

NCDs CAUSE AN ANNUAL LOSS OF OMR1.1 BILLION

The Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) cause economic losses estimated at OMR1.1 billion annually. 74 percent of this cost is due to direct medical costs. **>A3**



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OMAN'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW, INFLATION CONTAINED: IMF

The IMF team issued a statement noting that Oman's economy continues to grow, and inflation is contained at low levels as real GDP grew by 4.3 percent in 2022, primarily driven by a strong expansion of the hydrocarbon sector. However, the team projected economic growth to reach 1.3 percent in 2023 and then rebound to 2.7 percent in 2024. **>B1**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Discussion on 'Greater Muscat Masterplan'

1 The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning organised a workshop titled "Greater Muscat Masterplan", to explore the final stages of the city's layout and discussed it with the departments concerned to help realise harmony and integration. The plan aims to upgrade the quality of services. **>A6**

OMAN Real time settlement system launched



2 The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has launched the new national RTGS, which operates on a 24/7 basis. The actual operation of the system started at 12:00 am on Sunday. The system has successfully settled 3,147 transactions amounting to over OMR409 million. **>A3**

MARKET Hydrom to ink pacts for green hydrogen

3 The Sultanate of Oman is taking bold steps to accelerate the growth of its green hydrogen sector. Hydrom Oman SPC (Hydrom), a subsidiary of Energy Development Oman (EDO), will sign a number of new agreements on Wednesday, June 21. **>B1**

HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADORS



The envoys wished citizens progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately credentials of ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman, at Al Barakah Palace on Monday. His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors: - Lenka Mihalikova, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Sultanate of Oman. - Pascal Huber Gregoire, Am-

bassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Sultanate of Oman. - Alfred Gakuba Kalisa, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the Sultanate of Oman. - Guy IBrahim Membourou, Ambassador of the Gabonese Republic to the Sultanate of Oman. - Dang Xuan Dung, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Sultanate of Oman. - Vladimir Andres Gonzalez,

Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Sultanate of Oman. - Nuno Vaultier Mathias, Ambassador of the Republic of Portugal to the Sultanate of Oman. - Carlos Rodolfo Zapata, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru to the Sultanate of Oman. - Saso Podlesnik, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Sultanate of Oman. During their meetings with His

Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders and their best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty. They also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty. They also expressed their great honour and delight at presenting their credentials to His Majesty the Sultan. **>A4**



Oman upset Ireland to begin their campaign in style

A8

DIPLOMATIC TIES

Oman welcomes resumption of Qatar-UAE ties

MUSCAT: In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, the Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the resumption of diplomatic representation between the State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The resumption of diplomatic ties stems from the two sides' willingness to implement Al-Ula Accord, said the statement, noting that the move constitutes an extension of fraternal relations and historic ties.

The statement pointed out that

the resumption of Qatar-United Arab Emirates diplomatic ties consolidates the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) joint action aimed to boost pillars of security, stability and prosperity for all countries in the region.

Embassies open

The embassies of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates reopened and resumed work on Monday after the two Gulf countries agreed to restore diplomatic relations, Qatar's foreign ministry said. **-OMA**

REALISING THE GOALS

New steps taken to boost Oman Vision 2040, develop national economy

MUSCAT: Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit today organised a media briefing during which it outlined "Oman Vision 2040 Report" for the year 2022/2023".

The report elaborated on efforts exerted by all government departments concerned with a view to realising the goals of the vision.

The briefing explored components of the report which stemmed from the comprehensive system for realising Oman Vision 2040, its priorities and its programmes.

Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow up Unit, affirmed that the vision is making good progress in terms of executive tasks of the plans forming the vision. The vision has become a reference for comprehensive development at the national level, including national programmes led by government departments responsible for economic transition and social transformation, he added.

Work is currently underway in cooperation with all government departments to address the decline in some indicators of priorities related to Oman Vision 2040, said Al Jabri, noting that the gross domestic product (GDP) indicator takes centre stage in the vision now.



Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said that, in 2022, the Sultanate of Oman posted 5 percent growth in the actual value of private investments and 10.5 percent rise in the volume of foreign direct investment (FDI), compared to the volume of investments in 2021. This increase reflected in foreign investment flow at a rate of 4.2 percent of the GDP, he observed.

The minister said that the National Programme for Investment and Exports Development "Naz-dahir" seeks to enhance the role

of the private sector in leading economic development. He explained that this is accomplished by furnishing a proper environment for investment and business, streamlining and digitising procedures for investors and developing investment partnerships between Oman and the business community, locally and abroad.

Sayyid Dr. Munther Hilal Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Oman 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, said that emphasis was laid on indicators with the highest impact on Oman Vision 2040.

The number of indicators was

cut down from 68 to 39 indicators, among them 5 were international and 34 were national, he added.

Sayyid Dr. Munther said that 40 government departments were approved and their indicators were endorsed. He pointed out that the second phase targets other government departments and includes the development of indicator cards for governorates.

It is hoped that the indicator cards would constitute a reference for devising annual plans and determining future approaches in a manner that serves the vision's objectives and reflects on its projects and initiatives, he said. **>A2**



OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:13pm
Asr.....	3:31pm
Maghrib.....	7:01pm
Isha.....	8:24pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:53am



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AMBASSADORS



Copies of credentials of envoys received

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received here on Monday copies of credentials of ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Political Affairs Undersecretary received the following ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry in Muscat: Guillermo Emilio Nielsen, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Gerard Cunningham, Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Mohammad Habibu Tijani, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Nelson Yemil Chaben Labadie, Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Anu Eerika Viljanen, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Petra Menander, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. -**ONA**

OMAN VISION 2040

International and national indicators identified for each priority sector



<FROM A1 Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, said that the Authority is joining hands with relevant government and private establishments to upgrade the standard of the environment sector in Oman in accordance with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Dr. Jokha Abdullah Al Shukaili, CEO of Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Educational Quality Assurance, said that Oman Vision 2040 comprised a large number of programmes and initiatives within the education sector.

Those include the issuance of the Higher Education Law and the School Education Law, as well as the launch of the National Framework for Leadership, she added.

Dr. Jokha referred to what she described as remarkable progress in international ranking of universities in Oman.

She pointed out that five Omani universities, along with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), entered into competition among 500 universities around the world to opt for advanced ranks within this classification.

Oman Vision 2040 is based on 4 pillars: Human and Society, Economy and Development, Governance and Institutional Performance and Sustainable Environment. Twelve national priorities emerged from the vision.

Acting in conjunction with government departments concerned, Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit succeeded in completing many projects related to each priority.

Oman Vision 2040 identified a set of international and national indicators for each priority. These indicators measure the rate of accomplishment of Oman Vision 2040 through efforts made to realise the strategic approaches and objectives. Oman targets the accomplishment of certain classifications or values in these indicators during the upcoming years until 2040. - **ONA**



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GCC ELECTRICAL LINKAGE

Oman attends key meeting in Doha

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR), took part in the 55th meeting of the Advisory and Regulatory Committee of the GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), which was held in Doha, Qatar.

Oman's delegation was led by Sheikh Dr. Mansoor Talib Al Hinai, APSR Chairman.

The meeting discussed performance and activities of GCC electrical linkage from the beginning of January until at the end of May 2023, the plan of introducing amendments to the general agreement and the agreement on energy exchange to enable GCC Energy Exchange. The meeting also discussed a plan to provide support to the Advisory and Regulatory Committee.

The meeting also touched on expansion projects of the GCC link grid between the GCCIA and some Gulf countries. - **ONA**



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Real time settlement system launched

It is a system that provides a mechanism for the final processing and settlement of the high-value payments

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has launched the new national Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS), which operates on a 24/7 basis. The actual operation of the system started at 12:00 am on Sunday, 18 June 2023. The system has successfully settled 3,147 transactions amounting to more than OMR409 million in that day. It is a real-time gross settle-

ment system that provides a mechanism for the final processing and settlement of the high-value payments exchanged between the participants on a continues basis. The Ministry of Finance and banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company are the direct participants of the system. The implementation of the new system is in line with CBO's vision of enhancing the quality of national payment systems services provided to the banking and financial sector, as well as the society in the Sultanate of Oman. The system will enable banks and financial institutions, government and private institutions to make money transfers at their convenience, even during holidays or outside banking hours. In line with the developments in the electronic payment systems domain, the system was implemented in accordance with the best practices, international



standards, and the Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures (PFMI). The system also achieves the settlement finality in the central bank money, which helps in enhancing the financial stability of the Sultanate of Oman. The enhanced liquidity management mechanism for RTGS participants is an additional feature for risk mitigation by enabling them to monitor their liquidity requirements in real-time around the clock. The latest gridlock resolution mechanism introduced in the system will help to reduce the settlement risk among participants. Moreover, the system is capable to provide final settlement for retail payment systems on a 24/7 basis, as well as the arrangements for the Treasury Single Account (TSA). These new features will contrib-

ute in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of payments in the banking and financial sector in the Sultanate of Oman. The system supports the best standards for financial transactions messages. The international standard (ISO20022) is adopted to facilitate broader integration and digitization of payment operations and enhance the interoperability with payment and other ancillary systems. The digital signature has been implemented to securely control access to the system and authorize all processed transactions. As part of the regional initiatives for cross-border payments, the new system will integrate with the GCC payment system "AFAQ" in order to process cross-border payments between GCC countries by linking with Gulf Payments Company (GPC). The new system will also be integrated with the Arab Regional Cross-Border Payment System "Buna" by including the Omani Rial as a settlement currency among the other currencies in the Arab system. The processes of regional integration are planned during the next phase. Tahir Salim Al Amri, Executive President of the CBO, said: "This project is a continuation of CBO's efforts to modernize the infrastructure of the banking and financial sector in the Sultanate of Oman to ensure its flexibility in accommodating the needs of banking and financial institutions and improve their efficiency". He added: "The launch of the new system is a strategic achievement for the banking and financial sector in Oman, as it provides many features and functions. The Sultanate of Oman is considered one of the few countries in the region that operates 24/7 RTGS system. The move confirms that CBO will continue its endeavours to strengthen and enhance the national payment systems in line with global developments and meeting market needs". -ONA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NCDs cause an annual loss of OMR1.1 billion



