

HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Ilham Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Aliyev. His Majesty also wished the people of Azerbaijan further progress and prosperity. - **ONA**



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HM THE SULTAN, PRESIDENT OF IRAN REVIEW BILATERAL COOPERATION

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik made a phone call on Monday to President Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the telephonic conversation, aspects of the bilateral cooperation and means of promoting them were reviewed in various spheres. Views on the latest regional and international developments were also exchanged. - **ONA**



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TWO-DAY FORUM

Empowering women to realise objectives of Oman Vision 2040



MUSCAT: In line with its efforts towards empowering women to realise Oman Vision 2040 objectives, the Ministry of Social Development in cooperation with Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) kicked off a two-day forum here on Monday.

Titled 'Omani Women: Indicators of Economic and Knowledge Empowerment Within Oman Vision 2040', the forum is being held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) within the framework of marking the Omani Women's Day.

The event focuses on the latest trends and aspirations towards augmenting the indicators of empowering Omani women based on Oman Vision 2040. It also aims to enhance economic and knowledge empowerment of women by increasing the number of opportunities offered to them.

The forum includes fourteen working papers which cover a spectrum of topics, namely, the national mechanism of empowering Omani women within Oman Vision 2040 and the role of the public and private sectors in empowering Omani women in the labour market, among others.

The first session of the forum included three working papers on empowering Omani women in entrepreneurship in the field of technology, information and communications, the role of legislations in empowering the Om-



ani woman in response to Oman Vision 2040 and the vocational values and ethics of newly appointed female teachers.

Dr. Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development said that Omani women have received the Royal care under the renewed renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. She said the Omani women represented 49.6 percent of the total population of the Sultanate till the end of December 2021. She said that Omani women have made a difference in the fields of education, health and community development. She also pointed out that the number of Omani women working in the private sector stood at 108,481 in 2021.

The event is being organised under the patronage of Dr. Mona bint Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University for International Cooperation who stressed the significance of the forum and its positive results. - **ONA**

OMAN SEEKS INVESTMENTS THROUGH STIMULUS PACKAGE

OUR MINISTRY AIMS TO ATTRACT QUALITY INVESTMENTS FROM UK TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN THROUGH THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN AND THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR INVESTMENT AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT "NEZDAHER".
— QAIS BIN MOHAMMED AL YOUSEF, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

The forum reviewed opportunities in Oman and ways to promote it as a global destination for investment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The economic partnership between Oman and the United Kingdom is strong and the growing interest among British investors in Oman market is encouraging, according to Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and



Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

Speaking at the Oman-British Investment Forum on Monday, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef said: "The United Kingdom investors have shown growing interest in investing in Oman, particularly in the field of renewable energy."

Organised by the MoCIIP in cooperation with the UK Embassy in Muscat, the forum reviewed in-

vestment opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman and ways to promote it as a global destination for investment in renewable energy, green hydrogen and technology.

Largest investment partner

His Excellency Qais said: "This forum comes in light of the interest in the British market, as it is the largest investment partner of the Sultanate of Oman. This partner-

ship has expanded in the past few years to include several sectors, most notably oil and gas, technology, infrastructure and education. The United Kingdom is at the forefront in terms of foreign direct investment in the Sultanate of Oman."

The Minister added: "Our Ministry aims to attract quality investments to the Sultanate of Oman through the Economic Stimulus Plan and the National Programme for Investment and Export Development "Nezdaher", which analyses the investment environment for local and foreign capital, the challenges it faces, and the appropriate mechanisms for improving them.

"The 'Invest in Oman Hall' will be the one-stop point for any investor who comes to the Sultanate of Oman to introduce him to the investment environment, incentives, industrial, free and economic zones." **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Tourism products, services highlighted

1 A five-day promotion event organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism showcasing tourism products and services offered by the Sultanate of Oman to visitors opened on Monday under the auspices of Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Heritage Undersecretary. **>A2**

WORLD Controversial UK tax cuts scrapped

2 The UK's newly installed chancellor of the exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, announced his tax and spending plans on Monday, two weeks ahead of schedule, following a tumultuous few weeks for the country's financial markets and Prime Minister Liz Truss' Cabinet. **>A6**

MARKET High oil prices to help GCC economies

3 The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in general seeks to find a balance in oil markets by defending producers' interests and safeguarding those of its clients, Fadi Reyad, Chief Market Analyst at CAPEX.com Mena, tells *Times of Oman*. **>B1**



Fantastic LMGTE podium return for Al Harthy and Oman Racing

B6

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

Oman to witness partial solar eclipse this month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will witness a partial solar eclipse on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

Al-Julanda bin Masoud Al-Rawahi at the Oman Astronomical Society, said the partial solar eclipse will begin at 14:50 MCT, while the peak of the partial eclipse will be at 15:57. It will end at 16:58. Therefore, the partial solar eclipse will last approximately 2 hours and 7 minutes.

Al-Rawahi stated that if the sky is clear, everyone will be able to watch it using appropriate monitoring tools. The partial solar eclipse will be seen in the Sultanate of Oman in different proportion depending on the region. In



Muscat Governorate it will be 36 percent, in Salalah 22 percent, in Nizwa 35 percent, in Sohar 37 percent and in Musandam Governorate it will be 41 percent.

"Residents of vast regions of the

globe, such as Europe, western Russia, the Middle East, Western Asia and Northeast Africa, will also be able to watch this astronomical event. The partial eclipse will not be seen in North and South

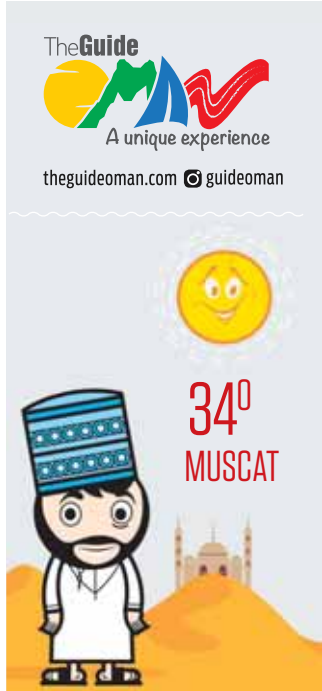
America, Australia and Southeast Asia," Al-Rawahi added.

Al-Rawahi explained that a solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth, so that the sun, the moon and the earth are in one straight line. As a result, the moon covers the Sun temporarily, and blocks its rays for a short period so that it casts a shadow on a portion of the earth.

Al-Julanda Al-Rawahi stressed that safe monitoring of the Sun requires the use of safe means to monitor and follow-up on astronomical phenomena such as astronomical binoculars and special sunglasses. Therefore, the use of monitoring and viewing tools is very important for the safety of observers.

He indicated that the Oman Astronomical Society, in cooperation with the Department of Astronomical Affairs at the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and some relevant authorities, will organise mass monitoring events for the partial solar eclipse, and it will be announced later on its accounts on social media.

The Oman Astronomical Society has noted that safety procedures must be followed when observing a solar eclipse, by not looking at the eclipse with the naked eye, as it can cause damage, explaining that looking at the Sun while it is partially obscured at the time of the eclipse may damage the retina of the eye.





OMAN



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COMMENTARY

Oman Data Park assumes a huge responsibility



Ali Rashid Al Matani

IN LIGHT of the rapid Variables in the fields of information technology and its modern effects in the various aspects of our today's life, the importance of data storage, safe hosting and the assuring of adequate cyber security to protect data and information, becomes one of the most severe issues that disturb all countries across the world, with no exception.

This importance comes as a result of globalisation, which framed the world in a framework of a small global village that has reduced our planet to the size of a hand fist. As a response to the needed facing of these increasing data security challenges, Oman Data Park (ODP) has been founded in 2012.

ODP has been founded to assume a huge responsibility in the data and information sector, and it becomes the largest data centre in the Sultanate of Oman, where it provides hosting and cyber security services, while data protection globally gains great importance, and is considered a cornerstone of immunising the countries against the cross-border data hacking attacks, that able to paralyse of any country if successfully hacking its networks.

As a part of its technical huge responsibilities, ODP also provides cloud and hosting services to many companies operating in the country with unparalleled efficiency, while it is well known as the Sultanate's first

IT-managed and cloud services provider.

Therefore, it is gratifying that, ODP has addressed this responsibility during the past ten years and has sought to provide safe havens for data storage, on which the work and production system is based for both government and private sectors, as well as has strengthened the concept of cyber security among both sectors to be able to protect their data against any penetration attempts by any source.

Indeed, it is a matter of satisfaction for the successes achieved in a short period of time by this reputed company, while it has effectively made a qualitative leap in its business, where the number of beneficiaries of its specialised services reached 800 governmental and private entities, which are utilising its advanced services led by qualified national competencies.

Undoubtedly, the efforts and solutions provided by ODP over the past decade contributed to enhance data management systems, strengthening national

awareness about the importance of cyber security at different levels, and help in accelerating the digital transformation in the Sultanate of Oman by undertaking the responsibility of hosting services, providing a broad range of cloud services IT-managed services and cyber security services for all public and private entities across the Sultanate of Oman, through ODP certified Tier III Data Centre, as well as it has launched Oracle's Hyper-Scale Cloud Infrastructure Data Center in the Sultanate of Oman,

What ODP has achieved in the field of data, in developing solutions to address the challenges of this field, and in keeping pace with the latest developments of the same field, deserves praise at a time when we were and are still in dire need to improve such a system, while ODP successfully capable to take its responsibility in one decade only.

The company also has successfully encountered various specialised data challenges in the public and private sectors in high efficiency, where it was

able to put in place appropriate cloud solutions, which contributed to reducing the cost large proportions for its customers in all sectors, while the data and information are considered as a wealth that must be preserved protected from exploitation and all forms of attacks. ODP also offers the Sultanate's first Artificial Intelligence ready cloud infrastructure - Nebula AI powered by Nvidia.

Today, strengthening ODP roles by assigning data hosting tasks and technical work in its specialised fields has become a national responsibility that all parties and companies are requested to give attention to it. As the localisation of modern technologies is part of national security and an added value for initiatives of investment in the modern technology sector, this localisation can be achieved through assigning the work of digital transformation, data storage and cyber security tasks to national companies operating in such fields and have world-class performance standards.

Furthermore, the success of ODP abroad of the Sultanate of Oman by entrusting it with the tasks of managing and operating data centers in Zanzibar is considered one of the qualitative successes of ODP and evidence for its good reputation and unparalleled efficiency that exceeded the borders of the country toward the global reputation

Of course, technical development is moving at lightning speed, and it must be kept up with the same speed, as there is no time to catch a breath, and this will only come through a party that fully knows the meaning of responsibility in this very dangerous field.

So we hope that ODP will achieve successive developments in its victorious technological path, and always strives to be aware of the latest developments in this field, while we are proud of it and consider as the honest portal, to which we have entrusted our information and data in a world being faced by blatant technological turmoil.

