

OMANTEL, ZAIN LAUNCH JOINT VENTURE 'ZOI'

Zain Group and Omantel announced the launch of a joint venture by the name of Zain Omantel International 'ZOI', an independent company that provides wholesale services in the telecommunications sector. **>B1**



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OMAN, JORDAN FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS RELATIONS ON PHONE CALL

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister yesterday reviewed the bilateral relations between Oman and Jordan through a phone call with Ayman Safadi, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates. The two sides also discussed a number of regional and international issues. — **ONA**



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MANJAM LABS

Streamlining of govt service procedures launched in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, in cooperation with Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, on Sunday launched the second phase of Manjam Labs which aims to streamline government service procedures.

The second phase, held at Oman Institute for Oil and Gas, targets streamlining 120 government services. As many as 10 government establishments are taking part, distributed among 5 work labs.

The targeted establishments in the second phase comprise the following: Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Public Authority for Social Insurance, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Higher Education,



Research and Innovation, the Public Prosecution, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the Environment Authority, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Supreme Judiciary Council.

— **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Meetings on aviation safety, air navigation

1 Oman is hosting the 20th meeting of the Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Region Group and the 10th meeting on Regional Aviation Safety in the Middle East. Oman is represented by the CAA at the 4-day meetings. **>A3**

WORLD Pasang Dawa scales Everest 26 times

2 Pasang Dawa Sherpa, also known as Pa Dawa, scaled Mount Everest for the 26th time, matching the record set by a fellow Nepalese guide for the most ascents of the world's highest peak. **>A7**

SPORTS Lionel Messi booed by PSG fans

3 Lionel Messi was booed by some PSG fans in his first match since being suspended for his unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia as the Ligue 1 leaders beat Ajaccio 5-0. **>B6**

HEALTH MINISTRY VOWS TO DEVELOP WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE

The ministry augmented the budget for the strategic stock of medicines and medical supplies to OMR10 million. The aim is to ensure that enough supplies are in place to meet emergency conditions, stave off the effects of epidemics and disasters and, eventually, protect the health of citizens

DR. HILAL ALI AL SABTI, Minister of Health

The new projects include the establishment and replacement of 13 hospitals with a capacity ranging between 50 and 700 beds

MUSCAT: The health ministry has pledged to continue providing a high standard of healthcare and develop a world-class health system.

Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, said that the ministry has started a number of projects and initiatives to meet demand in accordance with the current and future priorities.

Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti was present before the 13th ordinary session of the Shura Council, on Sun-

day to discuss the statement of the Ministry of Health.

The statement covered four themes: comprehensive health coverage, funding the health system, human resources and digital transition.

The minister pointed out that the projects seek to consolidate the decentralisation of health services by providing a package of specialised services in referral hospitals. To meet this objective, about 240 new specialised serv-

ices have been introduced in hospitals and health complexes, he said.

The new projects include the establishment and replacement of 13 hospitals with a capacity ranging between 50 and 700 beds. This raises the number of hospitals affiliated to the Ministry of Health to 64, said Dr. Hilal, noting that 18 primary healthcare institutions have been set up or developed to meet population growth.

The ministry is currently expanding five hospitals (adding 600 additional beds) and upgrading the level of three health centres into local hospitals, he said. This is in addition to the establishment and expansion of eight emergency units and construction of nine dialysis units, he added.

The minister explained that the projects being implemented include the setting up of a central laboratory, a regional ware-

house in Musandam Governorate, two centres for recovery from addiction in the governorates of Muscat and North Al Batinah and a national centre for organ transplantation.

The minister said that the total number of workers at the Ministry of Health by the end of 2021 stood at 37,732. This accounts for a decrease of 2.2%, he observed, noting that, despite this decrease, the overall percentage of Omanisation remained at 73 percent in 2021.

Citing other facts, the minister said that the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic) prolonged patient waiting lists and postponed outpatient appointments and surgical interventions. This, he said, prompted the ministry to undertake contingency measures to address the problems and to reduce pressures. **>A5**

CLASS 12 CBSE TOPPERS

Indian school toppers share their success stories, dreams

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The duo who emerged as class 12 CBSE toppers in science stream – Dhruvan Gnanadhandayuthapani and Shaan Shetal Vora – were delighted by their achievements but admitted that they didn't expect to be the toppers in Oman.

In an exclusive chat with *Times of Oman*, Dhruvan, a student of Indian School Ghubra, said: "I was quite surprised to know that I have topped in the science stream in Oman along with Shaan [Shetal Vora of ISWK]. I was expecting to get around 95 percent. But when I saw the result - 98.6 percent, I was surprised.

"I owe a lot to my coaching institute, AhaGuru, and the teachers at the coaching institute along with my school teachers. I would like to thank my teachers Balaji Sampath (Physics) and DP Sankaran (Chemistry) at AhaGuru."

Dhruvan, who has scored 99.03 percentile in JEE prelims, has decided to pursue computer science in TU Delft University in Netherlands, and plans to launch a start-up once he completes his degree.



Dhruvan with his parents

The ISG student scored 100 in Chemistry and received 99 each in Physics and Mathematics. He scored 98 in Engineering Graphics and 97 in English.

"I studied eight hours daily ahead of my examinations and the support of my parents was exceptional," added Dhruvan.

Shaan Shetal Vora of Indian School Wadi Kabir (ISWK) said the "result was unbelievable" as he was not "expecting".

"I was hoping to get around 98 percent but to be Oman topper was a surprise. I owe a lot to my

ISWK teachers and my parents for this.

"The mantra to my success was to revise everyday what is taught in class. I concentrate a lot in class and study 5-6 hours a day," added Shaan, who also enjoys drawing as a hobby.

Shaan scored 100 in Mathematics and Chemistry and got 99 in Computer Science, 97 in Physics and 97 in English.

Shaan has done well in JEE prelims and is aiming at JEE Advanced and said: "I wish to continue my higher studies in India and



Shaan Shetal Vora with his family

become a computer engineer."

Just like science stream, the humanities stream also had joint toppers in Rebecca Magdalena D'Souza of Indian School Muscat and Thana Aysha of Indian School Ghubra with 96.6 percent each.

"The feeling of being Oman topper is yet to sink in," said Rebecca, who said she studied regularly and paid "lot of attention in class."

Rebecca is set to pursue political science in Concordia University in Montreal, Canada and

plans to make a career in international diplomacy. The only daughter of working parents, Rebecca said: "I was sure of scoring good marks but to be topper in Oman is a great feeling."

With varied interests from learning violin to French language and attending Model United Nations meet, Rebecca thanked her parents, her class teacher, Duha Fathima, Joyson Cyril (ISM's assistant vice principal), and teachers Jino Varghese, Sajeev MD and PJ Mathew. Thana Aysha said that the "result was a surprise". **>A6**

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INFORMATION MINISTRY

Information Ministry workshop focuses on reporting events from governorates

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information on Sunday organised a workshop titled “Governorates Media”, which focuses on reporting events from the governorates of Oman. The workshop was aimed at defining challenges, seeking solutions and rallying efforts to promote media activity in these governorates.

The workshop focused on four main themes shaped by a number of government departments—including the Ministry of Information—and private establishments. The themes evolve around the “Role of the Ministry of Information”, the “Role of Institutional Media based in offices of governors and government departments”, the “Role of Private Media Agencies” and the “Role of Community Media and Voluntary Media Initiatives in Governorates”.

HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, who



opened the workshop, said that media has to be present at all stages of development in the governorates. He pointed out that media represents a link between the recipients of news (members of the public), the investors, the governors and officials.

Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, said in a speech during the workshop that Governorates Media constitutes a core component of media system

in the Sultanate of Oman, since it feeds the daily media content with

information from various governorates through audio and visual channels, print and digital media.

Dr. Abdullah pointed out that the Ministry of Information is committed to empowering the governorates through effective communication and media interaction. He said that the media forms a bridge between the governorates and the broader segments of society.

The workshop included a UK presentation on 'provincial media'. The presentation dealt with the important role of local media in

overall process of communication, notably during emergencies and relief aid in crises and disasters. It elaborated on the role of the radio service, whose significance lies in uniting communities, promoting positive dialogue for change, offering opportunities for diversity in opinion and addressing common challenges.

The workshop also included various discussion sessions: A session titled "Role of Private Digital Media in Covering Governorates", a session on the "Role of Community Media and Voluntary Media Initiatives in the Governorates" and a third session titled "Institutional Media Based in the Offices of Governors and Government Institutions". The opening of the workshop was attended by governors, representatives of institutions tasked with governorates' affairs and those interested in governorates' media. — **ONA**

FOREIGN MINISTRY



Oman hails Sudan Forces' signing of Declaration of Humanitarian Principles

MUSCAT: The Foreign Ministry has expressed the Sultanate of Oman's welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Humanitarian Principles between representatives of Sudan's Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Oman has also affirmed its full support for the unity, stability and security of Sudan and underscored the need to continue dia-

logue between all parties to help achieve the Sudanese people's aspirations for peace and stability.

Positive efforts

Positive efforts
Oman appreciated the essential role and positive efforts made by many regional and international parties to reach this agreement, notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. — **ONA**



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COMMENTARY

A tribute to my uncle



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Last week, one of my uncles made a perfect exist from this world. He died peacefully six hours after the conclusion of the wedding of his daughter.

It was perfect timing as if he did not want the family to cancel the wedding and getting into a bereavement gear while they were in the middle of a celebration. Of course, the family would have preferred that he lived a little longer, but then life is not about what we want.

Looking back, my uncle always planned his life to the last detail while he was alive and in my opinion, that contributed to his longevity. He was 93 when he passed away and that definitely is a long way to go in a life. That brings the question of longevity and the content of our lives.

I went to greet him during the last Eid, barely a week before his death. At his age, he was physically fit, moving around with his own two feet and wearing no glasses. We discussed international politics and even economics. He was versed with all the latest in global arena. Now I know, what contributed to his longevity.

Like most of us, he was not perfect, he had his own flaws in his younger days. But he kept his mind active all his life

and the most important thing, he was almost stress free. Looking back now, he never let anything get into the way between his peace of mind and sanity. He had his own share of ups and downs in life, including living in the normal 'worry zone' of children transgressing the path of life. As the saying goes, he took it all on his chin and emerged an unscathed.

I once asked his if he had any regrets in life. He looked thoughtfully on the ceiling and said honestly, yes, he had a few, but he did not let them push him down. He went into a little detail with a smile on his face. Now looking back, I know he used that path of regret as a pedestal to correct his future. The last question I asked him was "what is your biggest challenge in life" and straight away said, "I will answer you when

we are alone together."

Of course, I never got to hear the answer. He left us just a few days later, leaving me to wonder what would have been his answer. As I search for a possible answer, my mind is now going to the previous discussions I had with him. He once said that the best way to live a life is "to take one day at a time."

That does not need explaining. The past, he meant without really saying it, has no business in our present lives while the future, since we have not lived it yet, can take care of itself. We have many questions what really contributes to a long life. But again, my uncle showed the way that nothing ever faded him no matter what life had on his path. He remained true to himself all the way to the ripe old age of 93.

EXHIBITION HELD

On May 8, 9 and 10, two illustration workshops and an exhibition took place led by the Spanish artistic duo "Cachetejack" and organised by the Embassy of Spain in collaboration with "Scientific College of Design" and "Omani Society of Fine Arts".

MEETINGS

Discussion on major issues in aviation, navigation fields



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is hosting the 20th meeting of the Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Region Group and the 10th meeting on Regional Aviation Safety in the Middle East.

Oman is represented by the Civil Aviation Authority at the 4-day meetings which kicked off in Muscat on Sunday.

The meetings discussed major issues and challenges facing member states in the field of navigation and safety.

The meetings seek to exchange expertise on air navigation and aviation safety and devise practical solutions.

The meetings, held in cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), are attended by 150 participants from 15 countries and 9 international organisations and companies specialised in the fields of air navigation and safety.

The opening of the two meetings was held under the auspices of Eng. Nail Ali Al Abri, President of the Civil Aviation Authority.

An exhibition has been organised on the sidelines of the event to showcase advanced technology and the latest techniques applied in the field of aviation. The exhibition also introduces the participants to Oman's tourist, historical and cultural landmarks.

