

OMAN PARTICIPATES IN GCC FARM COMMITTEE MEETING

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, took part in the extraordinary meeting of members of the GCC Agricultural Cooperation Committee. **>A2**



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HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, dealing with the bilateral relations between Oman and Tajikistan. **>A3**



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FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022 BEGINS

Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth attended the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. — **ONA/ONA >A4**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Producer price index rises in third quarter

1 The producer price index for the third quarter of 2022, posted an increase of 36.6%, compared to the corresponding period in 2021, the quarterly survey, issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information, shows. **>A5**

WORLD UK pledges air defence package for Ukraine



2 UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced an air defence package worth £50 million for Ukraine. He made the announcement during his first trip to Kyiv since assuming office. **>A6**

MARKET Pact for green biofuel blends supply inked

3 Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) and Oman Aluminium Rolling Company (OARC) have signed an agreement for the supply of green biofuel blends. **>B1**



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29°
MUSCAT



OMAN PROMULGATES BYLAW TO ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENTS

The bylaw seeks to establish an investment-attractive climate by facilitating procedures on obtaining approvals, permits and licences for investment projects

MUSCAT: With an aim to attract foreign investment and to further enhance the legislative framework to put Oman on the global map as one of the most lucrative destinations for trade and investment, some new reform measures have been undertaken.

Continuing on the path to further boost the economy and to enhance economic diversification of sectors in line with Oman Vision 2040, a new bylaw was promulgated on Sunday.

The Ministerial Decision No. 574/2022 on Bylaw on Regulating Offices for Endorsement of Foreign

Investors' Applications was issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

The bylaw seeks to establish an investment-attractive climate by facilitating procedures for approvals, permits and licences for investment projects, bearing in mind all security, legal, social and economic dimensions. It also aims to attract quality investments that contribute to the growth of the domestic products, besides creating employment opportunities.

As many as 18,726 applications for investment licences were submitted



via the InvestEasy portal between 17 November 2021 and 9 November 2022, according to the Ministry.

The Ministry's Investment Services Centre will draft the pertinent regulations and forward them to the Minister.

According to the Bylaw, applicants for investment licences are required to take the form of an Omani firm, in accordance with the provisions of the Commercial

Companies Law. The applicants should have professional competence, good reputation, specialised human resources having not less than 5 years of experience and capable of interacting with full competence in a foreign language. The applicants should have financial solvency necessary to practice the profession of accreditation offices.

According to the Ministry, the

period of licence is three years, renewable for similar durations, provided that the renewal application is submitted in the form prepared for this not later than 60 days prior to the expiry of the licence period.

In the event of the licence application or the licence renewal application is not fulfilling the conditions and requirements stipulated in the regulations of the foreign investor's endorsement offices, the Investment Services Centre shall notify the applicants about the missing parts in their applications. It will grant them a grace period of not more than 30 days from the date of the notification to complete the formalities.

The Centre shall also examine the licence applications and clear them within a maximum period of 60 days from the date of meeting all conditions and requirements stipulated in the regulations of the Bylaw. Once the set period elapses without comment, the applications will be deemed appropriate and accepted. — **ONA**

NINE IN FRAY

Expatriate contestants at OCCI elections to focus on attracting FDI, employment for Omani youths

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Attracting foreign investors and creating employment for Omani youth are among the major goals for the expatriate contestants as nine of them vie for the single seat in the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) elections on Tuesday.

This is for the first time in OCCI's history that an expatriate will be on the 21-member board.

The nine in fray are Ahmed Ibrahim Khalousi, Ahmed Subhani, Amir Tawqir Mudh'har, Ahmed Mohamed Redha, Abraham (Raju) Thanangadan, Abdul Latheef, Abdul Hakkim Valanthara Mohamed, Mohammed Ahmed Al Sharqawi and Yogendra Singh Katiyar.

Times of Oman spoke to a few contestants in the fray as the build-up to the elections entered its final phase.

Abdul Latheef, managing di-



Abdul Hakkim



Abdul Latheef



Abraham Raju



Ahmed Mohamed Redha



Ahmed Subhani

rector of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, the largest private healthcare group in Oman, is one of the nine expatriate candidates in the fray.

In his remarks to *Times of Oman*, Latheef said: "Representation from the expat community is a historic and an important step. The move will provide significant opportunities and entrust responsibilities upon us to support the expat business community in meaningful ways and help them

become a substantial partner in the economic growth of our beloved nation."

Latheef added: "My main aim will be to work on making the expat business community an integral part and catalyst in the realisation of Vision 2040 of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

"I would like to represent the expat business community and pursue progress in business policy and streamline businesses, legal and economic issues and suggest

positive changes. I will make efforts to further strengthen the position of the Sultanate of Oman as a global player.

"Another focus will be putting thrust and exerting efforts to establish more Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for undertaking and accomplishing projects of national importance and pushing for more FIIs and FDIs in advancing various industries." With three decades of experience in delivering quality healthcare services,

Latheef said he will do his best to communicate and support OCCI's efforts to facilitate business and ensure growth in all sectors.

Abdul Hakkim Valanthara Mohamed, another contestant in the fray, has been in Oman for the past three decades and began his career as a seafood exporter of Omani fish named 'Pride of Oman'.

Later, he moved into health industry and was credited with facilitating the establishment of KIMS Oman Hospital. **>A2**



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Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:07am

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Oman participates in GCC farm cooperation committee meeting

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, took part in the extraordinary meeting of members of the GCC Agricultural Cooperation Committee.

Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, headed the Omani delegation at the meeting, held via video conferencing with the prime aim of discussing food security.

Number of proposals
The meeting concluded with a number of proposals, including the endorsement of a permanent committee for food security to stem from the GCC Agricultural Cooperation Committee, as well as renaming the Agricultural Cooperation Committee as the "Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security Committee".

The meeting discussed the formation of a high-level GCC working team that will comprise personnel of the public and private sectors, under the leadership of Saudi Arabia.

— ONA





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OCCI ELECTIONS

Huge prospects to attract foreign investments

< FROM A1 Hakeem, executive director of KIMS Oman Hospital, said: "I know the country very well and I feel that as an OCCI board member it will give me an excellent platform to give my services back to the Sultanate of Oman. I have the experience and exposure as an investor and I know the challenges the foreign investors face. With my experience, I can facilitate foreign investment. I am in a better position as an investor to understand the problems and I hope to play an active role in bringing foreign investments in different sectors to the Sultanate of Oman."

Abraham (Raju) Thanangadan, who has been primarily in the shipping industry and is a resident of Oman for the past 46 years, said: "To allow an expatriate member to be a member of the OCCI board is a historic move by the government."

He said: "I hope to contribute to the development of Oman's economy and help generate employment, establish more SMEs, and garner more foreign investments to put Oman's natural resources to productive use."

"There is a vast opportunity to attract foreign investments in the field of medical, tourism, fisheries & minerals sectors. I strongly believe that my contributions in the shipping and logistics segment can contribute to it significantly. My experience in the logistics sector will come in handy for the growth of industry and commerce. In fact, logistics is the backbone of economy and vital for the country and connects us to the rest of the world."

Ahmed Mohamed Redha, an Egyptian investor, and a candidate for the seat on the OCCI board, told *Times of Oman*: "I took the opportunity to run for the elections as this is a historic move and a chance for a foreign investor to become a part of the OCCI board. I hope to be a bridge between foreign traders and investors and the Omani government." "My goal is to overcome and facilitate the challenges and obstacles faced by foreign investors in the Sultanate of Oman, and also to help achieve Oman's Vision 2040."

Redha said the presence of an expatriate member in the OCCI can help in Oman's investment diplomacy. "I have had 15 years of experience as a foreign investor in the health sector and I hope to use this experience gainfully to attract foreign investment," he added.

Ahmed Subhani, an investor from Pakistan, is another contestant. Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Subhani said: "I think a place on the OCCI board will be a good opportunity for me to help the business community and Oman economy by bolstering global trade and attracting foreign investments."

Subhani is the owner of Falcon Eye, one of the leading service provider groups committed to empowering the business community by providing unbeatable 'people solutions' across the GCC.

Subhani said his foremost task, if elected, will be to attract foreign direct investments and be the voice of the expatriate community. He said: "I would strive to ensure prosperity by ensuring a pro-business climate and act as a bridge between investors and government officials."

The elections will witness a total of 122 candidates in the fray for seats across the 11 governorates.

A total of 14,977 voters will cast their votes on Tuesday to select the 21 members of the OCCI board for 2022-2026.

The board of directors will consist of five members from the Muscat Governorate, ten chairmen of the boards of directors of the branches, five members representing the companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, and one member who will represent foreign investors.

Voting will be held at key venues and include Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in the Governorate of Muscat, Sultan Qaboos Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Dhofar, and the OCCI's headquarters in the wilayats of Khasab and Dibba in the Musandam Governorate, while the OCCI branches will be the centres in other wilayats.



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COMMENTARY

It is time to involve university students for the Vision 2040



Saleh Al-Shaibany

As an academic, I have the privilege to see the most ground breaking researches by final year university students which can add value to the 2040 Vision but they seem to get wasted because no one looks at them outside the classrooms.

For the last few years, I tried to get in touch with many decision makers who have the power to take forward researches of these brilliant students but the bureaucracy involved defeats the purpose of economic advancement.

I wish there was the right pedestal where the well executed students projects can be examined and according to their merits, adopted to help the Vision 2040. A national committee needs to be set up that will have a specific task of hosting students to present their projects and filtered through to find which ones can be taken to the next step.

In 2019, I attended a forum of the UK Research Centre for Academic Excellence. I was amazed when it was revealed that over 30 per cent of the researches conducted by British university students in the last

A national committee needs to be set up that will have a specific task of hosting students to present their projects and filtered through to find which ones can be taken to the next step

25 years, were adopted to be part of the economic activities of the UK government.

In the United States, there is a Committee in the Senate that looks at the researches of the university students that are worth being adopted for the economic improvement of the country. Omani students are the future leaders and they are being groomed in the universities and colleges. Once they know that their projects are not only used just to get the grades, but the best will be filtered out for the progress of the country, then they will achieve more.

With the 2040 Vision demanding national excellence, what is a better way to scout for future talent like the universities and colleges? We must match countries like the UK and

the US and set up a special Committee that looks at the students' projects that will contribute to the national GDP.

Ironically, it was a math teacher Harry Lewis, who inspired both Bill Gates in 1976 and Mark Zuckerberg in 2002 while they were students at Harvard University.