AT BAYT GREIZA

National Museum inaugurates 'Fragrant Journeys' exhibition

MUSCAT: The National Museum inaugurated the exhibition 'Fragrance Journeys' at Bayt Greiza, in cooperation with France's Museum of Fine Arts in Lyon and the French Embassy in Oman.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Fatma Mohammed Al Ajmi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Administrative, Financial and Planning Affairs.

Jamal Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the 'Fragrant Journeys' is the first exhibition to be conducted in Bayt Greiza and the first joint cultural exhibition between Oman and France after many years.

He added: "Hosting the exhibition comes within the framework of cultural diplomacy pursued by the museum with the aim of strengthening the bonds of friendship and introducing the visitor to the fragrance culture that originated from Oman's land of frankincense. The exhibition showcases selected artefacts with historical, aesthetic and moral connotation to ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations, as well as Medieval Italy, Medieval France, passing through time to the Enlightenment era, modern arts and contemporary artistic expressions in France.

Sylvie Raymond, Director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Lyon

said in a statement that the Museum of Fine Arts will display a selection of pieces from valuable collections in the National Museum. Those selected pieces tell a fragrant history in the path of perfumery.

Luciano Rispoli, Acting Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate of Oman, said that the depth of relations between Oman and France dates back to the 17th century, when French merchant ships anchored in the ports of Tyre and Muscat at the crossroads of the maritime trade routes leading to the Indian Ocean. Rispoli added that the joint exhibition 'Fragrant Journeys' comes as a prelude to a series of long-term cooperation between the two sides.

He pointed out that this cooperation will extend in two phases. During the first phase, 23 selected pieces of art will be loaned from the Lyon Museum of Fine Arts to be displayed in Bayt Greiza, during the period from 17 October 2022 to 7 May 2023.

The exhibition presents 23 artefacts from the Museum of Fine Arts in Lyon, and highlights the frankincense and incense routes during the most prominent eras dating back to the Pharaonic era all the way to the avant-garde art. Those include a masterpiece of glazed pottery by the international artist Pablo Picasso, which is the first time a work by this international artist is displayed in Oman. — ONA



ITHCA's participation in GITEX Dubai concludes

The event brought together various companies which provided the participants with the motivation to acquaint with the latest developments in the world of business

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ITHCA Group concluded its participation in the GITEX Global 2022, held in Dubai between October 10 and 14 October at Dubai World Trade Centre. GITEX Global 2022 has seen the participation of about 5000 companies operating in the field of technology.

At the conclusion of the participation of ITHCA Group in the event, Oman Technology Fund, one of the companies of the group, was announced as winner in the \$1 million investment opportunity companies out of 30 emerging companies.

The celebration was organised at the stage of Za'abeel 6 of North Star, allocated for emerging companies, in the presence of CEOs of

the companies, a number of investors, businessmen and visitors.

Mahmoud bin Mohammed Al Lawati, Founding Partner and CEO for Technology at Nashid Digital Identity Platform, said that the event brought together various companies which provided the participants with the motivation to acquaint with the latest developments in the world of business and the opportunity for meeting with investors and potential customers and the possibility of communicating with them following conclusion of the event as to establish strong relations between them and the participating companies.

Regarding Nashid Platform, Al Lawati said that Nashid is a company operating in the field of technology, mainly the Blockchain technology to enhance the



use of identities by users in order to reach the service providers without the need for visits to the branches. Nashid is also a mobile application which can be used for establishing relations with the service providers such as banks, telecommunication companies and other companies. First, the relation is established with such parties and whenever verification of identity is required at any time, such parties can be directly communicated with, he added.

Nashid is an emerging company and obtained the initial investment two months ago and has proceeded with digitalising identity cards and passports as part of its product, he said, add-

ing that the company is under trial stage. The investment obtained through the competition would help in establishment of the product and in initiation of an integrated application.

He also pointed to that the \$1 million allocated in the competition was for all winning companies where some companies got \$50,000 to \$200,000. Thirty companies participated in the competition out of which nine have been selected and each company secured the investment requested as the capital of the company. This capital is known as venture capital as it would be used in new fields and technologies that could be exposed to risks, he added.

MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY

MEDC advises people to take necessary precautions when using water heater

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Muscat Electricity Distribution Company (MEDC) has urged people to take precautions when using the electric water heater.

"Within the framework of the interest that the Muscat Electricity Distribution Company attaches to its subscribers and in the interest of their safety and the safety of their families, the company has alerted all its subscribers regarding the precautions to be taken when using the electric heater,"



MEDC said in a statement.

The company stressed the need to close the power button before using the water, in order to avoid the occurrence of any electrical contact, and to be careful by following the correct and proper

steps before using it.

One of the biggest dangers caused by the electric heater is the electrical short circuit and the failure to connect the device to the electrical grounding, which is the most important way to protect against electrocution in cases of electricity leakage in the heater, which may lead to death in some cases. Sometimes the electrical contact occurs due to improper installation that is not noticed by the user.

Therefore one must first be careful and ensure the integrity

of the electrical connections of the heater, as well as be careful to switch off the button used to operate the heater before using the water, this needs to be communicated to all family members.

The company also warned of the need to regularly check the heater, especially the thermostat, and the internal cleaning of the heater, as water in the tank for a prolonged period leads to the formation of rust and the deposition of salts, which leads to erosion of the external body, and thus causing damage to the heater.

OMAN BRITISH INVESTMENT FORUM

Summit seeks to attract more investments and promote exports

<FROM A1 His Excellency Bill Murray, the United Kingdom's ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, referred to the areas of cooperation in the investment and trade sectors between the two friendly countries, calling on investors from both countries to enhance investment in the fields of energy and take advantage of Omani ports and economic and free zones in light of the advantages and incentives they offer to investors.

The forum came as a continu-

ation of the role played by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for the global promotion of the Sultanate of Oman, increasing its global market share of Omani non-oil exports and intensifying promotional efforts aimed at attracting investment, promoting exports and introducing the investment environment.

Sovereign Investment Partnership'

Earlier this year, Oman and the United Kingdom established a

Sovereign Investment Partnership (SIP) with the intention to bolster their economic ties and increase high-value investments in areas such as clean energy and technology. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the UK's newly formed Office for Investment (OFI) and the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and the deal is indicative of the growing relations between the two countries as they seek to boost foreign investments in an effort to stimulate the economy in a more sustainable manner post

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oman Renewable Energy Conference

Also in June, the MoCIIP in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry had organised the 'Oman Renewable Energy Conference' in London, UK to promote the Sultanate of Oman as an international destination with potentials for investment in green energy.

The aim was to review the opportunities for investment cooperation in the renewable energy sector between the Sultanate of

Oman and the United Kingdom.

Clean energy is one of the key sectors targeted by Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate's national strategy for energy.

The economic ties between the UK and the Sultanate of Oman have expanded during the last few years to cover a number of sectors, mainly the oil and gas and technology sector, the infrastructure sector, defence sector and education sector.

The United Kingdom has topped the list in terms of direct foreign investments by the end

of 2020 with total investments of OMR7.112 billion.

It is worth mentioning that the Sultanate has offered various facilities to attract investments. These facilities include updating the foreign capital investment law and permission of ownership of 100% among other incentives and guarantees for foreign investors besides the launch of a programme for residence of investors for renewable five to ten years under clear controls and procedures offering the investor encouraging benefits and incentives.



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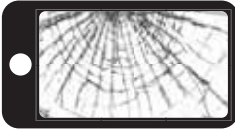
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HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health
ROYAL HOSPITAL

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF ROYAL HOSPITAL INVITE SPECIALIZED COMPANIES TO SUBMIT TENDER

Tender Ref	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
2643/2022/MOH/DGRHP-120	Supply of Computer Stationeries for Royal Hospital	01/Nov/2022	Before 10 AM on Tuesday 29/Nov/2022	SPECIALIZED COMPANIES REGISTERED WITH TENDER BOARD	25 RIALS

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- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Purchase and Tenders one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) Any Clarification, you may contact via, Telephone: 2402200

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Forum explores best service quality criteria



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour on Monday organised the 8th Annual Customer Experience Forum in cooperation with Al Assayel for Confernces company.

The forum discussed customer service as a form of corporate culture aimed to achieve top quality in rendering services to members of the public.

The forum looks into the great challenges posed to government and private sector establishments in their quest to provide the best services to their customers.

Salient features of the forum include an overview of customer experience under the theme of “Lessons from pioneers of customer service industry”.

The forum lays emphasis on endorsing an “institutional culture” focusing on clients, top quality of services, low cost and the hallmark of a distinguished employee.

The forum addresses a wide cross-section of service providers, including directors general in the public and private sectors, customer service supervisors, specialists and employees and all those tasked with offering services to the public. -OMA

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Chief Guest
His Excellency Ahmed Al Dheeb
Deputy Chairman,
Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones



Keynote Address
His Highness Dr. Adham Al Said
Assistant Professor for Economics,
Sultan Qaboos University,
CEO and Co-Founder, The Firm for Business and Economic Consulting

Presenters



Sanjay Kawitra
CEO,
Strategic Businesses,
Ominvest



Dalel Maghrebi
Digital Business
Solutions Manager,
GBM Oman



Venkatesh Palakkad
Director & Principal
Consultant,
Reem Al Bawadi
Business Solutions
and Technologies LLC
(RAB)

Workshop:

Understanding Learning experience platforms (LXPs) and how they can unleash a learning culture in an organisation

Economy Panel Discussion Topic: Thriving in an agile and disruptive economic/business environment

Panelists



Al Sayyid Hamid Sultan Al-Busaidi
Executive Director,
Centre for Governance and Sustainability



Said Ahmed Safran
CEO,
Oman Investment & Finance Company



Dr. Amer Al Rawas
Executive Chairman,
Concordia Group



Sunil Kohli
CEO,
Dhofar Insurance



Ramez El Amoudi
CEO,
Dhofar International Development & Investment Holding Company



Neelmani Bhardwaj
Acting CEO,
Takaful Oman Insurance

HR Panel Discussion Topic: Growing and developing talent within – Lifeline of organisations

Panelists



Abdullah Mohammed Al Rashdi
Chief People Officer,
Renaissance Services



Majeed Al Jabri
HR Manager,
GBM Oman



Dr. Khalid Salim Ali Al Hamadani
Chief Human Resources officer,
BankDhofar



Zuhair Ahmed Al Zadjali
Director General of Administration & HR, Madayn



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Market Leader - Middle East & Africa,
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MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE

South Korean K-pop band members to undergo military duty

SEOUL: Members of the South Korean pop boy band BTS will serve their mandatory military service, Yonhap news agency reported on Monday.

The band members' military conscription has gained nationwide attention in recent years, with the public divided on whether the K-pop supergroup should be exempt from mandatory service.

BTS' oldest member, Jin, will be

the first to serve, the group's management firm said.

"Jin will revoke his request to delay his conscription at the end of this month and will follow conscription procedures required by the Military Manpower Administration," Yonhap quoted Big Hit Music as saying.

"All other members will also serve mandatory military duty according to their plans."

South Korean law requires all able-bodied men to undertake 18-21 months of military service.