Earlier this year, the Civil Aviation Authority hosted the third meeting on aviation security and related facilities, as well as the meeting of legal advisors for civil aviation. The two meetings were held in January and February, respectively. -ONA

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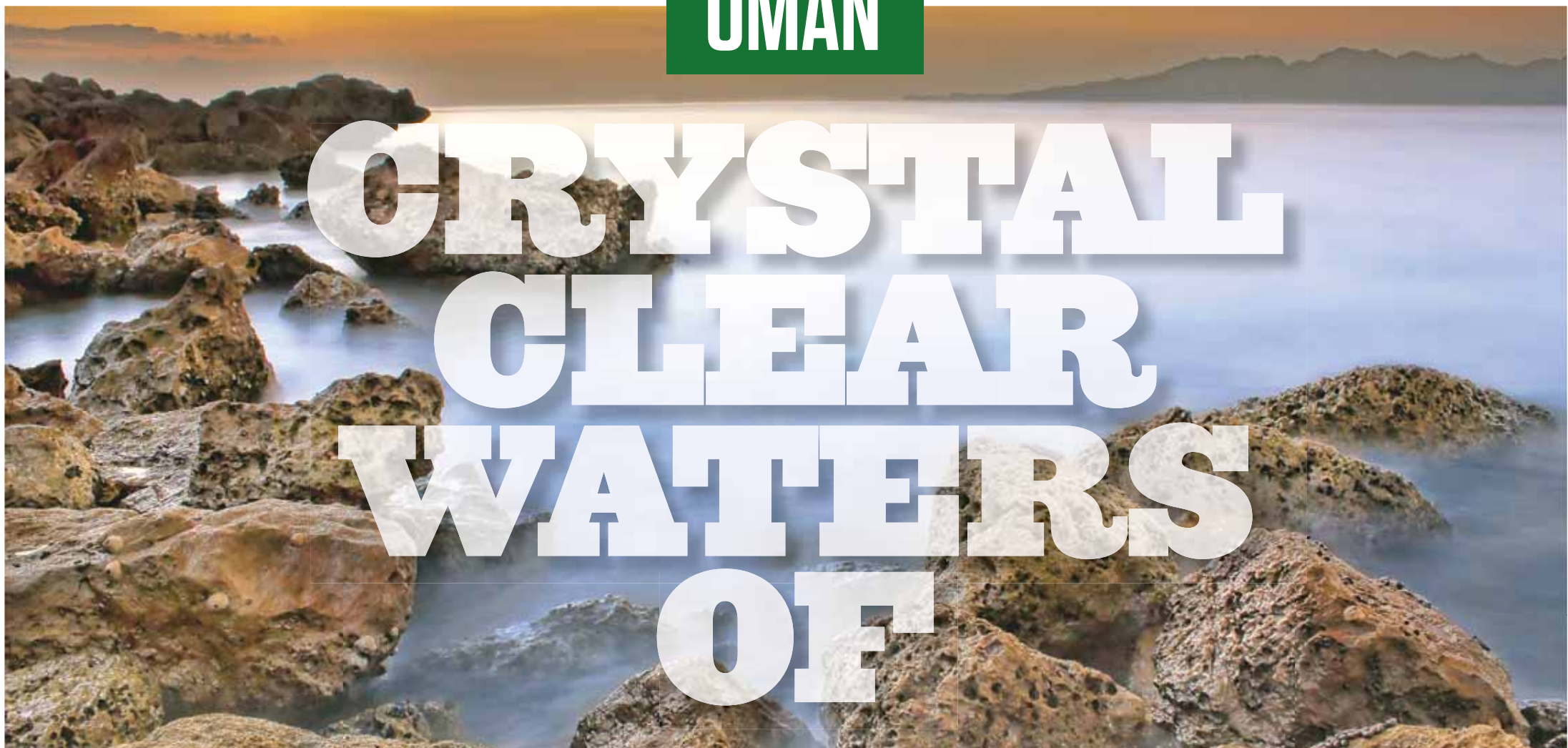
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DIBBA

Located more than 450 km from Muscat, the Musandam Governorate is an Omani exclave that lies to the north of the United Arab Emirates. Its craggy mountain peaks, stunning landscapes, crystal clear waters and rich under-sea wildlife make it a year-round destination for nature lovers and eco-tourists.

“The small town of Dibba is home to some of the nicest hotels and beaches in Musandam, providing a relaxing getaway from the city,” said Oman’s Ministry of Tourism.

Dibba Al-Baya is a small border town in the southeastern corner of Oman’s Musandam Peninsula exclave. About 5,000 people live in this Omani town. The exclave of Musandam is Oman’s northernmost governorate, separated from the rest of Oman by the UAE and home to some of the Sultanate’s most dramatic landscape. Here, 2000m high mountains meet the sea with stunning fjords and crystal-clear waters making this area one of the best diving and snorkel-



ling spots in the world.

Travelling to Dibba can either be done by sea, courtesy National Ferries, and on land, through the UAE, though you will require a visa to pass through the border. The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism announced the discovery of archaeological artefacts at Dibba site in Musandam Governorate, dating back to the first millennium BC, most notably incense burners, bronze axes, and utensils made of copper and steatite.



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REVIEW TIES

Defence Ministry’s Secretary General meets Korean official

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za’abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence, received Gen. Kim Seung-Kyum, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Republic of Korea, at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Sunday.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Sultan’s Armed Forces, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Oman and the Military Attaché of the Republic of Korea’s Embassy at Muscat. -ONA



SAF CHIEF OF STAFF

Meeting held

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Ra’eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF), received in his office Gen. Kim Seung-Kyum, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Republic of Korea. The two sides discussed several military topics and reviewed matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Manthari, SAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning, envoy of Korea to Oman and the Military Attaché of the Republic of Korea’s Embassy at Muscat. -ONA

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3. Refurbishment of Computer Lab – 2Nos.
4. Construction of New Washroom- 2Nos.

Interested parties shall remit non refundable Tender fee of OMR 10/- at school fee counter (Main Building) and can collect the Tender document between 9 am to 3: 30 pm (Sunday to Thursday) from 16th May 2023 to 28th May 2023.

Indian School Salalah reserves the right to accept or reject any Tender.

Last Date for submission
28-05-2023 03:30 PM

HEALTH MINISTRY

Budget for stock of medicines set

< FROM A1 The measures yielded positive results, he added. Speaking about funding issues, Dr. Hilal stressed that the Ministry augmented the budget set for the strategic stock of medicines and medical supplies to OMR10 million. The aim is to ensure that enough supplies are in place to meet emergency conditions, stave off the effects of epidemics and disasters and, eventually, protect the health of citizens, he said.

The ministry maintains a reserve stock of vital and life-saving items that covers consumption over a period of three to six months, he added.

In his statement the minister said that, by the end of last year, Oman had a suitable number of projects that support the pharmaceutical and medical sectors. Those included 14 factories, seven of which for medical drugs and 7 for medical supplies, others factories, he said.

He added that nine more factories are under construction, of them 7 for pharmaceutical products and 2 for medical supplies. - ONA

Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT SHOES FOR SULTANE ARMED FORCES, MODES AND MILITARY COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY FOR THREE YEARS	10/2023	03/07/2023	10/07/2023	1500 RO
SUPPLY OF MILITARY CLOTHING ACCESSORIES FOR ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN & ROYAL AIRFORCE OF OMAN FOR THREE YEARS	11/2023	10/07/2023	17/07/2023	570 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
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COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2023.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2023 is 6.193 million OMR compared with 6.370 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 3%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 31st March 2023 is 5.994 million OMR compared with 6.335 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 5%.

At the group level, we made a net profit after tax of 83,368 OMR for the period ended 31st March 2023, compared with 92,302 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 10%.

The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2023 is 74,794 OMR compared with 63,568 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 18%.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	31st March 2023		31st March 2022	
	Parent	Group	Parent	Group
Revenue	5,993,932	6,193,150	6,334,634	6,370,493
Cost of sales	(5,700,963)	(5,877,896)	(6,059,731)	(6,058,783)
Gross Profit	292,969	315,254	274,903	311,710
General and administration expenses	(228,611)	(239,847)	(228,600)	(230,896)
Investment and Other Income	23,635	23,635	28,483	28,483
Profit for the period before tax	37,993	99,042	74,786	109,298
Provision for Income tax	(13,199)	(15,674)	(11,218)	(16,995)
Net Profit for the period after tax	74,794	83,368	63,568	92,302
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	74,794	83,368	63,568	92,302
Earnings per share	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.003

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2023

	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	3,175,182	3,401,380	2,845,591	3,057,527
Right of use assets	232,020	232,020	204,121	204,121
Deferred Tax Asset	-	2,635	-	-
Investment	1,901,475	-	1,901,475	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	249,912	249,912	447,759	447,759
Total Non-current Assets	5,558,589	4,882,747	5,398,946	4,706,207
Current Assets:				
Inventories	1,024,681	1,119,725	566,552	637,400
Trade and other receivables	4,352,684	3,863,008	3,712,451	3,476,040
Cash and cash equivalents	2,504,048	2,520,132	2,537,937	2,545,454
Total Current Assets	7,881,413	7,502,865	6,816,940	6,658,894
TOTAL ASSETS	13,440,002	12,385,612	12,215,886	11,365,101
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,012,670	1,000,000	1,009,975
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	753,887	753,887
Retained earnings	(97,315)	(25,166)	128,977	217,152
Total Equity	6,167,418	6,252,237	6,339,931	6,438,081
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	83,961	86,914	69,671	70,648
Non current portion of Term Loan	163,608	163,608	342,430	342,430
Non current portion of lease liabilities	230,702	230,702	186,105	186,105
Deferred tax	147,149	147,330	153,225	154,740
Total Non-current Liabilities	625,420	628,554	751,431	753,923
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	6,038,309	4,891,185	4,391,383	3,423,163
Bank overdraft	409,433	409,433	497,631	497,631
Current portion of Term Loan	141,505	141,505	164,784	164,784
Current portion of lease liabilities	24,500	24,500	29,375	29,376
Income Tax	33,417	38,198	41,350	58,143
Total Current Liabilities	6,647,164	5,504,821	5,124,524	4,173,097
Total Liabilities	7,272,584	6,133,375	5,875,955	4,927,020
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	13,440,002	12,385,612	12,215,886	11,365,101
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.206	0.208	0.211	0.215

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

BILATERAL TIES



Austria-Oman celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bait Al Zubair and the Austrian Embassy celebrated fifty years of diplomatic relations between Oman and Austria

Bait Al Zubair and the Austrian Embassy in Muscat held on Wednesday evening (May 10th, 2023), an event at Bait Al Zubair Foundation. The event included a classical music concert and the opening of a photography exhibition to celebrate fifty years of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Austria and the Sultanate of Oman.

The event was under the auspices of His Excellency Azzan bin Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, for tourism.

In the beginning, the Auner Quartet performed a series of entertaining classical music pieces for about an hour. The Auner Quartet is a classical music group that has won several international awards during its career. They are also the first Austrian ensemble to be featured on the cover of the Performing Arts Yearbook of Europe.

Later, the sponsor of the ceremony inaugurated the exhibition (Austria-Oman Photographic Impressions) by the Austrian photographer Nikolaus Korab and the Omani photographer Qasim Alfarsi.

The idea of the exhibition is for the Austrian photographer to take pictures of the Sultanate of Oman with his lens, while the Omani photographer takes pictures of the Republic of Austria, so that each photographer presents his impression



of the other's country. These images varied between nature, architecture, and faces, to reflect beauty through the lens of the other.

The Austrian artist Nikolaus Korab was born in Vienna in 1963. Between 1986-1989 he worked as a camera assistant for Walter Kindler and Wolfgang Hackl and a teacher at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna 1998-2005 and the Vienna Art School 2009-2014.

He has also held and participated in many private and public exhibitions in Austria and abroad since 1983. He is also a member of the Vienna Artists Association (Künstlerhaus Wien) since 2020.

As for the Omani artist, Qasim Alfarsi, he was born in the Wilayat of Samail in 1982, is professional photographer of nature and architecture, a member of FIAP (Fédération Internationale de

l'Art Photographique) and an active member of the Omani Photographic Society.

He also received many local as well as international awards, and he is also an international arbitrator in photography competitions and exhibitions locally and globally.

The exhibition includes 40 photographs, 20 from the Sultanate of Oman and 20 from the Republic of Austria and is a joint project between the Austrian Embassy in Muscat and the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Vienna.