Zuckerberg later started Facebook while he was still a student at Harvard. Gates left Harvard but the imprint of his teacher's gentle encouragement inspired him to start Microsoft. Both men later revealed on television interviews how the inspiration of their teacher encouraged them to make their mark.

We know how Facebook has revolutionised the social media with millions of followers. We also know how Microsoft has made personal computers a constant companion to many more millions of people around the world. It all started within the four walls of a university room. Many more walked on to the path of knowledge and to make their mark when they left the universities.

What does it tell us? You don't have to be a rocket science genius to fathom that out. Was there an inspiring teacher behind every responsible citizen? Of course there was and it always will be. Here in Oman, we have a mission and that mission lies towards the path of 2040. It is not just the responsibilities of the universities alone, but legislators steering the compass of the economic vision needs to get their priorities right, too.

PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN

HM receives written message

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, dealing with the bilateral relations between Oman and Tajikistan.

The message was handed over to Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi when he received here on Sunday Zubaydullo Zubaydov, appointed-ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Sultanate of Oman. During the

meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields. The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashil Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry. -OMA



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HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Sayyid Badr meets envoys in Oman

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister held the 3rd annual meeting with ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr highlighted Oman's pillars of foreign policy and touched on regional and international developments and Oman's efforts in enhancing the investment milieu and economic diversification.

Climate issues

He also explored climate issues and underscored Oman's efforts in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

He pointed out that Oman welcomes cooperation and partnership with Arab and friendly countries in this field.

The Foreign Minister congratulated Qatar for hosting World Cup 2022 and congratulated the UAE on being selected as host of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) in 2023.

Sayyid Badr exchanged views with the ambassadors on cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and diplomatic missions. — **ONA**

FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022



Sayyid Theyazin attends opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup Qatar

DOHA: Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth arrived at the State of Qatar to attend the opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, due to kick off tonight at Al Bayt Stadium in Doha.



Official delegation

Upon their arrival at Hamad International Airport in Doha, HH Sayyid Theyazin and his accompanying delegation were received by Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahad bin Faisal Al Thani, Minister of State and Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Qatar.

HH Sayyid Theyazin is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Sayyid Hamoud bin

Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Au-

thority (OIA), Basil bin Ahmed Al Rawas, Sports and Youth Undersecretary and Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Qatar. — **ONA**

Invitation to Tender

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

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/199	Supply of Laptops

Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	Proven good track record and experience of supply and maintenance service
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration certificate and Oman chamber of commerce and Industry certificate in Sultanate of Oman.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 7 th December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 8 th December 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 12 th December 2022
date for response pre bid Last clarification	03:00 PM on 15 th December 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 22 nd December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

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



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BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman's Embassy in Ethiopia marks 52nd National Day

ADDIS ABABA: The Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia hosted a reception to mark the 52nd glorious National Day.

The reception included visual presentations on Oman's economic capabilities and tourism landmarks.

Reception hosted

The Ethiopian government was represented during the reception by Ambassador Dr. Gebeyehu Ganga, Director General of the Middle East, Asia and Pacific Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The National Day reception

was attended by a number of officials at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors of Arab and foreign states accredited to Ethiopia, representatives of the international organisations in Addis Ababa and some Ethiopian business peoples.

— **ONA**

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company SAOC invites specialized and approved companies in the field of drilling water wells to participate in the proposed tender listed below:

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/197	Drilling of Water Production Wells at Ajdeer, Alsan ,Arzat, Hiriti and Mirbat

Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	- Experiences in Drilling water wells. - Drilling deep and shallow water wells - Controlling collapsing during drilling process - Experience in drilling with foam and bentonite - Experience in developing the wells using air surging, jetting and lifting
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration certificate and Oman chamber of commerce and Industry certificate in Sultanate of Oman
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 7 th December 2022
Tender document published date	8 th December 2022
Site Visit	14 th December 2022
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 17 th December 2022
response pre bid Last date for bid clarification	03:00 PM on 22 nd December 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 29 th December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

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



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BILATERAL COOPERATION

OMAN EMBASSY IN IRAN

Sayyid Badr receives Norwegian counterpart

52nd National Day marked

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, met on Sunday with Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

The two sides reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them, especially in the fields of economy, renewable energy, climate and Green Economy transition. They also exchanged views on various regional and international matters of mutual interest.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two ministers signed the political consultation memorandum's renewal.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department. It was also attended by Ambassador of Norway to Oman and several officials from both sides. — **ONA**



TEHRAN: The Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a reception at its headquarters in Tehran, marking the 52nd glorious National Day.

The reception included visual presentations on the investment potentials and tourism landmarks in the Sultanate of Oman. A documentary was also screened highlighting Oman's history.

The Iranian government was represented during the reception by Mohammad Sadeq Mofatteh, Deputy Minister of Industries, Mining and Trade.

The reception was attended by a number of Iranian political figures, heads of Arab and foreign missions, academics and intellectuals. — **ONA**



52ND GLORIOUS NATIONAL DAY

NCSI DATA

Dazzling drone and laser shows light up skies in Oman

Producer price index rises by 36%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Drone and laser shows lit up the skies in the governorates of Muscat, Musandam and Dhofar in celebration of the 52nd glorious National Day, and citizens expressed their gratitude to the organisers of these events.

On Thursday, November 18, the 52nd National Day activities kicked off at 8:00 pm with drone and laser shows in Al Amerat Park and Al Khoud Dam in Muscat Governorate. Drone and laser shows were also held in Sahel Aten in Dhofar Governorate, and in wilayat of Khasab in Musandam Governorate.

Drone and laser shows formed and embodied the most beautiful landmarks of the Sultanate, including the image of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the forts of Oman, the dove of peace, the slogan of the 52nd National Day, and the flag of the Sultanate.

Everyone in the Sultanate, citizens and residents, waited for these performances to witness the beauty of the scene. Some were in their cars while others were accompanied by their friends and families, with joy and pleasure writ large on their faces.



Mohammad Al Harthi from the state of Muscat said "I came with my friends to enjoy the drone and laser shows in Al-Amerat Park. It was really beautiful. The organisers of these events excelled in the technique of drone and laser shows. Thanks to all the organisers." Waleed Al-Hamidi from the state of Khasab also said: "I went with my family to enjoy the drone shows. It was wonderful and my children enjoyed the show. The 52nd National Day is very special. Thanks to all officials, who made all efforts to make the shows enjoyable."



MUSCAT: The producer price index for the third quarter of 2022, posted an increase of 36.6 percent, compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

The quarterly survey, issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), shows that oil and gas prices took the lead by scoring a 44.1 percent hike, while non-oil products increased by 2.9 percent.

The rise in prices of oil and gas products was due to a 48 percent growth in crude oil and natural gas, coupled with a 21.8 percent surge in prices of refined oil products. The rise in the prices of non-oil products was due to a 3.1 percent growth in prices of the converting industries' group. Prices of mining, electricity and water increased by 2.3 percent. — **ONA**

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Invitation to Tender

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

Tender Reference	DISC/Tender/2022/196
Subject	UNE - LOT 118 - 2022
Tender Fee	RO. 52,500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid "DCRP Registration Certificate" and valid "CEP Authorized card copy issued by DISC" Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 7 th December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 8 th December 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for response pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 15 th December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

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



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة

Dhofar Integrated Services Company

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
مركز صلالة القويمة الصحي
P.O. Box: 2609, P.C: 211, 23rd July Street, behind West Salalah Health Center
Salalah, Sultanate of Oman - Toll Free: 80077700
info@disc.nama.om www.disc.nama.om



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology In Al Khuwair invites for the Following Project:

TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MTCIT/ 161/2022	SERVICES FOR CLEANING AND LANDSCAPING OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR 2023	17/11/2022	24/11/2022	08/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (EXCELLENT GRADE)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
MTCIT/ 162/2022	DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF U TURN AT AS SUNAYNAH ON IBRI-HAFEET ROAD	17/11/2022	01/12/2022	29/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (FIRST GRADE)	(35/-) THIRTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
MTCIT/ 163/2022	ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS FOR SCALE-UPS	17/11/2022	01/12/2022	29/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (ALL GRADE)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
MTCIT/ 164/2022	NDFL RENEWAL OF MOBILE FORENSICS LICENSE AND COMPUTER FORENSICS LICENSE	17/11/2022	01/12/2022	15/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (EXCELLENT GRADE)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE
MTCIT/ 165/2022	NDFL RENEWAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE LICENSES	20/11/2022	01/12/2022	15/12/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (EXCELLENT GRADE)	(25/-) TWENTY-FIVE OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE

Interested Companies registered with the secretariat general of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. The Tenderer should enclose Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to (Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee).

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE

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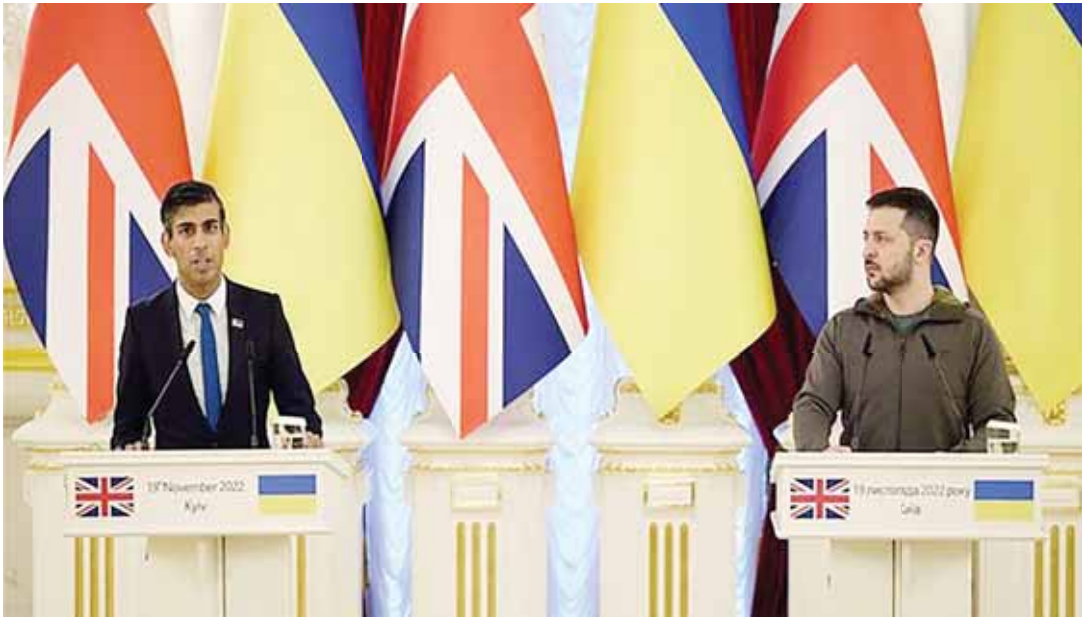
UK PM Rishi Sunak announces air defence package for Ukraine

He stressed that the air defence package will protect Ukraine against Russian strikes

KYIV: United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced an air defence package worth £50 million for Ukraine. He made the announcement during his first trip to Kyiv since assuming office as Prime Minister on November 19.