Some special exceptions, however, are granted to classical musicians, Olympic athletes and artists who have won top awards in competitions that enhance national prestige. Pop stars usually do not qualify for the exception, and dodging military duty can lead to imprisonment or social stigma.

South Korea's National Assembly had been debating whether BTS members should be granted an exemption — an issue that has sharply divided lawmakers.

In August, South Korean Minister of National Defense Lee Jong-sup said that BTS members who serve for the military would likely be allowed to join non-serving band members in overseas group tours. **DW**



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

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Indian jewellery shop owner gifts cars, bikes to staff

CHENNAI: With the festival of lights just days away, a Chennai-based jewellery shop owner gifted cars and bikes to his staff as Diwali gifts on Sunday.

"As many as 10 employees have been gifted cars while 20 have been gifted bikes", said the owner of the jewellery shop, Jayanthi Lal. He also lauded the staff for supporting him thoroughly.

Jayanthi Lal said, "They have worked with me through all ups and downs. This is to encourage their work".

Earlier, Jayanthi Lal Chayanthi, the owner of Chalani Jewellery gifted eight cars and 18 bikes to his staff and colleagues. While some of them were surprised, others were left with tears of happiness.

"This is to encourage their work and add something special to their lives. They have worked with me in all ups and downs in my business and helped me earn profits," he said.

"They are not just staff, but my family. So, I wanted to treat them like my family by giving them such surprises. I am very happy wholeheartedly after this. Every owner should respect their staff and colleagues by giving them gifts," he further said.



Diwali is observed on the 15th day of Kartik, the holiest month in the Hindu lunar calendar and it is believed that on this day Lord Rama (the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu) returned from a 14-year-long exile during which he fought and won a battle against the demon king Ravan.

This year Diwali is being celebrated on Monday, that is, October 24.

People celebrate the festival by decorating their houses, exchanging gifts, and offering prayers in order to commemorate the "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." **ANI**

Hunt scrapped

"almost all" of the tax cuts that had been introduced by his predecessor



LONDON: The UK's newly installed chancellor of the exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, announced his tax and spending plans on Monday, two weeks ahead of schedule, following a tumultuous few weeks for the country's financial markets and Prime Minister Liz Truss' Cabinet.

Hunt scrapped "almost all" of the tax cuts that had been introduced by his predecessor, he said in a televised statement.

He reiterated his warning that he gave over the weekend that difficult decisions will need to be

made and that government departments will have to look at making spending cuts.

Hunt hopes the new budget will help calm markets and rebuild some of the confidence the government lost.

What did Hunt change?

The new Treasury chief reversed the plan to cut the income tax rate from 20p to 19p in April next year. He also said the government will return to its plan to raise corporation tax to 25%, up from 19% — the lowest rate out of all G7

member states.

He also said a government plan to cap energy bills for households and businesses will only last until April, limiting another policy introduced by Truss, saying energy prices were too volatile to make a long-term guarantee. He added that he and the prime minister would discuss what would follow the price cap.

"A central responsibility for any government is to do what's necessary for economic stability. This is vital for businesses making long-term investment decisions and

for families concerned about their jobs, their mortgages and the cost of living," Hunt said.

The Treasury chief said his changes would raise an extra £32 billion (\$36.16 billion; €37 billion) in additional tax revenues for the UK government.

British people 'want stability,' says Truss

Shortly after Hunt's announcement, Prime Minister Truss said the change in policy was needed to address "the serious challenges we face in worsening economic conditions."

"The British people rightly want stability," she wrote on Twitter.

A spokesperson for Truss also told reporters the prime minister acknowledge that the government went "too far, too fast" in its push for growth.

"We recognize that economic stability is important, particularly when we are seeing some of the global headwinds we are right now and that is why we have made these changes," the spokesperson said. **DW**



Port of Salalah

Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG

PO Box 105, PC 118, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Tel: +968-24090888, email: info@salalahport.com

NOTICE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of **Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG** (the "Company") invites shareholders to attend an Ordinary General Meeting ("OGM") to be held on Wednesday, 2nd November 2022 at 3:00 pm, via electronic means for holding AGM's, which can be accessed from the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not present to convene the OGM, another meeting will be held on Monday, 7th November 2022 at 3:00 pm to discuss the following agenda:

OGM Agenda:

- To consider and approve entering into a related party transaction with APM Terminals BV (**APMT**) in relation to lease to the Company of ten ULCV Capable Cranes and other supporting equipment (**Equipment**) to allow the Company to service Ultra Large Container vessels (**ULCV**) within the current term of the concession on the terms summarised in Appendix 1.
- To consider and approve entering into a related party transaction with Maersk AS (**Maersk**) in relation to a volume commitment on terms which are summarised in Appendix 1.
- To authorise the Board to negotiate, undertake all acts that are necessary or desirable in connection with and to execute final form legally binding agreements reflecting the transactions above as outlined in agenda items 1-2 and any other related document and to delegate such authority to the management of the Company.

NOTE: Related Parties must abstain from voting on these resolutions. These resolutions must be approved by a simple majority of the shares represented in the meeting.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association and the rules for convening general meetings via electronic means, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- The juristic shareholder only has the right to appoint a natural person as proxy to attend the general meeting through electronic means and vote on its behalf and such natural person must have an investor number with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company. A member of the board of directors shall not represent a shareholder, or else the proxy will not be valid.
- Voting on any of the proposed agenda items will commence during the period not exceeding three days prior to the date of the meeting until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. In the event of any change to a shareholder's shareholding, by way of an increase or decrease, then the votes cast will be cancelled, and such shareholder must re-cast his/her votes on the day of the meeting.

To prevent a delay in commencing the meeting, shareholders are requested to attend the meeting half an hour before the scheduled meeting time.

For any queries relating to the above agenda, please contact Mrs. Eman Al Shahry at (+968-24090890 or at eman.alshahry@salalahport.com).

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Quote of the Day



RICHARD BERRINGTON
SCOTLAND CAPTAIN,
“Obviously it is a special win for us. Took a lot of work and has given us belief. We haven’t had as many T20 cricket as we would have liked but have played a lot of 50 overs cricket.”

Today’s matches

 08:00am
Namibia vs Netherlands

 12:00pm
Srilanka vs UAE

Points table

GROUP A (first round)							
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS	NRR
Namibia	1	1	0	0	0	+2.750	2
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	0	+0.097	2
UAE	1	0	1	0	0	-0.097	0
Sri Lanka	1	0	1	0	0	-2.750	0

GROUP B (first round)							
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS	NRR
Scotland	1	1	0	0	0	+2.100	2
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	0	0	+1.550	2
Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	-1.550	0
West Indies	1	0	1	0	0	-2.100	0



SCOTLAND CAUSE MASSIVE UPSET, BEAT WEST INDIES BY 42 RUNS

POORAN’S WEST INDIES WERE OVERPOWERED AND BUNDLED OUT FOR 118 IN THE PENULTIMATE OVER

HOBART: Scotland made it a second consecutive day of upsets at the ongoing ICC Men’s T20 World Cup by registering a stunning 42-run victory over the West Indies in Hobart on Monday.

Opener George Munsey set the tone by playing a stylish knock of unbeaten 66 from just 53 deliveries as Scotland amassed 160/5 from their 20 overs. Calum MacLeod (23), Michael Jones (20) and skipper Richie Berrington (16) all played valuable hands, but it was with the ball and in the field that the Scots really shone.

The West Indies couldn’t get a hold of Mark Watt, with the left-arm spinner collecting superb figures of 3/12 from his four overs, while fellow spinner Michael Leask (2/15) was just as impressive. And the duo were well supported by their teammates in the field, with Scotland holding on to some excellent outfield catches and showing the rest of the world they will be difficult to beat at the tournament.

Nicholas Pooran’s West Indies were overpowered on the big stage and were bundled out for 118 in the penultimate over.

Veteran all-rounder Jason Holder shone with bat and ball as he scored 38 and bagged two wickets while conceding just 14 runs, while their top-order showed some glimpses of promise with Kyle Mayers (20), Evin Lewis (14) and Brandon King (17) finding the boundary a few times each.

But beyond that, there was not much joy, as the West Indies were outplayed in all aspects of the game by a Scotland side that were on a mission.

“Tough loss for us. Disappointing for sure. I guess now we got to do the hard work now and win both games. 160 was a par score,” said Pooran in a post-match presentation. **-ANI**

Scotland vs West Indies

Scoreboard

SCOTLAND		WEST INDIES	
G Munsey not out	66	K Mayers	c Munsey b Davey 20
M Jones	b Holder 20	E Lewis	c Jones b Wheal 14
M Cross	c Brooks b Holder 3	B King	b Watt 17
R Berrington	c Mayers b Joseph 16	N Pooran	b Leask 5
C MacLeod	c King b Smith 23	S Brooks	c Leask b Wheal 4
M Leask	b Joseph 4	R Powell	c MacLeod b Leask 5
C Greaves not out	16	J Holder	c Greaves b Sharif 38
Extras: (lb 7, w 5)	12	A Hosen	run out 1
TOTAL: 160/5 (20 overs, RR: 8.00)		A Joseph	c Cross b Watt 0
Fall of wickets:	1-55, 2-63, 3-86, 4-117, 5-125	O Smith	c Greaves b Watt 5
Bowling:		O McCoy	not out 2
K Mayers	2-0-24-0, A Hosen 4-0-31-0, A Joseph 4-0-28-2, O McCoy 3-0-25-0, J Holder 3-0-14-2, O Smith 4-0-31-1	Extras: (lb 2, w 5)	7
		TOTAL: 118 (18.3 overs, RR: 6.37)	
		Fall of wickets:	1-20, 2-53, 3-58, 4-62, 5-69, 6-77, 7-79, 8-79, 9-102, 10-118
		Bowling:	M Watt 4-0-12-3, B Wheal 4-0-32-2, J Davey 3-0-34-1, S Sharif 3.3-0-23-1, M Leask 4-0-15-2

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ICC T20 WORLD CUP

Raza stars in Zimbabwe’s win

HOBART: Sikandar Raza played a breathtaking knock of 82 from 48 deliveries and claimed bowling figures of 1/22 to power Zimbabwe to a comprehensive 31-run win over Ireland in their opening match of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Monday.

Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie opted to field after winning the toss and his bowlers responded well as they reduced Zimbabwe to 37/3 within the powerplay.

Raza and Sean Williams then put on a stand of 42 runs for the fourth wicket. The Ireland bowlers had no answer to his onslaught as the 36-year-old Raza kept motoring on. The veteran all-rounder made 82 from 48 deliveries, an innings consisting of five fours and as many sixes, and powered Zimbabwe to a total of 174/7.

Ireland chase was derailed as Blessing Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava bowled a brilliant opening spell to get rid of their top-order and reduce Ireland to 22/4.

