

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The next edition of Times of Oman will be on Tuesday, April 25 and T Weekly on April 27, due to Eid Al Fitr holidays.



RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:11pm
ASR	3:38pm
MAGHRIB	6:34pm
ISHA	7:48pm
FAJR (APRIL 20)	4:24am

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NEW MOON

Moon sighting committee to meet on Thursday

MUSCAT: The main moon-sighting committee for the month of Shawwal 1444 AH will meet at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs on Thursday, 20 April 2023.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of Dr. Mohammed Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs. Members of the committee include His Eminence Sheikh Ahmed Hamad Al Khalili, Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman, Eng. Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Dr. Wa'el Saif Al Harrasi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed Salim Al Akhزامi, Judge at the



Supreme Court, Sheikh Abdulrahman Abdulsattar Al Kamali, Judge at the Supreme Court and Sheikh Mohammed Salim Al Nahdi, Judge at the Supreme Committee.

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs requested Omani citizens and residents to look out for the new moon by co-operating with field teams in the Wilayat or reporting any sighting to the subcommittees. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

MARKET

Marine eco-system off Al Mouj Muscat coast



1 Newly published studies of an artificial reef and a breakwater put in place by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Al Mouj Muscat, show how Oman's underwater sea life is being transformed with an abundance of fish species and corals. Both were installed as part of a long-term commitment to environmental sustainability and now world-leading sustainable marine farm designer Haejoo has identified 34 species of fish at the reef and 19 at the breakwater. **>B1**

MARKET

Accident claims top OMR24 million

2 The insurance indices of 2022, issued by the CMA in Oman, showed that the number of accidents reached nearly 76,200, 15,300 of which were major accidents and 60,900 minor, an increase of 15.5 per cent compared to the year 2021, where the number of accidents was 65,900. **>B1**

SPORTS

NZ edge Pakistan in a nail-biting contest

3 New Zealand edged Pakistan by four runs in the third T20I match to keep the five-match series wide open with the hosts leading 2-1. The visitors won the toss and elected to bat first at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. They set a healthy total of 163 runs off 20 overs. **>B6**

INTERLINKING NORTH-SOUTH POWER GRIDS TO STRENGTHEN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS



Electricity sector sees strategic, qualitative projects as part of energy transition strategy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The linking of power grid in the north of the Sultanate of Oman with the network in the Governorate of Dhofar represents a major shift in the electricity system in the country.

The strengthening of the electricity network throughout Oman and linking it with the rural area networks paves the way for connecting more renewable energy projects, particularly wind energy, said Eng. Abdulaziz Said

Al Shethani, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

The electricity sector is one of the vital sectors that the Ministry of Energy and Minerals relies on in advancing the national economy, improving its performance and raising its efficiency.

Companies operating in the electricity sector pump large and continuous investments in the development of the infrastructure of the sector in order to maintain re-

liability of service and keep pace with the growth in demand for power in response to economic growth, and strive to introduce modern technology in line with best practices and emerging technologies in the world.

The advanced infrastructure project for smart meters is considered one of the main projects that aim to raise the efficiency of the electricity sector and improve the energy consumption system.

Further, a project is underway to establish Barka waste-to-energy (WTE) plant, as part of the efforts to achieve the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to zero carbon neutrality by the year 2050.

Oman Vision 2040

This step will improve the circular economy. The Director General of Renewable Energy and

Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said that the sector is working on several projects towards achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040, in cooperation between the ministry and partners in the electricity sector.

He said that the electricity interconnection system throughout Oman will be strengthened and linked to the electricity networks in the rural areas and the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) with the two electricity systems in the north and south of the Sultanate of Oman.

He further said that the project, which is being implemented by the Oman Electricity Transmission Company, consists of two phases, as a large part of the first phase that connects the north of the Sultanate of Oman with Duqm has been completed. **>A5**

9TH SESSION

State Council discusses draft 'Social Protection Law'

MUSCAT: The State Council on Tuesday discussed the draft 'Social Protection Law' during its 9th session of the fourth annual sitting of the 7th term under the chairmanship of Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

The session discussed articles of the draft law.

The members of the Council proposed their remarks and gave some presentations in a bid to achieve a comprehensive social protection system that fits the economic development plans in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Council's Economic Committee highlighted the regulatory and supervisory framework of the



Social Protection Law.

The committee pointed out that the draft Social Protection Law comes within the framework of establishing grounds for

a social protection system.

The draft law includes several social benefits based on the concept of comprehensive coverage.

— **ONA**

RICH HERITAGE, CULTURE

Mussar, a symbol of pride and elegance for Omani men

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With just over a couple of days left to celebrate Eid Al Fitr, buying of clothes is one of most-sought exercise by men and women in the Sultanate of Oman.

Traditional dresses on festive occasions are part of Oman's rich heritage and culture. For Omani men, the headgear holds a special place and Mussar certainly is a symbol of pride and elegance.

The Mussar is part of Oman's culture, and a lot goes into the purchase of the headgear, with the quality varying from cheap to very expensive pieces.

Ahead of Eid Al Fitr, there has been a general rush at shops selling the headgear, with the main

shops in Muscat located in Muttrah Souq, OC Centre in Ruwi and SABCO Centre in Al Qurum.

Wool for Mussar

Mussar is mainly produced in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir with the wool for Mussar generally derived from the neck and underbelly of Kashmiri Mountain goats.

Pashmina is the most common material that Omanis use to wrap around their head with a good quality of Pashmina Mussar ranging from OMR 50-400.

With the options of cheaper Mussars also available and shopkeepers confirming that those come from China, people can even get a Mussar for OMR15. However,



most of the shop owners said that the cheaper Mussars are not preferred by the locals.

According to Waleed bin Mohammed Al Maimani, owner of the Golden Mussar shop in Muttrah

Souq, "the manufacturing of Mussars can be by hand or machine, but the hand-made and embroidered ones are the best, though printed Mussars are also available."

He said: "The best raw material for Mussar comes from Jammu and Kashmir and it is either Pashmina or Shahtoosh. The longevity of Mussar depends on the way it is handled by the person. It is a very delicate piece of wool and can't be washed in normal way. It has to be dry cleaned or steam washed and then kept in a plastic wrap if not in use. Mussar definitely can't be washed in a machine."

Al Maimani added: "There are different types of Mussars available in the market and one has to be careful while buying. Softness of

Mussars is one of the key qualities to know how good a Mussar is."

National identity

The wrapped mussar sits like a crown on an Omani man's head and is a powerful symbol of the Sultanate's glorious cultural diversity and national identity.

Mussar turbans and the embroidered caps called kummah are both part of the official Omani traditional dress.

However, the mussar is always worn for formal meetings, as it is more formal and wearing it is a sign of respect. It is an essential part of a man's wedding attire along with the khammar that is worn around the waist. Mussar can be tied on the head with or without

a kummah beneath it. A kummah gives it a more structured form, but some also prefer to wear them without the kummah.

Al Maimani said: "Mussar is cut into a square, and embellished with designs that are lead printed using patterns chiselled on wooden tablets. The design is then embroidered using fine threads before the mussar is thoroughly washed to clean it of the lead and other residual material. It is then packed and sent across to Oman for sale."

Yet another owner of a shop selling Mussar, Mohammed Al Balushi, said: "Men prefer to match their mussar to the colour of their dishdasha and pick an appropriate style. **>A3**

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ACTION PLAN

Committee to combat trafficking holds meeting

MUSCAT: The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) yesterday held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, Chairman of the committee. The meeting covered a range of topics, particularly highlighting the prominent efforts exerted by the committee. It also touched on the national action plan for combating human trafficking in the Sultanate of Oman 2021-2023, among other topics. -ONA

NCSI

372 marriage certificates registered

MUSCAT: More than 370 new marriage certificates were registered for Omanis who married to expatriate women during the year 2021, according to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). 372 new marriage certificates were registered for Omanis in 2021.

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PASHMINA WOOL

Types of Mussar

< FROM A1 “The three main styles of Mussar available are the Termah, the most popular across the Sultanate, which features different and colourful patterns; the Al Subaia Mussar, usually worn in Sur and Dhofar, which is colourful, but made without patterns; and there are two types of Al Saidi Mussar, one of them is blue and it’s called turban and is worn only by the Royal Family members, and the other one features only one pattern in one colour and can be worn by anyone.

In Oman, the way to wear Mussar can also identify the region from where he belongs to. Through the generations, the styles have carried on, though young men nowadays like to experiment with different regional styles as a fashion statement.

Al Balushi said: “When shopping for a Mussar, the most important thing to know is which material has been used and what method was employed for stitching. Mussars are generally made using Kashmiri wool, which is sheared from the sheep that inhabit the cold mountains of Kashmir in South Asia and considered to be the most suitable for this craft, thanks to its smooth texture and consistency.

“There are many types of Kashmiri wool, though the majority of Mussars worn in Oman are made of Pashmina. Pashmina prices ranges from OMR 60 to 450 depending on the quality, which is determined by the smoothness of

the extracted wool.”

Hand-sewn Mussar are considered the finest and most beautiful because a specific design will never be repeated. The hand-stitched strings have accuracy creating total cohesion of the threads that emphasise the elaborate designs when worn. Because of the effort and time spent, mussar made by hand are the most expensive.

Al Maimani said: “Machine-stitched Mussars are easier to produce and significantly less expensive, though the mass produced Mussars feature the same designs. Mussars with printed designs are considered to be the lowest quality as the embroidery wears and loses colour quickly.

Moath Al Saeedi from the Wilayat of Al Khabourah, said: “Omanis usually like to wear the Mussar during work hours and on public and private occasions. But the festive occasions of Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha are special, and it is a tradition to buy a Mussar, which may range from OMR8 to OMR200.”

He added: “Every Eid, I make it a point to buy a Mussar that may cost me from OMR50-100 depending on my choice of wool, pattern and colour.”

Mohammed Al Badi, said: “I buy a Mussar on every Eid and go for a price range between OMR 20-45. For me, the colours and embroidery matters. Wearing a Mussar is a source of pride for any Omani and sends a strong message of our Omani identity.”

Wishing you and your loved ones a Blessed Eid

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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:34 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:11 pm
Asr	3:38 pm
Maghrib	6:34 pm
Isha	7:48 pm
Fajr (April 18)	4:24 am

» EID RECIPE

LAMB CHOPS PULAO

Recipe by Oneza Tabish



INGREDIENTS

For the masala paste

- 4 green chillies
- 1 large tomatoes
- 1 tbsp melon seeds
- 1 tbsp cashews
- 2 tbsp fresh coriander leaves
- 1 tbsp fresh mint leaves
- 3 tsp ginger-garlic paste

For the lamb chops and pulao

- 3 cups water
- 1kg lamb chops
- 1 bayleaf
- 5 green cardamom pods
- 3 whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp peppercorns
- Salt, to taste
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 medium-size onions, sliced
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 3 cups Basmati rice, rinsed, soaked in water for 1 hour

PREPARATION

- To make the masala paste, in a food processor add the green chillies, tomato, melon seeds, cashews, coriander leaves, mint, ginger-garlic paste, and blend into a fine paste. Set aside.
- To make the lamb chops: In a large pot combine the water, lamb chops, green cardamom pods, cloves, cinnamon sticks, and peppercorns. Season to taste with salt. Cook until the meat is tender. Remove the chops and set aside. Strain the stock into another pan and keep aside .
- In a large pot over low heat, heat the vegetable oil.
- Add the onions. Sauté until golden.
- Stir in the garam masala and the masala paste. Cook until the water evaporates.
- Increase the heat to high. Add the cooked chops and stir-fry.
- Pour the reserved liquid (stock kept aside) into the pot. Bring to a boil and add the rice. Stir to mix well. Reduce the heat to low.
- Cover and cook until the rice is tender and the liquid is completely absorbed. Serve hot.

