

FRANKINCENSE SEASON EVENT FROM MONDAY

The Frankincense Season in Dhofar Governorate, organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, will begin on Monday, November 28. The 'Frankincense Season' event will open at Al-Baleed Archaeological Park, Samhram Archaeological Park, and Wadi Doka Nature Reserve on Monday and will continue till December 2. **>A3**



INFORMATION MINISTER MEETS HIS TANZANIAN COUNTERPART

MUSCAT: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information received in his office yesterday Nape Moses Nnauye, Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania. **>A5**



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Sayyid Asa'ad bids farewell to ambassadors of Brazil, UK

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan received, separately, in his office on Wednesday Ligia Maria Scherer, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Sultanate of Oman and Bill Murray, Ambassador of the United Kingdom (UK) to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid them farewell at the end of their tours of duty.

The two ambassadors expressed their thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the support ex-



tended to them in the Sultanate of Oman from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people, which had enabled them to carry out their duties.

They also wished His Majesty

good health, happiness and a long life and the Sultanate of Oman further development and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

In his turn, HH Sayyid Asa'ad



expressed his appreciation to the ambassadors for the efforts they exerted in serving the relations between the Sultanate and their respective countries. He also wished them success and the peo-

ples of their countries further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and the two advisers at the Office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. — **UNA**



Government's pragmatic policies have led to fiscal surplus and decline in public debt

MUSCAT: Some economic sectors in Oman are experiencing growth and improvement in fiscal indicators, mostly resulting from a rise in oil prices that peaked to record levels, Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a closed-door session of discussion on the draft version of State Budget 2023 which was hosted by the Shura Council,

the minister said the estimates of the budget has taken into account the priority of maintaining the level of spending in basic services such as education, health, housing and social care, in addition to continuing policies to support economic diversification by expanding the participation of the private sector in economic development.

The session also dealt with discussing the most important



features of the budget, especially with regard to the financial, economic and social aspects, the state's financial policies with regard to economic and development projects, the developments of the Omani economy, the development of the credit rating of the

Sultanate of Oman, the deficit and public debt management during the year 2023.

Development projects

The session also discussed the importance of boosting development project's expenditures as they are

associated with execution of the current plan projects and provision of the required liquidity for the support of the economic activities.

The session touched on the social protection system and the importance of its implementation in conjunction with the approval of the draft state general budget 2023.

In addition, he said the budget will continue with policies to support economic diversification by expanding the participation of the private sector in economic development.

The closed-door session at the Shura Council also dealt with discussing important features with regard to financial, economic and social aspects. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Floward to expand in Oman, create jobs

1 Floward, the go-to online flowers and gifts destination in MENA and the UK, hopes to expand its operations to cover the entire Sultanate of Oman by mid-2023, according to Floward Chairman and CEO Abdulaziz B. Al Loughani. **>A2**

WORLD Several dead in Virginia shooting

2 A number of people were killed and injured in a shooting incident reported from a Walmart store in the US state of Virginia on Tuesday, officials. The shooter is also believed to be among the dead, he added. **>A6**

MARKET Profit of MSX-listed firms up 14 percent

3 Total net profits of MSX listed companies in Oman rose 14 percent year-on-year to \$457.6 million in the third quarter of 2022 as compared with \$401.4 million in the corresponding quarter in 2021, according to a new report. **>B1**

APHCARIOS ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

Automechanika Dubai: Omani company bags first place in innovation field

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Aphcarios Engineering Solutions, an Omani company has won the first place in the field of innovation in Automechanika Dubai 2022 exhibition.

Engineer Waleed bin Abdullah Al-Murshidi, Industrial Design Engineer at Aphcarios Engineering Solutions said: "We participated in the Automechanika Frankfurt exhibition, which is an international exhibition that takes place every two years in different capitals in the world."

1,154 companies took part
He added, "In this version, 1,154 companies from 50 different countries participated and competed in different fields. Our company competed in the field of innovation and received the first prize."

Al-Murshidi pointed out that their product is considered the first of its kind in the world. It is an automatic awning integrated with a roof rack to serve four-wheel



drive cars, camping, and alike. It is called 'Warif Premium' which is derived from the Arabic word 'plentiful shade', and Premium being the media name of the product.

Tested in Empty Quarter

"This product was developed at the site of our establishment in Muscat Governorate, specifically in Mabala, by Omani engineers, and its development took place over four years of work. It is distin-



guished in several respects and has been tested in the Empty Quarter desert in harsh conditions and in winds exceeding 50 kilometres per

hour," Al-Murshidi added.

"Our company has five world first products, three of which have been launched commercially and are sold regionally and globally, and the fourth product is an awning that operates on solar energy, which will be launched very soon. The fifth product was previously announced a year ago but was not launched commercially due to lack of sponsors," Al-Murshidi further added.





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MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Frankincense Season event from Monday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Frankincense Season in Dhofar Governorate, organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, will begin on Monday, November 28.

The 'Frankincense Season' event will open at Al-Baleed Archaeological Park, Samhram Archaeological Park, and Wadi Doka Nature Reserve on Monday and will continue till December 2.

Khaled bin Abdullah Al-Abri, Director General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate, said: "The event aims to highlight the historical features of the sites of the Land of Frankincense and the civilisational role it plays by building cultural and commercial bridges with various civilisations of the world in the past, as well as enhancing the tourist flow during winter season."

"The frankincense season will include a presentation of how its products and extracts are manufactured, ancient and modern, in addition to simulating the mechanism of its export through the historical ports in the Dhofar Governorate by caravans," Al Abri added.

"The frankincense season event will also include an exhibition of perfumes and Omani frankincense products for the



The event will continue until December 2.

most prominent companies in the Sultanate of Oman that use it in their products, in addition to an exhibition of documentary photographs of Khor Ruri that reflects the wildlife in the Sumhram Archaeological Park," he said.

At the end of his speech, Al-Abri referred to the events accompanying the frankincense season, including the establishment of a corner for restaurants and a children's theater, in addition to giving visitors the opportunity to experience the pleasure boats in Khor Al-Baleed and planting a thousand frankincense trees in the Wadi Dawka Reserve on the December 2, to celebrate the inclusion of the sites of the land of frankincense in the list of World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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REVIEW MEETING

Information Minister discusses areas of media cooperation with his Tanzanian counterpart

MUSCAT: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information received in his office yesterday Nape Moses Nnauye, Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The meeting reviewed the advanced relations between Oman and Tanzanian. The two sides discussed areas of media coop-

eration with the prime aim of highlighting the two countries' historical, economic, trade and investment relations.

Then, the guest went on tour of Oman News Agency (ONA), News Centre and digital studios of Oman TV, as well.

He was briefed about the media and news services rendered by the Ministry of Information.

— ONA



BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman's envoys to Germany and Switzerland present credentials

BERLIN: Maithaa Saif Al Mahrouqi, presented her credentials to President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his best wishes of good health and happiness to President Steinmeier. His Majesty also wished the people of Germany further progress and prosperity.

She also underscored the keenness of His Majesty to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in all areas.

In his turn, President Steinmeier asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan. He also expressed his sincere sentiments to Oman's leadership and people on the 52nd glorious



National Day.

The German President wished the ambassador success in carrying out her duties. He also lauded the advance relations between the two countries and affirmed that all necessary support will be offered to boost bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Swiss Confederation

Mahmoud Hamad Al Hasani, presented his credentials to President Ignazio Cassis of the Swiss Confederation, as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Swiss Confederation.



The ambassador conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his best wishes of good health and happiness to President Cassis. His Majesty also wished the people of the Swiss Confederation further progress and prosperity.

On his turn, President Cassis asked the ambassador to convey his sincere sentiments and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people. He also wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties and the relations between the two countries further progress and prosperity.

— ONA

SHURA COUNCIL SESSION

State budget

< FROM Al Habsi said the improvement in the key positive economic indicators of Oman was due to financial and economic measures taken in the State Budget 2022. This has led to a fiscal surplus that contributed also to a decline in public debt, he further added.

However, the minister cautioned against the fact that enduring geopolitical fluctuations and changing global scenarios may impact the future of the state's fiscal stability.

He further pointed out that the State Budget 2023 was drafted bearing in mind precautionary policies to address financial and economic challenges, as well as a determination to achieve the national goals of the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025).

The session also covered other salient features of the budget—its financial, economic and social aspects. He also outlined the policies governing allocations for development projects, the mechanisms of the Omani economy, an upgrade in Oman's credit rating, deficit and debt management during 2023.

— ONA

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT
Tenders are invited from suitably qualified vendors for the following.

Tender No	Description Tender	Tender Fee (RO) (Non-Refundable)	Tender documents available from	Last date of Tender Submission
ISAS/Tend/ 14/2022	Indian School Al Seeb is seeking bids from Specialized firms, who are having experience in the execution of the following services: School Playground upgradation and development which includes Artificial Grass Turf with FIFA standard Football Field / Synthetic Running track/ Multipurpose Sports Fields suitable to play multiple games like Basketball, Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton Hockey, Hand Ball, Cricket practice net, long jump pit and with landscaping . Shaded Viewers Gallery and Flood lights to provide standard illumination to the sport field.	75/-	24.11.2022	5.12.2022
ISAS/Tend/ 15/2022	Supply and installation of Shade structures at the school. SHADE -1 - BUS WAITING AREA SHADE -2 - MULTIPURPOSE ACTIVITY AREA FOR STUDENTS	50/-	24.11.2022	5.12.2022

All the above tenders are to be addressed to The Chairperson, Infra / Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb, must be submitted in a plain envelope sealed with red wax, indicating the tender reference on the envelope and without showing any identity of the company on the envelope. Quotations drop into the school Tender box at the office time.
The school reserves the right to reject any Tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

REQUIRE DEAN FOR A PRIVATE COLLEGE IN OMAN

A reputed private College in Oman invites applications for the position of Dean from qualified professionals with a strong commitment to teaching, research, and academic administration. The College offers undergraduate programs in Business Administration, Psychology, Criminal Justice, IT and languages. Applicants must possess strong leadership skills, excellent problem resolution, and organizational interpersonal and communication skills.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. Degree (in one of the fields mentioned above) from an accredited University, preferably from the U.K., U.S.A, Australia, or New Zealand, and a minimum of 10 years of experience with at least 5 years in the capacity of a Dean. Knowledge of Arabic will be an advantage.

Remuneration & Benefits: Competitive package depending on qualification and experience.

Interested candidates should submit their curriculum vitae and all supporting documents to:
positionsmc@gmail.com
on or before 24th November 2022.