During his visit, Sunak informed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that the UK will provide an air defence package for Ukraine, including 125 anti-aircraft guns and technology. He stressed that the air defence package will protect Ukraine against Russian strikes and help to counter "Iranian-supplied drones." "Meeting President Zelenskyy, he confirmed that the UK will provide a major new package of air defence to help protect Ukrainian civilians and critical national infrastructure from an intense barrage of Russian strikes," according to the statement released by UK Prime Minister's Office.

It further added, "The £50 million package of defence aid com-



prises 125 anti-aircraft guns and technology to counter deadly Iranian-supplied drones, including dozens of radars and anti-drone electronic warfare capability." In the statement, PM's office noted that the announcement follows more than 1,000 new anti-air missiles announced by the UK's Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, earlier this month.

Calling it "deeply humbling" to be in Kyiv, Sunak pledged that Britain will continue to support Ukrainians in their fight. Rishi Sunak laid flowers at a memorial for the war dead and lit a candle at a memorial for victims of the Holocaustor famine before meeting first responders at a fire station.

During his visit to Kyiv, Rishi Sunak said, "I am proud of how the UK stood with Ukraine from the very beginning. And I am here today to say the UK and our allies will continue to stand with Ukraine, as it fights to end this barbarous war and deliver a just peace."

He further added, "While Ukraine's armed forces succeed in pushing back Russian forces on the ground, civilians are being brutally bombarded from the air. We are today providing new air defence, including anti-aircraft guns, radar and anti-drone equipment, and stepping up humanitarian support for the cold, hard winter ahead."

During the visit, Sunak also an-

nounced £12 million for the World Food Programme's response to Ukraine and £4 million for the International Organisation for Migration.

The UK PM's office in the statement stated that the funding will help Ukraine with generators, mobile health clinics and shelters.

Furthermore, Britain will be sending tens of thousands of cold winter kits for Ukrainian troops. Notably, the UK has been providing military and humanitarian assistance to Kyiv since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Britain has been imposing sanctions against Moscow since Russia began its offensive in Ukraine on February 24. **ANI**



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

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

UN Climate Change Conference in Egypt adopts 'Loss and Damage' fund

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: The 27th UN Conference of Parties (COP27) on Sunday agreed for establishing the special "Loss and Damage Fund." The "Loss and Damage Fund" will help to make up for the losses suffered by developing nations that are vulnerable to climate change.

Confirming the agreement for creating a "Loss and Damage Fund," the COP27 in a tweet said, "History was made today at #COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh as parties agreed to the establishment of a long-awaited loss and damage fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change."

COP 27 President Sameh Shoukry said, "I invite the CMA to adopt the draft decision of title funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including the focus on addressing loss and damage contained in the document FCCC/CP/2022/L18FCCC/PA/CMA/2022L20. There are no objects. It is so decided."

The delegates at the COP27 applauded after the "Loss and Dam-

age" fund was adopted after days of negotiations over the proposal. Notably, the closing session of the UN Climate Change Conference has started in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt.

The agreement marks the first time countries and groups, including the United States and the European Union, have agreed to establish a "loss and damage" fund for nations vulnerable to climate disasters made worse by pollution disproportionately produced by wealthy and industrial nations, CNN reported.

Negotiators and non-governmental organizations stressed that the fund was a significant achievement. A senior US administration official told CNN that the fund will focus on what can be done to address loss and damaged resources. However, it does not include liability or compensation.

The 27th UN Climate Change Conference will close at least one day later than expected, the Egyptian Presidency announced on Friday. The Egyptian Presidency called on negotiators to "shift gears" in order to reach an agreement on the remaining sticking points. **ANI**

REINSTATED

Trump back on Twitter after Elon Musk confirms his account reinstated

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump's Twitter account reappeared on Sunday after Elon Musk confirmed to reinstate his account.

Elon Musk on Sunday confirmed to reinstate Trump's Twitter account. "The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated. Vox Populi, Vox Dei," tweeted Musk.

Vox Populi, Vox Dei, a Latin phrase meaning "the voice of the people is the voice of God."

Meanwhile, Trump's account reappeared on Twitter after Musk's announcement.

Trump's once-blocked Twitter account reappeared on the platform Saturday, minutes after company owner Elon Musk announced he was lifting the 22-month suspension on the former president over incitement of violence.

Twitter CEO Musk has put up a poll asking users of the microblogging website to vote on whether to reinstate the account of Trump, who was earlier subjected to a lifetime ban over incitement of violence.

"Reinstate former President Trump," the billionaire Twitter owner posted, with a chance to vote either yes or no. "Trump poll getting -1M votes/hour," he said in a subsequent tweet.

As per the survey, slightly over 15 million Twitter users voted in the poll with 51.8 per cent voting in favour of reinstatement.

Trump had appeared less than keen earlier in the day.

"I don't see any reason for it,"



the former president said via video when asked whether he planned to return to Twitter by a panel at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual leadership meeting.

Trump, who on Tuesday launched a bid to regain the White House in 2024, praised Musk and said he had always liked him. But Trump also said Twitter suffered from bots, and fake accounts and that the problems it faced were "incredible".

Earlier in 2020, Trump's account was suspended in the wake of the January 6 insurrection at Capitol Hill following the US Presidential elections, resulting in legal troubles for the former US President.

This new policy is no surprise as the world's richest man has made several decisions in this manner, including one to buy Twitter.

On Friday, Musk began reinstating accounts that were previously subject to indefinite bans for breaking the platform's rules. Author Jordan Peterson and comedian Kathy Griffin were among the first people whose accounts were reinstated.

"New Twitter policy is freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach. Negative/hate tweets will be max boosted and demonetized, so no ads or other revenue to Twitter. You won't find the tweet unless you specifically seek it out, which is no different from rest of Internet," Musk said in an earlier tweet. Unimpressed by the recent changes brought in by the new Twitter CEO, a group of US senators asked the country's antitrust regulator to oversee the social media platform's consent decree and compliance with consumer privacy laws.

"We write regarding Twitter's serious, willful disregard for the safety and security of its users, and encourage the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate any breach of Twitter's consent decree or other violations of our consumer protection laws," reads the letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) chair Lina Khan, which was signed by seven Democratic senators including Richard Blumenthal and Elizabeth Warren. **ANI**

HUNG PARLIAMENT

Tight election race points to a hung parliament in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is heading for a hung parliament as the coalition led by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim and ex-PM Muhyiddin Yassin make gains but fail to win a clear majority.

Malaysia's tightly contested general election has delivered a hung Parliament, with political alliances led by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim and former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin running neck and neck, reported Al Jazeera. Anwar's Pakatan Harapan (PH or Alliance of Hope) coalition secured 82 seats in the 222-member parliament while former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's Malay-based Perikatan Nasional, or National Alliance, trailed behind with 73 seats, results from the Election Commission showed on Sunday. One seat was unannounced as of 5 am local time (21:00 GMT). Elections were not held on two seats.

A record number of Malaysians voted to end a recent spate of political uncertainty resulting in Malaysia's veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad dealing with his first election defeat in 53 years.

Mahathir came in fourth in a five-way fight in his long-held constituency on the holiday resort island of Langkawi, the election commission said.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's ruling Barisan Nasional coalition -- dominated by his United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party -- suffered major upsets, winning just 30 seats, reported Al Jazeera.

The corruption-tainted Barisan Nasional coalition, which ruled



Malaysia since its independence from Britain until 2018, could still return to power depending on post-election alliances.

Meanwhile, Anwar and Muhyiddin claimed their coalitions had enough support to form the government, though they did not disclose which parties they had allied with.

Without a clear winner, political uncertainty could persist as Malaysia faces slowing economic growth and rising inflation. It has had three prime ministers in as many years, reported Al Jazeera.

Muhyiddin's new National Alliance, which includes a Malay-centric conservative party and an Islamist party that has touted Islamic law, made substantial gains.

Race and religion are divisive issues in Malaysia, where the Muslim ethnic-Malay population make up the majority and ethnic Chinese and Indians the minorities.

Muhyiddin's Perikatan Nasional was a junior partner in Ismail's coalition government. If the result is close, the two could come together again to block Anwar, reported Al Jazeera.

Anwar said he would submit a letter to Malaysia's King Al-Sultan Abdullah detailing his support. If he clinches the top job, it would cap a remarkable journey for a politician who, in 25 years, has gone from heir apparent to the premiership to a prisoner convicted of sodomy to the country's leading opposition figure. **ANI**

FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022



Ecuador captain Valencia scores a double in his team's easy win over Qatar

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Qatar's dream of a winning start at home was dashed by a calm and composed Ecuador team as the hosts went down 2-0 in the opening match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at the Al Bayt Stadium in Doha on Sunday. The match followed a spectacular opening 30-minute ceremony



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that set the mood for the 60,000 fans inside the stadium. However, the party atmosphere of the hosts celebrating the start of the first-ever World Cup in the Middle East was somewhat dampened by the defeat. Ecuador captain Enner Valencia's brace provided the South American side a perfect start as he scored twice in the first half to give his team three points in the Group A match. The attacking left-winger, who plays for Turkey's leading club Fenerbahçe, effortlessly tapped in the first goal in the 16th minute from the penalty spot. Qatar's goalkeeper Saad al-Sheeb brought Valencia down in the box and the ex-West Ham forward stepped up to convert the spot-kick. It got worse for the hosts as Valencia powered in another header before half-time to leave the Al Bayt Stadium silenced at the break. The 33-year-old, who always looked threatening during the first half in which the South Americans ran circles around the home team, headed home a goal off a looping long-cross. It could have been a hat-trick for Valencia, but his opening goal, also a header, in the early exchanges was disallowed for a controversial offside following an intervention by VAR. After the Valencia double, Ec-

uador appeared to take their foot off the pedal and allowed Qatar some territorial advantage which could not be put to good use. Valencia was taken off the field in the 76th minute after having struggled with his right knee for most of the first half. Qatar's star players Almoez Ali and captain Hassan al-Haydos were both substituted with 20 minutes remaining, and the side were unable to muster a shot on target. The hosts coached by Spanish Felix Sanchez have been together in camp for the last six months to prepare for the tournament and work on tactics, but a nervous and disjointed performance led to a loss. With Africa Cup of Nations champions Senegal and three-time finalists the Netherlands to come, Qatar face tougher challenges ahead.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Group B