» WORDS OF WISDOM

He is the One GOD; the Creator, the Initiator, the Designer. To Him belong the most beautiful names. Glorifying Him is everything in the heavens and the earth. He is the Almighty, Most Wise. -Quran 59:24

» CUISINE



THE ACT OF EATING TOGETHER

With the call of the Maghrib prayer, hundreds of fasting Muslims sitting in a row break their fast with the sip of lemon juice. Iftar is sharing with family and friends. The act of ‘eating together’ is advocated in Islam. The Hadith recounts the word of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and states that, “Whoever has food enough for two persons, should take a third and whoever has food enough for four persons, should take a fifth or a sixth for blessing is in Jamma’a (gatherings, being together).”

» FESTIVE FLAVOURS



FOODS TO RELISH THIS EID

EID AL-FITR marks the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Muslims from all over the world get together for prayers and celebrations. In addition to its religious significance, this celebration also features tempting food. A lot of people plan or organise gatherings for their friends and loved ones. There are many traditional delicacies that are made on the day. From sumptuous biryanis to delicious desserts, take a look at the dishes you can savour this Eid Al-Fitr.

Mutton Shami Kebabs
This can be a great starter for your special Eid menu. Mutton shami kebabs, a drool-worthy snack from Hyderabad cuisine, is surely going to set your mood right for the main course ahead. Tender mutton kebabs made with a bunch of spices taste yummy. Also, they are shallow-fried, so you can have them guilt-free.

Nalli Nihari
It is a well-known mutton curry that is slowly cooked and created with a variety of spices. Nalli Nahari has a thick flavour and is very decadent. This dish was once offered to the kings following the morning players at some period in history. Nihar is the Arabic word for day.

Awadhi Mutton Biryani
In this recipe, rice is cooked with tender and luscious mutton chunks in a royal manner. This flavourful, savoury dish will leave your guests speechless. The distinctive flavours in Awadhi mutton biryani are preserved thanks to the cooking method.

Sheer Qorma
A genuine and traditional food served on Eid is sheer



khurma. It is a vermicelli pudding recipe created specifically for Eid celebrations. Dates are referred to as “khurma” while milk is referred to as “sheer” in Persian.

Shahi Tukda
Ending a festive lunch with a scrumptious shahi tukda is a great touch. It’s a delicacy made with bread and milk that will definitely entice your taste buds. This dish typically has a beautiful garnish of dried fruits like almonds, pistachios, rose petals, and a few kesar threads.





HOMMER



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POWER SECTOR

High-voltage lines

<FROM A1 The most important components of the projects include the construction of high-voltage lines of 400 KV from Nahaida station to Barik station and from Barik station to Suweihat station. The completion rate of this project has reached 68 percent, and it is intended to be completed according to the plan by the end of June 2023, Al Shethani added.

He elaborated that the project also includes the construction of high-voltage lines of 400 KV from Suweihat station to Duqm station and from Duqm station to Ma-hout station as 58.32 percent of this project's work plan has been completed.

He also said that work is under-way to design the components of the second phase of the electrical interconnection project between the north and the south of Oman. It extends from the Wilayat of Duqm to the Governorate of Dhofar, as 25 percent of the project work plan has been completed. It is intended to be completed according to the plan by the end of 2026.

He pointed out that the project to connect Masirah Island to the main electricity transmission network with a submarine cable will be at an estimated distance of 35 kilometres as 25 percent of this project has been completed. It is intended to be completed according to the plan by the end of 2026. In continuation of the energy transition trends and the utilisation of national potentials in renewable energy sources, the Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals said that at the beginning of 2023, tenders for the development of Manah solar power plants project were awarded. **With ONA inputs**

PRESERVING HERITAGE

Oman marks World Heritage Day



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, joined the world in marking the World Heritage Day, which falls on 18 April every year. This year's World Heritage Day is held under the theme "Heritage Changes".

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism accords great attention to protecting and preserving Omani heritage, world heritage sites and monuments. It also carries out studies and research for archaeological excavations and surveys, in addition to issuing scientific publications in this regard.

Further, the Ministry works on documenting and studying craft heritage, as well as publishing related content.

Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Heritage said that several programmes are being carried out in the heritage field in the Sultanate of Oman, including programmes for the restoration and maintenance of heritage sites, as well as coordinating with renowned universities and specialised centres to conduct excavations and surveys. **-ONA**



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31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
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Income	
Dividends	519
	586
Expenses:	
Management fees	(216)
General and administrative	(194)
	(410)
Net Investment Income	109
Fair value Gain or (Loss)	2,797
Realised Gain or (Loss) on sale	(1,045)
Net Profit for the period	1,861
Earnings per unit	0.098

Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 31st March 2023	
31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
RO'000	RO'000
Assets	
Investments	47,092
Debtors and Receivables	241
Bank & Cash	1,320
Total Assets	48,653
Liabilities:	
Creditors and accruals	(97)
	(97)
Net Assets	48,556
Composition of net assets:	
Units issued	18,922
Retained Earnings	29,634
	48,556
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	2.566

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

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ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform everyone that **Mr. Raju Thanangadan with Civil ID 60688888** has been removed from the C.R. & the Signing Authority on behalf of the St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox church, Ruwi-Muscat.

Fr. Kurian Puthiyapurayidom with civil ID 129833605 (Vicar) is the Authorised Signatory in the C.R.

Any dealings officially/ unofficially with Raju Thanangadan on behalf of St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox church, Ruwi-Muscat, Church will not be responsible & will not be obliged for the outcomes.

Vicar & Managing Committee, St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Ruwi-Muscat

Ramadan Iftar Program



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

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

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RETAIL STORE

Apple opens first flagship store in India

MUMBAI: Apple CEO Tim Cook was in Mumbai on Tuesday to inaugurate the company's first retail store in India.

"India has such a beautiful culture and an incredible energy, and we're excited to build on our long-standing history," Cook said in a statement.

Bloggers, tech analysts and Bollywood celebrities were invited to the opening of the new store in Mumbai's Jio World Drive shopping mall.



Apple fans

About 300 Apple fans were seen lining up outside the store, some of them waiting since the previous night. "The fanboy inside me would not listen," 30-year-old Purav Mehta, who wanted to get

Cook's autograph.

A second store is set to open in the capital, New Delhi, on Thursday. Cook is also expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India's deputy IT minister later this week.

Eye on the Indian market

The bulk of Apple's smartphone and tablets are assembled in China, but the tech giant also has plans to expand production in India.

The South Asian country of 1.4 billion people is also the second-

largest smartphone market in the world.

Apple has been operating in India for more than 25 years, and it began manufacturing products there in 2017.

According to Counterpoint Research, India produces around 13 million iPhones every year, up from under 5 million three years ago.

The tech giant has been selling its products in India online and through authorized retailers, but regulatory clearances and the pandemic had delayed its plan to open a flagship store in the country.

Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said last week that Apple plans to have 25% of their global production come out of India in the next five years. -**OW**



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JINHUA

11 killed in China factory fire

HANGZHOU: Eleven people were dead after a fire broke out at a factory building in Jinhua, east China's Zhejiang Province, on Monday. According to Xinhua, the casualties were trapped on the third floor of the building in an industrial area of Wuyi County after the fire raged at around 2:04 pm. The death toll was confirmed on Tuesday after search and rescue. -**ANI**

GRAVE CONCERN

Antony Blinken calls leaders, urges cease-fire in Sudan

WASHINGTON: United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken has spoken to leaders of rival armed forces in Sudan and urged an immediate cease-fire, the State Department said.

Blinken, "expressed his grave concern about the death and injury of so many Sudanese civilians due to the sustained, indiscriminate fighting," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said.

A cease-fire would "permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those affected by the fighting, the reunification of Sudanese families, and allow the international community in Khartoum to make sure its presence is secure," Patel said in a statement.

Blinken also said that a US diplomatic convoy came under fire in the country, but those inside were unharmed.

"I can confirm that yesterday we had an American diplomatic convoy that was fired on. All of our people are safe and unharmed. But this action was reckless, it was irresponsible and of course unsafe," he told reporters in Japan after G7 talks.

Fierce clashes erupted over the weekend between forces loyal to Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of Sudan's transitional governing Sovereign Council, and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) head Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, who is deputy head of the council.

At least 185 people have been



killed and more than 1,800 injured.

When he spoke to the two men, Blinken "stressed the responsibility of the two generals to ensure the safety and wellbeing of civilians, diplomatic personnel, and humanitarian workers," Patel said.

Following Blinken's call, Hemedti wrote on Twitter that he "reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to safeguarding innocent civilians in our areas of control." -**OW**

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Unaudited Statement of Comprehensive Income for 3 months ended 31st March 2023

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	RO'000	RO'000
Interest Income	1087	440
	1087	440
Expenses:		
Management fees	(110)	(51)
General and administrative	(67)	(20)
	(177)	(71)
Net Profit for the period	910	369
Earnings per unit	0.012	0.012

Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 31st March 2023

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	RO'000	RO'000
Assets		
GCC Bonds	6,422	-
Fixed Deposits	45,190	28,253
Cash & Cash Equivalents	42,768	10,411
Accrued Interest	1,668	905
Total Assets	96,048	39,569
Liabilities:		
Creditors and accruals	(46)	(26)
Net Assets	96,002	39,543
Composition of net assets:		
Units issued	74,436	31,787
Retained Earnings	21,566	7,756
Net Assets Value (NAV)	96,002	39,543
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	1.2897346	1.2440057

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic, or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

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‘Faf, Maxi nearly took the game away’

Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni lauds Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell after their knocks almost tilted the game in Bangalore’s favour

