

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

A workshop on green and sustainable finance was held at Al Wahat Club in Muscat on Monday, within the activities of Oman-UK Strategic Advisory Group. **>A5**



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HM SULTAN HAITHAM ROSE, HONOURABLE ASSAYIDA AHD ROSE INAUGURATED IN LONDON

LONDON: The Sultanate of Oman on Monday inaugurated "Harcarmine", the rose named after His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and "Harforver", the rose named after Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman. **>A2**



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HM RETURNS HOME AFTER SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO EGYPT



His Majesty was accompanied during the visit by a high-ranking official delegation

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Monday evening, concluding an official two-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt in response to an invitation from President Abdul Fattah El Sisi.

His Majesty the Sultan was received at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, HH Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdul-

lah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiki, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endow-

ments and Religious Affairs, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed bin Taman Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by a high-ranking official delegation that comprised HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad

bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdul Salam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League.

HM reviews bilateral cooperation with President El Sisi

Earlier in the day, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met at his residence in the Qubba Palace in Cairo with President Abdul Fattah El Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt. During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed areas of cooperation between the two countries and opportunities of boosting them towards broader horizons in a manner that serves the joint interests of the two countries' peoples. **>A4-A5**



Oman, Egypt sign MoU, pact

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed an agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Cairo on Monday.

The agreement is related to the elimination of double taxation with regard to taxes on income and the prevention and avoidance of tax evasion.

As for the MoU, it is related to cooperation in areas relevant to financial policies and developments.

They were signed by Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance on behalf of Oman's government, and Dr. Mohamed Moait, Minister of Finance on behalf of Egypt's government. **— OMA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Oman Airports signs pact with Vodafone

1 Oman Airports on Monday signed the 2nd phase of a cooperation agreement with Vodafone Oman to provide 5G services at Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of COMEX 2023 exhibition. **>A5**

WORLD 20 children dead in Guyana school fire

2 At least 20 children have been killed and several more were injured in a fire at a dormitory in Guyana late on Sunday night. The fire broke in the girls' dormitory of a school 200km away from Georgetown. **>A7**

MARKET Pact for industrial complex signed

3 Vale signed a pact with the Port of Duqm Company and MoU with Marafiq to establish an integrated industrial complex to produce low-carbon products for the steelmaking industry in Duqm. **>B1**

COMEX 2023 OPENS

Tech show aims to boost digital investment

MUSCAT: The thirty-second edition of Oman Communications and Information Technology Exhibition "COMEX 2023", kicked off on Monday at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The opening ceremony of the four-day event was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. HH Sayyid Marwan underscored the significance of the expo to Oman's digital transformation, noting that it adds momentum to the transition in technical operations and enhances the economic sectors' ability to consolidate their productivity.

COMEX will also empower individuals, establishments and nascent Omani firms, he added.



COMEX 2023 brings together more than 120 local and international enterprises, in addition to 97 start-ups.

Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Commu-

nications and Information Technology, said that "digital investment" was chosen as the theme of Comex this year, to make it a destination for digital investment from different countries. Empha-

sis will be laid on the accomplishments of the Sultanate of Oman in this field, with special focus on investment, he added.

Al Ma'awali pointed out that the ministry recently launched Manjam Labs to streamline government services, targeting 120 basic services. The ministry also launched Makeen Initiative to train more than 10,000 jobseekers on advanced digital skills, he explained.

On grounds of applying transparency and a policy of open government data, the ministry allocated an open data page in its website and released the first set of information, which will be updated on a regular basis, said Al Ma'awali. **>A6**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:09pm
Asr.....	3:30pm
Maghrib.....	6:50pm
Isha.....	8:10pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:57am

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HARCARMINE AND HARFOREVER

HM Sultan Haitham Rose, Honourable Assayida Ahd Rose inaugurated in London

LONDON,: The Sultanate of Oman on Monday inaugurated “Harcarmine”, the rose named after His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and “Harforver”, the rose named after Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman.

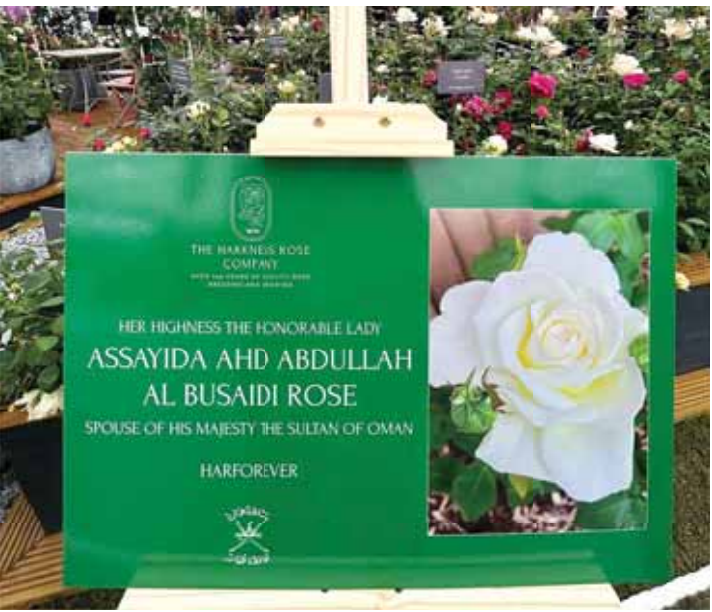
The launch of the two roses was made within the context of Oman’s participation in Chelsea Flower Show, currently held in London and will continue until 27 May 2023.

Two roses
Harcarmine and Harforever figure among the finest hybrid roses, and they derive their colours from the colours of the Flag of Oman. Harcarmine bears the red colour and Harforever takes

the white colour, with the green colour around them representing the landscape.

The two roses were cross-bred after a number of agricultural experiments made by specialists on scientific grounds. The experiments showed the successful growth of the two roses in Salalah, Governorate of Dhofar, where they adapted to the governorate’s weather and climatic conditions. Their growth also proved a success in some countries of the European continent.

The inaugural protocols ceremony was attended by Badr Mohammed Al Mantheri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, among other Omani officials. —ONA



Accelerate Your Digital Transformation Journey with Inflexion’s Cloud-First Approach at COMEX 2023



Inflexion, a leading cloud-first approach company, is revolutionizing the business landscape by empowering organizations to accelerate their digital transformation journey. With a strong commitment to excellence and a collaborative partnership with SAP, Inflexion offers innovative solutions that optimize operations and drive growth.

Recognizing the immense potential and opportunities in Oman, Inflexion leverages its deep understanding of the local market dynamics to provide tailored solutions that address complex business challenges. With a team of experts possessing extensive knowledge and experience, Inflexion is well-positioned to make a significant impact on businesses seeking digital transformation.

As an SAP Gold Partner, Inflexion has demonstrated its commitment to excellence, innovation, & bringing exceptional value to its clients by collaborating with SAP’s top-tier platforms, solutions, and services. Their expertise and dedication have been recognized through prestigious accolades, including Winner of Partner IP of the Year, 1st Runners-Up Best Performer Award, and 1st Runners-Up Public Cloud Partner. These achievements solidify their position as a trusted and high-performing partner within the SAP ecosystem.

SAP’s mission is to help businesses become intelligent and sustainable enterprises. As a market leader in enterprise software, they enable companies of all sizes and industries to operate at their best. With advanced technologies like machine learning, IoT, and analytics, SAP transforms businesses into intelligent enterprises, providing deep insights and fostering collaboration.

“With its decades-long expertise across 25 primary industries, SAP is fully committed to aiding Omani organizations in their quest for digital transformation. Our collaboration and co-innovation with high calibre partners such as Inflexion is an integral part of this mission in Oman. Together, we tap into the local market potential, offering tailor-made solutions that help businesses navigate their challenges, in order to not only to



deliver top-tier platforms and services, but also to ensure the success of our customers. We believe that when our customers thrive, we thrive. This spirit of partnership and shared success is what sets SAP apart, and it is at the heart of our joint presence at COMEX 2023”, said Waheed Al Hamaid, Country Manager for SAP in Oman.