5pm (Oman time)

ENGLAND vs IRAN

Khalifa International Stadium

Group A

8pm

SENEGAL vs NETHERLANDS

Al Thumama Stadium

Group B

11pm

UNITED STATES vs WALES

Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium

FIFA.COM

OPENING CEREMONY

Spectacular opening ceremony kicks off World Cup

MUSCAT: It was an evening to remember for the 60,000 fans at the Al Bayt Stadium in Doha and millions of viewers around the world at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 kicked off in a spectacular style on Sunday evening. The 30-minute opening ceremony of the first World Cup in the post-Covid-19 era witnessed Jungkook of K-pop megastars BTS make the headline musical performance, debuting his new single solo single "Dreamers" alongside Qatari singer Fahad Al Kubaisi. Freeman was on stage alongside Qatari YouTube star Ghanim al-Muftah, who read from the Quran. Freeman had been an ambassador for the USA's bid to host the 2022 World Cup before Qatar won hosting rights, making his appearance even more of a surprise. He shared a message of unity, declaring: "What unites us here in this moment is so much greater than what divides us. How can we make it last longer than just today?" There was a cauldron-like atmosphere at the Al-Bayt Stadium as thousands of football fans streamed towards the spectacular venue - shaped like a traditional Bedouin tent - for the first World Cup to be held in the Middle East. Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani received a loud applause from the fans when he paid homage to the diversity in attendance. "How beautiful it is for people to put aside what divides them in order to celebrate their diversity," he said. "Let this tournament be full of inspiring days of goodness and hope, and welcome everyone to the world in Doha." Fireworks filled the night sky above the stadium shortly afterwards, as players from Qatar and Ecuador took to the field. Fans started arriving as early as 2 pm, five hours before the start of the match. The 2022 World Cup, the first in the Middle East region, will see 32 countries compete in 64 matches, with the grand finale scheduled for December 18 at the iconic Lusail Stadium.



FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

THE UNLUCKY STARS

STARS MISSING OUT DUE TO INJURY

DOHA: As the news emerged on Sunday that holders France suffered a big blow following the injury to star striker Karim Benzema during a training session on Saturday, it is time to look at some of the other stars whose dream to play in the FIFA World Cup have been dashed, also due to injury.

Playing in the World Cup is probably the dream of every footballer and the pinnacle of their career. Here are few other top footballers who will miss out on the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 due to injury.



Paul Pogba (France)
One the biggest name on the injury list is Paul Pogba – a World Cup and Euro winner with France. He underwent surgery in September for a knee injury and will not recover in time as France open their title defence on November 22 against Australia.



Sadio Mane (Senegal)
Senegal's star striker Sadio Mane was on the roster for Qatar but had to be withdrawn two days before the tournament's opening match on Sunday. Mane suffered a leg injury while playing for his club Bayern Munich earlier this month. Hopes for the success of the Teranga Tigers lay a lot on Mane's shoulders.



Marcus Reus (Germany)
Injury has forced Reus to miss the World Cup for the second time. The 33-year-old missed the 2014 edition due to injury, and his team went on to lift the trophy. Reus was set to make a comeback after injury and be part of Hansi Flick's German side for the 2022 World Cup, only for him to aggravate the injury on his ankle and be ruled out yet again.



Diogo Jota (Portugal)
One of Portugal's main forwards, Liverpool's Diogo Jota would have been among the first names in his team's starting XI during their World Cup campaign. But Jota suffered a calf injury representing his club during a league match in October. Portugal's chances in Qatar may have an effect in the absence of Jota.



Amine Harit (Morocco)
Marseille's Amine Harit's of Morocco sustained an injury that put him out of the World Cup when most of his teammates had already arrived in Qatar. The forward suffered a knee injury in his last club game before heading out for Doha. The 25-year-old was carried off on a stretcher. The images broke Moroccan hearts. Harit will reportedly travel to Qatar to support his team during the tournament.



Arthur Melo (Brazil)
In one of those incidents when a player gets injured without even being involved in a match, the Brazilian midfielder injured his left thigh while training at his club Liverpool. The injury happened in October and will keep Melo out of the World Cup. The 22-year-old showed his despair in an Instagram post: "It comes just at a time when, after huge effort and lots of hard work, I was ready to establish myself in my new team and determined to fight for my dream of playing at the World Cup."



N'Golo Kante (France)
France coach Didier Deschamps will certainly miss N'Golo

Kante in his midfield when the team takes to the pitch against Australia in their tournament opener. The midfield maestro suffered a serious hamstring injury last month, which has ruled him out until January. The 33-year-old was a key player in the French midfield when the Les Blues won their second World Cup four years ago.



Yuta Nakayama (Japan)
Japan's defender Yuta Nakayama suffered an Achilles injury while playing for his English club Huddersfield Town earlier this month. The 25-year-old has earned 17 caps with Japan and was in coach Hajime Moriyasu's Qatar-bound squad until he got injured earlier this month.



Jojo Wallacott (Ghana)
Ghana will be missing the defensive capabilities of their goalkeeper Jojo Wallacott who has been ruled out of the tournament with a finger injury. Wallacott plays club football at Charlton Athletic in England, and was left out of the 26-man squad less than a week before the start of the World Cup.



Giovanni Lo Celso (Argentina)
Argentina are among the favourites to lift the trophy in Qatar, and not just because of a certain Lionel Messi. The 2014 finalists have a solid list of players in their squad, and a Copa America title to their name.

One of the most important figures of that title win, however, will be missing in action in Qatar. Giovanni Lo Celso, a vital part of the Argentinian midfield, was ruled out after a muscle tear last month.

INJURY UPDATE



THIGH INJURY RULES OUT FRANCE STAR BENZEMA

DOHA: France striker Karim Benzema has been ruled out of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 after picking up a thigh injury in training on Saturday.

The news is a huge blow to the holders, who had been hoping the Real Madrid striker would be able to cap a dazzling year in which he fired Real Madrid to glory in the UEFA Champions League and La Liga.

Benzema wrote on Instagram: "In my life I have never given up but tonight I have to think about the team, as I have always done, so reason tells me to leave my place to someone who can help

our group make a good World Cup. Thank you for all your messages of support."

The 34-year-old has been struggling with injuries this season and Saturday's training was the first full session in which he had taken part since joining up with Les Bleus' squad.

The French Football Federation said in a statement that the Real Madrid forward was forced to cut short training after feeling "pain in the quadriceps of his left thigh".

An MRI scan later confirmed a rectus femoris tendon injury, which means the striker faces a

three-week recovery period.

Coach Didier Deschamps expressed his disappointment at this latest injury blow, having already lost key men such as Paul Pogba and Ngolo Kante.

"I am extremely sad for Karim who made this World Cup a major goal," Deschamps said.

"Despite this new setback, I have full confidence in my group. We will do everything to meet the immense challenge that awaits us."

Deschamps has until Monday to call up a replacement for Benzema, with the Monaco striker Wissam Ben Yedder one option.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,481.84 points, down by 0.09 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01 per cent at 461.66 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 2.63 per cent, was the top loser.

Pact signed for supply of green biofuel blends

This agreement makes Oman Oil the first fuel marketer providing biofuel in the local market

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO), the leading marketer and distributor of multi-sector fuel and lubricant products, and Oman Aluminium Rolling Company (OARC), a well-known producer of aluminium sheets in Sohar, have signed an agreement for the supply of green biofuel blends.

This agreement makes OOMCO the first fuel marketer pro-

viding biofuel in the Oman market and OARC becomes the first company in Oman to use such environmentally friendly and cost-effective B5 biodiesel by OOMCO in a partnership that will contribute to a reduction OARC's carbon footprint. The renewable fuel will be produced by Wakud International (Wakud) at their biodiesel plant in Barka's Khazaen Economic City. Wakud is an Omani SME producing biofuels using recycled cooking oils used

by Oman's hospitality industry.

Tarik Al Junaidi, Chief Executive Officer of OOMCO said, "This agreement is a step forward on the national and global path towards the transition to a carbon-neutral society. We aim to distribute decarbonised products as climate change continues to call for lower greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable solutions that can adapt to the decarbonisation strategies of our partners."

He added, "Our collaboration

with Oman Aluminium Rolling Company and Wakud will further contribute to Oman's circular and green economy ambitions."

The decarbonisation partnership with OARC is in line with OOMCO's continuous commitment to deploying sustainable and clean energy in all its operations. And this is also a first step toward achieving Oman's 2050 carbon neutrality target as biodiesel B5 is meant to reduce 4.3% of carbon emissions and OARC will use B5 in

its Aluminum Rolling operations as a quick win solution in the journey of decarbonisation.

Peter Rijkoort, Chief Executive Officer of OARC said, "There is an urgent need for companies like ours to address the challenges, while also leveraging the opportunities associated with decarbonisation. The use of blended biofuels for our production processes can lower our company's direct emissions by 5 per cent while remaining cost-effective."

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MSX inks MoU to enhance transparency

MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) to develop investor relations activities and enhance transparency.

The MoU was signed by Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of MSX and John Gollifer, General Manager of MEIRA.

Al Salmi said that MSX is a member of MEIRA. The MoU, he added, aims to prepare representatives of investor relations in companies listed on MSX.

The collaboration is considered a partnership that brings international benchmarks and best practices toolkits to support the listed companies and develop the quality of companies' performance in the market. Moreover, MEIRA's approach is to initiate and accelerate local IR Chapters in regional capital markets. — OMA

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الأهلية Al Ahlia

NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY TO PURCHASE MINORITY SHARES IN AL AHLIA INSURANCE COMPANY

Nov 21, 2022

Following the completion of the sale of Royal & Sun Alliance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c) (RSA Middle East) to National Life & General Insurance Co. SAOG (NLGIC), a public notice was made on July 7th by NLGIC of its intention to purchase the minority shares of Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG (Al Ahlia), a subsidiary of RSA Middle East.

Further to the public notice, on 20 November 2022 NLGIC issued a public announcement to purchase 47.5% of Al Ahlia's shares. The Board of Directors of Al Ahlia confirms receipt of the offer and that it is not seeking another person to make a competing takeover offer.