BANGALORE: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni heaped praise on Royal Challengers Bangalore’s pair of Faf du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell after their explosive knocks almost took the home side to victory during a high-scoring match at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Monday. Dhoni said that Royal Challengers



ers Bangalore (RCB) could have gone all the way and chased down the mammoth 227-run target if du Plessis and Maxwell had continued batting till the end. At one point, RCB skipper du Plessis (62 off 33 balls) and Maxwell (76 off 36) had CSK worried with their mighty hitting. They stitched a 126-run stand for the third wicket before CSK bowlers turned the tide towards their side by dismissing the two in-form batters. Maxwell was the first to fall

to Maheesh Theekshana and du Plessis was dismissed by Moeen Ali not long after. Eventually, RCB fell eight runs short of CSK’s total. After the match, Dhoni said CSK had decided to keep it simple and get to a par score first, then push on towards a match-winning total rather than aiming too high at the start and ending up with a sub-par total. The Chennai skipper said that du Plessis and Maxwell were taking the game away from them



and could have finished the game with a few overs to spare. Dhoni acknowledged that it is difficult handling youngsters at the death and that he looks towards Dwayne Bravo to help youngsters excel in death overs. He said: “If Faf and Maxi had continued, they’d have won by the 18th over, so you need to get engrossed with the process, know what is the bowling change, what can I do from which end, what is really happening, if something has

really changed.” Speaking of the bowling, CSK skipper Dhoni said handling youngsters at the death overs is a “challenge” and that is where bowling coach Dwayne Bravo comes into the picture. Along with Dhoni, Bravo has been instrumental over the years for CSK. “It is a difficult one for the youngsters. But they are working hard. So they need to know the process, know what they’re doing. Bravo is one of the specialists. Under him,

the bowlers will gain confidence. It’s a team game. The coach, the bowling coach and the senior players guide them,” he said. RCB captain du Plessis said: “I think we played it perfectly, the last five overs were set up for the finish. DK [Dinesh Karthik] finishing the game, that’s bread and butter for him, but that shows how good their bowling was.” He added: “200 was going to be par, we went for a few runs towards the end. We could have minimised the damage by restricting them (for less than 20 in an over).” “The last four overs were where it was set up for a perfect finish. It was one of those wickets, one of the best (for batters.) As a bowler you need to be skillful, (Mohammed) Siraj was unbelievable.” “We couldn’t manage to finish it off, but we got to move on. I lost a little bit of power towards the end, and was disappointed as I got stiff. Need to keep going harder against the spinners in the middle overs.” - Agencies

HONOUR



Suryakumar and Harmanpreet on Wisden’s 2023 honours list

LONDON: India’s Suryakumar Yadav’s heroics in 2022 were recognised as he was named the leading Twenty20 Cricketer in the World in the 2023 edition of the *Wisden Cricketer’s Almanack*, published on Tuesday. Suryakumar Yadav, popularly known as SKY, is currently playing for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League 2023. Suryakumar’s centuries against England and New Zealand - from 48 balls and 49 balls - saw him become the second international T20 batter to top a thousand runs in a year, eventually finishing with 1,164 at a strike rate of 187. Suryakumar hit 68 sixes in 2022, something no T20I batter has ever done in a calendar year. His two centuries and nine half-tons - including three in the 2022 T20 World Cup alone - helped India win 28 of their 40 games last year. His standout knock in 2022 of the 55-ball 117 at Nottingham, his first T20 ton. Also, Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to win the Cricketer of the Year award. She is one of the five Cricketers of the Year announced in the 2023 *Wisden Cricketers’ Almanack*. A well-deserved honour for the champion of Indian women’s cricket in 2022, having led the Women in Blue to a 3-0 ODI series win on English soil, the first since 1999, and a silver medal finish at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. She piled on 754 ODI runs, including an unbeaten 143 in the England ODIs and 524 T20I runs - spoke for itself as she continues to make history and rewrite it with her talent and commitment to the sport. Ben Stokes was named Wisden’s Leading Cricketer in the World for the third time in four years. Ben Foakes, Matthew Potts, Daryl Mitchell, Tom Blundell, joined Harmanpreet as Five Cricketers of the Year. Stokes, who achieved the honour in 2020 and 2021 for his performance with bat and ball, has made it three wins in four years primarily off the back of his lead-



ership. Since being appointed as Test captain at the start of last summer, the 31-year-old has overseen a dramatic shift in the team’s fortunes, inspiring them to 10 wins in 12. “It’s hard to think of any other cricketer who could have transformed his team’s fortunes so suddenly as Ben Stokes,” Lawrence Booth, Wisden’s editor, said. “When he took over the Test captaincy, England had won one game in their previous 17. By the time they had become the first visiting side to win 3-0 in Pakistan, they had won nine out of ten, and were playing with unprecedented style and verve.” Surrey wicketkeeper Ben Foakes and Durham seamer Matthew Potts are two representatives of that team named among Wisden’s Five Cricketers of the Year - an honour a player can only win once in their career and which is judged by their performance during the English home season. New Zealand’s Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell are also named among the five as the two batters who were a constant thorn in England’s side, with 538 and 383 runs respectively, in the three-match series. Beyond the field, the life and times of Shane Warne are celebrated throughout the Almanack. The charismatic Australian leg-spinner, who died in March 2022, is given a lengthy obituary and other prose celebrating an enigmatic cricketer and character. - Agencies

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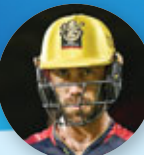
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QUOTE OF THE DAY



“We were in a position where we should have won the game. Even though we were on the wrong side of the result, it was an amazing spectacle (at M Chinnaswamy Stadium)”

Glenn Maxwell
Royal Challengers Bangalore batter

TODAY'S MATCH

**VS**

Rajasthan RoyalsLucknow Super Giants

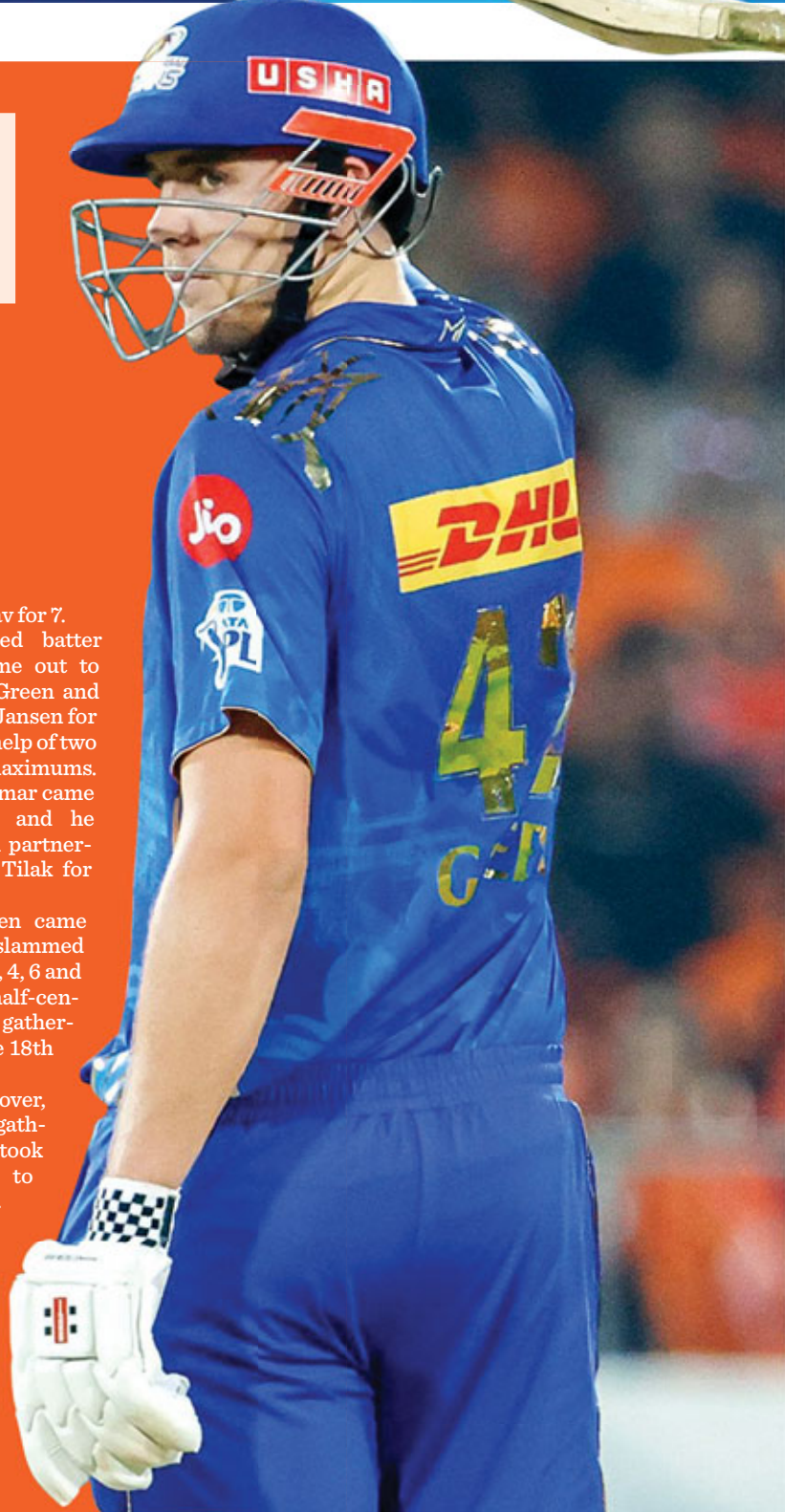
6pm, Jaipur

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	P	W	L	NR	NRR	PTS
RR	5	4	1	0	1.354	8
LSG	5	3	2	0	0.761	6
CSK	5	3	2	0	0.265	6
GT	5	3	2	0	0.192	6
PBKS	5	3	2	0	-0.109	6
MI	5	3	2	0	-0.164	6
KKR	5	2	3	0	0.320	4
RCB	5	2	3	0	-0.318	4
SRH	5	2	3	0	-0.798	4
DC	5	0	5	0	-1.488	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

MI BEAT SRH BY 14 RUNS



Green's maiden IPL half-century and Tilak Varma's quickfire cameo propelled Mumbai Indians (MI) to 192/5

HYDERABAD: Mumbai Indians beat Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 14 runs in a nail-biting match in Hyderabad on Tuesday night.

SRH team was all out for 178 in 19.5 overs when Bhuvneshwar Kumar was caught by Sharma off the bowling of Arjun Tendulkar on 2. Mayank Agarwal was the top scorer for SRH with 48 runs while captain Aiden Markram scored 22 runs.

Earlier, Cameron Green's maiden IPL half-century and Tilak Varma's quickfire cameo propelled Mumbai Indians (MI) to 192/5 against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 match here at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Tuesday.

Green scored the highest for MI with an unbeaten 64 off 40 while

Tilak played a quickfire knock of 37 in 17 balls. For SRH, Marco Jansen claimed two while T Natarajan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar bagged one wicket each. Put to bat first, Mumbai got off to a fiery start as their openers Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan slammed Hyderabad bowlers all around the ground as the MI captain hammered a hat-trick of fours in the third over of the innings.

However, Rohit's knock came to an end as T Natarajan delivered a stunning delivery to dismiss the MI captain for 28.

The right-handed batter Cameron Green then came out to bat. It did not take long for the MI to lose their two wickets in one over. Marco Jansen gave Mumbai double blows, dismissing well-set batter Kishan for 38 and new batter

Suryakumar Yadav for 7.

The left-handed batter Tilak Varma came out to bat. The duo of Green and Varma slammed Jansen for 21 runs with the help of two sixes and two maximums. Bhuvneshwar Kumar came into the attack and he broke the 50-run partnership, dismissing Tilak for 37 runs.

Tim David then came out to bat. Green slammed Natarajan for 4, 4, 4, 6 and brought up his half-century in 33 balls, gathering 20 runs in the 18th over.

In the last over, the MI batters gathered 14 runs and took Mumbai's total to 192/5 in 20 overs.

