

**ROHM IS SET TO PRESENT
FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) will present a festival of traditional and heritage music entitled "Folk Music Festival". The Festival will take place on 26 and 27 January 2023 at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts. **>A5**



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**NATIONAL MUSEUM PARTICIPATES
IN ISLAMIC ARTS BIENNIAL**

The National Museum is taking part in the "Al-Madar" exhibition, the first Biennial of Islamic Arts of its kind in the world. It is being held at the Hajj Terminal of King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah. The Biennial will continue till 23 April 2023, with the participation of 12 institutions from all over the world. **>A2**



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ASSIGNED BY HM

Sayyid Theyazin to preside over annual horse race



MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said will patronize this Thursday over the Royal Cavalry's annual horse race, which will be held in the Wilayat of Al Buraimi.

The event is organized by the Royal Court Affairs, represented

by the Royal Cavalry. The race will consist of five laps for thoroughbred Arabian horses. It will culminate in the 5th lap in which riders will compete to win the coveted His Majesty the Sultan's Cup. Equestrian skills will be exhibited in between the laps, to the accompaniment of popular musical tunes. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Children of Palestinian martyrs received

1 Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, has received Dr. Tayseer Jaradat, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Sultanate of Oman, and members of a Palestinian delegation comprising offspring of Palestinian martyrs and children of Palestinians jailed in prisons of Israeli occupation forces. **>A3**



WORLD Brazil, Argentina plan common currency

2 Brazil and Argentina wish to forge closer ties, including by developing a common currency, a joint statement released by the nations' presidents said. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez are set to discuss the matter on Tuesday at a regional summit of Latin American leaders in Buenos Aires, Argentina. **>A6**

SPORTS Ronaldo debuts in Al Nassr's victory

3 Cristiano Ronaldo made his much-awaited Al Nassr debut, but failed to score as his new team defeated Al-Ettifaq 1-0 in the Saudi Pro League on Sunday. In his debut game in Riyadh, Cristiano Ronaldo played the entire 90 minutes and kept the crowd engaged. Brazilian forward Anderson Talisca gave Al-Nassr the lead shortly after the halfway point. **>A8**



Trade exchange between the two countries grew during the last two years to nearly 10 percent compared to the previous years

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With 6,000 Indian companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman there is an immense scope to further boost cooperation between the two

countries.

The areas where businesses can be strengthened include food security, supply chains, healthcare, medicine, energy security and renewable energy including green hydrogen, green ammonia,



Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

micro chips, semiconductors and technology.

Bilateral relations

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said that India values the role of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in upgrading the level of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Dr. Sayeed added that the volume of trade exchange between the two sides grew during the last two years to nearly 10 percent compared to the previous years, thanks to the bilateral relations that focused on trade. **>A5**

WEATHER

Rains likely in parts of Oman from today



Times News Services

MUSCAT: The latest weather updates and analysis of the National Multi Hazard Early Warning Center indicate that an upper air trough is likely to affect the Sultanate of Oman starting from Tuesday, 24 January 2023 until Saturday, 28 January 2023.

Clouds advection and isolated rain with occasional thundershowers are expected over the governorates of Musandam, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Al Buraimi, Al Dhahira, Al Dakhiliyah, and

Muscat. Clouds cover is expected to gradually extend to the governorates of North Al Sharqiyah, South Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta, and Dhofar. The peak of the effect is expected during Wednesday and Thursday. The highest amounts of rainfall is expected over the northern governorates.

The Civil Aviation Authority advises all to take precaution during rainfall and overflow of wadis and check the visibility and sea state before sailing and follow the weather bulletins and reports.

With **ONA** inputs

WILAYAT OF IBRI

OMR150 million water project inaugurated in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An OMR150 million vital water supply project to ensure water security for Al Dhahirah Governorate was commissioned on Monday.

Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC) organised the opening ceremony for the water supply project by Sohar Water Desalination Plant in Al Dhahirah Governorate.

The event was held in the Wilayat of Ibri which was presided over by Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, in the presence of ministers, State Council members, undersecretaries and dignitaries.

"While designing the project, the company took into account the current and future water needs for Al Dhahirah Governorate. It also



took into account rise in water demand for both the commercial and industrial needs," Qais bin Saud Al Zakwani, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company said.

The project includes a water transmission line from the Sohar Desalination plant to Al Dhahirah for a total length of 230km with

15 water tanks having a storage capacity of 451,000 cubic metres located in Sohar, Ibri and Dhank.

It consists of four pumping stations with a maximum capacity of 144,000 cubic metres per day and the pipeline runs parallel to the path of the current water carrier line from Sohar to Al Buraimi Governorate.



So that this path is used to meet the future water needs of Al-Buraimi Governorate by linking the two water transmission systems in a number of stations to complete the connection of the water transmission system between the governorates of Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi.

Through this project, the OW-

WSC aims to ensure water supply to the wilayats of Al-Dhahirah Governorate, which depended mainly on groundwater to meet their drinking water needs and other development activities.

This project will help in preserving groundwater resources and developing them for the future generations.

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Dhuhr.....	12:24pm
Asr.....	3:31pm
Maghrib.....	5:52pm
Isha.....	7:06pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:32am

FIELD VISIT

Military delegation visits Joint Command, Staff College

MUSCAT: The delegation of the Saudi Command and Staff College today visited Oman's Joint Command and Staff College (CSC).

The Saudi delegation was headed by Maj.Gen Mohammed Jadu' Al Ruwaili, Commander of the Command and Staff College and Head of the National Defence University of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

- ONA



'AL-MADAR' EXHIBITION

National Museum takes part in Biennial of Islamic Arts

JEDDAH: The National Museum is taking part in the "Al-Madar" exhibition, the first Biennial of Islamic Arts of its kind in the world, which is held at the Hajj Terminal in King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah.

The Biennial will be held till 23 April 2023, with the participation of 12 institutions from all over the world.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Prince Badr Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Minister of Culture and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Diriyah Biennale Foundation, with the participation of HH Sayyid Faisal Turki Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and its Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture.

Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, said that this is the first participation of the National Museum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The selected collections shed light on the concept of beauty in Oman, which remained faithful to the Islamic origins and the identity of the country by raising the value of authentic beauty, celebrating purity, simplicity and avoidance of pretention.

He added: "The National Museum is honored to celebrate the art of the Islamic world by participating in the "Al-Madar" exhibition, which is held in the first Biennale of what is known as Islamic art."

Visitors to the National Museum's corner will see selected works with designs that appear simple at first glance, but reflect the experience of unity and interdependence, and highlight the importance of contemplation and attention to the smallest details, Al Moosawi added.

In her turn, Aya Al Bakri, CEO of the Diriyah Biennial Foundation, said that this event, the first



OPENING: The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Prince Badr Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Minister of Culture and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Diriyah Biennale Foundation, with the participation of HH Sayyid Faisal Turki Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Saudi Arabia. - ONA

of its kind, aims to highlight and enrich Islamic cultural heritage throughout the ages.

She affirmed that the mission at the Diriyah Biennale Foundation is to enrich the cultural and artistic exchange between the KSA as it is a center for the Islamic world and artistic communities around the world, and to celebrate

the many facets of arts.

The corner of the National Museum at the Biennale includes a selection of archaeological artifacts that embody the duality of harmony and contrast in the manifestations of Omani culture, which reflects a wonderful balance between simplicity and decoration. - ONA

Nasser Al Rashdi; awarded "Best Emerging CEO – Retail Finance" by International Finance Awards 2022

Muscat, Oman- Nasser Al Rashdi, CEO of United Finance Company SAOG, a leading financial service provider was recently awarded "Best Emerging CEO – Retail Finance" by International Finance Awards 2022 for his outstanding leadership and overall company performance.

Al Rashdi was awarded the esteemed International Finance award in Dubai for his remarkable work in transforming United Finance Company in a relatively short time. His prudent leadership and dedication to upskilling the company's



employees through various training and development programs have led to tangible changes in the company's performance, as well as the launch of their new brand identity that focuses on "Achieve More" for their customers, employees, shareholders, and community. It is a true testament to the employees' commitment and hard work

that United Finance Company has achieved such success.

Commenting on the occasion, Al Rashdi expressed his joy saying, "I'm incredibly humbled by this award. Being recognized amongst my peers is one of the greatest accomplishments of my career. I dedicate this award to each and every one of my amazing team as they are the reason for our success. I also would like to thank my board for their continuous support and trust in us and of course International Finance Magazine for this prestigious award.

NATIONAL
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TWO-DAY FORUM

Oman to host Arab forum for sustainable development

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will host the tasks of the ninth session of Arab Forum for Scholarly Research and Sustainable Development, which will be held on 30 and 31 January 2023.

The forum will be organised by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

As many as 150 researchers from Oman and other Arab countries will take part in the two-day forum titled "Arab female researchers' role in sustainable development".

The forum will be opened by Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, in the presence of Dr. Madeeha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Chairperson of the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and Dr. Mohammed Ouled Amar, Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Social Development Minister meets children of Palestinian martyrs



PRASED: The Palestinian ambassador commended Oman's permanent stance in supporting the State of Palestine. -ONA

MUSCAT: Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, has received Dr. Tayseer Jaradat, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Sultanate of Oman, and members of a Palestinian delegation comprising offspring of Palestinian martyrs and children of Palestinians jailed in prisons of Israeli occupation forces.

During the meeting, the minister underscored the significance of the visit which, she said, embodies the depth of fraternal relations and the strong bonds between Oman and Palestine.

The meeting was an opportunity to exchange expertise and study various aspects of social areas, including the childhood sector, Dr. Laila added.

The Palestinian ambassador commended Oman's permanent stance in supporting the State of Palestine. He valued the Social Development Ministry's gesture to announce the social club of the Palestinian community in Oman.

The meeting was attended by Assayida Maani Abdullah Al Bussaidi, Director General of Family Development at the ministry, as well as other officials and employees operating in the childhood welfare field. -ONA

CBSE SWIMMING CLUSTERS



CONTEST: The winners of the swimming meet are heading to India to participate in the competition in Rajkot this month.

Swimmers of CBSE clusters to take part in India competition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The CBSE Swimming Clusters, one of the most-awaited events was finally held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat, Oman on 27 October 2022 after a 2-year break.

All the Indian schools across Oman registered their students to participate in the meet. The stakes were high as the winners of the meet are heading to India to participate in the competition in Rajkot this month. They will be representing the Indian team from Oman.

The event saw some strong competitors who are currently being trained by the Nautilus Swimming Club.

Brothers Jayin Sharma and Kavin Sharma bagged gold medals in all the events they participated: Jayin in 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, and 200m Individual Medley (IM).

Kavin in 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, and 200m freestyle.

HariPriya Sathesh bagged 5 gold medals in 100m and 200m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 4x100m free relay, and 4x100m medley relay.

Jessica Joanna Paul won gold medals in 50m backstroke, 200m backstroke, 4x100m freestyle relay, and 4x100m IM relay; silver in 50m breaststroke and 100m backstroke.

Aditi Shankar won gold medals in 50m butterfly, 100m breaststroke, 200m Freestyle, and 200m IM.

Prakriti Latheesh Nair who won gold in 50m butterfly and silver in 100m butterfly, 200m freestyle, and 200m IM.