MUSCAT: The Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) cause economic losses estimated at OMR1.1 billion annually. 74 percent of this cost is due to direct medical costs, therefore the prevention of non-communicable diseases is an essential pillar to reduce the burden of these diseases. It is estimated that non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, chronic respiratory diseases and cancer are responsible for 80 percent of all deaths in the Sultanate of Oman, and that one in five adults dies due to non-communicable diseases before the age of 70. For prevention and cure, the National Committee for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) held its first meeting for the current year at the Ministry of Health's headquarters on Monday. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, in the presence of HH Dr. Mona Fahad Al Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Cooperation in Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and Chairperson of the Committee along with representatives of various sectors and authorities. The Minister of Health stressed the importance of strengthening the efforts of various authorities in reducing the significant burden of non-communicable diseases, noting that the NCDs represent economic and social burdens to the world and Oman. In her turn, HH Dr. Mona underlined the need for redouble efforts in the prevention of NCDs. During the meeting, Dr. Shadha Saud Al Raisi, Director of Non-Communicable Diseases at the Directorate General of Pri-

mary Healthcare and Rapporteur of the Committee, reviewed the global and local burden of NCDs. She highlighted the efforts exerted to prevent and control the NCDs including the progress in implementing the National Policy and Multisectoral Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), which was approved and launched in February 2018. The prevalence rates of risk factors causing non-communicable diseases are also high and increasing, as the prevalence of overweight and obesity is estimated at 66 percent. In the Sultanate of Oman, the average daily consumption of salt is high, reaching 8.5 grams per day, while the daily average salt consumption recommended by the World Health Organization is 5 grams per day. The feasibility study of investing in NCDs indicated that it is possible to avoid the death of 19,000 people in the next 15 years if emphasis is laid on four packages of interventions, namely policies to reduce salt consumption in food, reduce tobacco use, interventions to raise awareness of physical activity and to expand clinical interventions to control cardiovascular disease and diabetes. It is worth mentioning that the role of the National NCDs Committee is to ensure multi-sectoral cooperation between all parties concerned. Moreover, it is concerned with developing plans in the field of NCDs prevention and control, following up their implementation, and proposing draft laws, regulations and decisions related to the safety and health of members of the society and their surrounding environment. -ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR9.1mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR9.1 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR800,000, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.43214 percent and 4.44726, respectively. Treasury bills worth OMR8.3 million for a maturity period of 91 days were also allotted. The average accepted price reached OMR98.765 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.765 per OMR100. The average discount



rate and the average yield reached 4.95357 percent and 5.01551 percent, respectively. The Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry

of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo). The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.75 percent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.25 percent. Furthermore, the 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



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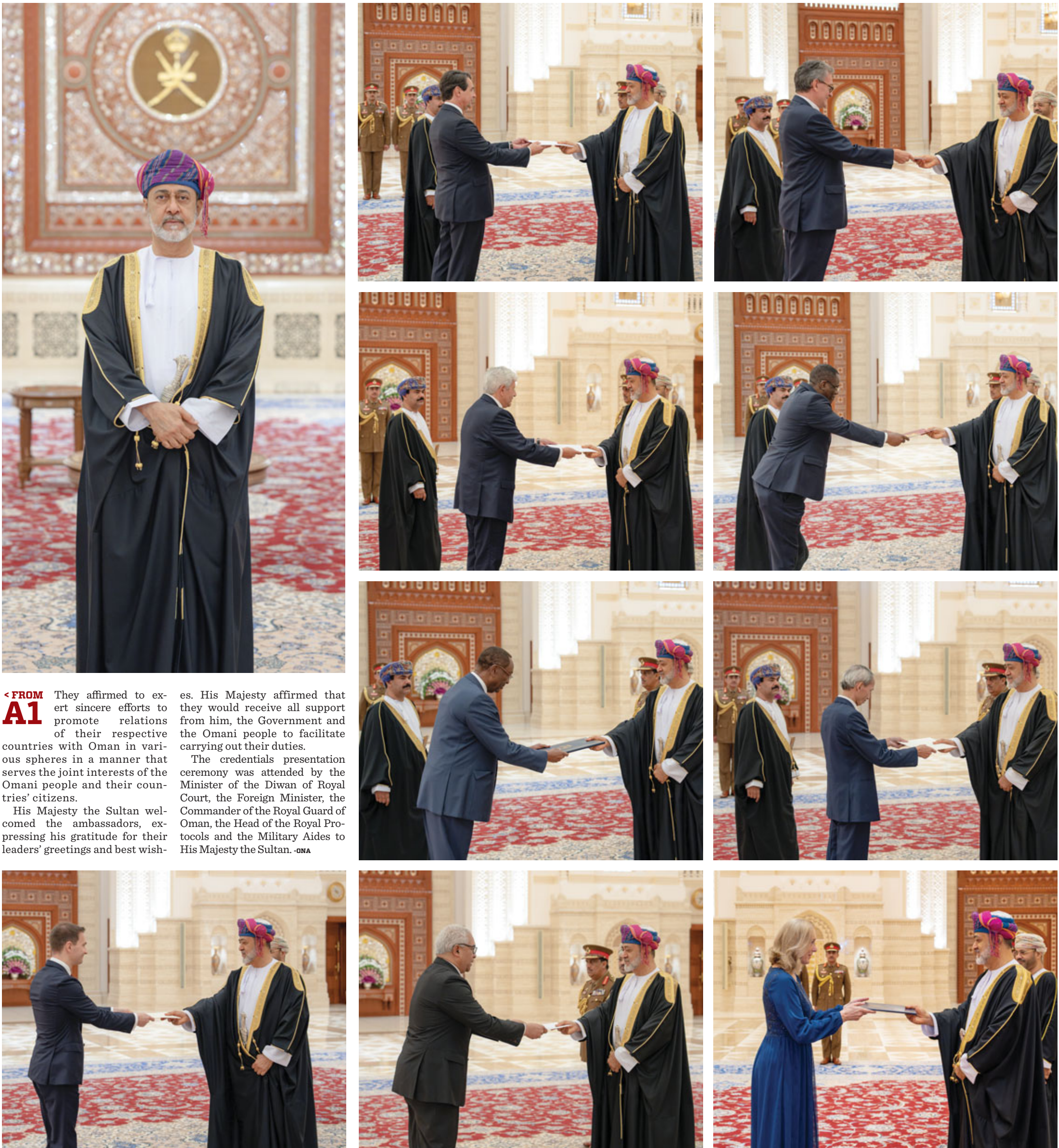


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His Majesty welcomes ambassadors



<FROM A1 They affirmed to exert sincere efforts to promote relations of their respective countries with Oman in various spheres in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' citizens.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his gratitude for their leaders' greetings and best wishes.

His Majesty affirmed that they would receive all support from him, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA

GREEN BLANKET

Green glory of Dhofar as Khareef 2023 set to begin

MUSCAT: In the pictures, with the onset of the Khareef season 2023, some of the mountainous areas in Dhofar Governorate are covered in a green blanket.

Oman News Agency (ONA) captured pictures today showing the onset of Khareef season in the highlands of the governorate's wilayats. Light showers began to fall sporadically in some areas of Salalah, bringing the temperature to a pleasant 28 degrees Celsius.

The coastal states in Dhofar Governorate enjoy the Khareef season, specifically from the Wilayat of Dhalkut in the west to the Wilayat of Mirbat in the east as a result of the seasonal winds and the flow of clouds coming from the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Oman News Agency (ONA) visited the Wilayat of Dhalkut in the far coastal strip of the Dhofar Governorate, where the Khareef begins and ends. Due to the rainfall during the season, the areas of mountain slopes adjacent to the beaches continue to adorn the green belt for upto six months. The Wilayat of Rakhyut, Al-Mugh-sail region and Wadi Darbat were also visited.

It is worth noting that the Khareef season witnesses the influx of visitors and tourists from Oman as well as around the globe.





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SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Etimad programme celebrates graduation of 253 students

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The graduation ceremony for 253 graduates of the second cohort of The National Leadership Programme to Up-skill and Empower the Potential Omanis for Middle and Senior Management Positions in the Private Sector 'Etimad', was held on Monday.

The event was held under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Mahad bin Saeed Baawain Minister of Labour, member of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management, and in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Ali bin Qasim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, their Excellencies, CEOs, government officials and representatives from the private sector.

His Excellency Dr. Ali Al Lawati stated that the Etimad programme has qualified Omani nationals as leaders and empowered them to work in an integrated institutional framework, which is one of the most prominent pillars of Oman's future vision.

His Excellency added that this is one of the national priorities that Oman strives to achieve in collaboration with the private sector.

Etimad has boosted the graduates leadership skills through a specialised programme which was designed in partnership with international and local institutions in the field of managerial skills and developing leaders, highlighting the Royal Academy of Management's aspiration to lead this journey with renewed vi-



sion. Sheikh Waleed bin Khamis Al-Hashar, member of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management, said, "Etimad is a pioneering and ambitious programme, investing in and developing the Omani graduates. It refined their skills, creating an ability to steer the private sector with leaders capable of assuming leadership positions in today's economy."

The programme consisted of various aspects of training, including face-to-face and remote educational units, group projects, leadership camps and development workshops.

It also included following up with its graduates to assess their career development, as well as with those private companies who invested in the graduates.

He added, "We are pleased to share the programme's outcomes as reflected in the professional success stories of our graduates."

Bodour Bint Younis Al Zadjali, graduate of Etimad, shared her success story, "This journey has been a rich experience that has been the highlight of my

professional career."

She added, "An example of the success that I gained is that I was able to move to the Omani Investment Authority, widening my professional focus from one to eight sectors that are rich in knowledge and relationships, made possible with the motivation I gained from Etimad, especially in leadership skills."

Abdullah bin Sulaiman Al Wahabi also shared his own story and emphasised the importance of leadership, "The Etimad programme exceeded all our expectations, providing us with a solid foundation to achieve systematic development. The programme taught me an understanding of the responsibility we bear to empower those around us, extending beyond titles, to inspire, advance and nurture other people's capabilities to enhance work environments".

He added that different teams contribute diverse ideas, attitudes and ways of working that we can all benefit from.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

IN BEIRUT

Meeting reviews key issues pertaining to water in region

BEIRUT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources on Monday took part in the 15th meeting of the Water Resources Committee.

The meeting is being held by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from 18 to 22 June 2023 at the Lebanese Capital, Beirut.

Oman's delegation was represented in the meeting by Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Oman's Ambassador to Lebanon. The meeting discussed the pro-



gress made in achieving sustainable development goals in relation to water in the Arab region.

It also reviewed various activities pertaining to water issues

since the last meeting. It discussed topics on improving groundwater management by using innovative tools and explored means of financing water sector. — ONA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Event to honour blood donors held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Health (MOH) organised an event to honour donors at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque on Monday.

The event was held in line with the world's celebration of the Blood Donor Day that came this year under the slogan 'give blood, give plasma, share life, share often'.

Dr. Saeed bin Harib Al-Lamki, MOH's Undersecretary for Health Affairs, patronised the honouring ceremony.

The Director of Blood Banks Services at MOH Dr. Zainab Al Oraimi emphasised that blood banks worldwide face the challenge of making sufficient blood available, while also ensuring its quality and safety.

She elaborated that the Ministry is keen in equipping blood banks with state-of-the-art medical supplies and laboratory examinations tools, along with supplying them the qualified workers in order to upgrade blood banks services. She further stressed their responsibility in providing secure blood by carrying out voluntary blood donation activities.

Speaking in figures, Dr. Al Oraimi was delighted as the number of the blood units collected in the Central Blood Bank in 2022 reached 40,000 units with a 21 percent increase compared to last year. The voluntary donation reached 97 percent, while the Omani blood donors was 77 percent.