Zimbabwe vs Ireland

Scoreboard

ZIMBABWE		IRELAND	
R Chakabva	c Tucker b Little 0	P Stirling	b Ngarava 0
C Ervine	st Tucker b Singh 9	A Balbirnie	c Ervine b Muzarabani 3
W Madhevere	c Delany b Little 22	L Tucker	b Ngarava 11
S Williams	c Tector b Singh 12	H Tector	c Ervine b Muzarabani 1
S Raza	b Adair 82	C Campher	b Williams 27
M Shumba	c Little b Adair 16	G Dockrell	b Raza 24
R Burl	c Adair b Little 1	G Delany	c Shumba b Chatara 24
L Jongwe	not out 20	M Adair	c Raza b Muzarabani 9
Extras: (b 1, lb 5, w 6)	12	S Singh	b Chatara 0
TOTAL: 174/7 (20 overs, RR: 8.70)		B McCarthy	not out 22
Fall of wickets:	1-0, 2-37, 3-37, 4-79, 5-137, 6-141, 7-174	J Little	not out 7
Bowling:	J Little 4-0-24-3, M Adair 4-0-39-2, B McCarthy 4-0-24-0, C Campher 3-0-29-0, S Singh 3-0-31-2, G Delany 2-0-21-0	Extras: (b 1, lb 9, nb 1, w 4)	15
		TOTAL: 143/9 (20 overs, RR: 7.15)	
		Fall of wickets:	1-0, 2-14, 3-19, 4-22, 5-64, 6-91, 7-102, 8-102, 9-111
		Bowling:	R Ngarava 4-0-22-2, T Chatara 4-0-22-2, B Muzarabani 4-0-23-3, L Jongwe 2-0-24-0, S Williams 3-0-20-1, S Raza 3-0-22-1

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$89.60, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.46 from the price of Friday, which was \$92.06. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,510.23 points, down by 0.44 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.92 per cent at 482.99 points. Construction Materials, up 9.72 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 14.29 per cent, was the top loser.

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High oil prices to help GCC economies in maintaining sound fiscal balance

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries seeks to find a balance in oil markets by defending producers' interests and safeguarding those of its clients

VINOD KUMAR PK
vinodkumar@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Higher oil prices would help Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies to maintain a sound financial balance, according to an industry expert.
"The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in general seeks to find a balance in oil markets by defending producers' interests and safeguarding those of its clients," said Fadi Reyad, Chief Market Analyst at

CAPEX.com Mena, in an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman*.
While the US is putting pressure to push oil prices lower to secure cheaper gas and diesel prices nationally, GCC countries are considering maintaining crude prices at comfortable levels at a time when demand is decelerating, he added.
Elaborating on the implications of Opec+ cuts in oil production by 2 million barrels a day on developing economies, he said that this move could help support oil prices at current or higher levels which



Fadi Reyad, Chief Market Analyst at CAPEX.com Mena

could put pressure on developing economies, most of which are net oil importers.
"Developing economies have

felt strong inflationary pressures during the last two years since the beginning of the pandemic and these pressures were further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and could be supported by higher oil prices at a time when central banks struggle to rein in inflation, he added."
The Opec+ had agreed to steep oil production cuts on October 5 to curb supply in an already tight market. The announced production cut is one of the largest that the organisation has decided since the start of the pandemic when demand nosedived.
The reduction in the output shows that the organisation is ready to intervene whenever necessary to support oil markets following the evolution of the demand worldwide, Fadi Reyad said.
He further said that it is possible to see the United States take actions to push oil prices down. The US could decide to release large volumes of crude from its reserves

in a bid to influence markets. Such an action could be executed in collaboration with other oil importers to achieve a greater impact.
"However, its effects could be only temporary if Opec extends its supply cuts. At the same time, weaker economic growth could weigh on prices independently," he added.
The direction of oil markets remains uncertain as other factors continue to influence prices such as weaker economic growth, tighter monetary policies and future COVID-19 restrictions in China, which is the world's largest oil importer. "All these elements could impact demand and push prices lower. Opec's latest decision and future ones could temporarily support prices, adding to the current volatility," he said.
Speaking about fears of a global economic recession he said that a recession is a constant concern for investors at the moment and has been for a while as central

banks are adamant about fighting strong inflation. Part of this inflation is fuelled by higher commodities prices in particular in Europe, which could see sharper economic woes over the longer term, he said.
When asked about the reasons Opec+ cited for raising oil prices, Fadi Reyad said, "Opec has cited current oil market conditions as a reason for reducing production, part of which was already underway as some countries were not filling their production quotas. The decreasing prices and decelerating demand were strong factors behind Opec's decision."
The US administration has an interest in reducing oil and oil derivatives prices as pump prices strongly influence voters. Additionally, high oil prices could further undermine central banks' efforts in fighting inflation as well as inflate costs for businesses. As a result, the US could take steps to push prices down such as using its strategic oil reserves.

MADAYN AND GALFAR

Agreement signed for road and infrastructure construction project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) and Galfar Engineering and Contracting signed an agreement for roads and infrastructure construction at Mahas Industrial City in the Wilayat of Khasab in Musandam Governorate.
The signing ceremony was held under the patronage of Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said Al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam and in the presence of Hamad bin Hamoud Al Qasabi, Acting CEO of Madayn.
The project, which will be developed on a construction area of one million sqm at a total cost of approximately OMR5 million, incorporates an internal road network of 7km, installation of 100 lighting poles, construction of a 75-metre bridge linking the entrance of the industrial city to the main road, and water and



sewage networks of 5km and 4.5km respectively.
Moreover, the project includes electricity and telecom services and networks, a water tank with a capacity of 1,000 cubic metres, a sewage collection tank, and rain-

water drainage channels with a width of 20 meters and a total length of 4 km, in addition to other works that shall enhance the infrastructure services and facilitate traffic movement at Mahas Industrial City.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Saudi Arabia to host 3rd edition of Gulf Entrepreneurs Forum

RIYADH: Riyadh is scheduled to host on Tuesday the third edition of the Gulf Entrepreneurs Forum to be organised by the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monshaat), under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce Dr Majid Al-Qasabi, and in the presence of several ministers of commerce and industry in the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
The forum targets GCC entrepreneurs and business incubators and accelerators and financing institutions with the aim of enabling entrepreneurs and owners of SMEs to expand at the GCC level.
The third edition also seeks to reach investment opportunities and benefit from successful entrepreneur expertise, in addition to exchanging expertise among stakeholders of developing the

The forum targets GCC entrepreneurs and business incubators and accelerators and financing institutions

sector and discussing its challenges, as well as highlighting available financing opportunities and alternatives and the best solutions to face challenges and encourage innovation to enhance economic growth.
Events of the forum include several meetings and sessions, including the experience of GCC States in business incubators, discussing the potential of the financing and ven-

ture capital environment for entrepreneurs in GCC countries, the impact of entrepreneurship and innovation on food and environmental security of GCC countries, checking on entrepreneurial opportunities in the GCC, challenges facing entrepreneurs, and expansion in the GCC countries and getting acquainted with facilitations granted to entrepreneurs.
The forum also includes field visits and tours during which guests are closely familiarised with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's most important landmarks of the entrepreneurial environment and an integrated entrepreneurial program that includes panel discussions and workshops, while the annual meeting concludes with an open discussion between concerned ministers and entrepreneurs. -SFA

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MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Construction Materials, up 9.72 per cent was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 14.29 per cent was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,510.23 points, down by 0.44 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.92 per cent at 482.99 points. Construction Materials, up 9.72 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 14.29 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Ahli Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 388 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.49 million, with more than 13.77 million shares changing hands.

Out of 52 traded securities, 17 advanced, 16 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC and Arab investors were net buyers for OMR65,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR48,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR17,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,189.5 points, down 0.5 per cent. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Taageer Finance, Oman Arab Bank, Al Madina Takaful, and Ahli Bank were up by 8.89 per cent, 2.06 per cent, 1.6 per cent, 1.15 per cent,

and 0.74 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, United Finance, Global Financial Investments, Bank Dhofar, and Bank Muscat were down by 14.29 per cent, 6.67 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 3.33 per cent and 0.69 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,149.77 points, down 0.01 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, National Aluminium, and Oman Cables Industry were up by 9.72 per cent, 8.26 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 1.27 per cent and 1.25 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Muscat Thread Mill, Oman Fisheries, Oman Cement, and Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 9.77 per cent, 8.33 per cent, 3.74 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 1.19 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.45 per cent before closing at 1,593.61 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Al Maha Marketing, Al Jazeera Services, Oman Education & Training, and OIFC were up by 5.26 per cent, 2.93 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.5 per cent, and 0.78 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Oman Telecom and Renaissance Services were down by 3.13 per cent, 0.89 per cent and 0.83 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

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INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,530.64	4,505.97	4,510.23	4,529.97	-19.74	-0.44	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,230.13	7,176.43	7,189.49	7,225.90	-36.41	-0.50	
Industry Index	6,162.52	6,103.36	6,149.77	6,150.57	-0.81	-0.01	
Services Index	1,596.11	1,586.47	1,593.61	1,586.47	7.14	0.45	
MSX Shariah Index	483.24	478.58	482.99	478.58	4.42	0.92	
MSX TR INDEX	5,714.19	5,683.07	5,688.45	5,713.35	-24.89	-0.44	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,565.52	7,509.33	7,523.00	7,561.10	-38.10	-0.50	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,657.41	1,647.40	1,654.81	1,647.40	7.41	0.45	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,395.66	6,334.26	6,382.43	6,383.26	-0.84	-0.01	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
13,773,613	3,489,644	388	23,216,539,197	17	16	19	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 17