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and drive growth for organizations across various industries. With a customer-centric approach and a commitment to excellence, Inflexion is shaping the future of business success.

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EXCEPTIONAL SAFETY RECORD

Sarooj Construction Company celebrates remarkable six and a half years LTI-free milestone in PDO earthwork contract execution

MUSCAT: Sarooj recently celebrated its 13.5 million safe man-hours without any Lost Time Incidents (LTIs) in one of its flagship projects. This remarkable milestone showcases Sarooj's unwavering commitment to ensuring the well-being and safety of its employees.

The LTI-free milestone is a testament to Sarooj's steadfast dedication to fostering a culture of safety excellence. It reflects the implementation of rigorous safety protocols, comprehensive training programmes, and a proactive approach to hazard identification and risk mitigation. By prioritising the health and safety of its workforce, Sarooj has successfully created a work environment where employees can thrive without compromising their well-being.

The achievement of six and a half LTI-free years along with the 46,766,854 KMs driven showcases Sarooj's commitment to continuous improvement and the relentless pursuit of excellence. By fostering a safety culture that encourages employee engagement, hazard identification, and open communication, Sarooj has created an environment where everyone feels empowered to pri-



The achievement of six and a half LTI-free years along with the 46,766,854 KMs driven showcases Sarooj's commitment to continuous improvement and the relentless pursuit of excellence

oritise safety at all times.

Moving forward, Sarooj remains dedicated to upholding its exceptional safety record, not only in this project but across all its operations.

Sarooj embarked on the earthworks contract in November 2016

with a workforce of 283 skilled personnel and 65 pieces of machinery and equipment.

The aim was to execute the project efficiently while ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety.

Through continuous efforts

and strategic resource allocation, Sarooj has significantly enhanced its capacity over the years. Currently, the company boasts a remarkable manpower capacity of 1,392 individuals across all clusters. Moreover, the fleet of machinery and equip-

ment has also expanded to a total of 446 units, further strengthening SCC's operational capabilities. Sarooj Construction Company successfully completed the first Oil & Gas well pad in the MENA region, constructed using biodiesel fuel only for its ma-

chines and equipment.

Alongside PDO, SCC executed several iconic sustainable projects including the new concept Eco friendly Solar Powered Cabins as Rest shelter with over 90% reduction in carbon emission for isolated desert location.



NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE



RCDS members visit NDC

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in the United Kingdom (UK), headed by retired Air Vice Marshal Philip Thomas Giles on Monday visited the National Defence College (NDC) at Bait Al Falaj Garrison.

Upon the guests' arrival at the NDC, they were greeted by Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the NDC.

During the meeting, the two

sides discussed several matters of mutual interest, particularly academic and training matters.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the college's facilities and equipment, as well as its various departments and halls designed according to the latest specifications and equipped with the best educational systems, training aids and multi-purpose electronic network systems. — ONA

UK DELEGATION VISITS MSC

A delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom (UK), headed by retired Air Vice Marshal Philip Thomas Giles on Monday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC). — ONA



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HIS MAJESTY VISITS NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL IN CAIRO

His Majesty the Sultan also toured the City of Arts and Culture, intended to be a global destination that comprises a range of modern buildings and facilities

CAIRO: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday visited the new administrative capital in Cairo. He was accompanied during the visit by Dr. Assem Al Jazzar, Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities (Head of the Mission of Honour). The visit comes within the context of His Majesty the Sultan's official

visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. His Majesty the Sultan went on tour of the facilities of the new administrative capital, including the government quarter. He took note of the yard of the Grand Mosque, an Islamic architectural edifice that takes centre stage in the area. His Majesty had a close look at Dar Al Qur'an (Holy Quran House) at Egypt's Islamic Cultural Centre. Whole Chapters of the Holy Qur'an are carved on the walls of the Dar. His Majesty the Sultan was briefed about the objectives of Dar Al Qur'an and the services it offers to members of the public.

His Majesty the Sultan also toured the City of Arts and Culture, intended to be a global destination that comprises a range of modern buildings and facilities. There, His Majesty the Sultan visited the Opera House and watched a visual display on the potential of the Opera House, designed in line with the loftiest international specifications. Afterwards, His Majesty the Sultan visited the Egypt's Capitals Museum, which narrates the stories of Egyptian capital cities and their evolution over the ages.

His Majesty the Sultan voiced his admiration for the new administrative capital in Cairo, noting that its unique configuration reflects the historically deep-rooted Egyptian architecture. He commended the great efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt (the leadership, the government and the people) to accomplish this vital project. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to grant Egypt further progress and prosperity.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during his visit to the Administrative Capital by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, and Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League. - OMA



OMANI LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

925 prisoners released in 2023 under 'Fak Kurbah' initiative

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 'Fak Kurbah' initiative, organised by the Omani Lawyers' Association (OLA), has managed to secure the release of 925 prisoners across the Sultanate of Oman in 2023.

This is the tenth edition of the 'Fak Kurbah' initiative and over the years it has helped secure the release of thousands of prisoners who have been jailed in Oman for non-criminal offences.

This year, OLA managed to get the release of 925 prisoners across different governorates.

The highest number of prisoners released were in the Governorate of Muscat with 194 followed by 191 in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, 122 in the Governorate of South Al Batinah, 97 in the Governorate of Al Dhahirah and 97 in Al Buraimi Governorate. In Al Dakhiliyah Governorate 79 were released while 59 came out of prison in the Governorate of North A'Sharqiyah. A total of 40 were released in the Governorate of South A'Sharqiyah while 33 got released in the Governorate of Dhofar and 20 came out of prison in the Governorate of Al Wusta. Three people were released in the



Governorate of Musandam.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the tenth edition of the initiative at Al Wahat Club in Azaiba on Monday, Dr. Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Zaidi, OLA chairman said: "The current edition of the 'Fak Kurbah' initiative once again proved the solidarity and generosity of the Omani society. Till date, we have released a total of 5,894 prisoners who were behind bars for financial offences. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the efforts exerted by individuals and institutions to make this initiative a success."

He added: "Empowering the concept of community participation in the Omani society has been a key goal in our initiative. We highly value the constructive cooperation and collaboration from government and private institutions, journalists, and social media influencers, who have helped spread our humanitarian message."

The 'Fak Kurbah' team has been working tirelessly in facilitating the procedures of fundraising to easily reach all segments of society, including Athar platform powered by Thawani application, and a dedicated website.

THREE-DAY FORUM

Forum focuses on power transitions and latest developments in industry

MUSCAT: The second edition of Oman's Power and Energy Forum kicked off in Muscat on Monday with a focus on power transitions and the latest developments in industry. The three-day forum is organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and a number of local and international parties.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. Al Aufi said in a speech on the occasion that digital transition to sustainable energy resources would contribute to striking a balance between development and climate change. He noted that the conference constitutes an opportunity to benefit from investment and economic opportunities that are provided by this transition, he added.

Al Aufi pointed out that Oman endorsed ambitious plans for digital transition that are compatible with Oman Vision 2040 and draw out a roadmap for a more sustainable, diversified and prosperous future. This is envisaged to be achieved through the



espousal of clean energy techniques and the diversification of sources of energy to achieve carbon neutrality by supporting innovation and in-country value

(ICV) programmes, in addition to the localisation of industry, while at the same time generating employment for youth, the minister explained. - OMA

SUCCESSFUL VISIT

<FROM A1> His Majesty returns to Oman after successful Egypt visit

They also touched on several matters of common concern.

The fraternal meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private

Office and Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League.

HM sends cable to Egyptian President

His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at Cairo International Airport by the Egyptian President. Also present at the airport was Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Amba-

sador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League.