The number of blood units in all MOH's blood banks has reached about 80,000 units.



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Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non- refundable)
188/2023	General cleaning services for the Ministry's General Office building at the airport heights and its directorates and departments at Muscat Governorate	Companies specialized in the field of cleaning, washing and pest control services and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the first or excellent degree.	Sunday 9-7-2023 02:00 PM	Sunday 30-7-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
189/2023	The business of purchasing central management software (Panorama) to manage all type firewall devices (PaloAlto)	Companies specialized in the field of design, installation and maintenance of software and information systems registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with the excellent, first, second or third degree.	Sunday 9-7-2023 02:00 PM	Sunday 30-7-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Tuesday20/6/2023

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AT AL MURTAFAA GARRISON

SAF Chief of Staff receives Kuwaiti delegation

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Monday a delegation from the Retired Officers Association in the State of Kuwait, headed by retired Maj.Gen Faisal Al Jazaf, Chairman of the Retired Officers Association of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, Vice President of

the World Veterans Federation for the Middle East. The two sides exchanged cordial conversations and discussed various topics. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Hassan Ali Al Mujaini, Head of Moral Guidance and Military Protocols and a number of senior COSAF officers.

— ONA



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MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING

Forum explores final stages of ‘Greater Muscat Masterplan’

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on Monday organised a workshop titled “Greater Muscat Masterplan”, which explores the final stages of the city's layout and discusses it with the departments concerned to help realise harmony and integration. The project is envisaged as part of an integrated spatial and developmental plan to accommodate population growth, attract investments, enhance the economy, develop the system of transport and communication within an integrated and multi-modal transportation network. The masterplan also helps upgrade the quality of services and bolster the infrastructure, while at the same time preserving the environment and protecting its

unique components. Population density and jobs constitute one of the major aspects of the masterplan, which focuses on the distribution of human activity in a manner that integrates with the public transport network's plan. The masterplan also aims to provide urban and economic requirements, bearing in mind the development of projects in urban boundaries to ensure the availability of basic services. As for the land uses linked to the economic sector, the masterplan will lend support to the idea of ‘economic blocs’. These include the bloc of innovation and knowledge, represented by Knowledge Oasis Muscat, the Sultan Qaboos University and Al Rusayl.



Another segment related to land use in the economic sector is seen in the ‘industrial and logistic sectors bloc’, namely in the areas of Khaz-aen, Ruwi, Al Misfah and Al Rusayl. The ‘tourism and economy bloc’ will be represented in the masterplan by the areas of Muscat, Muttrah, Al Khoudh, the Air

port zone and the sector of food industries in Barka. The masterplan explored options to benefit from valleys (wadis) with a view to converting valley beds into public places, while at the same time developing them in tandem with their nature. Emphasis will be laid on

four valleys out of 12 in the area. In order to boost the transportation network in response to the social and economic need, the masterplan studied the possibility of constructing a tunnel between the wilayats of Al Amerat and Bausher. Eng. Ibrahim Hamoud Al Waeli, Executive Director of the Urban Strategy at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, said that the masterplan for Greater Muscat has reached the final stages of preparation and design. The masterplan will enter implementation stages early next year, after approval from the competent authorities, he explained. Al Waeli referred to the multiple themes of the masterplan. He said that the first theme deals with systematic urban expansion, the theme

of greenery and landscaping expansion, protection dams and means of addressing climatic conditions. Speaking about Muscat Metro, Al Waeli pointed out that the project's routes have been determined, based on a set of main objectives: Diminishing the volume of compensations to be offered, ease of access and the availability of main stations in strategic areas in Muscat. This is in addition to expansion beyond the metro course, notably via express buses and other means of transport to and from the metro, he added. Al Waeli said that another project known as Bausher-Al Amerat tunnel is under study by the departments concerned, including Muscat Municipality and the Ministry of Finance. — ONA

Ministry of Defence
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date To Submit The Tender	Tender Documnet Price
SUPPLY OF RUBBER ROMOVER TRUCK FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN	15/2023	24/07/2023	31/07/2023	238 OMR

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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SAF CHIEF OF STAFF

Japanese defence delegation received

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Monday a delegation from the Ministry of Defence in Japan, headed by Miura Jun, Director General for International Affairs of the Bureau of Defense Policy in the Japanese Ministry of Defence.

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Indian-Americans hold Unity march in Washington

The US president and the First Lady will also host the Indian PM Modi at a state dinner on June 22



WASHINGTON DC: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to the United States this week, Indian Americans in Washington held the Unity march to extend a warm welcome to the PM. PM Modi is set to visit the US from June 20-24, his first state trip to the country, at the invitation of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

The US president and the First Lady will also host PM Modi at a state dinner on June 22.

During the visit, the Prime Minister will address the Joint Sitting of the US Congress and meet a number of American politicians, prominent citizens, and noted personalities from the diaspora.

Indian Americans have organised the march in 20 major cities across the United States including New York. The community were seen chanting "Modi Modi", "Vande Mataram" and "Vande America." Indian-American diaspora, Ramesh Anam Reddy, who was one of the participants in the unity march, said, "We are all here, the Indian diaspora in Washington DC, Maryland and all the surrounding cities, we are all here to celebrate the 'Unity Day' and the PM Modi joining American president Biden. So, this is a great event for all of us and a great moment for all of us."

"We wanted to celebrate that and wanted to make sure that everyone knows how the India and America relationships are growing and how they are helpful. I think India is making all the difference. That's the reason we are here. So many people are coming

US Congresswoman says 'great expectation' from PM

WASHINGTON DC: Ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said there is "great expectation" for the leader of "one of the largest democracies to visit the oldest democracy."

Speaking to ANI, US Congresswoman said, "There is great expectation for the leader of one of the largest democracies to visit the oldest democracy and to renew long-standing friendship around the issues of non-violence, around the issue of democracy and caring about

our people always."

Lee said that the US Congress looks forward to PM Modi's state address, adding that the US lawmakers will be attentive and will refer to all of the solutions that the two nations can make together. "Nations have many diplomatic concerns that they should discuss, but the good news is that we have a path to India and India has a path to the US and we know how to discuss our issues and be part of reconciliation and leadership and continue to work together." Lee said.

— ANI

here and they want to sympathise and they wanted to even the mainstream Americans, they want to join the unity march. That's what we are here for."

Talking about the footprints in the unity march, Reddy said that there are at least 20 plus cities that are joining this unity march. In Washington, DC only, around 702,000 people are expected to join the march.

At the rally, the participants were seen dancing to the tunes of the song "Har Har Modi."

Meanwhile, another Indian

American, Raj Bhansali, said, "I am here to support Prime Minister Modi. It feels great to be able to engage with our Indian community. It is a very proud moment for all of us that PM Modi will be visiting the United States."

Earlier on Saturday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasised that PM Modi's state visit to the US will yield significant outcomes. Speaking to reporters, he highlighted that this visit will mark the first time an Indian Prime Minister addresses the US Congress twice. — ANI

UNITED STATES

Man arrested for living with relative's corpse

GEORGIA: An Alabama man, 61, was arrested after failing to report that he had been living "for days" with a dead relative in his home.

Leandrew Smith Jr was arrested on suspicion of abusing a corpse and transported to the county prison, where he was held on a \$10,000 cash-only bond. — ANI



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LANDSLIDES

5 dead and 28 missing in Nepal

KATHMANDU: At least 5 people were killed following rain-induced landslides in four districts of Eastern Nepal on Monday, Police officials said.

As per the Koshi provincial district police, five people have been confirmed dead since Saturday night's heavy downpour resulting in destruction and loss of lives in Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung, Panchthar and Dhankuta districts of Nepal. "Two people have been confirmed dead in Panchthar, one each in Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung and Dhankuta District," the Provincial District Police record stated.

Nepal has been recording a number of disasters triggered by heavy downpours resulting in inundation, flooding and landslides during monsoon. The monsoon entered Nepal last week and is set to expand all over the country by the weekend. — ANI

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SPORTS

INTERNATIONAL GT OPEN: THIRD ROUND RACE 2

Another podium finish for Al Zubair, Schiller in Hungary



MUSCAT: A day after claiming race victory in the third round of the 2023 International GT Open, Oman's Al Faisal Al Zubair and his German team-mate Fabian Schiller claimed another podium finish, this time a third place in Pro class in the second race of at the Hungaroring in Hungary on Sunday.

The Al-Manar Racing by Get-speed Mercedes AMG GT3 crew had worked their way up from third place to lead at the driver changeover but a 20-second handicap imposed following race one win cost them a chance to challenge for victory in the second race.

The pair finished just 1.055 seconds off the race winner in fourth place but a decision by the jury to penalise the AF Corse Ferrari 488 GT3 of Nicola Marinangeli and Riccardo Agostini, who had originally finished second, promoted the Al-Manar car on to the podium.

Late victory in the 34-lap contest fell to the Oregon Team Lamborghini crew of Maximilian Paul and Pierre Louis Chovet. Marcos Siebert and Diego Manchaca snatched second in the Team Motopark Mercedes.

Al Zubair said: "The car felt very good. Unfortunately, it is one of the toughest tracks to overtake. Overall, it was a great weekend with P1 in race one and P3 with a 20-second handicap in race two. The car gave us confidence throughout the race. Unfortunately, with our 20-second handicap, we could not win again."

"It was extremely difficult to overtake on this circuit. I came out in P6 and finished the race in P3. Great result and I am looking forward to

more races after the summer break."

Earlier, Schiller qualified for the one-hour race with a best lap of 1min 42.950sec that put the car third on the grid. Schiller made the perfect start and snatched second place on the opening lap. He tucked the Mercedes in behind Christopher Haase, although the Audi driver held his line and had edged into a 2.685-second advantage after four laps.

Schiller managed to pass the Audi and snatch the lead on lap 11. By the end of lap 12, the German had increased his advantage to 2.233 seconds. He extended his lead to 5.597 seconds through lap 17. Al Zubair took the helm on lap 18. The Omani temporarily slipped down to 10th and fourth of the Pro class cars.

With the final 25 minutes left and with the handicap imposed, the Al-Manar Racing Mercedes remained down in ninth and sixth of the Pro cars. Al Zubair climbed back to fifth with 20 minutes of the race to run.

Less than five seconds covered the top five Pro class cars, but Al Zubair was not able to find a way through to finish fourth before being promoted.

Following the conclusion of the third round, Al Manar Racing duo are fourth overall with 52 points.

2023 International GT Open [standings after round 3]: 1. Charlie Fagg/Samuel de Haan (66 pts), 2. Marcos Siebert/Diego Manchaca (63), 3 Christopher Haase/Simon Reicher (54), 4 Al Faisal Al Zubair/Fabian Schiller (52).

Oman stun Ireland



Duleep Mendis' men recorded a major upset when they beat the Test-playing side by five wickets to begin their campaign in style in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier



MUSCAT: Oman produced an epic upset in the world of cricket when they stunned Test-playing Ireland by five wickets to begin their campaign in Group B of the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier at the Bulawayo Athletic Club in Zimbabwe on Monday.