NLGIC will hereby enter a strategic transaction with Al Ahlia Insurance Company to complete the takeover steps with common interests to further broaden and strengthen its regional insurance business.

The transaction aims to transform both companies into a larger, stronger and more competitive regional insurance player emerging from Sultanate of Oman.

The transaction is subject to approvals from the respective regulators and shareholders.

For the avoidance of doubt, this announcement is a Takeover Offer Advertisement as defined by the Takeover and Acquisition Regulation (E/2/2019).

About Al Ahlia Insurance Co. SAOG (Al Ahlia)

Established in 1985, Al Ahlia is one of the longest serving non-life insurance companies in Oman. Al Ahlia offers a wide range of products and services in the retail sector including Motor, Travel, Personal Accident and Home products. With 24 branches, over 26 exclusive agents, a dedicated call center and a convenient online platform, the company provides its customers with unmatched sales and service support. It also offers a wide range of commercial insurance products including Property, Casualty, Motor, Construction, Marine, Specialty lines and SME solutions. Al Ahlia has received consistent recognition and awards such as 'Oman Insurer of the Year' & 'AIWA Award for Best Performing mid-cap company' for many years at regional and local award platforms.

About National Life & General Insurance Co. SAOG (NLGIC)

NLGIC is a subsidiary of Oman International Development and Investment Company SAOG (OMINVEST). Listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, NLGIC is the market leader and the largest insurance company in Oman with branches in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. NLGIC has been in the insurance industry for more than 25 years, offering a wide range of insurance solutions in Medical, Life and General Insurance segments with a successful track record of business performance across various financial parameters. NLGIC is the market leader in Oman in the Motor and Health Insurance segments and one of the major players in the UAE and growing fast in its new markets including Kuwait.

About Royal & Sun Alliance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c) (RSA Middle East)

RSA Middle East is a leading provider of property and casualty insurance in the Middle East. It offers solutions for both commercial and retail clients, across a range of product lines, including motor, property, medical, SME as well as tailored solutions for large corporates. It has operated in the region for over 50 years, bringing best-in-class international solutions and expertise to the Middle East. RSA Middle East is a joint venture formed by RSA Insurance Group plc, with majority shareholding, and regional shareholders in the Middle East. It has operations in Bahrain, UAE, Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It operates as local publicly listed companies in Oman, under Al Ahlia Insurance Company, and in Saudi Arabia, under Al Alamiya for Cooperative Insurance Company.

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MSX index ends lower

Oman REIT Fund, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 2.63 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,481.84 points, down by 0.09 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01 per cent at 461.66 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 2.63 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of National Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 278 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR0.81 million, with more than 4.05 million shares changing hands. Out of 37 traded securities, 9 advanced, 11 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR68,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR49,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR19,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,200.76 points, down 0.11 per cent. Prices of DIDIC and Omin-

vest were up by 9.17 per cent and 0.56 per cent respectively.

Prices of Muscat Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Madina Takaful and Bank Muscat were down by 5.15 per cent, 1.37 per cent, 1.18 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,107.56 points, up 0.31 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Flour Mills and Oman Fisheries were up by 5.15 per cent, 1.70 per cent and 1.00 per cent respectively. Prices of National Aluminium, Jazeera Steel Products, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cement, and Galfar Engineering were down by 2.35 per cent, 0.96 per cent, 0.86 per cent, 0.67 per cent and 0.56 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.12 per cent before closing at 1,555.32 points. Prices of Muscat Desalination and Ooredoo were up by 4.55 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding and Al Batinah Power were down by 2.63 per cent and 2.63 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,483.38	4,481.84	4,481.84	4,486.06	-4.22	-0.09
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,221.65	7,200.76	7,200.76	7,208.70	-7.94	-0.11
Industry Index	6,109.84	6,087.46	6,107.56	6,088.57	18.99	0.31
Services Index	1,558.84	1,554.88	1,555.32	1,553.41	1.91	0.12
MSX Shariah Index	462.16	461.38	461.66	461.69	-0.03	-0.01
MSX TR INDEX	5,669.22	5,654.67	5,654.67	5,659.99	-5.32	-0.09
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,556.65	7,534.79	7,534.79	7,543.10	-8.31	-0.11
SERVICES TR IDX	1,629.66	1,625.51	1,625.98	1,623.98	2.00	0.12
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,361.10	6,337.80	6,358.72	6,338.95	19.77	0.31

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
4,051,640	806,002	278	22,984,570,427	9	11	17	37

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (OI)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST HD	LAST OFFR	PBR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	30,488	18,293	11	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.600	0.590	0.010	1.695	0.600	0.590	0.600	0.100	94,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	55,900	20,074	8	0.358	0.360	0.358	0.358	0.356	0.002	0.562	0.358	0.358	0.360	0.100	239,274,823
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	164,780	64,933	26	0.394	0.400	0.394	0.396	0.394	0.002	0.508	0.400	0.432	0.400	0.100	257,773,915
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	100,000	10,950	2	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	15,260,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	633,435	171,027	34	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.297	0.270	0.100	439,005,516
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	35,000	11,550	5	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.100	72,600,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	3,391	729	2	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.215	0.208	0.215	0.100	13,158,919
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,500	1,284	6	0.856	0.856	0.856	0.856	0.856	0.000	0.000	0.856	0.860	0.874	0.100	642,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	134,390	64,914	18	0.464	0.464	0.460	0.460	0.480	0.000	0.000	0.480	0.490	0.480	0.100	113,476,800
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,000	470	1	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.000	0.000	0.470	0.450	0.480	0.100	25,550,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	108,135	32,301	8	0.300	0.300	0.298	0.298	0.300	-0.002	-0.667	0.298	0.298	0.298	0.100	98,600,068
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	161,275	32,739	13	0.203	0.206	0.203	0.206	0.206	0.000	0.000	0.206	0.206	0.210	0.100	25,728,980
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	593,180	166,118	44	0.282	0.282	0.279	0.279	0.282	-0.003	-1.064	0.279	0.310	0.279	0.100	100,094,284,780
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	30,235	2,176	3	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	6,480,000
Total	14	2,052,689	597,559	181												

Parallel Market

OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	132,987	8,764	7	0.063	0.069	0.063	0.069	0.063	0.006	9.524	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	32,511,861
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INT	100	13	1	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.120	0.011	9.167	0.131	0.120	0.130	0.100	53,611,267
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	8,600	1,170	4	0.136	0.143	0.136	0.143	0.136	0.007	5.147	0.143	0.130	0.143	0.100	28,600,000
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	300	35	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.110	0.005	4.545	0.115	0.108	0.118	0.100	17,888,296
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	500	51	1	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.000	0.101	0.097	0.101	0.100	18,389,918
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	61,000	7,140	3	0.117	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.117	0.001	0.855	0.118	0.117	0.120	0.100	50,122,885
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	15,806	1,154	2	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	8,896,875
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	20,700	1,573	2	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	421,158	39,589	12	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	21,273,585
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	433,840	22,994	5	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.100	50,592,313
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	430,500	15,088	13	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.100	25,004,222
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,000	44	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.000	0.044	0.100	64,354,464
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	5,500	517	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	244,000	43,932	14	0.180	0.182	0.179	0.179	0.180	-0.001	-0.556	0.179	0.175	0.180	0.100	36,334,574
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	1,049	940	9	0.929	0.929	0.920	0.920	0.929	-0.009	-0.962	0.920	0.927	0.920	0.100	9,569,210
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	79,004	6,636	9	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	51,450	2,916	7	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.055	0.057	0.100	17,200,194
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	5,030	417	2	0.085	0.085	0.083	0.083	0.085	-0.002	-2.353	0.083	0.082	0.085	0.100	2,786,430
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	9,800	363	1	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.038	-0.001	-2.632	0.037	0.035	0.038	0.100	7,386,517
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	21,625	807	4	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.037	0.038	-0.001	-2.632	0.037	0.035	0.037	0.100	24,970,835
Total	20	1,943,932	153,442	94												

DATA

China's natural gas output up

BEIJING: China's natural gas output logged robust growth last month, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed. The country produced 18.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas in October, up 12.3 per cent from a year ago. **Xinhua**

OETC PARTICIPATES

Forum discusses various topics related to electric power industry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) participated in the 18th GCC Power Conference & Exhibition 2022 from November 14-16, with the participants interested in the electrical energy field.

GCC Power Conference & Exhibition 2022, organised by the Regional Committee for Electric Power Systems in the Co-operation Council States (GCC CIGRE), is an annual conference in the region in the electric energy field. It addresses the production, transmission and distribution of electricity and witnesses the presence of many officials in the energy sector in GCC countries, including senior decision-makers of companies working in this field regionally and globally, a group of experts, engineers and those interested in the electrical energy field.



The conference discussed various topics related to the electric power industry, exchanged expert information, and the latest technological solutions and provide an opportunity for industry representatives & experts to raise the challenges they face while introducing a range of solutions and innovations through a series of interactive panel discussions led by key industry experts.

Eng. Masoud bin Salam Al Riyami, OETC Chief Operating Officer, highlighted the importance of the GCC Power Conference & Exhibition 2022 and underlined the Gulf needs for such conferences as a platform to deliberate on the present and future of the electricity industry and an opportunity for cooperation between companies and institutions working in this field.

RBI GOVERNOR

India is differently placed, at low risk of recession: RBI

HYDERABAD: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said a synchronised tightening of monetary policy globally has progressively increased the risk of a hard landing, which is a recession to tame inflation. India, however, is differently placed.

The governor was speaking about the rising inflation across the world and said that inflation in systemically important advanced economies turned out to be persistent rather than transitory. The third shock emanated in the form of aggressive tightening of monetary policy by the US Federal Reserve, and subsequent unrelenting appreciation of the US dollar.

During the annual research conference of the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) of RBI in Hyderabad on Saturday, he said, "Spillovers to EMEs (emerging market economies), and to India, were in the form of capital outflows, depreciation pressures on currencies, reserve losses and imported inflation."

The age-old research issues for emerging market economies like external sector sustainability assessment, feasible range of policy options to preserve sustainability, and analysis of their effectiveness have once again come to the forefront, more so because the nature and size of the spillover risk is very different now. **ANI**

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

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DID YOU KNOW YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS COULD REVEAL YOUR ATTACHMENT STYLE?

What does listening to a certain artist repeatedly teach us about navigating our relationships with friends, family, and romantic partners? It doesn't matter if Adele or The Weeknd are on your go-to playlist; the songs can reveal a lot about you. It all has to do with attachment styles, or the normal ways that people act, think and feel in relationships.