Later, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik sent a cable of thanks to President Abdul Fattah El Sisi of Egypt. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere appreciation to President El Sisi for the warm welcome and hospitality. His Majesty the Sultan lauded the opportunity offered

by the meeting with the Egyptian President in reviewing the bilateral relations and means of enhancing them in various spheres to serve the joint interests of the Omani and Egyptian peoples.

His Majesty the Sultan prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect President El Sisi and grant him good health, wellbeing and long life to achieve future aspirations of progress and prosperity for the Egyptian people.



ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Omani-Egyptian Business Forum highlights investment opportunities in Oman

CAIRO: The Omani-Egyptian Business Forum was held within the framework of the visit paid by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Arab Republic of Egypt on Monday.

The forum highlighted investment opportunities available in the Sultanate of Oman and to strike economic partnerships.

Sultan Salim Al Habshi, Minister of Finance underscored that the forum will contribute to boosting joint economic action in accordance with the directives of the two countries' leaderships.

Al Habshi added in his speech that there is a serious desire to establish firm partnerships in strategic economic sectors. The two sides are also keen to enhance investments and trade exchange in a manner that reflects the competitive advantage between the two countries in a bid to achieve economic integration.

Al Habshi added that Omani-Egyptian partnership can be set up on a greater base of integration between the two countries on the political, historical and cultural levels, as well as in economy, trade exchange and investment cooperation.

Qais Mohammed Al Yousef,



Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, gave an overview of Oman Vision 2040, national programmes and incentives offered to investors. Those incentives include reducing commercial registration fees and 50-year long usufruct contracts that can be renewed for a similar period, as well as full foreign ownership and tax exemptions up to 30 years.

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion said that trade exchange between Oman and Egypt recorded an increase, to stand at \$1.023 billion in 2022 compared to \$566.1 million.

To break down the figures, he pointed out that the number of



Egyptian companies licensed in Oman till the end of 2022 amounted to 1,546. Egyptian contribution amounted to approximately \$208 million.

Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Promotion (OIA) said that OIA, through its strategic partnerships, boosts Oman's efforts aimed at bolstering relations with Arab and friendly countries in a manner that serves the interests of all parties. OIA also works on introducing modern technologies to the local sectors.

Al Murshidi added that OIA manages its investments, which are distributed over more than 40 countries (including Egypt), through two portfolios. Those are the National Development Portfolio and the Future Generations' Fund.

He noted that OIA works in an integrated manner with other government units to attract foreign investments to Oman. Recently, 36 investment opportunities were offered in the Invest Oman lounge.

Al Murshidi said that OIA has investments with Egypt's private sector. He also expressed his hope that the visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Egypt will enhance joint investments.

Eng. Ahmed Samir, Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry



plained that Omani investments in Egypt stand at more than \$80 million in 110 projects in the sectors of industry, agriculture, tourism, construction, finance, communications and others, while Egyptian investments in Oman stand at \$860 million in several sectors, including infrastructure, as well as real estate and tourism investment.

Dr. Mohamed Moait, Egyptian Minister of Finance delivered a speech during the event in which he underlined Egypt's keenness to raise the economic, commercial and investment gains with the Sultanate of Oman to reach a level that meets aspirations of the two peoples. He pointed out that trade exchange between the two countries witnessed a great boom last year.

Dr. Hala El-Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development lauded the historical relations binding Oman and Egypt.

Ayman Soliman, CEO of the Sovereign Fund of Egypt, stressed that one of the goals of the fund is to attract local and foreign investors in important sectors of the Egyptian economy in the fields of industry, technology and digital transformation. - OMA

COOPERATION AGREEMENT



Oman Airports signs pact to provide 5G services at Muscat, Salalah airports

MUSCAT: Oman Airports on Monday signed the 2nd phase of a cooperation agreement with Vodafone Oman to provide 5G services at Muscat International Airport and Salalah Airport.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of COMEX 2023

exhibition. It will contribute to enhancing the quality of internet services at the airports' facilities.

The agreements were signed by Sheikh Aymen Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports and Eng. Badr Saud Al Zidi, CEO of Vodafone Oman. - OMA

OMAN-UK STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP

Oman stresses commitment to achieve goals of reaching zero neutrality in 2050

MUSCAT: A workshop on green and sustainable finance was held at Al Wahat Club in Muscat on Monday, within the activities of Omani-UK Strategic Advisory Group.

Nassir Khamis Al Jashmi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance and Supervisor of the National Programme for Fiscal Balance stressed Oman's commitment to the goals of reaching zero neutrality in 2050 and preparing the legislative environment to achieve this by establishing a strategy to develop financial and investment tools for the financial and banking sector with the participation of government institutions, government companies and the private sector.

The goal, said Al Jashmi, will be also achieved through adherence to the standards and practices of tripartite governance, including environmental, social and gov-



ernance. James Goldman, UK Deputy Ambassador to Oman explained that the advisory group is a platform for exchanging experiences and ideas and building technical and economic partnerships, noting that more workshops will be held on topics to be agreed upon by the Omani and British sides. The workshop touched on the basic rules, components and benefits of green financing, in

addition to reviewing a number of experiences and expertise in the field of green financing. It also discussed the next steps to build a green and sustainable financing strategy. Dr. Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit and representatives of government and private institutions took part in the workshop.

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialize companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tender in Dhofar Governorate

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2023/085	11kV NETWORK EXTENSION WORKS TO FEED POWER SUPPLY TO AL MAZYONA HOSPITAL	06/06/2023	22/06/2023	RO. 52.500
DISC/2023/090	REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING BELT CONVEYORS AT SOLID PROCESS BUILDING WITH SCREW CONVEYORS IN WRP	06/06/2023	22/06/2023	RO. 52.500

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VISIT

UK delegation visits Oman

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Monday a delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom (UK), headed by retired Air Vice Marshal Philip Thomas Giles.

— ONA



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TECH SHOW

Comex 2023 kicks off at OCEC

<FROM A1 He further added that steps are under way to set up a platform for unified open government data. Oman made a global achievement in the field of express mail recently, taking the lead in a global group of 190 countries, said the minister.

Launch of cloud service
In December 2022, Oman Post Company inked an agreement with Amazon to launch a cloud service that was the first of its kind in the Middle East that supports local area technology, he added.
The minister explained that the National Programme for Digital Economy comprises 8 ambition executive programmes designed



to set solid grounds for a prosperous digital economy and augment its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.
The programmes are: Government Digital Transition, Cybersecurity, Digital Industry, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Technologies, Space, Infrastructure, Fin-tech and E-commerce. — ONA







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SPACE X FALCON 9 ROCKET

Two Saudi astronauts travel to International Space Station

FLORIDA: The second private mission to the International Space Station (ISS) was launched from Florida on Sunday.

The mission will be joined by breast cancer researcher Rayyanah Barnawi and fighter pilot Ali Al-Qarni. The pair are the first Saudi astronauts to travel to the ISS.

The mission was Organised by private firm Axiom Space

The Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) crew took off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral at 5:37 pm local time (2137 GMT/UTC).

The team also includes former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, who is making her fourth trip to the ISS, and US businessman John Shoffner. The crew is set to spend around 10 days aboard the orbiting laboratory.

First Saudi woman in space

The last time a Saudi citizen went to space was in 1985, when air force pilot Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz took part in a US-organised voyage.

Saudi Arabia established the Saudi Space Commission in 2018 and launched a programme to send astronauts to space.

Barnawi is the first Saudi woman to go into space. Women in Saudi Arabia were given the right to drive only a few years ago.

“Being the first Saudi woman astronaut, representing the region, it’s a great pleasure and honor that I’m very happy to carry,” Barnawi said.

Barnawi said that she looked forward to sharing her experience with children.

“Being able to see their faces when they see astronauts from their own region for the first time is very thrilling,” she said.

Al-Qarni said he has “always had the passion of exploring the unknown and just admiring the sky and the stars.” -dw



20 children dead in Guyana school dormitory blaze



The fire broke in the girls’ dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, some 200 kilometres inland from the capital, Georgetown

GEORGETOWN: At least 20 children have been killed and several more were injured in a fire at a dormitory in Guyana late on Sunday night.