Brief score: Mumbai Indians 192/5 (Cameron Green 64*, Tilak Varma 37; Marco Jansen 2-43) vs Sunrisers Hyderabad.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by June 2023 reaching \$84.67, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.34 from the price of Monday, which was \$86.01. - ONA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,748.98 points, down by 0.49 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48 per cent at 475.54 points. Oman Chromite, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR42mn issued

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR4 million, for a maturity period of 28 days, whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR38 million, for a maturity period of 91 days

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR42 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.
The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR4 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.645 for



every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.645 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.62768 per cent and 4.64417 per cent, respectively.
Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR38 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.753 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR89.745 per OMR100. The

average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.00213 per cent and 5.06530 per cent, respectively.
Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed 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 inter-est rate on the Repo operations with CBO 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. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

INSURANCE INDICES

Over OMR24 million compensation paid for accident insurance claims

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The insurance indices of 2022, issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) in the Sultanate of Oman, showed that the number of accidents reached nearly 76,200, 15,300 of which are major and 60,900 are minor, an increase of 15.5 per cent compared to the previous year, 2021, where the number of accidents was 65,900 accidents.
Contrary to expectations, there was a fall in the indices for total paid compensations, which exceeded OMR24.6 million, a decrease of 12.6 per cent. Additionally, a decrease of 1.7 per cent was also seen in the total of compensations (both paid and not yet settled claims) that reached OMR84.7 million, in contrast to OMR84.7 million in 2021.
The indices for traffic accident claims recorded by insurance accidents indicate that the number of claims for minor accidents with damages only rose relatively to 64,400; compared to last year when they were 62,000 accidents. In contrast, a decrease was seen in paid compensations for damages from OMR13.4 million in 2021 to OMR12 million only in 2022.
Additionally, while claims



for major accidents with damages decreased, major accidents that caused bodily injuries and medical treatment costs rose to OMR12,400 and OMR12,600 compared to OMR14,600 and OMR12,100, respectively.
There was a fall in the paid compensations for such claims, as the total of major accidents compensations with damages decreased from OMR9.2 million in 2021 and OMR8.5 million in 2022. Paid compensations for major acci-

dents that resulted in bodily injuries and medical treatment costs fell from OMR4.5 million last year to OMR4 million.
As for the number of major accident claims that resulted in deaths, they also declined as they were 327 claims which caused a decline in paid compensations as well at only OMR45,000 compared to last year where the number of major accidents claims resulted in 444 claims with total compensations of OMR1.4 million.

UNDERWATER SEA LIFE

Reports reveal flourishing marine eco-system off coast of Al Mouj Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Newly published studies of an artificial reef and a breakwater put in place by the Sultanate's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Al Mouj Muscat, show how Oman's underwater sea life is being transformed with an abundance of fish species and coral now present.
Both were installed as part of a long-term commitment to environmental sustainability and now world-leading sustainable marine farm designers Haejoo have identified 34 species of fish at the reef and 19 at the breakwater, evidence that the structures have created a haven for marine biodiversity.
The breakwater, one of the largest in the world, is around two kilometres long and made from concrete and rocks have been protecting the marina from strong tides, currents and winds. In 2014, a 40,000sqm artificial reef was installed by Haejoo, lying five kilometres east of Al Mouj Marina between Seeb and Bausher.



Each structure provides the ideal breeding environment for fish, coral and other marine life and in two separate reports carried out by a marine biodiversity team, both of the man-made habitats is having a

major impact.
In its review of the reef, the findings are said to be "astonishing" given there were only three fish species sighted at the initial site survey and that nine more have been iden-

tified since the last inspection taking the total number up to 34.
In its assessment of the breakwater and the artificial reef, the outer areas are proving to be particularly effective breeding grounds for a va-

riety of fish from blueline snappers and angel fish to parrot fish and longfin banner fish. The report also revealed that an array of organisms such as corals, algae and sponges are now well established and showing healthy growth
In addition to encouraging biodiversity and actively contributing to the conservation of Oman's marine eco-system, the increase in the numbers of commercial fish such as sardines and snapper is supporting local fisheries.
Al Mouj has also had a positive impact on the country's marine tourism industry with its Five Gold Anchor marina central to the sector's growth. Some 15 accredited sea tour operators are based at the marina with tourists and visitors attracted to its wide variety of ocean-based adventures such as snorkelling and diving.
Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat says: "The report findings are extremely gratifying and they demonstrate what partnership and vision makes possible. Al Mouj Muscat is commit-

ted to long-term sustainability, to supporting economic diversification and creating opportunities for local enterprise and our impact in these areas is clearly evident.
"The reinvigoration of marine life off our shores is not only essential for the environment, but welcomed by diving enthusiasts and is one of the attractions that has allowed marine tour companies based at our marina to grow. With over 1,800 ocean excursions undertaken annually, the success of marine tourism has boosted employment whilst delighting visitors and promoting Oman's natural beauty on a global stage."
Al Mouj Muscat is a dynamic and diverse lifestyle community, a joint venture between Majid Al Futtaim Properties, Omran, Al Tannia. Set along 6km of beautiful coastline, it is home to 8,000 residents from 85 nationalities and attracts 4.9 million annual visitors to its coastal setting, boulevard style retail and dining experiences, luxury hotels, 400-berth marina and multi award-winning golf course.

RECOGNITION

Ahmed Al Dhawi is first Omani to be GRI certified sustainability professional

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A desire to achieve more qualitative capabilities has led Ahmed Mohammed Al Dhawi to become the first Omani to be certified as a sustainability professional by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) based on the GRI Universal Standards 2021.
With more than 11 years of working experience in the environmental field in the private sector in Oman, Al Dhawi got the prestigious GRI certification as a sustainability professional based on the latest version of the GRI Universal Standards, which were released in the GRI in 2021.
He completed his GRI Certified Training Program to receive the certificate of achievement through the GRI Academy. Al Dhawi is currently among the only two GRI Certified Sustainability Professionals in Oman, the other being Osman Bargouth. Previously Srinivasa Rao Pentapalli had been a GRI professional but his certification got over in 2022.
The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is an independent, international organisation that has developed a widely recognised framework. It offers a set of standards and guidelines for sustainability reporting that assists



companies, governments, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to measure and report their most significant impacts on the economy, environment, and people, including impacts on their human rights.
GRI standards also assist organisations in focusing on their positive contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, GRI is just one of many frameworks that can be used to assess Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance. However, using the GRI framework can help companies identify and report on their ESG performance, which can facilitate comparison and benchmark across companies.

MONTH OF GIVING

OCO and Jindal Shadeed raise \$100,000 for Syria and Turkey

MUSCAT: Continuing to lend a helping hand to Syria and Turkey, Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO) raised \$100,000 through Jindal Shadeed Iron and Steel. The funds are earmarked to help rebuild homes in the areas devastated by the earthquake that hit both countries earlier in the year.
"During this month of giving we are proud to be joining hands with one of Oman's leading steel players to help make a bigger difference in supporting Syria and Turkey during Ramadan and Eid, said Badr Al Zaabi, CEO of Oman Charitable Organisation.
Harssha Shetty, Jindal Shadeed CEO commented, "Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters in Syria and Turkey during the Holy month of Ramadan, when families come together. There are hundreds of thousands of people who are still living in very harsh conditions, with limited space in shelters and sparse food and clean water. Working with Oman Charitable Organisation, we hope to bring attention back to Syria and Turkey during the holy month and help them in their noble cause."
Over the past months since the earthquake, Oman Charitable



Organisation has raised a considerable amount which has gone towards providing necessities to those displaced from the disaster ranging from non-perishable food items to clothes and blankets. Plans are now underway to support the rebuilding of homes and neighbourhoods.
Established in 2010, Jindal Shadeed is the largest privately-owned integrated steel producer in the region. Made in Oman for Oman, its iron and steel is exported to over 30 countries around the

world, reaffirming the Sultanate of Oman's position on the global steel trade map. Today it accounts for 1.5% of Oman's GDP, and has set in motion bigger plans to further drive value for the country through the development of a green hydrogen-read steel plant in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm. An advocate for positive change, its social contributions in Al Batinah Governorate and the nation has impacted thousands through community focused development projects, health and sports initiatives.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Oman Chromite, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,748.98 points, down by 0.49 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48 per cent at 475.54 points. Oman Chromite, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Voltamp Energy, down 10.00 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Salalah Mills were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 439 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.11 million, with more than 7.75 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 10 advanced, 18 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR189,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR132,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR57,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,681.65 points, down 0.65 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance and Oman Arab Bank were up by 1.82 per cent and 1.42 per cent respectively. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments, National Bank Oman and Bank Nizwa were up by 1.91 per cent, 1.70 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.41 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,120.72 points, up 0.28 per cent. Prices of Oman Chromite, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement and Galfar Engineering were up by 10.00 per cent, 9.77 per cent, 7.74 per cent and 0.53 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Al Anwar Ceramics and Salalah Mills were up by 10.00 per cent, 5.00 per cent, 1.74 per cent, 1.73 per cent, 1.12 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.57 per cent before closing at 1,696.41 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, OIFC and Renaissance Services were up by 3.51 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 1.72 per cent and 1.03 per cent respectively. Prices of Salalah Port Services, SMN Power Holding and Abraj Energy were up by 2.22 per cent, 1.08 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

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INDECIES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,786.23	4,712.06	4,748.98	4,772.32	-23.34	-0.49	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,734.79	7,681.65	7,681.65	7,732.25	-50.60	-0.65	
Industry Index	6,146.62	5,981.60	6,120.72	6,103.69	17.03	0.28	
Services Index	1,696.83	1,679.65	1,696.41	1,686.78	9.62	0.57	
MSX Shariah Index	481.49	475.54	475.54	477.86	-2.32	-0.48	
MSX TR INDEX	6,292.46	6,194.96	6,243.50	6,274.18	-30.69	-0.49	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,425.80	8,367.91	8,367.91	8,423.04	-55.12	-0.65	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,863.79	1,844.93	1,863.33	1,852.75	10.57	0.57	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,566.12	6,400.52	6,538.46	6,520.26	18.20	0.28	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,759,532	2,108,419	439	23,806,242,597	10	18	16	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 18