The event saw some strong competitors who are currently being trained by the Nautilus Swimming Club

ver in 100m butterfly, 200m freestyle, and 200m IM.

Dhruv Dhiman won gold in 100m breaststroke and silver in 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle, and 100m butterfly.

Jia Singh won gold in 4x100m freestyle and 4x100m IM relay, 200 IM.

From Indian School Sohar, Clusters witnessed some upcoming Nautilus Sohar swimmers who starred in their individual events.

Shruthikaa won silver in 50m breaststroke, Vikram Senthilkumar won silver in 50m breaststroke.

Varun Balakrishnan bagged a bronze in 50m freestyle.

Training is rigorous for all our competitive swimmers at Nautilus Swimming Club under the guidance of Head Coach Ivan Proskura, a merited Olympic and Paralympic Coach.

The swimmers are well-trained to participate confidently and win competitions. Nautilus remains the only club in Oman, whose swimmer, KS Pooja, reached the finals at Indian Nationals Swimming Championships coming sixth in her event.



GRAND MILLENNIUM MUSCAT

THAI FOOD FESTIVAL

A great opportunity for the lovers of Thai food and cuisine

by KHALID ORABI

MUSCAT – Grand Millennium Muscat recently launched the Thai Food Festival, which started on 10 January 2023 and will continue until the 31 January 2023 at Bahriyat Restaurant.

The Thai Food Festival is a great opportunity for the lovers of Thai food and cuisine to enjoy the best and most delicious Thai food, which is specially prepared by the Thai Master Chef Sirlak Suksamran who has experience extending for more than a quarter of a century in various Thai culinary arts. She also provided a varied menu of Thai food some not easily available outside of Thailand and drinks such as Thai shrimp cake with sweet plum sauce, Thai crab red curry with jasmine rice and vegetables, bok choy and chicken stir-fry with noodles and steamed banana cakes with coconut custard.

In addition, she presented them perfectly with enthusiasm to provide a high level of healthy food that maintains delicious taste.

"I am very happy to be in the Sultanate of Oman for the first time. Therefore, I have prepared a varied menu of the most famous and delicious Thai food,



which includes all the main dishes of meals including soups, main course, appetizers, desserts and even drinks," Chef Sirlak said.

"The nutrients, including roots, plants, vegetables, and Thai and Asian flavors that are used, have great nutritional benefits", she concluded.

"We are pleased to present the Thai Food Festival. We consider this Festival as a beautiful gift at the beginning of the new year for our guests to indulge in a delicious and exiting dining experience. Many Omanis and residents have great experiences with Thai food and are fans of

it due to their frequent travel to Thailand," Luca Medda, General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel, said.

"We have always been presenting different and varied dining experiences that present the culinary arts and cultures of their countries of origin. We bring the most skilled chefs specializing in authentic food from their countries of origin to experiences that guests live, enjoy and even wish to repeat," Medda added.

The General Manager of Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel said that during the Thai Food Festival, which will continue until the end of this month, one of the most skilled and experienced Thai chefs, known for providing delicious and healthy food, was brought in to make our guests feel the difference in the food experiences that we offer.

"Recently, we have implemented a number of different food festivals, including the Turkish and Iranian food festivals. Here we are presenting the Thai food Festival too. During the coming period, we have a plan to present a number of famous food experiences locally and globally, including for other Arab, African, European and Asian countries," Medda concluded.



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MUSICAL JOURNEY

ROHM to present spectacular folk music festival

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) will present a festival of traditional and heritage music entitled “Folk Music Festival”. The Festival will take place on 26 and 27 January 2023 at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts. The Folk Music Festival is becoming an annual event which offers audiences a musical journey around the world with special guest countries invited to attend. The Festival celebrates the traditional folk music of each coun-

try, acknowledging the intrinsic value of preserving and sharing musical heritage, and, promotes artistic collaboration between nations. Audiences can enjoy the amazing spectacle of flamboyant costumes, elaborate dances, singing and accompanying musicians. The Festival is suitable for audiences of all ages. The festival will be held at the Maidan Al Bahri in the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts.

-ONA

ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN

RNO starts naval drill ‘Sea Lion’

MUSCAT: The naval drill ‘Asad Al Bahar’ or ‘Sea Lion’ 1/2023, conducted by the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) began on Monday at Al Batinah and Al Wusta maritime zones. The naval drill, conducted with the support of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) jets, will run till 1 February 2023. The vessels participating in the Sea Lion naval exercise, sailed from Said bin Sultan Naval Base heading towards the exercise location. Many joint naval military activities between the participating ships and crews will be undertaken according to the set plan of the exercise. The execution of this naval drill comes within the framework of the RNO training plans aimed to sustain the level of readiness of its fleet and personnel, in line with the national tasks entrusted to it. - ONA

FUNDING NEEDS

Pact inked to set up small enterprises in sea fishing

MUSCAT: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday to establish small enterprises specialised in sea fishing and provide funding for their projects. The MoU was inked by the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED), Oman Fisheries Development Group and the Ministry of Labour. The MoU also provides for empowering the owners of the enterprises through training, which includes mastering technical skills. The MoU also aims to enable the owners to keep pace with labour market developments, achieve growth and sustainability for their businesses and find investment. ASMED will explore opportunities to localise the supply chain and enhance the local added value of the enterprises’ products. Acting in partnership with the parties supporting this initiative, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources will facilitate the beneficiaries’ access to fishing licenses. It will also oversee training programmes to ensure optimum system integration. The MoU was signed by Halima Rashid Al Zar’ee, Chairperson of ASMED, Salem Musallam Al Bussaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Human Resources Development, and Eng. Nabil Salem Al Bimani, Chief Executive Officer at Oman Fish Development Group.

- ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman-India energy partnership

<FROM A1 He described the trade relations between the two countries as “ancient” and dating back to hundreds of years. The size of exports stood at 3.14 percent whereas the size of imports stood at 6.84 percent. Sayeed affirmed that there are constant discussions between the two countries to ink free trade agreements. The Indian Secretary stressed that energy partnerships between the two countries have developed to be more inclusive. Within this context, ACME Group, a leading

global sustainable and renewable energy company in India, signed a huge project for green hydrogen in Oman as the energy sector is considered an essential field for bilateral cooperation particularly in the area of green hydrogen and green ammonia. “Soon, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Oman and India,” Sayeed pointed out. These relations are further enhanced through high-level visits or via fields of joint cooperation, he added.

He further said that inviting Oman as a guest in the G20 Summit under the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future” being hosted by India would add a significance in realising economic strategies and promoting cooperation in various spheres between the two countries. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs concluded that the Republic of India and the Sultanate of Oman share many matters of common interest particularly matters related to the GCC-Arab region.

Tender Announcement

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) 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)
DISC/2023/011	UNE-LOT 01E-2023	07/02/2023	15/02/2023	RO. 52.500 (Inc. 5% VAT)
DISC/2023/015	UNE-LOT 01F-2023	07/02/2023	15/02/2023	RO. 52.500 (Inc. 5% VAT)

- 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@disc.nama.om



Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C
P.O.Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number: +968 23232523 - Fax: 23201183
www.disc.nama.om





Ministry of Social Development

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
23/2023	Supplying hearing aids for people with hearing disabilities in each of the following governorates (Muscat - Al Dhahirah - Al Buraimi)	Companies specialized in the supply of medical supplies and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with the degree of excellent, first, second, third or fourth.	Tuesday 7-2-2023 02:00 PM	Thursday 23-2-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
24/2023	Supply of hearing aids for people with hearing disabilities in each of the following governorates (North Al Batinah - South Al Batinah - Musandam)				
25/2023	Supplying hearing aids for people with hearing disabilities in each of the following governorates (Dhofar - Al Wusta)				
26/2023	Supplying hearing aids for people with hearing disabilities in each of the following governorates (North Al-Sharqiyah - South Al-Sharqiyah - Al-Dakhiliyah)				

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Tuesday 24/1/2023
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

“ The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry”

www.mosd.gov.om



Lebanon restarts probe into Beirut port explosion

Judge Tarek Bitar ordered the release of five detainees, including the former head of the Customs Department, and announced plans to charge others, including two top generals

BEIRUT: The judge investigating the Beirut port explosion resumed work after a nearly 13-month long halt on Monday, according to judicial officials.

Judge Tarek Bitar ordered the release of five detainees, including

the former head of the Customs Department, and announced plans to charge others, including two top generals.

Bitar's work had been blocked since December 2021 after three former Cabinet ministers filed

legal charges against him in the Court of Cassation, Lebanon's highest court. Despite the court's ruling still pending, Bitar continued working on the investigation on Monday, giving legal justifications to do so. Bitar has been criticised harshly by the Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who called the investigation a "big mistake" and stated it was biased.

Nasrallah has asked authorities to remove Bitar from the case priorly.

Bitar is the second judge assigned to the investigation. Prior to him, Fadi Sawwan, the first judge, was removed after complaints of bias by two Cabinet

ministers were expressed.

In 2020, the explosion of hundreds of tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored negligently in the port had destroyed entire districts of Beirut.

More than 200 people died, 6,500 others were injured and around 300,000 were left homeless while swathes of the city were destroyed.

It is considered one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history.

Until now, Lebanese authorities have rejected an international investigation. Some experts claim that the probe into the blast has been hampered for political reasons from the start. — DW

TURKEY

Erdogan announces elections on May 14

ANKARA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday announced that elections will be held on May 14, a month earlier than scheduled, according to a video shared by his office on Sunday.

Erdogan, who plans to seek re-election, made the announcement during a Saturday youth conference in northwestern Bursa province. A video of the event was released on Sunday. "I thank God that we are destined to share our path with you, our valued youth, who will vote for the first time in the elections that will be held on May 14," said Erdogan.

"This is not an early election but bringing it forward," Erdogan said in a video from his meeting with young people in Bursa, shared by the presidency.

Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections were scheduled to be held on June 18 but President Erdogan previously signalled that the vote could be brought forward, reported Khaleej Times.

An official of his AK Party has previously said that an election in June would coincide with the summer holiday season when



people travel.

This year's elections were supposed to take place in June. Still, ruling party members said that month would coincide with summer and religious holidays, prompting an earlier date, reported The Washington Post.

If no candidate secures more than 50 per cent of the vote, a second round of voting would be held on May 28, reported The Washington Post.

Erdogan has been in office since

2003 -- first as prime minister and as president since 2014.

This will be the most challenging election for the Turkish strongman who has been in power for two decades shaping the predominantly Muslim but officially secular country's politics.

Opinion polls show the parliamentary and presidential elections will be tight and will mark Erdogan's biggest test in his two decades at the reins of the regional military power, NATO member

and major emerging market economy, reported Khaleej Times.

The May 14 election date was also supported by the opposition alliance still arguing over the choice of a united candidate against the 68-year-old leader.

A six-party opposition alliance has yet to put forth a presidential candidate. A pro-Kurdish party that is the third-largest in parliament has so far been excluded from the alliance and said it might field its own candidate, reported The Washington Post.

Erdogan, 68, introduced a system of governance in 2018 that abolished the office of the prime minister and concentrated most powers in the hands of the president. The office of the president was primarily a ceremonial post before then. Under the new system, presidential and parliamentary elections are held on the same day.