CRITICAL THINKING

Knowledge Oman sets up new team for community seminars

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of enriching the society with knowledge led seminars that aims at engaging the public in critical thinking on current issues and collaborative efforts towards aligning with the Oman 2040 Vision, Knowledge Oman, the leading community knowledge sharing platform in the Sultanate, has appointed both local and expatriate new team members from the private sector, academia and youth in order to enhance the delivery of community seminars touching all segments of the society.

Imad Al-Hamdani, working for one of the telecom operators is the new head of seminars, while Bradley Levack, an expat educator in one of the private international schools, will act as his deputy, and Hassan Al Afarai will lead the volunteers that are integral part of the delivery of the seminar programmes.

"Sharing various practical industry knowledge, promoting talents and positivity across the country is what we do at Knowledge Oman. Bringing different industries together under one roof, along with the support of the academia, while ensuring youth too are part of the society impact has always been our goal. For that, we have now setup a new team that comprise of individuals that work in companies, educators that work in academia, and youth that are active and eager to be part of the impact" said Balqeess Al Hassani, President of Knowledge Oman.



Imad Al Hamdani

Imad Al Hamdani, currently heads the strategic planning at Ooreedoo, joins Knowledge Oman to lead the seminars team primarily focusing on planning, organising and conducting sessions for the society. Al Hamdani is a Chemical Engineering graduate from the University of Sheffield with more than 20 years of diversified experience in the fields of Engineering, IT, Commercial, Corporate Communication and Strategic Planning and Performance Management.

Bradley Levack, a South African educator at the Qurum Private School, joins the team to support Imad Al Hamdani in seminar planning, organising and conducting sessions for community knowledge transfer.

Bradley has been involved in community development through Integrated Development Planning, a German Technical Cooperation programme. He has been instrumental in Heritage and Cultural Tourism development, having served on the Board for Tourism Development and

lecturing tourism at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, in Port Elizabeth.

He was deployed to support various municipal structures in rural areas focusing on Youth Development Skills Programmes. Bradley currently coordinates the International Cambridge and Pearson Edexcel Programme at Qurum Private School.

Hassan Salem Al-Subi, a student at the Middle East College, joins the team to lead the volunteer pool to support the necessary delivery of the seminar programs and logistics. Hassan has received numerous certificate of appreciation from the college for organising and conducting events as part of the academic activities. Hassan holds a certificate in human development accredited by the Magic Training LTD Institute.

Knowledge Oman has been conducting events along with other private and public institutions since 2008. Members of the platform comprises from diverse and different backgrounds, both local and expats. The platform encourages community engagement amongst all passionate individuals within the Sultanate to enhance their own self development as well as to collaborate towards serving Oman and moving it forward towards its 2040 goal. Seminars have included areas of interest such Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Cyber Bullying, Gamification and the most recent seminar "Woman: The Pulse of a Sustainable Society" that acknowledge Women contribution for the society.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

PROJECT: CONTAINER TERMINAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Salalah Port Services Company S.A.O.G. (SPS) located in Oman is a Public Limited Company also referred herein as Port of Salalah (POS) is one of the largest multi-purpose ports in the region located at Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman. POS Container Terminal (CT) is spread over six berths. The Port intends to upgrade its container terminal facility to meet growing global shipping demands and its volume handling capacity.

POS hereby invites suitable and experienced companies specialized in Port, Marine & Electrical Infrastructure to submit their Expression of Interest for these intended works.

The scope of works shall broadly include infrastructure upgrade of CT Berths 1 to 6, construction of a new container yard and its facilities, a new primary substation (PSS), downstream electrical works, a new internal road and security fencing.

- Interested companies should meet the following criteria as a minimum:-
 - A Company or Joint Venture registered in Oman.
 - Provide Company Name
 - Email ID
 - Country of Establishment.
 - Must have requisite statutory approvals, permits, licenses, sufficient resources (manpower & equipment) and safety competency to carry out aforementioned project.
 - A company or their subcontractor must be a Design Code Review Panel (DCRP) approved entity to undertake construction of new primary substation (PSS) which is a portion of the overall scope of works.
- To participate in this tender, interested company shall pay an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of OMR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Omani Rial) to the below account details:

Bank Name : Bank Muscat

Swift Code : BMUSOMRXXXX

Bank Address : PO Box 548, PC 211 Salalah Sultanate of Oman

OMR Account No : 0397003224080077
- The EMD amount shall be returned to disqualified/unsuccessful companies after deducting OMR 100/- (One Hundred Omani Rial) as an administrative fee. The EMD amount shall be returned by end of Feb 2023.
- Subsequent to receipt of an EOI, a pre-qualification questionnaire will be released through an e-tendering tool called "COUPA" wherein bidders will be required to respond to a questionnaire and provide supporting documents that validate their Omani registration, relevant experience and financial health. Based on responses, POS shall evaluate and shortlist able contractors for next round of tender process.
- An online tender bidding process will be initiated with shortlisted companies for the next round.
- Interested companies may submit their EOI along with receipt of EMD amount to tender@salalahport.com with subject line Container Terminal Infrastructure Upgrade.
- The last date of sending EOI shall be on or before 7th of Dec 2022 to the above mail ID.
- All claims and disputes are subject to Oman Laws and the courts in Salalah shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to same. The decision of Salalah Port Services Company SAOG shall be final and binding.
- Port of Salalah reserves the right to reject any or all Companies without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Disclaimer: Submission of EOI does not guarantee award of contract. Each bidder is advised to follow the process as stipulated by POS which is subject to change without prior notice. Submission of EOI and participation in the tender process shall be construed as irrevocable consent and acceptance to follow the rules, regulations and policies of POS.

WORLD



WALMART SHOOTING

Shooting at Walmart store in US leaves several people dead

VIRGINIA: Multiple people were killed and injured in a shooting incident reported from the US state of Virginia on Tuesday, officials said adding the shooter is believed to be dead too. The shooting was reported at a Walmart store in Virginia's Chesapeake, CNN reported citing Chesapeake Police. According to the American broadcaster, police responded to the store around 10:12 pm (local time)



and found evidence of a shooting inside. Police officers entered the store and discovered multiple people dead and injured, Kosinski said. He added that police couldn't yet confirm a specific number of deaths, but they believe it's "less than ten." Chesapeake Police public information officer Leo Kosinski told CNN that the shooter is believed to be among the dead. Chesapeake city officials re-

quested people to stay away from the store amid the investigation. "Chesapeake Police confirm an active shooter incident with fatalities at the Walmart on Sam's Circle. The shooter is deceased," the city said in a tweet. "Follow us here for the only official updates. Our first responders are well-trained and prepared to respond; please give them space to do so," it added. **ANI**



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TAX RETURNS

US Supreme Court permits Trump's tax returns to be handed to Congress

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court on Tuesday (local time) cleared the way for the imminent handover of former President Donald Trump's tax returns to a congressional committee after a three-year legal fight. The court's move is a major loss for Trump, who has sought to shield the release of his tax returns for years and is currently under multiple investigations, reported CNN. Trump's legal team has continuously sought to keep his returns secret and turned to the Supreme Court - composed of three of his nominees - after he lost at the lower court level.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who supervises the lower court that issued the order in the Trump case, had placed a temporary hold on the subpoena on November 1, presumably to give the justices more time to consider the issue.

The court rejected Trump's plea for an order that would have prevented the Treasury Department from giving six years of tax returns for Trump to the House Ways and Means Committee. **ANI**

NO INDEPENDENCE VOTE

Top UK court rules against Scotland independence vote

LONDON: Scotland does not have the power to hold a new referendum on independence without the say-so of the British Parliament, the UK Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday.

"The Scottish Parliament does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence," Robert Reed, the president of the court, said.

The Supreme Court made the ruling on the grounds that such a referendum would be of critical importance not only to Scotland but the United Kingdom as a whole.

Reed said that the court was "not asked, and cannot be asked, to express a view on the political question of whether Scotland should become an independent country."

The court's verdict represents a blow to the semi-autonomous Scottish government's wish to hold a referendum next October on whether the country should break away from the United Kingdom.

The Conservative government in London has so far refused to approve such a vote, referring to a 2014 referendum in which Scottish voters rejected independence.

However, Wednesday's rul-



ing is not likely to put an end to the Scottish independence drive, which has been since fueled by differences over the UK's exit from the European Union. A clear majority of people in Scotland voted to remain within the bloc in 2016.

UK obviously not a 'voluntary partnership': Sturgeon
Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said on Twitter she was "disappointed" by the ruling but accepted it.

"A law that doesn't allow Scotland to choose our own future without (UK Parliament) consent exposes as myth any notion of the UK as a voluntary partnership," she wrote.

Sturgeon has already promised that defeat at the Supreme Court would mean her Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) would make the next UK-wide election, scheduled for 2024, a "de facto" independence referendum. **bw**

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/202	Supply of Vehicles on Hire Basis
Tender Fee	RO. 105,000 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	Proven good track record and experience of supply of vehicles on hire basis to Government entities and the reputed private establishment.
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration certificate and Oman chamber of commerce and Industry certificate in Sultanate of Oman.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 8 th December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 9 th December 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 12 th December 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 15 th December 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 22 nd December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation. Tender Bond /Bid Bond exempted for SME Company.



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FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022



Japan have claimed the most famous result in their FIFA World Cup history by coming from behind to beat the mighty Germans

DOHA: Japan provided the second major shock of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 with a stunning comeback 2-1 win over Germany in a Group E match at the Khalifa International Stadium on Wednesday. The four-time world champions took a first-half lead through Ilkay Gundogan's coolly dispatched penalty in the 33rd minute and looked likely to add to their advantage early in the second half.