In the other Group B match, former World Cup champions Sri Lanka recorded a convincing 175-run win over the UAE in Bulawayo

This was the first time that Oman had defeated a Test-playing nation in ODI though cricket lovers in Oman would be reminded of their historic win against the same opponents in the ICC T20 World Cup first round in the Indian city of Dharamshala on March 9, 2016.

On Monday, it was the maiden ODI victory over a full member nation by Duleep Mendis' Men in Red. Success was a result of a combined effort from Oman batters as they chased down 281.

Three half-centuries from Kashyap Prajapati (72), Aqib Ilyas (52) and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood (59) along with an unbeaten 46 from Mohammad Nadeem led Oman to victory with 11 balls left as they scored 285/5. Ayaan Khan (21) and Shoaib Khan (19*) made useful contributions to ensure a calm and crafty chase.

Skipper Maqsood was named the Player of the Match. During the post-match presentation, he said: "Credit goes to team-mates, organisers, coach and families. It was painful to get out. Whatever comes, I take it. It was [a big score], but the wicket played very well in the second half. I am in good form, and just want to carry that."

The all-rounder added: "It's an honour [to beat Ireland in the first

ODI between them]. Definitely [a special day in Oman cricket]. If we continue like this, some more results will be in our favour. It was a collective and combined performance, which we need to beat a good side. We came here to go there (to India) and play."

Ireland would have been confident after a flurry of lower-order runs helped them to 281/7, with Harry Tector (53) and George Dockrell's unbeaten 91 starring with the bat after Oman won the toss and elected to bowl.

Ireland kept the momentum going when Mark Adair had opener Jatinder Singh caught at second slip for one run. But a partnership worth 94 between Ilyas and Prajapati laid the foundations for Oman. Both batters reached their half-centuries before Ilyas departed for a 49-ball 52 to Dockrell.

Prajapati and skipper Maqsood kept the runs flowing, adding 62 from the third wicket before Prajapati who was looking good for a century, fell to Josh Little for an excellent 72. And Little struck again to have Maqsood caught be-

hind for 59 and give his team hope.

Ayaan Khan's run-a-ball 21 was ended by Adair's caught and bowled, but with Mohammad Nadeem firing to an unbeaten 46, Oman closed in on victory.

And the winning runs came at the start of the penultimate over, with Shoaib Khan crunching a four to spark jubilant celebrations

Batting first, Andy McBrine and Paul Stirling took the attack to the Oman bowlers to set the tone early. Just when the duo looked set for a big opening partnership having just completed a 50-run stand, the short-ball play brought their downfall in consecutive deliveries. Stirling holed out in the deep to a pull shot off Bilal Khan while McBrine mistimed his attempt off Fayyaz Butt. The consecutive wickets halted Ireland's momentum and put the brakes on their scoring, eventually leading to the wicket.

Tector and Lorcan Tucker added quick runs in the middle overs to make up for the lull after their skipper Andy Balbirnie's exit. Ayaan Khan's ripper dismissed Tucker for an 18-ball 26.

With Oman using left-arm spin to keep Ireland quiet, George Dockrell decided to counter-attack to 125/4 after 25 overs. Gareth Delany (20), Mark Adair (15) and Graham Hume (15*) all scored quickly as Dockrell carried on to take the team to 281.

In the other Group B match, four Sri Lanka batters made half-centuries in the Lions' total of 355/6. UAE were 180 all out as Wanindu Hasaranga (6/24) claimed his maiden ODI five-wicket haul in reply.

Brief scores: Ireland 281/7 (Harry Tector 53, George Dockrell 91 n.o.; Bilal Khan 2/64, Fayyaz Butt 2/65) **lost to Oman 285/5 in 48.1 overs** (Kashyap Prajapati 72, Aqib Ilyas 52, Zeeshan Maqsood 59, Mohammed Nadeem 46 n.o.; Josh Little 2/47, Mark Adair 2/47).

Sri Lanka 355/6 in 50 overs (Kusal Mendis 78, Sadeera Samarawickrama 73; Ali Naseer 2/44, Basil Hameed 1/19) **beat UAE 180 in 39 overs** (Muhammad Waseem 39, Vriitya Aravind 39; Wanindu Hasaranga 6/24).

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2023 reaching \$76.17, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 81 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$75.36. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,679.97 points, down by 0.06 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.28 per cent at 465.72 points. Muscat Desalination, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Majan College, down 8.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's economy continues to grow, inflation contained: IMF

The IMF team issued a statement noting that Oman's economy continues to grow, and inflation is contained at low levels as real GDP grew by 4.3 percent in 2022, primarily driven by a strong expansion of the hydrocarbon sector



June 6-14, the IMF team discussed recent macroeconomic developments, the outlook in light of regional and international developments and the financial and economic policies adopted by Oman under the Tenth Five-Year Plan, as well as potential risks that can threaten financial stability.

After the mission, the staff team issued a statement noting that Oman's economy continues to grow, and inflation is contained at low levels as real GDP grew by 4.3 percent in 2022, primarily driven

by a strong expansion of the hydrocarbon sector. However, the staff team projected economic growth to reach 1.3 percent in 2023 and then rebound to 2.7 percent in 2024. Average headline inflation eased from 2.8 percent in 2022 to 1.6 percent during January-April 2023, reflecting lower food inflation and a stronger US dollar.

The staff team also added that substantial oil windfalls and fiscal consolidation have boosted fiscal and external positions. The fiscal balance reached a surplus of 7.5

percent of GDP in 2022 and is expected to remain in surplus over the medium term.

Moreover, the statement showed that central government debt as a share of GDP declined significantly from 61.3 percent in 2021 to 40 percent in 2022, as the oil windfall was used to repay government debt.

The staff team also noted that the current account in 2022 recorded its first surplus since 2014, at 5.2 percent of GDP, buoyed by oil and non-oil exports, and is projected to remain in surplus over the medium

term. According to the statement, gross international reserves held by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) stood at \$17.6 billion in 2022.

Additionally, the staff team affirmed the good performance achieved by the Omani banking sector, and financial safety indicators remain strong thanks to ample capital, liquidity buffers and strong asset quality.

Furthermore, the staff team commended in its statement the decisive strides made by the Sultanate of Oman's government in implement-

ing the structural reform agenda under Oman Vision 2040, which will support stronger, private sector-led, job-rich non-hydrocarbon growth while entrenching fiscal and external sustainability.

Priority areas include allowing for greater labour market flexibility, enhancing social protection and insurance, improving tax collection efficiency, strengthening medium-term fiscal frameworks, enhancing the performance and transparency of the SOE sector, creating an investor-friendly business environment, accelerating the pace of digitalization, developing the financial sector, and investing in green energy to help address climate challenges and leverage the global energy transition.

On a final note, uncertainty still looms. On the upside, Oman can witness an improved outlook spurred by favourable oil revenues, an acceleration of Oman Vision 2040 structural reform plans and a rise of foreign direct investments from regional partners. On the downside, a sharp decline in oil prices due to lower demand for hydrocarbons brought on by a faster-than-expected global energy transition represents key risks to the outlook. -ONA

AGREEMENT

Allied Ondock Container Services to operate at Sohar Port and Freezone

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Port and Freezone has signed an agreement with Allied Ondock Container Services, part of the Singapore-based Allied Container Group, to provide container depot services to shipping lines calling to the port, through advanced logistics solutions, and from a digital-based environment.

The agreement's signing ceremony was attended by Emile Hoogsteden, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Port and Freezone, Lim Kian Chin, Owner of Allied Container Group Singapore and Mana Almana Alfalasi, Chairman of Allied Ondock Container Services UAE and Oman.

Lim Kian Chin, Owner of Allied Ondock Container Services Group said, "We offer modern facilities and equipment coupled with an experienced and skilled workforce. The container depot or terminal at Sohar will cover an area of 3 hectares. It will feature the latest heavy lift machines and stackers to handle empty and laden containers, while it is also in keeping with environmental requirements."

Emile Hoogsteden, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Port and



Freezone, said, "This agreement provides an important addition to our services and further strengthens Sohar's position as a fully integrated and competitive logistics hub. We have more than 20 shipping lines calling Sohar Port weekly and there is an advantage to having such an experienced on-port dock operator to facilitate the transfer of containers."

He added, "Sohar is also committed to innovation throughout the complex, touching on every aspect of operations and future-proofing Sohar Port and Freezone in an ever-changing business environment."

Established in 1975, Allied Container Group, the mother company of Allied Ondock Container Services, has quickly developed a global reputation as a secure, high-quality

facility and expanded its range of services to an increasing number of the port's shipping lines. The company provides services to renowned shipping line partners, including Maersk Line, the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), Hapag-Lloyd, Hyundai Merchant Marine, Cosco Shipping, OOCL, and many more international and regional shipping lines.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE



Opaz rewards its outstanding employees

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) organised, under the auspices of Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of Opaz, an honouring ceremony to reward its outstanding employees.

The rewarded employees were nominated due to their outstanding performance based on the Individual Performance Measurement and Institutional Proficiency System (Ejada) for the year 2022, which was launched by the Labour Ministry last year.

Organising this ceremony came as part of Opaz's endeavour to acknowledge the efforts and achieve-

ments of its employees and value their excellence in performing their duties. Further, it mirrors Opaz's appreciation of employees' role in delivering Opaz's mission to develop and regulate the affiliated zones and provide an attractive and sustainable investment environment, thus reflecting its vision to make these zones the investment destination of choice.

The rewarded employees have excelled in managing and conducting their tasks and responsibilities in the past year, as well as presented several outstanding creative initiatives through which they contributed to developing procedures and enriching the work environment in Opaz.

BOLD STEPS

Hydrom to ink pacts for awarding green hydrogen projects

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is taking bold steps to accelerate the growth of its green hydrogen sector.

Following the signing of three agreements awarding the first green hydrogen projects and the signing of commercial term sheets within Phase A Round 1 public auction process earlier this month, Hydrogen Oman SPC (Hydrom), a subsidiary of Energy Development Oman (EDO), will sign a number of new agreements tomorrow, Wednesday, June 21.

The agreements will be signed during a special event at Crowne Plaza OCEC, Madinat Al Irfan, to announce the winners.

Earlier this month, Hydrom signed three agreements awarding the first green hydrogen blocks in Oman. The total investments in the three projects signed with the consortia of Amnah, Green Energy Oman (GEO) and BP Oman, respectively, are expected to exceed \$20 billion.

These contracts are expected to



AMBITIOUS PLAN: The Sultanate of Oman's ambitious plans aim to generate more than a million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 and almost 8 million tonnes by 2050 using 30 per cent of the already permitted space. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

yield a total production capacity of half a million tonnes of green hydrogen per annum from around 12 GW of installed renewable energy

capacity at the three sites spanning a total area of 960 km².

The signing of these agreements comes as part of Oman's ongoing

initiatives to foster the development of its hydrogen sector.