The opposition has blamed Turkey's economic downturn and an erosion of civil rights and freedoms on Erdogan, saying the revised government system amounts to "one-man rule." — ANI

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JOINT STATEMENT

Brazil and Argentina to discuss common currency, boost trade



BUENOS AIRES: Brazil and Argentina wish to forge closer ties, including by developing a common currency, a joint statement released by the nations' presidents said.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentine leader Alberto Fernandez are set to discuss the matter on Tuesday at a regional summit of Latin American leaders in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States summit comes as calls for regional integration grow among leaders in South America.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States summit comes as calls for regional integration grow among leaders in South America.

Why are the leaders discussing a common currency?

The joint statement by Lula and Fernandez was published in Argentine's Perfil newspaper.

"We intend to overcome the barriers to our exchanges, simplify and modernise the rules and encourage the use of local currencies," it read.

"We also decided to advance discussions on a common South American currency that can be used for both financial and commercial flows, reducing costs operations and our external vulnerability," the text added.

The Financial Times reported that Brazil suggests calling the new currency "sur" (south) and that it would run in parallel with the Brazilian real and Argentine peso at first.

The British newspaper reported that the initial focus would be on how a new currency could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the US dollar.

The idea of a common cur-

rency for the South American nations is not a new one.

Significant differences

Experts have noted that there are significant differences and several possibilities as to what a common economic agenda could look like

Fernando Haddad and Gabriel Galipolo, Brazil's finance minister and his executive secretary, raised the idea of a single currency in an article last year.

Lula floated the idea during his campaign for presidency too.

The discussion on the matter also means that Lula will make his first official trip to Argentina, keeping with the tradition of visiting Brazil's largest trading partner in the region after taking office.

Lula's trip also marks the return of Brazil to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States summit after former far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro suspended Brazil's participation in the leftist regional body. — DW

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BORDER AREA

A school that teaches students of both India and Myanmar

KOHIMA: Nagaland's Pangsha which literally lies far away from the maddening crowd and has its own unique stories of how it houses students from India and Myanmar's sides of the border under the same roof of a school, Jayant Ahuja writes in Border Lens.

According to the author, the school also engages in different agricultural practices and organises traditional festivals. The village not only lies in the border area with Myanmar which has been prone to insurgency and armed conflicts in the recent past. Besides Pangsha, Dan village is a tiny hamlet that separates India and Myanmar up the hills of eastern Nagaland's Noklak district and can cater to people's needs- mostly the Khiumniangan Naga tribes from both sides of the border.

The Assam Rifles outpost which is prominently located in the village stands testimony to many encounters and insurgen-



cy-related incidents. Interestingly, the Burmese side of the border is known to have safe havens for different North East militant groups, reported Border Lens.

Dan village also witnessed an uprising from the locals when the Myanmar government made an abortive bid in 2016 to fence about three kilometres of the imaginary border that passes through these villages.

However, these challenges have not dampened the spirits of the local Naga tribes who inhabit the

village. Their determination is reflected in their hard work and steadfast approach towards life, especially when it comes to educating their children and giving them a better-educated life.

For many of the young girls and boys' life has completely changed after entering the Mission Straightway School which is situated along the international border at the International Trade Centre (ITC).

Other than running the school in Pangsha, Aotemtshi Longkumer, driven by his humble beginnings, founded 'The Mission Straightway School' in the Dan village in 2010.

Aotemtshi's inspiration is his mother who single-handedly fought against all odds to raise her five children. This was the trigger to dedicate his life to education, as he became the first Naga to hold a PhD in mathematics and later became a professor at Fazl Ali College in Mokokchung, as per reported by Border Lens. — ANI

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‘Netaji will be remembered for his fierce resistance to colonial rule’

The Indian government had declared January 23 as Parakram Diwas in 2021 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

NEW DELHI: Recalling Netaji’s “unparalleled contribution to India’s history,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid homage to Subhas Chandra Bose on his 126th birth anniversary on Monday.

“Today, on Parakram Diwas, I pay homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose & recall his unparalleled contribution to India’s history. He will be remembered for

his fierce resistance to colonial rule. We are working to realise his vision for India,” PM Modi wrote in his tweet. The Government had declared January 23 as Parakram Diwas in 2021 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Modi is also scheduled to virtually participate in an event to name the 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands af-

ter 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees on the Parakram Diwas. According to an official release from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), PM Modi will also unveil the model of the National Memorial dedicated to Netaji to be built on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep.

Keeping in mind the historical significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and to honor the memory of Netaji, Ross Islands was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep by the prime minister during his visit to the Island in 2018. Neil Island and Havelock Island were also renamed as Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep. “Giving due respect to the real-life heroes of the country has always been accorded the highest priority by the Prime Minister. Going ahead with this spirit, it has now been decided to name the 21 largest unnamed islands of

the island group after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees,” the statement from the PMO read.

The largest unnamed island will be named after the first Param Vir Chakra awardee, the second largest unnamed island will be named after the second Param Vir Chakra awardee, and so on.

This step will be an everlasting tribute to our heroes, several of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.

Born on January 23, 1897, Netaji played a crucial role in India’s freedom movement. Subhash Chandra Bose established the Azad Hind Fauj. While there is a controversy over Bose’s death in a plane crash in Taipei on August 18, 1945, the Central government had in an RTI (Right to Information) in 2017 confirmed that he had died in the incident. — ANI



ELECTRONIC SPY AGENCY

Canada’s top cybersecurity chief warns about data-harvesting apps

OTTAWA: Canada’s top cybersecurity chief has warned Canadians to exercise caution when using apps that could leave their data in the “wrong hands.”

The warning comes amid Chinese-owned social media app TikTok facing data-harvesting claims from across the world.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had stated last month that Canadian electronic spy agency is keeping an eye out for security threats from Tik Tok. In neighbouring US, Republican Senators has moved to ban TikTok earlier this month. Tik To, which has reportedly over a billion users worldwide is widely popular in both US and Canada.

“You have to ask yourself the question, do they need to access that information? Why does an application need to access all of my contact list? Why does it need to access my calendar, my email, my phone records, my [texts]?” Sami Khoury, head of the Communications Security Establish-



ment (CSE) Canadian Centre for Cyber Security told CBC News.

Khoury said that Canadians should be aware of what they’re agreeing to when they download an application. They should ask whether it enables access to their personal data, he added.

“You layer on top of that the risk of connecting my 200 [contacts] with your 200 and then you have an aggregate ... of information. In some cases, it lands in places that don’t live by the same principles of rule of law [and] respect for human rights,” he was quoted as say-

ing by CBC News.

Trudeau had last month said the Communications Security Establishment, Canada’s foreign signals intelligence agency, was watching out for security threats from TikTok.

“I think people are concerned about TikTok. I think people are obviously watching very carefully,” he said. “The ... CSE is one of the best cybersecurity agencies in the world and they’re watching very carefully.”

TikTok, whose parent company ByteDance is based in China, has been accused of aggressive data harvesting from around the world. In neighbouring United States, federal employees were banned from using the app on government-issued devices over national security concerns.

Prior to that, the Chinese app was banned from electronic devices managed by the US House of Representatives, according to an internal notice sent to House staff. — ANI

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AFTER A BOMB THREAT

Fighter jets escort Ryanair flight from Poland to Greece

ATHENS: A Ryanair plane travelling from Poland to Athens landed safely on Sunday in the Greek capital Athens, after the pilot reported a bomb threat during the flight, reported euronews.

Fighter jets scrambled to escort a Ryanair flight from Poland to Greece after a bomb threat was reported. Two Greek F-16s escorted a Ryanair plane from Katowice in Poland as a precaution after a bomb threat was reported on the flight, according to the Greek Defence Ministry.

Hungarian warplanes had earlier escorted the plane, the source added. The aircraft, with more than 190 people on board, landed safely at 5:40 pm local time in Athens International Airport, reported euronews.

Firefighters and police surrounded the aircraft soon after it landed at a remote part of the airport, and it was inspected by the bomb squad, the Greek news

agency ANA said.

Passengers were taken off the plane and were searched, along with their luggage and the aircraft itself, reported euronews.

“All people are well and safe,” Elena Dimopoulou, the airport spokesperson, said.

The pilot of the Boeing 737 aircraft had earlier alerted authorities over a possible explosive device on board, reported DW News.

“Crew onboard flight FR6385 travelling from Katowice to Athens were notified of a potential security threat onboard and in line with safety procedures, continued to Athens where it landed safely before being met by the Greek authorities,” Ryanair said in a statement. The origin of the bomb threat has not yet been specified. The warning is said to have been made soon after the plane departed from Poland, reported euronews. —nw

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health - Directorate General of Khoula Hospital invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders:

Tender Ref	Description	Last date for Collection of Tender Document	Bid Submission Closing is Tuesday at 02:30	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
306/2023/MOH/DGKH-1	Supply Consumable Items for Lab at Khoula Hospital	29-January-2023	31- January -2023	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25 Per set

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (30) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Purchase and Tenders one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

Any Clarification, you may contact via

Telephone: 24166670

Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

SPORTS



PCB

Haroon Rashid appointed Pakistan men’s cricket team chief selector

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced that former international player Haroon Rashid has been appointed as the chairman of the men’s national selection committee.

Haroon Rashid played 23 Tests and 12 ODIs between 1977 to 1983

for the national side. The rest of the panel is to be announced in due course. He takes over from former all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who served as the interim chief selector recently after Mohammad Wasim was removed from the position prior to that.

Haroon has previously been

PCB’s director of cricket operations and the team manager and also served as the chief selector in 2015 and 2016 for the men’s team.

“I want to congratulate Haroon Rashid and hope he will use his cricket knowledge, understanding and background while picking squads for the upcoming interna-

tional assignments,” PCB Chairman Najam Sethi said as quoted by ICC.

Haroon said that he was “honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility” in a year that would see the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup in India among other major series. -ANI

SAUDI PRO LEAGUE



Ronaldo debuts in Al Nassr’s victory over Al-Ettifaq

RIYADH : Cristiano Ronaldo made his much-awaited Al Nassr debut, but failed to score as his new team defeated Al-Ettifaq 1-0 in the Saudi Pro League on Sunday.

In his debut game in Riyadh, Ronaldo played the entire 90 minutes and kept the crowd engaged. Brazilian forward Anderson Talisca gave Al-Nassr the lead shortly after the halfway point.

Abdulmajeed Al Sulaiheem sent in a cross that Ronaldo rushed into the box to try to meet, but it sailed over his head and was met by Talisca, who was able to

score. A few minutes later, Ronaldo lined up a free kick outside the area and had a great chance, but his shot went high and wide.

The second half saw the 37-year-old race the ball down to the byline and fire in a threatening cross, but the resulting shot missed the mark.

Earlier on Thursday, Ronaldo scored twice for a Riyadh All Stars team in a 4-5 defeat to Lionel Messi’s Paris Saint-Germain in an exhibition match.