The fire broke in the girls’ dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) inland from the capital, Georgetown.

“This is a major disaster. It is horrible, it is painful,” the South American nation’s President Irfaan Ali said. In a statement, the government offered prayers for the families of the victims and added, “We have lost many beautiful souls in that fire.”

Medical evacuations underway

Guyanese authorities have dispatched military and private planes to the tiny mining town of Mahdia to airlift the survivors to the capital.



Ali said arrangements had been made so that “every single child who requires attention be given the best possible opportunity to get that attention” at the two main hospitals in Georgetown.

He also pledged to bring in psychologists and counselors to help the girls and their families.

Natasha Singh-Lewis, an opposition MP, called for an investigation into the cause of the fire.

“We need to understand how this most horrific and deadly incident occurred and take all necessary measures to prevent such a tragedy from happening again,” she said.

Guyana is one of the poorest nations in South America and is home to 800,000 people. It boasts the second-highest percentage of forest cover of any country and the world’s largest per capita oil reserves were also recently discovered. -dw

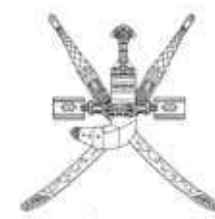
ELECTIONS

Greek PM wins election, but fails to reach majority

ATHENS: Greece Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis won the national election but failed to reach the majority, according to media report.

With most of the votes, Mitsotakis’s New Democracy party was 40.83 per cent of the votes, ahead of the left-wing Syriza party of Alexis Tsipras, which had 20.1 per cent. The projections from Greece’s interior ministry showed New Democracy falling six seats short of an outright majority in parliament, leaving Mitsotakis with the choice of building a coalition or bringing about a new ballot for a decisive result, reported Al Jazeera.

Hailing his party’s big victory as a “political earthquake,” Mitsotakis hinted that he would seek another election in order to secure an absolute majority that would allow the party to govern alone. —ANI



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
134/2023	General maintenance work for the gymnasium building at the Child Welfare Center in at Al - Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Tuesday 13-6-2023 02:00 PM	Sunday 2-7-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Tuesday 23/5/2023

❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

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VS

Chennai Super Kings

6pm, Chennai

ELIMINATOR
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Lucknow Super Giants

VS

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6pm, Chennai

PLAYING MY BEST T20 CRICKET AGAIN: KOHLI

“A lot of people feel my T20 cricket is declining, I don’t feel that at all,” says Royal Challengers Bangalore batter after hitting back-to-back IPL centuries

BENGALURU: Following his back-to-back centuries, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) star batter Virat Kohli believes that he is playing his “best T20 cricket again”.

Kohli hammered successive hundreds at the end of the league stage of IPL 2023, but could not help his side qualify into playoffs as RCB lost to Gujarat Titans on Sunday.

Speaking about his innings, Kohli said: “Ya, I felt great. A lot of people feel my T20 cricket is declining, but I don’t feel like that at all. I feel I am playing my best T20 cricket again. I’m just enjoying myself, this is how I play T20 cricket. I look to hit gaps, hit a lot of boundaries and the big ones in the end if the situation allows me to.”

“Strike rates, all those kind of things like I said in the past as well... You have to read the situation and rise up to the occasion when the situation demands, and that’s something I take a lot of pride in doing, and I’ve been doing it for a while now. I feel really good with my game at the moment and how I’m batting out there in the middle.”

Kohli overtook his former RCB teammate Chris Gayle for most centuries in the IPL and became the third batter to

score consecutive hundreds in the IPL after Shikhar Dhawan (2020) and Jos Buttler (2022). Later in the night, Shubman Gill too joined that club.

Kohli and Faf du Plessis gave RCB a rapid start with an opening stand of 67 in 7.1 overs before RCB lost three wickets - including those of du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell - to Titans’ spinners in the space of 13 balls.

“Spin wasn’t easy to get away and I think the strength of a lot of our fast bowlers is also taking pace off,” Kohli said of the score (197/5) they finished on and the conditions.

“There’s enough in this pitch for our bowlers to make a dent through the [chase], and hitting big shots as you saw in the middle overs wasn’t as easy when the field spread out. So you have to hit a lot of gaps and run twos. If we can cut down those boundaries and now allow them to run twos from those gaps, then it’ll be a very difficult chase.”

But Gill’s unbeaten 104 off 52 made sure that was not the case, knocking RCB out of the tournament as Titans chased down their target in 19.1 overs.

“Obviously very disappointed,” RCB skipper Faf du Plessis said after the game.

“You get to the last game of the campaign, you want to make sure you get through. But we played a very strong team tonight, Shubman Gill played an amazing innings to get a hundred. We were a little bit off in one or two areas and when you are playing a team like this, they will capitalise on it.”

“The conditions were really wet in the second innings but I think it was also wet in the first innings with a lot of moisture from the rain [which delayed the start by 55 minutes]. So we changed the ball three times, there wasn’t a lot of grip in the second innings. But I thought 195 was a good score, and that Virat [Kohli] played an unbelievable knock to give us a chance, but we needed that wicket of Shubman to feel like we were really in the game.”

One of the biggest positives for RCB this season was the opening partnership of Kohli and du Plessis. The pair added 939 runs in 14 innings, equalling Kohli and AB de Villiers’ record of most runs by a pair in a T20 tournament, set in IPL 2016.

“He [Kohli] has played really good cricket throughout the season,” du Plessis said, “and as a partnership, I think there was not one game where we didn’t score 40 for the opening stand [they failed to add 40 in four out of 14 innings]. So that was really pleasing for both of us that we got the team off to a really good start. But it just shows you Virat has got a lot left in the tank in T20 cricket; he is playing really well still.” - Agencies



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TITANS

“Missed out on big scores in first half,” says Gill

BENGALURU: Following the win over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in their IPL match on Sunday, Gujarat Titans (GT) batter Shubman Gill, who smashed his second successive century, said that he missed out on big scores in the first half of the tournament, but is glad to get them now.

The 23-year-old said that showing intent and applying oneself is extremely important for a batter.

Shubman Gill’s unbeaten century (104) trumped Virat Kohli’s classic knock of 101 runs to help GT beat RCB by six wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday.

Speaking during the post-match presentation, Gill said: “I am in good form, it is about getting a start and then converting it into a big one. In the first half of the IPL, I was missing out on those big ones. I was getting a lot of 40s and 50s. Thankfully, it is all working out for me in the business end of the IPL.”

“You need to keep playing shots

in T20 cricket. You have to keep the intent and keep applying yourself, keep the belief. The new ball was holding a bit, but it got easier to bat on. The ball was getting wet, it was difficult for their spinners to bowl.”

“He [Vijay Shankar] was trying to hit too hard when he came in, I told him to hold his shape and just try to time it. Once he found the momentum, he is someone who can hit the ball a long way. I know my game and it is important for me to be in that area. For any player, it is important to know what kind of player you are and then just keep building on that. It is going to be an exciting one, playing against Chennai in Chennai. We have got a great bowling attack for that wicket in particular and hopefully, we will make it to the final for the second time,” added the batter.

In 14 matches, Gill has scored 680 runs at an average of 56.66 and a strike rate of 152.46. He has scored two centuries and four fifties, with best score of 104 n.o..

This year has been incredible for Gill so far. In two Tests, he has scored 154 runs at an average of 51.33, with a century and best score of 128.

Gill has also been lethal in ODIs. In 9 ODI matches this year, he has scored 624 runs at an average of 78.00. He has scored three centuries and one fifty, with a best score of 208.

In six T20Is this year, he has scored 202 runs at an average of 40.0 with the best score of 126, his first century in T20Is.

In 17 international matches and 18 innings this year, he has 980 runs at an average of 106.40. He has smashed five centuries and a fifty, with a best score of 208.

This young Punjab batter is also the first Indian player to score a century in Tests, ODIs, T20Is and IPL in a single calendar year.