However, after a couple of near misses from Serge Gnabry and goalscorer Gundogan, and a stunning series of saves from Shuichi Gonda, Japan made their move. The Samurai Blue became increasingly adventurous as the match wore on and, having threatened Manuel Neuer's goal on more than one occasion, pulled level with 15 minutes remaining through substitute Ritsu Doan's opportunistic close-range finish. A shock then turned into a

sensation eight minutes later when Takuma Asano burst through on the right, amid some less-than-impressive German defending, to blast a ferocious and, ultimately, history-shot into the roof of Neuer's net. The goalscorers may grab the headlines but if this famous victory is indebted to one man, it is Gonda. The Japan No 1 shotstopper produced not one, but three superb saves within an incredible spell of German attacking play during which his lightning-fast reflexes denied Jonas Hofmann and Gnabry -

twice - seemingly certain goals. Germany came close to extending their lead on several occasions in the second half but they were left to rue their misses. This was the first time Japan have ever won a World Cup match after falling behind - and what opponents to do it against, the mighty Germans. Germany lost at the World Cup from a winning half-time position for the first time since going down 3-2 to Austria all the way back in 1978. With Spain also in Group E, Germany are now at serious risk of missing out on the knockouts again. - fifa.com

TODAY'S MATCHES			
Group G 2pm (Oman time) SWITZERLAND vs CAMEROON Al Janoub Stadium	Group H 5pm URUGUAY vs SOUTH KOREA Education City Stadium	Group H 8pm PORTUGAL vs GHANA Stadium 974	Group G 11 pm BRAZIL vs SERBIA Lusail Stadium



FIFA WORLD CUP

Qatar 2022

TEAM STANDINGS

as of November 23, 8pm

Group A

COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Ecuador	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Senegal	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Qatar	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group B

COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
England	1	1	0	0	6	2	3
Wales	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
USA	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Iran	1	0	0	1	2	6	0

Group C

COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Poland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Argentina	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Group D

COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
France	1	0	0	0	4	1	3
Tunisia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Australia	1	0	0	0	1	4	0

Group E

COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Japan	1	0	0	0	2	1	3
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	1	0	0	0	1	2	0

Group F

COUNTRY	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Croatia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



DOHA: Thrills, spills and goals were sadly lacking at Al Bayt Stadium on Wednesday as Morocco and Croatia opened their Qatar 2022 campaigns with a 0-0 draw in a Group F match played in Al Khor. Chances were in short supply throughout a tense and evenly contested match, with Yassine Bono producing the one major save of note to keep out Nikola Vlasic's effort late in the first half. The 2018 runners-up dominated possession, while Achraf Hakimi showed some flashes of

brilliance. Given the scarcity of clear-cut chances, Vlasic's effort on the stroke of half-time stood out. Ivan Perisic did some good work in the build-up before Borna Sosa produced a fine cross. The Torino striker looked odds-on to score but Bono came up with a fine save. By taking to the field 75 days

after his 37th birthday, Luka Modric became the oldest Croatian ever to take part in a World Cup match. The Vatreni captain surpassed the record set by Drazen Ladic, who was 35 years and 191 days old - a comparative youngster - when he took the field against the Netherlands in 1998. - fifa.com



FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

ARGENTINA

NO EXCUSES FOR SAUDI LOSS: MESSI

DOHA: Lionel Messi is urging Argentina to unite and deliver a compelling response to the “hard blow” of an opening-match shock defeat by Saudi Arabia at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Tuesday.

Messi raised the possibility of an Argentina cruise – expected in many quarters – when he converted from the penalty spot after 10 minutes at the Lusail Stadium. Lionel Scaloni’s team repeatedly threatened to extend their advantage and had three ‘goals’ chalked off for offside.

And the courageous Saudis stunned their illustrious rivals with two goals inside five second-half minutes to turn the game on its head – and world football’s established order upside down.

Defeat leaves Argentina – whose 36-match unbeaten run went up in smoke – very little margin for error in games against Mexico on Saturday and Robert Lewandowski-spearheaded Poland next Wednesday.

“There are no excuses,” said Messi. “It is a very hard blow for everyone, we didn’t expect to start like this. We are going to be more united than ever.”

“This group is strong and we have shown it. This is a situation we did not have to go through in a long time. Now we have to show this is a real group.”

Argentina losing to Saudi Arabia would qualify as a shock by any reckoning. But the result assumes additional significance in the context of the South Americans’ form over the past three years.

Coach Scaloni’s side last suffered de-

feat way back in July 2019, against Brazil. They were seeking to equal Italy’s international record undefeated 37-match sequence on Tuesday – and only last summer beat Brazil in their own back yard to claim the CONMEBOL Copa America and end Messi’s extended wait for international success.

Argentina further established their position among the World Cup favourites when they comfortably beat Italy in the relaunched CONMEBOL-UEFA Cup of Champions match at Wembley in June.

But Messi’s side, who lost a World Cup match they were leading at half-time for the first time since the 1930 final against Uruguay, were left to address a number of shortcomings following their Qatar debut.

“Things happen for a reason,” added Messi. “We have to prepare for what’s coming, we have to win [against Mexico and Poland] and it depends on us. We knew that Saudi Arabia was a team with good players, which moves the ball well and advances the [defensive] line a lot. We had worked on it, but that’s why we had many goals ruled out. Perhaps we did not find the right moment to avoid falling into the trap.”

Argentina reached the final of the Italy 1990 World Cup despite being similarly stunned by unfancied Cameroon in their opening fixture.

And Messi, hoping to feature in six more matches over the next three-and-a-half weeks, added: “It’s the first game. It’s up to us to correct what we did wrong, [and] try to get back to the base of who we are.”

- fifa.com

GIROUD STEALS THE SHOW

 4 - 1 

The striker scored twice to kick off France’s title defence with an emphatic win over Australia and equal his country’s scoring record

DOHA: It was a night when France’s ‘Plan B’ paid off to spectacular effect as they trounced Australia 4-1 at the Al Janoub Stadium on Tuesday.

Without the injured Karim Benzema, Olivier Giroud filled the breach magnificently at centre-forward, the veteran ending the night level with Thierry Henry at the top of his country’s scoring chart as his two goals against Australia lifted him on to 51 from 115 appearances.

It was a night when Giroud offered an exhibition of his enduring powers. First, the AC Milan man’s scoring instincts ensured he was in the right place to sweep in Adrien Rabiot’s cut-back and later, in the second half, to head in from Kylian Mbappe’s cross.

With it he became the oldest scorer for a European nation at the FIFA World Cup, aged 36 years and 53 days. At the final whistle, a succession of team-mates offered him a congratulatory embrace.

Mbappe’s exquisite flick to release the Paris Saint-Germain forward for an explosive strike deflected just wide in the second half. His penalty-box presence was also a factor in the opening goal at Al Janoub Stadium, Giroud drawing two defenders to allow space for Rabiot

to exploit with his header.

There was another echo of World Cup 1998 in France’s opening game of their Group D campaign. Mbappe’s header for the concluding goal meant that for the first time since the final that summer France had scored two headers in a World Cup match. Mbappe might have had more goals as Antoine Griezmann, in a deeper role in the midfield three, twice teed him up brilliantly but he failed to profit. As with Benzema, it is fair to say Paul Pogba’s absence was not felt. - fifa.com



INJURY

HERNANDEZ OUT OF WORLD CUP WITH ACL INJURY

DOHA: France’s Bayern Munich full-back Lucas Hernandez is out of the Qatar World Cup after tests confirmed he suffered a ruptured cruciate ligament against Australia on Tuesday night.

Hernandez sustained the injury in the lead-up to Australia’s ninth-minute goal, twisting his knee as he tried to challenge Matthew Leckie who crossed for Craig Goodwin to score. He left the field in obvious distress and was replaced by his brother Theo.

The defending champions came from behind to win last night’s match 4-1. Yet the loss of Hernandez marks another setback for Deschamps who went into the tournament missing injured players such as Karim Benzema, N’Golo Kante



and Christophe Nkunku. With Manchester United defender Raphael Varane not yet fully fit, the France defence for their Group D opener featured two

centre-backs, Ibrahima Konate and Dayot Upamecano, who had nine caps each prior to the tournament and had not played together for France before. - fifa.com

GROUP C MATCH

LEWANDOWSKI DENIED FIRST WORLD CUP GOAL IN MEXICO-POLAND STALEMATE

DOHA: Robert Lewandowski was denied a first World Cup goal when Guillermo Ochoa saved the striker’s second-half penalty to earn Mexico a deserved share of the spoils against Poland in a Group C match on Tuesday.

Barcelona player Lewandowski’s effort from 12 yards was one of only two attempts on target from the Poles. The Central Americans were the more progressive team, but similarly short on clear opportunities. Wojciech Szczesny in Poland’s goal readjusted his footing to repel a deflected Edson Alvarez shot and Alexis Vega skied a late strike from distance.

Poland had their golden chance when Lewandowski was impeded in the box by Hector Moreno. Referee Chris Beath awarded the penalty after a VAR check but following a wait nearing four minutes Lewandowski saw his attempt to Ochoa’s left parried away by the veteran goalkeeper. The 37-year-old Ochoa, at his fifth World Cup, sprang to his left to save and add another clean sheet to a CV that features World Cup shutouts against Brazil and Germany. - fifa.com



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MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,543.76 points, up by 0.87 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.02 per cent at 462.60 points. National Aluminium, up 5.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 2.60 per cent, was the top loser.

Total net profits of MSX-listed companies up 14% to \$457mn

The third quarter 2022 earnings of the banking sector, the biggest sector in the exchange by market cap, improved 21.4 per cent to reach \$279.80 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Total net profits for Muscat Securities Exchange (MSX) listed companies in Oman increased by 14 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to \$457.6 million in the third quarter of 2022 as compared with \$401.4 million in the corresponding quarter in 2021, according to a new report.

The third quarter of 2022 earnings of the banking sector, the biggest sector in the exchange by market cap, improved by 21.4 per cent to reach \$279.80 million up from \$230.60 million in the third quarter of 2021, the Kuwait-based investment strategy and research, Kamco Invest, said in its 'GCC Corporate Earnings Report: Q3-2022.'

The diversified financials sector followed with the second-largest total net profits among the sectors with \$92.40 million during the third quarter of 2022 up from \$17.20 million in the third quarter of 2021.

All the eight banks which announced Q3-2022 net profits registered year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in earnings except for Bank Dhofar which witnessed 14.1 per cent profits slide to \$25.10 million. Bank Muscat's Q3-2022 net profits witnessed 7.7 per cent y-o-y growth to reach \$127.40 million as compared to \$118.20 million in Q3-2021. The bank attributed the quarterly earnings growth to revenue increase from both non-interest income and net interest income from the conventional banking business. Bank Muscat's Q3-2022 earnings represented 45.5 per cent of the total



profits in the banking sector.

National Bank of Oman recorded Q3-2022 net profits of \$34.90 million as compared to \$20.40 million in Q3-2021. The bank attributed its quarterly performance to a combination of growth in net interest income, fee income and a fall in operating expenses, the Kamco Invest report said.

In the diversified financials sector, Ominvest posted the biggest profits during Q3-2022 with net profits of \$86.80 million as compared to \$14.60 million during Q3-2021. The investment company attributed the jump in its quarterly net profits to an increase in revenue on the back of its acquisition of RSA ME by the National Life and General Insurance Company.

Despite witnessing subdued growth of 3.9 per cent y-o-y during Q3-2022, the telecom sector's aggregate profits were the third largest among the sectors reaching \$51.20 million as compared to \$49.20 million during the corresponding period of 2021.