With 14 games under their belt, Al Nassr has surpassed the reigning champion Al Hilal by one point. -ANI

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Times News Service

MUSCAT: Qurum Thunders beat Ghubrah Giants, Ruwi Rangers beat Azaiba XI and Amerat Royals beat Bousher Busters in the Oman D20 underway at the Oman Cricket Academy Grounds.

Batting first, Ghubrah Giants put up a total of 155 runs losing 3 wickets courtesy of their openers Prabhakaran Kannan (43 of 23;5x4,3x6) and Saishiv Narayan (32 of 28;4x4,1x6) and Kalaiarasan (29 of 14;4x6) . Sandeep Goud and Samay Shrivastav were the pick of the bowlers for Qurum Thunders picking a wicket each economically.

In response, Kashyap Prajapati’s (73 of 57; 5x4,3x6) whirlwind innings along with Sandeep Goud’s (46 of 23; 3x4,3x6) took Qurum Thunders over the line to book a berth for the 2nd place in the Oman D20.

Ruwi Rangers beat Azaiba XI by 5 wickets

Batting first, Azaiba XI could not get off to a start they wanted and succumbed to the bowling of Ruwi Rangers with Wasim Ali (3/12) being the chief architect and restricting Azaiba XI to a mere 116 in 20 overs.

Ruwi Rangers in response chased the total with Mujibur Ali (61 of 56;3x4,4x6) taking them to the coast.

Amerat Royals beat Bousher Busters by 6 wickets

Batting first, Bousher Busters started well looking to post a big total. Busters’ Hammad Mirza (58 of 39;3x4,3x6) and Shubo Pal (40 of 39) helped them to get to



Mujibur Ali - Ruwi Rangers



Kashyap Prajapati - Qurum Thunders

154 in 20 overs.

Faisal Shah(2/23) and Vinay Khandelwal(2/29) were the pick of the bowlers for the royals.

In response, Amerat Royals chased down the target in the last over courtesy of Vinayak Shukla (63 of 44;5x4,4x6) and Karan Sonavale’s (40 of 31) innings. Amerat Royals book their 3rd position in the points table.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2023 reaching \$84.37, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$12 cents from the price of Friday, which was at \$84.25. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,778.95 points, up by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.36 per cent at 485.60 points. Phoenix Power, up 6.38 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf Mushroom Products, down 9.50 per cent, was the top loser.

OQ's Bisat oil field at concession area No. 60 to be inaugurated on Thursday

The field, which is located in concession area No. 60 at Abu Tubul, utilises cutting-edge technologies and digital solutions to enhance the long-term sustainability of the resources and operations and maximise the revenues and the return on investment



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Taimur bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) will patronise OQ's Bisat oil field inauguration on January 26.

Bisat oil field is one of the most important projects of OQ's upstream sector. The field, which is located in concession area No. 60 at Abu Tubul, utilises cutting-edge technologies and digital solutions to enhance the long-term sustainability of the resources and operations and maximise the revenues and the return on investment.

The in-country value for the Bisat oil field project reached OMR157 million. In addition, the total amount spent on local SMEs and contractors stood at OMR34 million of the overall cost of the project. Products manufactured in Oman accounted for OMR60 million of the total procurement of the project. The project has also created direct and indirect opportunities for Omani youth, resulting in a high overall Omanisation rate of 85 per cent of the group's employees working in concession area No. 60. -**ONA**



SEZAD

Renaissance Services invests to generate sustainably sourced drinking water at Sezad

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its commitment to best-in-class technologies and reducing its environmental impact, Renaissance Services will partner with SOURCE Global, PBC to generate sustainably sourced drinking water for Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD) in Oman's Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), with plans to expand to additional sites.

Renaissance is Oman's leading accommodation, services solutions, and integrated facility management company, with a growing presence in UAE and Qatar.

Adjacent to RSVD, the company will install SOURCE Hydropanels, a patented technology that uses only the sun to harvest water from an entirely new and endlessly replenished resource - pure water vapour in the air - creating the first 'water farm' in Oman.

The project will create a sustainable source of clean, safe, and high-quality drinking water made locally in Oman and served in reusable glass bottles for the workforce



staying in the world-class, 18,800+ bed RSVD, which is Oman's largest International Labour Organisation-compliant accommodation facility.

"Water is life. We are delighted to partner with Source Global to implement this important green initiative here in Oman, and in particular, at Duqm. This is a future-focused, smart, sustainable solution that is aligned with the vision of Sezad and Opaz (Public

Authority for Special Economic zones and Free zones) as a smart, green city," said Stephen R Thomas, CEO, Renaissance. "Adopting SOURCE Hydropanels allows us to further push our sustainability agenda. We are contributing to reducing single-use plastic, preserving groundwater, and reducing CO2 emissions by using a sustainable and renewable approach to drinking water."

"Our Hydropanel technology is

100% off-grid and offers industry leaders like Renaissance Services the opportunity to hydrate their workforce in a renewable, premium and sustainable way. We can produce high-quality drinking water even in dry and remote places and virtually anywhere on earth," said Robert Bartrop, CRO, SOURCE Global, PBC. "We're proud to work with Renaissance Services in support of their commitment to a greener future."

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



CBO holds workshop on security features of Omani Banknotes

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) conducted a workshop titled 'The Security Features of the 6th Series of Omani Banknotes'. During the workshop, presentations were given on the history of Omani banknotes and the design and security features of the 6th series.

The workshop also included a demonstration of sorting machines and their mode of operation, as well as means of counterfeit detection.

The workshop was tailored for employees of the banking sector and several public and private institutions. -**ONA**

FACT WITH HONEYWELL



Khedmah to provide energy-saving solutions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Furthering its position as a leading company working with the water and energy sector, Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC) Khedmah signed an agreement with Honeywell.

This agreement supports Khedmah's continuous effort to offer innovative solutions to its customers, individuals and corporates, to reduce their carbon footprint, and contribute towards a more sustainable future. The agreement was signed recently at the Sheraton Oman Hotel, with the presence of Said bin Ahmed Safrar, OIFC's Chief Executive Officer and Umar Khan, General Manager for Energy, Sustainability and Smart Cities of Honeywell Building Technologies,

Middle East, Turkey and Africa, paired with senior management teams from both parties.

Commenting on the agreement, Safrar commented, "This fruitful collaboration aligns with the royal directives to stay current with global advancements in clean energy and sustainable practices, and supports the company's endeavours towards digitalisation and the incorporation of environmentally conscious measures. Khedmah consistently endeavours to establish mutually advantageous alliances with industry leaders to offer exceptional service across all its locations. Our collaboration with Honeywell exemplifies the company's commitment and efforts to promote sustainability within the lives and future plans of our clients."

ADVOCATES SUSTAINABILITY

PDO set to co-host Oman Sustainability Week

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Committed to spearheading a stable and inclusive energy transition, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has demonstrated its environmental stewardship by pioneering innumerable sustainability initiatives.

The latest in its line of endeavours is its participation as the co-host of the upcoming Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) to be held from March 12 to 16 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The national-level event is hosted under the patronage of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, and PDO will be co-hosting the event for the second year in a row.

Commenting on PDO's participation at the event, External Affairs and Value Creation Director at PDO Eng. Abdul-Amir Al Ajmi said, "With sustainability being the bedrock of transformation globally, PDO has kept pace with Oman Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, remaining steadfast in its commitment to deliver meaningful Social Investment (SI) programmes aimed at creating sustainable benefits for the Omani society. At PDO, we acknowledge the critical role we play in meeting the energy needs of the nation that is fundamental to leading quality lives, but at the same time, we also stay mindful of our responsibilities towards the environment.



While our focus on adhering to international best practices has remained undeterred, we have also set new benchmarks of excellence regarding implementing sustainable means of operations. By continuously incorporating innovative technologies in processes, forming meaningful partnerships, and actively supporting key sustainability programmes, PDO seeks to contribute to the Sultanate's vision of transitioning to a green, circular economy."

He added saying, "OSW poses as an excellent networking platform to drive collaboration, cooperation and knowledge exchange between industry leaders, sustainability experts, and stakeholders from various organisations. PDO seeks to support such impactful interactions which it believes is critical to further en-



hancing Oman's potential to become a leading green energy hub."

Apart from being a meeting ground for key players in the sector, OSW will also showcase the latest technologies and innovations in the segment. Providing both business enhancement opportunities as well as the chance to increase awareness in the realm of sustainability, OSW includes leadership conferences, an extensive exhibition, awards, technical workshops, and site visits.

Through its participation at the event, PDO also endeavours to instil the 'Think Green' mindset amongst individuals and organisations while promoting awareness about the importance of adopting sustainable practices and the resultant positive impact on the environment. As a socially respon-

sible institution that upholds the highest level of ethicality, PDO will continue to lead by example and encourage everyone to team up and commit to inculcating sustainability, both in their professional and personal lives.

With an excellent track record, PDO has been at the forefront of developing innovative renewable solutions to create new growth opportunities not only for itself but for the benefit of the nation as well. This strategic direction places increased emphasis on leveraging new technologies, boosting collaboration with relevant institutions, and improving overall energy efficiency and water management processes while also reaffirming its pledge to lower emissions and reduce carbon footprint by opting for renewable energy sources.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Phoenix Power, up 6.38 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf Mushroom Products, down 9.50 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,778.95 points, up by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.36 per cent at 485.60 points. Phoenix Power, up 6.38 per cent, was the top gainer while Gulf Mushroom Products, down 9.50 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 294 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR0.78 million, with more than 4.34 million shares changing hands. Out of 36 traded securities, 5 advanced, 12 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR90,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR83,000 followed by domestic investors for OMR7,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,718.75 points, down 0.03 per cent. Prices of National Bank Oman, Ahli Bank, Ahlia Insurance, Al Anwar Investment, and

Al Batinah Development Company were up by 1.75 per cent, 0.00 per cent, 0.00 per cent, 0.00 per cent and 0.00 per cent respectively. Prices of United Finance, Muscat Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Ominvest, and Oman Qatar Insurance were down by 2.22 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.09 per cent, 0.95 per cent and 0.62 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,958.38 points, up 0.2 per cent. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products and Oman Cement were up by 2.22 per cent and 0.66 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Gulf International Chemicals, National Aluminium and Oman Fisheries were down by 9.50 per cent, 6.98 per cent, 1.52 per cent and 1.05 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.59 per cent before closing at 1,644.96 points. Prices of Phoenix Power and National Gas were up by 6.38 per cent and 1.00 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Oil Marketing and SMN Power Holding were down by 4.08 per cent and 1.96 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDECIES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value.....	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,781.88	4,764.66	4,778.95	4,770.47	8.47	0.18	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,726.28	7,698.98	7,718.75	7,721.29	-2.54	-0.03	
Industry Index	5,958.38	5,945.92	5,958.38	5,946.62	11.76	0.20	
Services Index	1,644.96	1,635.29	1,644.96	1,635.29	9.67	0.59	
MSX Shariah Index	487.36	485.54	485.60	487.36	-1.76	-0.36	
MSX TR INDEX	6,037.93	6,016.19	6,034.23	6,023.53	10.70	0.18	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,084.69	8,056.12	8,076.81	8,079.46	-2.65	-0.03	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,745.08	1,734.82	1,745.08	1,734.82	10.26	0.59	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,203.41	6,190.43	6,203.41	6,191.17	12.24	0.20	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
4,345,303	777,824	294	23,637,381,126	5	12	19	36

