

ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER RECEIVES AMBASSADORS OF ITALY, TURKEY

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received on Tuesday Pierluigi D'Elia, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman and Muhammet Hekimoğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A5**



6 085010 120010

RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:15pm
ASR	3:42pm
MAGHRIB	6:29pm
ISHA	7:40pm
FAJR (APRIL 6)	4:38am

Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 30 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](https://www.timesofoman.com) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](https://www.facebook.com/timesofoman) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](https://twitter.com/timesofoman) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](https://www.youtube.com/user/timesofomanonline) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299a5b5b5b5b5b5b5b) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](https://www.rss.com/timesofoman.com/rss) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](https://www.linkedin.com/company/times-of-oman) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](https://www.instagram.com/timesofoman)

هيئة تنمية المؤسسات
المتوسطة والمتوسطة
SMEs Development Authority

CA No. 04972/8

الخير

Souq Al Wathbah

April 6 to 8, 2023 8 pm - 12 am

Bank Muscat Head Office

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR MUSCAT

Oman's capital ranked the best Arab city in World Traffic Index

Drivers, pedestrians urged to follow traffic rules and regulations to make roads safer

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat was ranked as the best Arab city in terms of smooth flow of traffic, according to the World Traffic Index for the year 2023, issued by the global database 'Numbeo'.

Although Oman's capital was ranked 185th in the world in terms of most crowded city traffic-wise, it was ranked as the least crowded in the Arab world and the best in

terms of smooth flow of traffic.

Adhere to traffic rules

An official from the Royal Oman Police (ROP), told *Times of Oman*: "The traffic directorates in the Sultanate of Oman play their role in securing the flow of traffic for road users, providing advice and guidance, and urging drivers and pedestrians to adhere to traffic rules and regulations so that roads become safer for users."

Comprehensive development

He added that the comprehensive development witnessed by the Sultanate of Oman over the years of its Renaissance has led to an increase in the tasks undertaken by the Royal Oman Police, and it was necessary to keep pace with that by developing means to provide security, stability and safety for all citizens and residents of the Sultanate alike. **>A5**



Muscat selected as a 'city for sustainable learning'

MUSCAT: Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, on Tuesday discussed with the walis of the governorate and specialists from the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, a project to include one of the wilayats of Muscat Governorate in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities for the year 2023.

Visual presentation

During the meeting, a visual presentation was screened highlighting the global network of learning cities, its objectives and strategy, how the basic learning city is being built, the gains that the Sultanate of Oman will achieve by joining the network, and how to join this project, in preparation for the next stage.

At the end of the meeting, the Wilayat of Muscat was chosen as a city for sustainable learning.



The step aims to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

This project comes in line with the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman to upgrade national indicators in education to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all).

The project is concerned with highlighting efforts related to sustainable development; such as empowering youth, promoting a culture of lifelong learning, and the economic and cultural prosperity of cities. — OMA

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

28th
MUSCAT

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

New electronic services launched

1 The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has launched new electronic services through Invest Easy portal in the private education and the municipal sectors. The aim is to accelerate finalisation of services and streamline business practice to improve Oman's competitiveness in Business Climate Index. **>A3**

WORLD

Virgin Orbit files for bankruptcy in US

2 Virgin Orbit has decided to file for bankruptcy after the layoff of 85% of employees and failing to secure funding to help its recovery from a January rocket failure **>A7**

MARKET

MESTEC to be held in June in Muscat

3 The 11th edition of The Middle East Strategic Communication Conference (MESTEC 2023) is slated for June 13-14 in Muscat. **>B1**

HOLIDAY OFFERS

Is it too late to plan a break this Eid?

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With expectations growing for a long Eid Al Fitr holiday later this month, one thing that is on everyone's minds is how to plan Eid holidays. Is it late to book or should I wait longer or should I grab the deals on offer before they are sold out?

It is certainly time to rush with the plans if one wishes to travel out of the country or book hotels during a staycation in the Sultanate of Oman.

Astronomical calculations show that the crescent of the month of Shawwal for this year will be difficult to spot on the evening of the 29th day of Ramadan in the Sultanate of Oman's governorates, Arab and Islamic countries of the world. In all likelihood, the first day of Eid Al Fitr is expected to fall on Saturday corresponding to April 22, 2023.

As a result, the holidays in Oman are likely to start from April 20 and continue till April 25, 2023.

Planning holidays is not an easy matter, though, with the ease of travel since the removal of pandemic restrictions a lot of people love to travel to cooler countries in Europe. But one of the major challenges they are facing in re-



cent times is getting a visa with families complaining that they are getting dates for visa submission at times after months.

A leading travel agent admitted to *Times of Oman* and said that "getting appointments for Schengen visas is a challenge."

"Most of our travellers were unable to get appointments for Schengen visas ahead of the Eid

holidays. We are advising people to go to countries where tourists can get a visa on arrival."

Among the various Eid Al Fitr holiday offers, Oman United Agencies Travel (OUA) is promoting destinations like Bangkok for OMR 191 (3 nights), Phuket OMR 141 (4 nights), and Bali for OMR 150 (5 nights), Maldives for OMR 271 (3 nights) and Mauritius from OMR 196 (3 nights). The prices, however, exclude flight tickets.

Another leading travel agency, Travel Point, is promoting four nights stay in Sri Lanka for OMR125, Azerbaijan for OMR140 and Bali for OMR190. "There's still time to plan an exciting vacation for the Eid Al Fitr Holidays. Take a look at our top-selling packages starting at affordable prices - the perfect getaway for you and your family," read a promotion on Travel Point's Facebook page.

Khimji's House of Travel (KHOT) is promoting Eid break in Sri Lanka with six nights and seven days stay, starting from OMR 205 per person.

Few of the travel agents said, "Demand among Oman residents is very high for travel to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Maldives, because these destinations offer visa-on-arrival for residence visa holders."



JOB VACANCIES

We are pleased to announce that Oman Investment Authority (OIA) is currently looking for a potential talent to fill the following positions:

Position	Directorate
Manager - Investments Real Estate	Real Estate
Senior Associate - Financial Control	Finance
Senior Associate Valuation	Finance
Senior Specialist - Performance Management	Human Resource
Specialist - SMEs Development	In-Country Value
Senior Analyst, Corporate Planning & Strategy	Planning & Performance

How to Apply ?

To apply and view the detailed job description, please visit the OIA's page on **LinkedIn**

The Last date for receiving the applications will be:
18 April 2023

[OIA.GOV.OM](https://www.oia.gov.om)

[@OMAN_OIA](https://twitter.com/OMAN_OIA)

[OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oman-investment-authority)

SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT SECURED WITH OVER HALF OF AL MOUJ MUSCAT’S JINAN ISLAND VILLAS SOLD WITHIN A WEEK

A private collection of stylish Jinan Island homes on a serene island within Oman’s world-class lifestyle destination has attracted exceptional interest from buyers



Following Al Mouj Muscat’s launch of Jinan Island last week, the private collection of 43 five and six-bedroom luxury villas in a serene island setting surrounded by a lake and centred around lush parkland has proved hugely popular and over half of the homes have sold.

Situated at the heart of Oman’s premier oceanfront lifestyle destination, Jinan Island is a chance for families to Escape the Ordinary in elegant contemporary homes, fully immersed in nature and where they have the freedom to embrace a multitude of renowned leisure amenities nearby.

Linked by a single road to the vibrant Ghadeer District, the verdantly lush Jinan Island is centrally located close to the community’s pristine beach between Al Mouj Muscat’s Gold Anchor Marina and Al Mouj Golf, the region’s leading championship course.

The residents-only neighbourhood offers three styles of villa, each a balance of luxury, style and comfort and a splendid union of indoor and outdoor living which create an oasis of calm. All are superbly appointed with grand entrances, floor to ceiling windows, walk-in wardrobes, guest suites, offices, spa-style



ensuite bathrooms, garages, two kitchens and staff accommodation.

Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, commented: “At Al Mouj Muscat we pay close attention to buyer aspirations and understand how to create a sense of place and belonging and we are delighted that this has been rewarded with such a positive response.

“Jinan Island captures the extraordinary through beautiful homes in an exclusive island setting where every detail has been designed to elevate every moment of everyday modern family life. “In addition to inspiring the senses, Jinan Island has inspired record buyer interest by offering a unique lifestyle opportunity where every family member can Escape the

The collection comprises 18 six-bedroom **Alaya Villas**, offering over 900 sqm of space and mesmerizing views across the lake. Set over three floors, there is an elevator and a stunning top floor penthouse suite plus covered parking for up to four cars. Unique to Alaya is a separate Zen Garden Suite which set overlooking the swimming pool, can be used as an entertainment, exercise or workspace.

The eight **Ayana** style homes have six-bedrooms, set over two floors, and have sublime lake views. They have over 606 sqm of space, and exclusive elements including a gym, parking for up to three cars plus driver’s accommodation.

Completing the collection are 17 five-bedroom **Amara Villas**. Overlooking the island’s verdantly landscaped central park, each offer over 427 sqm of space plus parking for up to three cars and driver’s accommodation.

Ordinary, connected to nature and to a community where life can be enjoyed at its best.” There is strong demand for homes at Al Mouj Muscat, with over 8,000 residents currently calling the dynamic leisure and lifestyle location home. Established in 2006, Al Mouj Muscat was Oman’s first integrated tourism complex, a joint venture partnership between OMRAN, Tanmia and Majid Al Futtaim and it has redefined urban living in the region. It now attracts 4.9 million visitors a year to its premium sporting, entertainment and tourism amenities, including luxury hotels, 85 shops and restaurants, a World 100 golf course, a marina with a host of waterside eateries and its 2km stretch of sandy beach.



Eight on-demand taxi apps announced



Once the apps meet the Ministry’s regulations, they can process immediate orders or advance bookings



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology announced eight applications for licenced on-demand taxis. Once the apps meet the Ministry’s regulations, they can process immediate orders or advance bookings. The step comes as part of the Ministry’s efforts to regulate the activity of taxis in Oman.

The licences are being endorsed for several taxi services, including Otaxi, Tasleem, Ubar, Marhaba, TM DONE, Hala Taxi, Tanweel and Sayidati (for women). On-demand taxi smart apps provide for tracking and monitoring of the taxi tour at fixed prices determined prior to the start of the trip.

They ensure privacy and security for the user and allow for communication with the driver and cancellation of the trip’s order. The apps cover basic trips, economy trips and monthly contracts, as well as an independent system for making taxi orders exclusive to establishments and companies. — OMA

ON TUESDAY MORNING

Three seriously injured in Oman school bus accident

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Three persons were seriously injured and 13 others suffered minor injuries in a collision between a vehicle and a school bus on Tuesday morning, said the Royal Oman Police (ROP). The Royal Oman Police said in a statement: “An accident occurred between a vehicle and a minibus carrying a number of students on the road leading to the Wilayat of Dima and Al-Tayyin in the Ghubra Tam area, resulting in

the injury of all those in the two vehicles, including three serious injuries and 13 people with light injuries. **ROP statement** An official of the Royal Oman Police spoke exclusively to *Times of Oman* about the details of the accident, saying, “The accident occurred at around 7:10am between a saloon vehicle with one passenger (the driver) and a school bus carrying 14 students with the driver, a total of 15 members.”

He further added: “As a result of the accident, all passengers were slightly injured, and they returned to their homes, except for three of them, whose injuries required hospitalisation in Ibra Hospital, to be assured of their health condition.” The Royal Oman Police official called on vehicle drivers in general and buses in particular to pay attention when driving, adhere to traffic laws, not overtake or drive recklessly, and not endanger the lives of others.

STREAMLINING BUSINESS PRACTICE



New electronic services launched in education, and municipal sectors

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has launched new electronic services through Invest Easy portal in the private education sector and the municipal sector. The aim is to accelerate the finalisation of services and streamline business practice in order to improve Oman’s competitiveness in the Business Climate Index. In the education sector, the services include the registration of private schools for early education (kindergarten) new private schools, private international schools, foreign schools (for resident communities) and Holy Quran teaching schools. In the municipalities sector,

the services include issuing commercial boards via Invest Easy portal. This service is merged within requests for economic activities licensing, when applicants register new branches for business practice. The launch includes a new service—requesting change of the business’ legal status from a sole proprietorship to a commercial company. Thereby, an investor may change the legal form of institution electronically without having to visit the premises of the Ministry or its directorates in the governorates. Also, the service of assessing customer satisfaction is included within self-services via “Invest Easy” portal.

— OMA

AL HASHAR PHARMACY LLC

Europe’s Leading brand
SUNSCREEN FACE CREAM 2 IN 1
50 SPF
Sun Protection & Anti-wrinkle Action

COMING SOON
TO OMAN

Ramadan Mubarak

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

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

Oman United Insurance Co.
S.A.O.G.



Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:29 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:15 pm
Asr	3:42 pm
Maghrib	6:29 pm
Isha	7:40 pm
Fajr (April 6)	4:38 am

» IFTAR RECIPE

CHICKEN CREPE WITH BÉCHAMEL SAUCE



By Samreen Hamid

INGREDIENTS

For the crepe

- 1 and 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 eggs, beaten
- 1 tablespoon fresh dill (soya)
- 1 cup water

PREPARATION

- Mix everything well and make a smooth batter.
- Heat and grease a pan with little oil, pour a certain amount of the mixture, and swirl the batter around so it covers the sides of the pan.
- Allow to cook until set and edges start to turn golden brown. Repeat the process and make crepes.

FOR THE FILLING

- 1 cup chicken tikka chunks
- 2 tablespoon butter
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped white mushrooms
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon parsley
- 1 tsp mix herbs
- 1 cup cream
- 1/2cup red chili flakes
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tbsp flour
- 4 tbsp mozzarella cheese

PREPARATION

- In a pan add oil and butter, with chopped onion and sauté until translucent. Add chopped mushrooms and
- fry for a few seconds. Add flour with all the spices, cream, milk and remaining ingredients. Add chopped coriander
- 2 tbsp. Filling is ready, keep aside.

For the Bechamel sauce

- 2 tablespoon butter with 1 tbsp olives oil
- 2 tablespoon flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cube of cheese
- salt and pepper to taste
- Cream 1/2 cup

PREPARATION

- Mix everything well and make a smooth batter.
- To assemble the crepes
- Place crepe on an assembling board, fill with 2 tablespoons of the mushroom mixture, add 2 tablespoons of béchamel sauce on top.
- Roll crepe and assemble in a baking dish, drizzle more béchamel sauce on top, and sprinkle with cheese, coriander leaves and dry parsley
- Bake in a preheated oven for 5 to 7 minutes. For extra 2 minutes, turn on the upper grill for colour. Serve hot.

» WORDS OF WISDOM

“Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear”
[Quran 2:286]

When feeling overwhelmed by struggle, pain, or certain obstacles in life, it is important to remember that Allah only tests those with as much as they can specifically handle and overcome. By understanding that each hardship is created specifically for you to overcome, it becomes empowering to know that Allah understands your strength more than you sometimes understand yourself.

» FASTING TIPS

REDUCE CAFFEINE INTAKE

While it is important to drink plenty of water during non-fasting hours, Ramadan is the perfect time to curtail or stop drinking caffeinated drinks. Drinking coffee right after breaking fast can significantly increase a person’s gastric acid. Also it can disturb your sleep pattern.



» HEALTH

KEEP YOUR SKIN AND BODY HEALTHY DURING RAMADAN



WHEN YOU

are fasting for long hours, it is advisable to drink more water than your usual habit during non fasting hours. Water doesn’t just refresh you from inside but it also cleanses the toxins in your body. Your skin will also benefit from water as it is scientifically proven that a hydrated skin is a nourished skin. Two to three hours after Iftar, you can try some stretching, run on a treadmill or even jog around your home with your family or friends. It is your responsibility to have an active lifestyle as part of your daily habit. You can start with little exercise and increase gradually.



more naturally than any medicine or capsules sold in the pharmacy. The right amount of sleep will improve your memory, concentration and immunity. It will also make you glow naturally as you feel re-energised and recharged. Many offices during Ramadan have short timings and you can actually take advantage of that to go home and take a power nap after 5pm and wake up before Iftar. If you do not have time to nap during the day, be sure to get those 7-8 hours of sleep every night.

Stop eating junk food or limit it. Instead of buying boxed, artificial juices from the grocery, replace it with nutritious fresh juice. You can even do your own and mix your favourite fruits, shake it up and enjoy it at home, perhaps after an exercise. It is also much cheaper and it will surely detoxify your body. You can also replace junk food with almonds, spinach, carrots, and green leafy veggies as snacks. Fruits and vegetables will detoxify your body



Now by  **Mustafa Sultan Enterprises L.L.C.**

MEETINGS

Royal Office Minister receives ambassadors of Italy, Turkiye

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received here on Tuesday Pierluigi D'Elia, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and areas of joint cooperation between the two countries. Gen. Sultan wished the ambassador success in his new duties as ambassador of his country to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Italian ambassador commended the advanced relations binding Oman with Italy.

The two sides also exchanged conversations on various matters of mutual interest.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani also received in his office on Tuesday Muhammet Hekimoğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the Sultanate of Oman.

Gen. Sultan underlined the depth of the historical bilateral relations binding the two countries and the development they witnessed in many areas, thanks to the interest accorded by the leaderships of the two countries.

He wished the ambassador success in his new duties as ambassador of his country to the Sultanate of Oman. The two sides also touched on several matters of common interest. -ONA



TALKS SESSION: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received Pierluigi D'Elia, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA



MEETING: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani received in his office on Tuesday Muhammet Hekimoğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Initiatives helped in reducing congestion

<FROM A1 The official stressed that the presence of police to ensure the smooth flow of traffic, the presence of speed detectors, the efforts made by the Royal Oman Police in the traffic movement, and the identification of the problem areas causing traffic congestion, all helped in reducing congestion and the flow of traffic, in order to provide means of traffic comfort for the citizens, residents and visitors in the Sultanate of Oman.

In addition, the report of the World Traffic Index for the year 2023 further said that the capital of Nigeria, Lagos, was ranked as the worst city in the world in terms of traffic. Lagos was followed by the American city of Los Angeles.

JOB VACANCY



Oman Electricity Transmission Company SAOG (OETC) has a vital role in the Oman Electricity Sector, as it owns and operates the main transmission network as well as transmission network in Dhofar through which electricity is transmitted from the generating stations to the distribution load centers in all governorates of the Sultanate. The main electricity transmission network operates at high voltage of 132kV and above. Also, OETC has the responsibility of balancing generation and demand at all times of the day as part of its responsibilities for the economic dispatch of power in the Sultanate, and are currently looking for motivated Omani candidates for the following position:

Job Title	Job Code
Cyber Security Expert	IRC16991

Interested candidates may apply for this post through www.omangrid.com by not later than 16th April 2023. Please attach the following when applying:
- CV - University Degree - Experience Letters - ID Copy
Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted



Oman Electricity Transmission Company S.A.O.G.
Muscat Main Office
Wing No. 2153, Building No. 4230, Square No. 321
Tel: 91293517
Website: www.omangrid.com





Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY OF IRONMONGERY	06/2023	01/05/2023	08/05/2023	109 RO
SUPPLY OF PAINTS ASSOCIATED ITEMS	07/2023	01/05/2023	08/05/2023	106 RO
SUPPLY OF ROPE HOSE CLAMP PAPER ABRASIVE AND LUMBER	08/2023	01/05/2023	08/05/2023	142 RO
SUPPLY OF GENERAL ITEMS	09/2023	01/05/2023	08/05/2023	183 RO

- Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
- Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Vsa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.



لكل ٢٠ ريال عماني تنفقه تحصل على قسيمة شراء مجانية بقيمة ١٠

GET 10 OMR SPEND 20 OMR

FOR EVERY 20 OMR SPEND 10 OMR GET 10 OMR GIFT VOUCHER FREE

الملابس والأحذية المختارة * Selected Garments & Footwear*

For Every Ro 20/- spend, get back Ro 10/- worth of Nesto Gift Voucher Instantly to buy more Garments & Footwear
تحصل على قسيمة شراء بقيمة ١٠ ريال للأحذية والملابس المختارة عند شرائك الملابس والأحذية المختارة بقيمة ٢٠ ريال

* Gift Voucher can Redeem only Selected Garments & Footwear
* يمكن استبدال قيمة القسيمة الشراء بالملابس والأحذية المختارة فقط

Terms and Conditions Apply.
العرض صالح : من ٢٣ مارس ٢٠٢٣ إلى ٣٠ أبريل ٢٠٢٣
OFFER VALID : FROM 2023 MARCH 23 TO APRIL 30

Ramadan Iftar Program



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

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

You can donate through the following :

donate via devices automated payment of a company "ONEIC"



Bank Muscat
0331010930310021
Omantel users
Send Donate to 90022

Bank Dhofar
01040609090001
Ooredoo users
Send Donate to 90909

National Bank of Oman
1049337798005

Electronic Donations Portal www.donate.om

O C O Headquarters : Muscat Governorate , Al Khuwair 33 , Street No.47, next to Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque, or one of its branches :

South Al-Sharqiyah Governorate
26541087
Sur / Al-murtafa

North Al-Batinah Governorate
26864241
Sohar / Al-Hambar

Musandam Governorate
26731588
Khasab / Al-Shaebah

Dhofar Governorate
23234735
Salalah / Al-saada



OCO OMAN
charity@oco.org.om



www.oco.org.om

24297960
24297961



مستشفى الحياة الدولي

AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Quality Care Without Compromise

Ramadan

Bronze Package

11 OMR

57 PARAMETERS

FREE GP CONSULTATION

FREE HOME SAMPLE COLLECTION (FOR 3 PACKAGES)

LIVER PROFILE

➤ Gamma Glutamyl / Transferase

➤ Alkaline Phosphate

➤ Bilirubin - Direct

➤ Bilirubin - Total

➤ Bilirubin - Indirect

➤ Protein - Total

➤ Serum Albumin

➤ SGOT (AST)

➤ SGPT (ALT)

➤ Serum Globulin

➤ SerumAlbumin / Globulin Ratio

RENAL PROFILE

➤ Calcium

➤ Uric Acid

➤ Blood Urea Nitrogen

➤ Serum Creatinine

➤ BUN / Serum Creatinine Ratio

➤ eGFR

DIABETEC SCREEN

➤ HbA1c

➤ Blood Sugar

THYROID PROFILE

➤ Triiodothyronine (T3)

➤ Total Thyroxin (T4)

➤ Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH)

LIPID PROFILE

➤ LDL Cholesterol

➤ Total Cholesterol

➤ HDL Cholesterol

➤ Triglycerides

➤ VLDL Cholesterol

➤ LDL / HDL Ratio

➤ TC / HDL Cholesterol Ratio

➤ Non-HDL Cholesterol

MOH No:- 11/2023

2200 4000 9972 8290 7919 1834

NEW YORK-BASED JUDGE

Trump arraignment: Judge disallows video cameras

NEW YORK: In the latest move, a New York-based judge has issued a ruling on Monday that no video cameras will be allowed in the courtroom where the former US President Donald Trump will be arraigned, and gave a nod to only a handful of photographers who will be allowed to take pictures in the premises, The Hill said citing media reports.

The ruling was issued by New York Judge Juan Merchan on Monday night New York Judge Juan Merchan ruled on Monday night that a handful of photographers will be allowed to take pictures in the courtroom where former President Trump will be arraigned on Tuesday, but he will not allow video cameras, accord-



ing to reports.

After Trump's legal team argued against having cameras in the courtroom, claiming that it

would create a "circus-like" environment, Merchan made his decision, according to The Hill.

Five still photographers will be permitted access to the courtroom for a period of time before being asked to leave, according to the decision, which was reported by ABC News.

No electronic devices would be permitted in the main or backup courtrooms, according to the judgement.

Trump is scheduled to appear in court for his arraignment regarding his alleged role in the 2016 hush money payments made to adult film star Stormy Daniels to conceal an alleged affair that he has constantly denied, The Hill reported. -ANI

WITH US

India to ink \$300 million weapons deal

NEW DELHI: India is moving towards clearing a proposal to buy American weapons including the Hellfire missiles and Mark 54 anti-submarine torpedoes for its MH-60 Romeo multirole helicopters.

24 of these choppers have been contracted for by the Indian Navy in a fast-track deal worth over USD 2 billion in 2020 and they have to be equipped with weapons for carrying out operations.

The proposal to purchase the weapons package for the MH-60 Romeo choppers is at an advanced stage in the Defense Ministry and negotiations are also going with the American administration for the USD 300 million deal to be concluded under the Foreign Military Sales route. -ANI

Times

OF OMAN



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



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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com

ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com

CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

SPACE TOURISM

Branson's Virgin Orbit files for bankruptcy

CALIFORNIA: Virgin Orbit has announced the decision to file for bankruptcy after the layoff of around 85% of employees last week and failing to secure long-term funding to help its recovery from a January rocket failure, the firm announced on Tuesday.

The ambition of the California-based firm was to stand out in the space launch business, which is dominated by its competitors like Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Under US law, Chapter 11 is often called "reorganisation bankruptcy" and is used by businesses that want to continue operating but need time to restructure their finances and debt.