"I'm interested in the role music plays in people's lives. Since humans started making music tens of thousands of years ago, songs across cultures have always focused on relationships — getting into one, maintaining one or breaking up — so I wondered, do people listen to music that mirrors their experiences in relationships?" says Ravi Alaei, who graduated with a PhD from the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Arts & Science in 2019.

Alaei and professors Geoff MacDonald and Nicholas Rule from the Department of Psychology discovered that people's unique attachment styles correspond with the lyrics of their favourite songs in a recent study that was published in the journal *Personal Relationships*. In other words, for better or worse, we frequently listen to songs that express the emotions we are experiencing in a relationship.

"Lyrics matter, so pay attention to them," says Alaei, who is also a physician who earned his MD at McMaster University. "The lyrics of your favourite songs about relationships may help validate your thoughts and feelings but may also reveal things about your experiences of relationships that you might not have realized — some-

thing that you're going through repeatedly, that you keep coming up against."

Let's first review attachment styles, which can be loosely divided into four groups, according to Alaei. People who have anxiously attached fear rejection and frequently seek assurance regarding their connections.

Conversely, avoidantly attached people shut down their emotions and connection in favour of independence as a way of coping with their unfavourable expectations of relationships. Mixed attachment style individuals have conflicting expectations and alternate between being chilly and attached. Last but not least, those who are secure view relationships positively, communicate honestly and have faith in their partners.

"We asked

about 570 people to tell us their favourite songs, and then coded the nearly 7,000 songs for the attachment style that their lyrics expressed. In turn, we consistently found that avoidantly attached people prefer music with avoidant lyrics," says Alaei. "I expected to see a clear relationship between anxiously attached people and anxious songs because they are the most emotional, but surprisingly, this was the most tenuous result."

This strong connection between avoidance and individuals and society is evident on both levels. In a second study, the researchers coded over 800 number-one hits from the Billboard charts from 1946 to

over time, the lyrics have grown less secure and more avoidant.

"Popular music lyrics are running parallel to sociological trends of social disconnection — people valuing independence over reliance on others and feeling more isolated," says Alaei.

If we're listening to music that reflects our relationships back at us, is that helping or hindering our relationship skills? Alaei says this is the next step in the research.

Take Adele's discography for example, which Alaei says tips the scale towards anxiously attached themes and was popular among participants. "Someone Like You" appeared on many playlists, with the refrain: "I hate to turn up out of the blue uninvited / But I couldn't stay away, I couldn't fight it / I had hoped you'd see my face and that you'd be reminded

/ That for me it isn't over."

If someone is an anxiously attached person, will listening to "Someone Like You" on repeat cause more harm than good? According to Alaei, it all starts with self-awareness of your own attachment style.

"As an anxious person, you should recognize that you're vulnerable to a negative feedback loop, and your emotions snowballing," says Alaei. "Music can be a very powerful exacerbator of that because it can stimulate deep emotions and memories, ultimately reinforcing your worries."

Adele fans may be having very different relationship experiences compared to those listening to The Weeknd's "Heartless." With lyrics like "Tryna be a better man but I'm heartless / Never be a wedding plan for the heartless / Low life for life 'cause I'm heartless," it's a prime example of an avoidant song, says Alaei.

His advice: "Listen to the song a few times to help you process what you're going through and express your thoughts and feelings. You can decide whether listening to songs that reflect your experiences back at you is either helping you or reinforcing destructive behaviours for yourself. At some point, you may find it more productive to listen to music that provides a sense of security."

A popular throwback among participants was Sonny & Cher's "I Got You Babe": "Then put your little hand in mine / There ain't no hill or mountain we can't climb."

"It's pretty much a manual on how to be securely attached," says Alaei. -ANI



SPORTS

Suryakumar, Hooda power India to 65-run win over New Zealand

Suryakumar was the top-scorer for India as he slammed 111 runs in just 51 balls

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Surya-kumar Yadav's batting masterclass of unbeaten 111 and Deepak Hooda's four-wicket haul helped India bundle out New Zealand for 126 runs to clinch the second match by 65 runs in the three-match T20I series here at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

Suryakumar was the top-scorer for India as he slammed 111 runs in just 51 balls while Ishan Kishan scored 36 off 31.

Hooda delivered a stunning spell conceding just 10 runs in his four overs while bagging four wickets haul, dismissing Daryl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Ish Sodhi and Tim Southee.

Defending a competitive target of 192, Bhuvneshwar Kumar struck on the second ball of the chase as he dismissed Finn Allen for two balls duck. The right-handed batter and captain Kane Williamson then came out to bat and the batter kept piling runs along with the opener Devon Conway.

In the 7th over of the innings, Williamson hammered Washington Sundar for 17 runs while slamming back-to-back one four and a six. However, Sundar made a stunning comeback as he bagged the wicket of well-set batter Devon Conway 25 off 21.

Glenn Phillips then came out to bat and the batter slammed a four on the very first ball he faced but



his stint at the crease did not last long as he was dismissed by Yuzvendra Chahal for 12 off 6. At that point, New Zealand were tottering at 70/3. The right-handed batter Daryl Mitchell then came out to bat.

New Zealand batters looked helpless in front of great spells of Indian bowlers as they binned Kiwis from scoring runs. Deepak Hooda then gave New Zealand another blow as he sent Mitchell packing for 10 off 11 in the 13th over of the game.

James Neesham then came out to bat but could not do much as he fell to a three-ball duck. Williamson then tried to handle struggling New Zealand as he pulled some boundaries to ease the pressure. Even in the pressure situation New Zealand skipper Williamson stand strong in front of the Indian bowling attack he slammed a much-needed fifty in 48 balls.

In the 18th over of the innings, Williamson slammed one six and four but his stint at the crease was cut short as he was sent back to

the pavilion by Mohammed Siraj after playing a stunning knock of 61 off 52. In the 19th over of the game, Hooda struck thrice as he dismissed Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee and Adam Milne. India folded New Zealand for 126 in 18.5 over to win the match by 65 runs.

Earlier, Suryakumar's batting masterclass of unbeaten 111 guided India to a competitive total of 191/6 against New Zealand in the second game of the three-match T20I series here at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

Suryakumar was the top-scorer for India as he slammed 111 runs in just 51 balls while Ishan Kishan scored 36 off 31. New Zealand star bowler Tim Southee bagged his career's second hatrick as he dismissed Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda and Washington Sundar. Lockie Ferguson was proven to be a little expensive for Kiwis as the pacer bagged two wickets while conceding 49 runs in his 4 overs.

Put to bat first, India got off to a steady start as their openers Ishan

Kishan and Rishabh Pant scored 36 runs in 5 overs without losing a wicket. However, the partnership between the two was broken by Lockie Ferguson as the New Zealand pacer sent Pant packing after scoring 6 off 13.

The right-handed batter Suryakumar Yadav came out to bat, and he joined hands with Kishan to slam New Zealand bowlers all around the ground. In the 7th over of the innings, Kishan hit James Neesham for two back-to-back fours. After the four delivery of the 7th over rain stopped the play and the ground staff brought out the covers.

New Zealand got a major breakthrough after the match resumed, Ishan Kishan was dismissed by Ish Sodhi after scoring 36 off 31. Shreyas Iyer then came out to bat. After 10 overs Team India's score read 75/2.

Shreyas and Suryakumar then handled the charge to slam the Kiwi's bowlers all around the ground.

DESERT CUP

Maqsood dazzles in Oman's victory, Canada beat Saudi Arabia to stay on top

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman skipper Zee-shan Maqsood's career-best T20I knock, an unbeaten 102, led his team to a massive 106-run win over Bahrain in the Desert Cup T20I Series at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) ground in Al Amerat on Saturday.

In the other match of the evening, Canada bounced back from their loss to Bahrain to rout Saudi Arabia and stay on top of the table with eight points. A day after Al Amerat skyline was lit up with dazzling drone and laser shows to mark Oman's 52nd National Day, Maqsood lit up the skyline in Amerat again with his batting fireworks as he blasted his maiden T20I century – 102 not out in just 44 balls. He achieved his personal milestone in style, hammering the last ball of Oman's innings to a six, to complete a stunning century and give his side a formidable total of 220/5.

Maqsood's late charge saw seven of his nine maximums come in the last three overs of the innings. His knock was also studded with seven boundaries as Oman put a step on the gas to race from 149/4 to 220 in the final 24 balls.

Maqsood was given good support by Mohammed Nadeem with a 19-ball 30 and Rafiullah with a 14-ball 25. Earlier, openers, Jatinder Singh (28) and Kashyap Prajapati (13) gave the hosts a quick start with Duleep Mendis' wards ensuring the scoring tempo at a good pace.

Bahrain's frontline bowlers, Imran Khan, Rizwan Butt, Sathiyah Veerapathiran and Imran Javed, went for plenty with Butt and Khan conceding 53 and 45 runs in their respective spell of four overs. Chasing a target of 221, Bahrain needed a strong start but Bilal Khan got an



early breakthrough with skipper Sarfraz Ali out for just 4. Imran Javed (22) and David Mathias put up a fightback to lead the team to 60 in 6.5 overs. However, Rafiullah's double strike off two successive balls put Bahrain on the back foot. Mathias' dismissal by Samay Shrivastava for 39 in the 12th over triggered a collapse. Bahrain then spun into Shrivastava's web as the leg-spinner picked up four more wickets to end with figures of 4-0-18-5. Except for Ahmed Bin Nasir (28 not out), Bahrain batters failed to put up a fight as their innings folded for just 114 in 16 overs.

Bilal Khan and Rafiullah bagged two wickets apiece while Sandeep Goud also took one.

The big victory for Oman helped them climb past Bahrain to second spot on better net run-rate (NRR) with both teams having six points each. Oman's NRR is +2.6061 while Bahrain's NRR is -0.4300. With just one more round-robin match remaining on Sunday, Oman are in a must-win situation against Canada to eye a spot in the final on Monday. Bahrain take on minnows Saudi Arabia in their next match. A win for Oman and Bahrain will leave the three teams tied on eight points each with NRR to decide the finalists for Monday. In the other game, Canada, put to bat, set a total of 171/6 with Matthew Spoors top-scoring with 44.