Total Q3-2022 net profits of the Energy Sector reached \$21.30 million as compared to \$16.30 million in Q3-2021 witnessing a 30.2 per cent y-o-y growth. Al Maha Petroleum Products registered the largest absolute profit rise among the five companies in the sector with Q3-2022 net profits of \$6.20 million up from \$2.70 million in Q3-2021. The company attributed its robust performance to the expansion of its customer reach underpinned by a strategic repositioning to meet changing customer preferences after the COVID-19 period.

GCC quarterly profits

After reaching a record during

Q2-2022, quarterly profits for GCC-listed companies witnessed a q-o-q decline of 8.0 per cent or \$6.10 billion during Q3-2022 mainly led by a fall in earnings for Energy and Materials companies, the Kamco Invest report said.

The declines were also reflected in the respective sectoral indices with the Bloomberg Global Basic Materials Index declining by 10.50 per cent during Q3-2022 while crude oil prices dropped by 23.40 per cent during the quarter.

However, higher profits mainly for the food, beverage & tobacco, capital goods and utilities sectors partially offset the overall decline. Banks also reported marginally higher q-o-q profits that reached \$11.30 billion during Q3-2022 as compared to \$10.90 billion during the previous quarter. In terms of regions, only UAE-listed companies showed higher profits during the quarter, whereas aggregates for the rest of the GCC countries showed a q-o-q decline during Q3-2022.

In terms of y-o-y performance, net profits continued to show growth in Q3-2022 and were up by almost a quarter to reach \$70.70 billion as compared to \$57.20 billion during Q3-2021. Higher profits also reflected better economic performance in the region as compared to last year. The y-o-y profit improvement was broad-based with more than two-thirds of the sectors showing higher profits during Q3-2022. Profits for energy, banks, capital goods and food, beverage and tobacco sectors were the main growth drivers during Q3-2022 vs. Q3-2021 which was partially offset by a decline in profits mainly for the Transportation and Materials companies.

E-COMMERCE TRANSACTIONS

'NBO Friday' offers customers 10% cash back on credit card purchases

MUSCAT: Bringing back its popular 'NBO Friday', the National Bank of Oman (NBO) is offering Visa credit cardholders 10 per cent cash back on e-commerce transactions on November 25.

For one full day, customers will receive a cashback of up to OMR50 per customer, on all transactions

at any of their favourite online retailers while also earning NBO Reward Programme points.

Since its introduction in 2018, 'NBO Friday' has been providing its customers with unique offers on this awaited day every year when many retailers offer massive promoted sales at discounted

prices to service our clients' needs.

Maha Al Raisi, Assistant General Manager and Head of Retail Products at NBO, said, "Our credit cards come with unparalleled benefits. NBO Friday makes banking more accessible and personal by rewarding customers and adding great value to their day-to-day banking."



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NEW PRODUCT

Salalah Mills launches barley flour

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to strengthen the food security system and to achieve self-sufficiency in food products in the Sultanate of Oman, Salalah Mills Company has launched barley flour as one of the new products through which it promotes healthy food options.

The new barley product is a high-quality nutrition product as it is rich in minerals, vitamins and dietary fibre, while it is being used for preparing various types of baking items with a delicious flavour, such as flatbread, yeast bread, sliced bread, as well as the well-known Omani bread.

Salalah Mills has four different factories which are working to keep up with the demands of the local and regional markets. The company is considered the largest flour mill in the Sultanate of Oman with a production capacity of 1500 tonnes of flour per day, in addition to the pasta factory, with a production capacity of 432 tonnes of pasta per day.

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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 5.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 2.60 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,543.76 points, up by 0.87 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.02 per cent at 462.60 points. National Aluminium, up 5.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 2.60 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of HSBC Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 375 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR6.28 million, with more than 33.92 million shares changing hands. Out of 34 traded securities, 10 advanced, 10 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR586,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR528,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR57,000

worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,359.92 points, up 1.19 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, Sohar International Bank, Muscat Finance, Ominvest, and Bank Dhofar were up by 4.90 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.65 per cent and 1.33 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, United Finance and Al Sharqia Investment were down by 5.00 per cent, 1.56 per cent and 1.39 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,091.43 points, down 0.13 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium was up by 5.00 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Jazeera Steel Products, Gulf Mushroom Products and Voltamp Energy were down by 2.60 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 2.19 per cent and 2.15 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.22 per cent before closing at 1,535.44 points. — **United Securities**

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

OPAZ's Amad Duqm 22 event to be held on Friday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm is continuing preparations for the launch of Amad Duqm 22, on Friday.

The event, which will run through for 9 days, is organised in cooperation between the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

Amad Duqm 22 event comes as a mini experimental laboratory for the aspirations of Omani youth. The design and implementation processes were entrusted to a selected group of creative Omani youth to create a vision that combines science, technology, art and entertainment to create a better world.

Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, welcomed the participants in the Amad Duqm 22 Event and introduced them to the elements that the Special

Economic Zone at Duqm, which make it the city of the future and youth.

Akaak noted that the idea behind this event is to enhance the role of culture, innovation, sports, technology and sustainability, and to introduce the economic potential and the growing investments in the region. Since youth are the cornerstone of achieving future aspirations, Amad Duqm 22 Event was organised to incubate the vision and creativity of youth.

"We, in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, welcome all youth activities that support youth", he added.

Dr. Said bin Khalifa Al-Tuwairshi, Head of the Supervisory Committee for Amad Duqm 22 Event, stated that the Event will host more than 30 youth activities in various fields such as culture, sports, innovation, technology, sustainability and entertainment, in line with the aspirations of young people.

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,555.37	4,508.97	4,543.76	4,504.49	39.27	0.87
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,359.92	7,280.78	7,359.92	7,273.50	86.33	1.19
Industry Index	6,099.71	6,091.43	6,091.43	6,090.50	-0.07	-0.13
Services Index	1,546.48	1,535.44	1,535.44	1,538.81	-3.37	-0.22
MSX Shariah Index	463.19	462.50	462.60	462.50	0.10	0.02
MSX TR INDEX	5,747.43	5,688.89	5,732.79	5,683.24	49.55	0.87
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,701.34	7,618.52	7,701.34	7,611.00	90.34	1.19
SERVICES TR IDX	1,616.73	1,605.19	1,605.19	1,608.71	-3.52	-0.22
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,350.55	6,341.93	6,341.93	6,350.33	-8.40	-0.13

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
33,921,293	6,277,552	375	23,399,285,478	10	10	14	34

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFF	PRN VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	380,830	56,161	11	0.143	0.150	0.143	0.150	0.143	0.007	4.895	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	292,448,620
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	470,152	48,182	8	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.002	1.961	0.104	0.098	0.107	0.100	477,368,478
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,027,484	380,185	17	0.370	0.372	0.368	0.370	0.364	0.006	1.648	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.100	247,285,208
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,144,170	595,712	90	0.277	0.278	0.277	0.278	0.275	0.003	1.091	0.278	0.277	0.278	0.100	2,086,778,383
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	20,000	1,900	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.092	0.095	0.100	24,572,871
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	178,984	51,234	26	0.287	0.287	0.285	0.286	0.283	0.003	1.060	0.286	0.286	0.287	0.100	465,020,658
OM0000003968	QOREDOO	206,842	81,414	24	0.394	0.398	0.394	0.396	0.394	0.002	0.508	0.396	0.394	0.396	0.100	257,773,915
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	8,000	12,720	4	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	1.590	0.000	0.000	1.590	0.000	1.590	0.100	142,623,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	5,000	1,700	1	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.330	0.340	0.100	74,800,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	40,000	36,000	6	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	63,100,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	125,150	109,627	4	0.876	0.876	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.000	0.000	0.844	0.844	0.876	0.100	63,100,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	15,000	780	2	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.049	0.054	0.100	10,400,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	255,000	116,180	12	0.460	0.460	0.450	0.456	0.456	-0.006	-1.316	0.450	0.450	0.460	0.100	106,384,500
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	26,080	1,852	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.388	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	6,380,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	151,000	19,546	4	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.128	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,336,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	392	57	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.148	-0.003	-2.027	0.145	0.000	0.145	0.100	43,965,977
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	89,700	18,392	6	0.210	0.210	0.205	0.205	0.210	-0.005	-2.381	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	25,604,082
Total	17	5,142,784	1,531,642	218												

Parallel Market

OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD	100	8	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.080	0.004	5.000	0.084	0.078	0.084	0.100	2,820,002
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	211,140	11,824	11	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.001	1.818	0.056	0.055	0.059	0.100	17,200,194
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	639,000	96,372	6	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.002	1.333	0.152	0.142	0.151	0.100	455,445,418
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	8,333	1,667	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.000	0.210	0.100	20,952,409
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	283,679	28,368	10	0.100	0.104	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.103	0.100	8,500,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	25,000,000	4,000,000	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.157	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.000	0.160	0.100	314,048,108
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,000	101	1	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.098	0.100	0.100	18,389,918
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	3,185	233	2	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.072	0.079	0.100	8,896,875
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	137,950	10,474	11	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	255,200	24,089	7	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	210,273,585
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	235,000	8,460	5	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.100	24,295,947
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,207,736	42,271	32	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.035	0.036	0.100	25,004,222
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	27,250	1,717	4	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.064	0.064	-0.001	-1.563	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	21,996,098
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	23,997	2,184	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.093	-0.002	-2.151	0.091	0.087	0.093	0.100	7,407,650
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	63,320	14,282	11	0.228	0.228	0.223	0.223	0.228	-0.005	-2.193	0.223	0.223	0.223	0.100	9,277,975
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	12,000	882	2	0.073	0.075	0.073	0.075	0.077	-0.002	-2.597	0.075	0.070	0.075	0.100	6,063,750
Total	16	28,108,860	4,242,931	106												

'BUILD THE SKILLS OF THE FUTURE'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Microsoft and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) launched 'Build the Skills of the Future' training programme focusing on cloud, data and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The 'Build the Skills of the Future' training programme kicked off on November 6 and will continue until December 7 at the Middle East College in Knowledge Oasis Muscat, Rusayl, offering five Microsoft Azure certification tracks.

This initiative comes as part of the MoU signed between both parties in May this year and in line with The Digital Competency Qualification Initiative (Makeen) to empower Omani youth with advanced digital skills needed to succeed in the digital era as well as provide them with income-generating opportunities in the digital sector. The initiative aims



to train 10,000 Omani digital skills by 2025.