It is also supported by the Omani Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport.

For those who wish to visit, the exhibition will continue until Thursday, May 25th, 2023, in Bait Al-Zubair every day from 09:00AM till 05:00PM, except Friday.

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CLASS XII CBSE TOPPERS



Meghna



Rebecca Magdalene Dsouza

Blessed to have support of my parents, teachers

< FROM A1 Thana Aysha said that the "result was a surprise".

"In fact, it was rather shocking. I expected to do well but to be Oman topper, no way! I aimed for around 96 percent," said Thana.

"I am a social person and at school, I participate in all co-curricular activities. I feel there should be a balance between studies and activities. Of course, it varies from student to student. For me, consistency has been the way. I am blessed to have the support of my parents and teachers all through," said the ISG student.

Thana aims to pursue law and become a corporate lawyer and has already taken admission in University of Bristol with law as her subject.

Meghna Jayakumar of Indian School Sohar was the topper in the Sultanate in commerce stream with 97 percent. Meghna's parents work as doctors and her mother said: "We didn't expect her to top in Oman but she had worked hard. Her hard work paid off."

Meghna herself expressed surprise at topping Oman. Speaking from Sohar, she said: "I didn't expect to be Oman topper. The feel-



Thana Aysha

ing is yet to sink in. I focused on subjects that I was a bit weak at and that helped. It all came down to hard work and I firmly believe one has to be consistent."

Having secured admission in law in University of Bristol, Meghna is yet to decide as she is preparing for common entrance examination in India for pursuing B.Com (Hons) or B.A with major in Economics. "I will wait for my results in India before making a decision," she added.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman congratulated the students who made their schools and parents proud with outstanding results.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

ISM school students shine in CBSE Board Examination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian School Muscat exults in the best-ever results despite the adverse circumstantial hurdles of online classes and the pandemic that affected the educational exploits of schools all over.

Principal Dr Rajeev Kumar Chauhan applauded one and all for achieving such a momentous result, even in the face of adversity.

Of all the 438 students who appeared for the examination, 34 % of students secured an overall A1 grade, which is the top 1/8 of the total CBSE schools in India and abroad. The overall school average of 80.2, with the Humanities Stream at 80.5%, Science Stream at 82.5%, and Commerce Stream at 77.65% are exceedingly laudable. It is enormously exemplary to see that the percentage of A1 and A2 in subjects that the students appeared in, is 52.79% and 12 students secured a perfect score of centum in various subjects. ISM's pledge to stand out incomparable in academics reverberated in this year's dazzling outcomes.

STREAM TOPPERS

In the science stream, Jheel Chetan Thanki scored 97.6% and secured the first position, and topped the school result. Nahad Bin Noushad scoring 97.2% bagged the second position, and Lakshmi Sathvika Kommiseti and Shireen Rida Hameed Parappil both scoring 97% each, stood third in the science stream.

Rebecca Magdalene Dsouza with a magnificent score of 96.6%, Diya Ganapathy Bollepanda with 96.4%, and Fauziya Feroz Peerzade with 96.0% secured the first, second, and third positions respectively, in the Humanities Stream.

In the Commerce Stream, Dmello Mark Savio scored 96.6% emerged first, Aniruddh Menon

CLASS XII SCIENCE STREAM



FIRST POSITION 97.6%
JHEEL CHETAN THANKI

SECOND POSITION 97.2%
NAHAD BIN NOUSHAD

THIRD POSITION 97%
LAKSHMI SATHVIKA KOMMISSETTI

THIRD POSITION 97%
SHIREEN RIDA HAMEED PARAPPIL

CLASS XII COMMERCE STREAM



FIRST POSITION 96.6%
DMELLO MARK SAVIO

SECOND POSITION 96.0%
ANIRUDDH MENON

THIRD POSITION 95.8%
XAVIER V SALU

FIRST POSITION 96.6%
REBECCA MAGDALENE DSOUZA

SECOND POSITION 96.4%
DIYA GANAPATHY BOLLEPANDA

THIRD POSITION 96.0%
FAUZIYA FERDZ PEERZADE

scoring 96.0% stood second and Xavier V Salu scoring 95.8% became third.

CENTUM SCORERS

Another historic milestone is that 12 students took the lead by securing centum, 100 marks in various subjects. Jheel Chetan Tanki in English and Computer Science, Kalyani Biju in English, Nahad Bin Noushad, Aiswarya S, Harshini P, Lakshmi Sathvika Kommiseti and Harshita Gulani in Chemistry, Aniruddh Menon in Accountancy, Abel Augustine Zacharia in Information Technology, Diya Ganapathy Bollepanda and Diya Renjan in Painting brought glory home by scoring a perfect 100, made the school and parents proud.

SUBJECT TOPPERS

The following students scored the highest in various subjects and bagged the topper's position in their respective subjects. A score of 100% was secured by Jheel Chetan Tanki in English and Computer Science, Kalyani

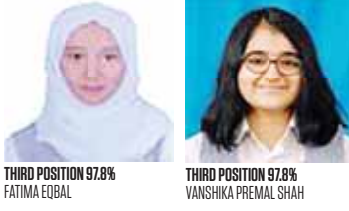
CLASS X TOPPERS



FIRST POSITION 98.2%
STUTI JITENDRAKUMAR PRAJAPATI

SECOND POSITION 98.0%
AYUSH RANA

THIRD POSITION 97.8%
ARYUSH ANIL DESHPANDE



THIRD POSITION 97.8%
FATIMA EGBAL

THIRD POSITION 97.8%
VANSHIKA PREMAL SHAH

THIRD POSITION 97.8%
AKSHAY THANIPET PADMANABHAN

THIRD POSITION 97.8%
SANGHVI ANAND

Biju in English, Nahad Bin Noushad, Aiswarya S, Harshini P, Lakshmi Sathvika Kommiseti and Harshita Gulani in Chemistry, Aniruddh Menon in Accountancy, Abel Augustine Zacharia in Information Technology, Diya Ganapathy Bollepanda and Diya Renjan in Painting.

99% was scored by Nahad Bin Noushad in Mathematics, Joshua

Joao Fernandes in Engineering Drawing, Dmello Mark Savio in Business Studies and Economics, Shireen Rida Hameed Parappil in Psychology, and Xavier V. Salu in Informatics Practices.

AkshayaRoshini Arul Selvan and Diya Renjan scored the highest at 98% in Sociology and Diya Ganapathy Bollepanda scored 98% in Business Administration.

Shreddha Sunil and Angel Anil secured 97% in Entrepreneurship and Marketing respectively. Lakshmi Sathvika Kommiseti and Harshitha Gulani scored 96% marks in Physics. An astounding number of 17 students - Aishwarya S, Arshpreet Kaur, Lakshmi Sathvika Kommiseti, Harshita Gulani, Khalilur Rahman, Nirja Suresh Shanbhag, Reeba Philip Mathew, Rohit Deepak, Sana Sharafdeen Yoosaf, Amruda Manickam, Craig Lucas Gonsalves, Priyadarshini, Samrudhi Sadashiv Mangale, Shreya Susan Sajjan, Alishba Khalid Khan, Eishaan Ejaz Khan, and Shireen Rida Hameed Prappil scored 95% marks in Biology. Scoring 93% marks in Applied Mathematics, Joseph Tacitus stood first in the subject.

Class X results

A total of 504 students appeared for the examination and exhibited outstanding performance. With head held high, 9.74% of students secured A1 in all five subjects adding to the historical performance of the school.

It indeed is a glorious success brought home as Stuti Jitendrakumar Prajapati emerged as the school topper with 98.2%. An incredible score of 98.0% by Ayush Rana took him to the heights of second position and by scoring 97.8% the third position was proudly shared by five students Aayushanil Deshpande, Fatima Egbal, Sanghvi Anand, Akshay Thanipet Padmanabhan and Vanshika Premal Shah.

Out of the 504 students who appeared 30.56% students scored aggregate marks above 90%, 65.67% students achieved aggregate marks above 80%, 75.40% students scored above 75%, and a whopping 83.13% scored marks above 70%, a remarkable 31.5% students scored A1 in subjects appeared, a total of 56.8% secured A1 & A2 in subjects appeared raising

the bar of the school average soaring to the enormous 82.1%.

As a build upto the first-rate performance 38 students scored centum, a faultless score of 100. The following are the vibrant centum holders and the subject toppers, who scored the highest in various subjects and bagged the topper's position in their respective subjects: Elijah Solomon in English, Syed Ali Zain Rizvi, Ayasa, Gayathri Amarkumar, Sanghvi Anand, Lekhna Subbaiah Kannabira, Keerthivaasan Nanda Kumar Mohanalakshmi, Ayush Rana, Reagan Bernard, AbhinavAjan, Samrudhi Bhalerao in Mathematics, Jagan Sreekanth, Diya Reji, Fathimathul Shadha Ellikkal Munjummal, Sayanthana Sreeju, Prabith Prakash, Johan Sijo, Joel Mathew Roopesh, Diya Pradeep, Nandana Krishnamurthy, and Govind Jayakumar in Malayalam, Ayasa in Arabic, Karthikeyan Vinodkumar, Dhanayasri Parthan Venkateshwaran, Arya HemalSampat, and Joanna Valerian Alphonso in French; Aayush Anil Deshpande, Nihal Bhatt, Nikhil KarthikSuju, Alan Joseph Nibu, Aaron Mathew, Karthikeyan Vinodkumar and Japnoor Singh scored Centum in Social Science and in Sanskrit Sanghvi Anand, Nihal Bhatt, Ananya Siju and Archit Nilesh Mali fetched centum making everyone feel proud. Ayush Rana in Science and he scored 99% in Hindi, Fatima Egbal 99% in Hindi, Akshay Thanipet Padmanabhan 99% in Artificial Intelligence, Abhay Charan 97% in Computer Applications, Diya Pradeep 95% in Basic Mathematics, Maryam Fatima 90% in Urdu, Ameen Sadik 88% in Painting, Tarany Rajasimman 87% in Tamil, Aaron Thomas Chacko in Home Science and Elements Of Business 85 and 83% respectively. Amardeep Shinde, President Indian School Muscat Management Committee, appreciated the teachers and parents.



RCB KEEP PLAYOFF HOPES ALIVE

Rajasthan Royals suffered a catastrophic collapse against Royal Challengers Bangalore and were dismissed for 59 in 10.3 overs

JAIPUR: Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) thrashed hosts Rajasthan Royals by 112 runs in Jaipur on Sunday to stay in the race for the playoffs.

It was RCB's largest margin of victory away from home and boosted their net run rate. RCB are now in fifth place with 12 points and two games to go.

Glenn Maxwell blasted a 30-ball half-century on a tough pitch, while Faf du Plessis (55) and Anuj Rawat (29) played contrasting support acts.

Yet the biggest contributor to RCB's win was their bowling, and the five wickets they took in the powerplay set up the Royals'

decimation for 59 - the third lowest total in the IPL.

Wayne Parnell was in top form, picking up three of those wickets: Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson and Joe Root. He wouldn't have played had Josh Hazlewood been fit, and his spell of 3-0-10-3 won him the Player of the Match award.

While RCB can get to 16 points, the Royals can now only reach 14 if they win their final game, and their playoff hopes are extremely slim.

RCB hit only four boundaries in the first six overs, but du Plessis and Kohli ensured they didn't lose a wicket on a tricky pitch, scoring 42. Kohli was eventually caught off a knuckleball from KM Asif, for 18 off 19 balls.

Maxwell walked in at No.3 and thumped his third ball, off R Ashwin, for a near 100-metre hit down the ground.

After a lull - RCB didn't score a boundary from overs 9.2 to 12.3 - Maxwell tore into Sandeep Sharma as he hit two boundaries off the first two balls. Maxwell then raised the tempo further by blasting Yuzvendra Chahal into the stands to bring up a 30-ball half-century. And when Chahal went wide, Maxwell went wider to shovel one over the shorter leg-side boundary.

RCB lost three wickets in six deliveries beginning with du Plessis in the 15th over, with Adam Zampa taking out Mahipal Lomror and

Dinesh Karthik in the same over. That meant that Maxwell had to delay the charge at the death, and when he eventually went after Sandeep, he was bowled trying to reverse sweep a yorker. At 137/5 in the 18th over, RCB were in danger of finishing poorly.