Could Shubman be the successor of Virat Kohli as many fans think? Only time will tell. But till then, one can enjoy this highly satisfying rise of the ‘Prince’ of Indian cricket. -ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2023 reaching \$74.18, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 71 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$74.89. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,703.13 points, down by 0.23 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.21 per cent at 468.97 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while National Mineral Water, down 5.17 per cent, was the top loser.

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Agreement to establish integrated industrial complex in Duqm inked

The Mega Hub plan will contribute to Vale's commitment to reduce 15% of net Scope 3 emissions by 2035

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Vale signed a land reservation agreement with the Port of Duqm Company and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Marafiq to establish an integrated industrial complex (Mega Hub) to produce low-carbon products for the steelmaking industry in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad).

The signing ceremony took place at the Invest Oman Hall, in the presence of Eng. Ahmed Bin Hassan Al Theeb, Vice President of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz), Dr Mansoor Bin Talib Al Hina, Chairman of the Authority for Public Services Regulation, Vice chairman of National Negotiation Team and. Ibtisam Bint Ahmed Al Farooji, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, for Investment Promotion.



Signed by Eduardo Bartolomeo, Vale's CEO, and Reggy Vermeulen, Port of Duqm's CEO, the land reservation agreement between Vale and Port of Duqm also commissions joint studies to build a Mega Hub in Oman.

Additionally, an MoU was signed by Eduardo Bartolomeo and Abdullah Al Hashmi, Managing Director of Marafiq, a leading utility service provider in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. The memorandum aims to provide the project with access to all the utilities and services required for its operations while promoting the use of clean energy and green hydrogen at the port of Duqm.

The stakeholders focused on the use of clean energy and green hydrogen in the coming Mega Hub. The planned industrial complex will cover an estimated total area of 6.78

Km2 and produce hot briquette iron (HBI), and other steel products.

"The signing of these agreements marks a significant milestone in establishing Vale as a leader in sustainable mining," said Vale's CEO. "We are thrilled about the prospects the planned Mega Hub presents in supporting the steel industry's drive towards greener operations. The Port of Duqm, a growing key industrial hub in the Sultanate of Oman, is perfectly positioned to support our expansion plans, and we are excited to demonstrate the potential of Oman and Duqm as an attractive proposition for foreign direct investment."

Speaking for the Port of Duqm, CEO Reggy Vermeulen stated: "We are pleased that Vale, a world-renowned mining company, chose to establish its Mega Hub in the Port



of Duqm. The strategic location of our port on key international trade routes, its proximity to large regional markets including India, Africa and GCC countries, and its world-class infrastructure make it an ideal location to establish such major industrial projects."

"The Port of Duqm is also set to be a future hub for green hydrogen and its derivatives," Vermeulen added. "We are optimistic that it will quickly emerge as a destination of choice for green steel manufacturing and are proud to call ourselves the 'green port'."

"We are committed to supporting the national goals of the Sultanate of Oman, including decarbonization, commitment to net-zero, and realising the sustainable development goals laid out in Oman Vision 2040."

Marafiq's Managing Director

Eng. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hashimi stated that Marafiq is keen to sign this MoU with Vale and provide the project with vital utility services, including power. Al Hashimi also highlighted the importance of Vale's Mega Hub plans in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and said the company will fully support the project which in turn promotes Marafiq's growth.

The Mega Hub initiative contributes to Vale's commitment to reduce 15 per cent of net Scope 3 emissions by 2035. Additionally, Vale seeks to reduce its Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 33 per cent by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement, leading the evolution towards sustainable mining.

The trend towards the use of low-carbon technologies in the production of HBI and iron bri-

quettes is a major stride in the sector's sustainability and is aligned with the objective of net zero by 2050 adopted by Oman under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.

The development of the Mega Hub project is expected to produce HBI and steel products to supply both the local and export markets, while significantly reducing CO2 emissions. The production of HBI using natural gas emits around 60% less CO2 when compared to more traditional methods. In the future, the replacement of natural gas with hydrogen and the usage of renewable energy could eliminate CO2 emissions.

Vale is expected to build and operate iron ore concentration and briquetting plants within the hubs, securing the supply of high-grade agglomerated products. Local parties are expected to promote the construction of the required logistics infrastructure. Investors and/or clients are expected to construct and operate the direct reduction plants and be off-takers of HBI for either the export or domestic markets. These Mega Hubs shall supply different markets across the globe, supporting the de-carbonisation of the steelmaking industry.

Abbas Irshad Al Lawati, CEO of Invest Oman Lounge, stated that the lounge is a single window that provides major investors with integrated services and in cooperation with relevant government and private entities, presents to them investment opportunities.

COMEX

Opaz showcases its latest electronic services for investors



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) is participating in Oman's Official Technology Show (Comex 2023), which is being held with the support of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and Oman Vision 2040 from May 22-25 at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The 32nd edition of the show focuses on promoting future technologies in various industries and sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. This comes in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 in supporting digital transformation.

As part of its participation in the Comex 2023 Show, Opaz brings a special booth to showcase its various experiences and initiatives in digital transformation and smart cities. Opaz aims, during its participation, to present a number of outstand-

ing projects and applications in the field of artificial intelligence, including the Internet of Things project, which is being implemented in the network control rooms at Opaz building and the Centralised Compliance System "Eltizam", which will be launched at Comex 2023, in addition to artificial intelligence and drone experiments.

Visitors and participants passing by the Opaz booth can view the different initiatives and achievements in digital transformation, artificial intelligence and the use of 3D printing technology projects of Opaz.

Likewise, they will be also familiarised with the various services provided by Opaz and its affiliated zones to investors and other beneficiaries. In addition, Opaz is presenting its success story in the digital transformation journey in the first forum for digital proficiency in government digital transformation that is held on the sidelines of Comex 2023.

8 AGREEMENTS



OQ signs pact on digital transformation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ, the global integrated energy group, signed 8 agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) focused on digital transformation and the technology of the fourth industrial revolution. These collaborations were established with specialised international companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The agreements were formalised on the sidelines of OQ's participation in the Comex 2023 Exhibition, demonstrating the group's commitment to staying abreast of technological advancements and enhancing operational efficiency across its facilities and assets. Ashraf bin Hamad Al Mamari, Chief Executive of People, Technology, and Culture at OQ, and Maryam bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, OQ's Vice President

of Integrated Digital Solutions signed the agreements.

The first agreement involved a partnership with Oman Data Park (ODP) to optimise cloud systems. The second agreement, signed with Accenture, will facilitate the development and operation of OQ's digital factory, accelerating the group's digital transformation journey.

Furthermore, OQ forged alliances with Deloitte and SAP to introduce the SAP ERP 2.0 system, along with Ariba, Concur, and other innovative applications.

To enhance remote support capabilities, OQ signed agreements with Marmol Integrated LLC and Data Capture Systems, enabling technicians to utilise augmented and virtual reality technology through devices like virtual reality headsets and camera-equipped helmets. These tools will enable seamless communication with

experts in remote areas. Additionally, OQ agreed with BHC3i, aiming to leverage advanced artificial intelligence technology for predictive maintenance operations.

Another MoU was signed with SAP to explore the potential transition to the SAP S4-Hana system, which offers improved business processes and streamlined data, transaction, and analytics management. The eighth agreement was inked with CISCO to explore avenues for enhancing the security of OQ's networks.

Ashraf Al Mamari stated, "OQ seeks to partner with international companies, national firms, and SMEs in the technology and digital transformation fields to enhance the in-country added value. We believe in the importance of sharing experiences and knowledge, as well as developing the expertise of individuals in

these areas."

He emphasised that OQ is guided by a digital transformation strategy that enhances work efficiency, reduces costs, and prioritises personnel safety. Al Mamari highlighted that OQ awards digital transformation contracts to specialised national companies, empowering them in these domains.

Al Mamari concluded, "OQ remains committed to integrating cutting-edge technologies within its facilities and operations. Our participation in Comex 2023, showcasing 11 new technologies, reflects OQ's vision for the future."