"At this stage, we believe that

the Chapter 11 process represents the best path forward to identify and finalize an efficient and value-maximising sale," Virgin Orbit CEO Dan Hart said in a statement.

Virgin Orbit is a satellite-launching company that spun off of British billionaire Richard Branson's space tourism venture Virgin Galactic in 2017.

The company sends satellites into orbit by a process called "air-launching", where a modified Boeing 747 plane is used to release a rocket mid-flight. The sixth mission of the company in January was its first international launch and the first rocket launch out of UK soil. -DW

PROBE BEGINS

1 dead, several injured in Dutch train crash

THE HAGUE: A passenger train slammed into a construction crane and derailed near The Hague in the early hours of this morning sending two carriages into a field next to the tracks. One person died and 19 were hospitalised, Dutch emergency services said.

Police opened an investigation to establish if any crime was

committed. Another independent probe was opened into the cause of the crash. Two of the bright yellow and blue train carriages came to rest perpendicular to the tracks across the small canal and partially in a field. What appeared to be the front of the train was badly damaged. Other parts of the train were partially derailed. -DNA



UPGRADE Your Lifestyle

SUBSCRIBE, SAVE & ENJOY

Your new style of living!





Unlimited 2 for 1 Offers and valuable Discounts at leading merchants covering all your needs.





circlee

FREE 2TRY

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Extras are hurting Chennai really bad, says skipper Dhoni

CSK captain gives ‘warning’ to quicks after they sent down 13 wides and three no-balls against LSG

CHENNAI: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni issued a stern message to his bowlers after his team’s 12-run win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Chennai on Monday.

The skipper expressed his unhappiness about the number of no-balls and wides his fast bowlers have bowled in Chennai Super Kings’ two IPL 2023 matches so far. In their second game itself, against Lucknow Super Giants on Monday night, Super Kings’ quicks sent down 13 wides and three no-balls.

“We are bowling too many extra deliveries,” he said after the win at Chepauk, and even mock-threatened his bowlers that “they will have to be ready to play under a new captain”.

Deepak Chahar, the experienced name in the pace attack, bowled five wides (including three in a row in the 17th over) in the game against Super Giants, but didn’t concede any extras in the first game, which Super Kings lost to Gujarat Titans.

The two less-experienced quicks, Tushar Deshpande and Rajvardhan Hangargekar, have been consistent in giving away extra deliveries: Deshpande has a tally of five wides and four no-balls over two games, and Hangargekar six wides and one no-ball. No-balls, of course, come with free hits, and oppositions have slammed two



fours and a six off those so far.

“It’s the fast bowling that needs to slightly improve, and they need to bowl according to the conditions. Maybe, even if it’s on the flatter side, have fielders and try to bowl in the areas where you are pushing the batsmen to hit over the fielders,” Dhoni said in the post-match presentation on Monday.

“Especially what is important is: keep an eye when we’re batting, keep an eye on what the opposition bowlers were doing, so it gives you an idea of what can be done, ‘what can be my plan according to the strength I have or the pace I have’.

“One more thing is they will have to bowl maybe no no-balls and less wides. Because we are bowling too many extra deliveries. Or they will have to be ready to play under a new captain at some point of time. It will be my second warning and I’ll be off,” he said with a grin.

The message seems to have gone across loud and clear. When Deshpande spoke at the post-match press conference, he said, “Bowling a no-ball is a crime in T20 cricket.”

On Monday, Dhoni used a total of seven bowlers, including one over each from Ben Stokes and Ravindra Jadeja, and Super Kings gave away 205 after putting up 217. In the first game, though, he had

used only five bowlers, not trying Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube (who didn’t bowl in the second game either) or Stokes, who is still not 100 percent bowling fit. Hangargekar has played in both games ahead of swing bowler Simarjeet Singh, who had impressed in the six games he played last year.

“I feel he [Hangargekar] is very good potential, he has a bit of pace and the more exposure he gets the better he will get. So overall not disappointed,” Dhoni had said after the first game.

“I feel the bowlers did quite well looking at the conditions overall. No-ball is something, you know, they should try not to bowl. Because in modern cricket, no-ball is something that’s in your control. And at the end of the day, it hurts you really bad. So it’s important to control the no-balls.” - Agencies



SUBSCRIBE

Times of Oman or Al Shabiba for one year and get **FREE**





Ramadan Health Checkup Package



Muscat Urology and Nephrology Healthcare

FREE

- LIVER - SGPT (ALT),
- LIPID - CHOLESTEROL,
- HDL, LDL, TRIGLYCERIDE,
- RENAL-CREATININE,
- URIC ACID, THYROID -TSH,
- DIABETIC -HbA1C,
- COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT, VITAMIN D3

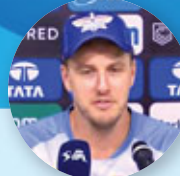
* Limited period offer

3 Months Complimentary GYM membership

- from HORIZON LLC الأفق



QUOTE OF THE DAY



“There’s a lot to like about Mark Wood. He’s running in, he’s bowling at 150, that aggressive length, he’s a strike bowler for us.”

MORNE MORKEL
Lucknow Super Giants’ bowling coach

TODAY’S MATCH



Rajasthan Royals vs Punjab Kings

6pm, Guwahati

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	P	W	L	T	NR	NRR	PTS
GT	2	2	0	0	0	+0.700	4
RR	1	1	0	0	0	+3.600	2
RCB	1	1	0	0	0	+1.981	2
LSG	2	1	1	0	0	+0.950	2
PBKS	1	1	0	0	0	+0.438	2
CSK	2	1	1	0	0	+0.036	2
KKR	1	0	1	0	0	-0.438	0
DC	2	0	2	0	0	-1.703	0
MI	1	0	1	0	0	-1.981	0
SRH	1	0	1	0	0	-3.600	0

CSK: Chennai Super Kings, DC: Delhi Capitals, GT: Gujarat Titans, KKR: Kolkata Knight Riders, LSG: Lucknow Super Giants, MI: Mumbai Indians, PBKS: Punjab Kings, RCB: Royal Challengers Bangalore, RR: Rajasthan Royals, SRH: Sunrisers Hyderabad



SAI SPARKLES, MILLER DAZZLES IN TITANS WIN

Defending champions prove too good for Delhi Capitals as they complete their second successive successful chase

NEW DELHI: Sai Sudharsan’s unbeaten 62 and a late blitz from David Miller guided Gujarat Titans to their second successive victory as they demolished Delhi Capitals by six wickets at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing 163 to win, Miller’s 16-ball 31 and Sudharsan’s solid half-century came after Gujarat Titans were reduced to 36/2 with both wickets claimed by South African pacer Anrich Nortje. But Sudharsan dug in his heels with his solid knock that came off 48 balls and included four boundaries and two maximums. He shared a 53-run crucial fourth-wicket stand with Vijay Shankar to put the team on path to victory.

It was yet another successful chase by the Titans, having chased down the target during their opening match against Chennai Super Kings.

Earlier, Rashid Khan and Mohammed Shami took three wickets apiece while Alzarri Joseph scalped two as Delhi Capitals posted a total of 162/8.

The defending champions once again ticked all the boxes: won the toss, bowled well, and came up with a clinical chase. From the time Mohammed Shami seamed the first ball of the match to Delhi Capitals’ captain David Warner that kissed the off stump but the bail didn’t fall, Titans hardly put a foot wrong. Be it the early movement from Shami, middle-over hostility from Joseph, leg-spin from Rashid in the second half of the innings, there was no let-up by the bowling attack.

During the chase, Titans lost wickets, but never fell behind the rate when they rebuilt, with Sudharsan standing out with his calm and composed knock. And as if to celebrate his form, David Miller’s fireworks blasted two sixes and two fours to reach the target with 11 balls remaining.

Earlier, Warner top-scored for Capitals with 37 while Axar Patel scored 36 off 22 deliveries.

Put to bat first, Capitals got off to a fine start as Warner and Prithvi Shaw gathered 11 runs in Shami’s first over. However, the hitting did not last long as in the third over of the innings Shami removed Shaw.

Shami then dismissed new batter Mitchell Marsh in the fifth over of the game. Sarfaraz Khan and Warner then rebuilt the team’s innings. Joseph broke the fine partnership as he removed well-set batter Warner for 37 and Rilee Rossouw on the very next ball for a duck to strike a double blow.

Rashid Khan in the 13th over dismissed debutant and left-handed batter Abishek Porel for 20 off 11 balls. He then delivered a stunning ball to dismiss Sarfaraz Khan for 30 off 34.

Axar Patel played some big shots at one end to keep the scoreboard ticking. Rashid got his third victim when he had Aman Hakim Khan caught by Titans captain Hardik Pandya in the penultimate over of the game. Axar slammed a six in the last over from Shami before being dismissed but a boundary from Anrich Nortje took the team’s total to 162/8.

Titans move to four points while Capitals have none.

Brief score: Delhi Capitals 162/8 (David Warner 37, Axar Patel 36; Rashid Khan 3-31, Mohammed Shami 3/41) lost to Gujarat Titans 163/4 (Sai Sudharsan 62 n.o., Vijay Shankar 29, David Miller 31 n.o.; Anrich Nortje 2/39) - Agencies



ENJOY AMAZING EXPERIENCES
WITH DISTINCTIVE LUXURY

WITH EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

FREE SERVICE*
FROM 3 YEARS / 30,000 KMS
(WHICHEVER IS EARLIER)
UP TO 6 YEARS / 60,000 KMS
(WHICHEVER IS EARLIER)

SCRATCH & WIN*
FREE REGISTRATION* 1 YEAR



BATTERY OPERATED
RIDE-ON
LEXUS LX TOY SUV

Discover amazing luxury with Lexus. Strengthened by its legendary heritage and with a firm focus on the future, every Lexus goes beyond conventions with advancements in design, safety features and technology. And adding to these experiences is the exceptionally personalised and prompt service delivered by our friendly Lexus staff. Visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom today!



Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC (Lexus Division)
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified) | C. R. No: 1703412
Muscat: 24578913, 92844016, 93320817, Al Mawaleh: 92858001,
Barka: 93201966, Buraimi: 91298576, Sohar: 99374199,
Ibri: 99898249, Nizwa: 92858001, Salalah: 99103579

Campaign Period: 15.03.2023 – 13.05.2023. Benefits applicable for all purchases except RAC Bulk Deals, Government Organizations & Ministries. *3 Years / 30,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on RX & LX 600. *5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on NX, UX, GX, IS & LS. *6 Years / 60,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 6 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on ES. @ Free One Year Registration on all models. \$ Scratch & Win: Every customer who buys a vehicle will be eligible for one Scratch & Win card. A total of 70 lucky customers will win a Battery Operated Ride-on Lexus LX Toy SUV. Vehicles specifications are subject to change without notice. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only.

YouTube Lexus Oman Instagram Oman.Lexus Facebook Lexus Oman www.lexusoman.com

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2023 reaching \$85.11, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.00 from the price of Monday, which was \$84.11. - ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,785.65 points, down by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.05 per cent at 482.47 points. Sohar Power, up 17.65 per cent, was the top gainer while OIFC Bonds, down 11.77 per cent, was the top loser.

MESTEC to bring together senior communications professionals

Celebrated speakers from across the region and outside shall shed light on new communications strategies as they will bring very rich and diverse experiences with them

MUSCAT: The 11th edition of Middle East Strategic Communication Conference (MESTEC 2023) which is slated for June 13-14 at Millennium Hotel Muscat will bring together senior communications professionals to address the industry's biggest challenges, trends and opportunities and discuss how strategic communications can remain relevant in a time of change for the industry.

The conference, organised by Muscat Media Group, a name to reckon with in the media segment of Oman, offers a platform for organisations to discuss challenges and opportunities in emerging forms of communication, as well as evolving strategies to keep their audiences better informed.

Strategic communication is crucial for organisations to com-



municate with their external audiences, as it is the link between the organisation's mission and goals, and their realisation.

The conference basics

The MESTEC 2023 will be held in two segments. The opening ceremony will begin with the announcement of the annual awards for Gulf and Arab journalism and media. This award recognises individuals or organisations that have played a significant role in expressing Arab identity and uni-

ty, and have developed innovative methods of media, public relations, and communication.

This would be followed by the actual conference featuring six sessions spread over two days, with three sessions per day.

Topics

The topics have been selected based on the needs of media industry requirements.

The first-day topics include Modern Media's Role in Developing the Philosophy of Education;

Media Development Strategy - TV Broadcasting as a Model; and Administrative and Media Strategies to Confront Crises and Emergencies. Among the topics on the second day are: Modern Media Strategy for Marketing Omani Products and Industries; Modern Public Relations Strategies; and Government Communication and its Role in Marketing the National Vision.