Anuj Rawat gave RCB the finishing kick in the final over by taking down KM Asif. He muscled two sixes and a four to end with 29 off 11 balls. RCB finished with 171/5.

Chasing 172, RR's opener Yashasvi Jaiswal drilled Mohammed Siraj to Kohli at mid-off to trigger a stunning collapse to depart for a duck. Parnell was playing his first game since April 20 and he made the most of it, dismissing Buttler, Samson and Root inside the powerplay. Buttler was also out for a duck, slapping one straight to point; Samson was cramped for room and top-edged a pull; and Root was lbw playing all around a full delivery.

A niggly to Wanindu Hasaranga meant Karn Sharma got a game, but he was taken for three back-to-back sixes by Shimron Hetmyer. Ashwin was then run out by a nifty flick between the legs from the wicketkeeper Rawat, and Hetmyer holed out to long on for 35 off 19 balls. Bracewell returned to pick up his second wicket - Dhruv Jurel - and Karn made a strong comeback by taking the final two wickets



to close out the game in the 11th over of the chase.

Brief scores: Royal Challengers Bangalore 171/5 (Faf du Plessis 55, Glenn Maxwell 54; Adam Zampa 2-25) beat Rajasthan Royals 59 in 10.3 overs (Shimron Hetmyer; Wayne Parnell 3-10, Michael Bracewell 2-16, Karn Sharma 2-19) - **Agencies**



PUNJAB KINGS

'My plan was to take the game deep'

DELHI: Punjab Kings batter Prabhsimran Singh said that he intended to take the game deeper after some quick loss of wickets earlier in the game. Prabhsimran's century (103) and spinner Harpreet Brar's four-wicket haul powered Punjab Kings to a win over Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

"We lost a few wickets at the top, so the plan was to take the game a little deep. I have been with the team for a long time and when you get back-to-back opportunities you gotta grab it.

"The wicket was slightly tough at the start and the plan was to build some partnership and then target a few bowlers. I also speak to senior players who keep telling me to make sure that I take the game deep and make it big when I get a start," said Prabhsimran in the post-match presentation.

'Disappointing effort'

Delhi Capitals skipper David Warner was not impressed with his team's batting. He said: "Losing 3-4 wickets in quick succession is not good at this level of the game. It was about trying to restrict them to a decent total. Another disappointing effort with the bat after the good start we had. We found the right combination but we keep losing 3-4 quick wickets and you cannot do that at this level." - **ANI**

KINGS VS CAPITALS

Prabhsimran, Brar knock Delhi Capitals out of IPL

NEW DELHI: A maiden century (103) from Prabhsimran Singh knocked Delhi Capitals out of IPL 2023 and pushed Punjab Kings up to sixth place, to keep their hopes alive for a playoff spot. In demanding batting conditions, the Punjab opener, who had begun the season with a highest IPL score of 16, found ways not just to survive but to keep scoring quick runs in a way nobody else managed to. It felt like a coming-of-age innings.

Kings suffered 22 balls for no runs in the powerplay, but hit seven others for 32 runs (5x4 and 2x6). A lot of this work was the result of Prabhsimran's enterprise. From switch-hitting spin for sixes to moving around all over the batting crease, he did well to throw the bowlers off their plans.

By around the 11th over or so, Prabhsimran was 53 off 44. He was dropped on 68, a costly one as he raced to 103 off 65, slamming 50 in 21 balls. On a pitch where none of his team-mates crossed 20, and only two others managed to score at better than run-a-ball, Prabhsimran's innings was a spectacular display of perseverance.

Delhi Capitals had a great start to the chase after restricting Kings to 167/7. Skipper David Warner and Phil Salt helped Capitals accomplish a rapid start in the powerplay as he led them to 65/0 in six overs. He cruised to a 23-ball fifty, scoring 42 of those runs in boundaries.



The introduction of spin by Kings captain Shikhar Dhawan changed the game. Cornered by Harpreet Brar (4 for 30) and Rahul Chahar (2 for 16), Capitals lost three wickets for two runs between the ninth and the 11th overs.

By the end, Capitals needed seven players to combine just to reach the total they allowed one batter to get as they were restricted to 136/8 to end their playoff hopes.

Brief scores: Punjab Kings 167/7 (Prabhsimran Singh 103; Ishant Sharma 2-27) beat Delhi Capitals 136/8 (David Warner 54; Harpreet Brar 4-30, Rahul Chahar 2-16).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We usually go hard in the powerplay but that did not quite happen today. It will take some time to assess our display. That is the nature of T20 cricket, you have to go hard in the powerplay, knowing that the wicket will slow down. Today, it did not work out. Credit has to go out to the RCB bowlers and their teammates."

SANJU SAMSON
Rajasthan skipper

TODAY'S MATCH

Gujarat Titans

VS

Sunrisers Hyderabad

6pm, Ahmedabad

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	P	W	L	NR	NRR	PTS
GT	12	8	4	0	+0.761	16
CSK	12	7	4	1	+0.493	15
MI	12	7	5	0	-0.117	14
LSG	12	6	5	1	+0.309	13
RCB	12	6	6	0	+0.166	12
RR	13	6	7	0	+0.140	12
PBKS	12	6	6	0	-0.268	12
KKR	12	5	7	0	-0.357	10
SRH	11	4	7	0	-0.471	8
DC	12	4	8	0	-0.686	8

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

ISDB INKS FINANCING PACTS
The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group concluded its annual meetings in Jeddah under the theme 'Partnerships to Fend off Crises'. The meetings included launching several significant projects and signing financing agreements between 24 member countries worth \$5.4 billion.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,704.79 points, up by 0.82 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.10 per cent at 478.15 points. Raysut Cement, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Hassan Engineering, down 17.65 per cent, was the top loser.

Zain Omantel to revolutionise telecommunications landscape

This groundbreaking partnership aims to revolutionise the wholesale telecommunications sector by offering a unique proposition that combines the strengths of both parties to deliver unparalleled service and support to customers worldwide

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Zain, a leading telecommunications operator providing digital and ICT services in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, and Omantel, Oman's leading integrated telecommunications services provider and the preeminent regional wholesale provider, announced the launch of 'Zain Omantel International' (ZOI), an unprecedented joint venture that will establish itself as the Middle East's premier international wholesale services provider. This groundbreaking partnership aims to revolutionise the



“

The joint venture with Zain is a testament to our unwavering commitment to transforming the international arm of Omantel group into a leading global provider, building on our existing position as a top regional wholesale player. ZOI is poised to become the primary gateway from our region to the rest of the world, leveraging the combined strengths of Omantel and Zain. With these differentiating factors, ZOI is the preferred partner with a truly unique presence in the international telecommunications landscape

Talal Al Mamari
Omantel CEO

wholesale telecommunications sector by offering a unique proposition that combines the strengths of both parties to deliver unparalleled service and support to customers worldwide.

ZOI signifies a substantial advancement in the telecommunications industry and is poised to become a global powerhouse due to Zain's extensive regional presence and success in the retail and digital arenas, combined with Omantel's exceptional wholesale capabilities and comprehensive

international subsea and terrestrial networks. The joint venture will cater to the end-to-end telecommunications needs of operators in the Middle East, as well as international carriers, data centres, hyperscalers, content, and cloud providers seeking services within the region and beyond.

As a result, ZOI will manage all international wholesale requirements of Zain and Omantel operations in eight countries, serving over 55 million customers. Furthermore, ZOI will optimise

the existing wholesale businesses of both companies by reducing operating costs and increasing competitiveness through access to state-of-the-art low-latency and high-capacity services over its extended footprint.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "This strategic value-enhancing partnership reflects the next stage of industry collaboration and advancement, and represents another significant milestone of our '4Sight' profitable

growth strategy. It also demonstrates our commitment to transforming the business and creating synergies while extending our reach and capabilities to provide the highest quality services to our customers. ZOI is ideally positioned to evolve into a significant international player on the wholesale telecommunications scene that will benefit both Zain and Omantel on financial, commercial and operational levels."

Talal Al Mamari, Omantel CEO, added, "The joint venture with Zain is a testament to our unwavering commitment to transforming the international arm of Omantel group into a leading global provider, building on our existing position as a top regional wholesale player. ZOI is poised to become the primary gateway from our region to the rest of the world, leveraging the combined strengths of Omantel and Zain. With these differentiating factors, ZOI is the preferred partner with a truly unique presence in the international telecommunications landscape."

ZOI, in collaboration with the Omantel and Zain Group operating companies, will ensure that Zain and Omantel customers continue to experience supreme quality in international services such as internet connectivity, voice, roaming, messaging and more. Some noteworthy projects that ZOI will undertake, along with its consortium partners include the development of Blue-Raman; Africa-1; Jeddah to Marseille (J2M) subsea systems and an extensive terrestrial network connecting most of the regional countries to the landing stations and data centres. Such high-profile projects, to name a few, will create an ecosystem that

is unrivalled in the region.

Sohail Qadir has been appointed as the CEO of ZOI. With a proven track record of success, Qadir has spearheaded the development and expansion of Omantel's international wholesale business. During his 13-year tenure as the Vice President of Wholesale at Omantel, he successfully positioned the company on the global map and increased revenues tenfold. Under Qadir's leadership, Omantel Wholesale had a remarkable transformational journey that resulted in investments in more than 20 subsea cables, hosting of global hyperscalers, direct interconnections with all major international service providers and extensive roaming coverage all over the world.

Sohail Qadir, ZOI CEO said, "The region has matured in terms of the scope and consumption of reliable wholesale services, and this strategic partnership in this integral part of the telecommunications business is well-timed to capitalise on global trends. I look forward to leading ZOI in delivering differentiated services to regional and international customers alike, and providing increased value and enhanced customer experience to all associated stakeholders across our extensive operational footprint."

ZOI is set to be a game changer in the telecommunications wholesale industry, offering a wide portfolio of services and solutions to meet the increasing demands of wholesale customers. This strategic partnership between Zain and Omantel embodies the realisation of wholesale synergy, aimed at consolidating each party's international operations and growing the investment at the group level.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Al Buraimi Industrial City's infrastructure project reaches 98% completion rate

MUSCAT: The completion rate of the infrastructure development project in Al Buraimi Industrial City has reached 98 per cent. It is expected to be completed in the near future.

Said Abdullah Al Balushi, Director-General of Al Buraimi Industrial City, said that the infrastructure development project in Al Buraimi Industrial City was awarded by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madays) in June 2021, at a total cost of more than OMR5.5 million.

He added that the project includes the construction of a 35-kilometre-long sewage network that covers the first and second areas of the industrial city, the establishment of a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 400 cubic metres per day, paving several roads in the first area with a total length of approximately 2 kilometres. The project also includes



rainwater drainage channels with a total length of 8km in the first and second areas and an irrigation network (approximately 7km)

extending from the wastewater treatment plant to pass through the first area and eventually reach the second area.

Al Balushi pointed out that the project covered the development of an area of 300,000 square metres. -**OMA**

OMAN BANKS ASSOCIATION

Financial Inclusion Campaign organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Banks Association (OBA) organised an event in Khasab on May 11 for the Omani Women's Associations in the Governorate of Musandam.

This comes as part of the annual Financial Inclusion Campaign that OBA organises under the guidance of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) with various activities and seminars held across the Sultanate aimed at enhancing financial awareness covering different segments of society.

This year, OBA continues focusing on an important segment in society and the role of Omani women in building civilised societies and their contribution to sustainable social development as part of the Oman Vision 2040.

The event started with an illustration provided by Marah Al Lawati from OBA on financial in-



clusion and the role of the Oman Banks Association and the Omani banking sector in the field of economic development.

This was followed by a presentation by Samiha Al Balushi from HSBC Oman covering a wide range of topics relating to savings, investments, financial manage-

ment and financial stability. The event concluded with an interactive discussion session by the audience and bank representatives.

Marwa Al Zadjali, Projects and Events Manager at the Oman Banks Association stated, "The Financial Inclusion Annual Campaign comes as part of the efforts

made by the Oman Banks Association to promote financial culture and awareness among different segments of the society, especially the women.

"Other activities under this campaign include podcasts, radio interviews, social media posts, social media quizzes, lectures to college and university students, editorials, and press releases.

"Financial Inclusion aims that individuals and businesses easy access to affordable financial products that serve their needs. It promotes social justice and economic development and creates jobs in the economy."

