

**MTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING**

The Board of Trustees of the Military Technological College (MTC) held its annual meeting for 2023 at the College's premises on Monday. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College. **>A5**



RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:17pm
ASR	3:44pm
MAGHRIB	6:26pm
ISHA	7:36pm
FAJR (MARCH 29)	4:47am

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CABLE

**HM receives
thanks cable
from King of
Saudi Arabia**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable to him on the death of Princess Al Jawhara Abdulaziz Abdulrahman Al Saud.

In the cable, King Salman expressed his thanks for His Majesty's sincere sentiments and prayers, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and to protect His Majesty against all harm. — **ONA**



Heavy rains
expected in some
parts of Oman

A2



RECYCLING WASTE IN OMAN CAN GENERATE OMR530MN

be'ah's sustainability report highlights
the need for a circular economy model

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Plastic dominates the volume of recyclable waste produced in the Sultanate of Oman with around 2.3 million tonnes generated annually. If the waste can be recycled locally, revenues worth OMR530 million can be generated annually, according to a study published by be'ah (Oman Environmental Services Holding Company) as part of the company's Sustainability Report for 2022.

The study revealed that plastic dominates the list of most harmful wastes to the environment; as it stays in the environment for a long time and contains non-degradable chemicals, thus affecting the ecosystem.

The impact of plastics goes beyond damaging the soil, and groundwater or surface-water, due to its potential to impact organisms in the marine environment such as plants or fish that feed on

or are affected by these plastics, be'ah has called for key initiatives to help decrease the impact of plastic. Among them is recycling it or using environmentally friendly alternatives and increasing awareness among the society about the impact of plastic to the environment.

Having built the foundation for a solid and sustainable waste management system, be'ah's core strategies, moving forward, have shifted focus towards adopting a circular economy model and gradually doing away with the traditional linear economy model.

The circular economy model is aimed at reducing the rate of consumption of natural resources by extending the average lifecycle of materials and goods.

By adopting the circular economy model, be'ah aims to reduce the waste management industry's impact on the environment and more importantly, influence the



economy positively and contribute towards achieving Oman's Vision 2040 targets.

be'ah said the volume of circular economy investments in the Sultanate of Oman is estimated to be at about OMR 577 million.

The company called upon people to think twice before using plastics and urged them to replace plastic with biodegradable and reusable materials. More importantly, care and caution need to be used in disposing of plastic

waste to avoid harm to the environment.

As part of the national efforts to reduce the use of plastic and reduce plastic waste, a Ministerial Resolution No. 23/2020 was issued by the Environment Authority regarding the ban on the use of single-consumer plastic shopping bags which comes in implementation of the provisions of the Environment Protection and Pollution Control Law No. 114/2001. The rule is meant to achieve the goals of sustainable development and follow-up the national action plans for the management of plastic products and their waste. The municipal legislation and regulations also took into account the issue of maintaining public cleanliness, with the aim of preventing practices that would harm the environment and people in general, as stated in Article (11) of the local order for public health protection No. 1/2006 prohibiting throwing, leaving, putting, liquid or excreting or burning any waste in public places or disposing of it in places other than the disposal sites specified by the municipality. This waste also includes plastic waste. **>A5**

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERALS

Oman's February crude oil, condensates production tops 29mn

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's production of crude oil and condensates during February 2023 stood at 29.7 million barrels, or a daily average of 1.06 million barrels, thus maintaining the same production rates compared to January 2023.

The figure confirms Oman's commitment with Opec Plus to reduce production and narrow the gap between supply and demand.

The total quantities of crude oil exported in February 2023 stood at 23.67 million barrels, or a daily average of 845,000 barrels, constituting a growth of 0.6 percent compared to January 2023 when calculating the daily rate.

Dr. Saleh Ali Al Anbouri, Director General of Exploration and Production at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said that the

average price of Oman oil futures in the DME increased by 1.6 percent in February 2023, compared to January 2023.

He pointed out that the average price of Omani oil for delivery next April 2023 stood at \$82.23 per barrel, an increase of \$1.31, compared to the price for delivery in March 2023, as the trading price ranged between \$78.31 per barrel and \$85.19 per barrel.

He explained that this increase is due to several reasons namely the continued recovery of demand for crude oil in China after lifting the restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19, Russia's announcement of plans to reduce production by 500,000 barrels per day, which reflects its inability to sell all of its oil and the disruption of crude oil flows from the Turkish



port of Ceyhan due to the devastating earthquake. Al Anbouri added that the average daily production of Oman's natural gas in February 2023 stood at 140.5 million cubic metres. Oman's exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) during the same month stood at 999,300 met-

ric tonnes (15 shipments) while Oman's exports of natural gas liquids (NGLs) stood at 16,300 metric tonnes (3 shipments).

He elaborated that the average daily consumption of natural gas for electric power generation, water desalination plants, industrial

estates, industrial projects and oil-fields stood at 143.4 million cubic metres in February 2023.

He pointed out that Oman's average production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in February 2023 stood at 2.754 metric tonnes, and the average daily exports during the same month stood at 1.115 metric tonne.

The Director General of Exploration and Production at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals further said that the oil and gas sector has witnessed the completion of many projects since the beginning of 2023, represented in the ministry's announcement of offering three oil and gas concession areas for local and international oil and gas companies.

The move comes as part of the ministry's plan to promote conces-

sion areas offered for investment during 2023. These sites include the Concession Area 15 which is located in the north of the Sultanate of Oman in Governorate of AlDhahirah, the Concession Area 36 on the south-eastern edge of the Empty Quarter Basin, and the Concession Area 54 in the eastern edge of the salt basin in the south of the Sultanate of Oman.

This offering comes in implementation of plans and programmes related to exploration of oil and gas to support the reserves of oil and gas in the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Anbouri affirmed that the start of natural gas and condensates production from Mabrouk field in Concession Area 10 will enhance the natural gas reserves in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
**Oman, Mauritania
discuss cooperation
in higher education**

1 Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation met here on Monday with Moustaf Ahmed El Yedaly, Minister of Digital Transition, Innovation and Modernisation of Administration in Mauritania to discuss aspects of cooperation and ways of enhancing them between the two countries. **>A5**

WORLD
**US Vice President
kicks off Africa trip**

2 US Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in Ghana on Sunday, her first stop in her weeklong tour to Africa. Harris was welcomed at Accra's Kotoka International airport by schoolchildren who cheered and waved Ghanaian and American flags. Harris, who is being accompanied by her husband Douglas Emhoff on the trip, placed her hand on her heart and smiled broadly as she stepped off the plane after an overnight trip. **>A7**

MARKET
**Oman's real estate
trading value rises**



3 The value of real estate trading in the Sultanate of Oman until the end of February 2023 stood at OMR447.3 million compared to OMR381.1 million until the end of February 2022, comprising a growth of 17.4 per cent compared to the same period in 2022, latest NCSI data shows. The total fees collected from all legal actions stood at OMR12.5 million, an increase of 22.8 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. **>B1**



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CAA ALERT



Heavy rains expected in some governorates of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) stated that some governorates of the Sultanate of Oman will witness heavy to moderate rain today and tomorrow (Wednesday).

The Ministry of Education declared on Monday that it is suspending classes at all public and private schools in the governorates of Musandam, North Al Batinah, Al Buraimi and Al Dhahirah, due to heavy rain.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Education said: "The Ministry decided to suspend studies on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in all public and private schools, in the governorates of Musandam, North Al Batinah, Al Buraimi and Al Dhahirah. The studies at these schools will resume on Wednesday, March 29, 2023."

In an alert, the CAA said:

"Heavy rains, thunderstorms expected over governorates of Musandam, North Al Batinah, Al Buraimi and Al Dhahirah which may range between 30 mm to 80 mm on Tuesday, and will gradually cover governorates of South Al Batinah, Al Dakhlyiah, Muscat, South Al Sharqiyah, North Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta and Dhofar."

The Civil Aviation Authority has issued a warning and has asked the citizens to refrain from crossing wadis, visiting low lying places and going to the sea until the skies become clear.

Wadis may overflow

Due to this depression, the CAA said that some wadis may overflow in some areas and thundershowers are expected occasionally associated with fresh downward winds and hail. "The horizontal visibility will also reduce during thunderstorms. So people should be very careful

while driving," it said.

The sea state will be moderate to rough with maximum wave height ranging from 1.5 metres to 3.0 metres along most of the coasts.

In addition the CAA warns motorists of dust storms during the coming hours due to the active southeasterly wind movement (15-20 knots) over Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates affecting the level of horizontal visibility.

Last week also Oman received rainfall in several governorates which led to the overflowing wadis.

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) rescued a family from their residence in Sabakh after they were stranded due to heavy rainfall.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR), Jalan Bani Bu Ali recorded the highest rainfall of 82mm in the last week.



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MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERALS

Rima water treatment plant inaugurated at a cost of OMR87 million

< FROM Mabrouk field production is expected to reach more than 0.5 billion cubic feet per day by mid-2024.

He said that by opening of the Bisat oil field with a production capacity of 60,000 barrels per day, it will raise the OQ Group's share of the Sultanate of Oman's total oil production to 220,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, which represents about 13 percent of the upstream contribution to the gross domestic product.

He added that the Rima water treatment plant was inaugurated at a cost of OMR87 million on an area of 25 square kilometres. It is the second project of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) functioning as environmentally friendly solution to dis-



pose of water associated with oil production.

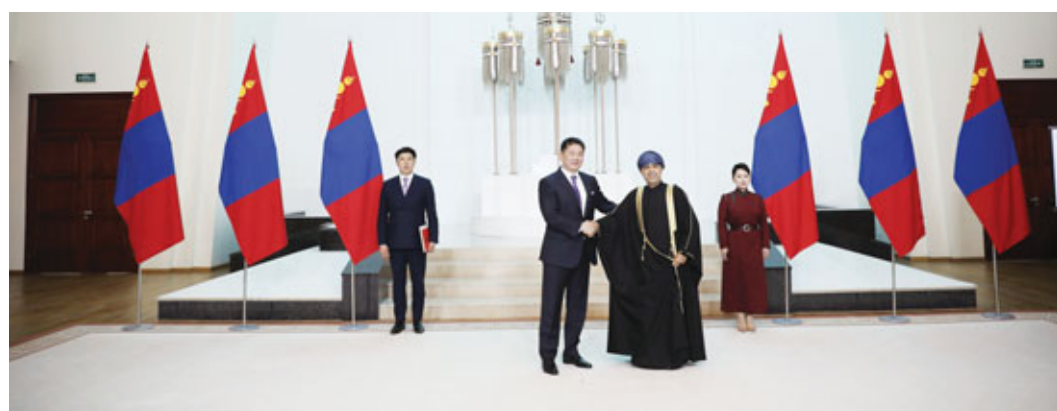
The processing capacity of this station is about 375,000 barrels per day. This technology contributes to reducing energy consumption by 10 gigawatts and reducing gas emissions by 48,000 tonnes annually. - **ONA**





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**NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR**

Oman's envoy to China presents credentials as non-resident ambassador to Mongolia

ULANBAATAR: Nasser Mohammed Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Republic of China on Monday presented his credentials to President Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh as plenipotentiary, non-resident ambassador of

Oman to Mongolia.

The ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and best wishes of good health and happiness to the President of Mongolia, wishing people of Mongolia continuous prosperity.

On his turn, the President of Mongolia asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan, wishing the Omani people further progress under His Majesty's wise leadership.

— ONA

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Housing ministry takes special care of its customers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning accords due attention to customers by allocating a special customer service department affiliated to the office of the minister.

Established by the decision of the Council of Ministers in 2013, the department receives customers for clearance of their transactions and registration of their applications.

It also provides the directorates of the ministry requisite information for creation of a suitable business environment for the clearance of transactions of citizens, residents, visitors, companies and government establishments.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning is working to im-



prove its services through 22 service halls in the various governorates where over 250,000 services were rendered to the customers in 2022.

To boost direct communication with the customers, the Ministry

of Housing and Urban Planning launched a call centre in February 2022 to work as a direct contact point to facilitate clearance of transactions and save the customer form paying a visit to the service halls.

The centre receives customers' calls through eight communication lines during the working hours from 8am to 6pm.

The Centre received over 75 000 calls in 2022.

The Ministry had activated the customer service account on Twitter at the beginning of 2021 for receiving enquiries and provision of solutions for any challenges to the customers and for communicating with them if required in an integrated manner.

To this end, over 11,000 customers have been served during 2022.





» IFTAR TIMING

6:26 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:17 pm
Asr	3:44 pm
Maghrib	6:26 pm
Isha	7:36 pm
Fajr (March 29)	4:47 am

» SUHOOR RECIPE

WATERMELON SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- Watermelon - sliced
- Paneer - sliced
- Lemon juice
- Black salt
- Chaat masala
- Mint leaves
- Olives - chopped



METHOD:

- Cut the watermelon in triangular shape. Similarly cut the paneer as well. Now sandwich the paneer and a mint leaf in between the watermelon slices. Sprinkle lemon juice on the sandwich. Sprinkle black salt and chaat masala over it.
- Top the sandwiches with mint leaves and olives. Finally garnish with crushed or grated cheese. ready to serve.

-By Anupma Nagvanshi

» WORDS OF WISDOM

“Fasting has been prescribed for you during the certain number of days, but if some of you are sick or on a journey, [you should fast] the same number during other days. And those who are not able to fast should feed a poor person as an atonement, and whosoever volunteers more [and feeds more than one poor] it is better for him.”

» FASTING TIPS

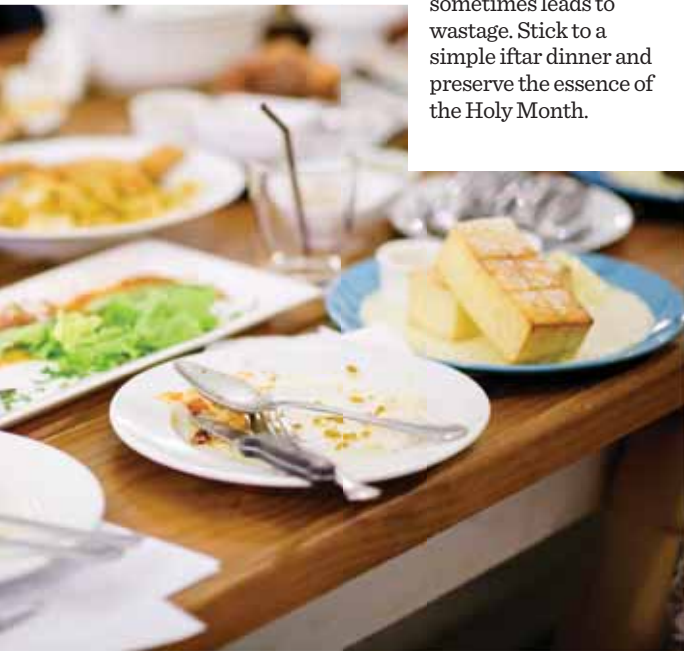
ADD FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Ramadan is an ideal time to focus on eating fruits that will fill you up fast without adding too many calories to your diet. Make sure to have 1 serving of fruit and 1 serving of veggies at each of your two meals.



» CUISINE

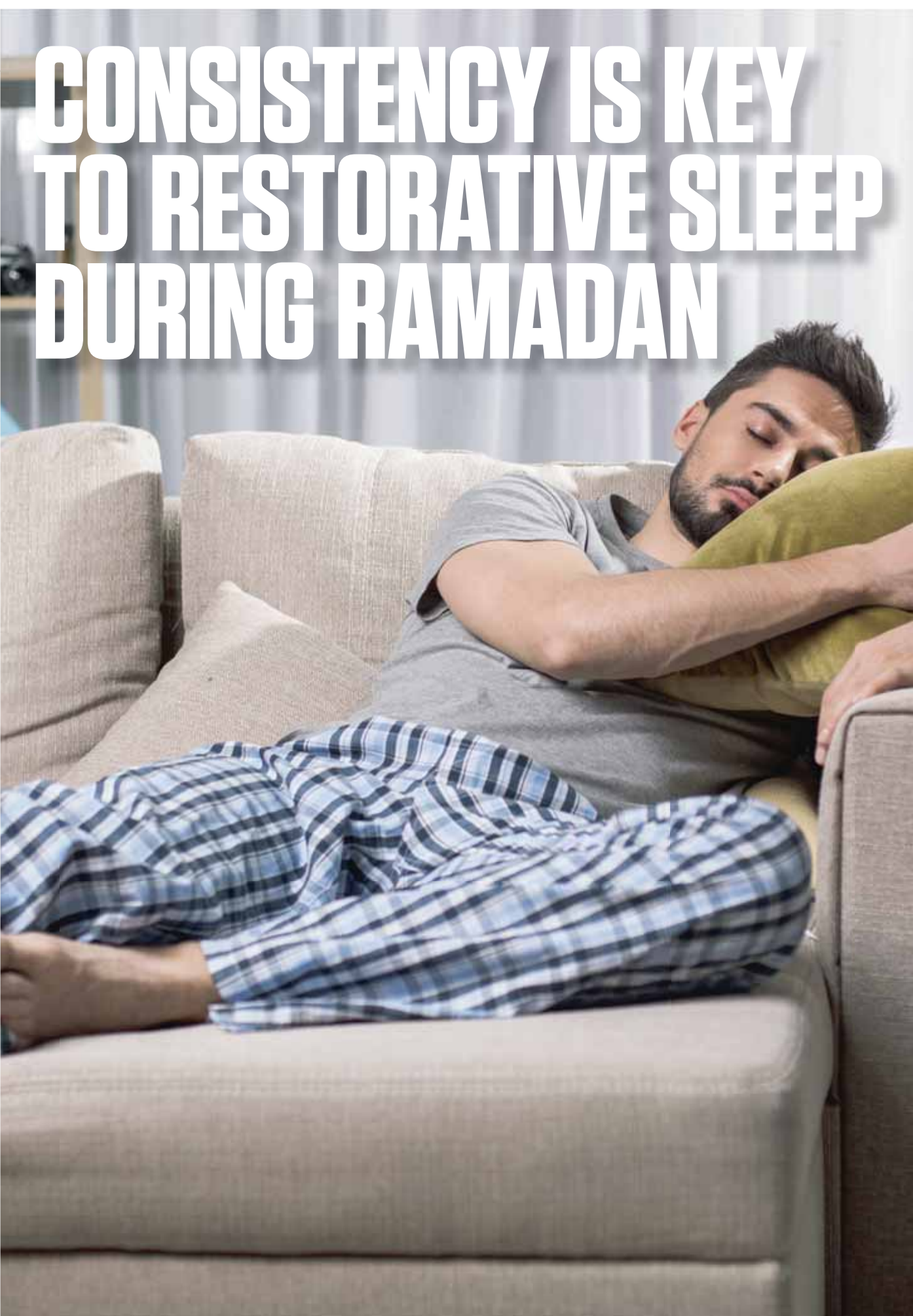
FOOD WASTAGE



Most of the time you tend to cook a variety of dishes for Iftar which sometimes leads to wastage. Stick to a simple iftar dinner and preserve the essence of the Holy Month.

» HEALTH

CONSISTENCY IS KEY TO RESTORATIVE SLEEP DURING RAMADAN



Going to bed and waking up at the same time every day and improving sleep hygiene will encourage quality sleep, which helps regulate appetite-control hormones.

With Muslims around the world marking Ramadan and adjusting sleep patterns according to mealtimes and, in some countries, reduced working hours is encouraging to focus on the quality and quantity of sleep to support fasting and wellbeing.

It is well known that we function better when we get sufficient good-quality sleep, but studies have shown that sleep also affects our satiety and hunger levels. According to a research, partial sleep deprivation is associated with changes in the appetite-regulating hormones leptin and ghrelin, which could make fasting more challenging. Studies have also determined that without sufficient and consistent quality sleep, the immune response is suppressed, making people more susceptible to infections in general, and taking longer to recover from them.

There are three important factors

underlying quality sleep namely, a consistent sleep schedule, a sufficient period of uninterrupted sleep, and good ‘sleep hygiene’ habits such as turning off screens.

Some people will change their habits drastically during Ramadan, and how they do this will depend on their lifestyle and commitments – such as work or family, it is impossible to say that one pattern is preferable to another.

However, no matter which approach individuals adopt, there are steps they can take to help themselves get enough sleep during the month and to readjust more easily to their regular schedule afterwards.

The key is to aim to go to bed at the same time and wake up at the same time every day and try to get the recommended amount of sleep, which is seven to nine hours for adults. This will help regulate the circadian rhythms, or internal body clock, and encourage restorative sleep, he says.

If people choose to divide their sleep into a number of sessions throughout the day, they should make sure this includes one consistent longer block of

continuous sleep that is at least five or six hours long, and to aim for the recommended total of seven to nine hours of sleep in a day.

Individuals who have significantly changed their sleeping pattern during Ramadan should ease back into routine afterwards. For, example, if people have swapped night and day, they should adjust back to their normal routine slowly, moving their bedtime and waking-up time by a few hours every day, so that their body clock can adjust more easily.

As it is not only the number of hours that is important, but the quality of sleep. It suggests paying attention to sleep hygiene factors, such as keeping the room dark, having a comfortable bed and ensuring an ambient temperature and no noise. People should aim to turn off their televisions and electronic devices at least an hour before going to bed.

Sleep needs to be uninterrupted as far as possible, leaving you feeling refreshed or rejuvenated and able to function appropriately during the day without feeling sleepy.

Individuals who have changed their sleeping pattern during Ramadan should ease back into routine afterwards.





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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman and Mauritania discuss cooperation in higher education

MUSCAT: Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation met here on Monday with Mottar Ahmed El Yedaly, Minister of Digital Transition, Innovation and Modernisation of Administration in Mauritania to discuss aspects of cooperation and ways of enhancing them between the two countries.

During the consultative meeting, the Mauritanian delegation was briefed on the areas of digital transition in the ministry, represented by the Higher Education Admission Centre (HEAC), the ministry's website (ASAS), the Omani Network for Scientific Research and Education (OMRN), the Omani Research Repository (Shuaa), in addition to the (Ejaad) platform, which links the academic and research sector with the industrial sector.