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 23

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST HD	LAST OFFER	PIN VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	43,000	9,890	3	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.225	0.005	2.222	0.230	0.000	0.233	0.100	28,726,531
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	56,270	16,223	15	0.285	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.285	0.005	1.754	0.290	0.312	0.290	0.100	471,524,443
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	27,000	8,258	3	0.304	0.306	0.304	0.306	0.304	0.002	0.658	0.306	0.304	0.306	0.100	101,247,049
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	12,500	1,625	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.129	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	7,500	2,550	3	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.340	0.348	0.100	74,800,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,519,315	424,686	50	0.279	0.280	0.279	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.308	0.280	0.100	2,101,791,177
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	72,316	68,556	16	0.948	0.948	0.948	0.948	0.948	0.000	0.000	0.948	0.948	0.948	0.100	711,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	5,984	2,680	13	0.448	0.448	0.446	0.448	0.448	0.000	0.000	0.446	0.492	0.446	0.100	105,911,680
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	992,610	101,246	19	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	468,186,354
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	22,252	9,791	12	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.000	0.000	0.440	0.484	0.440	0.100	286,415,461
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	200	88	1	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.000	0.000	0.440	0.430	0.440	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	25,000	10,411	8	0.416	0.420	0.416	0.416	0.420	-0.004	-0.963	0.416	0.416	0.420	0.100	278,040,017
Total	12	2,783,947	656,003	146												
Parallel Market																
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	316,491	15,298	15	-0.047	-0.050	-0.047	-0.050	-0.047	-0.003	-6.383	-0.050	-0.048	-0.049	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	20,000	2,020	4	-0.101	-0.101	-0.101	-0.101	-0.100	-0.001	-1.000	-0.101	-0.100	-0.110	0.100	8,585,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	340	418	2	1.230	1.230	1.230	1.230	1.230	0.000	0.000	1.230	1.230	1.230	0.100	61,500,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	13,187	2,084	1	-0.158	-0.158	-0.158	-0.158	-0.158	0.000	0.000	-0.158	-0.158	-0.000	0.100	316,049,421
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	430	80	1	-0.185	-0.185	-0.185	-0.185	-0.185	0.000	0.000	-0.185	-0.167	-0.185	0.100	6,000,634
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV.	99,858	4,194	8	-0.042	-0.042	-0.042	-0.042	-0.042	0.000	0.000	-0.042	-0.042	-0.046	0.100	1,260,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	30,232	2,812	3	-0.063	-0.063	-0.063	-0.063	-0.063	0.000	0.000	-0.063	-0.091	-0.097	0.100	7,570,456
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	162,700	12,325	18	-0.075	-0.076	-0.075	-0.075	-0.075	0.000	0.000	-0.075	-0.075	-0.080	0.100	71,592,896
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	5,640	169	2	-0.030	-0.030	-0.030	-0.030	-0.030	0.000	0.000	-0.030	-0.029	-0.030	0.100	20,246,623
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	44,000	1,295	6	-0.030	-0.030	-0.029	-0.030	-0.030	0.000	0.000	-0.030	-0.027	-0.030	0.100	21,432,190
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	12,500	1,725	2	-0.138	-0.138	-0.138	-0.138	-0.138	0.000	0.000	-0.138	-0.136	-0.138	0.100	10,422,036
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	100	16	1	-0.160	-0.160	-0.160	-0.160	-0.161	-0.001	-0.621	-0.160	-0.160	-0.169	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	15,101	1,420	4	-0.094	-0.095	-0.094	-0.094	-0.095	-0.001	-1.053	-0.095	-0.095	-0.095	0.100	17,115,370
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	108,920	9,931	13	-0.092	-0.092	-0.091	-0.091	-0.092	-0.001	-1.087	-0.091	-0.091	-0.092	0.100	15,925,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	37,000	2,405	6	-0.065	-0.065	-0.065	-0.066	-0.066	-0.001	-1.515	-0.065	-0.065	-0.065	0.100	2,182,144
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	36,200	2,261	3	-0.062	-0.063	-0.062	-0.063	-0.064	-0.001	-1.563	-0.063	-0.062	-0.063	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	11,335	713	2	-0.062	-0.063	-0.062	-0.063	-0.064	-0.001	-1.563	-0.063	-0.062	-0.063	0.100	21,996,098
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	593,000	29,858	32	-0.050	-0.051	-0.050	-0.050	-0.051	-0.001	-1.961	-0.050	-0.050	-0.051	0.100	9,981,780
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,553	1,460	3	-0.940	-0.940	-0.940	-0.980	-0.940	-0.040	-4.082	-0.940	-0.940	-0.940	0.100	57,598,500
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEMI	1,020	82	1	-0.080	-0.080	-0.080	-0.080	-0.086	-0.006	-6.977	-0.080	-0.080	-0.000	0.100	1,680,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	16,119	3,468	8	-0.221	-0.221	-0.199	-0.200	-0.221	-0.021	-9.502	-0.200	-0.201	-0.221	0.100	8,321,054
Total	21	1,525,726	94,031	135												

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Euro scales nine-month high against dollar

SYDNEY: The euro scaled a nine-month high on the dollar on Monday as more hawkish comments on European interest rates contrasted with market pricing for a less aggressive Federal Reserve.

The euro reached as far as \$1.0903, breaking the recent peak of \$1.08875 and opening the way to a spike top from last April at \$1.0936.

It was aided by European Central Bank (ECB) governing council member Klaas Knot, who said interest rates would rise by 50 basis points in both February and March and continue climbing in the months after.

A knot is considered a hawk among policymakers and the comment was taken as pushback against recent reports that the ECB would scale back to quarter-point moves from March.

A Reuters survey of analysts also favoured a hike of 50 basis points in March and an eventual top of 3.25 per cent.

In contrast, futures have priced out almost any chance the Fed



could move by 50 basis points next month and have steadily lowered the likely peak for rates to 4.75 per cent to 5.0 per cent, from the current 4.25 per cent to 4.50 per cent.

Investors also have around 50 basis points of US rate cuts priced in for the second half of the year, reflecting softer data on inflation, consumer spending and housing.

Flash surveys on January manufacturing due this week are forecast to show more improvement in Europe, in part thanks to falling energy costs, than in the United States.

“The US has lost its global growth leadership position if most recent PMI surveys are to be believed,” said Ray Atrill, head of FX strategy at NAB. “Meanwhile, gas prices have fallen by 60% since early December, sharply reducing the negative terms of trade shock weighing on the Eurozone/EUR.”

“Additionally, US inflation is seen falling further and faster than the Fed’s own projections,” he added. “Under this scenario, the USD has scope to fall much further this year.”

Atrill now sees the euro reach-

ing \$1.1000 by March and \$1.1700 by year-end.

Much the same argument goes for sterling, with markets wagering the Bank of England will hike by half a point to 4.0 per cent at its policy meeting next week.

The pound was up at \$1.2420 and within striking distance of last week’s top of \$1.2435.

The dollar was thus a shade weaker against a basket of currencies at 101.740 and just a whisker from its recent eight-month trough of 101.510.

The dollar has at least managed to steady on the yen after the Bank of Japan (BOJ) defied market pressure to reverse its ultra-easy bond control policy.

Analysts assume the BOJ will stand the line until at least the next policy meeting in March, though one hurdle will be the expected naming of a new BOJ governor in February.

Any hint the replacement is less dovish than current governor Haruhiko Kuroda could see the yen climb anew. —BNA

BUSINESS TRIP

Chinese enterprises embrace new opportunities after overseas trade

HEFEI: After a 10-day business trip to the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, Tang Wensheng, general manager of the Wuhu branch of the Muchen International Electronic Commerce Co., Ltd., is busy organising factories to produce products to fulfil new orders.

“We sell smart home appliances, including floor-sweeping robots and vacuum cleaners, to many countries. During this trip, we visited new and old clients and obtained orders worth 60 million US dollars,” said Tang.

Tang is among the business delegation in east China’s Anhui Province that took a chartered plane to the ROK and Japan to expand business opportunities and seek new cooperation in late December 2022.

The trip turned out to be fruitful. The total value of the orders reached 2.24 billion yuan (about \$330.86 million), and 22 foreign investment projects were concluded in new energy vehicles, overseas warehouses, and cultural exchanges.

“With face-to-face meetings and deep negotiation, we got business orders more quickly and can also master the new trend of the overseas market better,” said Tang.

Since China announced a new set of measures to optimise its COVID-19 response, commerce departments in Anhui have sent over 210 people from more than 110 en-



terprises to attend trade activities in over 20 countries and regions.

By going global, these enterprises have embraced new clients, new orders, and new chances with clearer plans and objectives for the New Year.

In the production workshop of Maanshan Jinzi Textile Ornament Co., Ltd., employees work around the clock to produce tablecloths, which will be sent to Japan by sea.

“During the business trip to Japan, we reached a tentative deal worth over \$4 million with a Japanese enterprise, almost twice our trade volume in 2022,” said Tao Jiamu, a company staff member.

The orders from Japan accounted for about 70 per cent of the company’s export volume. Influenced by the pandemic, the company could only communicate through emails and phone with their Japanese clients over the previous years.

“It was the first time we went to Japan to meet our clients after the pandemic. It deepened cooperation between the two sides and allowed us to have a clear production target in 2023,” said Tao, adding that they plan to purchase new equipment and employ more workers in advance to meet the orders.

According to Tao, Japanese clients will visit their company this year to enhance cooperation.

“We also plan to attend more international exhibitions in the new year to tap the European and American markets,” said Tao.

Anhui will organise multiple trade activities, including online and offline exhibitions, and hold over 100 overseas special investment activities to promote key foreign-funded projects in 2023, said the provincial department of commerce. —Xinhua

FINANCE SECTOR

Saudi Central Bank grants licences to 2 firms dedicated to debt-based crowdfunding

RIYADH: The Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) has announced the licensing of two finance companies specialising in debt-based crowdfunding; Forusand and Tameed.

The licenses were granted to the companies after successful testing of their solutions in SAMA’s Regulatory Sandbox; an experimental environment dedicated to innovative financial products and services in Saudi Arabia.

This initiative comes as part of the vital role Saudi Central Bank plays in strengthening the finance sector, encouraging and enticing innovators and investors who can bring added value to the sector while maintaining full adherence to the supervisory guidelines defined by SAMA.

The licensing of these two FinTech companies is a step that contributes towards achieving the aim of the FinTech Strategy to position the Kingdom among the leading countries in FinTech.

The Central Bank reiterates its commitment to supporting the finance sector, increasing the efficacy and flexibility of financial transactions, and enabling innovation in financial services to promote financial inclusion in the Kingdom and provide easy and secure access to financial services to all segments of society. —SPA

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FLOWER PATTERNS BOOST BUMBLEBEE EFFICIENCY



”

Bumblebees very often run to the edge of the petals for take-off.
— Johannes Spaethe

Many flowers, whether mal-low, foxglove, or forget-me-not, feature vibrant patterns that are known in biology as nectar cues. They are thought to direct pollinating insects to the nectary as quickly as possible. This guiding activity could boost the insects’ capacity to find food, which would also help the plant’s pollen distribution.