Representatives from the companies involved in the digital transformation agreements expressed their enthusiasm for the partnerships and their commitment to the successful realisation of OQ's plans for leveraging fourth-industrial revolution technology.



FOOT AND ANKLE SAFETY

TIPS FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

FROM THE BEACH TO THE BACKYARD, TAKING CARE OF YOUR FEET AND ANKLES IN SUMMER IS ESSENTIAL

“Nothing ruins summer fun faster than a problem with your feet. However, a few smart precautions can help keep you healthy and safe,” says Gretchen Lawrence, DPM, AACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and an associate member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS). To help you understand some of the most common summer risks to feet and how to avoid them, ACFAS is sharing these insights:

PUNCTURE WOUNDS

Millions go barefoot every summer, and thousands will sustain cuts and puncture wounds. To prevent injury and infection, wear shoes whenever possible and get vaccinated against tetanus. If you do get a puncture wound, see a foot and ankle surgeon within 24 hours and don't swim until it's healed. Bacteria in oceans and lakes can cause infection.

POOL PROBLEMS

Always wear flip flops or other footwear in locker rooms and on pool decks to prevent contact with bacteria and viruses that can cause athlete's foot, plantar warts and other problems.



SUN DAMAGE AND SKIN CANCER

Don't overlook your feet during your sun protection routine. Feet get sunburned too, and melanoma on the foot or ankle is more likely to be misdiagnosed than on any other part of the body. A study published in "The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery" reported the overall survival rate for melanoma of the foot or ankle is just 52%, in sharp contrast to the 85% survival rate for melanomas in other areas of the body. Apply sunscreen to the tops and bottoms of feet and limit sun exposure. Dr. Lawrence notes, "If you spot abnormal moles or pigmented skin, including under toenails, visit a foot and ankle surgeon. Early detection and treatment could save your life."

DIABETES COMPLICATIONS

If you have diabetes, prolonged hot and humid weather can lead to numerous foot woes. Any type of skin break has the potential to get infected if it isn't noticed right away, and exposure can cause dry, cracking skin. Inspect your feet daily and wear closed shoes whenever possible. Swelling is another hot-weather risk, potentially making shoes fit tighter which can cause blisters. Compression stockings may not sound appealing in hot temperatures, but they can reduce swelling and help prevent poor circulation. Finally, never go barefoot in summer. Impaired nerve sensation can make it hard to detect just how hot surfaces are. Just a few minutes walking barefoot on pavement to grab the newspaper can cause third-degree burns.

PAINS AND SPRAINS

Summer sports can lead to arch pain, heel pain, ankle sprains and other injuries. Proper footwear with heel cushioning and arch support is essential, particularly on uneven surfaces, such as sandy beaches or hiking trails. If injury occurs, use the RICE approach: rest, ice, compression and elevation to ease pain and swelling. Any injury that doesn't resolve within a few days should be examined by a foot and ankle surgeon.



TRAVEL CONCERNS

Sitting for long stretches can increase the risk of dangerous blood clots. "Whether road tripping or flying, regularly stretch your legs and pump your feet to circulate blood. Wearing compression socks for longer travel is also a good idea," says Dr. Lawrence.



SPORTS

Manchester City celebrate title with win over Chelsea

Alvarez scored the only goal as Guardiola's team celebrated their third successive Premier League title in a party atmosphere at Etihad Stadium

LONDON: Manchester City celebrated their English Premier League (EPL) title on Sunday with a 1-0 win at home to Chelsea. Julian Alvarez scored the only goal of the game to a much-changed City side that had already been confirmed as champions 24 hours earlier. Manager Pep Guardiola's side were confirmed as champions on Saturday without kicking a ball as Arsenal lost 1-0 away to Nottingham Forest. Guardiola made nine changes against Chelsea from the side that thrashed Real Madrid to reach the Champions League final. Erling Haaland was rested but Julian Alvarez provided the cutting edge in his absence with a clinical finish to put City ahead after 12 minutes, as their jubilant fans basked in warm sunshine waiting for the trophy presentations and celebrations. Chelsea had some of the better chances as the game went on, with



City's keeper Stefan Ortega saving from Raheem Sterling when clean through and Conor Gallagher heading against the post. Calvin Phillips headed against the woodwork for City as they closed out another win in the relentless run that has brought them the title and the chance of a treble, with the FA Cup final at Wembley

and Champions League final in Istanbul to come. Meanwhile, following Sunday's 3-1 defeat at West Ham, Leeds manager Sam Allardyce fears it will be a "big ask" to secure Premier League survival, particularly if injured attackers Patrick Bamford and Rodrigo are not fit for next week's final game against Tot

tenham. Three seasons after they were promoted to the top flight, Leeds know they will be relegated back to the Championship if they fail to beat Spurs. Even that will not be enough if Everton win their final game against Bournemouth or Leicester pick up four points from their last two matches. - Agencies



LIGUE 1

Mbappe nets twice to give PSG victory

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) are on the verge of a record 11th Ligue 1 title after Kylian Mbappe's double secured a 2-1 victory over struggling Auxerre on Sunday. Defending champions PSG are six points clear of second-placed Lens - who also have an inferior goal difference - and require just one point from their last two games to guarantee the title. Top scorer Mbappe netted twice in the opening eight minutes for the visitors. Lassine Sinayoko responded for Auxerre, who remain in relegation trouble. The victory means Christophe Galtier's PSG will clinch the title if they avoid defeat at Racing Strasbourg next Saturday. Mbappe, 24, has scored 40 goals and contributed nine assists in 41 games this season - including 33 goal involvements in 32 Ligue 1 matches. The France international displayed great footwork as he twisted and turned in the box to create space for the opener, before bending in a sublime first-time strike two minutes later. PSG, who have won eight of the past 10 Ligue 1 titles, equalled Marseille and Saint-Etienne's all-time record of 10 French titles last season. - Agencies

BUNDESLIGA



Dortmund on verge of clinching crown

BERLIN: In a touching gesture of remembrance, Borussia Dortmund coach Edin Terzic frequently points skywards before and after games, a tribute to his late father. Terzic's father, Ibrisim, passed away last October at the age of 72, but the Dortmund coach insists he still feels a strong connection to him. On Sunday evening, the sense of spiritual communion may have been more profound than ever. Terzic led the youthful Dortmund squad to recapture the top spot in the German national league with a 3-0 victory against Augsburg. Victory takes them two points clear of Bayern Munich, who lost

3-1 to RB Leipzig on Saturday with one round remaining. Felix Uduokhai was sent off in the first half for a foul on Donyell Malen before Sebastian Haller opened the scoring with a low strike in the 58th minute. Haller then finished from close range before Julian Brandt got a late third. Victory means Dortmund are in a strong position to win the Bundesliga for the first time since 2011-12 and deny Bayern Munich an 11th-successive title. Thomas Tuchel takes his Bayern side to Cologne on the final day of the season next Saturday but Dortmund know a win at home to Mainz at the same time will secure the trophy. - Agencies