Oman Banks Association is a non-profit professional association created to represent the banking sector, promote Omani banking activities, coordinate with regulators on matters of policy and strategy, and support banking excellence in Oman.

COORDINATION PLATFORM

India-EU trade, technology council first ministerial meeting to take place in Brussels tomorrow

NEW DELHI: The first ministerial meeting of the India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is taking place in Brussels, Belgium, on May 16.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is one of the co-chairs along with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, informed the government through a release.

The EU side is co-chaired by European Commission Executive Vice-Presidents Dombrovskis and Vestager. The formation of the TTC was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ursula von der Leyen, President, of the European Commission in New Delhi in April 2022, to create a high-level coordination platform to tackle strategic challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security.

Today, Minister Goyal will have a bilateral meeting with EVP Dombrovskis, followed by Working Group-3 stakeholder consultations in the presence of business leaders from both the EU and India.

The World Group III (WG3) meeting focuses on Trade, Technology and Resilient supply chains and would have six business leaders from the EU and India, according to the statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In the afternoon, the minister will attend a business event organised by the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB) and deliver the keynote address.

This meeting would involve a discussion over the economic footprint of Belgium enterprises in India along with further plans for investments in India. Besides, the three Indian Ministers would also call on the Belgian Prime Minister as well as the President of the European Commission.

On Tuesday, Minister Goyal

will attend a stakeholder event for Working Groups I and II. Group I focuses on digital governance and connectivity while Group II deals with clean and green energy technologies. According to the commerce ministry's statement, this event will also have about eight business leaders from each side in attendance who will present their views or suggestions. Goyal will deliver a special address at this event.

Later in the day, Minister Goyal will attend a bilateral meeting with European Commissioner for Internal Trade Thierry Breton wherein issues pertaining to the small and medium enterprise sector, startup ecosystem and e-commerce will be deliberated upon.

This would be followed by the first ministerial meeting of the India-EU TTC which will be attended by the External Affairs Minister, the Minister for Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology.

The following three Working Groups under the mechanism will report on roadmaps for future cooperation between the two sides. This would be a working group on strategic technologies, digital governance and digital Connectivity, a working group on green and clean energy technologies, and lastly, a working group on trade, investment and resilient value chains.

The first ministerial meeting will lay the roadmap for the co-operation under all three working groups and provide direction to achieve desired outcomes before the next ministerial meeting in the coming year, the statement from the commerce ministry said.

Various issues of mutual interest including the ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement, addressing issues of mutual market access, WTO reforms as well as cooperation in several areas of mutual interests would be discussed. -**ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Raysut Cement, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 17.65 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,704.79 points, up by 0.82 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.10 per cent at 478.15 points. Raysut Cement, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Hassan Engineering, down 17.65 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 721 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.05 million, with more than 17.92 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 17 advanced, 15 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR290,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR196,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR94,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,615.33 points, up 1.07 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, HSBC Bank Oman, Al Madina Investments, National Finance, Al

Sharqia Investment were up by 5.75 per cent, 5.20 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 3.33 per cent and 2.67 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank and Oman United Insurance were up by 1.67 per cent, 0.96 per cent and 0.38 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,069.04 points, up 0.71 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement were up by 9.68 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Hassan Engineering, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Gulf Mushroom Products, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 17.65 per cent, 6.15 per cent, 0.44 per cent and 0.37 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.14 per cent before closing at 1,718.07 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power, Muscat Desalination and Oman Real Estate were up by 3.33 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 3.08 per cent, 2.08 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively. Prices of National Gas, Al Jazeera Services, Abraj Energy, Sembcorp Salalah and OIFC were up by 3.77 per cent, 2.34 per cent, 1.00 per cent, 0.95 per cent and 0.89 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDECIES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,708.95	4,665.82	4,704.79	4,666.72	38.06	0.82
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,623.26	7,527.38	7,615.33	7,534.99	80.34	1.07
Industry Index	6,071.07	6,026.25	6,069.04	6,026.25	42.78	0.71
Services Index	1,726.57	1,713.00	1,718.07	1,715.61	2.46	0.14
MSX Shariah Index	478.67	476.91	478.15	478.63	-0.48	-0.10
MSX TR INDEX	6,190.87	6,134.16	6,185.39	6,135.35	50.04	0.82
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,304.31	8,199.86	8,295.67	8,208.15	87.52	1.07
SERVICES TR IDX	1,896.46	1,881.55	1,887.12	1,884.42	2.71	0.14
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,485.42	6,437.54	6,483.24	6,437.54	45.70	0.71

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
17,929,172	3,054,542	721	23,799,058,174	17	15	18	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 14

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. IND.	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001517	1,508,012	289,227	18	0.158	0.162	0.158	0.162	0.154	0.008	5.195	0.162	0.155	0.164	0.100	324,050,672
OM0000002440	73,520	6,085	9	0.075	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.075	0.002	2.967	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.100	6,830,000
OM0000002796	762,844	204,011	49	0.267	0.270	0.265	0.270	0.265	0.005	1.887	0.270	0.265	0.270	0.100	2,026,727,207
OM0000004788	238,531	20,041	9	0.083	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.084	0.086	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000002549	25,000	4,300	2	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.172	0.170	0.002	1.176	0.172	0.000	0.172	0.100	515,372,447
OM0000001485	120,000	33,600	5	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.278	0.002	0.719	0.280	0.275	0.280	0.100	455,364,580
OM0000003026	99,025	977,190	49	0.980	0.988	0.976	0.984	0.980	0.004	0.408	0.984	0.980	1.000	0.100	738,000,000
OM0000001152	8,450	904	1	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	16,050,000
OM0000001532	5,722	2,175	3	0.380	0.390	0.380	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.380	0.390	0.100	280,662,516
OM0000003125	316,900	19,965	20	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.061	0.064	0.100	12,600,000
OM0000003968	214,949	79,536	11	0.372	0.372	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.368	0.370	0.100	240,849,365
OM0000004248	22,500	2,007	7	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	17,767,568
OM0000002176	18,450	4,963	2	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.270	-0.001	-0.370	0.269	0.269	0.280	0.100	33,597,551
OM0000001087	36,200	9,623	10	0.266	0.266	0.265	0.265	0.266	-0.001	-0.376	0.265	0.265	0.266	0.100	26,500,000
OM0000001525	37,507	4,166	2	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.893	0.111	0.111	0.117	0.100	27,622,350
OM0000003396	354,297	36,493	10	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	472,778,416
OM0000002226	12,500	3,126	3	0.251	0.251	0.250	0.250	0.256	-0.006	-2.344	0.250	0.252	0.274	0.100	15,301,068
Total	5,060,387	1,697,410	210												

Parallel Market

OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	784,699	129,809	74	0.156	0.170	0.156	0.170	0.155	0.015	9.677	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	6,060,102	724,853	192	0.084	0.094	0.084	0.092	0.007	0.005	5.747	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	100	5	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.048	0.002	4.167	0.050	0.044	0.050	0.100	4,250,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	50,900	6,104	6	0.116	0.124	0.116	0.124	0.120	0.004	3.333	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.100	71,139,331
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	901	28	1	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.030	0.001	3.333	0.031	0.030	0.032	0.100	20,921,150
OM0000004938	AL SUWADI POWER	20,725	622	3	0.030	0.031	0.030	0.031	0.030	0.001	3.333	0.031	0.030	0.033	0.100	22,146,597
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	1,953,062	132,278	32	0.065	0.069	0.065	0.067	0.065	0.002	3.077	0.067	0.067	0.068	0.100	97,994,298
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,282	221	2	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.002	2.083	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	15,243,939
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,535	149	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.097	0.096	0.098	0.100	19,400,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	225,671	38,757	4	0.172	0.172	0.171	0.171	0.170	0.001	0.588	0.171	0.173	0.172	0.100	333,391,427
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	250	131	2	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.000	0.000	0.530	0.530	0.570	0.100	33,473,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINS	100,000	12,500	4	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.122	0.125	0.100	38,459,301
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	17,356	3,298	4	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.188	0.190	0.100	38,567,425
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	2,104	223	4	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.106	0.115	0.100	8,628,692
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	537,405	50,165	47	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	208,036,632
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	1,900	95	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.052	0.100	12,500,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	147,066	20,320	6	0.135	0.139	0.135	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.139	0.143	0.100	232,047,990
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	15,050	4,515	3	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.280	0.300	0.100	21,117,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	72,496	5,510	4	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.083	0.100	35,810,165
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIT	10,000	1,200	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.118	0.121	0.100	50,972,425
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	17,000	3,893	4	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.230	-0.001	-0.435	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.100	10,480,368
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	650	88	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.136	-0.001	-0.735	0.135	0.136	0.136	0.000	0.100	10,195,470
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	41,460	4,394	10	0.105	0.107	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.103	0.105	0.100	99,275,483
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	524,634	155,638	75	0.300	0.300	0.295	0.297	0.300	-0.003	-1.000	0.297	0.295	0.297	0.100	228,749,400
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	10,000	580	3	0.057	0.059	0.057	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.057	0.057	0.100	18,121,633
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	40,000	4,090	3	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.106	-0.004	-3.774	0.102	0.100	0.106	0.100	8,670,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	20,000	1,220	2	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.065	-0.004	-6.154	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.100	4,931,850
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	49,244	3,990	7	0.087	0.087	0.079	0.079	0.087	-0.008	-9.195	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.100	12,640,000
Total		12,706,792	1,304,677	498												

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

Islamic Development Bank signs financing agreements worth \$5.4bn

JEDDAH: The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group concluded on Saturday its annual meetings held under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud from May 10 to 13 in Jeddah under the theme “Partnerships to Fend off Crises.”

The four-day annual meetings witnessed the attendance of 4,452 participants from 90 countries, in addition to the participation of 89 international and regional partner organisations.

The meetings included launching several significant projects and signing financing agreements between 24 member countries worth \$5.4 billion to address the severe challenges facing the countries of the south of the world.

The signed agreements cover the fields of healthcare, agriculture, food security, small and medium enterprises, education, and humanitarian support.



President of the IsDB Group, Dr. Mohammed Sulaiman Al-Jasser said, “Over the past four days, we have discussed with the member states and partners a wide range of development issues and the future of the IsDB Group.”

The IsDB meetings also launched seven significant projects.

They signed several agreements that include financing six projects in sustainable development, with a value of more than \$558 million, focusing on inclusive growth and developing infrastructure in the Bank's member states.

Regarding humanitarian aid provided within the framework

of Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund (AHTF), managed by the IsDB, the Group signed seven agreements for projects of sustainable development in Afghanistan with a value of \$8 billion, including grants from King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief). — SPA

OMAN SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

OSW shortlisted for Association of Event Organisers Excellence Awards

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's national event for future energy, power, water, waste, environment, and society, Oman Sustainability Week (OSW) has been shortlisted for the Association of Event Organisers (AEO) Excellence Awards under the category ‘Best International Event – Middle East & Africa’.

The AEO Excellence Awards will be held on June 16 at Grosvenor House, London, and is considered amongst the highest profile and most respected events industry awards globally. Other finalists for the category include some of the world's largest events such as Arab Health, Arabian Travel Market and Big 5 Global.

Launched in 2022, OSW is a week-long series of events that include awards, exhibitions, high-level conferences, thought leadership summits, site visits, and CSR initiatives. OSW is hosted by the Oman Ministry of Energy and Minerals and Petroleum Development Oman (PDO); Strategic Partners include ASYAD Group, Nama Group, Oman Environmental Holding Company (be'ah), Oman LNG, OQ, Shell Oman, and sponsors include Awerda, Bank Nizwa, bp, National Energy Centre, Omantel, Oxy, SLB, Sohar Aluminum.

The organiser of OSW, CON-NECT's Managing Director, Ashley Roberts, commented on the announcement, “The inclu-



sion of Oman Sustainability Week(OSW)as a finalist for this year's AEO Excellence Awards is a well-deserved recognition of the impact that the event is having in supporting the national objectives of the Sultanate of Oman.”

The strategy of OSW was developed in consultation with a steering committee and at the ministerial level, with the understanding that OSW needs to support economic and social change and highlight the nation's position in the global sustainability transition. The events are underpinned

by the national objectives; primarily Oman Vision 2040 and the Sultanate's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The activities forming OSW support the Sultanate's vision of transitioning to a green, circular economy by achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Eng. Faiza Mohamed Al Harthi, Head of Energy, Environment & Natural Resources at Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit said, “Oman Sustainability Week is an important

event to the Sultanate of Oman as it elevates national strategies and supports the implementation of strategic projects in sustainability through effective collaboration between the public and private sectors.”