A team from the Bio-center of Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU) in Bavaria, Germany, has now deciphered the individual steps through which flower patterns increase the efficiency of terrestrial bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*) for the first time. They demonstrate that nectar guides reduce the time needed for the bee’s entire interaction with a flower by up to 30 percent - from approach to finding the nectar to departure.

WHAT THE FLOWER PATTERNS DO

Surprisingly, flower patterns do not shorten the actual nectar search: After landing on a patterned

flower, the bumblebees did not find the nectar any faster than on a flower without a pattern. However, the flower patterns shortened the approach flight time and ensured a strategically favourable landing position. Thus, they act like markings on a runway and help the bumblebees to coordinate their approach, reports the team led by Anna Stockl and Johannes Spaethe in the journal *Functional Ecology*.

Flower patterns also shorten the time until take-off: the insects stayed significantly shorter on patterned flowers after collecting nectar. “Bumblebees very often run to the edge of the petals for take-off,” explains Johannes Spaethe. They may find this take-off site more quickly if they can orient themselves to a pattern.

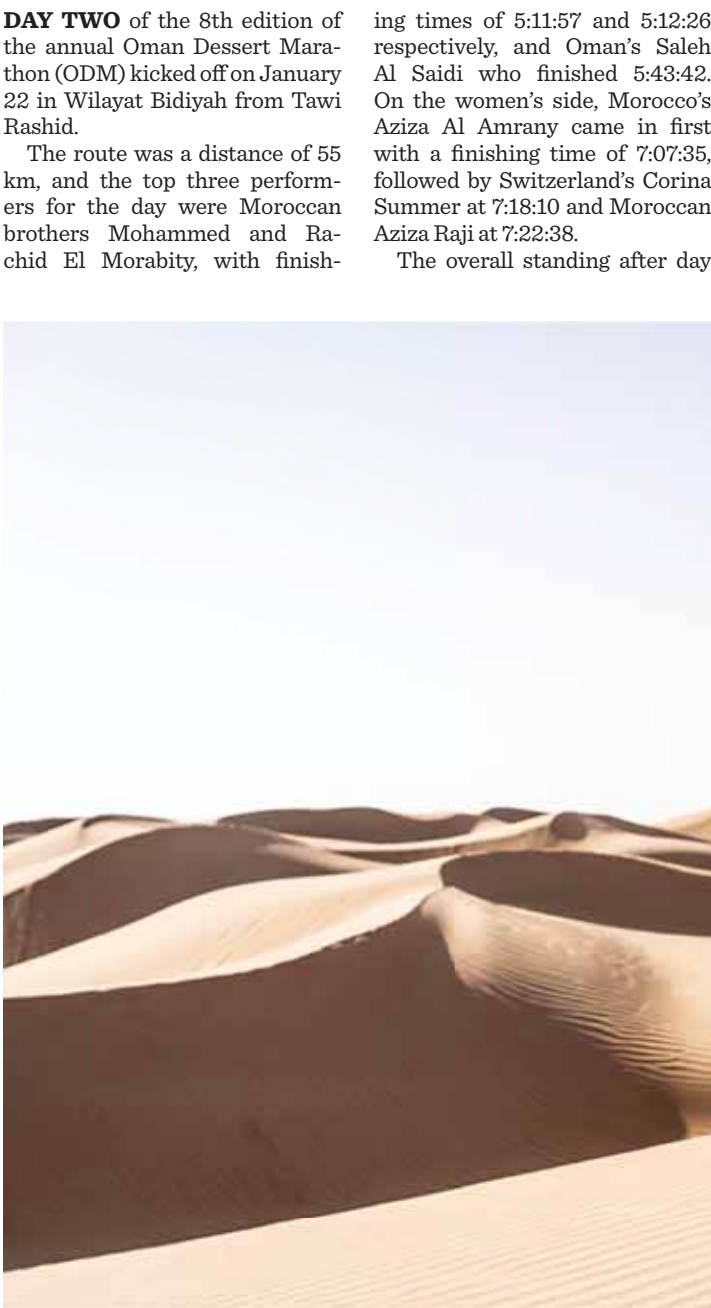
This study was conducted using video tracking. The bumblebees visits to artificial flowers were analysed in the laboratory. The artificial flowers presented different pattern types or none at all; all of them had nectar on them.

-ANI

SPORTS



70-YEAR-OLD SURGEON STEALS THE MARATHON SHOW



DAY TWO of the 8th edition of the annual Oman Dessert Marathon (ODM) kicked off on January 22 in Wilayat Bidiyah from Tawi Rashid.

The route was a distance of 55 km, and the top three performers for the day were Moroccan brothers Mohammed and Rachid El Morabity, with finish-

ing times of 5:11:57 and 5:12:26 respectively, and Oman's Saleh Al Saidi who finished 5:43:42. On the women's side, Morocco's Aziza Al Amrany came in first with a finishing time of 7:07:35, followed by Switzerland's Corina Sommer and Aziza Raji.

Today's 42 km night run (January 23rd) has already started, with some runners beginning at 12 pm, and others at 4 pm.

two on the men's side is Mohammed El Morabity, followed by Rachid El Morabity, and Saleh Al Saidi, and on the women's side Aziza Al Amrany, followed by Corina Sommer and Aziza Raji.

Today's 42 km night run (January 23rd) has already started, with some runners beginning at 12 pm, and others at 4 pm.

The race started with 42 runners on day one, and it continued on day two with 39 runners, after three had quit (due to injuries and back problems), and its going into day three with 37 runners, after a further two backed out.

Still in the race is 70-year-old surgeon who spent 17 hours making it through yesterday's route.

ROUND-UP

Compact SUV Kia Sonet available with ‘Season of Winning’ benefits

The Sonet is gaining popularity as a perfect companion to navigate busy city roads as well as unwind on drives by the countryside

MUSCAT: Kia enthusiasts can now look forward to owning the Kia Sonet compact SUV and get a chance to be a winner with ‘Season of Winning’ benefits. On offer is a chance to win a brand new Kia Niro Hybrid Electric Vehicle and comprehensive service up to 50,000km, 1 year insurance and cash gift. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details.) The Sonet is gaining popularity as a perfect companion to navigate busy city roads as well as unwind on drives by the countryside. Kia Sonet is equipped with a powerful 1.5L engine that is paired to a CVT transmission. Offering comfortable space to passengers with its 5-seater capacity, this SUV goes the distance giving an impressive average of 17.5 kmpl. The Sonet is equipped with a



well laid-out, intuitive infotainment and cluster interface, the Sonet was built taking into consideration the end user's experience. The Sonet is available with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay feature, Audio Remote Control, Bluetooth, USB charger. Harbouring functional qualities in every inch of its ergonomic space. The Sonet makes a fine impres-

sion with its range of eye-catching features including body colour outside mirror, 2-tone bumper, power outside mirror, body colour door handles, side repeater lamps in outside mirror, 16" alloy wheels, chrome radiator grille, rear fog lamps, LED front fog lamps, roof rack, LED headlamps, LED daytime running lamps and more. Boasting multiple segment-first

features that offer the ultimate driving experience for customers, the Sonet provides comfort, convenience, and safety. Fitted with 8" Audio Display, the Sonet also comes with other smart features such as remote engine start, auto cruise control and more. Adding to increased levels of convenience as features like keyless entry system, smart key with button start, central door lock and more. Kia has ensured that every drive with the Sonet is as hassle free and safe as possible, thanks to a rigorous set of measures created in line with Kia's pillars of safety. Among the Sonet's key safety features are driver and front passenger airbags, ABS (anti-lock braking system), ESC (Electronic Stability Control), Rear parking assist system, Rear

view camera, tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) and ISOFIX child-seat anchoring points. Customers looking to own a Kia can visit any showroom and experience a Kia. The campaign will end on January 26 (Conditions apply). Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.

OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR

Terex partners with International Integrated Equipment in Oman

MUSCAT: Terex rough terrain cranes and Franna pick & carry cranes appointed International Integrated Equipment as the distributor in the Sultanate of Oman. In Oman, the Terex and Franna Brand Cranes can be procured through its official distributor International Integrated Equipment (IIE) situated in Muscat, Sohar and Salalah. The announcement of this new partnership between Terex and IIE was done at a ceremony conducted at IIE Head Office at Mawelah, Muscat. During the co-operation ceremony Ajit S Nair – Head of Sales, Middle East & Asia, Terex Rough Terrain Cranes and Franna Pick & Carry Cranes said “Middle East is an important region for Terex, in terms of current and future potential. We have been a leading Crane brand in the Middle East region for many years and to enhance our capabilities even further and to serve customers better, we have a clear strategy of going with the distribution model. “It is imperative to have the right partner; we invest in them, they invest in us and we grow together. IIE a part of Bahwan International Group is a highly reputed organisation, has the market know how and is focused on Customer Service. We are delighted to have IIE as our partner in Sultanate of Oman.” A senior spokesperson at International Integrated Equipment



said, “We are very delighted to partner with Terex Corporation who offers high quality products, Terex produces versatility of rough terrain cranes and pick and carry cranes allow us to cater in various business sector or applications in Oman i.e oil & gas, construction, shipping & logistics, power plants, military, material handling, maintenance works, mining, etc. He also added that Terex has been strongly investing in research & development (R&D), always looking for new technologies to keep its rough terrain cranes range at the top of the market. Terex's cranes are generally seen in the most important construction sites around the world. Now in Oman, we will engage with various customers through all stages of the product needs and life cycle i.e from initial projects need till after-sales support – One stop solution.”

Terex Corporation is a global manufacturer of aerial work platforms and materials processing machinery. The company designs, builds, and supports products used in construction, maintenance, manufacturing, energy, minerals and materials management applications. The company's products are manufactured in North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia and sold worldwide. The company engages with customers through all stages of the product life cycle, from initial specification and financing to parts and service support. Terex Rough Terrain Cranes, part of the Materials Processing segment at Terex Corporation, is a leading provider of RT cranes recognized for quality, reliability, worldwide service, comprehensive training and attractive financing solutions.

NEWEST ENTRY-LEVEL TABLET

What makes Huawei MatePad SE best 2023 family entertainment tablet in Oman

MUSCAT: Huawei Consumer Business Group announced the release of its newest entry-level tablet. The Huawei MatePad SE 10.4-inch, a versatile tablet designed for household use, and offers a treasure trove of new home entertainment capabilities. The new-generation Huawei MatePad SE 10.4-inch is everything consumers have come to expect from a tablet, giving users the freedom to watch and browse with ease. Notably, the Huawei MatePad SE comes with a wealth of new online learning, e-book reading, and news browsing features, to meet the needs of the whole family. The Huawei MatePad SE 10.4-inch comes equipped with a spacious 10.4-inch 2K Eye Comfort Huawei FullView Display, which has passed the TÜV Rheinland Low Blue Light and Flicker-free certifications for proven eye fatigue relief. The 83% screen-to-body ratio provides for immersive viewing, and the airy-light 440 g body, features a robust middle frame ensuring durable usage. The tablet body has passed a series of stringent extrusion tests, and is more than equipped to handle the occasional mishaps encountered in daily life, such as accidental drops. New smart capabilities make the MatePad SE a Super Device that benefits every member of the family. The Huawei MatePad SE is available in Oman a price of



OMR71.9 from Huawei's online platforms, and Huawei Experience Stores in City Centre Muscat and Mall of Oman. **Vast, eye-soothing view** The tablet's 10.4-inch 2K Huawei FullView Display comes with an 83% screen-to-body ratio, 2K resolution, and 225 pixel density, providing a clear and vivid view at just a glance. 4096-level brightness adjustment changes in real time to account for the ambient lighting conditions and keep the eyes refreshed at every moment. HUAWEI MatePad SE 10.4-inch has passed TÜV Rheinland Low Blue Light and Flicker-free certifications, demonstrating proven eye fatigue relief.