Through the 'Build the Skills of the Future' programme, Microsoft will equip students, academia, SMEs, startups and government employees with the necessary skills to succeed in the ever-evolving technology and innovation world. The training also aligns with the government's digital transformation programme, set to

run until 2025. This complements one of the National Digital Economy Programme initiatives - a key facilitator toward accomplishing Oman Vision 2040 for sustainability and economic diversification.

Participants can choose from a range of skill levels and course topics that will enlighten them on the fundamentals of cloud, Data and AI, as well as designing and implementing a complete Data and AI solution.

Commenting on the launch of the initiative, Sheikh Saif Hilal Al Hosni, General Manager for Microsoft in Oman and Bahrain, said, "The significance of combining academic qualifications with digital capabilities and professional certifications has become imperative for current employees, entrepreneurs, and those aspiring to join the workforce."

"We at Microsoft remain committed to encouraging lifelong learning, skilling and upskilling the workforce to fill professional gaps and ensure wholesome digital and economic transformation. With Microsoft's unrivalled expertise, this training initiative with MTCIT will ensure government employees, students, as well as other professionals, are equipped with valued skills to accelerate the country's digital transformation programme and ultimately drive the actualisation of Oman Vision 2040," he added.

PARTNERS WITH UNDERTHEDOORMAT GROUP

Visit Oman signs agreement to open short-term rental market

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Visit Oman has signed a partnership agreement with the UnderTheDoormat Group - the award-winning global short-term rental technology company.

This first-of-its-kind partnership will pave the way for opening government-approved short-term rentals in Oman while offering travellers from around the world choice in the types of accommodation they can access to explore everything Oman has to offer. It will further enhance Visit Oman's capabilities to connect international travel trade with tourism suppliers and new types of accommodation in the Sultanate.

At an official ceremony hosted by Azzan bin Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism in Muscat, the partnership agreement was signed between Shabib Al Mamari, Managing Director of Visit Oman, and Merilee Karr, Founder and CEO of UnderTheDoormat Group.

As the partnership launches, Integrated Tourism Complex (ITCs) will lead this innovation in the Sultanate, including some of the largest property developers and hospitality companies. The first properties will be live through the Hospiria technology towards the end of 2022.



ITCs, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) and in the future individual property owners with an approved license, will be able to access the global short-term rental market through a single technology system, Hospiria. This will connect their homes, villas or apartments to guests and travellers seeking short-term rental accommodation during their stay in the Sultanate, through an officially approved channel.

The partnership will provide the opportunity for both large tourism companies and SMEs to provide their services to property owners and deliver additional rental income opportunities, as the Hospiria technology will link and market their properties via the largest online booking engines and aggregators in the world with

a single system to distribute and manage their portfolios.

As a leader in the short-stay rental market, and the first in their sector accredited by the UK Short-Term Accommodation Association (STAA) and Quality in Tourism, UnderTheDoormat will also work with Visit Oman to help Omani ITCs, SMEs, property owners and lessors gain confidence in offering their short-stay guests a "home away from home" managed according to internationally accredited and verified quality standards.

Merilee Karr, Founder and CEO of UnderTheDoormat Group, said: "Oman's innovation in opening the short-term rental sector for approved companies and owners is a gamechanger for tourism in the country, and a great example of

how technology can help enable the responsible growth of our sector. We are excited to partner with a forward-thinking market to open short-term rentals for visitors from around the world wanting to experience the authenticity of this amazing country and stay in a beautiful home, villa, or apartment for their visit, with confidence."

Shabib Al Mamari, Managing Director, Visit Oman, added that the UnderTheDoormat partnership is another significant milestone for Visit Oman in its journey to provide Omani tourism suppliers opportunities to market their products to global travellers.

"Through the Visit Oman gateway, the Hospiria platform will provide an efficient launching point for Omani companies, SMEs and property owners to place their apartments, villas and homes onto the short-term rental market globally. This latest Visit Oman initiative with UnderTheDoormat falls in line with the broader, existing Omani Tourism Vision 2040 strategy, and serves to shift the Sultanate of Oman towards a more diversified and developed tourism economy, and one that leverages digital innovation and technology to maximise value for the Omani tourism market, as well as the tourism-related SME economy in Oman," Al Mamari explained.



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

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SMARTWATCHES

HAVE POTENTIAL TO DETECT EMERGING HEALTH PROBLEMS



Skin-like electronics combined with Artificial Intelligence are being developed by researchers in order to detect potential emergent health concerns.

This study was published in the journal *Matter* with the title “Intrinsically stretchable neuromorphic devices for on-body processing of health data with artificial intelligence.”

Although flexible, wearable electronics are becoming increasingly common, they have yet to realise their full potential. Precision medical sensors that are placed on the skin to do health monitoring and diagnostics could be made possible by this technology in the near future. It’d be like having a cutting-edge medical institution at your disposal at all times.

Such a skin-like device is being developed in a project between the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME). Leading the project is Sihong Wang, assistant professor in UChicago PME with a joint appointment in Argonne’s Nanoscience and Technology division.

Worn routinely, future wearable electronics could potentially detect possible emerging health problems -- such as heart disease, cancer or multiple sclerosis -- even before obvious symptoms appear. The device could also do a personalized analysis of the tracked health data while minimizing the need for its wireless transmission. “The diagnosis for the

same health measurements could differ depending on the person’s age, medical history and other factors,” Wang said. “Such a diagnosis, with health information being continuously gathered over an extended period, is very data intensive.”

Such a device would need to collect and process a vast amount of data, well above what even the best smartwatches can do today. And it would have to do this data crunching with very low power consumption in a very tiny space.

To address that need, the team called upon neuromorphic computing. This AI technology mimics the operation of the brain by training on past data sets and learning from experience. Its advantages include compatibility with stretchable material, lower energy consumption and faster speed than other types of AI.

The other major challenge the team faced was integrating the electronics into a skin-like stretchable material. The key material in any electronic device is a semiconductor. In current rigid electronics used in cellphones and computers, this is normally a solid silicon chip. Stretchable electronics require that the semiconductor be a highly flexible material that is still able to conduct electricity.

The team’s skin-like neuromorphic “chip” consists of a thin film of a plastic semiconductor combined with stretchable gold nanowire electrodes. Even when stretched to twice its normal size, their device functioned as planned without the formation of any cracks.

For one test, the team built an AI device and trained it to dis-

tinguish healthy electrocardiogram (ECG) signals from four different signals indicating health problems. After training, the device was more than 95 per cent effective at correctly identifying the ECG signals.

The plastic semiconductor also underwent analysis on beamline 8-ID-E at the Advanced Photon Source (APS), a DOE Office of Science user facility at Argonne. Exposure to an intense X-ray beam revealed how the molecules that make up the skin-like device material reorganize upon doubling in length. These results provided molecular-level information to better understand the material properties.

“The planned upgrade of the APS will increase the brightness of its X-ray beams by up to 500 times,” said Joe Strzalka, an Argonne physicist. “We look forward to studying the device material under its regular operating conditions, interacting with charged particles and changing electrical potential in its environment. Instead of a snapshot, we’ll have more of a movie of the structural response of the material at the molecular level.” The greater beamline brightness and better detectors will make it possible to measure how soft or hard the material becomes in response to environmental influences.

“While still requiring further development on several fronts, our device could one day be a game changer in which everyone can get their health status in a much more effective and frequent way,” added Wang.

-ANI

“

The diagnosis for the same health measurements could differ depending on the person’s age, medical history and other factors. Such a diagnosis, with health information being continuously gathered over an extended period, is very data intensive,” Wang said.

T

SPORTS

Oman Sail welcomes 39 teams to 2022 para world championships



The next four days will witness sailors compete in the ultra-versatile RS Venture Connect boat in two categories

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail welcomed 39 teams from 19 nations to the Barceló Mussanah Resort for the 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championships, the first exclusively para sailing event to be held in Oman. Over the next four days, sailors in both the para and open categories – including Oman Sail’s own SailFree squad – will compete in the ultra-versatile RS Venture Connect boat, before a grand final on 27 November will decide the 2022 World Champion.

Six two-person teams will represent Oman in the para category; Hassan Al Lawati and Sami Al Sulaimi, Sultan Al Wahaibi and Ahmed Al Balushi, Adil Al Siyabi and Naser Al Rahbi, Malik Al Qar-toubi and Ghalya Al Jabri, Raiyan Al Mujaini and Hamed Al Subhi, and Zaher Al Atbi and Ali Al Ghasaini.

Feras Asqul, Project Manager at Oman Sail, said, “This is a first for Oman and a first for the region. We



are delighted to be able to welcome so many talented and determined sailors to the Barceló Mussanah Resort for a milestone event. Conditions are perfect for great sailing, and we look forward to making history here together. The practice days brought exceptional conditions and amazing sailing, with light winds allowing the athletes to show their best form. Already we have seen how talented the para sailors are and this promises to be an incredibly close but exciting championship. We look forward to great racing tomorrow and the chance to show the potential of para sailing.”

Dermot Birchall, General Manager of Barceló Mussanah Resort, says, “We are delighted to host the first parasailing competition in Oman at Barceló Mussanah Resort. Oman Sail has done a phenomenal job with the recent sailing competitions in the Sultanate, and we are grateful to be a part of their ongoing journey. It is a true testament to the sailors’ determi-

nation and strong will, inspiring people to overcome challenges and extraordinary circumstances to pursue their goals in life as the world watches on. We would like to wish all participants of the RSS Venture Connect World Championships the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming them to Barceló Mussanah Resort as the hospitality destination of choice.”

Birchall continues, “The Sultanate of Oman is abundantly blessed with picturesque landscapes and a culturally enriched heritage, and has rapidly grown to become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. At Barceló Mussanah Resort we are proud to support the continuous enhancement of the tourism and hospitality sectors in the country.”

The next leg of the nationwide Oman Sailing Festival also kicks off on Thursday at Barceló Mussanah Resort, with pro instructors from Oman Sail offering free sessions to Try Sailing, Try Windsurfing and Try Kitesurfing, as well as

the RS Venture Connect for people with disabilities. There will also be a showcase of local SMEs during the three-day event and a beach clean up event has been organised in partnership with Be’ah to protect the local environment.

In a pivotal year for para sailing when the decision as to whether the sport is reinstated to the Paralympics for LA28, World Sailing, the global governing body for the sport, held a three-day Para Sailing Development Program (PDP) Clinic prior to the start of the RS Venture Connect World Championships to provide essential training for coaches and race officials.

The PDP also included a full International Classification Seminar which saw four candidates from Al Amal Occupational Therapy successfully complete a final assessment and become International Classifiers, joining 11 International Classifiers worldwide and taking another giant step forward for global para sailing.