LA LIGA

Vinicius sees red as Real Madrid lose to Valencia

MADRID: Real Madrid endured another setback this week, succumbing to a 1-0 defeat away to Valencia in La Liga on Sunday. Thanks to a first-half goal from young striker Diego Lopez, Valencia practically ensured their continued place in the top-flight. Lopez struck just past the half-hour mark, capitalising on a mishit shot from Justin Kluivert. This ultimately awarded his team all three points against a significantly changed Madrid lineup, a stark contrast from the one that suffered a 4-0 defeat to Manchester City in Wednesday's Champions League match. Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili showcased a series of exceptional saves to clinch the victory. However, the match will also be memorable for off-field incidents. Madrid winger Vinicius Jr was provoked into an angry reaction following a racist insult from a fan in the stands and had to be placated by both rivals and teammates. In the 96th minute, Vinicius Jr was shown a direct red card for his involvement in an on-field altercation, during which he retaliated against Valencia striker Hugo Duro. Duro was fortunate to avoid punishment after grabbing the forward around the neck. Earlier in the game, an incensed Vinicius attempted to bring Valen



cia fans to the referee's attention. "The championship that once belonged to Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano and Messi today belongs to racists," Vinicius wrote on Instagram. "It wasn't the first time, nor the second, nor the third. Racism is normal in La Liga. The competition thinks it's normal, the federation does too and the opponents encourage it. "A beautiful nation, which welcomed me and which I love, but which agreed to export the image of a racist country to the world. I'm sorry for the Spaniards who don't agree, but today, in Brazil, Spain is known as a country of racists. "And unfortunately, for everything that happens each week, I have no defence. I agree. But I am strong

and I will go to the end against racists. Even if far from here." Real Madrid's loss enabled Atletico Madrid to reclaim second place, following a comfortable 3-0 home win against Osasuna. Goals from Yannick Carrasco, Saul Niguez and Angel Correa facilitated their victory. In a characteristically intense Seville derby, Sevilla and Betis played out a goalless draw. Betis concluded the match with 10 players, after Joan Miranda was dismissed in the closing minutes for a reckless challenge on Jesus Navas. Despite participating in the Europa League on Thursday, Sevilla dominated the encounter, with Betis failing to land a single shot on target. - Agencies

DOMESTIC CRICKET SEASON

KR honours Premier League, D10 winners Muscat CT

MUSCAT: Domestic cricket powerhouse Muscat CT concluded the 2022-2023 Oman Cricket season on a high note as they claimed a grand double - Premier League and D10 titles - while they missed out a treble, finishing runner-up in the D20 tournament. Khimji Ramdas (KR), owners of Muscat CT, celebrated the team's achievements recently at a ceremony held at Pizza Hut Qurum where the team members were felicitated and handed cash awards. Pankaj Khimji, Advisor for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP),

congratulated the players and the support staff for the excellent performances. He also extended best wishes to Muscat CT players who would represent Oman in the forthcoming ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe. Madhu Jesrani, mentor of Muscat CT, expressed delight on the team's successful season. He thanked the directors of KR Group, CEOs and department heads for their support and encouragement to the players. Later, the players were handed cash bonuses and certificates of appreciation while individual performers were also handed special awards.



CASH AWARDS

FIDE Classic chess event from June 1

MUSCAT: Oman Indian Chess Community (OICC) will organise a FIDE Classic Chess Tournament from June 1-4 at the Muscat Grand Mall. The event is open to all and will offer cash prizes to winners. The overall winner will receive OMR300 and a trophy while cash prizes are on offer for women's champion, best unrated player, and winners of U16, U14, U10 and U8 categories. For registration, players can contact tournament director Divakar (71549460) and tournament arbiter Mussalam Al Wadahi (99466340).

IN-PICTURES



Storm King Art Centre in New York
Visitors gather around Menashe Kadishman's artwork "Suspended" at Storm King Art Centre in New York, the United States. The centre is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York's Hudson Valley, where visitors experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific commissions under open sky. *xinhua*



Tea cultural salon held in New York
Participants wait to taste specialty tea from China's Quanzhou at a tea-themed cultural salon in New York, the United States. Hundreds of New Yorkers participated in a tea-themed cultural salon in Lower Manhattan in celebration of International Tea Day. *xinhua*



Highlight of 2023 Taklimakan Rally
This aerial picture shows driver Pan Dong and his pilot Gao Hui competing during the second stage from Keping County to Halajun Township at 2023 Taklimakan Rally, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. *xinhua*

75th Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair event
A rider competes in the bull riding at the competition of the 75th Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair event in Surrey, Canada. *xinhua*



Thai zoo makes unremitting efforts to reintroduce endangered cranes to wild
This picture shows sarus cranes at the Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo in northeastern Thailand. The Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo is the largest breeding site for the endangered cranes in Thailand. *xinhua*



Mini-marathon held to raise awareness about Afghan cultural heritage
Afghan children take part in a mini-marathon in Bamyan province, Afghanistan. *xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Zubair Building Materials rebrands to Zakher Building Solutions

As part of its rebranding, Zubair Building Materials unveiled its strategic business plan and new approaches, headlined by the addition of three major divisions

MUSCAT: Zubair Building Materials (ZBM), a leading trading company for premium and luxury interior building products, announced its rebranding to Zakher Building Solutions (ZBS). This change resulted from in-



tegrating ZBM within the Inma property development vertical of The Zubair Corporation, thereby adding better synergy to its business growth and introducing new product lines.

Speaking on the occasion, Yahya Al Balushi, Sector Head of the Real Estate Development Sector said, “We are delighted to welcome Zakher Building Solutions into the fold. As an entity that pushes

the ethos to give way to innovation, this integration and rebrand will be beneficial to ZBS and allow them to pioneer solutions that help redefine the building & construction industry in the Sultanate

of Oman. Inma is proud to be an integral part of this transformation.” “We are excited to embark on this new journey under our new identity, Zakher Building Solutions. This integration with Inma property development vertical will allow us to enhance our capabilities further, expand our product offerings, and create more value for our customers,” said Ramesh Jayapal, General Manager at ZBS. “We aim to be a reliable and innovative partner for our clients in Oman’s building and construction industry by offering cutting-edge design solutions and high-quality products under our new identity. We are excited about the possibilities this brings for our company and clients.” The name change and integration with Inma reflect the company’s expansion and commitment to providing innovative solutions for the building industry. It was a strategic move to create synergy, enhance the company’s capabilities, and open opportunities for new product lines.

As part of its rebranding, ZBS also unveiled its strategic business plan and new approaches, headlined by the addition of three major divisions. The first is the company’s ‘Bathroom Solutions’ division, which offers complete bathroom solutions for various segments, including High, Mid, and Eco. Its ‘Special Products Solutions’ division provides protection solutions such as waterproofing, technical paints, Rockwool insulation, and fire-fighting solutions. The ‘Kirby Building Systems’ division offers solutions for Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings ensuring customised engineering designs that optimise efficiencies and cost. Ramesh Jayapal added, “We are working on an exclusive orientation centre to showcase our expanded portfolio to our customers better. We are confident that we will continue to be a market leader and look forward to serving our clients with the same commitment and dedication that we have always demonstrated.”

MEETHAQ

Ikram package for pensioners hailed for innovative facilities

MUSCAT: The Ikram package launched by Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has been hailed by customers for its innovative facilities and services. In line with its strategy to improve financial inclusion in Oman, Meethaq’s Ikram package offers a specialised package of Sharia-compliant financing products with attractive profit rates catering to Omani pensioners. The Ikram package was launched earlier at the beginning of 2023 after a detailed study of the needs of retirees from government and private institutions. On this occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager, Retail Banking – Meethaq, said, “Meethaq developed the Ikram pensioner package to offer a full suite of Islamic financial services and facilities that meet our customers’ needs and aspirations. We are hence delighted to see the excellent response to this newly-launched package which is playing a key role in bringing about greater financial inclusion for retirees. In



this context, I would like to mention that Meethaq will continue to introduce new financial products and services targeting different sections of society in line with the changing needs of our customers to whom I extend thanks for their continuous trust in Meethaq’s products and services”.

Both current and new customers can benefit from the Ikram package which offers a wide range of services, competitive profit rates, exclusive financing offers, credit card offers and discounts at selected merchant partner outlets. Under Ikram, pensioners can apply for different types of financing

solutions and credit cards till the age of 70. Housing finance will be provided up to a maximum of 25 years or till the customer is 70 years old. Meethaq is continuously introducing new financial solutions and services for different sections of society in line with the changing needs of its customers and the nation’s continuous progress and development. With its innovative Shari’a-based products, Meethaq’s services continue to witness remarkable growth. It must be noted that every Meethaq product goes through the process of Shari’a-compliance certification by the Shari’a Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman. Meethaq’s adoption of AAOFI standards (Accounting & Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions) further distinguishes Meethaq’s Islamic banking practices in terms of standardisation of its products and services complementing its world-class Islamic banking experience.