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	278,000	138,444	2	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.460	0.038	8.261	0.498	0.414	0.498	0.100	27,390,000
OM0000000300	AL MAHA PETROLEUM	4,450	3,750	5	0.840	0.844	0.840	0.844	0.820	0.024	2.927	0.844	0.844	0.844	0.100	58,236,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	301,000	28,799	5	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.002	2.062	0.099	0.096	0.099	0.100	23,607,518
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	2,000	500	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.245	0.005	2.041	0.250	0.240	0.250	0.100	15,301,068
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	1,000	1,619	2	1.600	1.620	1.600	1.620	1.600	0.020	1.250	1.620	1.580	1.620	0.100	145,314,000
OM0000001525	ALMAN INVST&FIN	381,000	49,510	24	0.130	0.130	0.129	0.129	0.128	0.001	0.781	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.100	30,573,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	3,554,030	479,804	17	0.135	0.136	0.135	0.136	0.135	0.001	0.741	0.136	0.135	0.136	0.100	265,153,415
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	4,231	1,162	3	0.275	0.275	0.274	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.274	0.274	0.275	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENGL.	5,222	385	2	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.110	0.111	0.100	15,680,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	835,041	167,106	7	0.294	0.294	0.293	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.295	0.295	0.100	429,248,838
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	64,000	21,124	8	0.330	0.332	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.320	0.330	0.100	220,560,591
OM0000003398	SOHARINT BANK	4,600	455	3	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.102	0.100	454,416,167
OM0000001490	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	5,280	4,548	7	0.552	0.552	0.550	0.550	0.552	-0.002	-0.362	0.550	0.500	0.554	0.100	86,625,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	10,000	3,680	1	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.368	0.370	-0.002	-0.541	0.368	0.350	0.368	0.100	80,860,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,913,048	1,672,466	56	0.574	0.578	0.570	0.574	0.578	-0.004	-0.692	0.574	0.574	0.574	0.100	215,433,957
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	394,300	187,687	8	0.476	0.476	0.476	0.476	0.480	-0.004	-0.833	0.476	0.470	0.476	0.100	112,531,160
OM0000003036	OMAN TELECOM	75	87	3	0.888	0.892	0.888	0.892	0.900	-0.008	-0.889	0.892	0.880	0.890	0.100	369,030,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	400,000	119,280	15	0.300	0.300	0.296	0.296	0.300	-0.004	-1.333	0.296	0.295	0.297	0.100	97,838,322
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	60,000	3,290	5	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.056	-0.002	-3.571	0.054	0.054	0.055	0.100	10,800,000
Total		19	9,020,277	2,884,876	174											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	30,112	2,104	8	0.070	0.079	0.065	0.079	0.072	0.007	9.722	0.079	0.070	0.079	0.100	4,937,500
OM0000002366	AL RATINAH DEV.	141,140	5,788	6	0.041	0.049	0.041	0.049	0.045	0.004	8.889	0.049	0.041	0.041	0.100	1,470,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	21,000	820	3	0.040	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.038	0.002	5.263	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.100	28,573,254
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	22,500	3,600	3	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.156	0.004	2.564	0.160	0.154	0.160	0.100	32,477,831
OM0000008447	OMAN RET. FUND	57,800	3,468	7	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.100	28,271,183
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	404	76	2	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.125	0.002	1.600	0.127	0.100	0.137	0.100	212,015,070
OM0000002580	OMAN EDU. TRAINING	1,000	203	1	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.203	0.200	0.003	1.500	0.203	0.000	0.000	0.100	14,210,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	6,353	498	2	0.078	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.078	0.002	2.564	0.080	0.077	0.080	0.100	2,685,716
OM0000004786	MAJANA TAKAFUL	291,430	20,521	14	0.067	0.068	0.066	0.068	0.067	0.001	1.450	0.068	0.064	0.068	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,085,057	171,574	21	0.156	0.159	0.156	0.159	0.158	0.001	0.633	0.159	0.155	0.160	0.100	318,048,734
OM0000001160	NATIONAL ALFA	12,127	1,419	2	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.110	0.117	0.100	9,945,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	562,000	34,436	33	0.061	0.062	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.062	0.100	18,428,780
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	140,990	10,509	12	0.076	0.076	0.074	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000001897	MAJANA COLLEGE	5,000	725	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.145	0.100	13,050,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT. CHEMI.	1,000	86	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.082	0.086	0.100	1,806,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK	29,570	24,237	13	0.820	0.820	0.816	0.820	0.820	0.000	0.000	0.820	0.800	0.820	0.100	77,900,000
OM0000002804	ASAPPA FOODS	1,685	497	2	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	0.000	0.295	0.288	0.294	0.100	35,400,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,998	291	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.093	0.096	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004669	SHARGIYAH DESALIN.	516	64	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.000	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.100	12,127,468
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	30,189	1,305	3	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	0.044	0.100	10,760,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	1,000	38	1	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.038	0.000	0.038	0.100	25,643,722
OM0000007084	MCT FINANCE	506	58	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.100	13,047,246
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	36,580	3,512	3	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	25,070	2,357	12	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.100	7,751,859
OM0000002997	GULF MUSHROOM P.	123,150	31,643	8	0.259	0.259	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.003	1.186	0.250	0.230	0.249	0.100	32,401,311
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	84,100	2,607	4	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.032	-0.001	-1.023	0.031	0.030	0.031	0.100	6,188,704
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	178,000	259,380	15	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.145	0.150	-0.005	-3.333	0.145	0.146	0.145	0.100	434,470,958
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	110,670	11,432	19	0.107	0.107	0.103	0.103	0.107	-0.004	-3.738	0.103	0.101	0.107	0.100	18,754,075
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	10,000	840	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.080	0.004	6.667	0.084	0.084	0.087	0.100	29,328,131
OM0000003036	Muscat Thread Mill	5,300	294	3	0.058	0.058	0.055	0.055	0.060	-0.005	-8.333	0.055	0.055	0.057	0.100	883,996
OM0000001418	RAJPUT CEMENT	48,500	7,615	5	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.174	-0.017	-9.770	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.100	314,000,000
Total		31	4,608,518	601,725	207											



RESEARCH REVEALS THAT TOO MUCH MOTIVATION AFFECTS OUR DECISION-MAKING



In a good or a bad mood, focused or distracted, in dire or no need: our internal states directly influence our perceptions and decision-making.

While the role of motivation on the performance of behavioural tasks has been known for more than a century thanks to the work of psychologists Robert Yerkes and John Dilligham Dodson its precise effect on the brain remains unclear. A team has now revealed how motivation alters the neural circuits responsible for sensory perception preceding decision-making in mice.

Going to work early in the morning, choosing a restaurant at lunchtime: many of our decisions are motivated by needs, such as earning a living or satisfying our hunger. However, decision-making is a complex process, which can also be influenced by external factors, such as the environment or other individuals, and by our internal states, such as our mood, our level of attention or our degree of motivation.

The laboratory of Sami El-Boustani, Assistant Professor in the Department of Basic Neurosciences at the Faculty of Medicine of the UNIGE and recipient of an Eccellenza fellowship (SNSF), is studying the neural circuits involved in decision-making. In recent work, carried out in collaboration with Professor Carl Petersen's team at EPFL, his lab has studied the role played by a specific internal state — motivation — in perception and decision-making. For more than a century it has been known that a relationship between motivation and performance exists thanks to the work of American psychologists Robert Yerkes and

John Dilligham Dodson.

Too much or too little motivation is detrimental to performance. However, the way in which this impacts our neural circuits remains unclear. "We wanted to observe how sensory information transmitted by neurons in the cortex is altered by the degree of motivation and to what extent the latter can have an effect on learning and performance in a decision-making task," explains Sami El-Boustani, the lead author of the study.

The research team developed a behavioral paradigm involving mice in a controlled water consumption regime. They first trained these rodents to respond to tactile stimuli via two whiskers (A and B) and to produce an action — licking a spout — only for whisker A in order to obtain a drop of water.

Following this training, these mice reacted mainly to the stimulation of whisker A, thus indicating their ability to discriminate between these two sensations. Finally, the researchers conducted these experiments at decreasing levels of thirst in order to vary the motivation of the rodents to participate in the task.

In a state of great thirst — therefore of great motivation — rodents performed poorly. They licked the spout indiscriminately, without distinguishing between the whiskers stimulated. In contrast, in a state of moderate thirst, the choice of their action became optimal. They mainly licked the spout when whisker A was stimulated. Finally, when they were not very thirsty, their performance in the task dropped again.

By observing the activity of neuronal populations responsible for perceptual decision-making in these mice, the researchers discovered that neurons in these circuits were flooded with electrical signals when mice were hyper-motivated. Conversely, in a state of low-motivation, the signals were too weak. "Hyper-motivation leads to strong stimulation of cortical neurons, which causes a loss of precision in the perception of tactile stimuli," says Giulio Matteucci, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Sami El-Boustani's laboratory and the study's first author.

In contrast, in the low-motivation state, the accuracy of the sensory information was recovered, but the strength of the signal was too low for it to be transferred correctly. As a result, the perception of the stimuli was also impaired.

These results open up new perspectives. They provide a possible neural basis for the Yerkes-Dodson Law. "They also reveal that the level of motivation does not only impact decision-making but also the perception of sensory information, which leads to the decision", explains Carl Petersen, Full Professor at the Brain Mind Institute of EPFL and co-senior author in the study.

This work also suggests that it is necessary to decouple the acquisition and expression of new knowledge.

"We observed that mice understood the rule very quickly but could only express this learning much later, depending on an altered perception linked to their level of motivation." This unraveling of the role of motivation in learning opens the way to new adaptive methods that aim to maintain an optimal level of motivation during learning. -ANI

GOING TO WORK EARLY IN THE MORNING, CHOOSING A RESTAURANT AT LUNCHTIME: MANY OF OUR DECISIONS ARE MOTIVATED BY NEEDS, SUCH AS EARNING A LIVING OR SATISFYING OUR HUNGER.

Fantastic LMGTE podium return for Al Harthy and Oman Racing

Partnered with British driver Sam De Haan and Danish racer Marco Sorensen, the trio delivered a series of excellent performances

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Racing's Ahmad Al Harthy made a very welcome, and richly deserved, return to the European Le Mans Series LMGTE podium during the final race of the 2022 season at Portimao in Portugal on Sunday, 16th October, with a tremendous second place result in the No.69 Aston Martin Vantage.

Partnered with British driver Sam De Haan and Danish racer Marco Sorensen, the trio delivered a series of excellent performances with Al Harthy's double stint at the beginning of the race particularly impressive. Starting the four-hour race at the Autodromo Internacional do Algarve on a wet track, the Omani stormed from fourth on the



LMGTE grid to take the class lead and kept the squad squarely in the fight for victory, and certainly a podium, throughout almost two hours of exceptional driving.

In the end, the trio secured a very competitive runner-up result – their second podium of the campaign – which also elevated them into a final championship finish of fifth in the LMGTE Driver Standings and fifth in the Team Standings for the Oman Racing with TF Sport entry.

"Finally, what a way to end the season!", said an elated Al Harthy, "I'm absolutely delighted to finish on the podium in Portimao and

fly the flag for Oman, it's the first time I've raced at the track and is a very nice way to finish the season off. We did the best we could, I had a start which was extremely tricky with track conditions which were very tough to race on, but I did my best.

"I handed the car over to my team-mates in a good position, they both did a great job, and it really was a challenging race with changing weather conditions. The only car which beat us was one which went with a completely different strategy, an interesting one which paid off for them. It's always amazing to finish on the podium

and always amazing to see the Omani flag flying on the podium."

He added: "I'm so thankful to my incredible partners, Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sohar International Bank, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS, for their amazing support. We went into a new championship this year and performed extremely well, we're proud of what we have achieved and also proud of our development as well."

So tricky were the conditions at the start of Sunday's race, several cars had spins on the two formation laps. At the rolling start, from fourth in LMGTE, Al Harthy made a great

launch and starred on the first lap to climb into third, then second, before grabbing the class lead.

Showcasing his prowess on a track with low grip, the Omani having always been renowned as something of a wet-weather specialist even though coming from a country where the climate is anything but, he quickly opened a healthy advantage of 1.5 seconds.

By lap four he was inside the overall top 15 ahead of all but two of the LMP3 class prototype cars, and several of the headline LMP2 prototypes, but on lap six the No.32 Ferrari 488 moved into the LMGTE lead. Over the next few laps the fight for the lead intensified, with the No.83 Ferrari closing in and making it a three-way battle with the trio running nose-to-tail.

Although slipping to third, Al Harthy almost immediately hit back to reclaim second – with out of position LMP2 cars also causing challenges – before a Full Course Yellow period on lap 16. The Omani pitted a lap later, with around 35 minutes elapsed, and rejoined the race in second position.