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	5,729	1,604	2	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.005	1.818	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	28,000,000	
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	400	47	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.116	0.002	1.734	0.118	0.116	0.120	0.100	29,364,300	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	11,900	4,554	6	0.390	0.394	0.380	0.394	0.390	0.004	1.026	0.394	0.388	0.394	0.100	93,145,540	
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	9,000	981	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.107	0.115	0.100	16,350,000	
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	36,000	9,180	9	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.258	0.100	15,607,090	
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM	4,000	4,360	4	1.090	1.090	1.090	1.090	1.090	0.000	0.000	1.090	1.090	1.090	0.100	75,210,000	
OM0000003026	OMAN TEL. COMM.	10,395	10,566	4	1.015	1.020	1.015	1.015	1.015	0.000	0.000	1.015	0.988	1.050	0.100	761,250,000	
OM0000003988	OCREDDO	491,927	167,161	48	0.388	0.388	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.388	0.100	247,558,807	
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	28,500	1,773	2	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.065	0.100	14,001,120	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	220,572	60,301	31	0.274	0.275	0.273	0.273	0.274	-0.001	-0.365	0.273	0.273	0.274	0.100	240,945,246,398	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	20,000	8,420	2	0.420	0.422	0.420	0.422	0.424	-0.002	-0.472	0.422	0.400	0.422	0.100	282,050,210	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	9,817	1,698	1	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.174	-0.001	-0.575	0.173	0.173	0.177	0.100	237,290,742	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	100,100	28,028	3	0.284	0.284	0.280	0.280	0.284	-0.004	-1.408	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	455,264,980	
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	225,600	14,281	12	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.063	0.064	-0.001	-1.563	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.100	12,600,000	
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	14,450	4,913	2	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.346	-0.006	-1.734	0.340	0.330	0.380	0.100	74,800,000	
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	150,000	15,450	6	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.105	-0.002	-1.905	0.103	0.096	0.104	0.100	472,776,416	
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,170	445	3	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.400	-0.020	-5.000	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.100	20,900,000	
Total		17	1,339,560	353,768	137												
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	150	545	2	3.630	3.630	3.630	3.630	3.300	0.330	10.000	3.630	3.000	3.630	1.000	10,890,000	
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	771,421	219,076	66	0.292	0.292	0.270	0.292	0.266	0.026	9.774	0.292	0.290	0.292	0.100	35,040,000	
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	432,130	70,302	46	0.156	0.168	0.156	0.167	0.155	0.012	7.742	0.167	0.162	0.167	0.100	33,400,000	
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	969,235	55,222	22	0.057	0.059	0.055	0.059	0.057	0.002	3.509	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	86,293,488	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	4,000	128	1	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.001	3.236	0.032	0.030	0.032	0.100	21,596,398	
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	311,848	44,675	6	0.140	0.145	0.140	0.143	0.141	0.002	1.418	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.146	0.100	238,725,630
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	122,104	23,197	8	0.189	0.190	0.189	0.190	0.189	0.001	0.529	0.190	0.181	0.189	0.100	38,567,425	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	20,000	2,140	4	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	9,095,000	
OM0000001285	MINERAL WATER	80,000	4,640	4	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	1,566,176	
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	100	135	1	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	0.000	0.000	1.350	1.360	0.000	0.100	67,500,000	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	145,290	12,029	15	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,400,000	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	627,140	37,628	18	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	21,367,638	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	25,209	2,168	5	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.100	15,050,000	
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	269,672	75,692	56	0.280	0.282	0.280	0.280	0.282	-0.002	-0.709	0.280	0.279	0.282	0.100	215,656,000	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,145,630	108,910	13	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.100	212,510,538	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	38,860	3,589	3	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.088	0.093	0.100	18,366,475	
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	1,536,051	975,549	2	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.076	0.008	1.117	0.078	0.048	0.078	0.100	35,373,849	
OM0000003447	OMAN RET. FUND	53,510	3,927	3	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.079	-0.001	-1.256	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	36,763,538	
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	32,000	1,856	4	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	17,814,487	
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	5,000	1,130	2	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.230	-0.004	-1.738	0.226	0.226	0.229	0.100	10,343,070	
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SR	2,365	1,041	2	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.450	-0.010	-2.222	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	79,128,456	
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	9,248	898	2	0.098	0.098	0.096	0.096	0.099	-0.003	-3.030	0.096	0.096	0.098	0.100	14,932,838	
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	80,507	8,733	10	0.115	0.115	0.108	0.108	0.120	-0.012	-10.000	0.108	0.108	0.112	0.100	8,791,497	
Total		23	6,382,070	1,553,209	295												

OIL PRICES

Oil edges up as China's economy gathers pace

SINGAPORE: Oil prices firmed slightly early on Tuesday, after falling 2 per cent in the previous session, as stronger economic data from the world's largest crude importer China underpinned demand outlook.

Brent crude climbed 23 cents to \$84.99 a barrel at 0416 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate rose 21 cents at \$81.04 a barrel.

China's economy grew faster in the first quarter, official data showed, expanding 4.5 per cent year-on-year as policymakers move to bolster growth following the end of strict COVID-19 curbs in December, according to Reuters.

"The remarkable recovery of the Chinese economy has supported the recent rebound in oil prices," CMC Markets analyst Leon Li said.

Furthermore, May is the seasonal peak travel period in China and demand for fuel is expected to post a very large year-on-year increase, he added.

Chinese refinery throughput surged to record levels in March, signalling robust demand for the



fuel, as refiners stepped up runs to capture strong export demand and build up inventories ahead of planned maintenance.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has forecast that China will account for most of 2023 crude oil demand growth.

Oil prices also remain under pressure due to a stronger dollar and rise in treasury yields, National Australia bank analysts said in a client note.

US crude oil and natural gas production in the seven biggest shale basins is expected to rise in May to the highest on record, data from the Energy Information Ad-

ministration showed on Monday, signalling some supply increment on this front.

"The oil market will soon have to deal with recession fears but for now it should be a choppy trade," OANDA senior market analyst Edward Moya said in a client note. -BNA

HANNOVER FAIR

Industrial firms get to work in metaverse

BRUSSELS: For a few weeks in 2021, it was all anyone could talk about: Facebook announced it was changing its name to Meta, a move meant to reflect the company's pivot away from social media toward the metaverse. H&M, Nike and other big consumer brands got on board, launching their own virtual stores and products that customers were meant to peruse in a virtual world, all from the comfort of their homes using virtual reality (VR) glasses and their own personalised avatars.

Less than two years later, dozens of publications have declared that the metaverse is dead. And there are several reasons to think so. Some blame the fall in the value of cryptocurrencies and NFTs, which had positioned themselves as a key component of the metaverse. Others say it's because generative AI, the technology behind chatbots like ChatGPT, has now stolen the tech industry's attention. Many hated the idea, to begin with.

But in one sector, the metaverse has quietly been gaining steam. Industrial manufacturing sees applications for the technology, and the "industrial metaverse" is a main topic on the agenda at this year's Hannover Messe, one of the world's largest industrial trade fairs. Not everyone attending agrees on or knows what it is. But that doesn't mean they're not part of it.

Factory floor moves to the metaverse

The metaverse is ultimately about linking the physical world with



the virtual world, Sebastian Klöß, manager of the consumer technology division at Bitkom, an umbrella group of the German IT and telecommunications sector said in a panel discussion on the concept, one of several taking place at the fair.

"And in the industrial metaverse specifically, it's primarily about coupling machine data and real-time data from factories with the virtual world," he said.

On display at the fair are plenty of technologies using virtual reality headsets, smart glasses and gloves with sensors that let you see and work virtually or remotely, and laser scanning technology used to create digital copies of physical objects, something known as a digital twin, a key component of the industrial metaverse. The object could be an automobile, a small component, or even a whole factory.

"Use case: fewer flights, less travel, more sustainable, prototype production is optimised," an employee at the exhibition for Igus, a plastics company that works in the realms of 3D printing and automation, told DW. "You don't need as many prototypes because you can do that with digital twins."

'Digital twins' minimise cost and risk

A digital twin has several benefits. Companies can test out how the equipment works in a virtual space and suss out potential problems without producing faulty prototypes or damaging equipment in real life. They can artificially speed up workflows and see what the production process would look like over the long term, or multiply the number of machines to see what scaling would appear like before investing in a bunch of new machines.

Cameras and VR technology are other components of the metaverse, which industrial players hope will take remote working to the next level. Remote areas like oil drilling platforms and gas pipelines where experts located elsewhere could easily be connected.

"Maybe there aren't any experts on site, because the plants aren't very big," Thomas Kühn, manager of the embedded systems division at the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering in Germany, said in a discussion. "They could be located globally and we can then bring them in [using metaverse technology] via a service technician on site. That is a use case that I can imagine very, very well at this point."

Simulations to show proof-of-concept

At the Igus booth, DW puts on a VR headset and grabs a set of controllers. The next five minutes are spent on the upper platform of a virtual oil well installing replacement parts. The simulation shows what the installation process would be like, the Igus representative explains so that you can see beforehand what problems might arise. Does the part fit? Can the worker access the location?

Simulations like this have existed for a while, and a lot of VR visuals still aren't easy on the eyes. But what's different about the industrial metaverse is the



NO MAGIC NUMBER FOR HOW LONG IT TAKES TO FORM HABITS

Putting on your workout clothes and making your way to the gym can be a chore at first. You may eventually develop the habit of going to the gym and quickly slipping over to your Zumba class or a treadmill run. A new study from social scientists at Caltech shows that it takes an average of six months to form a gym habit.

The same study also looked at how long it takes health care workers to get in the habit of washing their hands: an average of a few weeks.

“There is no magic number for habit formation,” says Anastasia Buyalskaya, an assistant professor of marketing at HEC Paris. Other authors of the study, which appears in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, include Caltech’s Colin Camerer, Robert Kirby Professor of Behavioural Economics and director and leadership chair of the Chen Center for Social and Decision Neuroscience, and researchers from the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania. Xiaomin Li, formerly a graduate student and postdoctoral scholar at Caltech, is also an author.

“You may have heard that it takes about 21 days to form a habit, but that estimate was not based on any science,” Camerer says.

“Our works support the idea that the speed of habit formation differs according to the behaviour in question and a variety of other factors.”

The study is the first to use machine learning tools to study habit formation. The researchers employed machine learning to analyse large data sets of tens of thousands of people who were either swiping their badges to enter their gym or washing their hands during hospital shifts. For the gym research, the researchers partnered with 24 Hour Fitness, and for the hand-washing research, they partnered with a company that used radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to monitor hand-washing in hospitals. The data sets tracked more than 30,000 gymgoers over four years and more than 3,000 hospital workers over nearly 100 shifts.

“With machine learning, we can observe hundreds of context variables that may be predictive of behavioral execution,” explains Buyalskaya. “You don’t necessarily have to start with a hypothesis about a specific variable, as the machine learning does the work for us to find the relevant ones.”

Machine learning also let the researchers study people over time in their natural environments; most previous studies were limited to participants filling out

surveys.

The study found that certain variables had no effect on gym habit formation, such as time of day. Other factors, such as one’s past behavior, did come into play. For instance, for 76 percent of gymgoers, the amount of time that had passed since a previous gym visit was an important predictor of whether the person would go again. In other words, the longer it had been since a gymgoer last went to the gym, the less likely they were to make a habit of it. Sixty-nine percent of the gymgoers were more likely to go to the gym on the same days of the week, with Monday and Tuesday being the most well attended.

For the hand-washing part of the study, the researchers looked at data from health care workers who were given new requirements to wear RFID badges that recorded their hand-washing activity. “It is possible that some health workers already had the habit prior to us observing them, however, we treat the introduction of the RFID technology as a ‘shock’ and assume that they may need to rebuild their habit from the moment they use the technology,” Buyalskaya says.

“Overall, we are seeing that machine learning is a powerful tool to study human habits outside the lab,” Buyalskaya says. —ANI



A new study from social scientists at Caltech shows that it takes an average of six months to form a gym habit. The same study also looked at how long it takes health care workers to get in the habit of washing their hands: an average of a few weeks.

SPORTS

Sri Lanka trounce Ireland by an innings and 280 runs in first Test

The hosts recorded one of the biggest winning margins in Test history and the largest by the South Asian nation

GALLE: Hosts Sri Lanka pulverized Ireland by an innings and 280 runs on Tuesday, in one of the biggest winning margins in Test history and the largest by the South Asian nation.

It was also Ireland's biggest loss as the visitors were all out for 168 on day three in a hot and humid Galle International Stadium. It was the 12th-largest innings win in Test history, behind England's win over the West Indies in 2007 by an innings and 283 runs.

Sri Lanka's previous biggest win was when they hammered Zimbabwe by an innings and 254 runs in 2004 in Bulawayo.