The Huawei MatePad SE 10.4-inch is equipped with a 6 nm Octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 680 chipset, four Cortex A73 2.4 GHz (indicating highest frequency) performance cores, and four Cortex A53 1.9 GHz efficiency cores. The energy efficiency ratio (EER) is further improved, and multiple kernel-oriented optimizations have been applied to ensure a smooth experience. The tablet features low power consumption and continuous output performance, delivering unparalleled entertainment and audio-visual performance. In addition, the Huawei MatePad SE comes with a 4GB RAM as well as 128GB internal storage for smooth processing.

GOOD DESIGN AWARDS

Hyundai wins awards for SEVEN and Trailer Drone concepts

DUBAI: Hyundai Motor Company announced that its SEVEN and Trailer Drone concepts have earned 2022 Good Design Awards in the transportation category while Plug & Drive (PnD) Mobility, PnD L7 and Mobile Eccentric Droid (MobED) have each earned awards in the robotics category. “Hyundai Design strives to forge strong connections between our customers and our mobility solutions,” said SangYup Lee, Executive Vice President and Head of Hyundai Global Design Center. “The awards recognise how we add more value to our customers’ everyday lives within and beyond the automotive space. Our design team and engineers put their passion and heart into these projects to make our dreams closer to reality.” Following the 45 concept in 2019 and the Prophecy concept in



2020, the SEVEN concept opened a new chapter for the IONIQ full-electric lineup brand when it was unveiled in 2021. It is also the perfect example of IONIQ as its space innovations and hygienic features transform the SUV into an innovative living space on wheels,

demonstrating Hyundai's prioritization of customer values over industry norms. The Trailer Drone concept is a hydrogen-powered container transportation system capable of operating fully autonomously with a double e-Bogie configura-

tion, allowing for unprecedented maneuverability through sideways movement in an almost train-like arrangement. Hyundai Motor was also recognised for its excellence in design in the robotics sector by winning three awards in the robotics category.

Emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous driving, erase the boundaries between automobiles and robots. PnD (Plug & Drive) Mobility was developed under the motto, ‘Expanding Human Reach’ to realise the vision of limitless freedom in mobility. The PnD robotic module combines intelligent steering, braking, in-wheel electric drive and suspension hardware that can be scaled up or down, for any purpose, size or application. PnD L7 is also a groundbreaking future robotics-based mobility solution. It sets itself apart from other ground-based vehicles, featuring more intuitive operation using the joystick and a smoother, freer and more efficient driving experience. PnD L7 requires minimal space for moving and parking, making it suitable for urban ap-

plications. Plus, its design was inspired by the first LRV (Lunar Roving Vehicle), a battery-powered four-wheeled lunar rover used in American Apollo missions. Just as LRV expanded the scope of human exploration, PnD L7 expands the scope of human mobility. MobED is a novel, compact mobile platform that consists of four Drive & Lift (DnL) modules, which combines driving, steering, posture control and braking systems into a single structure. MobED's minimalistic design emphasises its unique mechanism. Pixel lighting on all sides of its body communicates MobED's state, including its driving direction. These award-winning products reaffirm Hyundai's transformation from automaker to Smart Mobility Solution Provider, in line with the company vision of Progress for Humanity.

ROUND-UP

Premium crossover all-new 2023 Nissan X- Trail launched in Oman



Developed as a premium urban crossover, the all-new 2023 Nissan X-Trail furthers the brand’s commitment to introduce innovative mobility solutions, and offers customers class-leading versatility, elevated exterior and interior designs, advanced safety, and improved levels of capability

MUSCAT: As part of its strategy to solidify its SUV leadership in Oman, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) launched the all-new 2023 Nissan X-Trail in Muscat recently.

Developed as a premium urban crossover, the all-new 2023 Nissan X-Trail furthers the brand’s commitment to introduce innovative mobility solutions, and offers customers class-leading versatility, elevated exterior and interior designs, advanced safety, and improved levels of capability.

Reflecting the Nissan SUV’s role to Defy Ordinary, the key themes echoed across the event were eXpand, eXpress, eXplore, and eXhale, pushing guests to eXist beyond the everyday.

A segment-leader on several fronts, the all-new model features the latest Nissan Intelligent



Mobility technologies, including ProPILOT Assist for the very first time on the X-TRAIL line-up, and offers heightened connectivity with up to collective 35.4-inches of cabin screens.

For over 20 years, the X- Trail has been an integral part of Nissan SUV line-up in the region and has continually catered to the needs of families and adventure enthusiasts across Oman. Brought about by a deep understanding of its customers, the all-new 2023 Nissan X-Trail, which is one of the most technologically advanced SUVs to date, addresses customer desires in the rapidly growing mid-size SUV segment and is in line with the global Nissan NEXT transformation plan.

A senior official of SBA said: “Oman launch of the all-New 2023 Nissan X- Trail marks a major milestone for us at SBA, as we solidify our commitment to the region and continue to deliver innovation that excites.”

The latest addition to Nissan’s impressive SUV lineup, the all-new 2023 Nissan X- Trail features a striking exterior design, with distinctive Nissan elements including a signature V-motion grille and floating roof design. Accentuating the X-Trail’s appeal to families are its bigger-opening rear door apertures, that open up to 85 degrees for easier rear access and egress. The interior receive a premium upgrade, underlined by Nappa

leather-accented seating with 3D diamond quilting available on the top-of-the-range SL grade.

The 2023 Nissan X-TRAIL is powered by an all-new 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine that, compared to its predecessor, raises power output by 12hp to 181hp, and boosts torque by 11Nm to 244Nm, for more effortless acceleration and confident overtaking. Power is pushed through an advanced Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with paddle-shift controls on the steering wheel for manual over-ride of the new shift-by-wire transmission interface.

Making its debut in the All-New 2023 Nissan X- Trail is an Intelligent 4x4 system with direct cou-

pling that reacts faster than ever before, allowing for the seamless transfer of power between axles for ultimate stability and traction. A twist-dial Drive Mode Selector provides five driving modes to choose from: Off-Road, Snow, Auto, Eco and Sports, with the added benefit of Hill Descent Control for carefully modulated downhill off-road driving.

Nissan Intelligent Mobility suite of active safety features is provided with greater capability, making it the safest X- Trail ever, with Nissan Safety Shield 360 that includes Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning

and High Beam Assist. Supporting this is the first-ever introduction of Nissan’s semi-autonomous ProPILOT Assist on X-TRAIL, which can accelerate, brake, and cruise at a set speed within a single lane.

Offering customers the choice to select the grade that best suits their lifestyle, the all-new model is available in three grades, with 4WD options. This is in addition to 14 different colour combinations including five dual-tone options and 5-seater or 7-seater configurations. The all-new Nissan X- Trail 2023, which is the fourth SUV model to sport the brand’s latest design language and insignia, following the Patrol, Pathfinder, and Kicks, is available for booking at SBA.





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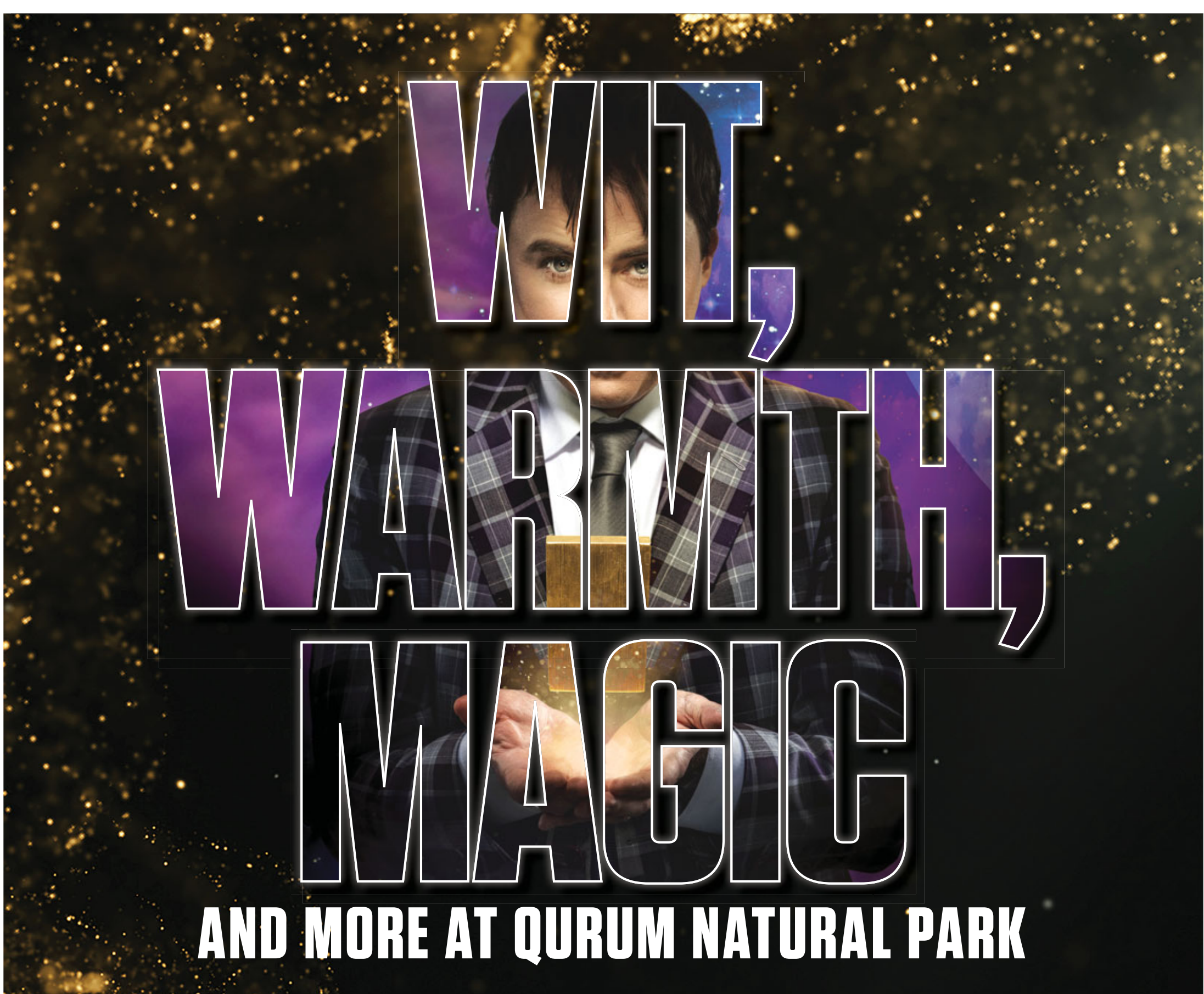
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Muscat Nights showcase the deep-rooted history of Oman and also include programmes related to culture, entertainment and sports.