OSW is a powerful platform that provides an opportunity for the public and private sector, academia, and wider society, to network, learn, procure, and celebrate success, with the collective aim of making a meaningful, positive change, in pursuit of establishing a circular economy. The second edition of OSW in 2023 witnessed a significant year-on-year growth; visitor numbers recorded an increase of 56%, exhibitor numbers increased by 62%, awards ceremony guests count increased by 59%, and 57% of participating organisations re-booked onsite for the next edition in 2024.

These metrics are a clear indication of the success of the event, leading to the momentum that the Sultanate is gaining in becoming a global beacon for sustainability.

The potential of the



LIFESTYLE

STUDY REVEALS TRAFFIC-RELATED AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS BRAIN FUNCTION

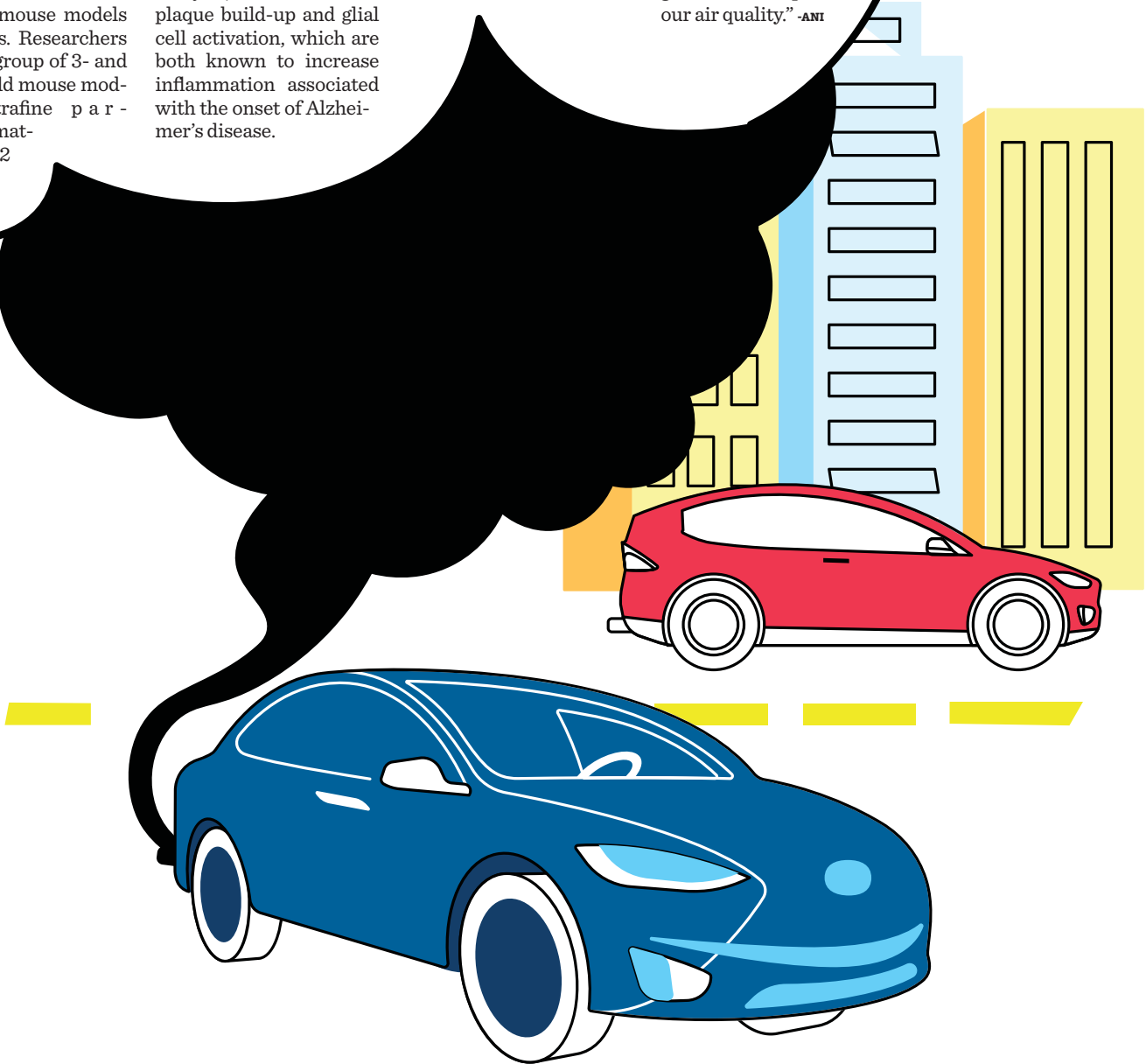
According to a study from the University of California, Irvine, exposure to traffic-related air pollution causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and the activation of brain pathways

linked to the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Masashi Kitazawa, PhD, associate professor of environmental and occupational health in the UCI Programme in Public Health, is the corresponding and senior author of the study. "The link between air pollution and Alzheimer's disease is concerning, as the prevalence of toxicants in ambient air is not just on the rise globally, but also hitting close to home here in Irvine," he said. The effects of particulate matter on brain function are not limited to what our studies show. The study's results are published in the journal Toxicological Sciences.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia among the elderly and is a growing public health crisis in the U.S. as well as in several other countries. Despite extensive research on all aspects of Alzheimer's disease, its exact origins remain elusive. Although genetic predispositions are known to play a prominent role in disease progression, growing bodies of evidence suggest that environmental toxicants, specifically air pollution, may cause the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Kitazawa and his team compared mouse models at two ages. Researchers exposed a group of 3- and 9-month-old mouse models to ultrafine particulate matter for 12 weeks via ambient air collected in Irvine. A second group was exposed to purified air. The differing ages were used to determine the potential impact of particulate matter exposure during highly vulnerable life stages: developing youth and the elderly. Researchers conducted testing related to memory tasks and cognitive function and found that both benchmarks were impaired by exposure to particulate matter. Notably, they also discovered that their older models (12 months at the time of analysis) showed brain plaque build-up and glial cell activation, which are both known to increase inflammation associated with the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

"Air pollution is one of the very few prominent, modifiable environmental risk factors in Alzheimer's disease," said co-author Michael Kleinman, PhD, adjunct professor of environmental and occupational health in UCI's Programme in Public Health. "Public and environmental regulatory agencies need to accelerate efforts to reduce par-

ticulate matter levels in order to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other serious health conditions." Kitazawa added, "This evidence is alarming, and it's imperative that we take action to adopt effective and evidence-based regulations, spread awareness on lifestyle changes and work together to improve our air quality." -ANI



ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF DEMENTIA AMONG THE ELDERLY AND IS A GROWING PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS. DESPITE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH ON ALL ASPECTS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, ITS EXACT ORIGINS REMAIN ELUSIVE.

AIR POLLUTION IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PROMINENT, MODIFIABLE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

SPORTS

APPOINTMENT

Chelsea agree to appoint Pochettino as new manager

LONDON: English Premier League side Chelsea have agreed terms to make former Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino their new manager, BBC reported on Sunday.

The former Argentina defender Pochettino has managed Espanyol, Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and will join the club in the summer, with Frank Lampard remaining as interim manager until the end of the sea-

son. Pochettino, who has also managed Southampton, has been out of work since PSG replaced him with Christophe Galtier in 2022.

The 51-year-old Argentine managed Spurs for five years from 2014 and led them to the 2019 Champions League final.

Pochettino will be Chelsea's sixth permanent manager in five years, following the sacking of Thomas Tuchel and Graham Potter earlier this season.

Lampard took interim charge of the Blues at the start of April following Potter's dismissal.

Chelsea have had a difficult season, losing to Manchester City in the third round of both the FA Cup and League Cup.

They also lost to Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, which ended any viable hopes of them qualifying for Europe next season.

They are currently 11th in the

Premier League, having won just one of their past 11 games, losing eight of them.

Pochettino had been linked with a return to Tottenham after they parted company with Antonio Conte in March.

He guided Spurs to the League Cup final in 2015 and a Premier League runners-up spot in 2016-17, with his side missing out on winning both to Chelsea.

Following his stint at Totten-

ham, Pochettino took over from Tuchel at PSG in January 2021.

The French club finished second in Ligue 1 at the end of the 2021-22 campaign but did win the Coupe de France and the Trophee des Champions, which were the first trophies of Pochettino's managerial career.

Pochettino started his managerial career with Espanyol before his 16-month spell at Southampton. - Agencies



United tighten top-4 finish hopes

Southampton relegated from English Premier League after suffering 2-0 defeat at home to Fulham; Leeds hold Newcastle United

MANCHESTER: Manchester United moved four points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool in the English Premier League with three games remaining after a 2-0 home win against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday.

Erik Ten Hag's side is closing in on a Champions League spot, trailing only third-placed Newcastle, who drew 2-2 at Leeds earlier on Saturday, on goal difference.

Anthony Martial opened the scoring in the 32nd minute, sweeping into an empty net from Antony's cross, before substitute Alejandro Garnacho returned from injury to secure the victory in stoppage time.

Southampton relegated

Southampton were the first team to have their relegation from the Premier League confirmed when they lost 2-0 at home to Fulham on Saturday.

Southampton's fourth consecutive defeat and their seventh loss in eight games leaves them with 24 points from 36 matches, unable to catch Everton, who currently sit 17th in the table with 32 points.

Second half goals from Carlos

Vinicius and Aleksandar Mitrovic, who celebrated his return from suspension with a goal, condemned Southampton to the drop.

Leeds United remain in the bottom three despite a 2-2 draw at home with Newcastle United.

Nottingham Forest remain three points ahead of Leeds with a priceless point secured in a 2-2 draw away to lacklustre Chelsea.

Taiwo Awoniyi put Forest ahead and then made it 2-2 after Raheem Sterling scored quick-fire goals for Chelsea in the 51st and 58th minutes of the game in which they had over 75 percent of the ball, but lacked punch in attack.

Leeds' failure to beat Newcastle means Bournemouth will be safe if Leicester City fail to win their last three games of the season, even though they lost 2-0 away to Crystal Palace, who took the points thanks to goals from Eberechi Eze.

Aston Villa beat Tottenham 2-1 with goals from Jacob Ramsey and Douglas Luiz that ended Spurs' slight hope of playing in Europe next season, while Villa can be optimistic about the future after winning their sixth consecutive home game. - Agencies



FRENCH LEAGUE

Messi booed by PSG fans in triumph over Ajaccio



PARIS: Lionel Messi was booed by some Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) fans in his first match since being suspended for his unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia as the Ligue 1 leaders beat Ajaccio 5-0.

Both sides ended the game with 10 men after Thomas Mangani aimed a punch at Achraf Hakimi,

who retaliated. Fabian Ruiz and Hakimi struck in the first half for PSG.

Mbappe scored twice at the start of the second half before Mohamed Youssouf's own goal as Ajaccio were relegated.

Messi played the full 90 minutes, returning to action for PSG for the first time since

he was suspended by the club for two weeks after travelling to Saudi Arabia without their permission.

Christophe Galtier's PSG are just four points away from a record 11th French title.

They are six points clear of second-placed Lens with three more fixtures remaining. - Agencies

LA LIGA

Real Madrid win; Villarreal take a big step towards Europe

MADRID: Barcelona will be La Liga champions on Sunday night if they win away to local rivals Espanyol although Real Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Saturday night.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti rang the changes ahead of his side's Champions League semi-final return leg away to Manchester City next week, with Thibaut Courtois, Fede Valverde, Eder Militao and Eduardo Camavinga expected to start in the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday night.

The result was a dull game against the side third from bottom of La Liga, which was decided by a shot from Marco Asensio, who again proved his value. The bad news for Madrid was a possible injury to Camavinga in the closing minutes, which makes him a doubt for next week's key game.

Villarreal moved closer to assuring a place in Europe with a 5-1 win at home to Athletic Bilbao, whose own European options suffered a major setback.

Real Sociedad and Girona drew 2-2 in a result that helped both sides' ambitions, as Real Sociedad moved a step forward to finish-



ing fourth, while Girona almost maintained their hopes of playing in Europe next season.