Sri Lanka in their first innings had declared after scoring a mammoth 591 for 6. Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne top scored with 179 runs while Kusal Mendis posted 140. Dinesh Chandimal (102) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (104) also hit unbeaten hundreds.

Sri Lanka then bowled out Ireland for 143 and enforced the follow-on, finishing the job just after tea on day three. Prabath Jayasuriya took three wickets in Ireland's second innings, adding to his seven in the first innings to



pick up ten in the Test. Ramesh Mendis picked up four second-innings wickets to hasten the end.

Ireland had never played in Sri Lanka before, and came into the Test without a practice match to acclimatise to the hot April conditions. They had given a decent account of their skills against Bangladesh, earlier this month losing the match in Mirpur by only seven wickets, but here they almost never strung together competitive passages in this Test.

Ireland lost 20 wickets for 311. They only managed two fifty partnerships across their innings

- Harry Tector involved in both of those. After four Sri Lanka batters had hit hundreds, the highest individual score Ireland managed was 45 (Lorcan Tucker in the first innings).

Ireland had begun the day on 117 for 7, but having added 23 to the overnight score, lost their last three in a heap, the team's score at 143. Jayasuriya added two wickets to his overnight haul of five, trapping Tucker lbw, then having an advancing Mark Adair stumped two balls later.

Off-spinner Ramesh Mendis then claimed his first wicket of the

game, getting Andy McBrine lbw with a sliding delivery - the not-out decision was overturned on review - to end the innings. Tector top-scored for the visitors in these second innings with 42.

Ireland have now lost all five of their matches since securing Test status in 2017.

Sri Lanka captain Karunaratne said: "First of all I just wanted to make sure that I got a big one. In the Australia series I got starts, but I wanted three figures. The key was patience. As for Ireland they're new to this format, they're still learning, but I thought they were

very good and will improve in the future. They bowled well, we just wanted to apply ourselves for the first hour, and after that we knew how to play spin and bat in these conditions. [Prabath Jayasuriya] knew what he had to do, I don't need to do anything at all, and he knows exactly what's needed."

Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie said: "It's another Test match under the belt for a lot of our cricketers. A lot of us want to play Test cricket but we got a real taste of that over the last three days. We knew coming into it that it would be very testing, Sri Lanka

at home are a daunting prospect for any team, never mind a team that hasn't played a lot of Test cricket. Certainly there's learnings but we've got to find a way to compete better. We had one Test [in Bangladesh] which prepared us for this one, but it's still probably not enough preparation."

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 591/6 (D Karunaratne 179, K Mendis 140, S Samarawickrama 104*, D Chandimal 102*) beat Ireland 143 (L Tucker 45; P Jayasuriya 7-52) and 168 (H Tector 42; R Mendis 4-76, P Jayasuriya 3-56). - Agencies

THIRD T20I

New Zealand edge Pakistan in a nail-biting contest



ISLAMABAD: New Zealand edged Pakistan by four runs late on Monday night in the third T20I match to keep the five-match series wide open with the hosts leading 2-1.

The visitors won the toss and elected to bat first at the Gaddafi Stadium in Pakistan's eastern city Lahore. They set a healthy total of 163 runs off 20 overs with the help of two beautiful knocks, including 64 runs from Tom Latham and 33 runs from Daryl Mitchell.

Chasing the target, Pakistan went into deep trouble after losing

five wickets quickly at meagre 55 runs off 10.2 overs. However, middle-order batter Iftikhar Ahmed appeared late in the inning with his blistering 60 runs off only 24 balls and was just a hit away from victory before getting caught out.

Pakistan's team were all out for 159 runs on the last ball of the innings as New Zealand clinched a thriller. Two more matches to be played on April 20 and 24.

The Kiwis' captain, Latham, who was declared man of the match, said, "It was a great game

of cricket. We were pleased to get a competitive total on the board and it's satisfying to get across the line and keep the series alive."

"I think the whole squad will take a lot of confidence from this match moving forward. We pride ourselves on our fielding and keep the bar high every time we set foot into the middle," added Latham.

Brief scores: New Zealand 163/5 (T Latham 64, D Mitchell 33; H Rauf 2-31) beat Pakistan 159 (Ifitikhar 60; J Neesham 3-38, R Ravindra 2-28). - Xinhua

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool win at Leeds was best performance of season: Klopp

LONDON: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp felt his side produced their best performance of the season as they ruthlessly took apart struggling Leeds United on Monday, winning 6-1. The Reds scored six goals from seven shots on target, with Mohamed Salah and Diogo Jota both netting twice.

Klopp's side have beaten Bournemouth 9-0 and Manchester United 7-0 this season but the German believes the display at Elland Road is their best.

"[I am] really happy about that game," he told Sky Sports. "I think we forced a lot of errors, [scored] sensational goals, counter-pressing-wise it was the best for, I want to say, decades. My favourite part was in the 92nd minute - four players chased the poor boy on the ball from Leeds. I think it is the best game we played this season, in different aspects."

It has been a difficult season for Klopp's side, demonstrated by the fact despite Monday's resounding win they sit eighth place in the table. There was controversy about the opener, with Trent Alexander-Arnold using an arm to block a pass from Junior Firpo - although not illegally according to the on-field and VAR officials - before setting up Cody Gakpo's opener.

Salah struck the second soon after and while Luis Sinisterra's goal briefly gave Leeds hope early in the second half, the Reds responded through Jota, Salah and substitute Darwin Nunez.

The win in West Yorkshire



came after a much-improved showing against league leaders Arsenal in their previous game, when they came back from 2-0

down to draw despite a missed Salah penalty. "To play good football you need stability," added Klopp. "Stability you only get from defending but when you are in this kind of negative flow, if we can use that phrase, then you make wrong decisions. You think to play better you have to be foremost concerned with the offensive stuff. We can be super offensive-orientated, if we react in the right moment."

"I can't explain why our counter-pressing didn't work [in previous games] but tonight it clicked. It clicked in the second half against Arsenal." - Agencies

INDONESIA STRIPPED OF HOSTING RIGHTS

Argentina to host U20 World Cup

GENEVA: Argentina will host the FIFA 2023 U20 World Cup, after Indonesia was stripped of hosting rights by FIFA, the world football governing body announced on Monday.

The Bureau of the FIFA Council confirmed the decision after the Argentinian Football Association (AFA) submitted a subsequent bid and a FIFA delegation inspected the South American country last week.

The FIFA U20 World Cup will kick off on May 20-June 11, and it will be the first time Argentina

has hosted the tournament since 2001.

The official draw of the FIFA U20 World Cup will take place on April 21 at FIFA's headquarter in Zurich.

The Argentinian Football Association (AFA) bid for the tournament after the official draw for the tournament, which was to be held in Bali, was cancelled. Bali's governor Wayan Koster refused to host the Israel team.

Indonesia does not have any formal diplomatic ties with Israel and protesters recently held marches

demanding Israel be stopped from competing in the tournament, in support of Palestine.

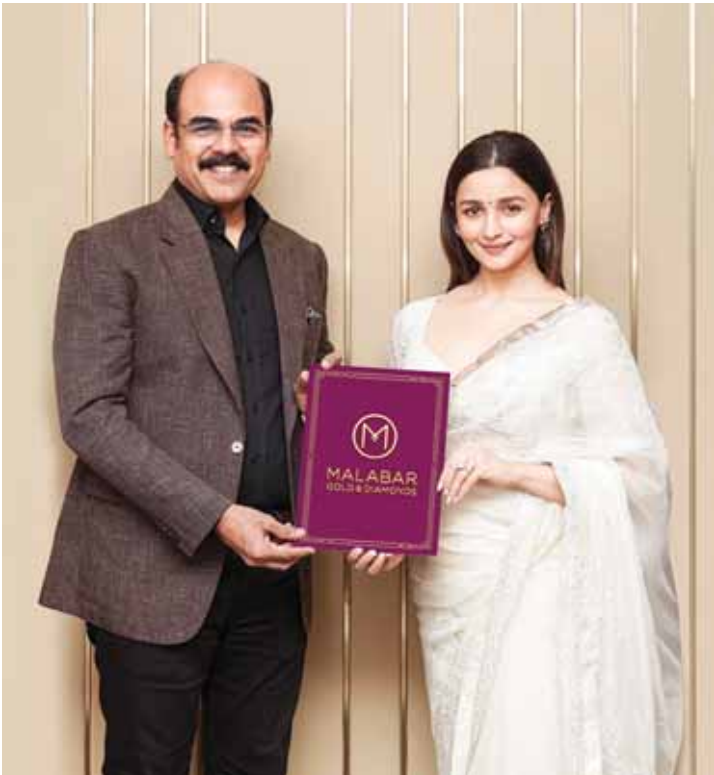
"FIFA is delighted to announce that this year's edition of the U-20 World Cup will take place in Argentina, as the home of the world champions opens its doors to the tomorrow's superstars of world football," said FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

"Having this year's edition taking place in a country that lives and breathes football will be a tremendous inspiration for the stars of tomorrow." - Agencies



ROUND-UP

Malabar Gold signs Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt as its brand ambassador



The announcement comes in the wake of the 30th anniversary of Malabar Group, which began its operations in 1993

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with 312 showrooms across 10 countries, has signed Indian actress Alia Bhatt as its new brand ambassador. After making her debut in 2012, Alia Bhatt has quickly transformed into one of the most sought-after actresses in India, with a score of blockbusters movies under the belt. She has garnered praise for

her versatility as an actress, her humble persona and stunning looks, representative of a new era of super talented actors hailing from India. She is also set to make her Hollywood debut in the movie, Heart of Stone, which is slated to be released soon. The announcement come in the wake of the 30th anniversary of Malabar group, which began its operations in 1993. With an extensive retail network in India, UAE, KSA, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA, the signing of Alia Bhatt as the brand ambassador will bring a new global outlook to the brand as they set their eyes on new markets such as the UK, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Egypt, Bangladesh, Turkey and New Zealand, as well as strengthen its presence in existing markets. "I am delighted to be the face of a global brand such as Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Having witnessed first-hand their acceptance amongst Indians and Indian

sub-continental audience, the immense success they have reaped abroad should be a source of great pride for us and I am humbled to be a part of the Malabar family. As Malabar Gold & Diamonds gears up to execute their ambitious expansion plan, I earnestly look forward to working closely with them to further their reach amongst jewellery lovers world-over", commented Alia Bhatt. "We are very excited to welcome Alia Bhatt into the Malabar Family. Over the years, our brand ambassadors have played an instrumental role in elevating our brand's status in the eyes of our customers and we are looking forward to taking Malabar Gold & Diamonds to new heights with Alia Bhatt as the face of the brand. Our goal is to be crowned as the World's largest jewellery retailer by crafting, promoting and selling jewellery that is an intersection of Indian art, culture, tradition, heritage and Alia Bhatt, both as an actor and as a person, perfectly

represents what we are striving to achieve. Her impressive career in the highly competitive film industry resonates with our brand's journey and ambition as a brand. As Malabar Gold & Diamonds celebrates its 30th anniversary, we are reaffirming our commitment to providing our loyal customers with the best jewellery shopping experience," commented Malabar Group Chairman, M.P. Ahammed. Malabar Gold & Diamonds is globally renowned for providing an exceptional jewelry shopping experience with convenience and customer-friendly policies, known as the 'Malabar Promise.' This promise assures customers of unmatched quality, transparency, and service assurance. With more than 12 exclusive brands in gold, diamond, and precious gems, Malabar Gold & Diamonds presents the latest designs curated from 20 countries, catering to the diverse tastes and preferences of their vast, multicultural customer base.