The Sultanate of Oman's ambitious plans aim to generate more

than a million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030 and almost 8 million tonnes by 2050 using 30 per cent of the already permitted

space with \$140 billion cumulative investments by 2050 required in Oman's Green H₂ Economy.

Strategic goals

These efforts are aimed at achieving the strategic goals of Oman Vision 2040 of building a diversified, sustainable and green economy, as well as achieving the country's target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

To spearhead the country's ambitious green hydrogen strategy, the government established Hydrogen Oman SPC (Hydrom), a fully owned independent subsidiary of Energy Development Oman. Regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM), Hydrom serves as the overall orchestrator and master planner of Oman's green hydrogen sector. Its mandate includes identifying government-owned land areas, structuring large-scale green hydrogen projects, managing the allocation process to developers, and facilitating the development of shared infrastructure and connected ecosystem industries and hubs.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Muscat Desalination, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Majan College, down 8.00 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: Muscat: The MSX index closed at 4,679.97 points, down by 0.06 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.28 per cent at 465.72 points. Muscat Desalination, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Majan College, down 8.00 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Abraj Energy Services, National Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Sohar International Bank Perpetual Bonds were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 368 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.34 million, with more than 5.68 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 10 advanced, 16 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR388,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR302,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR86,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,618.02 points, down 0.05 per

cent. Prices of Muscat Finance, Ominvest, Ahli Bank, Oman United Insurance and Bank Muscat were up by 1.75 per cent, 1.12 per cent, 1.08 per cent, 0.78 per cent and 0.76 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Al Madina Investments, Al Anwar Investment, National Bank Oman and United Finance were up by 3.06 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 2.25 per cent, 1.79 per cent and 1.72 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,089.77 points, down 0.35 per cent. Prices of Galfar Engineering, A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy and Oman Flour Mills were up by 2.11 per cent, 1.36 per cent, 1.03 per cent and 0.76 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.1 per cent before closing at 1,687.75 points. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Abraj Energy, National Gas and Oman Telecom were up by 10.00 per cent, 1.97 per cent, 1.02 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively. Prices of Phoenix Power, Musandam Power and Oman National Engineering were up by 1.49 per cent, 1.02 per cent and 0.94 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,682.63	4,668.85	4,679.97	4,682.63	-2.66	-0.06	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,621.65	7,599.21	7,618.02	7,621.65	-3.63	-0.05	
Industry Index	6,110.96	6,085.39	6,089.77	6,110.96	-21.19	-0.35	
Services Index	1,687.75	1,674.67	1,687.75	1,686.05	1.71	0.10	
MSX Shariah Index	467.04	465.72	465.72	467.04	-1.32	-0.28	
MSX TR INDEX	6,156.27	6,138.14	6,152.77	6,156.27	-3.50	-0.06	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,302.55	8,278.11	8,298.60	8,302.55	-3.96	-0.05	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,855.38	1,841.00	1,855.38	1,853.51	1.88	0.10	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,528.02	6,500.72	6,505.38	6,528.02	-22.64	-0.35	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,687,672	2,341,585	368	23,743,237,172	10	16	17	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JUNE 19

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	2,100	751	4	0.360	0.360	0.354	0.360	0.356	0.004	1.124	0.360	0.350	0.360	0.100_240,611,553
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	28,000	7,196	7	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.255	0.002	0.784	0.257	0.250	0.257	0.100_25,700,000	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	559,842	147,996	29	0.263	0.266	0.263	0.266	0.264	0.002	0.758	0.266	0.265	0.266	0.100_1,966,701,618
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	22,042	21,390	16	0.972	0.976	0.968	0.976	0.972	0.004	0.412	0.976	0.976	0.972	0.100_732,000,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	10,000	880	2	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100_21,888,800	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	20,896	7,523	6	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.360	0.368	0.100_119,114,176	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	6,000	1,680	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.282	0.282	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.294	0.100_35,221,225
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	142,000	14,484	5	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.096	0.102	0.100_468,186,354
OM0000003968	OREDOO	17,400	6,299	4	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.000	0.000	0.362	0.358	0.362	0.100_235,641,811	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	22,086	1,833	6	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100_14,525,000	
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,000	870	2	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.175	-0.001	-0.571	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.100_521,265,150
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	1,800	191	3	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.106	0.102	0.109	0.100_15,900,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	43,000	3,053	4	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100_8,653,125
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	286,068	16,306	7	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100_20,299,256
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	613,847	168,808	5	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.275	0.280	0.100_447,135,248
Total	15	1,780,081	399,260	101											

Parallel Market															
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	190	19	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.090	0.009	10.000	0.099	0.086	0.098	0.100...15,399,490
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	200,000	18,031	7	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.002	2.222	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.100...43,349,148
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,511,116	770,248	158	0.304	0.310	0.302	0.310	0.304	0.006	1.974	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.100...238,762,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	200	12	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.100...17,814,487
OM0000002230	AHLI BANK	11,571	2,127	2	0.187	0.188	0.187	0.188	0.186	0.002	1.075	0.188	0.188	0.202	0.100...366,535,694
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	3,400	387	4	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.092	0.099	0.100...8,410,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,200	204	2	0.170	0.171	0.170	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.154	0.171	0.100...34,320,000
OM0000003141	BANKA WATER AND POWER	5,000	195	1	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.038	0.039	0.100...6,240,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	150,042	14,164	13	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100...212,510,538
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	70,000	6,809	4	0.097	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.096	0.099	0.100...94,502,623
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	86,560	2,424	8	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.027	0.030	0.100...18,896,848
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	329,596	9,229	5	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.100...20,003,378
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	8,861	4,629	4	0.524	0.524	0.522	0.522	0.526	-0.004	-0.760	0.522	0.522	0.522	0.100...82,215,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	8,400	2,436	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.293	-0.003	-1.024	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100...20,413,100
OM0000003651	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,481	141	2	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.090	0.105	0.100...7,814,664
OM0000002854	ASAFA FOODS	729	212	1	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.295	-0.004	-1.356	0.291	0.291	0.296	0.100...34,920,000
OM0000005960	PHOENIX POWER	14,658	953	3	0.063	0.066	0.063	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.063	0.066	0.100...96,531,696
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	23,676	4,432	7	0.185	0.188	0.185	0.186	0.190	-0.004	-2.105	0.186	0.186	0.187	0.100...37,755,479
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	128,900	11,252	8	0.089	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.089	-0.002	-2.247	0.087	0.085	0.087	0.100...17,400,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	33,000	1,340	2	0.040	0.041	0.040	0.041	0.042	-0.001	-2.381	0.041	0.040	0.042	0.100...3,485,000
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEVELOPMENT & INV. HO.	187,600	18,011	17	0.097	0.098	0.095	0.095	0.098	-0.003	-3.061	0.095	0.091	0.098	0.100...2,850,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	10,000	1,150	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.125	-0.010	-8.000	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.100...10,350,000
Total	22	3,785,980	868,355	250											

KASPERSKY

Recent Satacom campaign discovers cryptocurrency-stealing browser extension

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A malicious extension for the Chrome, Brave, and Opera browsers is used to steal cryptocurrency from victims as a part of a recent Satacom campaign discovered by Kaspersky. Nearly 30,000 users were at risk of being targeted during the last two months. The attackers have implemented a range of malicious actions to ensure that the extension remains undetected while the unsuspecting user browses the targeted cryptocurrency exchange websites, including Coinbase and Binance. In addition, the extension enables threat actors to conceal any transaction notifications sent to the victim by these websites to stealthily steal their cryptocurrency. A detailed report on this campaign is available on Securlist. The recent campaign is linked to the Satacom downloader, a notorious malware family active since 2019 and mainly delivered via malvertising placed on third-party websites. The malicious links or ads redirect users to fake file-sharing services and other malicious pages offering to download an archive containing the Satacom Downloader. In the case of this recent campaign, it downloads the malicious browser extension. The latest campaign installs



ous malware family active since 2019 and mainly delivered via malvertising placed on third-party websites. The malicious links or ads redirect users to fake file-sharing services and other malicious pages offering to download an archive containing the Satacom Downloader. In the case of this recent campaign, it downloads the malicious browser extension. The latest campaign installs

a browser extension that steals cryptocurrency and conceals its activity. The campaign's primary objective is to steal bitcoin (BTC) from victims' accounts by performing web injections to targeted cryptocurrency websites. However, the malware can be easily modified to target other cryptocurrencies. The malware attempts to achieve its objective by installing an extension for Chromium-

based browsers – such as Chrome, Brave and Opera – and targeting individual users holding cryptocurrency worldwide. Kaspersky telemetry data reveals that during April and May, nearly 30,000 individuals were at risk of being targeted by the campaign. In the last two months, the countries most affected by this threat were Brazil, Mexico, Algeria, Turkey, India, Vietnam, and Indonesia. The malicious extension performs browser manipulations while the user is surfing targeted cryptocurrency exchange websites. The campaign targets Coinbase, Bybit, Kucoin, Huobi and Binance users. Besides stealing cryptocurrency, the extension carries out additional actions to conceal its primary activity. For instance, it hides email confirmations of transactions and modifies existing email threads from cryptocurrency websites to create fake threads that resemble the real ones.

REPORT

Assets under Management in Middle East reached \$1.3 trillion in 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Assets under Management (AuM) in the Middle East grew by a staggering \$100 billion from 2021 to 2022, (7 percent compound annual growth rate {CAGR}) to reach \$1.3 trillion, according to Boston Consulting Group's (BCG) latest annual Asset Management Report. "While performing relatively better than their European and American peers, the asset management industry in the Middle East has arrived at a critical juncture, compelling leaders to reassess their organisations' operations to regain the profit growth they experienced in the previous years. In fact, since 2006, 90 percent of the revenue growth came from market performance, and in an environment where this is no longer guaranteed, it is now time for a real transformation," said Markus Massi, Managing Director and Senior Partner at BCG. "While 2022 was among the worst years for global investor returns since 2008, markets are expected to recover. However, central banks around the globe are no longer engineering sustained market appreciation. Their goals for the short term are the exact opposite; they are trying to slow growth to combat inflation which will have an impact, especially on equity markets. However, for the Middle East, the growth outlook



Markus Mass

is more positive driven by continued higher oil income and comparatively positive equity market developments," he added. BCG's report 'Global Asset Management 2023: The Tide Has Turned', examines the external and internal forces shaping the asset management industry – outlining fundamental pressures asset managers face – and details a transformative path forward for asset managers to get back to historical levels of profitability and growth. BCG estimates that given the existing pressures and market expectations if global asset managers stay the course, their annual profit growth will be approximately half the industry average of recent years (5 percent versus 10 percent). To get back to historical levels, asset managers will



Farouk El Hosni

need to cut costs by 20 percent overall and shift their revenue mix to generate at least 30 percent of their revenue from higher-margin products. The report outlines three major themes that should top the leadership agenda to thrive in the years ahead: **Profitability** Asset managers should transform their approach to profitability. They can do this by understanding the expenses and drivers in each function and using multiple initiatives to optimise costs, rather than just slash expenses. **Private markets** Firms should pursue high-growth alternative investments and the private market opportunities

therein. Firms aiming to enter the alternative market can do so through four primary pathways: build in-house, buy multiple firms and use an affiliate or boutique structure, buy an alternative firm and operate it independently, or establish partnerships. This is particularly applicable for Middle Eastern asset managers given the high preference of regional investors for private assets and the lack of other alternative investment instruments. **Personalisation** Asset managers should harness the technologies that make highly personalised client experiences and products possible. New technologies can boost personalisation efficiency and effectiveness in the sales and marketing process, potentially leading to an increase in sales conversions of about 20 percent relative to traditional approaches. "In an environment where growth is no longer guaranteed, where fees are being compressed, and where passive investing is increasingly popular, the Middle East's asset management industry is facing a crucial turning point. In fact, it is now time for leaders to reexamine their organisations' strategies to take their fair share in the market growth and accelerate profit contributions," said Farouk El Hosni, Principal at BCG.

