing 105 horsepower and 138 Nm of torque with

fuel consumption of 20.5 km/l. This is paired with Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT), which simulates a seven-speed sequential shift transmission. The Yaris’ cabin hosts a range of practical features, including an 8-inch multimedia screen with Apple CarPlay® & Android Auto together with a USB port on the head unit and two ports at the rear console that enable passengers to connect external media devices. Additional features include a four or six-speaker sound system and an automatic air conditioning system with two rear vents for extra passenger comfort.

The stylish Camry is available in two engine options. The 2.5 Litre engine delivers 204 HP & 243 Nm torque & 3.5L engine delivers 298 HP & 356 Nm torque. Camry is also available in the 3.5L sports edition that adds to the thrill. The Camry’s interior is stylish and impressive. The dash design has a sporty, cockpit-like feel, while treating both the driver and the front passenger to wider visibility. The exciting interior’s distinctive design offers comfort and convenience with a layer of luxury and hosts a range of advanced features. These include a panoramic moonroof, a floating 7-inch or 9-inch multimedia touch screen that comes integrated with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, among others.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

About 200 Omani families to benefit from Bank Muscat’s Tadamun programme in 2022

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to corporate social responsibility and community service, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, and the Ministry of Social Development, are currently implementing the landmark Tadamun programme for the tenth consecutive year.

A joint team has started distributing household appliances to social welfare families across different governorates in the Sultanate. In 2022, the bank aims to support about 200 social welfare families across Oman by distributing over 800 household appliances including air conditioners and refrigerators. At present, appliances are being distributed to families in several wilayats across Muscat. It is particularly noteworthy that the Tadamun programme has so far benefitted 1,880 families since it was first launched in 2013.

Speaking on the occasion of this year’s Tadamun programme, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, expressed his happiness at the continuation of the landmark programme for the 10th consecutive year. He said that Tadamun has been strengthening the role of the bank in the field of social responsibility over the years and the total number of beneficiaries has now crossed 10,000, which by itself is a major milestone. He pointed out how Bank Muscat has been a pioneer of sustainability in Oman and has worked steadfastly to partner and support the community in different initiatives so as to contribute to overall progress



and development. The bank’s CSR programmes continue to create a positive impact on Omani society, which is a translation of its vision to “serving you better, everyday.” This year’s programme is being implemented in cooperation with specialists from the Ministry of Social Development, who received applications and finalised the list of families entitled for the benefits. Talib Al Makhmari extended his sincere appreciation and gratitude to officials from the ministry, volunteers from the bank and other partners for their support and cooperation in continuing this long-running programme successfully. Bank Muscat is proud of its ongoing and continuous partnership with the Ministry of Social Development over the years on a number of initiatives and programmes including the Tadamun programme. Bank Muscat, which is Oman’s leading financial services provider, runs over 10 long-term social responsibility projects including

Green Sports, Al Wathbah SME Academy, the Maliyat financial literacy programme and Irshad financial coaching, which are all aimed at supporting different segments of Omani society. In 2022, the bank extended its support to 20 youth sports teams as part of its flagship Green Sports programme. The bank has recently signed an agreement to implement an advanced training programme for 30 Omani entrepreneurs. The bank is also closely partnering with the Royal Oman Police to curb cyber fraud through repeated awareness campaigns for the general public. Bank Muscat continues to work closely with government institutions and a number of civil society organisations to support programmes, which create sustainable, positive changes in communities across the Sultanate. It is a matter of great pride that the bank was honoured by the Ministry of Social Development once again in 2022 in recognition of its pioneering role in social responsibility.

NEW BRANCH IN MADINAT QABOOS

ahlibank launches ahliExpress multifunctional kiosk

MUSCAT: In line with its digital transformation strategy, and its drive to keep pace with the latest digital technologies that are focused on enriching the banking experience of its customers, ahlibank has launched its first multifunctional device for express banking services, at its newly opened branch in Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos, to expedite banking processes and present a unique avenue for its existing and new customers at any time.