The meeting also touched on



the ministry's efforts to ensure the quality of higher education, promote scientific research and innovation, support the projects transfer into start-ups in cooperation with supporting agencies, and establish centers for innovation and technology transfer in private higher education institutions. The Mauritanian side expressed its desire to benefit from

the Omani experience in various fields of digital transition and procedures pursued by educational institutions in joining the global rankings.

The meeting was chaired by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, and officials from both sides.

— OMA

MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY



Laws tightened for disposal of waste

<FROM A1 Municipal laws have also tightened penalties for violators, including administrative penalties for violations of the Muscat Municipality by paying a fine of OMR100 for those who dispose of waste in places other than those designated for it.

Circular economy

The concept of the circular economy comes in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 to preserve the value of environmental resources, which in turn goes beyond the concept of a linear economy that focuses on extraction, manufacturing and disposal only, as the government has sought to attract investments and offer a number of investment opportunities to advance the waste management sector.

It would contribute to reducing health and environmental problems, reduce pollution, and improve the pattern and system of waste collection.

In a new plastics economy, plastic never becomes waste or pollution. Three actions are required to achieve this vision and create a circular economy for plastic. Eliminate all problematic and unnecessary plastic items. Innovate to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable. Circulate all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

Social responsibility

Some sound practices may make a difference to solve the problem of plastic waste accumulation and reduce its spread, based on the belief of community members in their role and their individual and societal responsibility towards the environment of which they are a part and the vital

system on the planet.

Adopting optimal and effective management of waste by reducing the use of unnecessary plastic materials in daily life, and even thinking seriously before buying plastic materials and replacing them with other materials that can be degraded and reused or disposed of without causing harm to the environment.

On the other hand, adopting creative methods of recycling and reusing things would contribute to reducing the accumulation of waste, in particular plastic, and the use of companies specialised in recycling.

Plastic the main culprit

According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report 'From Pollution to Solution', plastics are the largest, most harmful and persistent fraction of marine litter, accounting for at least 85 per cent of the estimated 11 million metric tonnes of plastic currently entering the ocean annually will triple in the next twenty years.

This means that between 23 and 37 million metric tons of plastic will flow into the oceans every year by 2040. That is equivalent to 50 kilograms of plastics per metre of coastline worldwide.

Humans are also at risk from marine plastic pollution. Environmental health is inextricably linked to human health. The pervasiveness of microplastics across our planet raises serious concerns for people's safety. New research shows that people are inhaling microplastics through the air, consuming them through food and water and even absorbing them through the skin. Microplastics have even been found within our lungs, livers, spleen, and kidneys, and one study recently found microplastics in the placentas of newborn babies.

ANNUAL EVENT

MTC Board of Trustees holds meeting

MUSCAT: The Board of Trustees of the Military Technological College (MTC) held its annual meeting for 2023 at the College's premises on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College.

The MTC aims to achieve excellence in academic and technical education and training by providing specialised and accredited vocational programmes for the military and security units, as well as civil society. — OMA



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Ramadan Iftar Program



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

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

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INTERNAL TENDERS COMMITTEE



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WORLD

SUICIDE ATTACK

Six killed, many injured in Kabul blast

KABUL: At least six civilians were killed and several others, including three Taliban security force personnel were wounded in a suicide attack near a security checkpoint leading to the foreign ministry in Kabul on Monday, reported Tolo News.

The blast occurred near a security checkpoint in Malik Azghar Square in Kabul, a spokesman for the Kabul security department, Khalid Zadran said. Monday's incident took place around lunchtime when the city is especially crowded as government office staff leave early for the day during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

According to the Khaama Press, the blast happened when the Ministry of foreign affairs employees left their offices.

"In Malik Azghar Square ... a suicide attacker before reaching the target was identified at a check point and killed, but his explosives detonated," said Kabul police spokesperson Khalid Zadran. He said several people were injured, including three Taliban security force members.

Earlier, the eyewitnesses con-

firmed to Tolo News that a blast happened on Foreign Ministry's road near the Daudzai Trade Center, and they also described it as a heavy explosion.

The Emergency NGO in Kabul said on Twitter that it received 12 wounded from the blast near Foreign Ministry this afternoon while two other victims were already dead on arrival. -ANI



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services Company invites reputable contractors for carrying out below said tender in Dhofar Governorate.

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2023/041	Expansion of Raysut Water Reclamation Plant -Phase III (Stage -1)	11th April 2023	7th May 2023	RO. 2,625.000

- To view the tender details, you can visit www.disc.nama.om / scan the QR code
- The deposit at the last day of purchasing should be before 3.00pm.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.
- For any clarifications contact us on:
- Tel No. 23232554**
- email: purchase@dhofarservices.nama.om**



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NEPAL ORDERS PROBE

Mid-air collision averted

KATHMANDU: The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) has launched an investigation into an incident on Friday when two aeroplanes, one of Air India and the other of Nepal Airlines Corporation, came perilously close to colliding in mid-air.

As per the statement provided by the Information Officer of CAAN, Gyanendra Bhul, an internal three-member committee has been formed to oversee the investigation. The CAAN has suspended two ATC officers who were in charge at the time of the incident.

The country manager of Air India has been instructed to ground the pilots involved in the incident until the final report of the investigation is released.

"Our preliminary findings suggest that the Air India aircraft flying to Kathmandu from Delhi was in a holding pattern in the airspace of Simara at an altitude of roughly 19,000 feet. Without prior communication with the ATC, the aircraft abruptly descended towards the NAC aircraft that was flying in from Kuala Lumpur and was at an altitude of 15,000 feet. The two aircraft came dangerously close to colliding, but the traffic collision avoidance system installed in the cockpit of the flight RA- NAC was activated, which helped prevent the mid-air collision," Bhul said. -ANI



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SUMMARY OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES OF M/s. LULU EXCHANGE CO. LLC (MONEY CHANGING ESTABLISHMENT) AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2022

(In RO 000's)

ASSETS	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	LIABILITIES	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
(01) Cash on Hand	2,724	1,751	(01) Capital and Reserve	5,379	5,336
(02) Deposit with Central Bank of Oman	130	120	(02) Borrowing from Banks	1,446	1,515
(03) Precious Metals	-	-	(03) Balances due to Branches	-	-
(04) Balances due from Banks	3,345	3,930	(04) Balances due to Money Changers	36	144
(05) Balances due from Branches	-	-	(05) Loan and Advance Payable	-	-
(06) Balances due from Money Changers	-	-	(06) Cheques & Drafts issued & outstanding	-	-
(07) Cheques and Draft purchase	-	-	(07) Other Liabilities	308	358
(08) Loans and Advances	-	-			
(09) Investments	-	-			
(10) Fixed Assets	481	475			
(11) Other Assets	489	1,077			
TOTAL	7,169	7,353		7,169	7,353

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England, Portugal stay perfect

Kane and Saka score in hosts' victory at Wembley; Ronaldo's brace in 6-0 win

LONDON: England and Portugal maintained their winning start to Euro 2024 qualifying with a comfortable victory on Sunday.

England defeated Ukraine 2-0 at Wembley in a Group C match while Portugal were 6-0 winners over Luxembourg in a Group J match.

Gareth Southgate's side built on the foundation of their first away win against Italy since 1961 with an efficient performance that was more than enough to see off the visitors.

England struggled to build any momentum until record scorer Harry Kane made it 55 international goals when he bundled in Bukayo Saka's cross at the far post eight minutes before half-time.

The second arrived three minutes later and was all Saka's own work, the Arsenal winger turning away from his man on the edge of the area and curling a superb effort beyond the reach of Anatoliy Trubin and into the top corner.

Saka is part of England's young generation that Southgate hopes will form a key component of their Euro 2024 campaign and the quest to finally claim a major trophy - and what a talent he is.

Saka's cross unlocked a well-organised Ukraine defence for Kane to pounce and set England on their



Goal-scorers: Harry Kane of England and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (photo right) celebrate after scoring

way before producing a superb piece of individual skill to effectively end the contest.

England are the favourites to qualify at the top of their group and secure a place at the Euros in Germany, where they will be among those touted as potential winners, and these opening two games have certainly justified that status.

After the game, England's manager Gareth Southgate reflected on the true quality of Saka.

"When he's in front of goal now he plays with real belief," said Southgate.

"That's evident with his club and it's evident with the games for us. You're expecting him to score now when he goes through. I think that's been a mentality shift as much as it's anything technical. I think he knows to be a really top wide player he needs goals and assists and without doubt, he's delivered that this season," Southgate said.

Ronaldo's brace

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice to help Portugal emerge winners. Ronaldo, 38, broke the deadlock after nine minutes before Joao Felix and Bernardo Silva pulled Portugal further clear.

The Al Nassr forward sent his side in with a 4-0 lead at half-time, with substitutes Otavio and Rafael Leao scoring late in the second period. Portugal top Group J after winning their opening two Euro 2024 qualifiers.

After scoring two against Liechtenstein on Thursday, Ronaldo further extended his record as Portugal's leading scorer in European Championship qualifiers, taking his tally to 35 in 37 appearances. And it is back-to-back wins, without conceding a goal, for new manager Roberto Martinez, who took charge in January after ending a six-year stint with Belgium.

Italy triumph

Italy claimed a routine 2-0 victory in Malta as they bounced back from defeat by England to gain their first points in qualifying.

Mateo Retegui scored his second goal in just his second appearance for the European champions to put them ahead. The 23-year-old headed in Sandro Tonali's cross to add to his goal in the 2-1 loss to England on Thursday. Malta midfielder Matthew Guillaumier diverted into his own net shortly afterwards to make it two.

Roberto Mancini's side, who beat England in the Euro 2020 final, sit second in Group C after the opening two matches of qualifying.

Other results: Group J: Liechtenstein 0 Iceland 7, Slovakia 2 Bosnia-Herzegovina 0. Group H: Kazakhstan 3 Denmark 2, Slovenia 2 San Marino 0, Northern Ireland 0 Finland 1. - **ANI**

Tottenham manager Conte leaves by mutual consent

LONDON: Manager Antonio Conte on Monday left Tottenham Hotspur by mutual consent after 16 months in charge.

Conte called the Spurs players "selfish" and criticised the club's culture in a remarkable news conference after their recent draw at Southampton.

Tottenham are fourth in the top flight but are out of all cup competitions.

Conte's assistant Cristian Stellini will step up as head coach for the rest of the season, with former midfielder Ryan Mason his deputy.

"We have 10 Premier League games remaining and we have a fight on our hands for a Champions League place," chairman Daniel Levy said.

"We all need to pull together. Everyone has to step up to ensure the highest possible finish for our club and amazing, loyal supporters."

"I see selfish players" - Conte furious after what proves to be his final game with Spurs

His departure means Spurs are searching for their fourth permanent manager in four years since Mauricio Pochettino left in 2019.



They suffered a tame exit to AC Milan in the Champions League earlier in March, after Championship side Sheffield United knocked them out of the FA Cup at the start of the month.

Italian Conte, who had won league titles with former clubs Chelsea, Juventus and Inter Milan, was appointed in November 2021 after Spurs sacked Nuno Espirito Santo.

They struggled for consistency for much of his early tenure before a six-game unbeaten run, including a 3-0 win over rivals Arsenal, secured a top-four finish.