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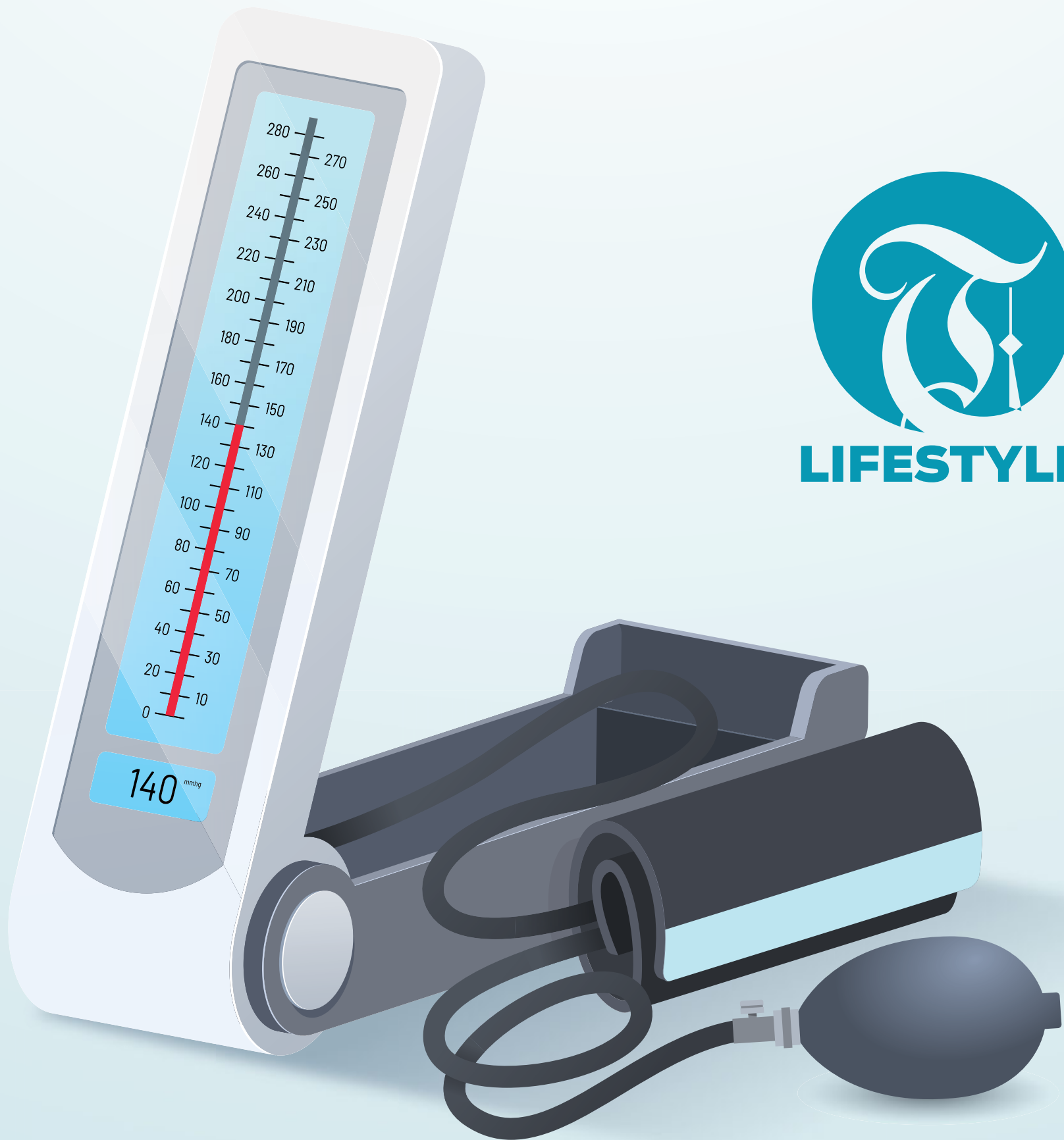
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CAUSE, CURE

IDENTIFIED FOR COMMON TYPE OF HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE: STUDY



One out of every twenty persons with hypertension has a small benign nodule as the root cause. Aldosterone, a hormone that the nodule generates, regulates the body's salt levels. A gene mutation found in some of these nodules that causes a significant, sporadic overproduction of the hormone is the new finding.

Today's gene variation was found to have a number of issues, which makes it challenging for clinicians to correctly diagnose certain people with hypertension. First, the variation interferes with the ability of cells in the body to communicate with one another and signal when to cease producing aldosterone by affecting a protein called CADM1. Doctors also have a problem with aldosterone's erratic secretion throughout the day, which at its peak contributes to hypertension and salt excess. Unless they take blood tests at multiple times of the day, persons with the gene mutation might avoid detection due to this variability. The researchers also learned that unilateral adrenalectomy, or the removal of

just one of the two adrenal glands, might treat this particular kind of hypertension. After removal, severe hypertension that had been resistant to several pharmacological treatments vanished, and after numerous years of monitoring later, no further therapy was necessary.

Fewer than 1 per cent of people with hypertension caused by aldosterone are identified because aldosterone is not routinely measured as a possible cause.

The researchers are recommending that aldosterone is measured through a 24-hour urine test rather than one-off blood measurements, which will discover more people living with hypertension but going undiagnosed.

The initial patient in this study was detected when doctors noticed fluctuation in his hormone levels during his participation in a clinical trial of treatments for difficult hypertension.

In most people with hypertension, the cause is unknown, and the condition requires life-long treatment by drugs.

Previous research by the group at Queen Mary discovered that in 5-10 per cent of

people with hypertension the cause is a gene mutation in the adrenal glands, which results in excessive amounts of aldosterone being produced. Aldosterone causes salt to be retained in the body, driving up the blood pressure. Patients with excessive aldosterone levels in the blood are resistant to treatment with the commonly used drugs for hypertension, and at increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Professor Morris Brown, co-senior author of the study and Professor of Endocrine Hypertension at Queen Mary University of London, said: "In the 900th anniversary of Barts Hospital, this story illustrates benefits from the virtuous circle of Science and Medicine. Most patients consent to our undertaking non-routine molecular analyses of their surgical samples, from which we discover how their hypertension was caused, and how to cure it in future patients. Because the aldosterone nodules in this study were so small, we are now investigating whether momentary cauterisation of the nodule is an alternative to surgical removal of the whole adrenal gland." — ANI

SPORTS

Verstappen equals Senna's tally

The Dutchman bagged Red Bull's 100th victory in Formula 1 by dominating the 2023 Canadian Grand Prix from pole position, a triumph that draws him level with legendary Brazilian's total of 41 GP wins

MONTREAL: Max Verstappen moved level with legendary Brazilian Ayrton Senna's tally of 41 Grand Prix wins after victory in Sunday's Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal.

Starting from pole position after a brilliant performance in Saturday's wet qualifying session, the Dutchman held off the threat of Fernando Alonso at the start, and never looked threatened as he managed the gap to those behind him throughout the race to take Red Bull's 100th Grand Prix win.

"Very happy right now. It was not a very straightforward race, as the tyres were not getting into their window. It was very cold compared to Friday, but we made it work and to win the 100th GP for the team is pretty incredible," said Verstappen afterwards.

Behind Verstappen, Alonso finished second for Aston Martin after a good overtaking move on Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, who took third.

The Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz recovered from



a poor qualifying session to finish fourth and fifth, ahead of the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez, who also notched the bonus point for fastest lap, though the Mexican may be concerned at yet another weekend where he was off the pace of his illustrious teammate.

Alex Albon continued his good form from Saturday's qualifying to finish in an excellent seventh place, scoring Williams' best result in almost two years after withstanding heavy pressure from the cars behind him.

Esteban Ocon took eighth for Alpine, with Aston Martin's Lance Stroll taking ninth place on the line from Valtteri Bottas, who rounded out the points for Alfa Romeo.

The two retirees were Logan Sargeant, who pulled off on Lap 6

with an engine issue, and George Russell, who retired with brake issues after having clouted the wall earlier in the race.

Verstappen's win puts him on 195 points and gives him a 69-point advantage over second-placed Perez, with no driver in F1 history ever having overhauled such a lead. Alonso stays third with 117 points.

In the Constructors' Championship, Red Bull's lead now stands at 321 points, with the drinks-backed outfit having won all eight races so far this season. Mercedes are second on 167 points, with Aston Martin third on 154.

The ninth round of the 2023 F1 World Championship is the Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring on July 2. - **Xinhua**

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

Rodgers returns as Celtic manager



LONDON: Brendan Rodgers made a dramatic return as Celtic manager four years and four months after his exit to Leicester City, BBC Sport reported on Monday.

The Northern Irish manager signed a three-year contract with the Scottish champions to replace Ange Postecoglou, who has joined Tottenham.

Rodgers was sacked in April by Leicester, who were subsequently relegated from the Premier League.

The 50-year-old had a successful first spell at Celtic between 2016 and 2019, delivering seven domestic trophies in a row, in-

cluding an unbeaten debut domestic campaign and consecutive trebles.

However, he left midway through the 2018-19 season to join Leicester, with some Celtic fans unfurling banners criticising him for a lack of loyalty.

Rodgers, who made clear his lifelong support for Celtic, spent four years with the Foxes, leading them to their first FA Cup final win and into European football, including a Europa Conference League semi-final.

He was dismissed after the club dropped into the relegation zone following a fifth defeat in sixth league matches.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE FINAL VS CROATIA

Spain clinch maiden crown

ROTTERDAM: Spain edged past Croatia 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 stalemate to clinch their maiden UEFA Nations League title and their first major trophy since Euro 2012. Substitute Dani Carvajal hit the match-winning spot-kick after the game had ended goalless after extra-time.

Croatia, the 2018 FIFA World Cup finalists and third-place holders in Qatar World Cup last year, were aiming for their first trophy but that ambition did not translate into reality despite the best efforts of their veteran star player Luka Modric, who earned his 166th international cap, throughout the 120 minutes.