If you love to immerse yourself in the world of magic and want to know more about stage illusions then don't miss watching Fred Sharp's show at Qurum Natural Park. Fred Sharp is a professional magician based in Dubai. For over 20 years, Fred has been enthralling audiences by creating some never-seen never-experienced moments. Watch him in complete awe from start to finish. His show that starts at 5pm everyday will be on till 26th January. So get ready to be amazed.

Those who love watching fire shows must not miss the ones held at Qurum Natural Park. These are performed by trained artists with different props that are soaked in flammable fluid and are lit to demonstrate artistic formations. Entry to the venue is free of charge for children under six years of age, OMR 0.100 for age group (7-12 years) and OMR 0.200 for 13 years and above. These fees apply to the entry to the grounds of Qurum Natural Park and Al Naseem Public Park. As for the special-

ised activities at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, the fees amount to OMR 2 to OMR 3 with booking tickets and payment through ATMs and online advance payment through the link (<https://muscatnightslinks.com>) provided by Muscat Municipality to facilitate shifting between the various venues, tickets booking and selection of the activities. Muscat Nights will continue with packages of different contents and activities under modern technologies of shows along with

programmes covering the fields of culture, entertainment and family, sports and artistic programmes, competitions, evenings and activities targeting the various sectors of the society. Muscat Nights showcase the deep-rooted history of Oman, the attention accorded to SMEs and the specialised activities. Muscat Nights also include the participation of the government sector and the private sector as the activities aimed to work as attraction factors in terms of tourism.



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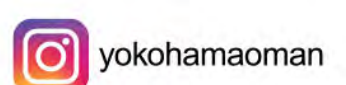
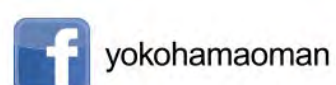
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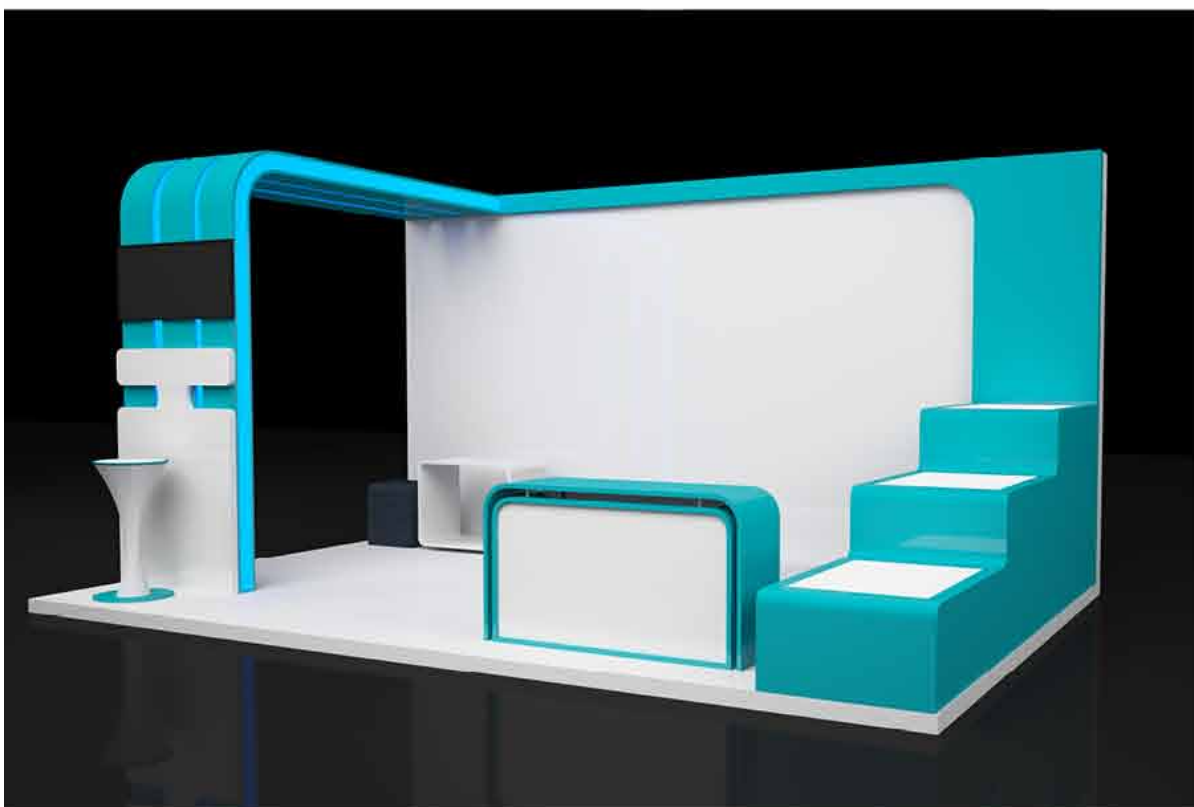
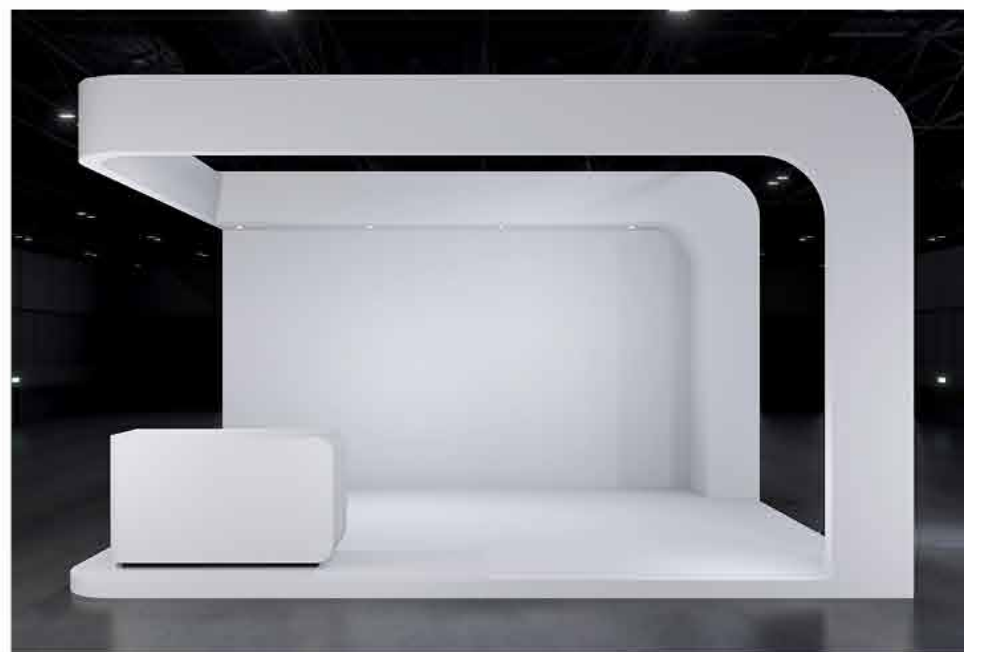
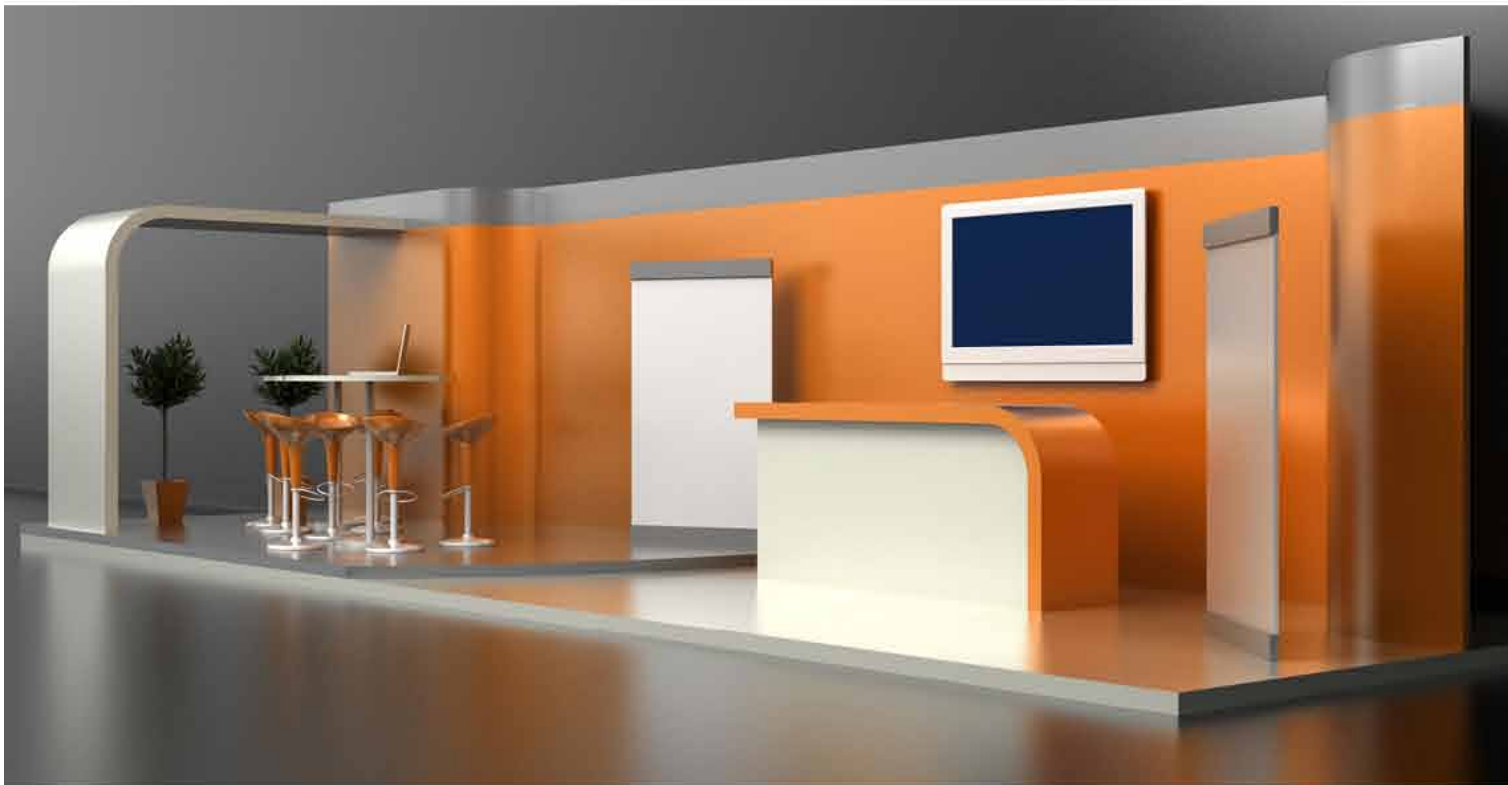
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