But Tottenham's troubles have continued this season with nine defeats and four draws in 28 league games and questions about the playing style. - **ANI**

HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASE

T20I records tumble as SA down West Indies

CENTURION: South Africa chased 259 - the highest pursuit in T20I history - to beat West Indies by six wickets in a record-breaking second T20 international in Centurion on Sunday.

South African opener Quinton de Kock smashed 100 from 44 balls as the hosts incredibly won with seven balls to spare. Johnson Charles had earlier hit a 39-ball century in West Indies' 258-5, the fastest T20 ton for their men's side. In total, 517 runs were scored, the most in a T20 game, including 35 sixes, the most in a T20 international and two fewer than the most in any T20 match.

De Kock and Reeza Hendricks, who hit 68 from 28, shared an opening stand of 152 and the Proteas won at a canter. They took 29 from the second over and reached 100 after 5.3 overs in a continuation of a remarkable display of six-hitting on a flat pitch at altitude. Their total of 102-0 after six overs was the highest powerplay score in a men's T20I involving Test-playing sides.



De Kock was caught in the 11th over and Hendricks in the 13th but their blistering start meant the Proteas were able to be relatively measured afterwards, captain Aiden Markram hitting an unbeaten 38 from 21 balls to take them over the line.

Charles beat the Windies record previously held by Chris Gayle by eight balls, also making it

the joint fourth fastest T20I ton.

The right-hander was eventually bowled for 118 from 46 balls as West Indies racked up their highest T20 score, only for South Africa to do so themselves.

Brief scores: West Indies 258/5 (Charles 118, Mayers 51; Jansen 3-52) lost to South Africa 259/4 (De Kock 100, Hendricks 68; Powell 1-27). - **ANI**

THREE-MATCH SERIES

Afghanistan defeat Pakistan to clinch T20I series in style

SHARJAH: Afghanistan stunned Pakistan by claiming their second victory to secure the three-match T20I series at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Batting first, the top order of Pakistan fell like a house of cards in the powerplay. Imad Wasim tried to keep the scoreboard ticking with his unbeaten innings of 64. But his efforts went in vain due to the lack of support at the other end as Pakistan finished with a score of 130/6.

Afghanistan batters registered victory by seven wickets with a ball to spare, scoring 133/3.

Najibullah Zadran and Mohammad Nabi hung around till the end to shepherd their side through tempestuous waters, thwarting Pakistan at the death once more.

After the match, Afghanistan's skipper Rashid Khan reflected on the victory. He said: "Great honour and pleasure to lead this wonderful team. Great effort with the ball, and then we took it deep and finished it off. This wicket is always a 150-160 wicket. But the Pakistan-Afghanistan game is a pressure game and



that makes it 125-130. 130 was a good total, but we tried our best to take it deep and finish it.

"The strategy was to go there and make sure you take responsibility. Take it deep and try to finish it. We have players like Nabi and Najib. The main thing was to have wickets in hand," Rashid added.

A disappointed Pakistani skipper Shadab Khan said, "It was a good score. We were struggling again. If you look at the stats, if you lose 3 wickets in the powerplay, you lose 70 percent of the games."

"I think there's nervousness -

they're playing for the first time for Pakistan (the new batters).

"We have to back them. Sometimes you don't perform but attitude matters. That's more important for me. They have talent. They will be great cricketers. Will play for pride tomorrow."

Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi claimed Player of the Match for his heroics with the ball.

Brief scores: Pakistan 130/6 (Imad Wasim 64 n.o., Shadab Khan 32; Fazalhaq Farooqi 2-19) lost to Afghanistan 133/3 in 19.5 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 44, Ibrahim Zadran 38, Zaman Khan 1-22). - **ANI**

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WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING

Indian boxers Nikhat, Lovlina crowned world champions

NEW DELHI: India capped off an outstanding campaign by finishing with four gold medals at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships after Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain recorded victories by contrasting margins in the finals at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here on Sunday.

The reigning world champion Nikhat (50kg) defeated Ngyem Thi Tam of Vietnam to win gold for a second consecutive year at the tournament while the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina (75kg) claimed her maiden gold at the worlds with a 5-2 win on points after the bout was reviewed against Caitlin Parker of Australia.

Alongside Nikhat and Lovlina, 2022 Commonwealth Games medallist Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and three-time Asian medallist Saweety Boora (81kg) were the other gold medallists for the hosts. - **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by May 2023 reaching \$74.81, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 37 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$75.18. - ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,852.52 points, up by 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06 per cent at 479.67 points. Al Batinah Power, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while National Mineral Water, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's real estate trading value rises by 17% to reach OMR447mn



The value of sale contracts stood at OMR207.5 million, whereas the value of mortgage contracts stood at OMR238.3 million

MUSCAT: The value of real estate trading in the Sultanate of Oman until the end of February 2023 stood at OMR447.3 million compared to OMR 381.1 million until the end

of February 2022, comprising a growth of 17.4 per cent compared to the same period in 2022, showed data of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The total fees collected from all legal actions stood at OMR12.5 million, an increase of 22.8 per cent compared to the same period in 2022.

The value of sale contracts stood at OMR207.5 million, whereas the value of mortgage contracts stood at OMR238.3 million. The value of the swap contracts stood at OMR1.5 million.

According to the NCSI statistics, as many as 39,079 title deeds were issued by the end of February 2023. The number of title deeds issued for GCC citizens reached 210, compared to 148 title deeds as of the end of January 2022, comprising an increase of 41.9 per cent. - ONA



NEW WORLD ORDER

BRICS nations offer alternative to West

BRUSSELS: The acronym began as a somewhat optimistic term to describe what the world's fastest-growing economies were at the time. But now the BRICS nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — are setting themselves up as an alternative to existing international financial and political forums.

"The founding myth of the emerging economies has faded," Günther Maihold, deputy director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, or SWP, confirmed. "The BRICS countries are experiencing their geopolitical moment."

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are trying to position themselves as representatives of the Global South, providing "an alternative model to the G7."

The G7 is an "informal forum" of heads of state of the world's most advanced economies, founded in 1975. Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Canada and the US are members, as is the EU.

The acronym BRIC, which initially stood for Brazil, Russia, India and China, was coined by Jim O'Neill in 2001 when he was chief economist of the multinational investment bank, Goldman Sachs. At the time, the four countries had sustained rates of high economic growth and the BRICS label stood for economic optimism about the future of those nations. Opponents of the label said the countries were too diverse to be grouped together like this and that it was really just a Goldman Sachs marketing ploy.

But what may have started as a marketing ploy to encourage investors, has grown into a platform for intergovernmental cooperation similar to the G7. In 2009, the four nations met for their first summit in Russia's Yekaterinburg. In 2010, South Africa was invited to join the group, adding the "S" to BRICS.

Challenging the World Bank model

In 2014, with \$50 billion (around €46 billion) in seed money, the

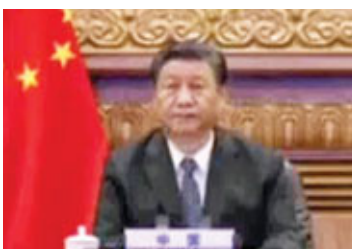


BRICS nations launched the New Development Bank as an alternative to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In addition, they created a liquidity mechanism called the Contingent Reserve Arrangement to support members struggling with payments. These offers were not only attractive to the BRICS nations themselves but also to many other developing and emerging economies that had had painful experiences with the IMF's structural adjustment programmes and austerity measures. This is why many countries said they might be interested in joining the BRICS group.

The BRICS bank is open to new members. In 2021, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Bangladesh took up shares. However, these were much lower than the respective \$10 billion investments made by the bank's founding members.

Set to expand

South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said worldwide interest in the BRICS group was "huge." In early March, she told television interviewers that she had 12 letters from interested countries on her desk. "Saudi Arabia is one," she said. "United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria, and Argentina," as



well as Mexico and Nigeria.

"Once we've shaped the criteria [for lending], we will then make the decision," she said, noting that the topic would be placed on the agenda for the upcoming August summit in South Africa.

The most recent economic developments in BRICS member states have little to do with the initial myths upon which the group was founded. Of the five members, only China has achieved sustained and extensive growth since then.

As China's gross domestic product grew from \$6 trillion in 2010 to nearly \$18 trillion in 2021, the economies in Brazil, South Africa and Russia have stagnated. India's GDP grew from \$1.7 trillion to \$3.1 trillion but was outpaced by China's growth.

No sanctions against Russia

Since the start of the Russian war in Ukraine, the BRICS countries have only distanced themselves further from the so-called West. Neither India, Brazil, South Africa nor China is taking part in sanctions against Russia. This is increasingly clear with near-historic levels of trade between India and Russia, or in Brazil's dependence on Russian fertiliser.

"Diplomatically, the war in Ukraine appears to have drawn a stark dividing line between an



File picture

eastern-backed Russia and the West," political scientist Matthew Bishop from the University of Sheffield wrote for the Economics Observatory late last year. "Consequently, some European and US policymakers worry that the BRICS may become less an economic club of rising powers seeking to influence global growth and development, and more a political one defined by their authoritarian nationalism."

The SWP's Maihold agrees. He says the BRICS alliance is not so much a counter to the West but more a forum for increased sovereign and autonomous thought. In a bipolar world, he believes South Africa, India and Brazil were simply "vying for better terms."

China, on the other hand, was using the platform for its global political ambitions, Maihold added, pointing to its offers to mediate the war in Ukraine and the joint military exercises it held with Russia in South Africa.

Maihold believes that the West has noticed this change in tack and is trying to counteract it. "They are looking very closely," he said. "At the G7 summit in Germany in 2022, they made a point of inviting South Africa and India, to prevent the optics that the G7 was standing against BRICS." -DWF

NORTH CAROLINA-BASED FIRST CITIZENS BANK



Collapsed Silicon Valley Bank sold to First Citizens

NEW YORK: North Carolina-based First Citizens Bank & Trust on Monday announced that it had agreed to purchase all loans and deposits from California-based Silicon Valley Bank (SVB).

A statement by First Citizens said it would purchase "all loans and certain other assets, and assume all customer deposits and certain other liabilities of Silicon Valley Bridge Bank."

"The transaction," the bank said, "is structured as a whole bank purchase with loss share coverage."

The Silicon Valley Bridge Bank was created by US banking authorities after SVB's March 10 collapse.

News of the sale became public late Sunday when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), a US government deposit insurer, announced its approval of the proposed sale.

The FDIC said SVB depositors would "automatically become depositors of First Citizens Bank," noting the sale would cover \$119 billion (€110.5 billion) in deposits and \$72 billion (€66.8 billion) in assets. First Citizens said all of SVB's 17 branches would open Monday as "Silicon Valley Bank, a division of First Citizens Bank."

Why was SVB's collapse significant?

SVB, a tech startup bank founded

in the 1980s, collapsed after a run by depositors over concerns about its future. It was the 16th largest bank in the US.

SVB's demise sent shockwaves through the global banking sector, which saw further collapses and takeovers, most notably the emergency takeover of Credit Suisse by rival UBS on March 19, and a steep drop in the value of Deutsche Bank shares Friday.

SVB's collapse was the second largest in US history and the largest since the 2008 financial crisis.

Its implosion caused the FDIC, the US Treasury and the US Federal Reserve to take action to ensure SVB depositors could access their cash. The Fed also moved to create a new bank lending tool to stave off similar quick collapses in the future.