The No.83 Ferrari stayed on track and elected not to pit, so Al Harthy stayed second until the rival car served its first stop 70 minutes into the race. Retaking the lead, the Oman Racing driver was around 12 seconds clear of the No.32 Ferrari before another FCY almost 90 minutes into the

contest. Following the resumption Al Harthy extended his advantage, opening a lead of more than half a minute, and he eventually pitted with less than 10 minutes remaining in hour two for his second stop – handing the Aston Martin over to De Haan.

When the order settled De Haan held third in LMGTE behind the sister Oman Racing car, but he was also under pressure from the No.32 Ferrari and slipped to fourth just a couple of laps later prior to another FCY period. Using the cautionary period as an opportunity to serve the extra stop the team needed to make, De Haan pitted and rejoined still in fourth place.

He made the team's next stop with just over 70 minutes of racing to go, handing over to Sorensen for the run the flag. Holding third place prior to another FCY, one more variable was thrown into the mix when rain started to fall. The Dane took the chance to make a stop with around one hour of racing to go and at the re-start he held third behind the sister Aston Martin.

With 40 minutes to run, the second Oman Racing car headed for the pits and Sorensen duly moved up into second. Staying well clear of the pursuing Ferrari 488 for the remainder of the race, Sorensen brought the car home in the runner-up spot to well deserved cheers from the Oman Racing crew.

KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners of Oman Karate championship honoured

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 14th Sultanate of Oman Karate Championship concluded. It was held in the main hall of the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher in the Governorate of Muscat under the patronage of Dr. Saeed bin Mohammed Al Saqri - Minister of Economy and in the presence of Gotayama Moto, Ambassador of the State of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman, and Salem bin Hamad Al Mahrouqi Chairman of the Omani Karate Committee, member of the Shura Council, representative of Adam State, and in the presence of some heads and representatives of government and private units, distinguished trainers, referees and members of the organizing committees.

The competitions were held on Friday and Saturday, corresponding to 14-15 October 2022, in which more than 300 male and female players participated, representing 36 karate clubs, academies and centres spread throughout the governorates of the Sultanate, and they were divided into weights and age groups: categories (12-13) years old, (14-15) years old, (16-17) years old, and under-21-year-old with special and specific weights, males and females competed in the fields of kata and kumite.

At the end of the second day,



the closing ceremony was held, which was opened with a speech by the Chairman of the Omani Karate Committee, in which he welcomed the Honourable Minister of Economy, the patron of the ceremony, their Excellencies and all the attendees.

Karate skills, and the Karate Pioneers Academy was presented with a karate art section presented by coach Ahmed Al-Zakwany, then Ali Al-Raisi Club presented a kata skills presentation, and then two final kata matches were held, moderated by a selection of international and national referees.

In the conclusion speech, the Minister of Economy, the spon-

sor of the ceremony, honoured the players who won the first three places with medals.

In the overall standings, Ali Al Raisi Karate Club came in first place, the Champions Karate Club came in second, and JKA and Shotokan Karate Center ranked third.

It is worth noting that the Omani Karate Committee seeks to organize these tournaments annually to consolidate relations between the various clubs, centers and private academies to hone the players' talents and provide them with experience by competing with players of different abilities and skills.

ASIAN CUP

Qatar to host AFC Asian Cup 2023; India, Saudi Arabia shortlisted for 2027 edition

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced on Monday that Qatar will host the Asian Cup 2023 in place of the tournament's original hosts, China.

Qatar became the new host after beating off competition from South Korea and Indonesia. The announcement came after China withdrew earlier this year because of its 'zero-Covid' policy.

"The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive committee on Monday confirmed that the Qatar Football Association (QFA) is the host association for the AFC Asian Cup 2023," AFC said in a statement.

The continental championships were awarded to China in 2019 but the Asian country relinquished the rights earlier this year as it pursued a zero-COVID policy. The competition was scheduled to take place in 10 Chinese cities between June 16 and July 16 of the next year.

"Chairing the 11th AFC Executive Committee meeting, AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa congratulated the QFA on their successful bid and also conveyed the appreciation of the Asian football family to the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) and the Korea Football Association (KFA) for their



commendable proposals," the statement further read.

"On behalf of the AFC and the Asian football family, I want to congratulate the Qatar Football Association on being awarded the hosting rights of the upcoming edition of the AFC Asian Cup. We must also thank the Football Association of Indonesia and the Korea Football Association for outlining their intentions to stage the tournament. Qatar's capabilities and track record in hosting major international sporting events and their meticulous attention to detail are well admired throughout the globe. I must also commend the AFC for showcasing utmost

professionalism in conducting a fair and transparent expedited bidding process and I thank all our commercial partners and sponsors for their patience during these unprecedented times," AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said in an official statement released by AFC.

"Given the short lead time in preparation, we know that the hard work begins immediately but with their existing world-class infrastructure and unrivalled hosting capabilities, we are confident that Qatar will stage a worthy spectacle befitting the prestige and stature of Asia's crown jewel," he further added. **ANI**

LA LIGA

Real Madrid beat Barcelona in El Clasico

MADRID: Reigning champions Real Madrid defeated Barcelona 3-1 in the El Clasico clash to overtake their fierce rivals at the top of La Liga on Sunday.

Goals from Karim Benzema, Federico Valverde and Rodrygo secured a dominating win for Real Madrid against FC Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu. Real Madrid scored twice in the first half without ever completely dominating, and they appeared to be on track to win what had been a mostly quiet 250th edition of the most important match in club football. Barcelona, however, rediscovered the kind of intensity they had been lacking up until Ansu Fati entered the battle late on, pulling one goal back and truly threatening to take at least a point out of the game.

By halftime, the situation appeared hopeless. When Vinicius powered down the left, the game had only been going for 12 minutes. Barca had only given up



twice in this Liga season when Ter Stegen blocked the shot, but the rebound fell straight to Karim Benzema.

After 35 minutes, they would lose again when Federico Valverde sent in an unstoppable goal from the edge of the box after being allowed maybe too much time to consider his shot.

Before Ansu Fati, a substitute had a significant influence, the closest Barca had gotten to scoring was a denied penalty call on Lewandowski.

Barcelona, which made significant summer purchases in an effort to catch up to its competitors, is now three points behind them.

Prior to the Clasico, the Cata-

lans had only given up one league goal in eight games, but they gave up double that amount in the first half, leaving Madrid as the only unbeaten team in the division.

Rodrygo took the kick and made the conversion. Barca is returning to Catalonia empty-handed after an exasperating afternoon, which came to an infuriating finale. **ANI**

SAN DIEGO OPEN

Iga Swiatek beats Donna Vekic to clinch San Diego Open title

SAN DIEGO: World No.1 Iga Swiatek clinched her eighth title of the year on Sunday, fending off a brave effort by qualifier Donna Vekic to prevail 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 and win the San Diego Open.

Top-seeded Swiatek needed 1 hour and 47 minutes to claim the 11th WTA singles title of her career with her tour-leading 64th match-win of the year. Swiatek was the steadier player in the first set, pulling errors from Vekic to achieve the only break at 4-2 en route to the one-set lead.

However, Vekic's aggressive attitude paid off in the second set as she used top-notch backhands to force errors from the World No. 1 and secure the sole break point of the match at 3-2.

Vekic broke for 4-2, then won



the ensuing frenetic rally with a passing winner to win the set.

In the end, Swiatek came out blasting in the third set, wrapping up lengthy rallies with point winners to clean through the bagel and enhance to 3-0 against Vekic.

Earlier on Sunday, No.1 seeds Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula overpowered No.2 seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and Giuliana Olmos 1-6, 7-5, [10-4] in a 1-hour and 20-minute final to capture the San Diego Open doubles title. **ANI**



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ROUND-UP



First-of-its-kind orphan care forum hosted by NBO

Presenting various research papers, they discussed the challenges they face and their recommendations for providing improved services to this important social segment

MUSCAT: Committed to empowering communities, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) recently hosted the first-of-its-kind orphan care forum in Oman, “Tatmeen”, held at its headquarters in Azaiba.

Organised in collaboration with Oyoon and under the patronage of Sayyida Maani bint Abdullah bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Director General

of the Family Growth Department at the Ministry of Social Development, the event included the participation of charities across Oman concerned with the care of orphans. Presenting various research papers, they discussed the challenges they face and their recommendations for providing improved services to this important social segment.



Through its active corporate social responsibility programme, NBO continues to fulfil its commitment to giving back to the community. Its activities, which are carried out throughout the year, include a range of educational and youth-led programmes, donations,

and sponsorships, all aimed at contributing to the betterment of society and particularly, those in need. Earlier this year, the bank was also awarded by the Ministry of Social Development for its continuous contribution to supporting people with disabilities in Oman.



Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz-Carlton Hotel recognised as one of the Best Hotels in Middle East

MUSCAT: Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, has been recognised as one of the Best Hotels in the Middle East by Readers' Choice Awards – Condé Nast Traveller – 2022.

Al Bustan Palace has set the benchmark for luxury hospitality since opening its doors in 1985 and today continues to be heralded as a symbol of excellence for the past 37 years.

Nabil Abdul Wahab Zadjali, General Manager of Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, said, “The award caps a very successful year for the hotel, especially with the opening of the Omani borders almost a year ago, after a long period of restrictions and lockdowns. We have been delighted with the return of guests from across Oman, the region and around the world, to experience their most preferred hotel

in Muscat and a destination that has always held a special place in their hearts. Our dedicated Ladies and Gentlemen always go above and beyond to ensure visitors have an exceptional stay with us while making memories that last a lifetime. To see this, acknowledged by an influential international publication is a sure sign that we are on the right track as travellers, fully embracing travel once more.”

RECOGNITION

Bank Muscat wins Best Performing Company - Large Cap award



MUSCAT: In recognition of its role as the leading financial services provider in Oman and outstanding excellence across all operations, Bank Muscat recently won the award for Best Performing Company – Large Cap at the 12th edition of Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards.

The award was handed over by the chief guest, Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, to Ahmed

Faqir Al Balushi, Chief Banking Officer, Bank Muscat, at the gala event. Overall, 15 top-ranking MSX-listed companies were felicitated at the awards function across three categories – large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap – based on their performance on select financial parameters. The event witnessed the congregation of a large number of important dignitaries and business leaders from Oman.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Faqir Al Balushi, Chief Banking Officer said: “The bank is delighted to win this Award, which is a recognition of both recent accomplishments and also its enduring leadership over the past four decades. We would like to thank Alam Al-Iktisaad for recognising the Bank's successful leadership and other achievements across various spheres. Going ahead,

the bank will aim to continue its market-leading position in the Sultanate's financial services sector while also expanding its social impact through a large number of sustainability and social responsibility initiatives.”

He concluded by expressing his sincere thanks and appreciation to customers for their strong confidence in Bank Muscat's services and products.