As part of this new service, ahlibank customers can carry out their banking transactions digitally, round-the-clock, including the opening of accounts for new customers, the opening of additional accounts for existing customers, updating profiles and Civil ID/resident cards, printing account statements and chequebooks instantly, issuance of debit cards, and contacting ahliconnect directly. The interactive device is equipped to issue new and supplementary debit cards and enable debit card activation, replacement, and increase daily withdrawal limit. In addition, customers can also change their purchase limit, thus availing the freedom to carry out all their banking needs at any time. Commenting on this, Hassan Al Zaabi, Head of E-Channels, Digital Banking at ahlibank, said, “We have expanded the reach of our digital services with the newly launched multi-functional device, which provides comprehensive and advanced digital banking solutions that enhance the customers’ experience and facilitates access to their accounts around the clock. We are proud of our strategy to keep pace with the changing



market, leading with innovative technologies, such as launching the first multifunction device in the Sultanate that enables new customers to open a bank account digitally at any time.” “We will continue to add such devices to enhance our digital offerings as we continue to develop our creative solutions. We are dedicated to contributing to Oman’s 2040 vision of a digitalized society and a technology-driven economy,” he added. With the unveiling of express banking, ahlibank is redefining its digital identity. It has leveraged its status to demonstrate its commitment to exceeding customer expectations in every banking segment and added to its product portfolio a new design for the direct debit card with features that exceed expectations and cover all segments’ needs. Commenting on this milestone, Taher Al Balushi, Deputy General Manager – Strategy and Transformation, at ahlibank, said, “ahlibank’s growth strategy includes

shaping the future of digital services in Oman. Therefore, we seek to leverage our digital umbrella to add value and enhance the user experience with this brand-new multifunctional device. Our customers can now enjoy access to a wide range of banking services anytime. We believe that meeting customer expectations at all levels, will retain their loyalty and sustain our growth.” Upholding its robust digital transformation strategy, ahlibank has enhanced features on its ‘ahli B2B’ platform and the Corporate Internet Banking platform – ‘ahli-NET’, offering greater flexibility and more convenient transaction banking. The bank also continues to expand its Point of Sale (POS) offerings powered by AFS, rapidly increasing in popularity across the country. Its Remote Deposit Capture (RDC) offerings make it very convenient for customers to deposit their bulk cheques with the bank from the convenience of their offices instead of visiting the branch.

LUXURIOUS ROADSTER

New Mercedes-AMG SL: New edition of icon with sporty character

MUSCAT: The new Mercedes-AMG SL, the new edition of an icon, returns to its roots with a classic soft top and sporty character. At the same time, the luxurious roadster as a 2+2 seater is particularly suitable for everyday use and puts its power down on the road with all-wheel drive for the first time. Hi-tech components such as the AMG active ride control suspension with active anti-roll stabilisation, rear-axle steering, the optionally available AMG ceramic high-performance composite brake system and the standard-fit DIGITAL LIGHT with projection function sharpen the sporty profile. In combination with the AMG 4.0-litre V8 biturbo engine, this results in a driving experience

of the highest order. As a consistent Performance Luxury model, Mercedes-AMG in Affalterbach has developed the SL completely independently. One variant with AMG V8 engine will kick off the market launch, with additional engine variants being released later in the lifecycle. Almost 70 years ago, a sports car launched in Stuttgart immediately became a legend. The vision of expanding the potential of the Mercedes-Benz brand through motor racing successes produced the first SL as a result - a road-going racing sports car. Shortly after its debut in 1952, the 300 SL (internal designation W 194) reaped success after success on the race tracks of the world. In its first year,



it achieved, among other things, a spectacular one-two victory in the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans and even took the first four places in the Nürburgring Grand Jubilee Prize for sports cars. Its successes

quickly make the SL a legend. The successful racing car was followed in 1954 by the 300 SL production sports car (W 198), which is called the “Gullwing” because of its unusual doors. In 1999, a jury of

motoring journalists voted it the “Sports Car of the Century”. Other highlights of the model history include the “Pagoda” (W 113, 1963-1971), the evergreen R 107 (1971-1989), which was built for 18 years, and its successor, the R 129, which is considered an automotive sculpture because of its striking wedge shape. The abbreviation “SL” to this day thus stands for one of the few genuine automotive icons in the world. Shaun Michael, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Oman, said, “With major new advancements in technology and design, cars are more refined than ever before. Mercedes-Benz is always miles ahead of the curve and the Mercedes-AMG SL is a great example,

surpassing itself in terms of innovation and craftsmanship. When it comes to luxury sports cars, this one ticks all the boxes and we’re thrilled to be able to offer it to our clients in Oman, providing them with a guaranteed head-turner and a truly thrilling ride.” “The SL is an icon: For almost 70 years, the distinctive sports car has delighted Mercedes customers of every generation around the world. With the rebirth of the roadster from Mercedes-AMG, the new SL more than ever remains the symbol of this timeless fascination”, says Britta Seeger, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG responsible for Mercedes-Benz Cars Marketing and Sales.