As part of the sale, the FDIC will extend First Citizens a new line of credit to ensure liquidity as well as an agreement that will allow the bank to share losses with the insurer.

In a statement, the FDIC said that it "estimates the cost of the failure of Silicon Valley Bank to its Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) to be approximately \$20 billion." The exact cost, it said, "will be determined when the FDIC terminates the receivership."

First Citizens has roughly \$109 billion in assets and total deposits valued at \$89.4 billion. -DWF

CAPACITY EXPANSION

Middle East airport developments entail \$151bn in capital expenditure until 2040

ABU DHABI: After most of the multi-billion dollar airport construction projects were put on the back burner or temporarily curtailed over the past three years, operators and investors have been racing down the tarmac as the Middle East and Asia-Pacific regions are expected to account for 58 per cent of the global air passenger demand in 2040.

The CAPA - Centre for Aviation, one of the world's most trusted sources of aviation market intelligence, says there have been 425 major construction projects at existing airports, with \$450.7 billion in total committed expenditure globally, each of which is at various stages, from preparatory to about to conclude, along with 225 new

airport projects and airport investor numbers swelling to 1074, including 258 airport operator groups or consortiums. Its database has region-wise listed the total numbers of the airport project and the volume of investment include 155 in the Middle East worth \$209.4 billion.

The Middle East region, positioned at the strategic crossroads of major economies of Asia, Africa and Europe, has transformed into a major international hub and continues to be an inspirational growth story. With over 110 airports, this is already among the fastest growing in the world, accounting for 170 million of the global traffic.

Airports in the Middle East will



need to invest \$151 billion in capacity expansion as the global air passenger demand is expected to increase more than two-fold in

2040. "This necessitates an investment totalling \$2.4 trillion for the Middle East and Asia-Pacific airports until 2040 to accommodate

this growth," the Airport Council International said. The ACI forecasts close to 19.7 billion passengers are expected to traverse the world's airports by 2040 and the Middle East airports will handle 1.1 billion passengers by 2040 – a significant increase from 2019's 405 million.

The airport industry's growth story is far from over as new airports are coming up and existing facilities getting expanded and upgraded to meet future passenger demands. The airport industry players, seeing the huge investments coming back on the tracks, will get into an energised enthusiasm at the Airport Show in Dubai from May 9 to 11.

The 22nd edition of the world's

largest annual airport industry B2B platform will connect over 200-plus aviation brands and 100-plus buyers from over 30 airports and aviation authorities from 20 countries. Also taking place on the sidelines of the Airport Show is the Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF).

According to GlobalData, the total pipeline of new airport construction projects had a combined value of \$1.64 trillion while the global fleet of aircraft is projected to touch 36,500 aircraft by 2031 and the global airport construction market size has been revised to \$1.4 trillion by 2026. There are several countries which are pursuing airport developments at a break-neck speed now. -WAM

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Al Batinah Power, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while National Mineral Water, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,852.52 points, up by 0.17 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06 per cent at 479.67 points. Industrial Index closed at 6,019.20 points, down 1.06 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy and Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 9.09 per cent, 5.77 per cent, 3.75 per cent, 0.95 per cent and 0.91 per cent respectively. Prices of National Mineral Water, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cement, Oman Fisheries and Galfar Engineering were up by 10.00 per cent, 9.72 per cent, 7.93 per cent, 4.44 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 1.38 per cent before closing at 1,694.89 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Jazeera Services, Oman Telecom, National Gas and Barka Desalination were up by 10.00 per cent, 3.08 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively. Prices of OIFC, Sembcorp Salalah, Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power and SMN Power Holding were up by 5.00 per cent, 3.23 per cent and 0.97 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, National Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank

Nizwa and National Bank Oman were up by 1.72 per cent, 1.39 per cent, 1.10 per cent, 1.02 per cent and 0.37 per cent respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy and Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 9.09 per cent, 5.77 per cent, 3.75 per cent, 0.95 per cent and 0.91 per cent respectively. Prices of National Mineral Water, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cement, Oman Fisheries and Galfar Engineering were up by 10.00 per cent, 9.72 per cent, 7.93 per cent, 4.44 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 1.38 per cent before closing at 1,694.89 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Jazeera Services, Oman Telecom, National Gas and Barka Desalination were up by 10.00 per cent, 3.08 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively. Prices of OIFC, Sembcorp Salalah, Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power and SMN Power Holding were up by 5.00 per cent, 3.23 per cent and 0.97 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, National Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDECIES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,857.49	4,808.58	4,852.52	4,844.30	8.22	0.17
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,781.98	7,709.53	7,750.83	7,737.06	13.77	0.18
Industry Index	6,117.43	5,955.43	6,019.20	6,083.83	-64.63	-1.06
Services Index	1,721.72	1,679.89	1,694.89	1,718.62	-23.74	-1.38
MSX Shariah Index	524.56	473.87	479.67	479.38	0.29	0.06
MSX TR INDEX	6,275.98	6,212.79	6,269.56	6,228.51	41.05	0.66
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,329.85	8,252.30	8,296.51	8,225.41	71.10	0.86
SERVICES TR IDX	1,869.67	1,824.25	1,840.54	1,866.32	-25.78	-1.38
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,463.34	6,292.18	6,359.56	6,394.73	-35.18	-0.55

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,514,051	3,614,571	924	23,821,188,208	15	18	21	54

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 27

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PER VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	2,752,867	1,211,261	4	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.416	0.024	5.789	0.440	0.420	0.440	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000007077	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	400	664	1	1.690	1.690	1.690	1.690	1.690	0.000	3.750	1.690	1.690	1.690	0.100	148,902,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	2,500	670	2	0.268	0.268	0.268	0.268	0.260	0.008	3.077	0.268	0.260	0.268	0.100	16,402,745
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	289,032	312,356	42	1.080	1.100	1.080	1.100	1.080	0.020	1.852	1.100	1.185	1.100	0.100	825,000,000
OM0000003386	SOHAR INT BANK	5,000	320	3	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.100	0.104	0.100	477,366,478
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	8,753	2,916	13	0.420	0.440	0.420	0.422	0.420	0.002	0.476	0.440	0.462	0.440	0.100	99,765,020
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	34,950	11,324	7	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.324	0.000	0.000	0.324	0.322	0.324	0.100	32,400,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	300	174	1	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.000	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.100	91,350,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,485,224	742,731	27	0.500	0.504	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.510	0.100	334,182,713
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	40,000	6,857	3	0.177	0.177	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.171	0.174	0.100	333,391,427
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	1,062,182	283,124	88	0.272	0.273	0.272	0.273	0.273	0.000	0.000	0.273	0.273	0.270	0.100	610,024,946,388
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	85,076	38,697	28	0.410	0.410	0.370	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.408	0.380	0.408	0.100	266,887,134
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	35,178	9,339	17	0.269	0.269	0.250	0.269	0.270	-0.001	-0.370	0.268	0.297	0.268	0.100	437,379,570
OM0000001182	OMAN NAT ENG	94,650	9,886	16	0.105	0.106	0.104	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	15,900,000
OM0000007407	DIHOFAR GENERATING	146,445	7,322	4	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.050	0.052	-0.002	-3.846	0.050	0.056	0.052	0.100	11,112,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	25,904	2,849	7	0.110	0.110	0.106	0.110	0.116	-0.006	-5.172	0.110	0.106	0.110	0.100	27,373,500
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	74,636	22,523	5	0.300	0.302	0.300	0.302	0.328	-0.026	-7.927	0.302	0.302	0.308	0.100	99,923,558
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	30,885	8,066	6	0.280	0.280	0.260	0.260	0.288	-0.028	-9.722	0.260	0.260	0.265	0.100	32,473,470
Total	18	6,181,982	2,677,479	274												
Parallel Market																
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	11,600	383	2	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	0.030	0.003	10.000	0.033	0.028	0.033	0.100	22,271,285
OM00000002804	ASAFAFA FOODS	60,100	11,179	8	0.186	0.192	0.186	0.192	0.176	0.016	9.091	0.192	0.186	0.192	0.100	23,040,000
OM0000001509	DIHOFAR INT	1,723	289	1	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.000	5.000	0.188	0.188	0.191	0.100	68,753,381
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	23,348	3,716	2	0.159	0.160	0.159	0.160	0.155	0.005	3.226	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	479,416,230
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	24,200	2,493	1	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.102	0.104	0.100	8,755,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	881	83	7	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.952	0.106	0.106	0.110	0.100	8,628,692
OM0000002867	GULF INT CHEMI	2,000	444	1	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.002	0.909	0.222	0.214	0.229	0.100	10,160,007
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	151,600	4,700	9	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.000	0.000	0.031	0.030	0.031	0.100	22,146,597
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	10,193	1,009	7	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	15,399,490
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,089,186	610,412	432	0.292	0.293	0.292	0.292	0.292	0.000	0.000	0.292	0.292	0.298	0.100	224,898,400
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	40,234	7,723	8	0.192	0.200	0.190	0.200	0.201	-0.001	-0.498	0.200	0.189	0.200	0.100	40,597,289
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,000	594	2	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.119	0.117	0.119	0.100	50,547,655
OM0000004348	SMN POWER HOLDING	504,800	51,010	31	0.109	0.102	0.109	0.102	0.102	-0.001	-0.980	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	28,193,195
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	77,156	7,495	10	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.001	-1.020	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	856,174	77,480	55	0.090	0.091	0.089	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.091	0.090	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000002848	NATIONAL FINANCE	3,505	498	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.144	-0.002	-1.389	0.142	0.000	0.142	0.100	78,854,724
OM0000006963	PHOENIX POWER	14,848	851	6	0.057	0.059	0.057	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.057	0.058	0.058	0.100	84,830,887
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	122,000	7,034	7	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	17,507,341
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	3,000	260	2	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.086	0.080	-0.004	-4.444	0.086	0.086	0.090	0.100	15,655,742
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	43,671	3,410	4	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.083	-0.004	-4.819	0.079	0.083	0.100	75,411,164	
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	3,662	2,879	4	0.800	0.804	0.780	0.780	0.864	-0.084	-9.722	0.780	0.784	0.864	0.100	74,100,000
OM0000001285	MINERAL WATER	3,462	218	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.070	-0.007	-10.000	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.100	1,701,192
Total	31	4,197,203	907,414	636												

AGREEMENTS

Aramco to expand presence in China by acquiring 10% stake in Rongsheng Petrochemical Company

DAHRAN: Aramco has signed definitive agreements to acquire a 10 per cent interest in Shenzhen-listed Rongsheng Petrochemical Co. Ltd. ("Rongsheng") for RMB 24.6 billion (\$3.6 billion at current exchange rates), in a deal that would significantly expand its downstream presence in China. Through the strategic arrangement, Aramco would supply 480,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Arabian crude oil to Rongsheng affiliate Zhejiang Petroleum and Chemical Co. Ltd (ZPC), under a long-term sales agreement. Aramco Overseas Company ("AOC"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aramco, will acquire the interest in Rongsheng. Among other assets, Rongsheng owns a 51 per cent equity interest in ZPC, which in turn owns and operates the largest integrated refining and chemicals complex in China with a capacity to process 800,000 bpd of crude oil and to



produce 4.2 million metric tonnes of ethylene per year. Aramco Executive Vice President of Downstream Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani said, "This announcement demonstrates Aramco's long-term commitment to China and belief in the fundamentals of the Chinese petrochemicals sector. It is an important acquisition for Aramco in a key market, supporting our growth ambitions and advancing our liquids to chemicals strategy. It also promotes to secure a reliable supply of essential crude to one of China's most important refiners." Li Shuirong, Rongsheng Chair-

man, said: "This strategic cooperation will take our long-term friendship and mutual trust to a new level, and paves the way for a bright future for the high-quality development of the world's petrochemicals industry. I believe that Aramco's involvement will greatly help Rongsheng implement its petrochemical growth strategy." The investment would anchor an important association between Aramco, Rongsheng and ZPC, which operates one of the world's most state-of-the-art chemical conversion assets. The transaction involves an off-market secondary sale of Rongsheng shares by majority shareholder Zhejiang Rongsheng Holding Group, with the potential for future collaboration between the parties in trading, refining, chemicals production and technology licensing. The transaction is expected to close by the end of 2023 and is subject to regulatory approvals. -SPA

GRADUATION CEREMONY

TIME FOR SEASONAL REFRESH

With summer comes the desire for a fresh start — whether it's for yourself, your wardrobe or your home. It's the perfect time to sport a new look, clear out clutter and swap out tired, old decor for fresh, colours and textures. Unfortunately, revamping can easily become an overwhelming task or bring a hefty price tag.