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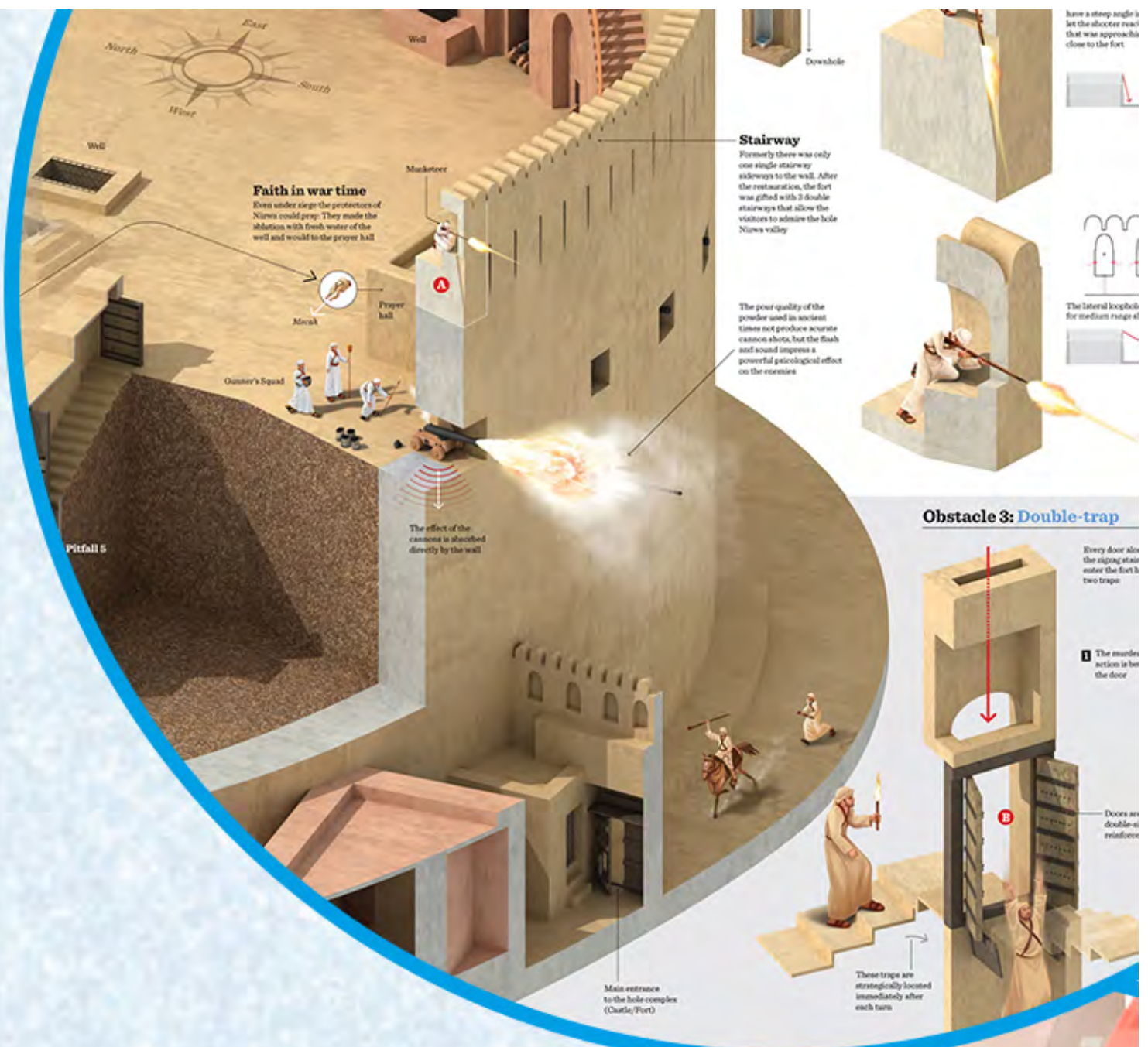




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Bank Muscat wins award from Global Finance

Best Consumer Digital Bank in Oman award is a testament to the bank's commitment to continue investing in state-of-the-art technology to further increase efficiency and improve customer service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has won the award for Best Consumer Digital Bank in Oman 2022 at the Global Finance's Best Digital Bank Awards held in Dubai.

The winners were selected based



on several criteria, including their strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality.

The award was received on behalf of the bank by Mohammed Sultan Al Habsi, Chief Representative, UAE Representative Office, Bank Muscat.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Hamood Al Jufaili, Assistant General Manager, Digital Banking, said: "Bank Muscat is delighted to win the Best Consumer Digital Bank in Oman award from Global Finance once again. The award is a testament to the bank's commitment to continue investing in state-of-the-art technology to further increase efficiency and improve customer service. As the leading financial services provider in Oman, we are committed to of-

fering the latest financial services and solutions in line with global financial trends. The consistent rise in active customers on our e-channels reflects the rising popularity of Mobile and Internet Banking as well as other digital banking channels. By emphasising service delivery through multiple channels and new products that cater to different customer segments, the bank aims to maintain its leadership in hi-tech products and services, including electronic payment and digital services."

Bank Muscat's continuously upgraded Internet and mobile banking services offer customers a fast, comfortable and secure banking experience. Today, over 1.3 million retail banking customers are using various features like real-time bill payments for utilities in Oman, such as electricity, water, telecom, mobile top-ups, instant credit card bill payments, school fees payments etc. In addition, fund transfers within the bank and in Oman, fund transfers across the world via the SWIFT network; speed transfers to a number of countries including Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Pakistan Sri Lanka and Egypt; Zakat calculator and charity payments.

SPECIAL OCCASION



Zubair Corporation celebrates 52nd National Day

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation celebrated the 52nd National Day at its headquarters, attended by Al Zubair bin Mohammad Al Zubair, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation, executive management and employees.

The celebration coincides with the country's celebrations of the glorious National Day, which is held in all parts of the Sultanate.

Al Zubair bin Mohammad Al Zubair delivered a speech in which he said: "On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Zubair Corporation and all its employees, I am honoured to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may Allah protect, preserve and bless him, and the Omani people on the glorious occasion of Oman's 52nd National Day. He added every year, we gather to celebrate this day which is dear to every Omani and resident of this beautiful country.

"The hearts of our people rejoice with happiness and pride, as we celebrate the 52nd National Day. On this special occasion, we must always remember to look back on our achievements in the past with pride, whilst at

the same time looking forward to building an even greater Oman with strength and togetherness, to write another chapter in the glorious story of the renewed renaissance. It is everyone's responsibility to contribute to Oman's advancement and work towards the development of this country to its full capacity.

"With the guiding principles of Oman Vision 2040, let us all direct our efforts in the service of the nation and contribute to a united vision that concerns every institution and every individual of this beautiful and blessed land. Whilst we celebrate and rejoice on this special day, let us remember to be responsible, determined and sincere, as we arm ourselves with knowledge, and work towards elevating Oman.

"Let us be ambitious and advance with confidence, proud of what we have accomplished so far, and confident of what our future aims are, for the sake of our dear homeland, the Sultanate of Oman."

He concluded his speech: As I conclude this speech, I pray to Allah, the Almighty, to protect and preserve Oman, His Majesty the Sultan, and its loyal people.

AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

'Fill & Win' this National Day with special promotion from Al Maha

MUSCAT: Commemorating the Sultanate's 52nd National Day of the Renaissance, Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company has kick-started the celebration by organising a few events including a 'Fill & Win' raffle draw to reward its loyal customers.

The draw promises a chance to win a range of fun and exciting

prizes, including 52 e-rial cards worth OMR52 each, 2 iPhone 14 and Changan Alsvin as the grand prize.

Exclusive draw

Commenting on the promotion, Ahmed Bakhit Al Shanfari, Division Head - Marketing & Business Development, said, "We aim

to share joy and gratitude with our customers, and we are proud to celebrate this special occasion through this exclusive draw. It has been only a few days since we launched the 'Fill & Win' campaign, and we are already witnessing a tremendous response, which we expect to continue."

Running till December 15, cus-

tomers can enter the National Day exclusive raffle by scanning the QR code displayed at all Al Maha fuel stations and filling in the details requested such as Mobile Number and Tax invoice number on the purchase of M91 and M95 petrol for OMR 5. The promotion does not include non-fuel or diesel purchases.

PROMOTION

Shahi Foods and Spices picks 2nd set of Golden Bonanza winners

MUSCAT: Shahi Foods and Spices, the Sultanate's leading spices, pulses, coffee, nuts, dry-fruits and cereals company announced the second set of winners of its Golden Bonanza promotion at a special ceremony held at its flagship buy and mill food mart -Mashhoor - in Sohar recently.

The promotion offers customers the golden opportunity to win a gold coin (22 karats) every day of the campaign period, which ends on January 15, 2023.

The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Khalid Al Badi from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in the presence of Mohammed Ashraf Mulamparambil, Managing Director and Abdul Rahman Mohamed Ashraf Mulamparambil, Executive Director of Shahi Foods.

Congratulating the winners of both raffle draws, Ashraf Mulamparambil said, "We are delighted to present gold coins to the lucky winners of our Golden Bonanza promotion. The coins are a token of our appreciation and gratitude for our customers for repeatedly purchasing our products and reposing their faith in us over the years. As a customer-focused legacy brand, we look to add value to our product



offerings and enhance their overall experience continuously."

"Customers gain entry into the Shahi Golden Bonanza raffle draw via a scratch-and-win coupon, which they receive at participating supermarkets and hypermarkets throughout Oman, on buying Shahi products worth OMR 3. They then get a chance to win one gram of gold coins under the monthly raffle draws that are conducted announcing one winner for each day of the month. The winning prizes of scratch and win coupons are Shahi Products, which can be claimed immediately at the supermarket or hypermarket. The

Golden Bonanza promotion will culminate in a Grand Raffle Draw; with the first five prizes winning a whopping 100, 50, 25, 10 and 5 grams of gold respectively. The more customers buy, the more their chances to win!"

The next draw will be held in December and the mega raffle draw will be held in January 2023.

The lucky winners of the second instalment of the draw who received a gold coin each are Aziz Al Shidi, Are Mohan Rao, Yasseen, Navas, Abduljaleel, Mohammed Al Saadi, Sahadmon S, MD Ayub, Rashid, Abdullah, Morshed, Ivy Babu, Maruti Kambali,

Ala Al Mahrouqi, GangadharAlle, Mohammed Robel, Mohammed, Abdu Melethil, Ahmed Sayf Hamd, Amna Al Farsi, Delwar Hossain, Rafid Rasheed, Nithin Ozhukil Meethal, Bishojit, Joby Joy, Sanjay Kumar Panda, Hamad Al Badi, Shahzaib, Issa Al Mahmooli, Mohammed Abu Taher, Khamis Al Maktoumi.