ROUND-UP



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bp Oman, Outward Bound Oman launch ‘Build your resilience’

The programme aims to support the mental well-being and resilience of 1,000 young Omanis aged 18 to 30 in areas affected by Cyclone Shaheen, primarily in North and South Al Batinah

MUSCAT: In partnership with bp Oman, Outward Bound Oman held a ceremony to launch the ‘Build Your Resilience’ programme, under the patronage of Her Highness Mona Fahad Al Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University.

The programme aims to support the mental well-being and resili-



ience of 1,000 young Omanis aged 18 to 30 in areas affected by Cyclone Shaheen, primarily in North and South Al Batinah.

The programme includes 50 indoor courses for Omani youth which will be held at the Outward Bound Oman Muscat Centre. The



courses will enhance participants’ soft skills, interpersonal skills and capabilities. It also offers a safe environment to discuss mental well-being and share advice for achieving personal and professional success.

Mohamed Al Zadjali, Chief Operating Officer at Outward Bound Oman, added: “Since the launch of bp Oman’s social investment programme, bp Oman has recognised the importance of investing in youth, and as such has been a tremendous supporter of Outward Bound. Our partnership with them has already seen several hundred talented young Omanis undergo life-changing courses and we hope this programme will continue to do the same.”

Ibrahim Al Hinai, bp Oman’s Social Investment Specialist, commented, “Supporting the mental well-being of people and communities is so important to us at bp. Last year’s cyclone impacted people’s belongings and homes, which in turn, has affected the mental health of some people in the community. We are delighted to partner with Outward Bound Oman on this initiative to deliver on our aim of building resilience and a more positive mindset for affected youth.”



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SPORTING EVENT



Record-setting Al Mouj Muscat Marathon captivates communities across Oman

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022 kicks off in just under a month, and already the running community from across Oman is firmly behind the returning event.

Thousands of runners will take their place on the starting line at Al Mouj Muscat over the weekend of November 11-12 and put their fitness and determination to the test.

So far 12,000 runners have registered for this year’s event, breaking the previous participation record. This year’s event features five race categories, each with a different distance and designed with participants of every fitness and experience level in mind – including children, with 1km, 2km and 3km races.

The upcoming edition of the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is also helping to support communities across the country by donating proceeds from the 5km runs to the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) and Oman Diabetes Association (ODA). Both non-profit organisations aim to make a positive difference in the community by raising awareness of the need to care for the natural environment and the health and well-being of people across Oman.

“Sport has the power to unite the community towards a collective goal. This year’s event will support just some of the excellent causes in operation within the nation. We are incredibly proud to support these projects and use Oman’s most iconic sporting event to raise awareness of the important programmes dedicated to maintaining Oman’s natural heritage. Together, we can make a long-term positive contribution to creating opportunities to improve people’s quality of life and enhance the well-being of the communities across the country,” says Ali Al Ajmi, General Manager of Sabco Sports, organisers of the event.

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, added, “Al Mouj Muscat, Oman’s premier lifestyle destination, is proud to bring the community together to support Oman’s most popular sporting event. This is the perfect venue for the race, and we can’t wait to celebrate the dedication of the athletes, share the sense of togetherness enjoyed here every day and take part in the passion for the sport that is enjoyed by so many. We look forward to welcoming the return of runners from across the country and visitors from around the world to experience Oman and share great moments throughout the weekend.”

Sabco Sports has also partnered with UFC Gym Oman to help runners of all ages and experience levels reach their goals. Public training sessions kicked off on Friday 16th September to offer professional advice on how to make the most of the race. The coaches have already helped hundreds of runners maximise their training, nutrition, and preparations as the first step towards a healthier and more active lifestyle. The sessions take place every Friday morning from 8-9 am until the weekend before the race.