Celebrated speakers from across the region and outside shall shed light on new communications strategies as they will bring

very rich and diverse experiences with them. Organised by Middle East's renowned Muscat Media Group (MMG) founded in 1975 by the late Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali and which caters to a growing audience with its strong brands in print, digital, video and FM radio, the conference will include interesting sessions aimed at uniting the media sector to exchange ground-breaking ideas and cutting-edge solutions, shaping the future of the industry.

Ahmed Issa Al Zadjali, CEO of MMG, said, "The Middle East Strategic Communication Conference agenda will offer key insights into the latest innovations and important topics the media is facing and will appeal to a global audience. It is high time that stakeholders take full advantage of this and participate."

Knowledge exchange

MMG anticipates this event will facilitate critical knowledge exchange and present opportunities for business partnerships for media professionals from across the region.

Organised under the aegis of the Council Of Arab International Relations (CARINTER), under the supervision of (ARAPRESS) Arab Association for Press & Media in CARINTER and organised by Gulf Center for Strategic Communication (GSC) this event is ideal for corporate professionals who are interested in keeping up-to-date with the latest media trends and strategies, as well as those who wish to learn more about media in the Middle East.

They can also benefit from the

networking opportunities available at the event to make valuable business connections.

GSC is an international training centre affiliated with CARINTER which is a registered charity by the Charity Commission in England and Wales since 2005 that promotes more understanding and dialogue between Arab people and other nations of the world.

Dr Tariq Al-Shammari GSC chairman, said, "The past success of the ten conferences that it hosted amply demonstrates the capabilities of the Gulf Centre for Strategic Communication in conducting an event of this stature," stressing that the sessions and discussions will help identify opportunities and challenges of media institutions and companies.

He added that the feedback received from the previous editions was really positive and he hopes that this conference will further enhance the knowledge of the participants with innovative and latest tools in the media. As media plays a crucial role in shaping public perception, government organisations will benefit from attending the event to learn more about effective communication strategies and how to build positive relationships with the media.

The conference and its range of workshops will offer an interactive platform for those working in academic media centres, including researchers, educators and students.

The companies, institutions, and entities can contact media@nexus-novel.com & call on 99440826 for sponsorship queries & registration of delegates for the conference.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR77mn issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR77 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills stood at OMR36 million, for a maturity period of 28 days.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.635 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.635 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.75260 per cent and 4.77000 per cent, respectively.

The value of the allotted treasury bills stood at OMR41 million, for a maturity period of 91 days.



The average accepted price reached OMR98.750 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.745 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield

reached 5.01325 per cent and 5.07670 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide li-

censed commercial banks with the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The Central Bank of Oman acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the repo operations with The Central Bank of Oman is 5.50 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.00 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. -ONA



ADB forecasts 4.8% growth for Asia and Pacific in 2023 and 2024

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts faster growth for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific this year, as the continued easing of pandemic restrictions boosts consumption, tourism, and investment. The People's Republic of China's (PRC) reopening - as it pivots away from its zero-COVID strategy - is the main factor brightening the region's growth prospects.

Economies in Asia and the Pacific are projected to grow 4.8 per cent this year and next year, improving on the 4.2 per cent growth rate in 2022, according to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) April 2023, released. Excluding the PRC, developing Asia is expected to grow 4.6 per cent this year and 5.1 per cent in 2024. The region's inflation, meanwhile, is forecast to moderate gradually toward pre-pandemic levels, though there is considerable variation across economies.

Improved consumption and investment are boosting recovery in many regional economies, offsetting the impacts of elevated food and energy prices caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other global headwinds. Tourism and remittances are trending upward as pandemic restrictions ease further. In many tourism-dependent economies, visitor arrivals are steadily improving toward pre-pandemic levels.

Risks to the outlook persist,

however. A protracted crisis in Ukraine could stoke renewed spikes in commodity prices and global inflation and induce further monetary tightening. Tighter global financial conditions, combined with the increase in debt over the past decade and during the pandemic, have elevated financial stability risks, as evidenced by the recent banking sector turmoil in the United States and Europe. These risks must be carefully monitored and proactively addressed, according to ADO April 2023.

"Prospects for economies in Asia and the Pacific are brighter, and they're poised for a strong recovery as we return to normalization following the pandemic," said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park. "People are starting to travel again for leisure and work, and economic activities are gathering pace. Because many challenges remain, governments in the region need to stay focused on policies that support stronger cooperation and integration to promote trade, investment, productivity, and resilience."

With the lifting of the zero-COVID strategy in December last year, the PRC economy is expected to grow 5.0 per cent this year and 4.5 per cent in 2024, compared with 3.0 per cent growth in 2022. India, meanwhile, is forecast to expand by 6.4 per cent this year and 6.7 per cent next year, due to healthy domestic demand. -WAM

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

Oman's robust legal landscape offers potential for further growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Addleshaw Goddard, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary in Oman, has set new targets and is accelerating the steep growth trajectory that the company is on to deliver more impact for its clients in the country, according to a senior business law firm executive

"We are extremely grateful to all our clients for joining us on this exciting journey, and we look forward to further strengthening those relationships by bringing more quality and imagination to support their business strategies for growth and success for many years to come," Roger Byrne, Head of Region, Addleshaw Goddard Oman, said.

Addleshaw Goddard is an acclaimed international law firm and is one of the leading names for corporate legal services in Oman.

Elaborating about the services it offers Byrne said, "Our banking and finance team advised on the financing of the \$500 million finance facility for Jindal Shaded Iron and Steel Company in connection with its steel production plant at Sohar. We also advised banks on the \$500 million mixed conventional and Islamic finance facilities to Oman Broadband Mazoon to finance the roll-out of an expansion to the fibre



network in Oman."

The head of the region of the law firm said that its client list includes leading Omani and international companies and government-owned enterprises across the corporate spectrum, including major banks, conglomerates and resource entities.

Speaking about some of some recent major projects the law firm has been involved with in Oman, Byrne said, "Within our commercial, corporate and M&A practice, we have advised Rakiza Infrastructure Fund on its joint venture with Helios Towers which has acquired the telecommunications tower infrastructure portfolio owned by Omantel for \$495 million."

"We have also advised Vision Insurance on its merger with Oman Qatar Insurance Company, a significant merger for the Oman insurance sector between two companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), and China State Grid on its \$1 billion acquisition of 49 per cent of the share capital of Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC), as part of the partial privatisation of the electricity sector in Oman," he further added.

Byrne further elaborated on some of its major success stories about Omani corporates said, "We advised Alizz Islamic Bank on its \$8.4 billion merger with Oman Arab Bank (OAB), the first transaction of any kind under the Oman Takeover Code which won 'IFN Mergers & Acquisitions Deal of the Year 2020.' We also advised the International Distribution Network (IDN) on the establishment structure and commercial operations to bring Sainsbury's supermarket products from the UK to Oman."

Robust macro fundamentals

Speaking about the robust macro fundamentals of Oman's economy Byrne said that the Sultanate's economy continues to expand and attract great interest from international investors.

The hydrogen sector and its po-

tential are especially pertinent. "We are very optimistic about the strong foundations of Oman's economy and potential for further growth. The existence of a well-established legal system and investor-friendly laws will continue to facilitate future economic expansion."

Omani lawyers

When asked about the company's future expansion plans Byrne said that while we do not discuss specific future plans, we look forward to continuing to deliver outstanding value, doing all we can to help our clients in Oman and across the region succeed in their ambitions, and supporting the opportunity of growth anticipated in the years to come. "We are particularly excited about continuing to provide opportunities for the next generation of Omani lawyers and advocates," he added.

Speaking about the competition he said, "We have set ourselves apart from the competition through a combination of having an experienced Oman-based team with a wealth of expertise advising clients with business interests in the GCC; our absolute commitment to developing long-term relationships; and our experience of doing business in this region across a range of legal disciplines."

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Sohar Power, up 17.65 per cent, was the top gainer while OIFC Bonds, down 11.77 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,785.65 points, down by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.05 per cent at 482.47 points. Sohar Power, up 17.65 per cent, was the top gainer while OIFC Bonds, down 11.77 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 641 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.89 million, with more than 10.28 million shares changing hands. Out of 59 traded securities, 25 advanced, 19 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR155,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR140,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR15,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,702.58 points, up 0.08 per cent. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Global Financial Investments, Ominvest, Al Batinah Development Company and United Finance were up by 8.33 per cent, 3.45 per cent, 2.82 per cent, 2.56 per cent and 1.64 per cent respectively.

Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Oman Qatar Insurance, Bank Dhofar, Oman United Insurance and Sohar International Bank were up by 9.30 per cent, 5.29 per cent, 3.13 per cent, 2.36 per cent and 0.96 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,074.35 points, down 1.26 per cent. Prices of Oman Chromite, Voltamp Energy, Jazeera Steel Products, Galfar Engineering and Oman Cement were up by 9.59 per cent, 1.82 per cent, 1.15 per cent, 1.02 per cent and 0.65 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Construction Materials, National Aluminium, Gulf Mushroom Products and Oman Fisheries were up by 10.00 per cent, 9.46 per cent, 9.09 per cent, 3.93 per cent and 3.23 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0 per cent before closing at 1,694.27 points. Prices of Sohar Power, Oman Oil Marketing, Salalah Port Services, Al Suwadi Power and OIFC were up by 17.65 per cent, 10.00 per cent, 4.55 per cent, 3.23 per cent and 0.92 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating and Muscat Desalination were up by 1.52 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDECIES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,816.62	4,758.84	4,785.65	4,781.90	-6.25	-0.13	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,739.15	7,702.58	7,702.58	7,696.29	6.29	0.08	
Industry Index	6,164.36	6,033.87	6,074.35	6,151.83	-77.48	-1.26	
Services Index	1,708.29	1,689.31	1,694.27	1,694.27	-0.01	0.00	
MSX Shariah Index	485.81	482.21	482.47	482.70	-0.23	-0.05	
MSX TR INDEX	6,332.42	6,256.59	6,291.70	6,299.93	-8.22	-0.13	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,430.55	8,361.29	8,390.71	8,383.86	6.85	0.08	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,876.38	1,855.53	1,860.97	1,860.98	-0.01	0.00	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,585.07	6,445.68	6,488.91	6,571.68	-82.77	-1.26	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,281,727	2,891,570	641	23,788,541,193	25	19	15	59