COMPACT EXECUTIVE SEDAN

All-new CT4 harnesses Cadillac's rear-wheel-drive capabilities to unleash pure motoring pleasure

MUSCAT: Turning heads since its arrival in Oman is the Cadillac CT4, with its dynamic good looks, sophisticated interior and rear-wheel drive (RWD) architecture. The compact executive sedan, designed for a new generation of performance-luxury customers, comes with innovative technologies guaranteed to deliver an exhilarating driving experience.

From its athletic design and classy styling to its nimble and agile performance, the CT4 is in a class of its own. Its sleek profile leverages the natural, long dash-to-front-axle proportional advantage of the rear-drive platform and, along with its wide stance, expresses presence, confidence and performance. Distinctive fascia and grille, LED headlamps, tail lamps and signature vertical lights add to the sedan's striking appeal.

The CT4 is built on Cadillac's sedan architecture. Exceptional balance from near-perfect weight distribution contributes to one of the segment's nimblest, most responsive driving experiences. Enhancements of the front and rear suspension systems, including Cadillac's signature double-pivot



MacPherson-type front suspension (with dual lower ball joints), are designed to improve road isolation and driver feedback.

The sedan leverages Cadillac's proven turbocharging proficiency as the foundation for its spirited performance. The brand's 2.0L SIDI Turbo engine and automatic stop/start is standard and SAE-certified at 237 hp and (350 Nm). It is backed by a sophisticated 9-speed automatic transmission.

Standard across CT4's variants are selectable vehicle drive modes that enable customers to enhance their vehicle settings for different preferences and conditions. The modes, Tour, Sport, Snow/Ice and

Track, are joined by the new My Mode, which can alter the calibrations for transmission shifting, suspension, steering and brake feel, front/rear torque split (with AWD), vehicle sound character and other vehicle attributes.

A key feature of the stylishly appointed cabin is the CT4's driver-centric cockpit that abounds with the brand's signature technologies. Ergonomically optimized and intuitive controls enhance driver confidence, while all the touchpoints in the cabin are crafted for a confident, high-tech sense of tactility. The centrepiece is a high-definition, 8-inch-diagonal touchscreen, which includes embedded navigation.

Adding to the CT4's refined standards is a host of standard comfort and convenience features. It includes Keyless entry and Push-button starting, HD Rear Vision Camera, Dual-zone automatic climate control with a humidity sensor, dust/particulate filter and rear-seat vents, and Bose Premium 14-speaker audio system with Active Noise Cancellation.

Industry-leading safety features also enhance CT4's strong market appeal. In addition to eight airbags, the sedan is fitted with a Front Pedestrian Braking system that can help you avoid or reduce the severity of a front-end collision with a pedestrian it detects directly ahead of you. It provides pedestrian alerts and can even automatically provide hard emergency braking or enhance the driver's hard braking. The Forward Collision Alert can warn you if it detects a potential front-end collision with a vehicle you're following, so you can quickly take action. It can also provide a tailgating alert if you're following a vehicle much too closely.

The Cadillac range is exclusively marketed in Oman by OTE group.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



NU's VC holds meeting with Student Advisory Council members

MUSCAT: Dr. Ali bin Saud Al-Bimani, Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Science and Technology (NU), held the 1st meeting with the Student Advisory Council in its fourth session at the university level for the academic year 2022-2023.

The meeting was attended by Dr Salim bin Khamis Al-Araimi, DVC, Dr Talal bin Mohamed Al-Balushi, Head of the External Relations and Strategic Alliances Office, Lamiaa Salem Ghanim Al Rawas, Deputy Director of Student Affairs and Head of the Elections Committee, and members

of the Student Advisory Council, which consists of 16 students from the university's 4 colleges, as well as representatives from the School of Foundation Studies.

Al Bimani welcomed the members of the council and emphasised their effective and important key role in developing the work and upgrading the level of students' scientific, cultural, social, sports, artistic and other aspects of constructive activities, in addition to consolidating the values of volunteerism in a way that supports voluntary charitable projects and works and community service.

PROMOTION

Buy Kia Seltos and get chance a to win fully paid trip to World Cup

MUSCAT: Kia customers planning to own a Kia Seltos can now also look forward to getting a chance to win a fully paid trip to watch FIFA World Cup event in Qatar.

On buying any Kia vehicle during the promotion period, Kia customers can get a chance to Scratch & Win more than 100 match tickets where they can witness teams like Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Japan and more, live in action. Apart from FIFA Qatar match tickets, customers will also get Comprehensive Service up to 50,000km and 1 Year Insurance. The campaign will end on November 4. (Conditions apply. Please visit Kia showroom for details.)

Kia's exciting and compact Seltos SUV makes an impressive mark with its stylish profile and thrilling driving dynamics. The Seltos' exterior design details, such as its long hood, a strong, character line on the front bumper, and sharp lines pressed into the bodywork, make it instantly recognisable. Along with full LED headlights and taillights the Seltos has



LED daytime running lights and rear lamps and 3D multi-layer indicators. For driving in foggy conditions, the Seltos is also equipped with LED fog lights.

The Seltos has an impressive interior that contributes to making every journey fun. The cabin is characterised by broad, sweeping shapes and highly technical details and is equipped with a range of technologies to maximise convenience, connectivity and ease of use.

Offering fantastic driving experiences in the Seltos is a 1.6-liter gasoline engine producing 121 HP

paired to a six-speed automatic transmission (6AT). The Seltos is also equipped with a Drive Mode Select system that lets drivers adapt the car to their preferred style or the road conditions. Drivers can choose from 'Normal', 'Eco' and 'Sport' mode. The Eco mode is tuned to maximise vehicle range by using fuel-saving measures, while Sport mode increases responses from the steering and electric motor to maximise the dynamic driving feel of the car. Normal mode provides a careful balance between the two.

GOLD SPONSOR

Oman Shell participates in 3rd edition of Oman Science Festival

MUSCAT: Oman Shell successfully concluded its participation in the third edition of the Oman Science Festival 2022 on Saturday at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

The six-day event themed, Together We Live the Passion for Science, made a much-anticipated return after a two-year hiatus.

The festival which is a forum for science, students and scholars, saw more than 452 activities in 70 scientific corners with the participation of 110 government, military, private and civil institutions and the attendance of over 250,000 visitors according to the Ministry of Education.

Commenting on Oman Shell's participation in the Oman Science Festival, Walid Hadi, Senior VP and Country Chairman of Oman Shell said, “We are proud to collaborate with the Ministry of Education once again, and are delighted to be the gold sponsor for the third edition of the Oman Science Festival. I'm happy that our young and enthusiastic visitors have been



able to experience and learn about tomorrow's technologies in a fun, interactive and engaging manner at the Oman Shell Future City. We reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of Oman by nurturing Omani youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths on local platforms like the Oman Science Festival. This is an important step towards ensuring the next generation of energy leaders are equipped to achieve future energy goals.”

Speaking about Oman Shell's

focus on investing in the nation's youth, Dr Mohammed Al Balushi, CEO of Shell Oman Marketing said, “Our strategy for energy transition is in accordance with the Sultanate's ambition for accelerated industrial and economic development as expressed in Oman's Vision 2040. Our community impact programmes are based on sustainability with a focus on the development of our youth, whilst inspiring them to show interest in the future of energy and mobility.”



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Malabar Gold opens showrooms in Oman Avenues Mall, Nizwa and Ibri



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IBRI LULU HYPERMARKET - OMAN



The renovated and restyled showroom in Oman Avenues Mall was inaugurated by brand ambassador and Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor

MUSCAT: With an impressive network of over 285 outlets spread across 10 countries, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally, opened three showrooms in Oman Avenues Mall, Nizwa and Ibri.

The renovated and restyled showroom in Oman Avenues Mall was inaugurated by brand ambassador and Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor in the presence of Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International

Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Najeeb K, Regional Head - Malabar Gold & Diamonds; other Malabar Gold & Diamonds management team members, customers, and well-wishers.

The imminent arrival of Anil Kapoor himself was a huge crowd puller for the local population and the inaugural event at Oman Avenues Mall saw a huge number of spectators gathered to witness the performance of the renowned actor, who entertained and mesmerised the crowd with his enthralling energy.

The showrooms in Lulu Hypermarket at Nizwa and Ibri were inaugurated on October 10 by the Wally of Nizwa, Saeed at Alshaykh Rashid bin Saeid bin Sayf Alkalbani and the Wally of Ibri, Saeed at Alshaykh Mushin bin Hamd bin Muhsin Almaskarii respectively, in the presence of Najeeb K, Regional Head - Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other management team members, customers and well-wishers.

All the showrooms showcase a wide variety of jewellery collections across Malabar Gold & Diamonds' various sub-brands such as

Mine, Era, Viraaaz, Divine, Ethnix, Precia and Starlet. Comprising traditional jewellery, modern jewellery, daily wear jewellery, kids' jewellery and much more, the jewellery designs in Gold, Diamond and Precious gems have been curated from over 20 countries.

"The renovated showroom in Oman Avenues Mall and the new showrooms at Nizwa and Ibri aim to provide our customers with an unforgettable jewellery shopping experience. The immense collection of designs that we have on display coupled with the special lineup of festive jewellery collections that we have arranged across our sub-brands ensures that Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the go-to place for jewellery lovers across the region. With 18 showrooms in the Sultanate, we are one of the largest jewellery retailers in the country," said Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

With the festive offers that Malabar Gold & Diamonds have offered, customers can get assured gold coins on gold & diamond jewellery purchases from all outlets,



valid until October 23.

Embracing the spirit of the season, the festive jewellery collection that the brand has unveiled puts forward an exquisite collection of gold and diamond jewellery designed to enthrall jewellery lovers. The special designs have been

made available across a wide range of sub-brands such as Mine, Era, Precia, Viraaaz, Ethnix and Divine, comprising 22k gold, diamonds and precious gem jewellery. Elegant designs crafted in contemporary fashion have also been introduced in the 18K gold category.

With the tastes and preferences of the local Omani population in mind, the brand has launched 'Brides of Oman' campaign, showcasing both traditional bridal jewellery in 21K gold as well as contemporary designs in diamond jewellery.



Offer valid from 14th August to 13th November 2022.
Existing Oman Oasis 5 Gallon returnable bottle customers and Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible for the offer.