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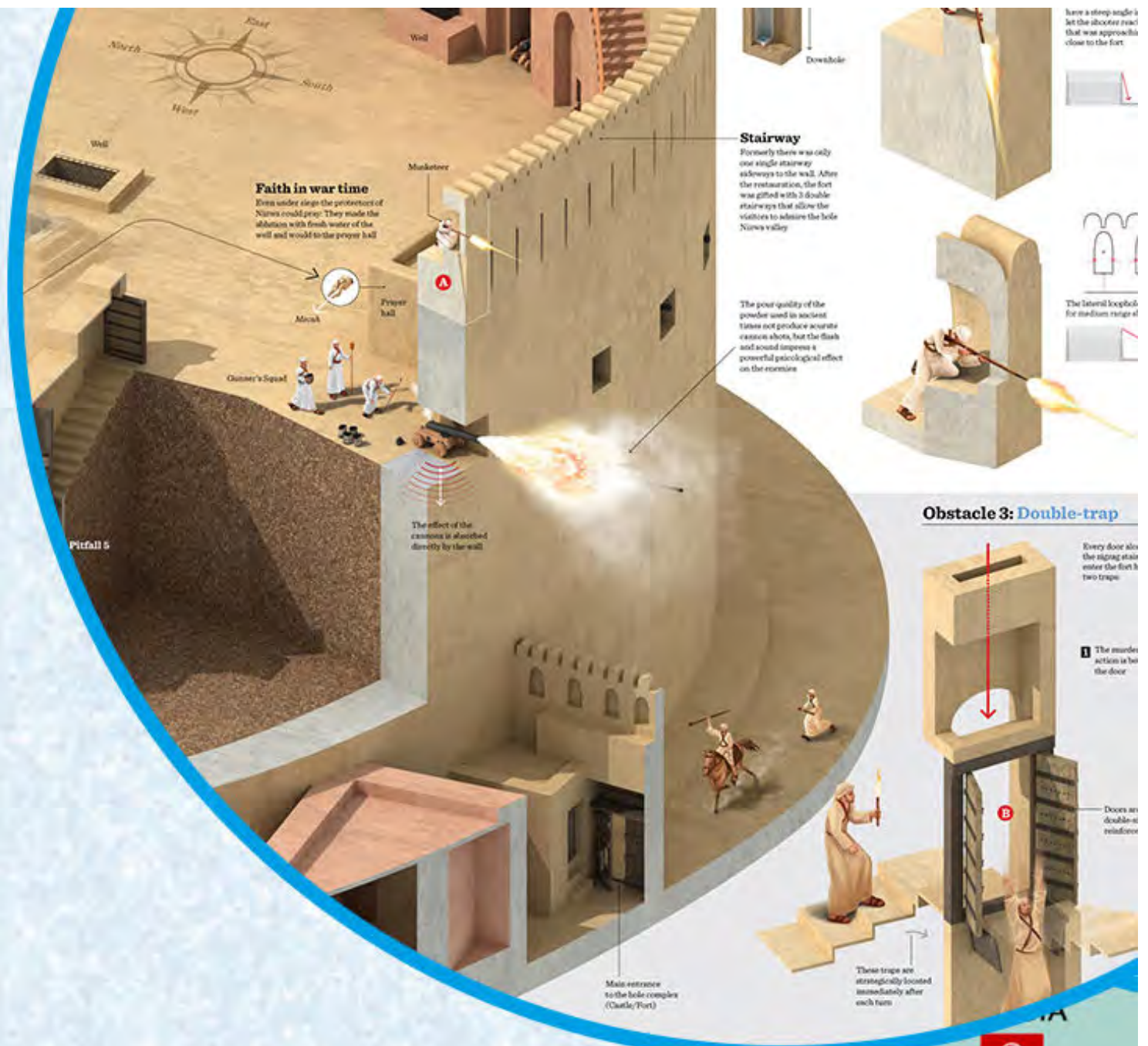