HEALTHCARE



Aster Royal performs successful breast conservative surgery for early-stage breast cancer

MUSCAT: Aster Royal Hospital Ghubra Muscat announced the success of a breast conservative surgery performed on a patient with early left breast cancer. The procedure was carried out by the breast cancer surgery team led by Dr Salim Al Rahbi, Consultant and Dr Abha Singhvi, Specialist and the interventional radiology team of Dr Rashid Al Sukaiti and Dr Mahmood Al Hajiry at the hospital’s state-of-the-art facility. The patient, a 49-year-old woman who was under follow-up for benign breast lumps, underwent a breast ultrasound which showed a new left breast lesion that was 1 cm in size and clinically not palpable. The lesion was confirmed to be invasive ductal carcinoma after undergoing a US-guided biopsy. The patient underwent staging which showed no distal metastasis. To treat cancer, the patient underwent a wire localisation procedure to localise the small palpable breast cancer lesion detected by screening. This is a service that is available at Aster Royal Hospital. The patient was sent to a breast or intervention radiologist just before the surgery to insert the wire into the lesion. She was then shifted to the operation theatre to excise the lesion with a safety margin by breast surgeons. The procedure was successful, and the patient was discharged on the same day of surgery. The pa-

tient expressed satisfaction with the procedure, and the doctors involved provided excellent care. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in females in Oman and worldwide. Aster Royal Hospital has all the facilities and expertise to diagnose and treat breast cancer. Aster encourages female patients to start breast screening at the age of 40 to detect breast cancer early, which has a great impact on treatment and prognosis. In addition to breast screening at the age of 40, mammograms are an essential tool for the early detection of breast cancer. Regular mammograms can detect breast cancer before a lump can be felt, and they can also find small lumps that may not yet be cancerous. Mammograms are a vital tool in the early detection of breast cancer, and they can help save lives. Aster Royal Hospital Ghubra is committed to making mammography services accessible to all women in the community. The hospital provides mammography services at affordable rates and works with insurance companies to make sure that the patients can access the care they need. The hospital has state-of-the-art mammography equipment and a team of skilled radiologists who specialise in breast imaging. Aster Royal Hospital continues to invest in advanced technology and research to improve breast cancer treatment and care.

SHOPPING WEEKEND

Dubai’s 3-day super sale returns this weekend with up to 90% off on shopping favourites

DUBAI: Dubai’s biggest shopping weekend is here with the 3 Day Super Sale (3DSS). Running from May 26 until 28, the city’s favourite shopping extravaganza offers residents and visitors the chance to bag a bargain with up to 90 per cent off leading global and local brands in outlets and malls across Dubai. This seasonal shopping event, organised by Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE) includes unbeatable deals on fashion, beauty, lifestyle, furniture, electronics and more from shoppers’ favourites like KIKO Milano, Sephora, Bath & Body Works, 1915 by Ahmed Seddiqi, Rivoli, Homes R Us, Ikea, Jashanmal, Marks & Spencer, Lacoste, Better Life, Sharaf DG, Aldo and Al



Jaber Optical to name a few, and many more. Participating shopping centres and destinations include Mall of the Emirates, City

Centre Mirdif, City Centre Deira, City Centre Me’aisem & City Centre Al Shindagha, Dubai Festival City Mall, Dubai Festival Plaza,

Nakheel Mall, Ibn Battuta, Circle Mall, Mercato, Town Center, The Beach, Bluewaters, City Walk, The Outlet Village and more. Majid Al Futtaim SHARE rewards members can stand a chance to become the Super Sale SHARE Millionaire and win 1 million SHARE points by spending AED 300 or more in a single or cumulative purchase by scanning the receipts in the SHARE application to automatically enter into the draw. The lucky winner will be revealed on 5 June. Earn bonus points with Ticket partners, and spend AED 200 or more at any of the participating retail outlets to enter into a grand prize draw. One winner will walk away with 50,000 Ticket points, equivalent to AED 50,000.





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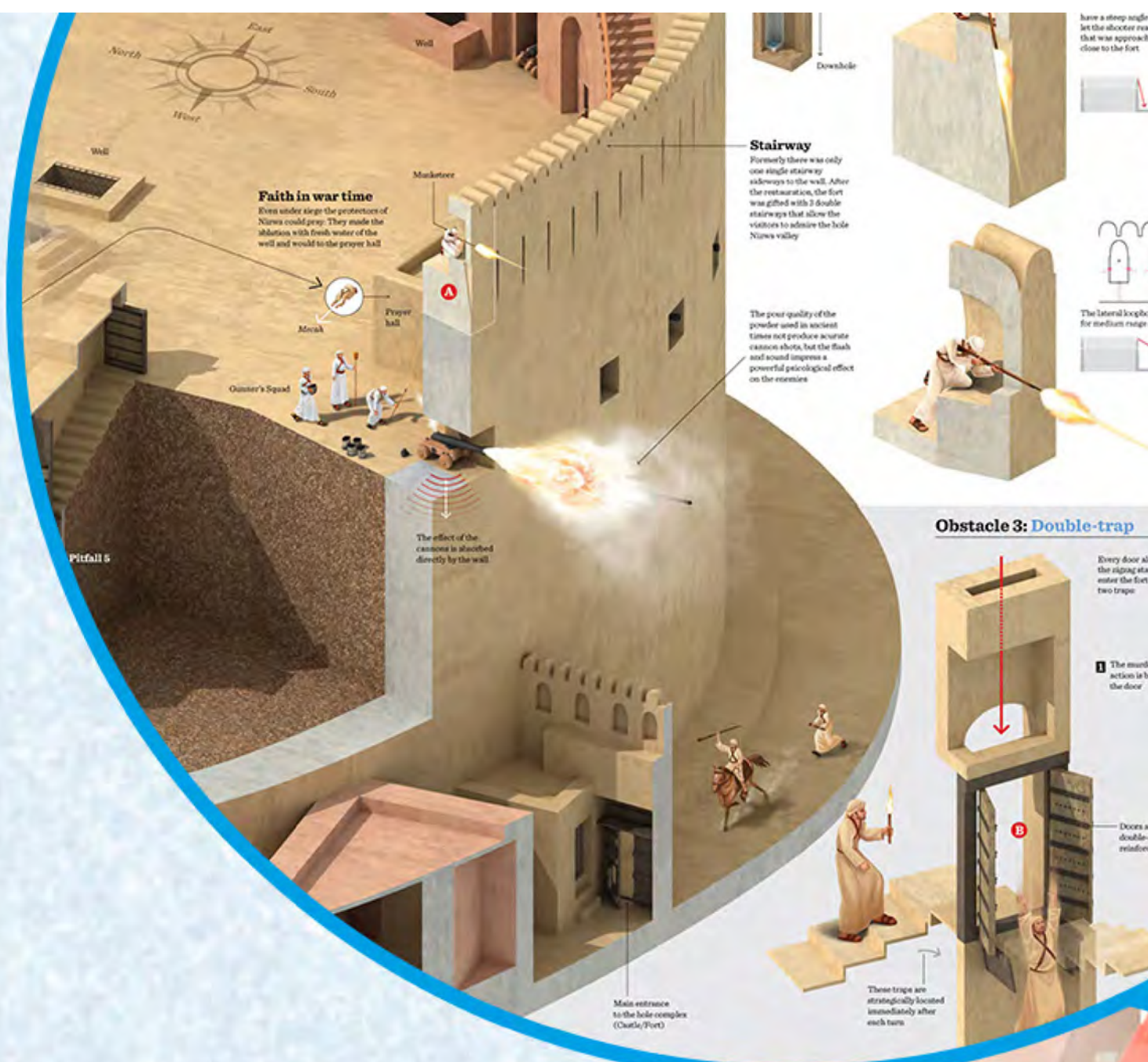
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