But don't despair — here are some tips to help you prepare for the new season without the added stress:

SET A BUDGET

A summer refresh should be just that — a refresh! But with your excitement about a new start can come a seemingly endless to-do list that prompts you to spend more time and money than you'd like. At the onset, decide how much time you want to devote to cleaning, and set timers or listen to a favourite podcast to help you stick to your time limit. Make sure you also consider how much you want to spend on anything new so you don't go overboard.

OUT WITH THE OLD

Whether you're looking to update your closet or your home, make room first by removing old clothing or decor. Consider donating what you're ready to part with, or selling the items with a second-hand retailer. Remember small changes can make a big difference. You don't need to overhaul your entire wardrobe or home to feel refreshed. Choose a handful of new items — like vibrant, flared pants or statement earrings — and pair them with your timeless pieces, mixing and matching to create new outfits. When it comes to your home, consider a couple of simple changes or additions to give your favourite spaces a whole new look — like replacing artwork with a large mirror to bring in more natural light or adding new throw pillows.

-BPT



ROUND-UP



Own a Kia Cerato to get exciting benefits



Own Kia Cerato and get a chance to scratch and win cars and more

MUSCAT: Own a Kia Cerato and get a chance to win Kia Pegas or Kia Niro through a Scratch & Win offer. Scratch and win up to 20 per cent off on new Kia vehicles and periodic service up to 100,000km. Additionally, get 1-year insurance and a cash gift. (Conditions apply. For details please visit any Kia showroom.) The campaign will end on May 11.

Making a stylish mark where ever it goes, the Cerato utilises full LED headlights which appear as slender lines with the radiator grille to underline the redesign-

ing of the face of the model, defining the car's sporty exterior. At the rear, strong horizontal lines add a bold appearance with depth to the fluid exterior design.

Head out to fun drives in the Cerato with a powerful 150 HP 2.0L Euro 4 engine that is paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission. The Cerato is also available with a 1.6L, 126 HP Euro 4 engine which is paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission.

Offering a relaxing and comfortable experience are a range of features that include a high-resolution 8-inch display screen and a 4.2-inch colour TFT LCD cluster for an improved, convenient driving experience. The model also features rear AC vents, Alloy Pedal, Paddle Shifter, Power Sunroof, Remote Engine Start, providing advanced solutions to everyday inconveniences.

As a key priority in its design, Cerato's Advanced Safety technologies satisfy the need for both safety and convenience with best-in-class features to support drivers in life.

MALABAR INTERNATIONAL HUB

Malabar Gold unveils its new base for international operations in Dubai Gold Souq

DUBAI: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with an extensive retail network of over 310 outlets across 10 countries in India, the GCC, Far East and the USA, has unveiled its brand-new global base of international operations, the Malabar International Hub (M-IH) at Dubai Gold Souq in Deira, Dubai.

M-IH was inaugurated by Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Cabinet member and UAE Minister of the Economy on March 22. The inauguration was conducted in the presence of the chairman, directors, government officials, distinguished guests, well-wishers, and management team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the opening of M-IH marks a momentous landmark for Malabar Gold & Diamonds, which began its international operations in 2008 in the UAE.

The 28,000 sq ft LEED Gold Certified hub that is located in the heart of Dubai's gold district has been designed to be the epicentre of the brand's current and fu-



ture business aspirations. Spread across 4 floors, houses all functions, from a global centralised supply chain to all enabling and supporting functions for existing operations in GCC, USA, Singapore and Malaysia; and set the foundation for the growth aspirations of the group to continue its ambitious expansion plans into countries such as the UK, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Bangladesh, New Zealand and many more.

All supporting and enabling functionalities of the company's international operations, which

were previously decentralised and carried out in each country of operations, have now been brought under a single roof to further streamline the process and increase the overall efficiency of the company's management. The decision by Malabar Gold & Diamonds to set up their global base in the UAE comes under the wake of the CEPA (Common Economic Partnership Agreement) signing between India and the UAE, a move which opened the gates to a more fruitful and collaborative commercial pathway between the

two countries. It is the opportunities presented to the brand by the signing of CEPA that directly led to the concept of the M-IH.

The Chairman of Malabar Group, M.P. Ahammed commented, "With the establishment of M-IH in Dubai, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has taken one step closer to our dream of being the biggest jewellery retailer in the world. The new facility is all set to be the stepping stone of our Vision 2030 goal of scaling up our operations to conquer new markets and strengthen our presence in existing markets. As we celebrate 30 years of providing exemplary jewellery shopping experiences to our loyal customers across the world, our dedication towards quality, perfection and service has propelled us to the position of the world's most trusted jewellery retailer. I would like to take this opportunity to express my immense gratitude to our stakeholders – customers, employees, associates, shareholders, and authorities who stood with us through thick and thin and contributed towards propelling the brand to new heights."

RECOGNITION

Bank Muscat wins Gold Award at OSW

MUSCAT: In recognition of its pioneering role in the field of sustainability, Bank Muscat won the Gold Award in the Mid to Large Business category at the Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) Awards 2023, held recently at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center (OCEC).

The award was handed over by Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals to Hamza Abbas Al Ajmi, Deputy General Manager – Credit, Bank Muscat, at a glittering ceremony, which was attended by top government officials as well as CEOs and senior executives from some of the top institu-



tions and corporates in Oman. Speaking on the occasion, Hamza Abbas Al Ajmi, Deputy General Manager – Credit, Bank Muscat, said, "We are delighted

to receive this prestigious award, which reconfirms Bank Muscat's pioneering role in promoting sustainability in Oman. In the past, the bank has undertaken many in-

itiatives to promote sustainability including the development of its employees and national human resources.

"It is also continuously incorporating other sustainable practices within its business operations like replacing lamps with LED lights, reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions, water and paper consumption as well as electronic waste. Going ahead, the bank will continue to strengthen cooperation and partnership with various government and private sector institutions to strengthen sustainability as part of its long-term strategy, which is closely aligned to Oman Vision 2040."

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2023 Cadillac Escalade-V: Auto industry’s most powerful full-size SUV arrives in Oman

Donning the high-performance V-Series badge – a symbol encapsulating Cadillac’s signature traits – this full-size SUV is the most powerful in its segment



MUSCAT: Legendary American automaker Cadillac’s first SUV in the V-series – the Cadillac Escalade-V 2023 – has made its debut in Oman, its launch heralding a new era in automotive performance, design and innovative technology.

Donning the high-performance V-Series badge – a symbol encapsulating Cadillac’s signature traits – this full-size SUV is the most powerful in its segment and comes with advanced technological features, a refined exterior and a luxurious interior. In essence, the 2023 Escalade-V is the purest expression of the passion that exists at the core of Cadillac.

This magnificent machine’s arrival in Oman was celebrated with a grand reception at Cadillac’s state-of-the-art showroom in Al Wattayah (Muscat) recently, with top officials of Cadillac’s Middle East operations, as well as local distributor OTE Group, in attendance. The distinguished gathering included Kristian Aquilina, Managing Director, Cadillac International Operation and Cadillac Middle East; Sheikh Saad Suhail Bahwan – Chairman, OTE Group; Sheikh Salim Saad Bahwan, Director – OTE Group; and leading personalities from

the Omani business sector.

Every facet of the Escalade-V is simply outstanding. Inside and out, the new Escalade-V builds on Escalade’s bold, layered design statement and sophisticated, technology-infused passenger environment. On the exterior, unique front and rear fascias cast a distinctive pose, along with Cadillac’s signature Sport mesh grille. The rear fascia incorporates openings for a quad exhaust outlet. Uniquely styled 22-inch wheels are also part of the V-Series content. They help showcase the performance brake system behind them, which includes exclusive Brembo front brakes with Edge Red callipers.

Indeed, the Escalade-V’s performance-inspired styling coupled with its unmistakable sound makes for a head-turning presence whenever it’s on the move.

Supercharged legacy and AWD grip

The Escalade-V is powered by a supercharged inter-cooled 6.2-Litre V8 engine capable of generating an unsurpassed 682 hp at 6,000 engine rpm and 885 Nm of torque at 4,400 engine rpm. The 6.2L hand-built supercharged and inter-cooled en-

gine builds on a legacy of supercharged V-8 engines offered in Cadillac V-Series models, those being the second- and third-generation CTS-V models, the XLR-V, and most recently, the CT5-V Blackwing.

The Escalade-V’s engine shares architectural similarities with the CT5-V Blackwing’s supercharged V-8, but features a larger, 2.65L R2650 TVS supercharger that helps overcome the higher inlet and exhaust restrictions on the full-size SUV application. It spins at up to 13,500 rpm to produce approximately 10 pounds of boost and has an electronically controlled bypass valve for optimal drivability.

The supercharger’s unique four-lobe rotors are designed to broaden the engine’s power band, with great low-end torque production and strong high-rpm power. With these impressive features, the Escalade-V can accelerate from 0-100 km/h in 4.6 seconds.

The Cadillac Escalade-V 2023 engine is accompanied by a 10-speed automatic transmission system. The engine torque received by the transmission is supplied to the AWD drivetrain system.

Unique suspension calibrations and V-Mode

Along with the full-time active all-wheel-drive system, standard Magnetic Ride Control 4.0, Air Ride Adaptive Suspension and exclusive Escalade-V suspension hardware complement the Escalade-V’s responsive driving experience. Together, they form the foundation of a heightened feeling of driver control, without sacrificing the isolated precision ride comfort for which the Escalade is renowned.

With this new V-Series SUV, the Air Ride Adaptive Suspension four-corner air springs feature specific, stiff rear air springs. The electronically controlled system also features unique damper hardware tuning and software calibrations, which help make the most of the Escalade-V’s four-wheel independent suspension. The electronic limited-slip differential improves handling and helps to maximize traction.