The winners of the first draw were: Muhammad Shuhaib, Rahul Kaushal, Muhammad Shareef, Faisal Kuzhichal, AsimSaif, Neha Basheer, Mohammed Al Mawaali, Ashiq, Abdul Malik, Latha M, NuruddinSehab, Hamad, Jinoyantony, Ayman Al Ajmi, Wafi Al Rahbi, and Hashim Salah Aldeen.

Founded in 1986, Shahi Foods & Spices LLC is Oman's leading brand in offering 200+ varieties of food products in the categories of Pulses, Lentils, Spices, Nuts, Dry Fruits and Arabic Coffee. Their uncompromising commitment to a quality, wide range of products and penchant for innovation makes Shahi the most trusted household name in the Sultanate.

Shahi is the only brand in the country with a fully-equipped quality control facility. The company procures raw materials from the countries of origin and processes them at its manufacturing unit.

NATIONAL DAY AND CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS ORGANISED

Malayalam Mums Middle East Muscat celebrated 52nd National Day and Children's Day at Golden Tulip Headington Hotel - Ruwi. - Supplied pictures





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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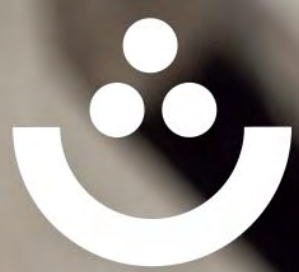
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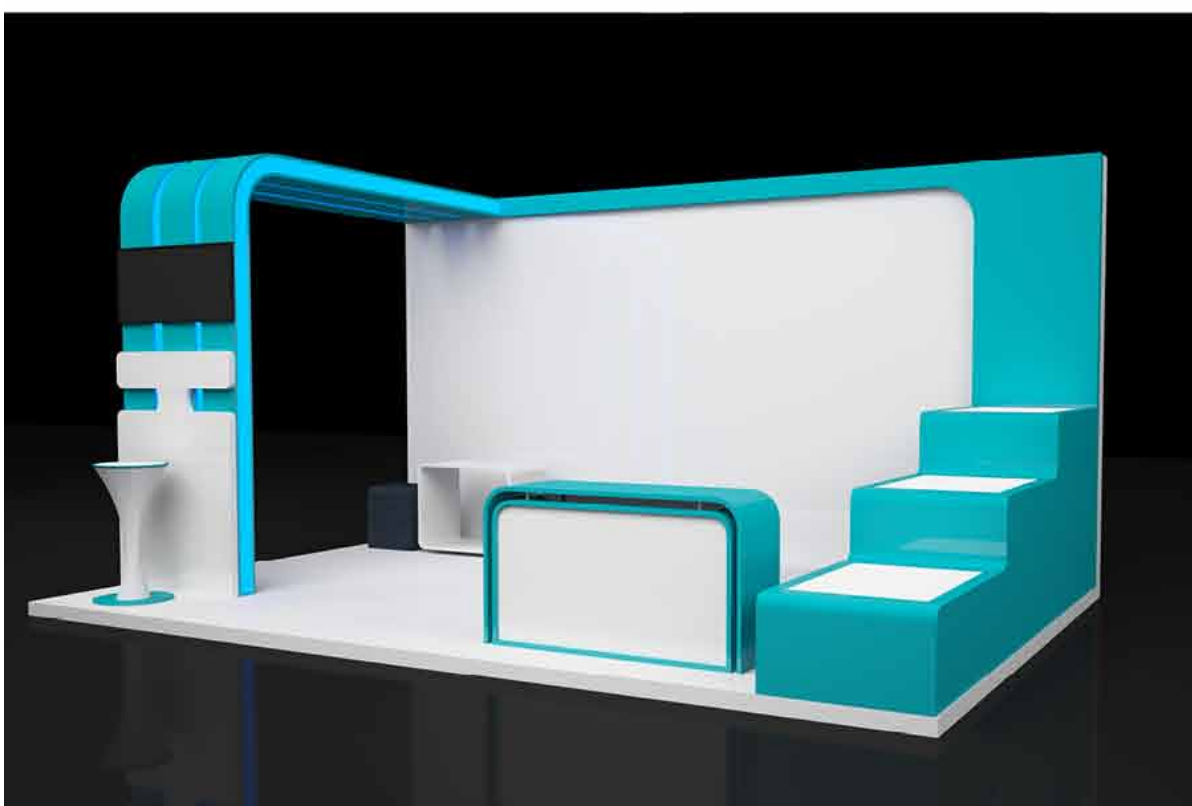
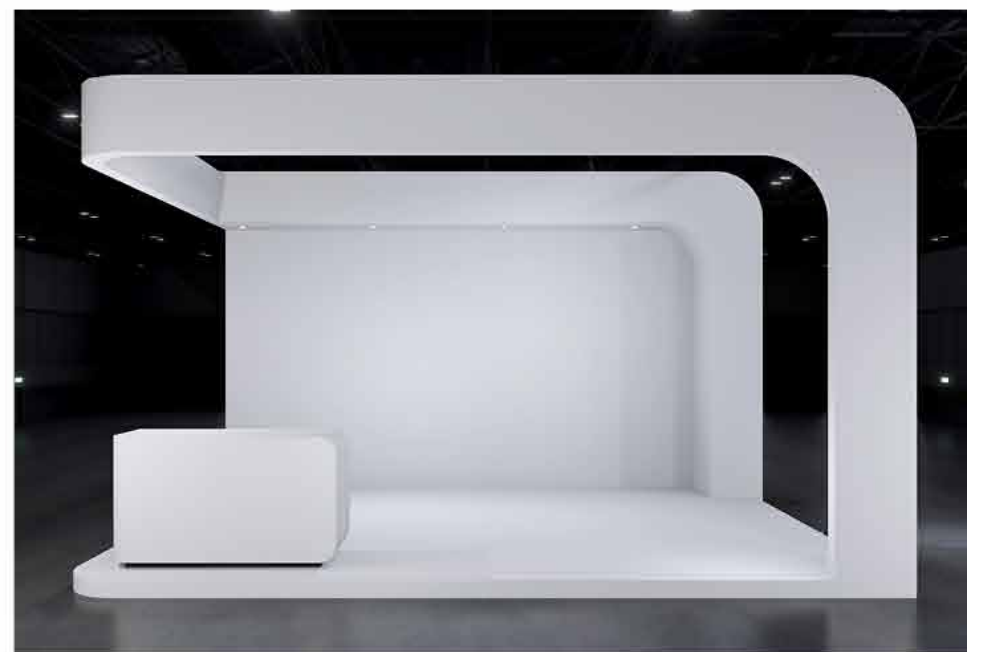
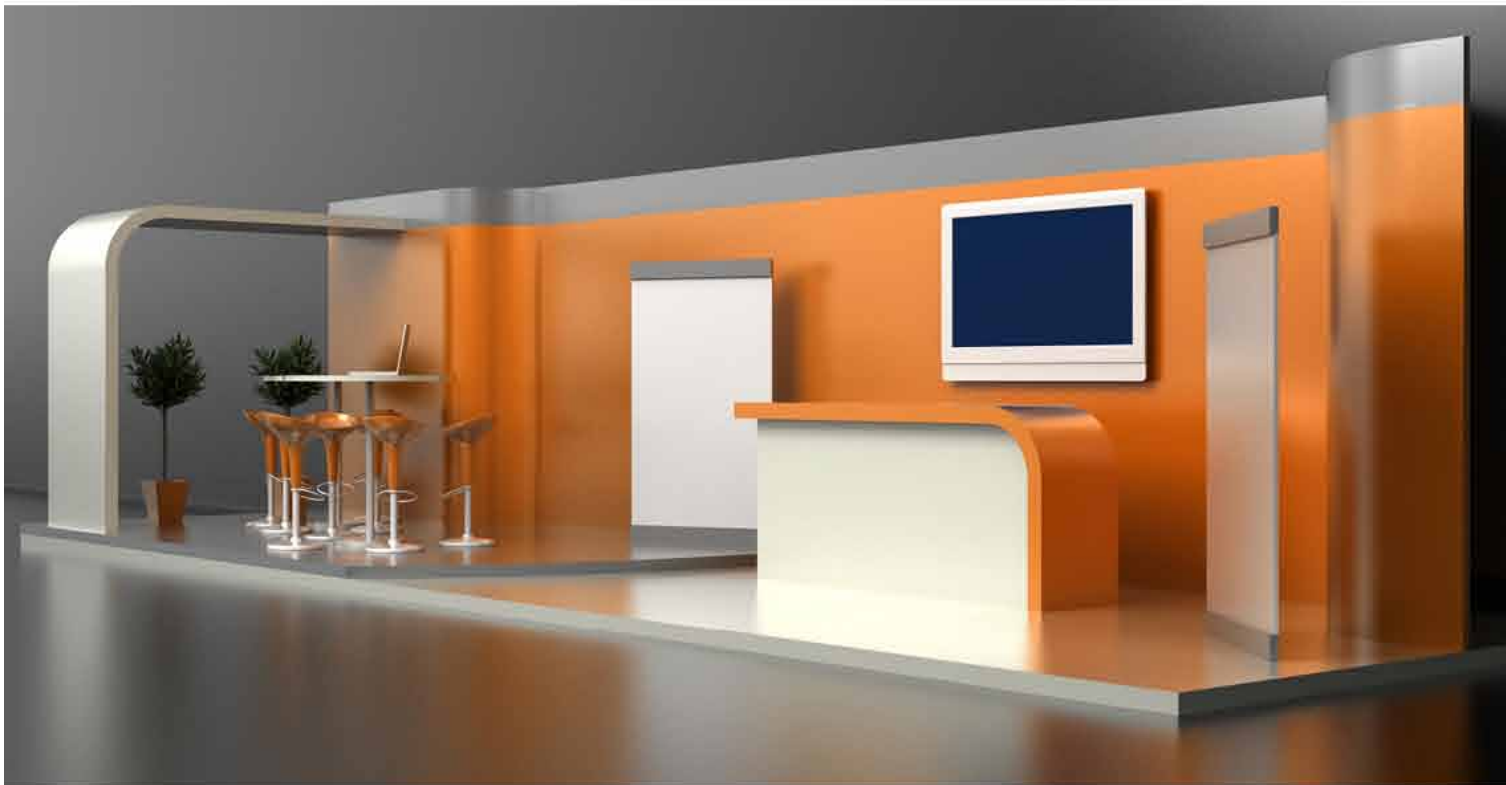
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