Substitutes Lovro Majer and Bruno Petkovic saw their penalties saved by Unai Simon, adding another heartbreak for Croatian players and fans.

Spain started promisingly in a venue dominated by Croatian fans. Alvaro Morata almost pounced on a spill by Dominik Livakovic and Gavi shot just past the post as they made an early impact with their eagerness to attack.

Croatia soon made inroads into the game and exploited Spain's defensive line. Andrej Kramaric burst through the goal but his shot was blocked by Aymeric Laporte.

Modric, Croatia's evergreen star, produced some moments of



brilliance, crossing twice for marauding Ivan Perisic to head at the goal, but Simon made saves on each occasion. Spain's Jordi Alba tried to produce some magic with some fine crosses for Morata and Marco Asensio, but both players headed over and failed to score.

Perisic made half-chances for Josip Juranovic and Mario Pasalic. But Croatia slowed down in the second half and Spain looked more likely to win. Rodri produced an amazing long-range effort which

fell narrowly wide.

In penalties, Joselu helped Spain with an equaliser after Nikola Vlasic put Croatia in the lead. Goals from Marcelo Brozovic and Rodri made it 2-2. Modric and Mikel Merino scored for their respective sides to make it 3-3.

Lovro Majer missed his shot at the goal but Asensio shot on target to make it 4-3 for Spain. Perisic scored an equaliser for Croatia. Aymeric Laporte missed for Spain. It all came down to the final pen-

alties for both teams. Petkovic missed his chance to score while Dani Carvajal scored to make it 5-4 and win it for Spain.

Victory also means Spain become the second nation to win the World Cup, European Championship and Nations League following France, who beat the Spanish in the 2021 Nations League final.

Earlier, Italy beat Netherlands to clinch the bronze medal in an eye-watering 3-2 encounter at the Twente Stadium on Sunday.

ASHES TEST: DAY THREE

Rain disrupts play as first Test evenly poised

BIRMINGHAM: England managed to survive day three on Sunday with a lot of help from the heavens, as persistent rain brought an early halt to play for the day.

This after Scott Boland and Pat Cummins made short work of the English opening pair of the ongoing first Test match of Ashes 2023 at Edgbaston.

At close, England were at 28/2 with Joe Root and Ollie Pope unbeaten.

Before rain interrupted play for the first time, England continued with their 'Bazball' style of play.

Ben Duckett looked to quickly score runs while Zack Crawley played the anchor's role, holding onto his wicket on the other end.

But everything started to change once the weather gods interrupted



the game. A drizzle stopped the game for an hour.

Once the play resumed, Scott Boland and Pat Cummins thrived on a surface freshened up by rain. The pitch and the wind provided

the pace bowlers with the ideal conditions to bowl to the English batters.

Cummins dismissed Duckett as he tried to play the short behind square but his shot wasn't wide

enough. Green stretched every part of his body to take a stunner at the gully. In the next over, Boland swung the ball sharply right into the right-handed batter. He struggled to deal with the drastic change in conditions. Boland set up his dismissal perfectly as he ended up nicking the ball and it went straight into the hands of Alex Carey. Crawley walked back to the pavilion with a score of 7(25).

Root and Pope managed to hold on to their wickets as the rain once again intervened before stumps were called.

Earlier, resuming the day at 311/5, Carey and centurion Usman Khawaja continued their splendid partnership as the duo kept cracking runs off regular intervals.

The duo kept on moving the

scoreboard at a brisk pace. Carey slammed two back-to-back fours before veteran pacer James Anderson bowled the Australia batter for 66 runs.

It was a tough task for England players to trap centurion Khawaja, however, Ollie Robinson did the job, removing Australia opener with a yorker.

New batter Nathan Lyon departed early while Stuart Broad dismissed Scott Boland.

Australia were skittled out just before lunch at 386, to leave England with a seven-run lead after the first innings.

Briefscores: England 393/8 decl & 28/2 (Zack Crawley 19, Ben Duckett 7; Scott Boland 1/1) vs Australia 386 (Usman Khawaja 141; Alex Carey 66; Ollie Robinson 3-55). - **ANI**

AFGHANISTAN SERIES

Afif, Ebadot in Bangladesh T20I squad

DHAKA: Bangladesh Cricket Board on Sunday named their squad for the two-match T20I series against Afghanistan. The matches will be held on July 14 and 16. Afif Hossain and Ebadot Hossain return to the team. Afif was also named in the ODI squad for the series against Afghanistan.

T20I squad: Shakib Al Hasan (capt), Litton Das, Rony Talukdar, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Nasum Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Ebadot Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Rishad Hossain and Afif Hossain.

Saud Bahwan Automotive unveils all-new Toyota Crown in Oman

Building on the legacy of one of the world's best-loved vehicles since the 1950s, the Crown has been built to provide an intuitive driving experience that will exceed expectations and establish a new benchmark

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Sheikh Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Saud Bahwan Automotive launched the all-new Toyota Crown at an exclusive event.

Attending the occasion was Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Oman.

Addressing the gathering, Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Managing Director – Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group, said, “The model Crown has a special place in the hearts of many customers here in Oman. It is one of the few models, which holds dear memories.

“The Crown was part of many new beginnings and milestones in people's lives. Priceless memories were made with it.

“The first-ever Toyota Crown was introduced in the year 1955 in Japan. Now after 15 generations, the all-new Crown still retains its timeless legacy, carrying forward its founding characteristics complete with thoughtful luxury. The all-new Crown is more of an emotional statement. It brings back old yet special memories.”

Expressing his gratitude to Toyota Motor Corporation he said, “We take this opportunity to thank our valued customers for their continued patronage. We would also like to thank Toyota Motor Corporation, for their constant support and encouragement.”

Building on the legacy of one of the world's best-loved vehicles

since the 1950s the Crown has been built to provide an intuitive driving experience that will exceed expectations and establish a new benchmark. When the first generation was launched, the Crown came to symbolise “innovation” and “pushing the limit” within Toyota. Since then, it has gained recognition in Japan as Toyota's premium sedan.

The new Toyota Crown is built around the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA-K) platform. The new Crown comes exclusively with a choice of two environmentally friendly powertrains. The first hybrid electric powertrain consists of a front electric motor and Toyota's first-ever 2.4-litre inline four-cylinder turbo engine, paired with a direct shift six-speed automatic transmission with a combined power of 340 HP and 40.7 Kg.m. torque.

The second hybrid electric powertrain consists of two electric motors and a 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine, generating a total power of 218 HP. The hybrid-electric system, paired with an Electric Continuously Variable Transmission (e-CVT), achieves the lowest fuel efficiency, with a consumption rate of 21.6 km/l.

The Toyota Crown has been engineered for both supreme visual appeal and peerless performance. Drivers can choose from several driving modes, including Normal, Eco, Sport, Sport+ which allows drivers to adjust system settings individually to



Sheikh Faisal Bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Jota Yamamoto and Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan with the all-new Crown.



their exact driving habits.

Striking a seamless connection between stylish design, exquisite luxury, and enhanced convenience and comfort, the new Crown's cabin is accentuated by a range of advanced features. These include a 12.3-inch touchscreen multimedia system with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ compatibil-

ity, a 12.3-inch TFT colour meter that allows users to choose from 12 patterns to suit their tastes, a colour head-up display (HUD), a dual-zone automatic air conditioning system with rear AC vents, an 11-speaker JBL surround sound system, a panoramic roof, multi-adjustable power and ventilated front seats, and 60/40 split and reclining rear seats.

For added convenience, the new Crown is equipped with a hands-free, electrically powered trunk that can be activated using a foot-operated system when the user's hands or arms are full. As with any Toyota model, the new Crown comes complete with a comprehensive array of safety features. A

choice of seven exciting exterior hues complements the Crown's striking visual appeal. The vehicle's interior features an equally stylish colour scheme, with two options. The new Crown also offers a choice of two aluminium wheel designs.

The all-new Crown is now on display at all Saud Bahwan Automotive showrooms.

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ROUND-UP

Win dream wedding at Crowne Plaza Resort

With breathtaking venues, impeccable service, and a commitment to creating unforgettable experiences, Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah is the perfect destination for couples seeking a truly magical wedding celebration

MUSCAT: Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah has announced its exclusive ‘Wedding on us’ campaign, offering soon-to-be-wed couples a chance to win a fully-hosted dream wedding. With breathtaking venues, impeccable service, and a commitment to creating unforgettable experiences, Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah is the perfect destination for couples seeking a truly magical wedding celebration. The 42-acre beach-front resort boasts a range of exquisite indoor

and outdoor venues, including a spacious ballroom accommodating up to 200 guests and sprawling lawns capable of hosting outdoor events for up to 2000 guests. Whether couples envision an intimate gathering or a grand celebration, Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah provides the ideal backdrop for their special day. “Creating lifelong memories is at the heart of every wedding celebration. At Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah, we take immense pride



in curating unforgettable experiences for couples on their special day. With our ‘Wedding on Us’ campaign, we are excited to offer one lucky couple the opportunity to have their dream wedding hosted by us. It’s our way of going above and beyond to make their wedding dreams come true,” said Maher Bahsoun, General Manager of Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah. Engaged couples who book their weddings at Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah between June 15 and July

15 will automatically be entered into a raffle draw, which will take place on July 16. The winner of the draw will have their wedding expenses refunded, courtesy of Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah. The ‘Wedding on Us’ package includes venue rental and Kosha, a buffet dinner for 200 guests, a lady DJ, and 2 security ladies. The booking window is from June 15 to July 15 for weddings scheduled until the end of the year. Terms and conditions apply.

REVENUE MANAGEMENT

Sheraton Oman Hotel appoints revenue director

MUSCAT: Revenue management is undeniably one of the most important roles in the hospitality industry. Sheraton Oman Hotel appointed Justin Jacob as its Revenue Director. Justin joined Sheraton just a few months ago and has already proved himself as a determined and committed leader with a strong drive to meet goals. Holding professional certificates from Harvard and Cornell executive education and with previous revenue management experience at distinguished hotel chains, Justin goes above and beyond in performing multifunctional roles, articulating revenue management strategies and expected results. Justin knows that every decision he makes impacts our hotel revenue and profitability, thus, he thoroughly examines the market, and investigates where he can create innovative opportunities for the hotel. Justin Jacob is a humble young man with a strong passion for learning that helps him stay engaged, motivated, and driven. He has certifications from the STR by Costar and the Hospitality



Sales and Marketing Association International in several business trades and has enrolled in a real estate and asset management course from Cornell. Justin has duly been awarded the HSMIA ROC STAR 2021 at the revenue optimisation conference in Dubai. Samir Messaoudi, General Manager of the hotel, says, “Justin is a valuable asset to Sheraton Oman Hotel and we are proud to have him onboard. Combining essential revenue management skills with a hands-on approach, Justin formulates a relevant pricing system, and, as a result, increases our profit. We work towards the same goal, and that matters.”