Drivers can personalise their experience behind the wheel through the exclusive V-Mode, which drivers access via a button on the centre console ahead of the transmission shifter. It lets drivers tailor their preferred performance-driving mode and it also automatically lowers the ride height by nearly 0.8 inches (20 mm).

Signature design, craftsmanship and technology

On the technology front, the Escalade-V comes equipped with an industry-first curved OLED with 38 inches of total diagonal display, with twice the pixel density of a 4K television. Another distinctive feature is the ‘Gauge View’, which not only highlights the speed of the vehicle but also includes two reconfigurable zones on the left and right of the speedometer.

The left zone can display time and date or vehicle information such as tire pressure and brake pad wear, while the right zone can display navigation, radio information and even phone calls.

Also standard across Escalade-V models is an innovative Night Vision System. When the Night Vision tooltip view is selected in the Cluster Display, the Night Vision system can help the driver see beyond your headlights with a thermal image that highlights and alerts you to detected pedestrians or large animals directly ahead of the vehicle—helping to instil confidence on night drives.

Adding to the impressive array of technologies features are: Premium infotainment experience with navigation, featuring a 16.9-

inch diagonal colour information display, Natural Voice Recognition, Wireless Apple CarPlay and Wireless Android Auto4 capability, Connected Apps and more; Augmented Reality, which projects a live image of what is in front of the vehicle on the 14.2-inch-diagonal centre cluster display; and Standard AKG Studio Reference 36-speaker audio system, with 3D Surround, Navigation Rendering and more.

“The arrival of the 2023 Escalade-V is the result of a rigorous development program that allows this highly anticipated model to meet the criteria and capability thresholds established by nearly two decades of inspired V-Series performance,” said Global Cadillac Vice President Rory Harvey. “Customers and enthusiasts have asked for an Escalade-V, and we’re thrilled to bring this high-performance SUV to market in the year of Cadillac’s 120th anniversary. We do not deploy the V-Series designation lightly.”

Leading automotive firm OTE Group is the exclusive distributor of Cadillac models in the Sultanate of Oman. Check out the latest Escalade-V range at OTE Cadillac Showroom, Wattayah - Muscat.





ROUND-UP

Experience spirit of Ramadan in luxury at InterContinental Muscat

The hotel will be offering a range of special services and amenities to guests, including special Ramadan menus and daily Iftar buffet at Musandam restaurant and Suhoor meals at Mynha's Edge garden restaurant

MUSCAT: The iconic InterContinental Muscat, managed by IHG Hotels and owned by Omran, has announced to host an exciting culinary delight to mark the holy month of Ramadan, presenting the Muscat community the opportunity to revel in delicious Iftar and Suhoor meals.

The hotel is committed to providing a safe and comfortable en-

vironment and experience for all its guests during this special time of year.

In keeping with the spirit of Ramadan, the hotel will be offering a range of special services and amenities to guests, including special Ramadan menus and daily Iftar buffet at Musandam restaurant and Suhoor meals at Mynha's Edge garden restaurant.

Daniel Arbenz, General Manager, said, "Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, fasting, and charitable giving and we invite our guests to join us in observing this sacred occasion, while fast-breaking is the opportunity to showcase local culinary traditions to our guests and the community."

Musandam Restaurant will be open from sunset till 9:30pm. Children from 6 to 12 years old will have a 50 per cent discount and kids below six years will be free of charge. In addition, Suhoor will be offered at the newly opened Mynah's Edge garden restaurant every night during Ramadan from sunset to 2am including a list of Arabic dishes and flavours.

Guests can also choose from the special Ramadan room packages, which include a range of amenities and services to make their stay comfortable and enjoyable. The Ramadan package includes a room

for two adults and two kids below 12 years with daily breakfast and evening Iftar.

In addition to the special Ramadan offerings, the hotel also provides a variety of amenities and services to enhance the guest experience. Guests can enjoy the hotel's fitness centre, swimming pool, and spa facilities, as well as a range of business and meeting services.

The Intercontinental Hotel is renowned for its luxury and high-quality service, and this Ramadan, the hotel is determined to provide guests with an exceptional experience that is both authentic and memorable. The hotel has a team of expert chefs who have designed a special Ramadan menu that incorporates traditional and modern cuisine, providing guests with a unique and flavourful dining experience. The hotel's dedicated staff looks forward to assisting our guests during this special period.



CANDLELIGHT EVENT



W Muscat marks Earth Hour 2023

MUSCAT: W Muscat was thrilled to host a successful candlelight event in honour of Earth Hour 2023 at Meduse Lounge.

The event aimed to raise awareness about climate change and promote sustainable practices by turning off non-essential lights and enjoying a candlelit

evening and stargazing. The hotel is proud to have taken a small step towards creating a brighter, greener, and more sustainable future. W Muscat is grateful to everyone who joined in this important cause. We will continue to work together towards a more sustainable world.

IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Alizz Islamic Bank honoured with award for excellence

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank has been recognised for its outstanding commitment to corporate social responsibility.

At the awards ceremony held during the Oman Forum 2023, the bank was honoured with the prestigious 'Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility' award at a Sustainability Leadership Awards 2023.

Ali Al Mani, General Manager, Alizz Islamic Bank accepted the award on behalf of the bank. Ali Al Mani confirmed that the bank has adopted a new strategy, specifically relating to the initiatives it offers. He believes that continuing



to implement sustainable initiatives is crucial for leaving a lasting benefit to society, especially during a time when there is a major shift in project focus.

The general manager who is

directly supervising these initiatives himself highlighted the importance of social responsibility for Alizz Islamic Bank and how it aligns with the bank's mission to achieve exceptional and sustain-

able results for shareholders.

He said, "The bank has invested in projects that have a positive impact on society and create value for all, with a focus on investing in communities since its inception. The ultimate goal is to strive for a better life for the people the bank serves across the Sultanate, and the belief is that investment in sustainable initiatives is vital for achieving societal prosperity. The bank has provided support to national organisations that work to build strong and flexible societies, as well as contributing to the growth of non-profit social organisations."

FOR PRIORITY BANKING CUSTOMERS

BankDhofar organises Al Riadah Meet



MUSCAT: Reiterating its ongoing endeavour to strengthen its ties with its customers, BankDhofar has recently organised the Al Riadah Meet event for its priority banking customers.

Held under the patronage of Tahir Salim Al Amri, Executive President of Central Bank of Oman, the event aimed at celebrating the strong relationships with Al Riadah customers, and

saw the launch of new designs of Al Riadah Priority Banking cards.

Stressing the importance of building good relationships with customers, Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, CEO of BankDhofar said, "We believe that our success is bound to our customers' satisfaction. Thus, we invest in our efforts to design customer-centric products, services, and banking experiences that ensure the utmost con-

venience for our customers. We are glad to meet our customers, update them with the new practical card design, and listen to them closely."

At the event, BankDhofar revealed the new design of the new cards. The bank took into consideration the change in using the cards from swiping to tapping, thus, the new design is vertical, which makes it more convenient to the customers.

RAMADAN NIGHTS

Layali Ramadan at Grand Millennium

MUSCAT: Celebrate the spirit of Ramadan with Grand Millennium Muscat's Layali Ramadan package and create unforgettable memories with your loved ones.

Grand Millennium Muscat invites guests to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan with Layali Ramadan, meaning "Ramadan Nights" in Arabic. The package offers an opportunity to create unforgettable memories with loved ones during this special month. It includes carefully created Iftar and Suhoor buffets, luxurious accommodations, and a range of other exclusive benefits.

Guests can start their Ramadan festivities with the Grand Iftar Buffet, which will be hosted at Taybat and Bahriyat restaurants. The Iftar buffet is free of charge for children under 6 years old. Guests can also take advantage of a special group gathering offer, where for every nine adults, the 10th booking

is complimentary.

For Suhoor, guests can indulge in the Suhoor Grand Buffet at the Mazaj Terrace from the 7th of Ramadan.

The Layali Ramadan overnight package includes well-appointed rooms, with Iftar and Suhoor buffets. Guests can choose from a selection of luxurious rooms. In addition to comfortable accommodation, guests can enjoy a delectable grand Iftar buffet until 9:30pm and the Suhoor Grand Buffet from 11pm to 2am.

"We are excited to offer our guests an unforgettable Ramadan experience with our Layali Ramadan package," said Luca Medda, General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat. "Our Iftar and Suhoor buffets, combined with luxurious accommodation, are designed to help guests relish special moments with their loved ones during this month of giving."



GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY



NBO partners with Nidaa Charity Team

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to creating positive change in communities across the nation, National Bank of Oman (NBO) recently launched its annual Ramadan campaign focusing on local charities and community groups.

The campaign kicked-off with a bake sale fundraising event, which was organised by NBO employees to support meaningful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. This year, NBO partnered with the Nidaa Charity Team in view of the 'Bab Al Rayyan' initiative to provide meals to outdoor workers and people stuck in traffic during Iftar, this initiative serves the community as well as the women who prepare these meals that happen to be from low-income families.

Sherifa Al Maskari, Head of Brand at NBO said, "Marking the holy month of Ramadan, our annual campaign has become a meaningful tradition at National Bank of Oman, especially to employees who want to make a real difference in their communities and beyond. We therefore focus on partnerships and initiatives that have a measurable, authentic and sustainable social impact, which is also aligned with our broader corporate social responsibility strategy."

The "Shahr Al Attaa" Ramadan campaign is part of NBO's broader CSR programme, which so far has resulted in tens of thousands of Omani Rials to support a variety of sustainable and community-centred initiatives.