OMAN CRICKET



National cricket team gets new Associate sponsor

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket’s endeavour to rope in private companies to support the game of cricket in the Sultanate of Oman took another step forward when the game’s governing body in Oman signed a partnership agreement with Stassen Tea, a leading tea company from Sri Lanka.

Stassen was named the Associate sponsor of the national team, which is expected to have a hectic schedule in the coming months.

OC chairman Pankaj Khimji signed the deal along with Srinith De Silva, CEO of Aitkin Spence Hotels – Oman, which represent Stassen Group in the Sultanate of Oman, at a ceremony held at the OC headquarters recently.

Speaking after signing the agreement, De Silva said: “Stassen is delighted to be associated with Oman Cricket as an Associate Sponsor of the national team. This partnership will go a long way in establishing the relationship that has been ongoing for a long period.

“We wish the Oman national team all the very best and Stassen Tea will continue its journey in the Sultanate of Oman by serving

the best Ceylon tea.”

Khimji said, “The involvement of corporate and private players to support the game is a very encouraging development. Oman Cricket prides itself as one of the sports organisations that has forged strong relationships between the government and private sectors.”

He added, “Oman Cricket is on the forward mode and our national team has been doing well at all levels.

“This partnership with Stassen will give more strength to our team’s preparations for the forthcoming tournaments and we hope to brew a strong relationship with them to achieve laurels for the Sultanate of Oman.”

The signing ceremony was attended by Paul Sheridan, OC vice-chairman, Duleep Mendis, OC chief development officer, and other officials.

Later Khimji presented a national team jersey to De Silva to mark the agreement. Oman national team is due to play a three-match 50-over series against Canada at the Oman Cricket Academy ground, starting on Wednesday night. The next two games will be held on November 25-26.

Times OF OMAN

الشرق الأوسط

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ROUND-UP



Keep your Renault adventure ready with National Day service offer

The unique offer boasts of a host of advantages for owners of the efficient Renault models

MUSCAT: Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, has announced an attractive aftersales service promotion to mark Oman's 52nd National Day celebrations. The Renault aftersales promotion which has already begun will go on till December 31. The unique offer boasts of a host

of advantages for owners of the efficient Renault models. Renault care service benefits includes 50 per cent to 70 per cent on selected parts; free interior cleaning for service packages; flat 20 per cent discount on window film; flat 20 per cent discount on body polish and ceramic coating; 50 per cent to 90 per cent discount

on selected accessories. To avail the benefits, Renault owners have to drive into the nearest Renault service centre with prior appointment and enjoy the exciting offer. A spokesperson for SBA said, "We are delighted to mark Sultanate's 52nd National Day with a special aftersales service offer. We have a team of dedicated aftersales and service experts who are adept in handling all customer care-related services." Renault Oman serves its esteemed customers at its state-of-the-art aftersales facilities. Only professional technicians work on the Renault using genuine parts which ensure safety and the superb condition of the car.



VIBRANT AMBIENCE

Create memorable moments at W Muscat's Sun Chaser event



MUSCAT: It's time to sip, chill, cool and sun chase! If you want to create memorable moments or track golden sunsets, W Muscat's Sun Chaser (event) is the ideal place to be every Friday between 2pm and 7pm. Scheduled at the Wet Deck, guests can enjoy fusion of bevies, great eats, and a vibrant ambience amidst a beautiful Muscat view. The day pass includes one welcome bevvy and access to experience a great music session by renowned DJs Jennifer Dons, Arun and Aitor Robles on the deck. Additionally, guests who buy three passes for the Sun Chaser, get the fourth one free.

Gerald Chevasson, General Manager of W Muscat said, "We are delighted to invite guests to soak up the sun and sounds at the Sun Chasers pool event. Whether spending time relaxing while sipping on our speciality bevies or enjoying great music, guests can truly live it up at the Wet Deck. Focusing on our passion points of 'taste', 'sound' and 'passionate', W Muscat is always on the look out to set up extraordinary moments for our guests."

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



ABA graduates achieve world-class IBDP results

MUSCAT: The Class of 2022 of ABA Oman International School celebrated outstanding results in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) exams. ABA graduates achieved an average point score of 34, surpassing the global average of 31.98 points. Congratulations to David Hasler, who earned a top score of 43 points and is heading to the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) in the Netherlands, to study Aerospace Engineering. The maximum points that can be awarded to an IB Diploma student is the full score of 45, with 42 points generated across the 6 subjects and 3 bonus points derived from Theory of Knowledge (ToK) and the Extended Essay (EE), as well as satisfactory completion of CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) requirements. This year, 15% of the graduating class - Zaina Dabbous, Joseba Gallestegui-Goni, Jenin Al Tae, Yara Al Nourhji, Perrine Loubens, Darsh Pawani and Ishita Sharma - scored 40 or more points, the equivalent of 4 A* grades at A Level. In addition, Noor Al Akhzami and Branco Geertsema received a bilingual diploma, which is awarded to candidates who opt to study two language courses and receive a grade 3 or higher. ABA has a high participation rate of over 90% in the IB Diploma, with a pass rate of 93% this year. Applauding the graduates on their success, ABA Head of School, Craig Williamson remarked, "We are delighted that the dedication, perseverance and determination of our students has resulted in exceptional scores. These results are a testament to our mission of

providing holistic, world-class education that inspires and empowers our students to explore their unique pathways." The rigorous two-year IB Diploma is globally recognised as the gold standard in university acceptances. The 2022 cohort comprised 60 students representing 24 nationalities, who have secured places at some of the top universities worldwide in their chosen field of study, such as Medicine, Aerospace Engineering, Environmental Management, Sports Science, Law, Business, and more. ABA graduates received offers in more than one country, with 7 students receiving generous merit awards, one of them being a full-tuition scholarship for three years. Simon Walker, Assistant Head of School and High School Principal, extolled the resilience and resolve of the 2022 cohort on navigating unprecedented adversities of the pandemic over the past few years, and rising to the occasion each time. "The IB prepares students to be future-ready, and our graduates are well-equipped to take on challenging responsibilities, having developed a strong foundation for inquiry and research in our dynamic learning environment. We wish them the very best in their journey of life-long learning." As ABA graduates set forth in pursuit of their personal and professional goals, Guy Essex, DP Coordinator, exhorted them to utilise their learnings to cultivate sustainable and equitable opportunities for all. "We are very proud of our graduates and their impressive accomplishments during extraordinary circumstances."

Oman Oasis picks first set of winners



MUSCAT: In line with its goal to always delight customers with better products and offers, Oman Oasis recently announced the 'Buy More Win More' offer which gives customers a chance to participate in the monthly raffle draw by purchasing Oman Oasis, Sifr or Mai Alkaline drinking water from Lulu, Nesto, Carrefour, Sultan Center & Makkah Hypermarkets. The more you purchase the more your chances to win prizes. The first draw was held on November 3 and a total of 130 lucky winners were announced. The offer has been successfully running across Oman and will continue till December 31. Ahmed Alaamri, Sujith Amithabhavan,

Ahmed, Hamood Al-Mamari, Mogaru Abdul Rahiman Abusali and Muhammad Ajmal were the six winners of iPhone 13. In addition, Taher, Jannice Andrada and Hussain won Lenovo laptops. By participating in the offer, customers can win prizes like iPhone 13s, Gold Coins, Laptops, and Petrol Coupons. Speaking about the raffle draw, NSS Subramaniam, COO said, "Oman Oasis continues to delight its customers with a series of offers and promotions all-round the year. Congratulations to all the winners who have won these prizes. There are many more such prizes to be won and we urge more and more customers to participate in the raffle draw."

SPONSOR

Sohar International extends support to 'Jalasat Mulhimoon'



MUSCAT: Dedicated to nurturing a knowledgeable, pragmatic, and socially conscious generation that can drive transformational change, Sohar International recently extended its support to the Coach4Change and acted as the exclusive sponsor of the 4th edition of 'Jalasat Mulhimoon'. The event held at the Grand Hall in the Cultural Center Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) witnessed the presence of HH Dr. Mona Fakhad Mahmoud Al Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos

University (SQU), as the Guest of Honour. Representing the bank, Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer of Sohar International, attended the event. The latest edition of 'Jalasat Mulhimoon' was themed 'Himam' where four inspiring speakers with disabilities from different Arab countries sparked the youth with motivation and guided them to trust their capabilities in achieving success. The event was moderated by Dr. Lamia Al Haj, Assistant Professor at Sultan Qaboos Univer-

sity and founder of Coach4Change and hosted Zainab Al-Harrasi from Oman, Faisal Al-Mousawi from Kuwait, Dr Asim Kamal El Din from Sudan and Yehia Qandil from Egypt. The event received an overwhelming response from the community and was attended by students and faculty members. Mohamed Mahfoudh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Sohar International said, "The youth are the future of the country and will play an instrumental role in driving the nation's progress."

ALFREDO BARULLI

Instagram influencer shares story behind his VIP PR agency, 10X Experts

MUSCAT: Italian Instagram influencer Alfredo Barulli is among the first to create a VIP PR firm to assist organisations and individuals in realising their full potential. But how did Alfredo manage to launch his VIP PR Agency? The author of this article sat down with Alfredo Barulli to learn in detail about his journey from an Instagram influencer to the owner of a VIP PR firm. **Hello Alfredo Barulli. Please share some information about yourself.** Hi, I am Alfredo Barulli. I hail from Massafra, a small town in the south of Italy, in the Taranto province. I have a high school diploma

in IT, and a degree in Personal Training from the International Sports Sciences Association. Digital Marketing, Social Media Marketing, Funnel Marketing, Fb & IG Advertising, Influencer marketing, content creation, PR & Media are some areas in which I specialised. I am an Instagram influencer and have gained over 1 million followers throughout these years. Due to the constant invites from luxury resorts, hotels, fine dining restaurants, tourism, and government authorities for promotional work, I have to travel to different parts of the world. **What motivated you to start**

the VIP PR Agency, 10X Experts Agency? A. My aim in starting this firm was to help entrepreneurs and brands get featured in the press and receive brand recognition as the #1 in their fields of expertise. The website mentions, "We turn social media users into verified influencers, entrepreneurs into world-famous leaders, and ordinary businesses into exclusive brands." This firm that I started can be defined as a VIP Publicity Agency. No PR Agency aims to help entrepreneurs become influencers and is run by influencers. This is what makes us unique.