Alex Baena and Nicolas Jackson put Villarreal 2-0 up and although Oihan Sancet pulled a goal back from the penalty spot, Baena and Jackson scored again in the second half, while Aitor Paredes scored an own goal as Villarreal

ran riot after the break.

Osasuna got back to winning ways with an impressive 3-1 win over relegation-threatened Almeria thanks to goals from Ante Budimir, Abde Ezzalzouli and Moi Gomez. Pablo Maffeo's first half header following a corner gave Mallorca a 1-0 win at home to Cadiz on Friday. - xinhua

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern, Dortmund secure crucial victories

BERLIN: Bayern Munich trashed Schalke 6-0 to defend their one-point lead in the table whereas Borussia Dortmund held the pace after moving 5-2 past Borussia Monchengladbach in the 32nd round of Bundesliga on Saturday.

The Bavarians set the tone from the get-go as Serge Gnabry and Kingsley Coman came very close against passive Schalke in the opening stages.

The German record champions still had to wait until the 21st minute before Thomas Muller broke the deadlock after drilling

home Leroy Sane's build-up work from the edge of the box.

Bayern kept the pressure high and doubled their advantage eight minutes later when Joshua Kimmich converted a foul-play penalty.

The hosts reduced their offensive actions for the remainder of the first half, but things changed after the restart as Joao Cancelo's square pass allowed Gnabry to triple the advantage into the near post corner. Gnabry remained in the thick of things as the Germany international intercepted a return pass and rounded Schalke goal-

keeper Alexander Schwolow before making it four into the empty goal in the 65th minute.

Schalke couldn't put up resistance against relentless Bavarians, who weren't done with the scoring as goals from Mathys Tel and Noussair Mazraoui rounded off the 6-0 victory on home soil.

With the result, Bayern sit still one point ahead of rivals Dortmund with two rounds to spare.

Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund maintained their chance to clinch the title after keeping the pace with front runners Bayern

thanks to a 5-2 win over Borussia Monchengladbach.

Union Berlin snatched crucial points for a top three finish as Sheraldo Becker's brace helped the "Eisernen" to see off Freiburg 4-2.

Eintracht Frankfurt returned to winning ways and reduced the distance to the top six with a 3-0 victory over Mainz.

Wolfsburg edged Hoffenheim 2-1 while relegation-threatened Bochum stunned Augsburg 3-2. On Friday, Cologne increased Hertha Berlin's relegation worries after securing a 5-2 win. - xinhua



IN PICTURES



City view of Kinshasa, DRC
This picture shows the city view of Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Kinshasa is the capital, the largest river port and the largest city of the Democratic Republic of Congo and is also the political, economic and cultural center of the country.
xinhua



Raghav Chadha and Parineeti Chopra after their engagement ceremony
AAP MP Raghav Chadha and Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra gesture after their engagement ceremony, at Kapurthala House, in New Delhi.
ANI Photo



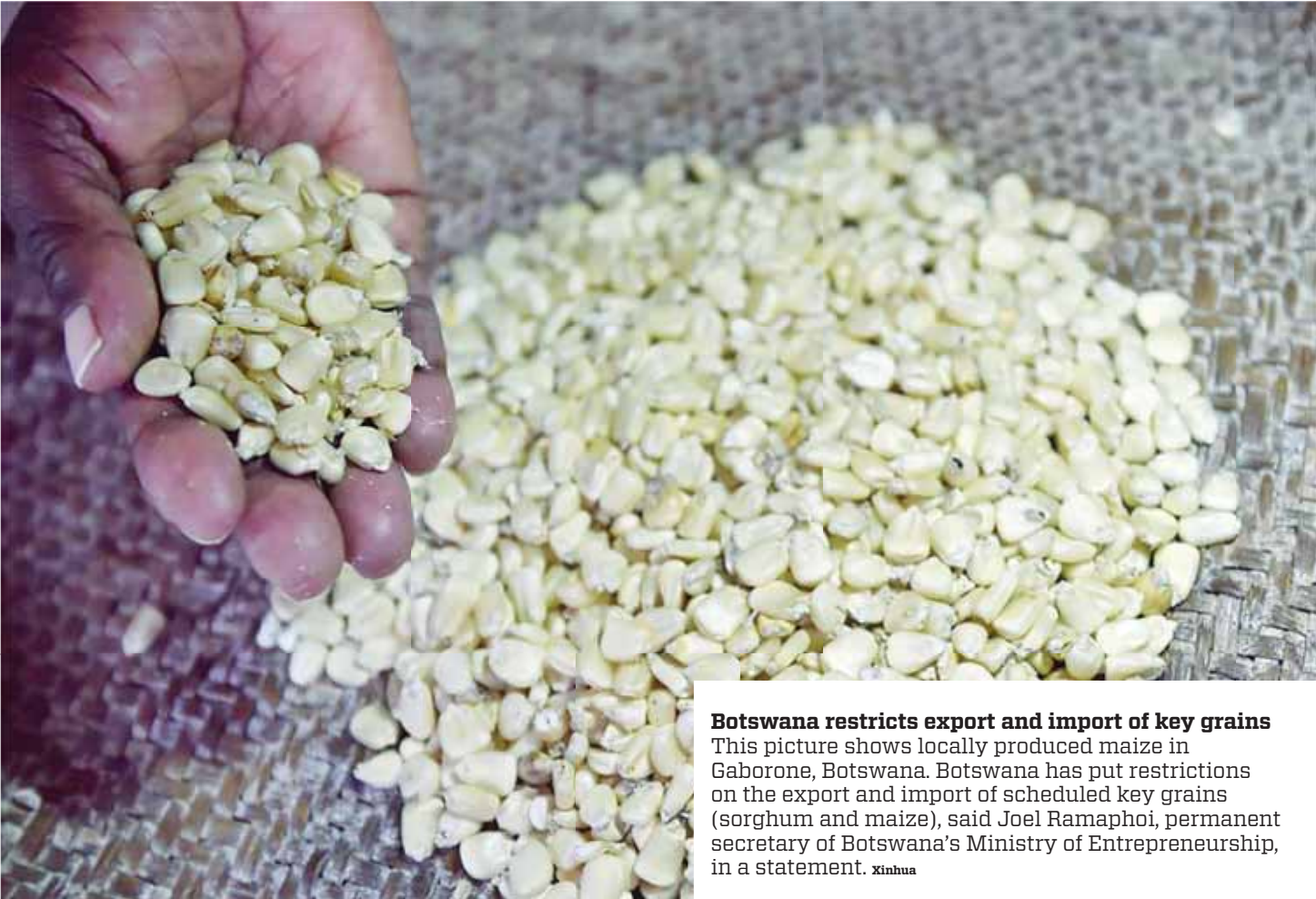
Sichuan food festival held at Nakano Central Park in Tokyo
People queue up to buy snacks during a Sichuan food festival held at Nakano Central Park, Tokyo, Japan.
xinhua



People watch ancient masterpieces at Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece
This picture shows people watching the ancient masterpieces of museum collection at the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece. Acropolis Museum participates in this year's European Night of Museums with extended opening hours until midnight and free entry.
xinhua



Japanese civic groups protest against upcoming G7 summit in Hiroshima
Toshiyuki Tanaka, an emeritus professor at Hiroshima City University, speaks at a rally to protest against the upcoming Group of Seven (G7) summit in Hiroshima, Japan.
xinhua



Botswana restricts export and import of key grains
This picture shows locally produced maize in Gaborone, Botswana. Botswana has put restrictions on the export and import of scheduled key grains (sorghum and maize), said Joel Ramaphoi, permanent secretary of Botswana's Ministry of Entrepreneurship, in a statement.
xinhua

ROUND-UP

MHD introduces Jetour Dashing



The new entrant is expected to set new benchmarks in terms of design, safety and technology with its striking exterior design, athletic proportions, a contemporary cabin and intelligent safety features

MUSCAT: Mohsin Haider Darwish Automobiles, the official distributor of Jetour in Oman, introduced its newest model, the Jetour Dashing at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, Muscat.

The new entrant is expected to set new benchmarks in terms of



design, safety and technology with its striking exterior design, athletic proportions, a contemporary cabin and intelligent safety features.

Highlighting the introduction of

the Jetour Dashing, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles, said, "We are thrilled to bring the Jetour Dashing to Oman, which represents our commit-

ment to offering our customer base with vehicles that focus on innovation, design and engineering excellence. We are confident that the newest addition to our Jetour line-

up will appeal to customers who are looking for a car that combines style, comfort and cutting-edge technology to make their journeys even more memorable."

The Jetour Dashing hosts a 1.6TGDI turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, capable of generating up to 197hp and 290N.m of torque, ensuring enhanced power and stability. With Intelligent Driver Assist Systems including adaptive cruise control to ease long rides and advance hill ascent and gentle descent systems gentle offers effortless performance. The interior encompasses sport-designed seats, a spacious 5-seater cabin configuration, 15.6-inch smart touchscreen. Other features also include a panoramic sunroof, a Smart Key that integrates keyless Go and remote start facilities, in addition to a 360° panoramic visual parking assist, AEBs (Advanced Emergency Braking System), LDWS (Lane Departure Warning System and RCTA (Rear Side Collision Alert) to ensure safe driving.

The Jetour brand is created for those who desire modern technology, comfort, adventure and affordable luxury. Jetour commits to creating the best Chinese luxury cars covering SUV/MPV at an affordable price. Customers can reach out to the team on 2453 3373 or via WhatsApp on 7146 1999 and get in touch with any of the brand's sales personnel to request a test drive.

PRESTIGIOUS

INEOS Grenadier crowned 4X4 of the Year in France

MUSCAT: The INEOS Grenadier has been crowned '4X4 of the Year' by a panel of off-road experts at 4X4 Magazine in France. This prestigious accolade follows the start of production late last year and the recent start of customer deliveries across Europe.

"For the Grenadier to be recognised by passionate off-road experts that have decades of experience is a testament to the hard work of the designers, engineers, and production team," explains Lynn Calder, CEO of INEOS Automotive. "The Grenadier fills a gap in the market for a true 4X4 that's inspired by the icons of the past with modern world-class standards of quality, comfort, refinement, and technology."

Established in 1981, 4X4 Magazine is a leading off-road outlet in France. For the awards, readers selected a shortlist of three vehicles, which were then subjected to a rigorous judging process by the magazine's editorial team.

"The entire jury came to the conclusion that, unequivocally, the Grenadier truly embodies the authentic off-road spirit," said Michel Renavand, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of 4X4 Magazine. "It has all the features you need to progress efficiently on any type of surface. At ease on the road and very well equipped, its excellent climbing capabilities make it the undeniable 4x4 of the year. Truly a stroke of genius!"

Shipments of the INEOS Grenadier have started from the company's state-of-the-art factory at Hambach, on the French-German border. INEOS Automotive has established a network of more than 200 sales and service points in over 50 markets worldwide.

The INEOS Grenadier has been designed as a tough and comfortable go-anywhere off-road vehicle. The backbone of the Grenadier is a full box-section ladder frame chassis, with heavy-duty solid beam axles a two-speed transfer case and up

to three locking differentials. It is powered by a choice of BMW 3.0-litre turbo-charged inline six-cylinder petrol or diesel engines, which have been extensively revised and recalibrated for this application. Practical features include a 70:30 split rear door, integrated roof bars, pre-wiring for auxiliary lamps and accessories, and a front bumper to sit on. An 'open-source' approach to accessories means owners can tailor the vehicle to their specific requirements.

The interior combines utilitarian practicality with the technology and comfort that today's users expect. Its intuitive and functional layout features physical switches, widely spaced for easy use on the move, a central infotainment screen, and an overhead console for off-road and auxiliary controls. Hose-out rubber flooring, hardwearing Recaro seats and numerous stowage options mean the Grenadier is ready for anything work and life can throw at it.