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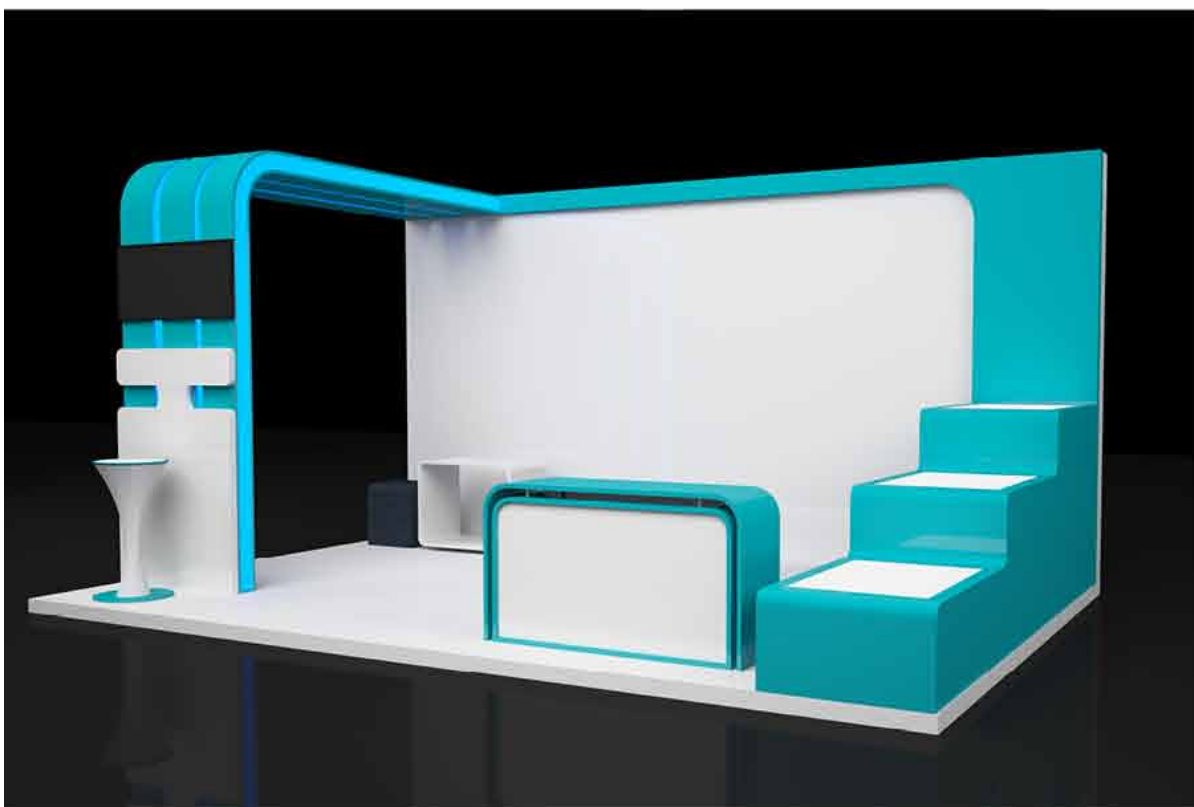
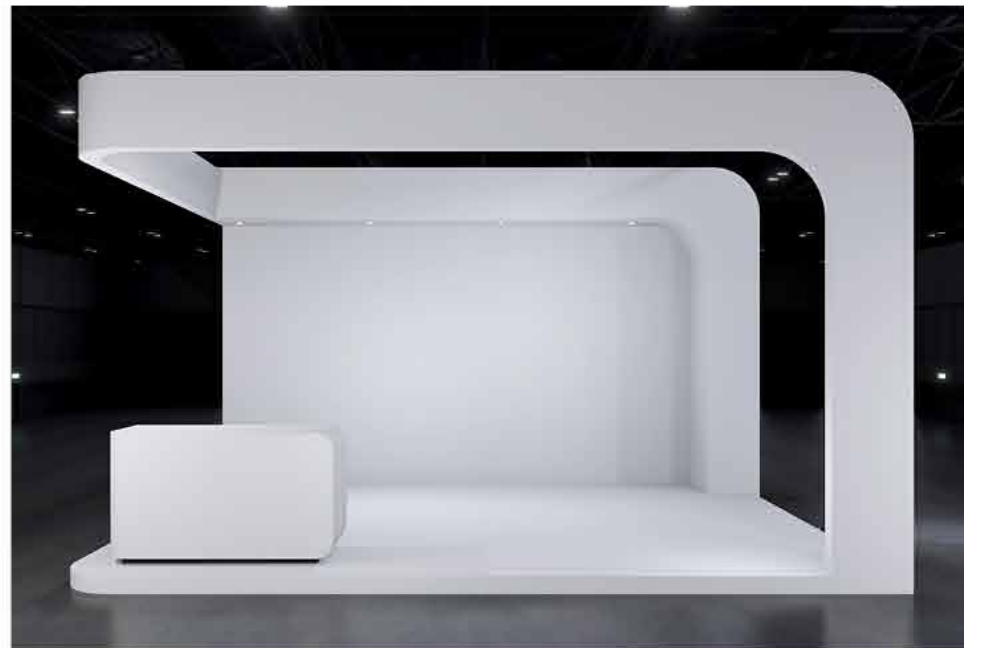