ELEVATE YOUR DRIVING EXPERIENCE

Drive stylish and dynamic Changan EADO Plus with low EMI options

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) has announced low EMI on Changan EADO Plus, a compact yet aggressive family sedan that exceeds customer expectations. This remarkable vehicle boasts premium styling, a luxurious interior, and a host of advanced safety features. Prospective buyers can now take advantage of EMI options starting at OMR 94 for a convenient six-year term through banks only. The approximate EMI is calculated by banks based on a 20% down payment for loan tenure of six years and is subject to credit approval. The offer is applicable only for vehicles purchased for personal use and is subject to the terms and conditions of the lending institution. A spokesperson for AGAE said, “Discover the ultimate justifi-

cation for owning the Changan EADO Plus with its enticing low EMI option. This remarkable vehicle not only embodies style, energy, and practicality but also showcases a flawless design that seamlessly merges fashion and function. As a family car, it leaves a lasting impression with its attractive exterior, opulent and roomy interior, interactive dashboard, and a wide range of driver-assist features that prioritize your safety. With the irresistible combination of style, performance, and affordability, the Changan EADO Plus becomes an irresistible choice. Don’t miss out on this golden opportunity to make this exceptional sedan your own, as you embark on a journey where style meets practicality and safety takes centre stage.” The Changan EADO Plus 1.4



Turbo engine is equipped with a seven-speed dual-clutch transmission. One can experience true peace of mind on the road with the Changan EADO Plus, equipped

with a range of intelligent safety features. This top-of-the-line sedan offers a driving experience like no other, with Dual 10” screens that enhance convenience and

keep you connected. Cruise effortlessly with adaptive cruise control, enjoy the expansive view from the panoramic sunroof, and navigate effortlessly with the built-in navigation system. Safety is paramount, and the EADO Plus ensures your protection with features such as a 360-degree camera for enhanced visibility and side airbags for added security. Furthermore, the dual exhaust features, typically found in luxury sedans, add a touch of sophistication to this exceptional vehicle. Some of the standout features of Changan EADO Plus 1.4 Turbo are a Star Eye LED Headlamp with a point grille, 17” Dual Tone Alloy Wheels, Full LCD Integrated Dual Screens, Sport Seats in Leather, Rear AC vents, Front Collision Warning and fuel efficiency of 18.3

Km/L as per GSO conditions. EADO Plus Limited is equipped with a 1.4 Turbo Engine, 155 hp mated with 7 speed DCT. The vehicle dimension of 4730x1820x1505 mm (LxWxH), a wheelbase of 2700 mm, and a fuel tank of 53 litres. The highlights of Changan EADO Plus are 17” alloy wheels, a sportier front grille, ORVM - electrically folding, panoramic sunroof. The interior features include sporty red interior, front seat ventilation, a six-way driver seat electrically adjustable, a rear armrest and a 60:40 rear seat split. Advanced Safety attributes include adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, automatic emergency brake and 360° Camera. The Infotainment section has a 10” LCD instrument cluster, six speakers and navigation features.

OMAN INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

OIH launches assisted reproductive technology treatment centre

MUSCAT: The Oman International Hospital’s (OIH) assisted reproductive technology treatment services centre was officially inaugurated by Her Highness Sayyida Hujaija Jaifer Al Said on June 18. The event was attended by renowned doctors from government healthcare sectors, officials from ministries, public authorities and the media. Oman International Hospital provides fertility treatment services using cutting-edge technology from Vitrolife and Olympus, as well as an advanced infrastructure and a multidisciplinary team of consultants and embryologists. The Centre is designed in accordance with the international standards for medical infrastructure and facilities, and provides Assisted Reproductive Technology, and treatment of infertility. To eliminate genetic anomalies or inherited genetic diseases such as Down syndrome and other chromosomal disorders in fetuses, the Centre offers high-end genetic diagnostic tests for embryos, including Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) and Preimplantation Genetic Screening (PGS).



The centre is led by the renowned Senior Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Reproductive Endocrinology, and Infertility Dr. Maha Al Khaduri, as well as a well-experienced team of embryologists and medical personnel. The centre offers the most comprehensive range of fertility treatments including IVF, IUI, ICSI, assessment and management of male and female infertility issues, PGD, PGT and PGS and offers egg, sperm & embryo freezing. Marcelo Pereira, CEO of Oman International Hospital said, “We at Oman International Hospital strive to provide this community with the best possible medical care by combining the most ad-

vanced technology with highly qualified and skilled physicians. With great pride and satisfaction, we announce the inauguration of the Fertility Centre, a pioneering initiative in Oman that brings back the hope of parenthood to many couples.” “At OIH we believe in setting the standards of fertility treatment services in Oman by introducing the advanced technologies and international protocols to help couples. The clinic offers the most advanced IVF treatments using the most advanced infrastructure and subspecialists. We strive to deliver successful treatments and bring joy to many couples,” added Dr Maha Al Khaduri.

PARTNERSHIP

Bank Muscat partners with Visa to offer DTO Motorsport drive package experience

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision and commitment to providing top-of-the-line features, services and rewards to its Premier Banking customers, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider has tied up with Visa to give away 5 special motorsports experience packages. Bank Muscat Private Banking and Asalah Priority Banking credit cardholders who spend a minimum of OMR500 internationally or online on international eCommerce sites during the promotional period, which runs from June 1 until August 31, will get a chance to enter the draw to win one of the five exclusive “once in a lifetime chance” to visit the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps track in Belgium. The five total winners include 2 Asalah Priority Banking Credit Cardholders and 3 Private Banking Credit Cardholders. All Bank Muscat customers having the Private Banking Infinite credit card and Asalah Visa Signature credit card will be automatically entered into the draws once they meet the eligibility norms. To add further excitement for the draws, customers will get additional chances in the draw for



every additional OMR 500 spent during the promotional period. Also, the bank announced that cumulative spending will be counted to enable more draw entries for its customers. The five lucky winners will enjoy the motorsport experience package from October 10-12, which will include a 2-day track experience at the Belgian race-track, which is famous for hosting Formula 1 races. They will enjoy a 2-night hotel stay with dinner, transfers to and from the circuit, 51-1 coaching drive sessions and 5 data analysis sessions as well as business class air tickets as part of the winner’s package. The race-track experience will be facilitat-

ed by DTO Motorsport, which is well-known globally for creating memorable experiences for motorsport enthusiasts. Abdullah Tamman Al Maashani, General Manager – Products, Bank Muscat, said: “In line with its commitment to offering unique benefits that reflect the goals and lifestyles of our Private and Priority Banking customers, Bank Muscat is delighted to offer 5 lucky winners, the chance to experience one of Formula 1’s most famous racetracks. I am sure that our privileged winners will have memorable experiences and truly enjoy this ‘once in a lifetime’ experience. I would like to highlight the fact that the bank is always working to further develop exciting new offers in line with our customer-centric vision. I also take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their strong confidence and trust in the bank and its various products and services.” Manish Gautam, Visa’s Country Manager for Oman, said: “Visa is pleased to partner with Bank Muscat on this campaign and to extend our commitment to providing exceptional rewards and experiences to our cardholders in Oman.”



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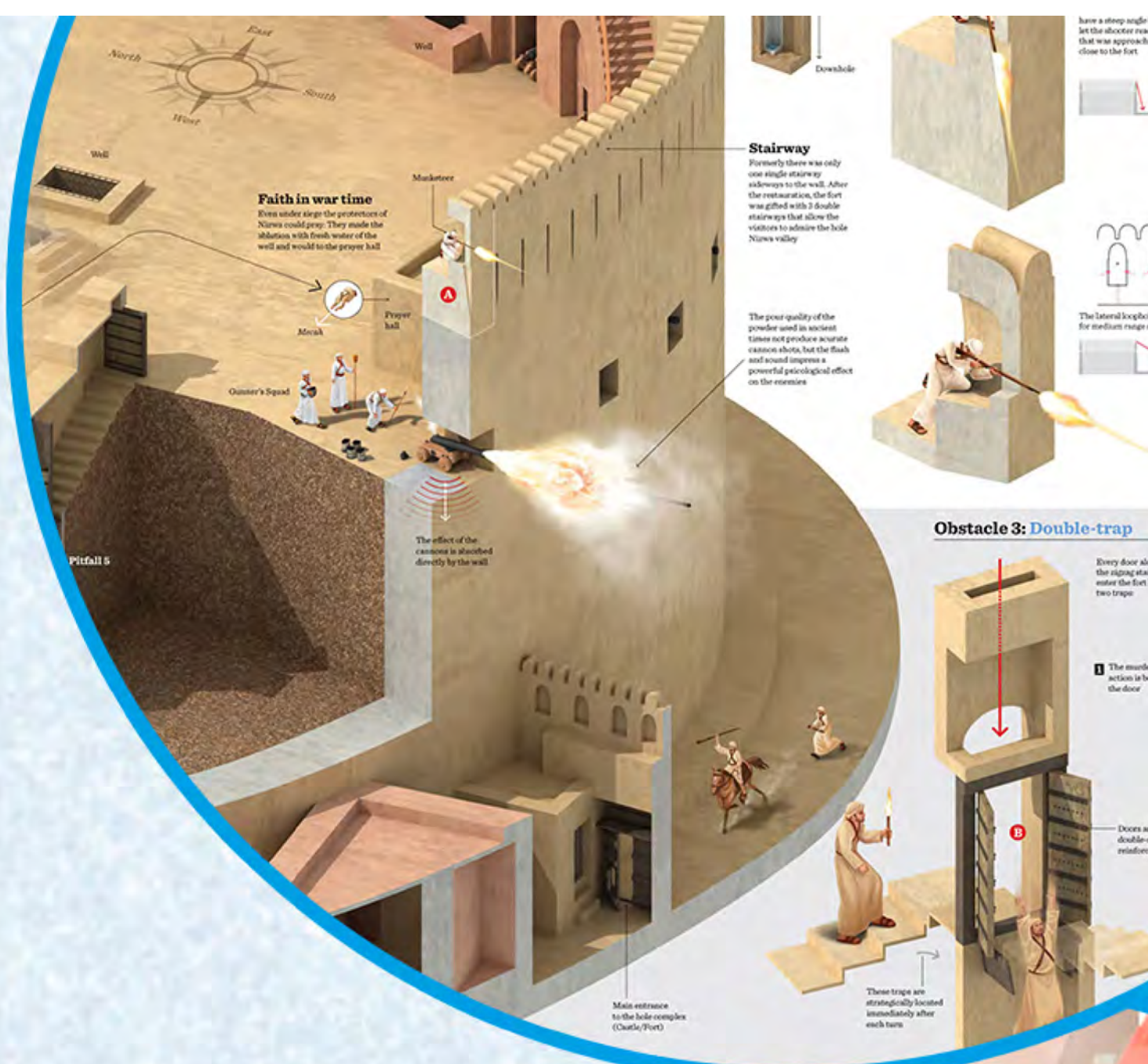
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