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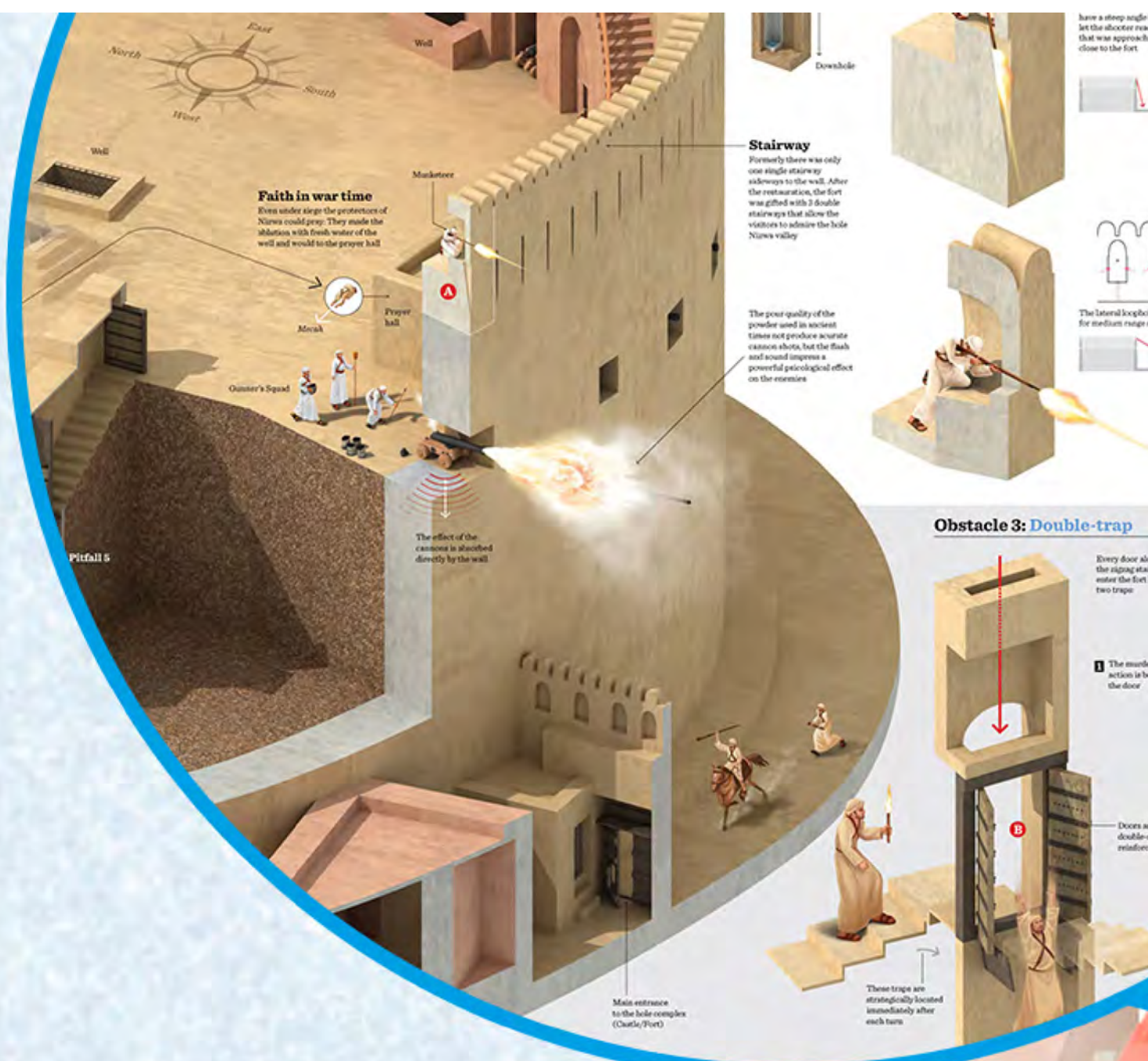
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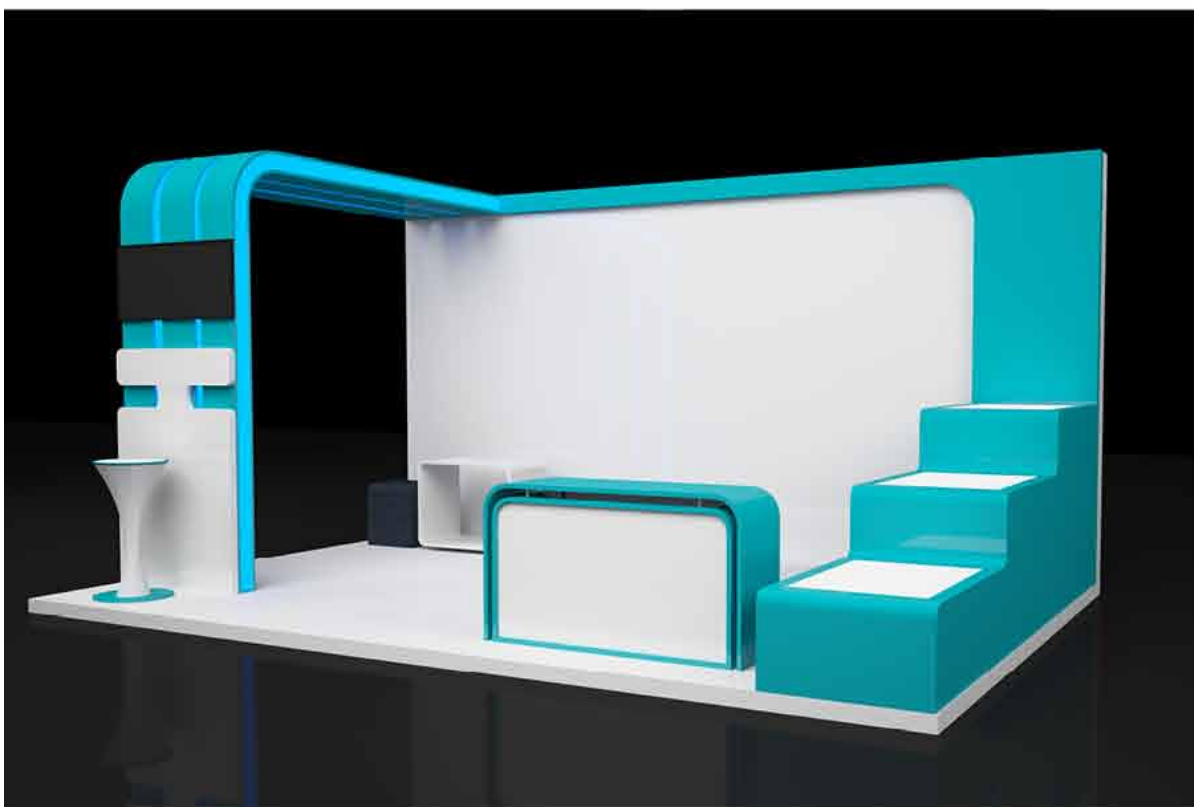
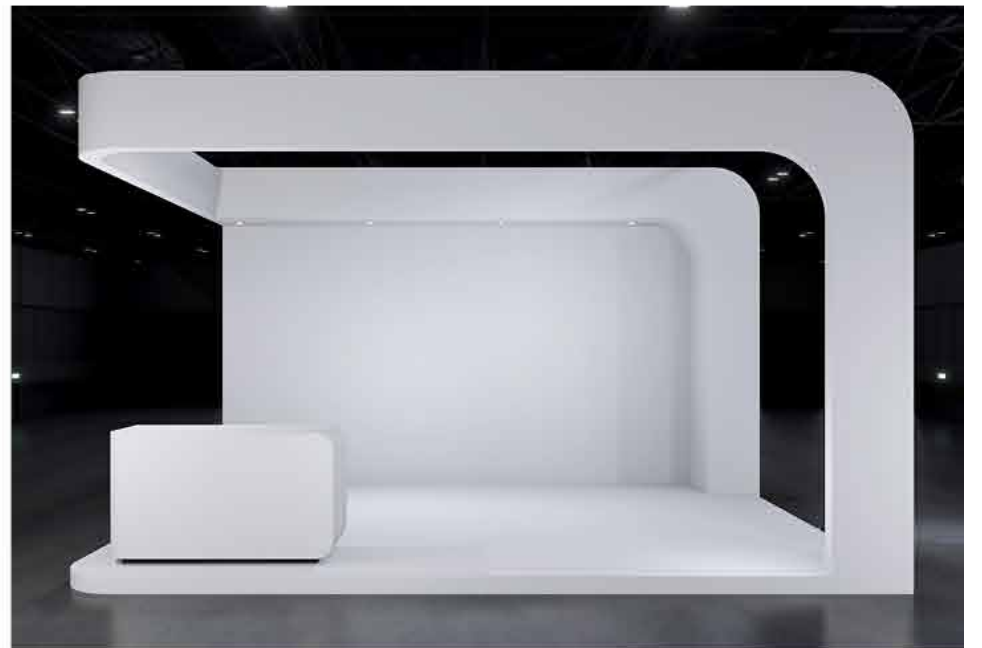
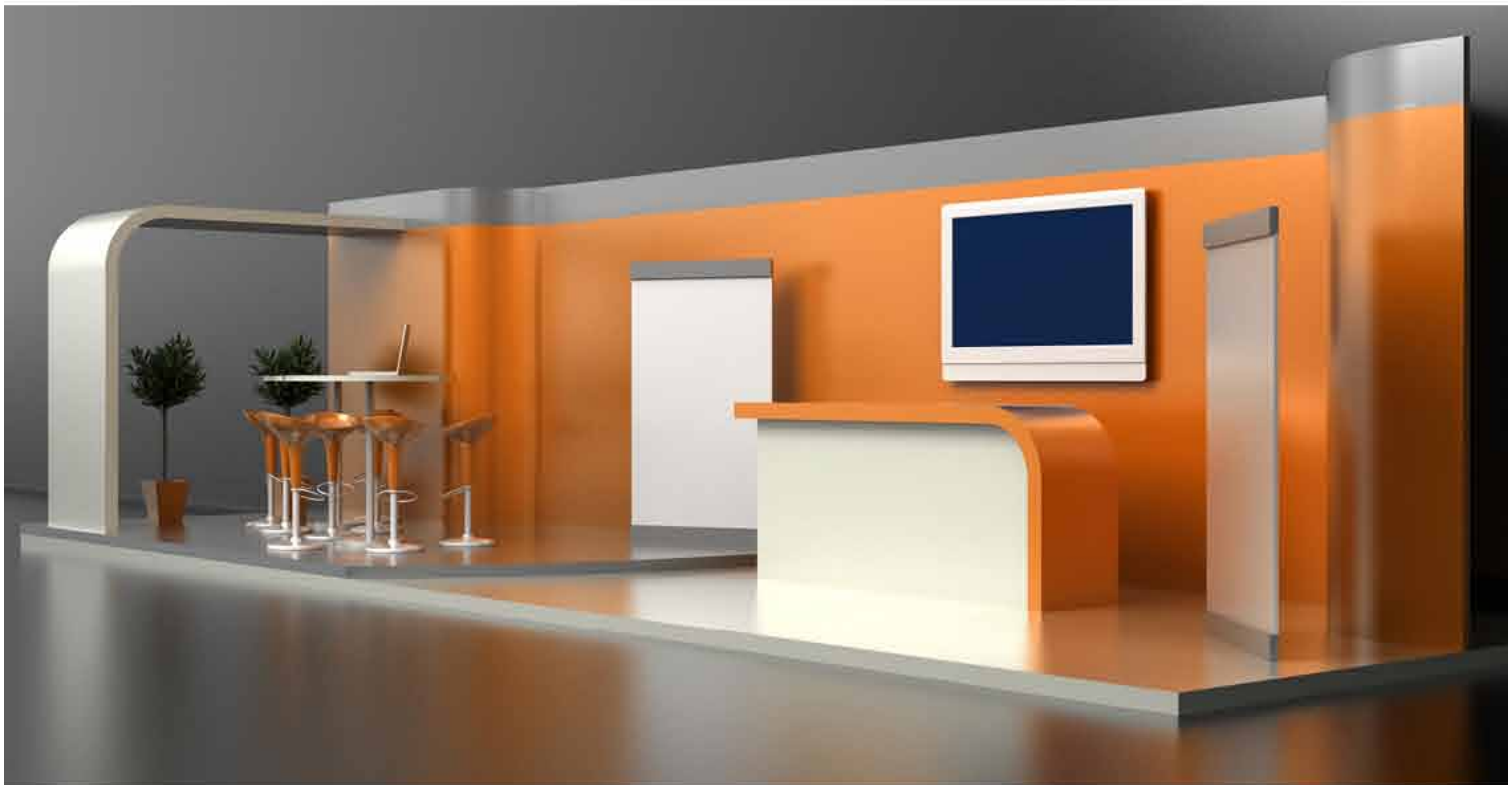
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