SPREADING RAMADAN JOY

Lulu distributes Iftar boxes to university students staying in hostels in Muscat

MUSCAT: In an effort to strengthen its core principles of goodness and benevolence during Ramadan, Lulu Oman rolled out an exemplary initiative to provide Iftar meals to university students in hostels across Muscat during the holy month. This initiative follows the "Convoy of Goodness" campaign launched earlier to distribute special Ramadan grocery kits to 1,000 deserving families across Oman. The latest in a series of initiatives is part of Lulu Group's corporate social responsibility strategy and is a noble gesture towards the welfare of the society during Ramadan. As part of iftar meals distribution drive, Lulu and N7N volunteers distributed Iftar boxes containing a selection of delicious eatables, drinks, dates and fruits to students of several colleges across Muscat. Commenting on the initiative, Shabeer K A, Regional Director – Lulu Hypermarkets, Oman, said, "We are glad to have launched this initiative to enhance the spirit of love and compassion within the society during Ramadan. This initiative is an example of how we can



come together during Ramadan and make a real difference in our community." "There are so many students who remain far away from home, and through this campaign, we are happy to have brought joy and smiles to their faces and made them feel at home," he added. Besides being the ultimate shopping destination, Lulu Group has always been a key promoter of social initiatives and has taken every effort to raise its contributions to the development of the society.

SHOWS APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT



InterContinental Muscat provides Ramadan food packs to delivery boys

MUSCAT: The InterContinental Muscat, managed by IHG Hotels & Resorts and owned by Omran organised a Ramadan food pack distribution programme for food delivery boys. This initiative is aimed at showing appreciation and support to the hardworking delivery boys who work tirelessly to ensure that essentials are delivered to our homes at the right time. They work long hours, in harsh weather conditions and their income is not very high. Since their service adds to our convenience, they deserve to be recognised and appreciated

for the important work they do. Food delivery boys have been on the front lines of the pandemic times too, ensuring that people got their groceries, medicines, and other essential items. Their tireless efforts have made our lives easier and more comfortable during those challenging times. InterContinental Muscat recognises their contribution to society and wants to show our appreciation by providing them with food packs during the holy month of Ramadan. The food packs provided by the hotel include a variety of nutritious

food items, including dates, fruits, water, and other snacks. These packs will not only provide sustenance to the delivery boys during their long working hours but also remind them that their hard work is valued and appreciated. "Our mission is to create positive change by empowering individuals and families to overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential," said Daniel Arbenz, General Manager of InterContinental Muscat. He also added, "The holy month of Ramadan serves as a reminder to remember and extend a helping

hand to the less fortunate around us. At InterContinental Muscat, we have an annual tradition of offering an iftar box for the less fortunate, prepared and packed with lots of love by our team." InterContinental Muscat has partnered with delivery company Talabat to identify those in need and distribute the food packs accordingly. We are committed to providing support to those who are working hard to serve our community, and this initiative is just one of the many ways we are showing our appreciation.

ATTRACTIVE OFFER



Changan launches special Ramadan offer on UNI models

MUSCAT: As part of its exclusive Ramadan promotion to mark the holy month, Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), Changan Oman has announced an attractive offer on Changan Auto's luxury model range – UNI-K, UNI-V and UNI-T. Positioned as futuristic and fashionable the UNI range feature progressive design and smart technologies offered only in luxury brands. Changan UNI range of automobiles – UNI-K, UNI-V and UNI-T – is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors. The 'together, let's celebrate the season of generosity' offer includes, free service (5 years/105,000km), free insurance (1st year), free registration (1st year), free window tinting and ceramic coating and manufacturer's Super warranty (6 years/unlimited mileage kilometres). All customers purchasing UNI models from Changan retail showroom till April 22 will be eligible to participate in the campaign scheme.

A senior official for AGAE said, "It is the season of generosity, and we are delighted to offer our valued customers the best deals on Changan UNI models during this special time. As we celebrate the spirit of giving, we would like to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in our brand." Customers can avail Periodic Maintenance Service of five years/105,000 kms on UNI-K, UNI-V and UNI-T. The offer includes 10,000km service intervals. Customers of UNI-K, UNI-V and UNI-T models can enjoy manufacturer's warranty for 6 years/unlimited mileage kilometres. Patrons of UNI-K, UNI-V and UNI-T can enjoy benefits such as free first year insurance (Oman and UAE). Customers will be offered free first year registration on purchase of Changan vehicles UNI-K, UNI-V and UNI-T. Window Tinting and Ceramic Coating warranty on the models will be three years warranty against manufacturing defects and will be fitted at Changan service centres.

MUSCAT SCIENCE FEST

Kerala Wing Science Project contest for all students in Oman

MUSCAT: Muscat Science Fest (MSF) - Science and Technology Sub wing of Indian Social Club (ISC) Kerala Wing announced 5th Edition of Science Project Contest – SPC-2023 - Science fair, exhibition, and competition of science projects for all students in Oman. The exhibition shall be conducted on May 5 and 6 at Al Amerat Park along with prestigious Indian Community Festival (ICF) 2023. The school children under the age of 18 in Oman can participate in the science project competition. The children wish to participate Muscat register their team along with project description at the below link or scan the QR code in poster to get the registration link. The bylaw of MSF SPC-2023 is also available in the registration link - <https://forms.gle/FbxbMEgHNAaRY7U66>. The last date of registration has been extended to April 20. The organiser has announced attractive prize for the best projects. MSF has organised science exhibitions as along with Keralotsavam and later as part of Indian Community Festival which had moving crowd of about 50,000 plus visitors. During the pandemic time, MSF also organised the online science exhibition through virtual exhibition platform and attracted more than 10,000 plus visitors in 2 days of time from all over world. The rationale of science exhibition is to widen scientific attitude in the young minds and to formulate them realise the interdependence of science, technology, and environment.

ROUND-UP

Aloft Hotels debuts in Muscat, brings music-inspired programming to city

Anchored in design, culture, and music, the 193-guestroom hotel brings the brand’s bold modern style to the capital and its vibrant social scene with buzzing open spaces to connect

MUSCAT: Aloft Hotels, the design-driven hotel brand for music lovers and travellers, and part of Marriott Bonvoy’s portfolio of 30 extraordinary brands arrived in Muscat, marking the brand’s debut in the Sultanate of Oman. Anchored in design, culture, and music, the 193-guestroom hotel brings the brand’s bold modern style to the capital and its vibrant social scene with buzzing open spaces to connect. Each of the urban-inspired, loft-style guestrooms features high ceilings, plush platform beds and 50-inch LED TVs. The modern bathrooms feature walk-in rainfall showers and custom Aloft bath amenities. “Oman is a thriving leisure destination for travellers who seek original experiences and warm hospitality,” said Sandra Schulze-Potgieter,



Vice President – Premium and Select Brands, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Marriott International. “Driven by bold design Aloft Muscat is a place for creative self-expressers to meet and mingle.” “With this first venture into the hotel market, we were eager to apply the knowledge and expertise we have gained from 35 years in real estate development to create an exciting, fresh new destination,” said Aadil Thomas Alexander, Owner and Executive Director. “Aloft Muscat represents a space where style is necessary, connectivity keeps up with you, social scenes are vibrant, and the only direction is forward. As well as being a hot spot in its own right, the hotel will act as a wonderful base to explore the dynamic city of Muscat and the intriguing expanses of the rest of Oman.” The hotel’s signature public spaces are designed as innovative,

comfortable places to socialise and relax. At the sleek Re:mixSM lounge, guests can enjoy a meal of pool, with day-to-night lighting and music to switch up the vibe. Dining destinations include the brand’s signature bar W XYZ®, an outdoor space to enjoy a meal at Arcade, which offers global craft beverages and delicious international comfort food, or Re:fuel by AloftSM, which offers a self-serve grab-and-go option for snacks. Guests can build their burger from the bun to the sauce at California Beach-inspired eatery Wave Burger, while The Backstage dining space serves up world-class international cuisine with a Mediterranean twist for breakfast, lunch and dinner. A haven for digital nomads and business guests, the hotel has three state-of-the-art tactic meeting rooms for up to 40 people, equipped with state-of-the-art

A/V, plasma TV, and fast complimentary WiFi. Additional facilities include Re:charge™ gym, a day or night fitness centre equipped with all the tools to keep you healthy, and Splash Pool, where guests can jump in and revive or lounge in style from morning to night. “We’re excited to debut Aloft Hotels in Oman which represents an exciting new addition to the capital’s skyline,” said Danny Al Chayeb, General Manager, Aloft Muscat. “Our entire team looks forward to welcoming global travellers and residents alike to experience Aloft’s design-driven spaces and music programming.” Located 10 minutes from Muscat International Airport, Aloft Muscat is within easy reach of a host of cultural and leisure attractions, including Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Royal Opera House Muscat, Oman Convention



and Exhibition Center and Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, plus three major golf courses and two of the city’s largest malls. To celebrate the opening of Aloft Muscat, exclusive opening rates start from OMR27 including breakfast and 20% off on food and beverage. The grand opening package is available until August 30.

RAMADAN OFFER

Avis Car Rental partners with Zahara Holidays



MUSCAT: One of the world’s top car rental brands, Avis Car Rental has partnered with Zahara Holidays, the outbound tourism wing of the Oman based Zahara Group, to provide international car rental booking for holiday makers from Oman. Vacationers can now book their car rental of choice directly through Zahara Holidays, which has been named the GSA for outbound car rentals for Oman for all Avis international destinations. Owned by the Avis Budget Group, who operate and licence the brand globally, Avis Car Rental has offerings at 5,000+ locations across more than 165 countries. Avis’ continued commitment to innovation and excellence over the years has made it a customer favourite – customers from Oman can now book from the comfort of their home.

Gautam Broota, CEO of the Zahara Group, said, “We are delighted to partner with Avis Car Rental, who share our principals and customer-centric approach. This collaboration is an extension of our continued commitment to offer customers an extensive range of services to ensure seamless reliable travel experiences at every step of their journey.” Prepaid and pay on arrival options are available for customers booking through Zahara Holidays. The Avis 360° package ensures a hassle-free vacation, it’s an all-inclusive package with zero excess for collision damage waiver and theft protection, unlimited mileage, and more. Alternatively, customers can enjoy a special discount of up to 10% on booking by 30th April for rentals from 11 April to 30 June 2023 at selected locations.

SPONSORED BY ARA PETROLEUM

Zubair Auto wins TZC Ramadan Football League

MUSCAT: The sixth edition of The Zubair Corporation (TZC) Ramadan Football League concluded on Sunday evening, 16 April, with Zubair Automotive Group winning with two goals to Oman Computer Services’ one. A large number of TZC employees and their families attended the finals match, which was held at the Goal One Stadium in Azaiba. Al-Zubair Muhammad Al-Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of TZC, Hussam Muhammad Al-Zubair, Member of the Board of Directors, and Niels Bormans, CEO of TZC, were also in attendance.