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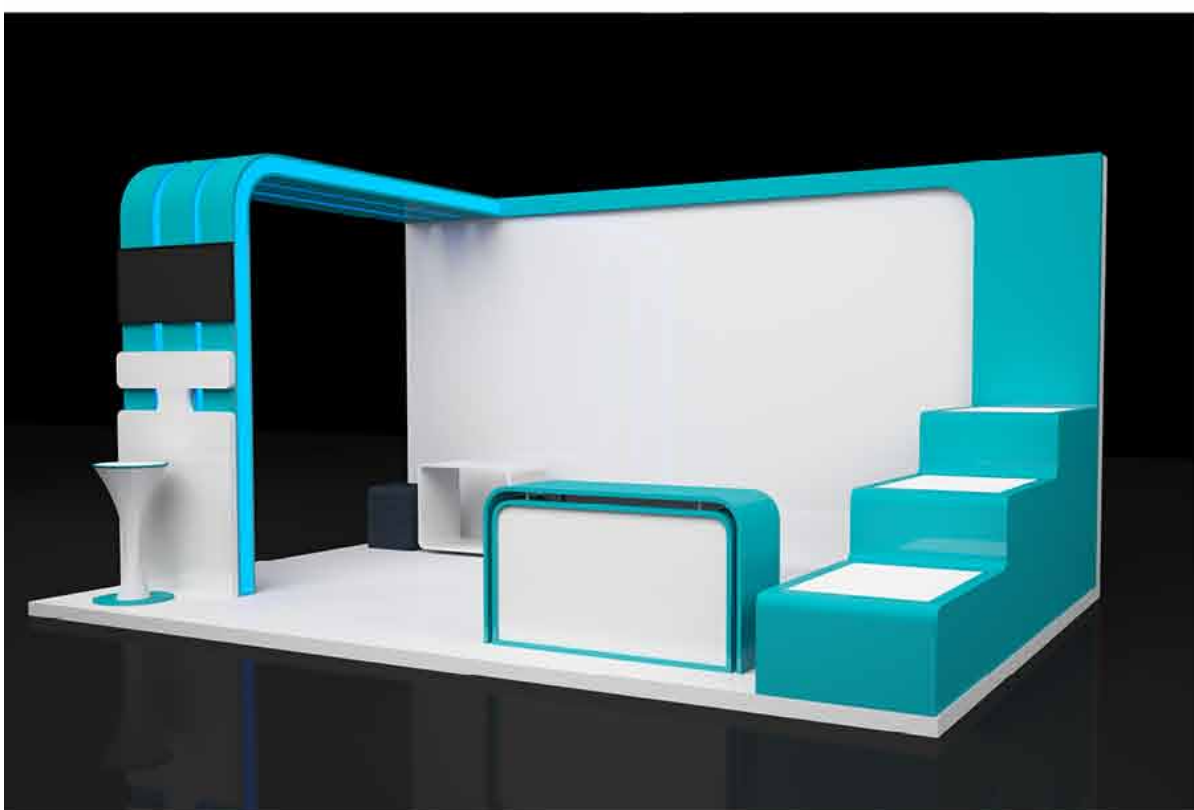
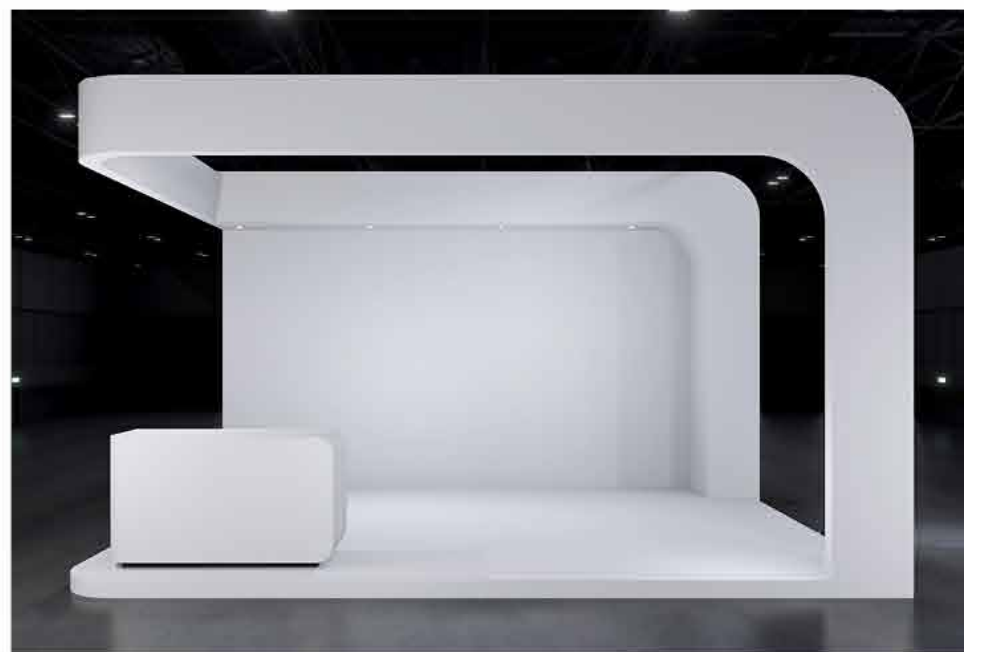
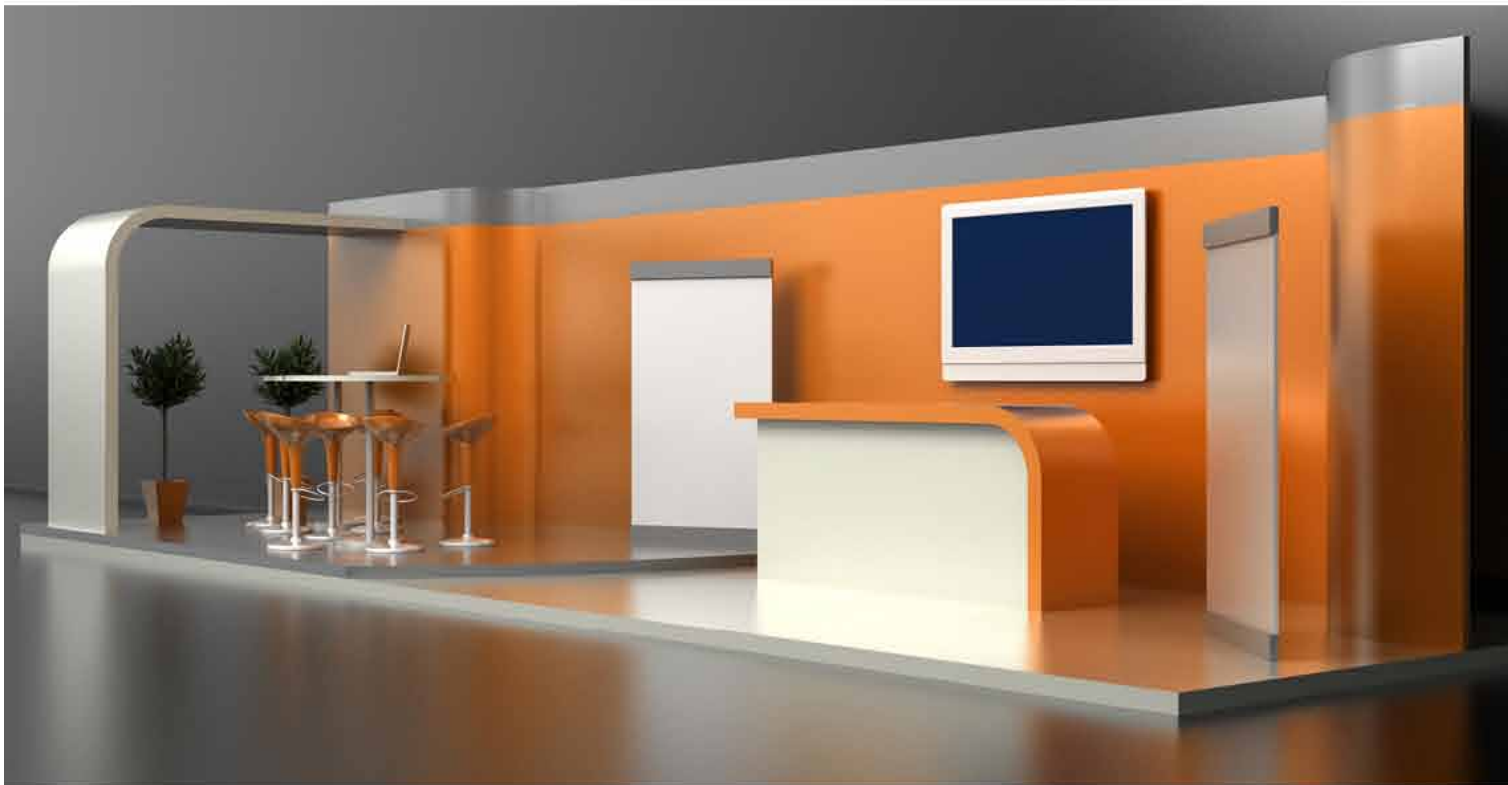
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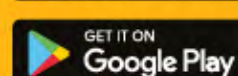
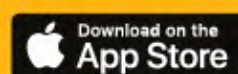
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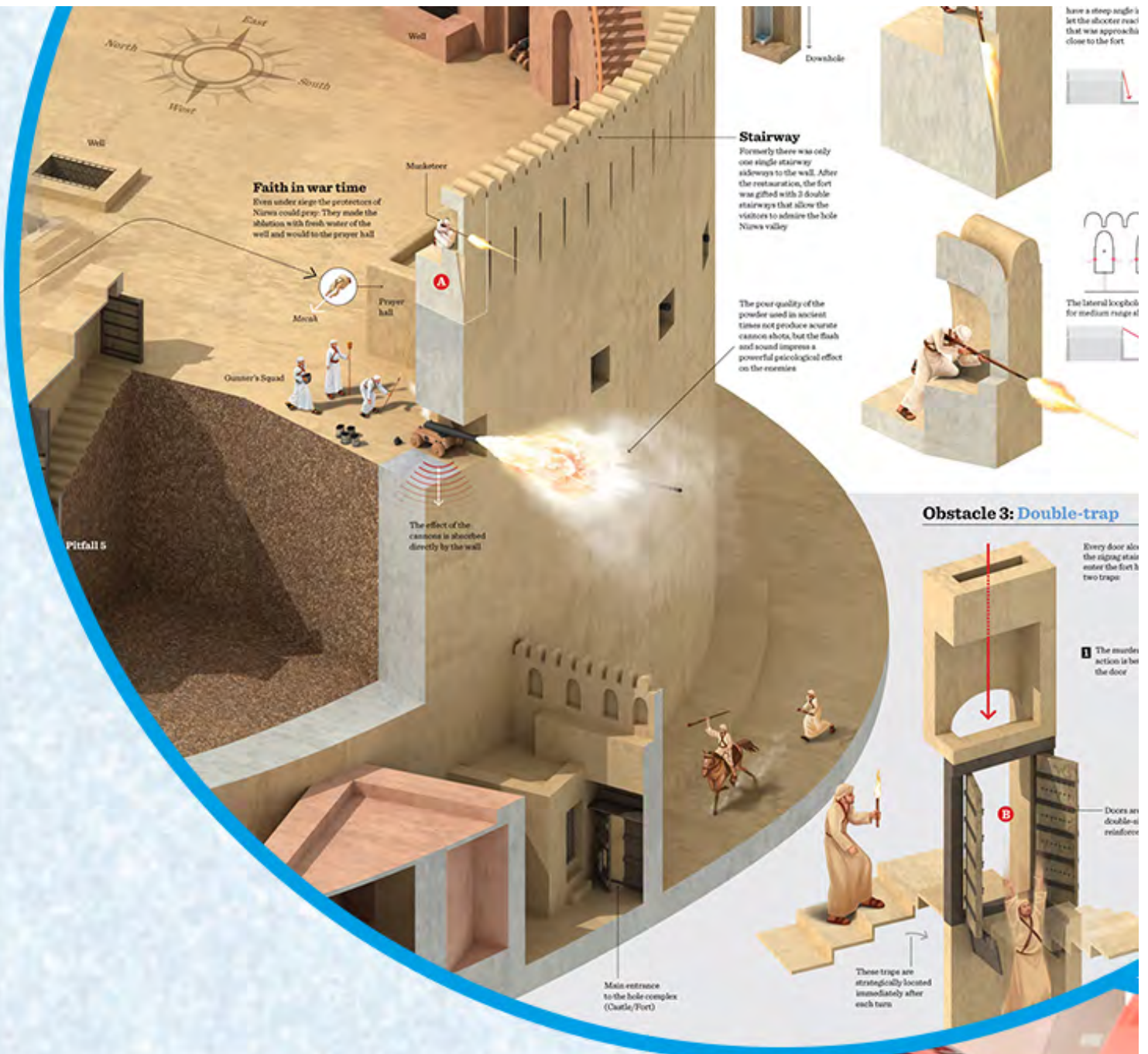


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