What kind of services do 10X Experts Dubai provide? A. At 10X Experts, our services include lead generation, social media growth, media placements, branding strategy, Wikipedia page creation, contributor spots, Google knowledge panel creation, IMDB page creation, book publishing, speaking gigs, podcast interviews, TV appearances, and reputation management. **How can the brands and the businesses benefit by employing your services?** Our PR agency helps get the brand, business, or person featured in some of the top publications in

the world within a few days. Some of the journals with whom we work closely include *Forbes*, *Entrepreneur*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Haute Living*, *GQ Magazine*, *Maxim*, and many more from the Middle East such as *Entrepreneur Middle East*, *Forbes Middle East*, *Khaleej Times*, *Arabian Business*, *Gulf Times*, *Gulf Business*, *Gulf Today*, *Arab Times*, *Kuwait Times*. **Thank you, Alfredo, for giving us the time for this interview. How can a brand or entrepreneur reach you for your PR Consulting services in Dubai?** Anyone can direct message me on Instagram @alfredo.barulli.





ROUND-UP



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Kalyan Jewellers unveils football-themed jewellery

With the ongoing football World Cup fever, the all-new limited edition jewellery designs of Es Vida pay tribute to the country's vibrant football culture

MUSCAT: Kalyan Jewellers, one of the largest and most-trusted jewellery companies, announced the launch of its football-themed jewellery – Es Vida.

With the ongoing football World Cup fever, the all-new limited edition jewellery designs of Es Vida pay tribute to the country's vibrant football culture.

Es Vida is a Spanish phrase which means 'It's Life' – which is

exactly what football is to its millions of supporters. This set of gender-neutral platinum and rose gold jewellery from Kalyan Jewellers provides fans with an opportunity to valiantly display their passion for the game.

Talking about this unique football memorabilia, Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director – Kalyan Jewellers said, "We are delighted to introduce Es Vida



to the passionate and enthusiastic football community in India and the Middle East. We believe that these all-new soccer-inspired designs will be something that the footballing community would love to wear and flaunt, as they celebrate this game season. In a brand first, we have associated with In-

dia's football icons for the Es Vida campaign, and we hope that fans for whom football is life, will embrace Es Vida," he added.

The brand campaign for Es Vida features Indian youth icons Harmanjot Singh Khabra and Nganbam Sweetie Devi, both players representing India's National Football Team. Coming together for the first time, Harmanjot Singh Khabra and Nganbam Sweetie Devi speak about what football means to them. They advocate that one should #WearYourPassion – and are featured wearing the Es Vida range of gender-neutral jewellery from Kalyan Jewellers.

Football fans can now wear their passion as they cheer their favourite football teams and sporting icons - Es Vida designs are available at select showrooms across Qatar, UAE, Oman, Kuwait and India, priced from OMR 250 onwards.

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS CELEBRATES 52ND NATIONAL DAY OF OMAN IN STYLE

Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrated the 52nd National Day of Oman in their showroom, in the presence of Najeeb K, Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Muhasin P, Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds and other team members. — Supplied picture



2022 EDITION

Bank Muscat concludes Tadhamun programme successfully

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has successfully concluded the 2022 edition of its landmark Tadhamun programme, which is implemented annually in line with the bank's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and community service.

The bank executed the programme for the 10th consecutive year, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, with a joint team distributing household appliances to over 200 social welfare families across different governorates in the Sultanate. A number of volunteers from the bank participated in the programme and distributed over 800 household ap-

pliances including air conditioners, refrigerators and other appliances to the beneficiary families.

It is a matter of great encouragement to the bank's strong efforts in social responsibility that the Tadhamun programme has so far benefitted 1,880 families since being launched in 2013. This year too, the programme was implemented in cooperation with specialists from the Ministry of Social Development, who received applications and finalised the list of families entitled for the benefits. The bank has been particularly encouraged by its partnership with the ministry on a number of initiatives including Tadhamun in line with its commitment to Public-Private

Partnership. Bank Muscat also took the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Social Development and members of its volunteer team for the successful implementation of the programme.

Bank Muscat, which is Oman's leading financial services provider, runs several long-term social responsibility projects including Green Sports, Al Wathbah SME Academy, the Maliyat financial literacy programme and Irshad financial coaching, which are all aimed at supporting different segments of Omani society. This year, the bank extended its support to 20 youth sports teams as part of its flagship Green Sports programme. The bank has recently signed an

agreement to implement an advanced training programme for 30 Omani entrepreneurs. Bank Muscat also continues to closely partner with the Royal Oman Police to curb cyber fraud through repeated awareness campaigns for the general public.

Over the past decades, the bank has been working closely with government institutions and a number of civil-society organisations to support programmes, which create sustainable, positive changes in communities across the Sultanate. As a result, Bank Muscat was once again honoured in 2022 by the Ministry of Social Development for its pioneering role in Corporate Social Responsibility.



MUSANDAM CROSS FESTIVAL

Celebration of adventure, multi-sport events in Musandam concludes

MUSCAT: From November 15 – 19, the 2022 Musandam Cross Festival successfully went ahead as an exciting celebration of off-road multi-sport events in Musandam Governorate's magnificent sea and mountainous terrain.

The festival was launched under the auspices of Dr Saeed bin Humaid Al Harthy, the Wali of Khasab, in the presence of Musandam Governorate representatives, participating athletes, supporters, and members of the Khasab and Musandam communities.

During the launch, Al Harthy was also on hand to inaugurate the official 2022 Musandam Cross Festival village at the iconic Khasab Fort. The festival village served as a family entertainment arena and central hub to highlight the many adventure sport and adventure tourism opportunities in the region. The village also included an exhibition for local SMEs and traditional craftsmen to display and promote their products to festival attendees, with support by Oman's SMEs Development Authority.

Along with its off-road triathlon, duathlon, trail runs, and the highly popular kids' fun run and aquathon, the Musandam Cross Festival provided a prime opportunity for competing athletes and their families to immerse themselves in the breathtaking beauty of Musandam.

Oman's Musandam Governorate – separated from the rest of Oman by the UAE – is located on the northern tip of the Arabian



Peninsula. With spectacular sea and mountain scenery, as well as dozens of fjord-like khors, magnificent marine life to explore while diving, pristine beaches, picturesque fishing villages, and premium luxury hotels, Musandam makes for a modern-day adventure sport paradise.

Several multi-sport themed activities were scheduled for kids during the festival – which encouraged them to start endurance and adventure sports as a healthy and highly rewarding lifestyle activity.

Commenting on the 2022 Musandam Cross Festival success, Mohamed Obaidani, CEO, Triathlon Middle East, stated: "The 2022 Musandam Cross Festival shined a spotlight on the Musandam Governorate's spectacular sea and mountain scenery, and it highlighted the rich local heritage and culture of

the Musandam people – while providing a warm Omani welcome for the regional and international competitors taking part."

"It was a true honour to welcome the Wali of Khasab, Dr. Saeed bin Humaid Al Harthy, to launch this landmark event for the Musandam Governorate and Oman – as well as for our neighbours the United Arab Emirates, who have an enthusiastic triathlon and endurance sports community," Mohamed Obaidani explained.

The Triathlon Middle East CEO added that the festival served as a flagship event for Musandam's winter-season calendar of activities, and another highlight for the Musandam Governorate as it seeks to boost the local tourism economy with a special emphasis on adventure tourism and adventure sports.

NEW V82+ COUPÉ

Ferrari Roma features timeless and sublimely refined design

MUSCAT: The new Ferrari Roma is the latest coupé from Maranello, featuring timeless and sublimely refined design and all the power and agility required to guarantee a unique driving experience. Its signature Italian styling is a contemporary reinterpretation of the carefree lifestyle of 1950s and '60s Rome, from which it takes its evocative name, Roma.

Stylistically, the Ferrari Roma is characterised by clean and symbiotic forms. Its beautifully harmonious proportions and elegantly pure, balanced volumes are very much in line with the Ferrari mid-front-engined grand touring tradition of which the 250GT Berlinetta Lusso and 250GT 2+2 are the most iconic examples, and from which the car takes its inspiration. It embodies an extremely modern design language which underlines its authentic, refined styling. At the same time, its sleek lines retain the sporty vocation shared by all Ferraris.

To guarantee best-in-class performance whilst still retaining the stylistic purity of its bloodline, Ferrari's engineers developed several leading-edge technologies, most notably a mobile rear spoiler integrated into the rear screen designed to retain the car's formal elegance when retracted and guarantee the downforce essential for the Ferrari Roma's extraordinary performance by automatically deploying at high speeds.



The Prancing Horse's new 2+ coupé sports a V8 turbo engine that punches out 620 cv at 7,500 rpm, making it the most powerful in its segment. A member of the V8 family that has won the International Engine of the Year four years in a row, it features Variable Boost Management for instantaneous throttle response. With the adoption of Gasoline Particulate Filters, meticulous attention was also focused on the sound of the exhaust system which has been completely redesigned, removing the silencers and introducing new bypass valves.

The car's new 8-speed dual-clutch gearbox is more compact and 6 kg lighter than its 7-speed predecessor. As well as reducing fuel consumption and emissions, shifts are faster and smoother which makes the car even more responsive on the open road, but also especially comfortable in

town and during stop&start driving situations.

The Ferrari Roma's chassis benefits from the modular technology developed by Ferrari for its new generation models. Both bodyshell and chassis have been redesigned to incorporate the latest weight reduction and advanced production technologies. In fact, 70% of its components are entirely new. The mid-front-engined 2+ Ferrari Romahas the best weight/power ratio in its segment (2.37 kg/cv) which enhances handling dynamics and responsiveness.

The Ferrari Roma features Ferrari's cutting-edge vehicle dynamics systems, the most notable example being the Side Slip Control 6.0 (a first on a Ferrari GT car) with 5-position Manettino and Ferrari Dynamic Enhancer which controls yaw angle by hydraulically adjusting brake pressure at the callipers.