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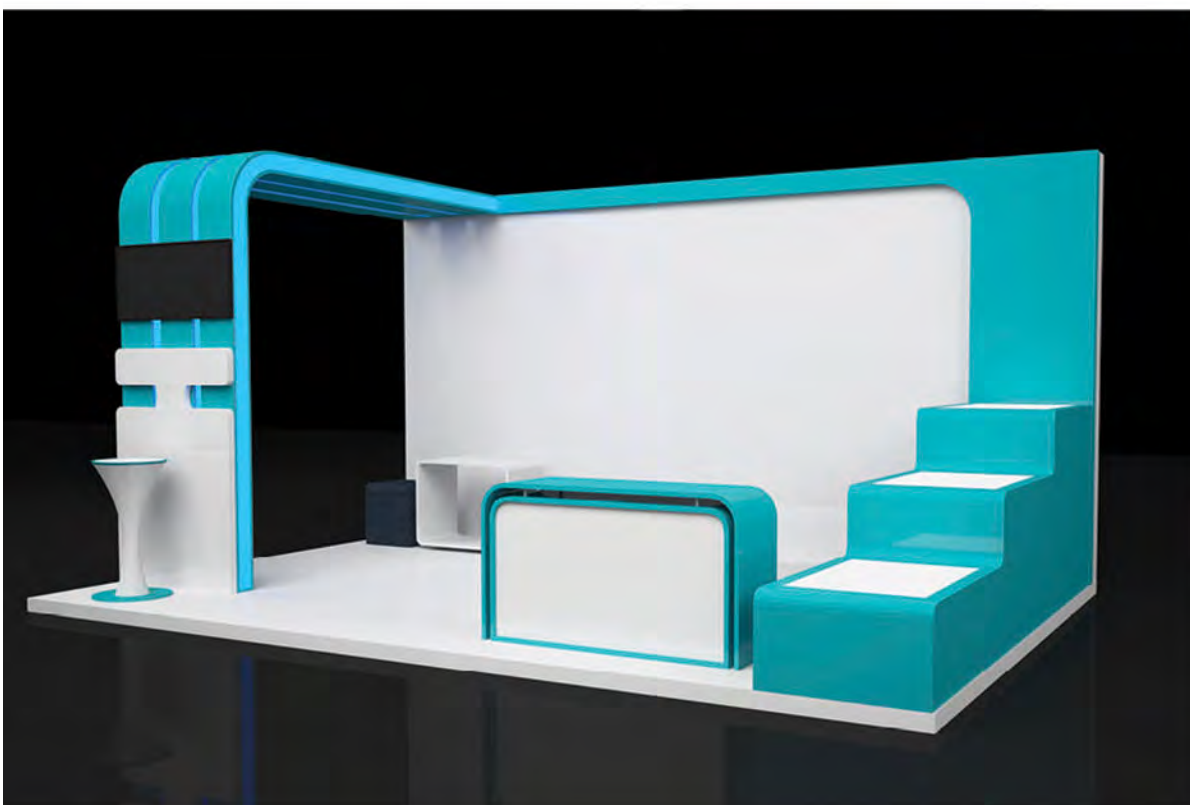
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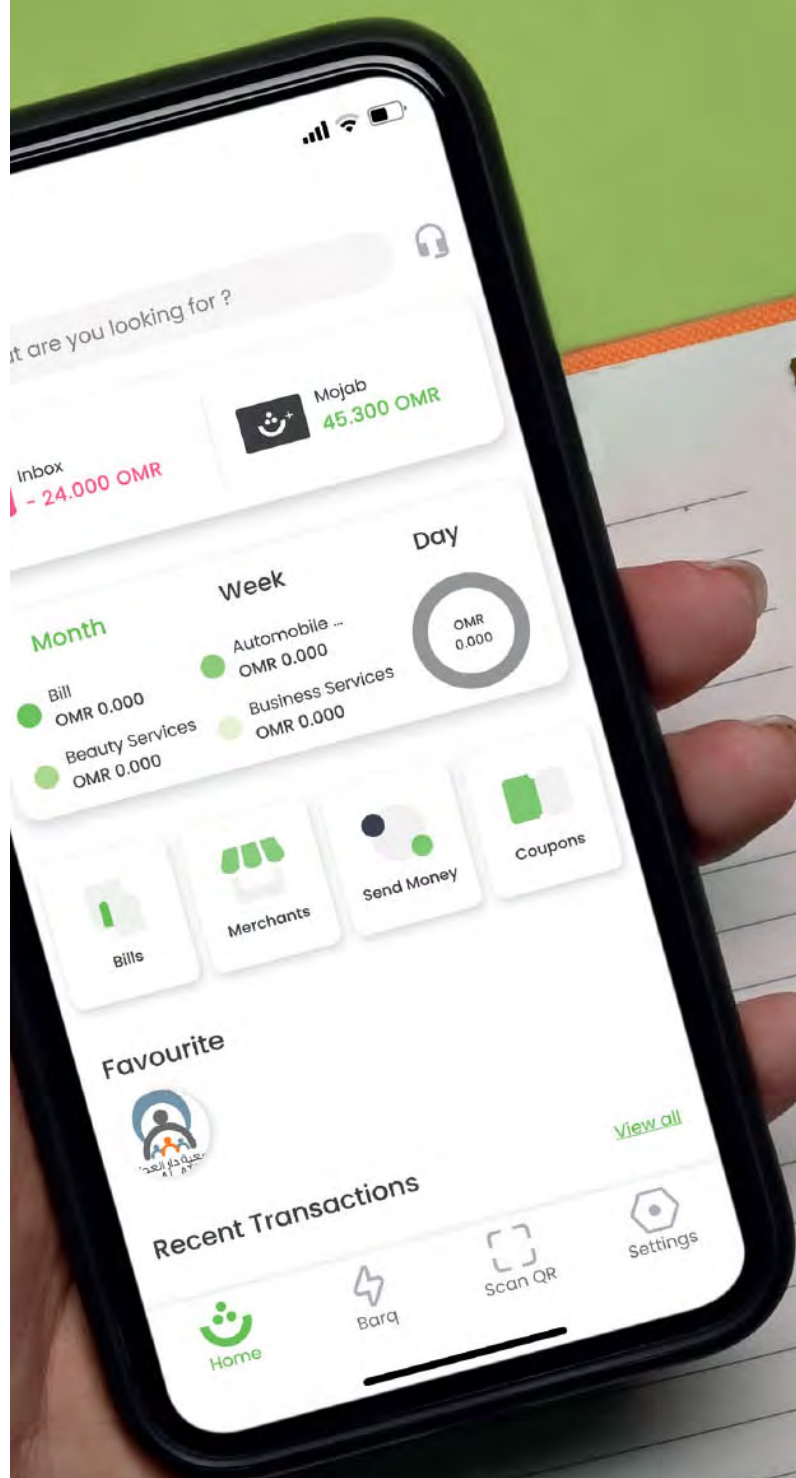
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PROMOTION EVENT

‘Welcome Oman’ highlights tourism products, services



MUSCAT: A promotion event showcasing tourism products and services offered by the Sultanate of Oman to visitors was organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Monday.

The five-day event, held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, was opened under the auspices of Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi, Heritage Undersecretary.

The event, which sees the participation of tourism operators and developers, aims to consolidate ties among partners in the Omani tourism sector and their GCC counterparts—to help open new vistas of tourism in Oman.

Azzan Qassim Al Busaidi,

Tourism Undersecretary underscored the significance of the tourism promotion event which, he said, projects the GCC market as the largest destination that “exports tourists to Oman”. As a result, a total of 1,085,828 tourists visited Oman from January to the end of September 2022, he added.

The GCC market, he observed, spurs growth in the tourism sector in Oman, distinguished in the region for its unique natural landscape, as well as cultural and historical diversity.

The event includes meetings, bilateral discussions and dialogues on tourism facilities, in addition to a field trip to some tourism attractions in Oman. -ONA



PRESENTS



INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ 2022

English: Friday, 28th October 2022
Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022
Venue: City Amphitheater, Qurm
Time: 7:00pm, Gates open at 5:30pm





AN EVENT BY



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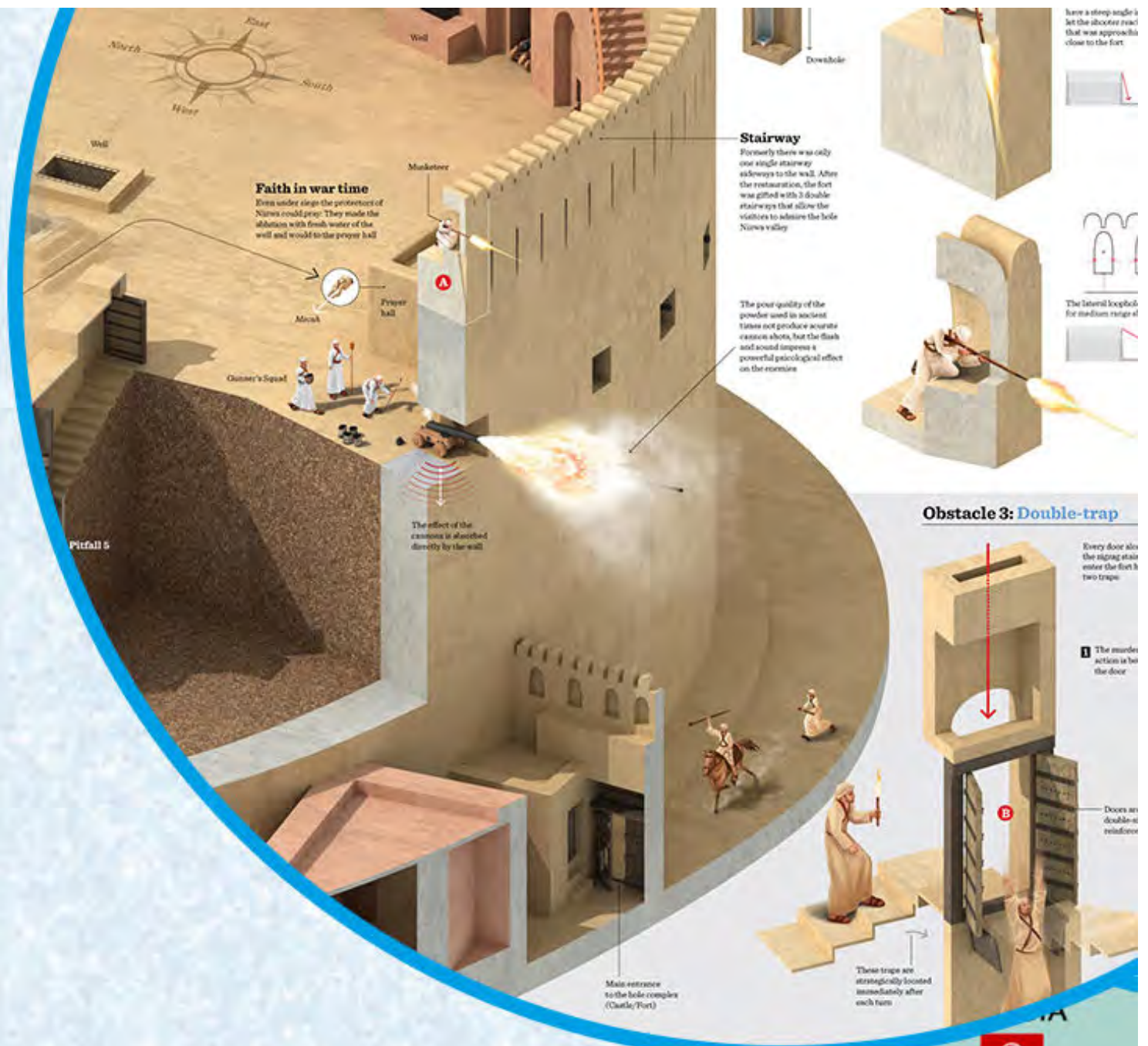


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