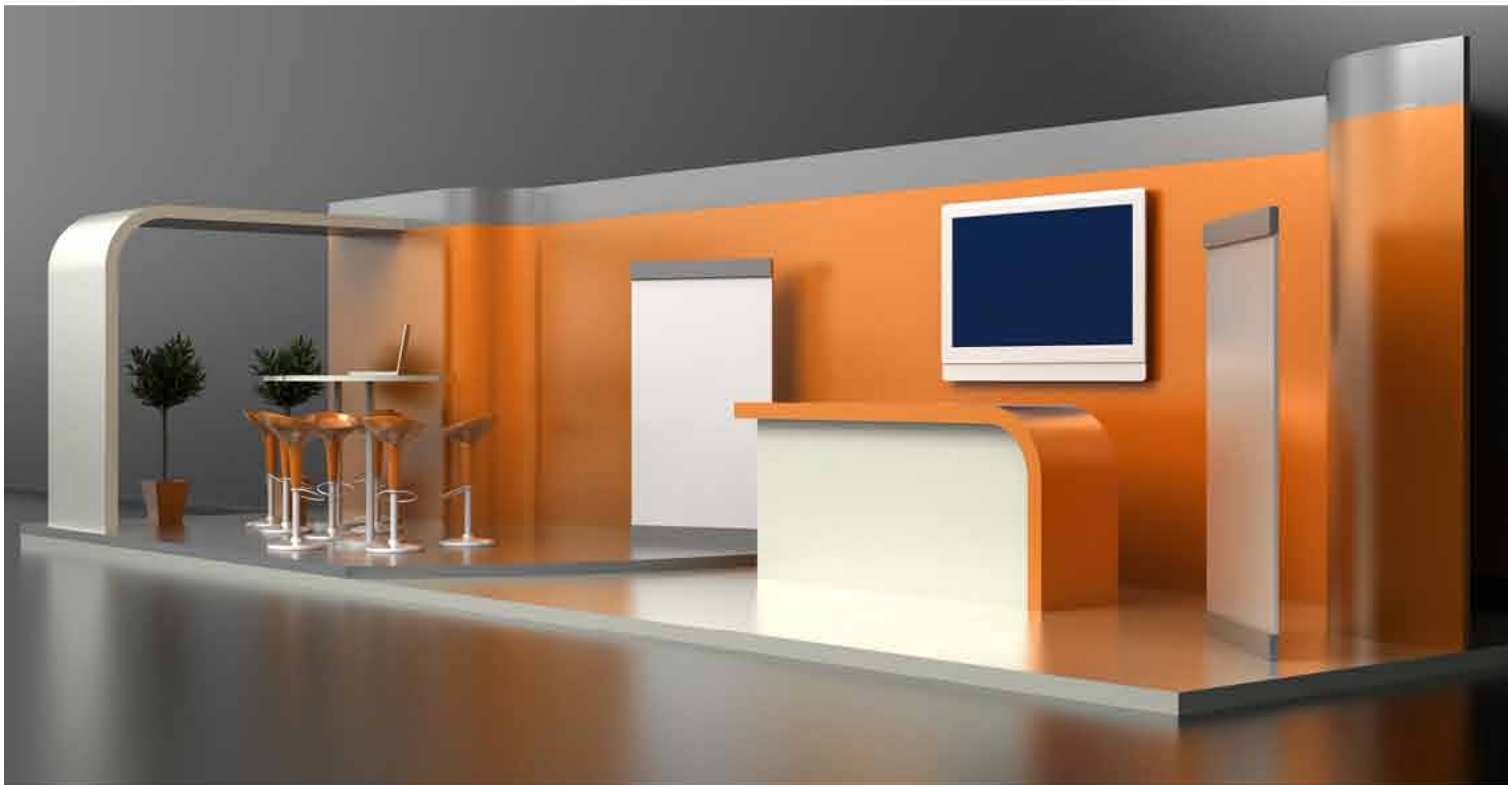


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