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 4

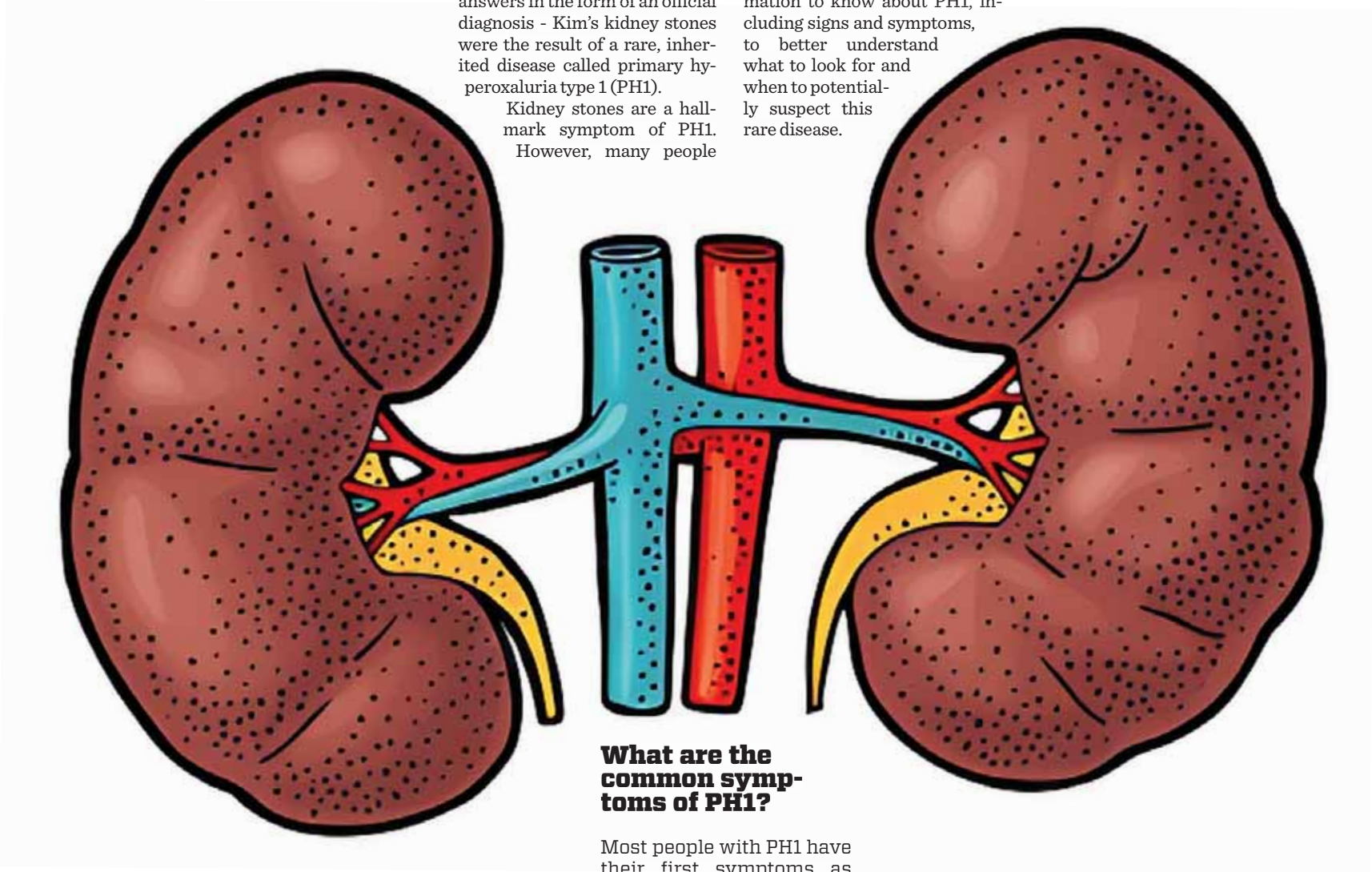
	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. IND	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	19,900	1,194	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.058	0.002	3.448	0.060	0.060	0.062	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000003135	OMINVEST	253,168	1,101.48	20	0.040	0.446	0.424	0.438	0.428	0.012	2.817	0.438	0.400	0.438	0.100	292,744,057
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	7,982	2,045	5	0.265	0.265	0.244	0.265	0.262	0.003	1.145	0.265	0.260	0.265	0.100	33,097,959
OM0000001525	OMAN INVEST&FIN	210,000	23,100	8	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.107	0.003	2.710	0.110	0.110	0.113	0.100	27,373,500
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,700	524	2	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.306	0.002	0.654	0.308	0.306	0.318	0.100	101,908,795
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	43,435	17,830	4	0.410	0.420	0.410	0.410	0.408	0.002	0.490	0.410	0.410	0.418	0.100	266,887,134
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,040,408	561,117	60	0.275	0.276	0.274	0.275	0.274	0.001	0.365	0.275	0.274	0.275	0.100	2064,235,192
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	28,898	3,150	3	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.109	0.111	0.100	16,350,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,285,358	346,366	15	0.267	0.268	0.267	0.268	0.268	0.000	0.000	0.268	0.267	0.268	0.100	438,753,623
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	270,128	46,987	4	0.174	0.174	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.000	0.000	0.172	0.172	0.180	0.100	335,341,084
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	164,150	13,108	10	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.088	0.100	7,200,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	6,289	6,290	4	1.030	1.030	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.030	0.100	69,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	254,722	269,970	39	1.080	1.080	1.030	1.080	1.080	0.000	0.000	1.080	1.030	1.080	0.100	785,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	268	107	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.420	0.100	94,564,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CARLES INDSTR	127,600	211,178	4	1.655	1.655	1.655	1.655	1.660	-0.005	-0.301	1.655	1.655	1.655	0.100	148,453,500
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	310,540	31,977	7	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	472,776,416
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	725	300	1	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.414	0.420	-0.006	-1.429	0.414	0.402	0.414	0.100	22,770,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	350	33	1	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.061	0.065	0.100	14,445,600
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	7,904	2,300	2	0.292	0.292	0.290	0.290	0.297	-0.007	-2.357	0.290	0.286	0.296	0.100	29,000,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	200	108	2	0.560	0.560	0.522	0.522	0.580	-0.058	-10.000	0.522	0.570	0.620	0.100	82,215,000
Total	20	5,043,705	1,647,821	193												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	750	816	2	1.100	1.100	1.055	1.100	1.000	0.100	10.000	1.055	1.055	1.055	0.100	67,402,500
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	434	1,043	3	2.405	2.405	2.400	2.400	2.180	0.210	9.589	2.400	2.400	0.000	1.000	7,200,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	3,332	227	2	0.088	0.072	0.088	0.072	0.066	0.006	9.091	0.072	0.067	0.072	0.100	33,825,420
OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	497,697	60,706	23	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	8.333	0.130	0.122	0.130	0.100	217,023,300
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SR	650	299	1	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.440	0.020	4.545	0.460	0.000	0.460	0.100	82,725,204
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	300,358	9,412	8	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.001	3.228	0.032	0.031	0.032	0.100	22,861,003
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV	25,000	2,000	5	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.002	2.564	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	2,400,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,257	138	4	0.109	0.112	0.109	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.112	0.109	0.100	9,117,108
OM0000008988	THE PEARL REIF	41,400	4,890	3	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.002	1.695	0.120	0.117	0.125	0.100	50,972,425
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	382,300	23,688	17	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.061	0.001	1.639	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.100	22,079,893
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	291,397	18,117	21	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	97,800	8,599	17	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	15,225,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	278,925	24,827	25	0.089	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	25,500	5,049	4	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.196	0.002	1.020	0.198	0.196	0.200	0.100	40,191,316
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	304,431	34,977	32	0.115	0.116	0.113	0.115	0.114	0.001	0.877	0.115	0.114	0.118	0.100	9,773,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,577,957	458,291	157	0.290	0.291	0.290	0.291	0.290	0.001	0.345	0.291	0.288	0.291	0.100	224,128,200
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	395	573	2	1.450	1.450	1.450	1.450	1.450	0.000	0.000	1.450	1.335	1.450	0.100	72,500,000
OM0000004776	SHIEL OMAN MILK	9,010	7028	9	0.900	0.900	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.000	0.000	0.880	0.860	0.860	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	203,585	19,931	12	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	500	39	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.080	0.100	74,456,012
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	12,782	537	2	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.040	0.046	0.100	10,500,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	10,000	320	1	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.031	0.035	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	1,000	88	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.010	0.088	0.087	0.090	0.100	15,243,539
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	619	37	2	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.058	0.060	0.100	86,235,486
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	79,962	11,280	15	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.145	-0.004	-2.759	0.141	0.141	0.145	0.100	28,300,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	3,490	341	2	0.098	0.098	0.095	0.095	0.098	-0.003	-3.061	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,465	847	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.160	-0.005	-3.125	0.155	0.155	0.160	0.100	464,434,473
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	224,840	20,934	24	0.093	0.095	0.090	0.090	0.093	-0.003	-3.226	0.090	0.090	0.092	0.100	16,387,056
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	10,000	2,200	2	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.229	-0.009	-3.830	0.220	0.220	0.227	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	67,300	10,775	3	0.160	0.161	0.160	0.161	0.170	-0.009	-5.294	0.161	0.161	0.179	0.100	25,956,190
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM IND	203,747	10,197	26	0.055	0.055	0.050	0.050	0.055	-0.005	-9.091	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	1,678,573
OM0000001881	OMAN INVESTING	14,834	1,193	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.086	0.086	-0.008	-9.932	0.078	0.082	0.078	0.100	5,508,250
OM0000001388	CONSTRUCTION M	17,028	1,141	3	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.074	-0.007	-9.459	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	4,187,500
Total	33	6,982,713	740,559	434												

KIDNEY STONES:

HOW ONE COMMON RECURRING SYMPTOM COULD SIGNAL A RARE DISEASE

Throughout her life, Kim had no explanation for the recurrent, painful kidney stones she experienced. Growing up she and her doctors dismissed these stones and associated pain for other conditions like menstrual cramps and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). It wasn't until her sister Joy passed away from the same disease that Kim received answers in the form of an official diagnosis - Kim's kidney stones were the result of a rare, inherited disease called primary hyperoxaluria type 1 (PH1). Kidney stones are a hallmark symptom of PH1. However, many people

who experience recurrent stones in adulthood or even one kidney stone as a child do not consider or investigate a root cause, which can lead to delayed diagnoses and further complications. After watching her sister's progressive PH1 symptoms, Kim is determined to ensure her sister's memory lives on by sharing PH1 education and her own disease journey. Here's some information to know about PH1, including signs and symptoms, to better understand what to look for and when to potentially suspect this rare disease.



What are the common symptoms of PH1?

Most people with PH1 have their first symptoms as children or teens, but some people don't have signs until they're adults. Kidney stones are the most common symptom of PH1, which may include pain in the side of the body, painful and/or bloody urination and urinary tract infections. However, not everyone with PH1 may have kidney stones. Other symptoms of PH1 include, but are not limited to, nephrocalcinosis (crystal deposits in kidney tissue), failure to thrive in babies and end-stage kidney disease (kidney failure). Kim was not the first person in her family to experience kidney stones. Her brother passed away at birth due to crystallization in his kidneys, and her sister also experienced kidney stones, among other PH1 symptoms, throughout her life. Their symptoms were undiagnosed by doctors for years until they received a formal diagnosis later in life - which unfortunately, was too late in her sister's battle with PH1.

What is PH1?

PH1 causes an overproduction of oxalate - an unneeded waste product that cannot be broken down further - in the liver. Normally, oxalate is present only in small amounts, is not used by the body for anything and needs to be eliminated by the kidneys. The overproduction of oxalate can lead to the formation of painful and recurrent kidney stones as well as progressive damage - meaning it can get worse over time and cause permanent damage.

How rare is PH1?

As a rare disease, PH1 affects approximately 1 to 3 individuals per million in the United States and Europe, with an estimated 1,300 to 2,100 diagnosed cases across geographies. In some regions, such as the Middle East and North Africa, the genetic prevalence of PH1 is estimated to be higher. After getting diagnosed with PH1, Kim took a genealogy test that showed she is, in part, of Middle Eastern descent, giving her a higher likelihood of having PH1. Knowing this helped fuel her vigorous research to learn about disease management options, especially since she and her siblings are more likely to have PH1 due to their ancestry.

How are patients diagnosed with PH1, and how can they manage a positive diagnosis?

PH1 can be diagnosed by a doctor measuring oxalate levels in the urine or blood, and/or with a genetic test. While managing PH1 is life long, there are various ways to address the symptoms. A person diagnosed with PH1 should work with their doctor or care team to create a personalized care plan, which likely would include monitoring oxalate levels and kidney function. Management options include hyperhydration (drinking a lot of water to dilute urinary calcium oxalate), dialysis (removing oxalate and other waste products from the blood) and certain supplements or oxalate-lowering medications.

How often are people diagnosed with PH1?

For many patients, like Kim, PH1 is not diagnosed immediately. Half of people living with PH1 may be undiagnosed. Unfortunately, Kim's sister was also diagnosed later in life and, due to the delayed diagnosis, developed severe oxalosis throughout her body, including in her legs and heart before passing away. -BPT

SPORTS



Keane’s last minute winner helps Everton split points with Spurs



The Premier League game was an uninspiring encounter up until the flashpoint on 57 minutes when Toffees midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure was given a red card

LIVERPOOL: Michael Kean’s last-minute stunner saw Everton hold Tottenham to a 1-1 draw in an English Premier League game on Tuesday as the eventful and heated night of football came to an end with both sides finishing with 10 men.

Defender Keane stepped up from the back to arrow a 25-yard drive into the top corner, the point taking Sean Dyche’s men out of the relegation zone.

Harry Kane had given Tottenham the lead in the second half from the penalty spot after Keane himself had fouled Cristian Romero in the area.

The game had been an uninspir-

ing encounter up until the flash-point on 57 minutes, when Toffees midfielder Abdoulaye Doucoure was given a deserved straight red card after pushing Kane in the face off the ball.

The England captain’s goal looked like giving Cristian Stellini a winning start as interim manager in Tottenham’s first game since Antonio Conte exited the club by mutual consent.

But substitute Lucas Moura was also sent off for a nasty challenge on Keane and the former Burnley player shook off the knock to smash in the equaliser and spark pandemonium at Goodison Park.

The point lifts Everton three

places up to 15th while Tottenham climb to fourth on goal difference, albeit having played two more games than Manchester United in fifth.

For the best part of an hour this was an insipid contest as both sides struggled to create any clear-cut opportunities in the final third.

But Kane was at the thick of the action when he challenged Demarai Gray on the halfway line, an incident to which Doucoure took exception.