Sultan Al Gaithi, CEO of ARA Petroleum, the tournament sponsor, said: “Congratulations to Zubair Automotive Groupon winning first

place this year. It is well deserved, following their outstanding performance throughout the tournament. The team worked hard right from

the very beginning and demonstrated a high level of teamwork and harmony in every match they played.” The tournament was launched at the beginning of Ramadan with the participation of 10 teams divided into two groups. The first group comprised Oman Computer Services (OCS Infotech), Bait Al Zubair, ELCO International Engineering Co., Zubair Automotive Group and Federal Power Transformers. The second group included Oman Oasis, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Zubair Electric, ARA Petroleum, and Oman Oil Industry Supplies & Services Co.

22ND EDITION

Ghedex to bring together universities and institutions from around world

MUSCAT: The Global Higher Education Exhibition (Ghedex) is set to take place in Muscat under the patronage of Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation from April 30 to May 2. Ghedex is an annual event that brings together universities, colleges, and higher education institutions in Oman and around the world to showcase their programs and services to potential students and stakeholders. This year’s exhibition will be the 22nd edition of Ghedex and will be held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. The exhibition will feature a diverse range of academic programs, from undergraduate to postgraduate degrees, diplomas, and certificates, as well as vocational and technical training and schools. The exhibition will host a series of free seminars and workshops on various topics related to higher education, research, and innovation. Additionally, interactive areas such as student enterprises and Ghedex Talks will also be available. The theme of this year’s exhibition is “Innovation and Entrepreneurship” highlighting the importance of higher education in driving innovation and entrepreneurship development. The exhibition is expected to attract thousands of visitors, including

high school students, parents, teachers, and professionals, from Oman and beyond. It provides a unique opportunity for attendees to interact with representatives from leading universities and colleges from around the world and learn about the latest trends and developments in higher education. In addition to showcasing academic programmes, Ghedex also provides a platform for networking and collaboration among higher education institutions and industry stakeholders. It serves as a meeting point for educators, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore opportunities for partnerships and collaborations. The exhibition aligns with Oman’s Vision 2040, which seeks to position the country as a knowledge-based economy and a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. In conclusion, Ghedex 2023 is a highly anticipated event that promises to offer a wealth of opportunities for students, educators, researchers, and industry stakeholders. It represents a key platform for promoting higher education, research, and innovation and fostering international cooperation and collaboration. The visit is completely free of charge and can be accessed through the official Ghedex HUB app.



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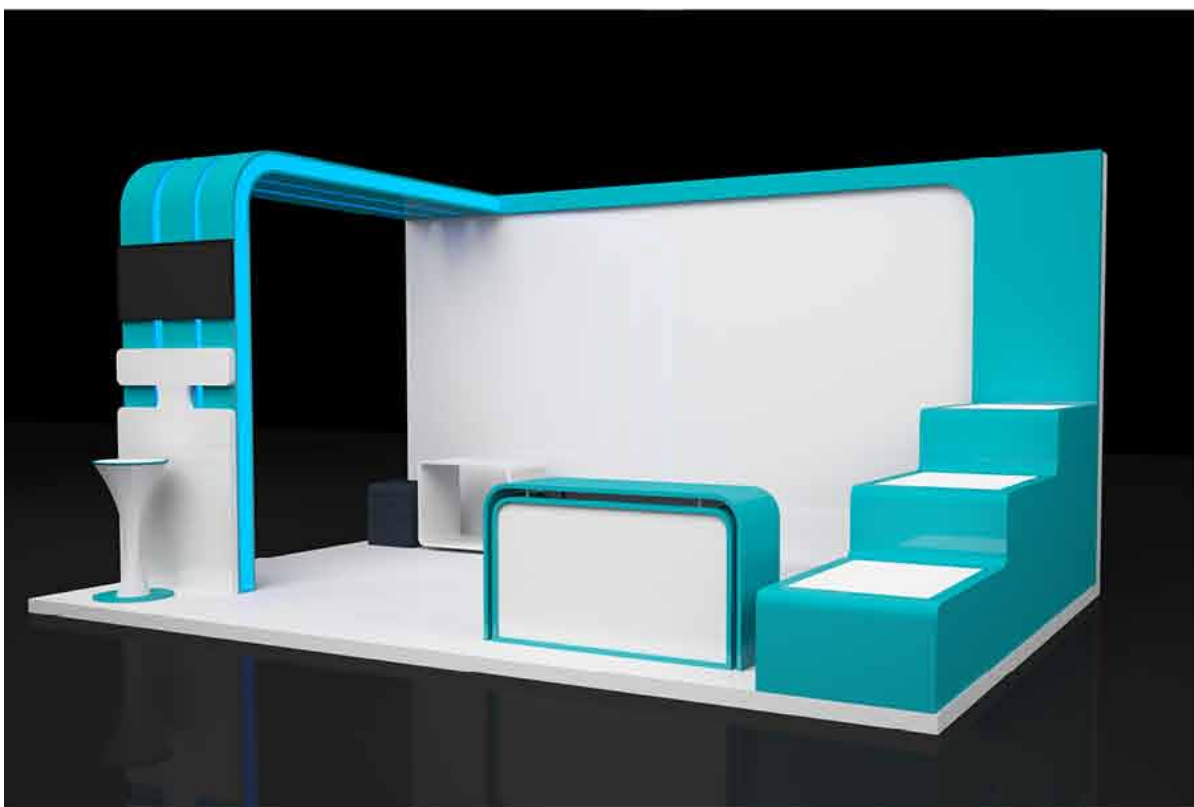
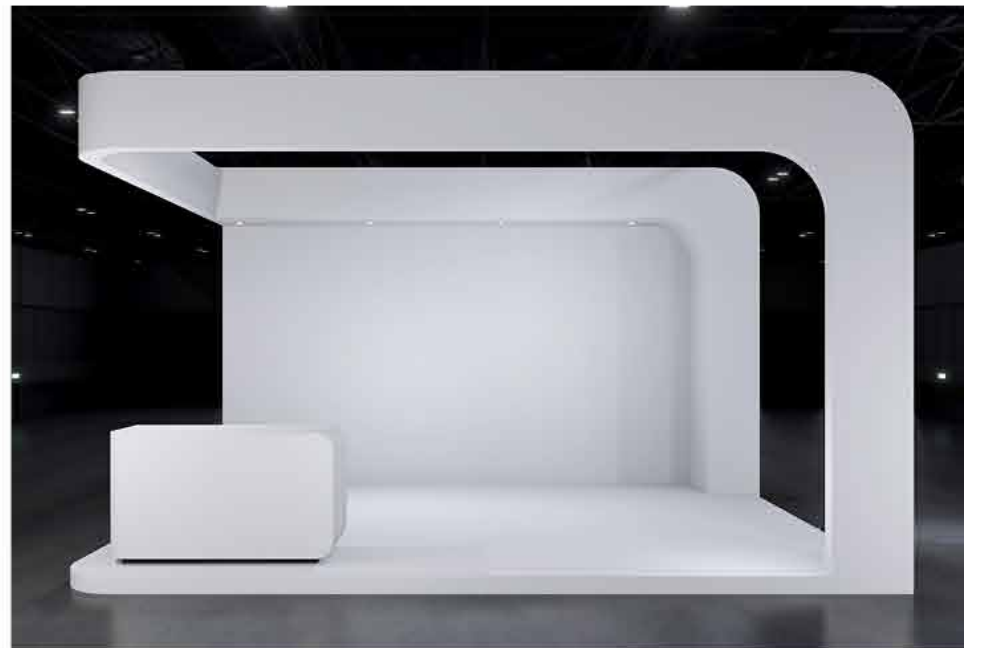
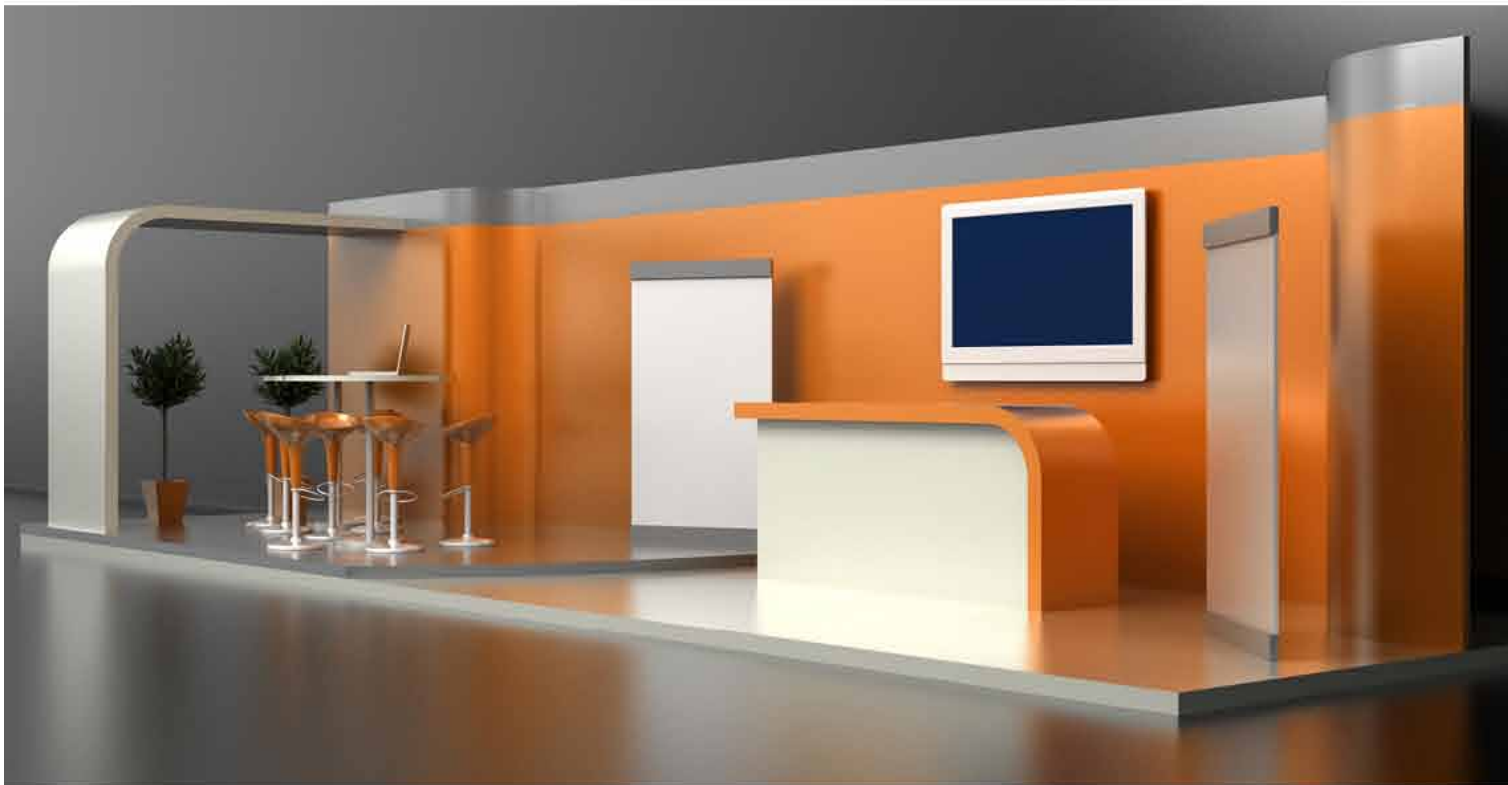
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