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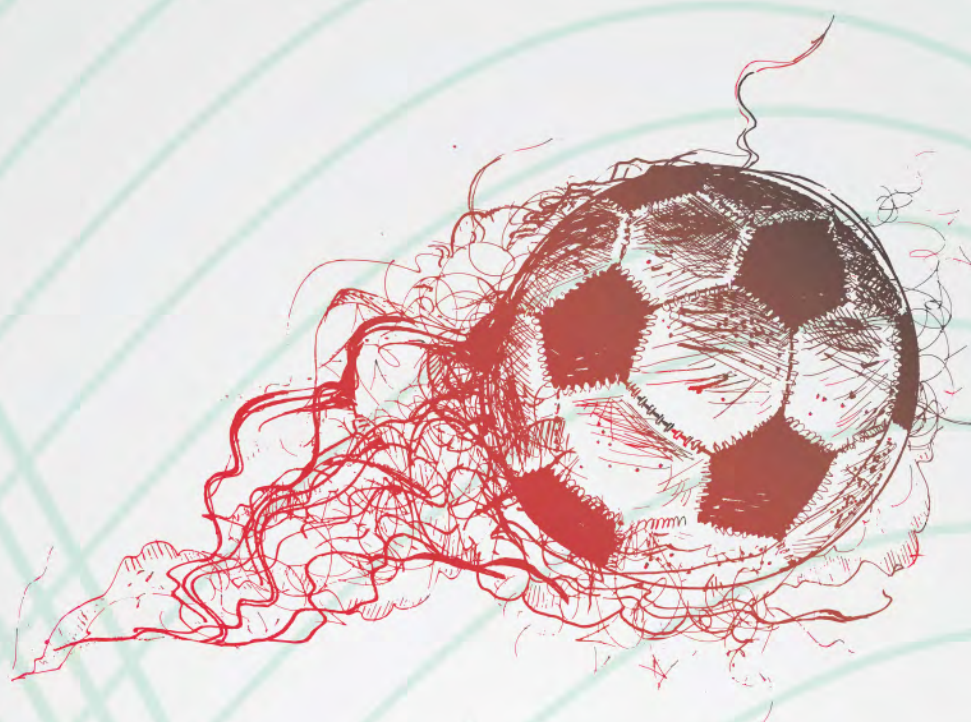
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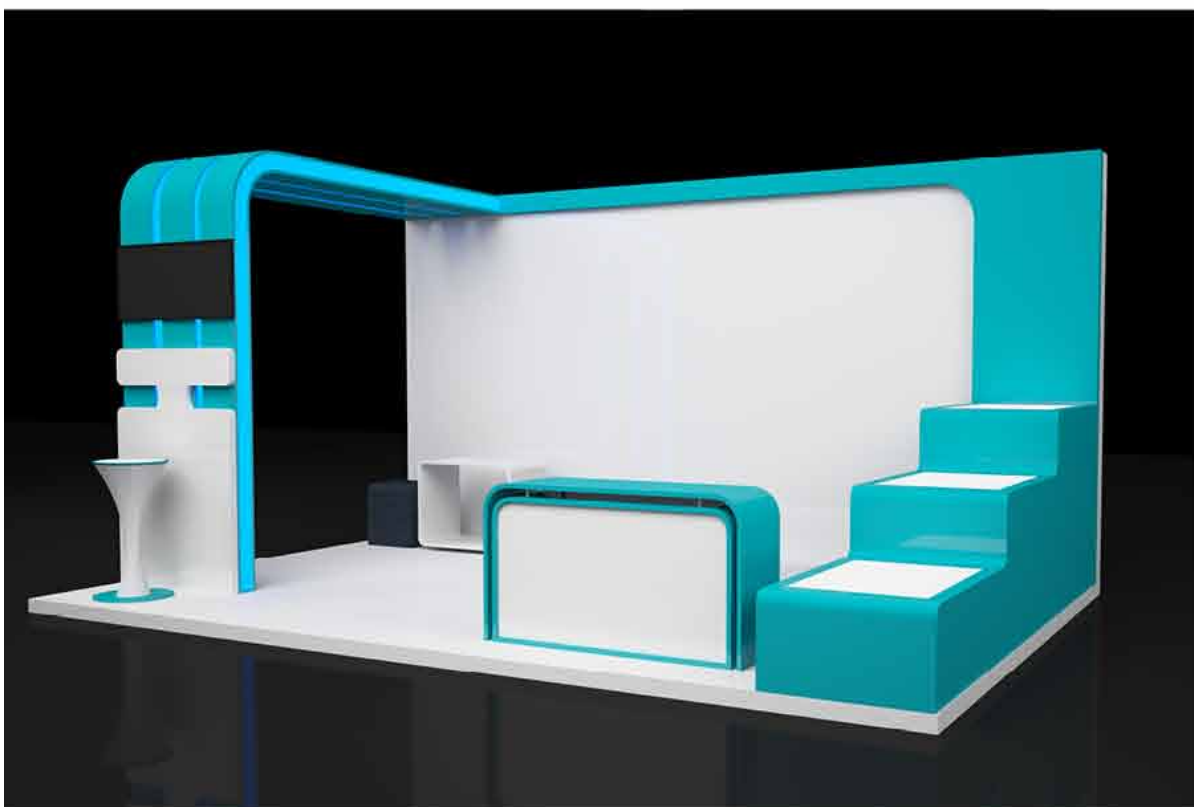
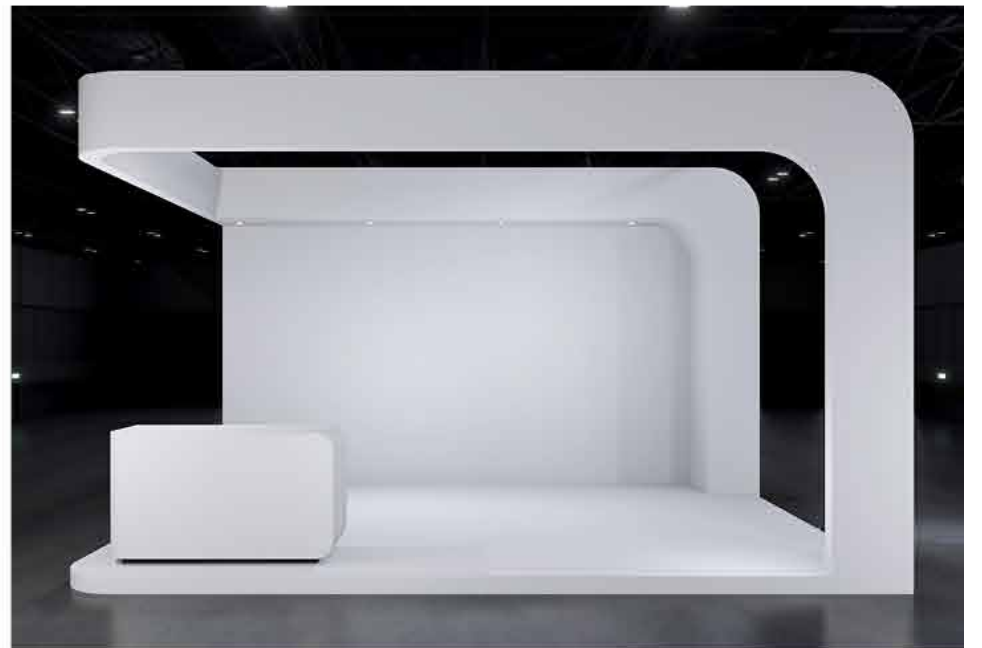
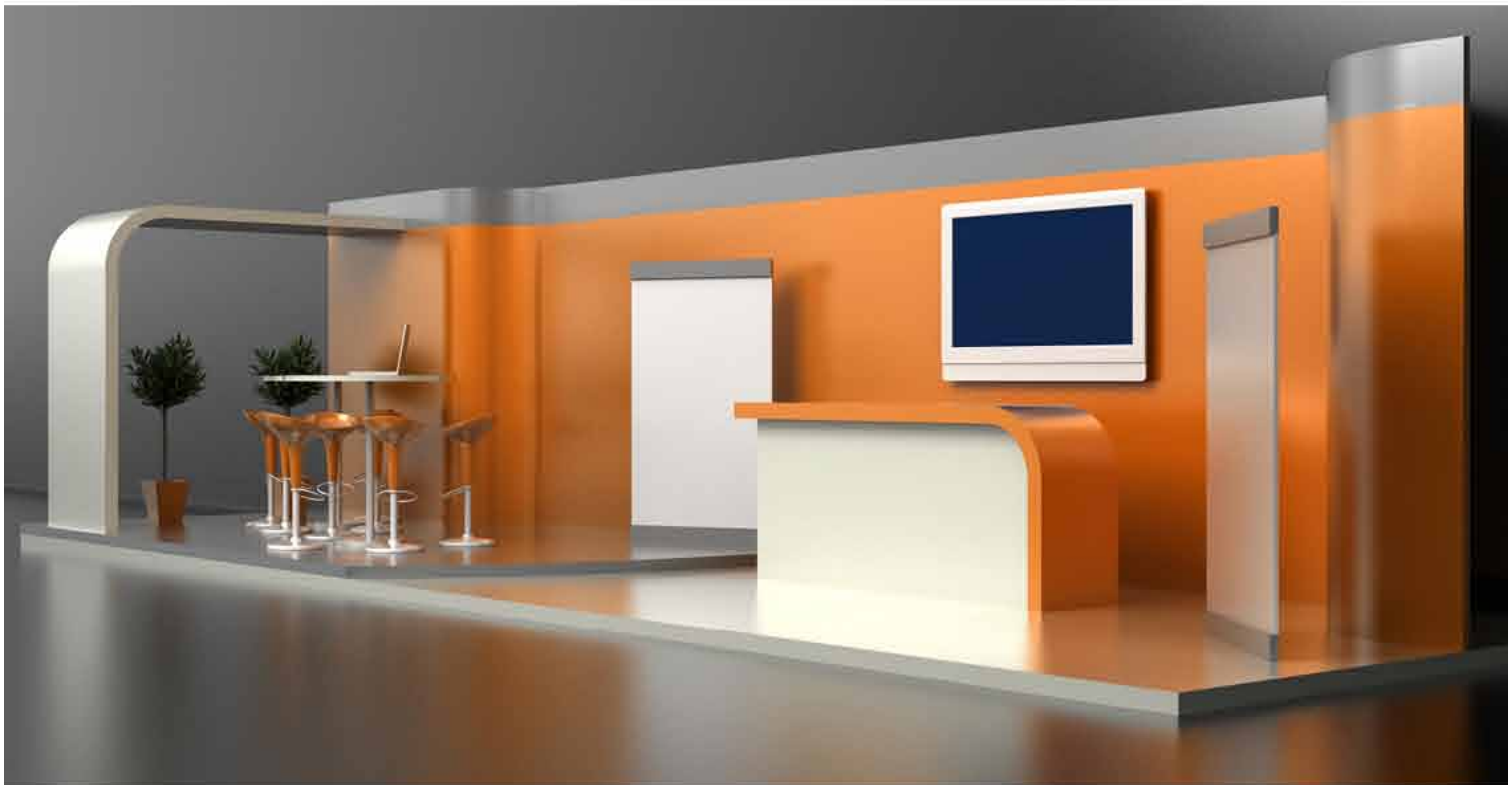


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