Pushes were exchanged before the Everton midfielder put his hand into the face of Kane, who went tumbling to the turf and referee David Coote brandished a straight red.

Kane received lengthy treatment from the physio but the Everton bench were clearly unhappy at his reaction to the incident.

The England captain shrugged off the incident to open the scoring 10 minutes later from the penalty spot, sending international teammate Jordan Pickford the wrong way to register his 15th league goal against Everton.

Kane could have netted in the

opening period but a spin and shot was blocked on the line by Keane, while he also sent a free header wide.

Son Heung-min, roundly jeered throughout for inflicting a serious ankle injury on Andre Gomes here four years ago, had the best opportunity in the first half but shot straight at Pickford.

The result takes Tottenham into the Champions League places with nine games to play, but Stellini’s side have now failed to win their last six games away from home.

“We didn’t lead the game with the ball after the red card. We had the chance to control the game better than we did. You have to move the ball side to side,” Tottenham manager Christian Stellini said after the match.

He added: “Sometimes we rushed, we were frantic. We need to improve in this aspect. It’s a long process and we don’t improve in one night. When you have a team like this in their stadium it is never easy. We were struggling to find the right way to speak to the players and keep them calm. You have to be calm and lucid.” - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE



Shaw signs new four-year deal with Man United

LONDON: Manchester United defender Luke Shaw on Tuesday signed a new four-year contract to keep him at the club until June 2027.

The 27-year-old will extend his stay at Old Trafford to more than a decade, after joining from Southampton in 2014.

Shaw has had an excellent season under manager Erik ten Hag, making 36 appearances in all competitions, scoring once and assisting six times.

“Nine years ago I signed for this amazing club, and I’m thrilled to be extending my stay,” said Shaw.

“I’ve grown immensely since coming to Manchester all those years ago, both as a person and as a player; I know what is needed to succeed at a club like this. We’re at the beginning of our journey under the manager and his coaching staff. We’ve been successful already this season, but we want much more. There’s a great opportunity to create something special here, and I’m going to give everything to be part of that.”

Shaw has played 249 games for Manchester United. He has 29 England caps and scored three times, including the opening goal in the Euro 2020 final against Italy. - Agencies

LA LIGA

Espanyol name Luis Garcia as new coach

MADRID: Former Espanyol striker Luis Garcia has been named as the new coach of the struggling La Liga side.

Garcia replaced Diego Martinez, who was sacked on Monday after his side’s 2-1 defeat to Girona left them fourth from bottom of La Liga and a 1-1 draw with Valencia on Monday night dropping them into the bottom three.

The 42-year-old has left a post coaching Real Madrid’s C-team RSC International in Spain’s fifth tier, and signed a contract for the remainder of the current season and the 2023-2024 campaign.

He returns to a club he represented as a player between 2005-2011, scoring 61 goals in 262 appearances and helping the club win the 2006 Copa del Rey and reach the 2007 UEFA Cup final.

Martinez was not the only La Liga coach to lose their job on Monday, with Valladolid sacking Jose Rojo ‘Pacheta’ in the wake of their 6-0 defeat to Real Madrid on Sunday afternoon.



“Jose Rojo ‘Pacheta’ will not continue at Real Valladolid. The violet and whites recognise the important trajectory of the coach and the role that he has carried out with the club since his arrival, but, with the only aim of remaining in the highest division at the end of the season, this decision has been taken,” the club said.

Pacheta led Valladolid to promotion from the second division last season. But recent weeks have seen their form drop. They were beaten 3-1 at home by Athletic Club Bilbao and their last win was on March 5 against fellow strugglers Espanyol. - Xinhua

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Games to pause for fasting players during Ramadan

LONDON: The English Premier League has decided to briefly pause its matches for Muslim players who are fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, BBC reported on Tuesday.

If clubs have requested a stoppage before the game, the referee will signal for a break, allowing Muslim players to eat and drink at pitchside.

On Monday, Everton’s game against Tottenham was stopped in the 26th minute to allow players that had been fasting during the day to take on energy supplements.

Three Muslim players were in action for Sean Dyche’s side at Goodison Park.

Although sunset was before kick-off, allowing players to break their fast, a drinks break was pre-agreed with the referee when both teams - including Toffees trio Abdoulaye Doucoure, Amadou Onana and Idrissa Gueye - came to the side



of the pitch to take on fluids.

Play does not stop while matches are in mid-flow, but at the earliest convenient moment during a goal-kick, free-kick or throw-in.

Teams and match officials will discuss beforehand whether a pause is required and an approximate time for the stoppage will be agreed.

With late kick-offs coming close to sunset, an agreement might be reached to delay the

start by a couple of minutes to allow players to break their fast, which was the case in Friday’s Championship game between Burnley and Sunderland.

The Islamic calendar follows the lunar calendar, which means Ramadan starts nearly 10 days earlier each year. With the holy month now approaching the winter, breaks in play for fasting players will be a regular occurrence in the coming years. - Agencies

RECOVERING FROM HIP INJURY

Nadal in doubt for French Open after Monte Carlo withdrawal

PARIS: Defending champion Rafael Nadal remains a doubt for the French Open after pulling out of next week’s Monte Carlo Masters with an ongoing hip injury. The Spanish world No.14 has won the tournament in Monaco 11 times but is not fit to return to action.

The 36-year-old has not played since his straight-set second-round defeat by American Mackenzie McDonald at the Australian Open in January.

Meanwhile, world No.2 Carlos Alcaraz is also out of Monte Carlo. The Spaniard, who is chasing Novak Djokovic for the world No.1 ranking, has hand and back injury problems.

“After two months abroad, I am happy to return home but sad because I finished my last match in Miami with physical discomfort,” said Alcaraz, who lost to Jannik Sinner in the last four in Miami, on Twitter.

“I will not be able to go to Monte

Carlo to start the clay court tour. I have post-traumatic arthritis in my left hand and muscular discomfort in the spine that needs rest to prepare for everything that is to come.”

Nadal had expected to be out for six to eight weeks after an MRI scan following his Melbourne loss showed a tear in his left psoas muscle.

But missing the start of the European clay-court season leaves him short of match practice be-

fore the Roland Garros event, which he has won a record 14 times, which begins on 28 May.

“I’m still not ready to compete at the highest level,” Nadal said on Twitter.

“I will not be able to play in one of the most important tournaments of my career, Monte Carlo. “I am not yet in a position to play with the maximum guarantees and I continue my preparation process, hoping to return soon.” - Agencies



W Muscat sets bar for hospitality innovation with futuristic vision

Unforgettable experiences await at W Muscat, the leading lifestyle destination in Oman and beyond

MUSCAT: With nearly 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Gerald Chevasson, General Manager of W Muscat is known for his unconventional approach to leadership, positive energy, and attention to detail.

His firm belief in the power of teamwork and commitment to continuous improvement has earned him a reputation as an exceptional leader in the Marriott portfolio. Gerald has travelled the world, immersing himself in different cultures and broadening his horizons. With his French flair and savoir-faire, Gerald has brought a unique touch to every aspect of hotel operations he has handled. Since joining W Muscat five years ago, he has brought the brand to life while immersing himself in the local culture and exploring the winding wadis and twisting corridors of W Muscat.

In this interview, we learn about Gerald's journey career highlights, leadership philosophy, the hospital industry and W Muscat's love for Oman and its rich culture.

Can you tell us about a particular moment in your career that stands out to you as a “wow moment”? How did this experience shape your approach to hospitality and leadership, and how have you brought that experience to W Muscat?

Reflecting on my career, I can confidently say that one of the most remarkable moments was when I had the privilege of opening the first-ever Buddha Bar in Dubai, followed by the debut of W Mus-



cat, the first W hotel in Oman. Witnessing the birth of these renowned brands in such energetic and heterogeneous cities was an indescribable experience and certainly “wow moments.”

This experience taught me the importance of bringing brands to life and creating immersive experiences for guests. At W Muscat, we strive to do the same, by infusing the rich narrative of Oman into every aspect of the hotel operation. From the decor to the food and music, we aim to create a truly unique and unforgettable experience for our guests.

How did you manage to lead W Muscat Hotel to success and distinction?

I believe that every great hotel is built on teamwork and positive energy, and that's what I strive to embody every day. I like letting my talents (staff) be themselves and keep their personality. I am a big believer in attention to detail, and I make sure to regularly inspect all aspects of our operation, from produce deliveries to cleaning, to ensure that everything is running smoothly. I also love to bring brands to life, and I spend a lot of my free time immersing myself in local culture and exploring new areas. This allows me to better understand our guests and provide them with a truly immersive

experience. But perhaps most importantly, I lead by example. I am always willing to roll up my sleeves and get involved in any task, no matter how big or small.

I take the time to get to know every one of my team members on a personal level, which helps to foster a positive and supportive work environment. The combination of my expertise in the culinary field and my passion for food has played a role in creating some distinctive features for W Muscat. Overall, I think it's my passion for hospitality, attention to detail, and dedication to teamwork and positive energy that have helped me lead W Muscat to distinction.

How does the design narrative of Hotel W Muscat incorporate Omani elements?

W Muscat infuses Omani elements into its design narrative by drawing inspiration from the rich history, physical beauty, and social context of Muscat. Omani storytelling is a significant influence on the hotel's design and the designs draw inspiration from Omani folktales, which tell tales of adventure, mystery, and bravery, and are often used as moral guidance for younger generations. W Muscat reflects the balance between architectural aesthetics and cultural understanding and incorporates Omani patterns and structures that sym-

bolise true hospitality.

Oman-inspired features incorporated into its design narrative are plenty. At the entrance, the W sign draws inspiration from local mashrabiya patterns. The paved walkway emulates the crossroads of Muscat, showcasing an eclectic mix of Omani stone from the Wadi that reflects the physical context of the city.

A sculpture of a Frankincense Tree, standing at 10 meters tall and weighing 9 tons, takes centre stage as guests arrive, symbolizing Oman's welcoming hospitality and the prosperity brought by the frankincense trade. In the Living Room, a cascading golden chandelier represents the rugged landscape of the Al Hajar mountains, white textured walls and contrasting shapes symbolise the roads less travelled, and crossroads fared by Bedouin tribes.

Animal-inspired art is also featured throughout the property, including a representation of the camel on the staircase, and a seating area arranged as an 'Arabic majlis', featuring animal print pillows and lamps symbolising the Omani 'kumma' hats. Finally, the Living Room's narrative is weaved with collectables showcasing unexpected animal possessions, art pieces, and cultural elements with a W flavour.

In what ways does W Muscat play a part in bolstering the burgeoning tourism industry of Oman?

W Muscat has played a significant role in bolstering the burgeoning tourism industry of Oman by offering a luxurious and contemporary experience that showcases the country's rich heritage and natural beauty. The hotel's location in the upbeat Shatti Al Qurum beachfront, in the heart of Oman's capital, is ideal for visitors to explore the incredible city.

The hotel's 279 guest rooms and suites, designed to blend Omani heritage with contemporary design, offer breathtaking panoramic views of the azure waters of the Sea of Oman.

The five alluring restaurants offer a variety of dining options for

food lovers, and the hotel's amenities, such as the 24-hour fitness centre, swimming pool, luxury spa, and meeting space, cater to guests' every need.

At W Muscat, two distinct worlds come together in perfect harmony - the edgy style of modern-day living and the rich heritage of Omani hospitality and culture. Our mission is to curate unique and unforgettable experiences that ignite our guests' thirst for life.

We infuse energy and vitality into the local Omani culture through a range of programming, events, and brand initiatives that celebrate our passion points of sound, taste, body, passion, and stance. These elements are integrated into every aspect of our hotel, from the captivating design that draws inspiration from the local narrative to the tranquil spa retreat, versatile event spaces, and boundary-pushing food and beverage offerings that challenge the norm. Interestingly, we offer direct access to Oman's exclusive Royal Opera House Muscat (via the interlinked pedestrian bridge) where guests can experience exclusive fashion shows, epic music concerts, and unforgettable cultural events.

W Muscat's Whatever/Whenever attitude is a personalised way of ensuring that guests have an unforgettable experience. This attitude, combined with the hotel's unique design and location, has helped attract more visitors to Oman and boosted the country's tourism industry. By offering a luxurious and unique experience, W Muscat has helped put Oman on the map as a must-visit destination for tourists looking for something different.

How do you view the future of the hotel industry in Oman and the Middle East?

The hotel industry in Oman is expected to experience significant growth in the coming years. The Oman government's efforts in improving the tourism landscape have played a significant role in the surge of Oman's hospitality industry. The impact of these efforts is

expected to be long-term, and the country's hospitality industry is projected to achieve a compound annual growth rate.

The high characteristics of properties such as W Muscat, and other upcoming projects, are likely to increase international tourist arrivals in Oman. This growth is estimated to continue in the coming years, and the overall outlook for the future looks promising for the country. The growing interest of the international market to discover Oman is also contributing to this trend.

Additionally, the region is making sure that it has enough capacity to accommodate the growing number of tourists. This is evident from the sheer number of hotel openings in the area, indicating that the Middle East is well-prepared to cater to the needs of its visitors. Generally, the future of the hotel industry in Oman and the Middle East looks bright, with the region poised for significant growth in the coming years.

What is your vision for the future of W Muscat?

W Muscat will continue to provide an exceptional and consummate experience for our guests. We intend to shape a sustainable tourism asset and offer generous lifestyle amenities that will attract both business and leisure travellers. We will endeavour to maintain our commitment to sustainability, implementing eco-friendly practices in all aspects of our operations. Our aim is to establish W Muscat as a destination of choice for travellers seeking a dynamic and immersive experience.

Our focus will also be on enhancing the guest experience through exceptional service, personalised attention, and innovations. We will continue to invest in the development of our staff, providing training and career growth opportunities for our Omani colleagues. The future of W Muscat is bright, and we are committed to positioning the hotel as a leading lifestyle destination in Oman and the region, offering distinctive experiences and amenities that will charm and inspire our guests.

PROMOTION



Own a Kia K5 and get a chance to ‘Scratch and Win’ cars

MUSCAT: Own a Kia K5 and get a chance to win Kia Pegas or Kia Niro through Scratch & Win offer. Also, Scratch & Win up to 20 per cent off on new Kia vehicles and periodic service up to 100,000 km. Additionally, get 1 Year Insurance and Cash Gift. (Conditions apply. For details please visit any Kia showroom.) The campaign will end on 11th May 2023.

The Kia K5 is designed to fine impressions with its head-turning style. Its angular design language highlights the brand's new chapter in boldness and passion. Adding to this is the K5's low-slung and fastback silhouette from the side, highlighted by a chrome garnish that spans the roofline and wraps around the rear glass.

Making the K5 a hard-to-miss vehicle is the impressive exterior styling that is enhanced with a number of exterior design features that include LED Headlamps, LED Daytime Running Lights, LED Front Fog Lamps, LED Rear Fog Lamps, LED Rear Combination Lamps, 18" Alloy Wheels, Solar Glass, Panoramic Sunroof and Dual LED Headlamps.

Offering the thrill of driving is a powerful 2.5L GDI engine that offers 191 HP and 25.1 KG.M. Torque. The engine is paired to an 8-speed Automatic Transmission.

In the K5 a range of features enhance every experience.

They include Drive Mode Select, Auto Cruise Control, Power Driver Seat, Auto AC, Power Passenger Seat, Navigation with 10.25" Display, Premium Music System, Red Leather Seats, Ventilated Front Seats, Paddle Shifter, Aluminium Pedals, Mood Lamp, Android Auto & Car Play and more.

Harmonizing the open layout of the cockpit is a newly designed infotainment display that seamlessly stretches into the instrument panel, creating a futuristic, three-dimensional layout and driver-centric space.

Creating an inviting and comfortable interior are a range of features that include Tinted Glass, Tilt & Telescopic Steering, Radio with USB, Audio Remote Control, Driver's Seat Height Adjuster, Rear AC Vents, Leather AT Knob and more.

For making every drive a de-

light, the K5 is equipped with a range of advanced safety features. The features include Driver and Front Passenger Airbags, Side and Curtain Airbags, Electro Chromic Inside Mirror, Blind Spot Collision Warning (BCW), Blind Spot View Monitor (BVM), Around View Monitor (AVM), Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Tyre Pressure Monitoring system (TPMS), Front and Rear Parking Assist system and Electric Parking Brake (EPB) with Auto Hold and more.

Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers. Excellent product attributes and unmatched facilities easily ensure their absolute satisfaction, every mile of the way.

No wonder then that Reliable International Automotive has been ranked amongst the top Kia distributors worldwide and has been honoured with prestigious accolades including the 'Good Partnership award', 'Family Like Care' Service award', and 'Kia 'Distributor of Distinction' award.

ENHANCING SKILLS

Zubair Corp launches 6th edition of its annual Ramadan football league



MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation recently launched the sixth edition of its annual Ramadan football league for 2023 at the Goal One Soccer Centres in Al-Azaiba.

The tournament was inaugurated by Sultan Al-Ghaithi, CEO of Ara Petroleum, in the presence of officials from Ara Petroleum and the Zubair Corporation. The matches witnessed great enthusiasm among the participating teams, as they competed to win and gain points.

In his opening speech at the championship, Sultan Al-Ghaithi, CEO of Ara Petroleum, praised the efforts of the organising committee in successfully organising the Ramadan sports events, which are supported and approved by The Zubair Corporation board of directors. He also pointed out that the month of Ramadan provides beautiful opportunities to organise many activities that contribute to enhanc-



ing employees' belongingness and developing their skills, in addition to promoting many healthy behaviours among them. It also demonstrates the institution's interest in its employees by organising various entertainment and educational events to provide an ideal work environment for them.

The tournament was organised

with the sponsorship and support of Ara Petroleum, and the participation of 10 teams representing a number of group companies. The first day of the tournament saw two matches between Oman Computer Services Company and Bait Al-Zubair, which ended in a 3-1 victory for Oman Computer Services Company, and between Al-Zubair Automotive Group and Elco Company, where Al-Zubair Automotive Group shined, scoring four goals, and putting itself at the top of the group.

The participating teams are divided into two groups, the first including Oman Computer Services Company, Bait Al-Zubair, Elco Company, Al-Zubair Automotive Group, and Federal Electric Transformers. The second group includes Oasis Water, Ara Petroleum, Shangri-La, Al Zubair Electric and Oman Company for Supplies and Services for Petroleum Industries.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat joins Buna system for enhanced customer experience

A state-of-the-art payment platform, Buna provides clearing and settlement services across the Arab region in multiple currencies

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to provide an enhanced customer experience through innovative solutions, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced joining Buna, the Arab payment system operated by Arab Regional Payments Clearing and Settlement Organization (AR-PCSO), a subsidiary of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).



A state-of-the-art payment platform, Buna provides clearing and settlement services across the Arab region in multiple currencies. It provides modern payment

“Bank Muscat is delighted to enhance customer experience by joining the Buna payment system. This will enable our customers to send and receive cross-border multi-currency payments. Going ahead, the bank will continue its investments in cutting-edge technology so as to ensure the highest standards throughout the payment chain

Talal Abdul Hameed Al Zadjal
Deputy General Manager – Operations, Bank Muscat

solutions that comply with international standards, principles and compliance requirements. Payments are settled in real-time as the remitter and beneficiary banks are

direct platform participants. The Buna system aims to increase opportunities for economic and financial integration in the region, in addition to strengthening investment

relations with trading partners. Speaking on the occasion, Talal Abdul Hameed Al Zadjali, Deputy General Manager – Operations, Bank Muscat, said: “Bank Muscat is delighted to enhance customer experience by joining the Buna payment system. This will enable our customers to send and receive cross-border multi-currency payments. Going ahead, the bank will continue its investments in cutting-edge technology so as to ensure the highest standards throughout the payment chain. As the leading financial services provider in Oman, we are committed to offering the latest financial services and solutions in line with global financial trends.”

Cutting-edge products
Bank Muscat is focused on maintaining its leadership in offering cutting-edge products and services, including electronic payments and online services, through multiple channels and new products and services, which cater to its different customer segments. Its continuously upgraded Internet and mobile banking services offer customers a fast, comfortable and

secure banking experience. Today, over 1.5 million banking customers use various features like real-time bill payments for utilities in Oman, such as electricity, water, telecom, mobile top-ups, instant credit card bill payments, school fees payments etc. In addition, fund transfers within the bank and in Oman, fund transfers across the world via the SWIFT network; Speed Transfers to a number of countries including Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Egypt; Zakat calculator and charity payments. The bank’s performance, which is driven by its customer-centric vision and the adoption of global best practices, has been consistently lauded by the international financial and banking community for decades. In 2022, Bank Muscat was recognised as one of the “Top 100 Companies in the Middle East” and as one of the “Top 30 Banks in the Region” by Forbes Middle East. The bank has earlier also won a number of awards from JP Morgan, Wells Fargo, Standard Chartered and Citibank for operational excellence in dollar payments processing.

IFTAR MEALS

Al Maha Petroleum Products Company conducts Iftar initiative at fuel stations



MUSCAT: In line with Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company’s charitable efforts during the holy month of Ramadan (Hilal Al-Khair), Iftar meals were distributed to customers and visitors at different stations in Muscat. The distribution was carried out by company employees, bringing joy and happiness to visitors and station staff alike. As part of this year’s Ramadan campaign initiatives, the company intends to enhance its social responsibility initiatives and strengthen the bridges of communication with the community. Al Maha Petroleum Company welcomed the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, by distributing food vouchers to deserving families and distributing gifts to all of the company’s employees. This giving initiative will be continuing till the end of the blessed month to cover other categories of the community.

FRIENDI MOBILE SPONSORS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

FRIENDi mobile sponsored the 9 Bros Academy football tournament this Ramadan, as part of its ongoing commitment to support the Omani youth and celebrate the spirit of the holy month. Shadli Al Abdulsalam, Commercial Director of FRIENDi mobile, remarked, “At FRIENDi mobile, we are dedicated to empowering the Omani youth and nurturing their talents. This football tournament is a perfect platform for these young athletes to showcase their skills and foster a spirit of togetherness during the holy month of Ramadan.”



ANNUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Exceptional performances acknowledged at OTE Awards

MUSCAT: The OTE’s Annual Excellence Awards ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of high-performing employees of the Group, and to recognise them for their contribution to the organisation. Around 70 Omani and expat employees who did the company proud with their outstanding performance in 2022 were feted at a grand ceremony held recently at

the group’s headquarters in Wat-tayah (Muscat). In congratulatory remarks, OTE Group Director Mohammed Saad Bahwan applauded the winners of the Excellence Awards for 2022 and thanked them for their dedication, sincerity, and steadfast commitment to their workplace responsibilities. “Employees are our most valuable asset. By recognising and rewarding

employee performance, our goal is to keep workplace motivation and morale at elevated levels throughout the year,” he said. Established in 1991, OTE Group is one of Oman’s largest business houses representing renowned international brands distributed across the automotive, auto ancillary, electronics, home appliances, and leasing and finance segments of the consumer business.

HOTEL CATEGORY

Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts recognised as Top Brand in Oman

MUSCAT: Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts, with 5 properties in key destinations Muscat, Sohar, Duqm and Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman, has been awarded and recognised as one of the Top Brands in Oman under the Hotel Category by Oman’s premier Arabic business magazine. The award was presented during a gala dinner event held at Al Bustan Palace-A Ritz Carlton Hotel in Muscat. Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts was recognised for its commitment to providing exceptional service and hospitality to its guests. The brand offers a range of amenities and services designed to enhance the guest experience, including comfortable rooms with premium bedding, high-speed internet access, fitness centres, swimming pools, on-site restaur-



rants serving delicious cuisine, and innovative meeting spaces designed to inspire creativity and productivity. “We are honoured to receive this recognition from AlamAl-Iktisaad,” said Philipp John Econo-

mou, Area General Manager of IHG Hotels and Resorts in Oman and Bahrain.” This award is a testament to our team’s dedication to providing exceptional service and creating memorable experiences for our guests.”



pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

© OmanOasis © OmanOasisOfficial © OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing
- ✓ Electrolytes



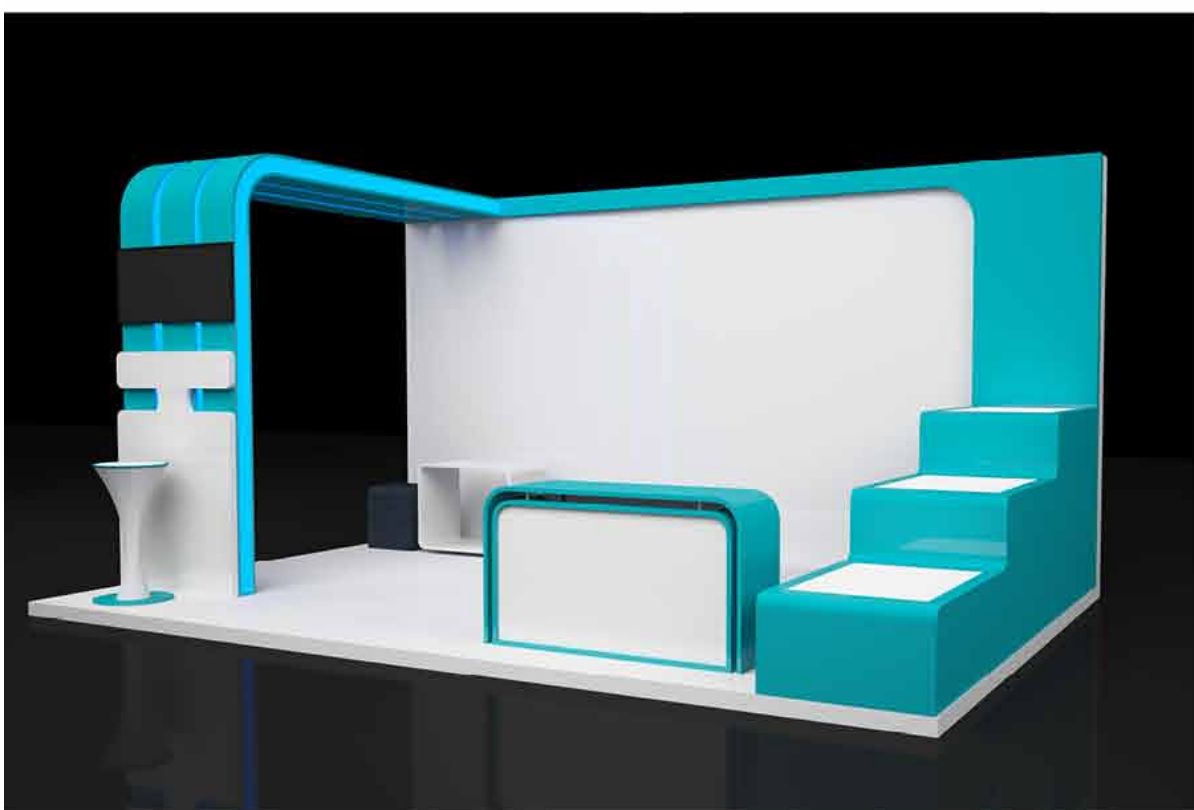
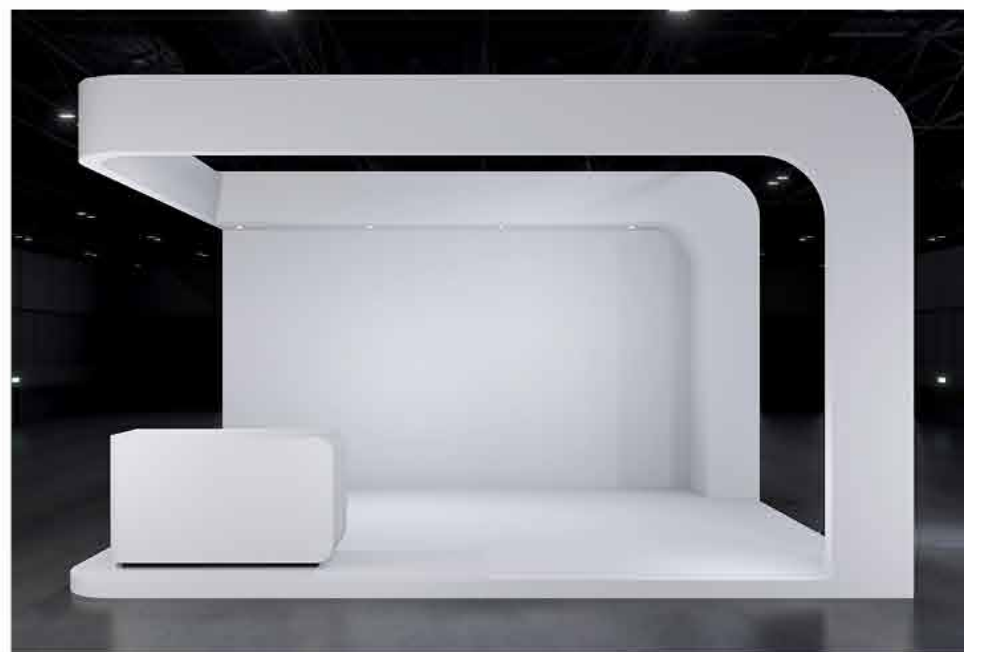
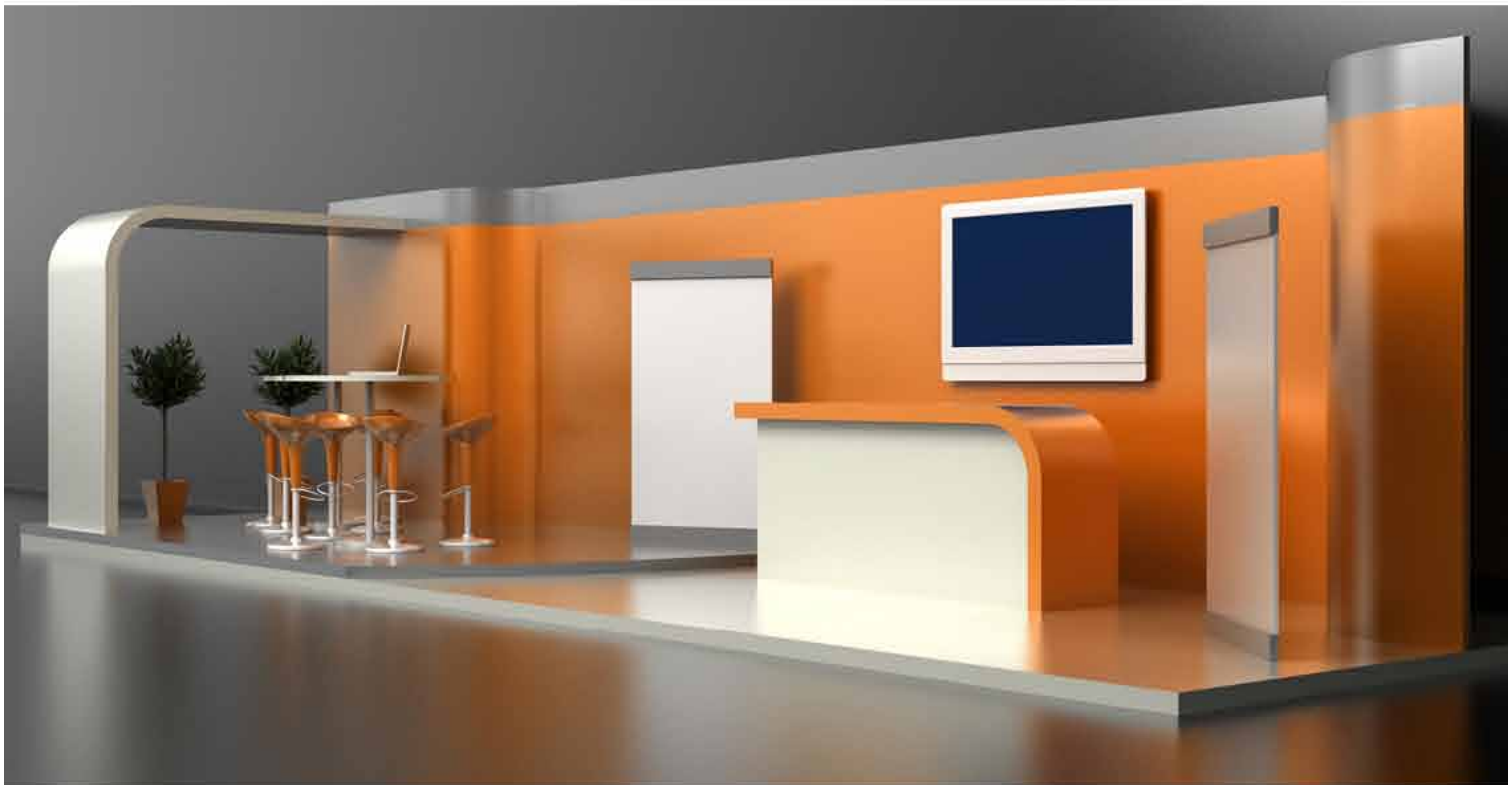
800 71 222
9275 5522

Est. Inc. 1594452



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

**Call us on
99614066**



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



sale
20% -
70%
off*

in-store | online

homecentre 

*On select items

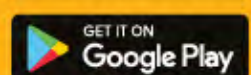
UPGRADE Your Lifestyle **SUBSCRIBE, SAVE & ENJOY**



Your new style of living!
Unlimited 2 for 1 Offers and valuable Discounts
at leading merchants covering all your needs.

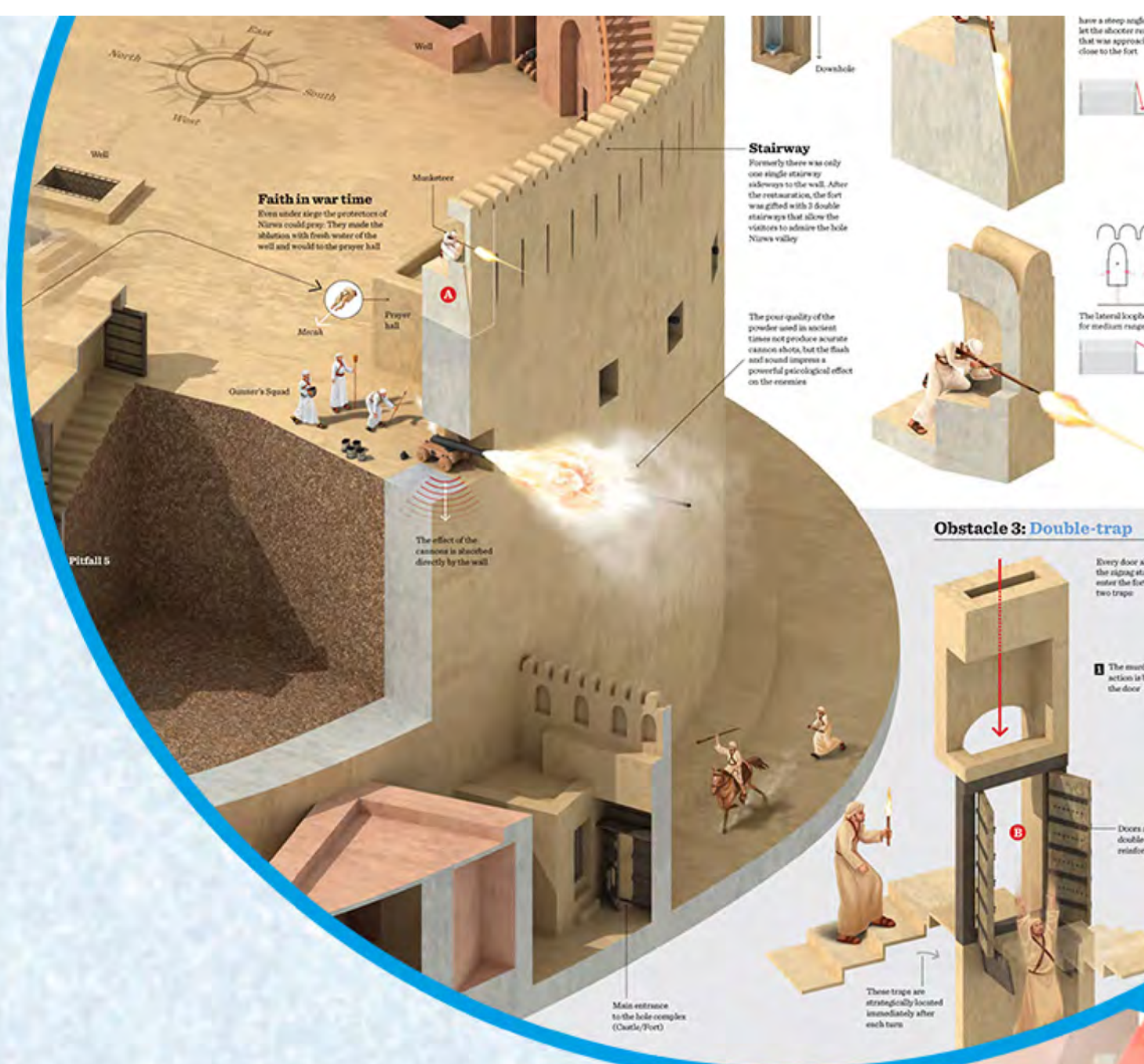


FREE
2TRY





novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

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

CALL US:
90139993

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group



beko

Live like a Pro

**Beko's new built-in range is
beyond beautiful, just like nature**



جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT
96742452

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

SALALAH
94048494



www.genetco.net



@GenetcoOman



@GenetcoOman



Genetco Oman