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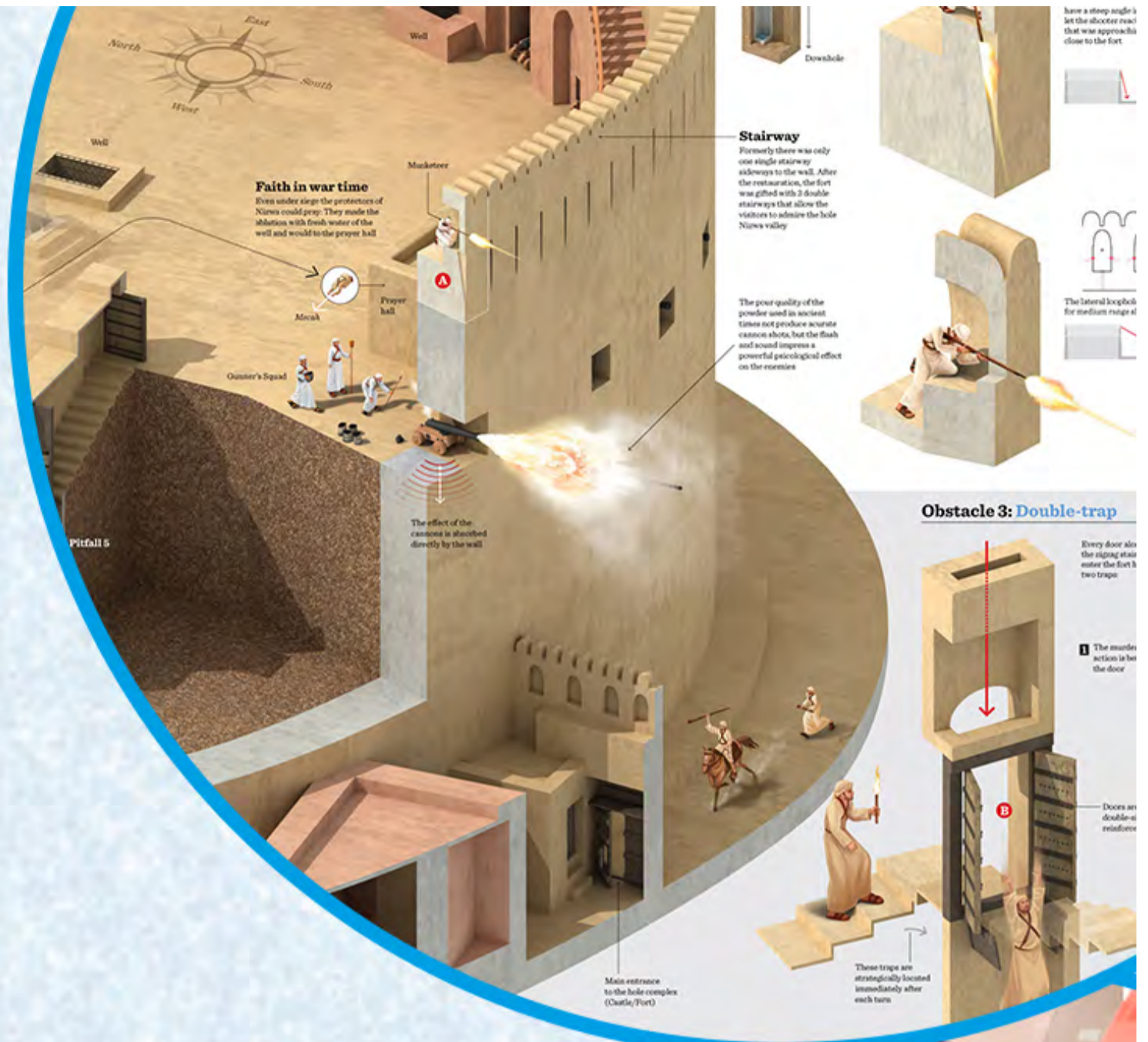


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Muscat Media Group





معرض مسقط
الدولي للكتاب - 2023
Muscat International
BOOK FAIR - 2023
محافظة جنوب الباطنة (طيف الشرف)
22 فبراير - 4 مارس
22 February - 4 March

Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 1 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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FUNCTION

The Honourable Lady to preside over passing out of ROP officers

MUSCAT: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman will preside over a function of Royal Oman Police on Sunday, marking the passing out of a new batch of female police officers. The ceremony will be held at Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in the Wilayat of Nizwa. Alongside with the Honourable Lady, female attendees will be present at the ceremony, including some members of the Royal family and the State Council, as well as undersecretaries, senior ROP officers and officials of various government units in Al Dakhiliyah. - ONA



ANNUAL DAY

HH The Honourable Lady greets teachers

MUSCAT: HH The Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, addressed a message of greetings to teachers on the Teachers' Day, which falls on 24 February every year. The greetings read as follows: "Over the course of time and throughout the ages, a teacher was, and still is, a symbol of enlightenment, the carrier of the flame that illuminates the paths of progress. Teachers constitute the cornerstone in every edifice of civilization. While our country celebrates Omani Teacher's Day tomorrow, we are delighted to express our congratulations and gratitude to

every male and female teacher in our dear homeland for the sincere efforts that they exert in the upbringing of our children, arming them with lofty human values and worthwhile knowledge. "A teacher carries a valuable message and bears a great responsibility. Teachers take the credit for grooming generations of young minds, instilling in them the love of the homeland and its leader. Hence, they effectively contribute to the advancement of the country, so that it could enjoy continuous growth and prosperity. Teachers! you are the pillars of the nation and its best messengers." - ONA

BIRTHDAY

HM sends greetings to Emperor of Japan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Emperor Naruhito of Japan on the occasion of his birthday. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to Emperor Naruhito. His Majesty also wished the people of Japan further development and growth. - ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Muscat International Book Fair begins

1 The 27th edition of Muscat International Book Fair kicked off at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre under the patronage of the Minister of Interior. >A4

MARKET

Abraj IPO boosts investor confidence

2 Boosting confidence in the subscription of Abraj Energy Services, a total of 40% percent of the shares were purchased by founders of the company including, SOIC. >B1

SPORTS

Oman eyes Cricket World Cup berth

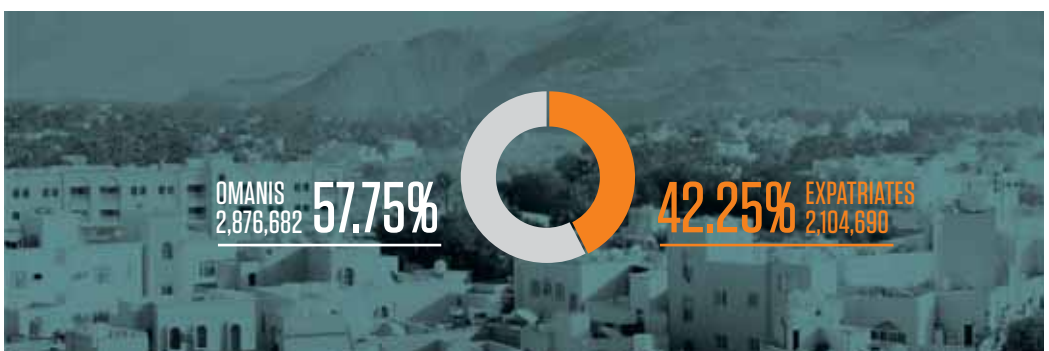
3 Oman men's cricket team became the second team, after Scotland, to advance to the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier from the seven-nation ICC World Cricket League. >B6

OMAN POPULATION SET TO TOUCH 5,000,000

The rise in number of expats shows an improvement in the economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's population is set to touch 5 million, with the expatriate accounting for nearly 42 percent, according to the latest population clock of the National Centre for Statistics and Information. As of Tuesday (February 21,



2023), the total population of the Sultanate of Oman reached 4,981,372 with the number of Omanis reaching 2,876,682, thus constituting 57.75 percent. In a sign of Oman's economy opening up for overseas workers, the number of expatriates grew steadily over the past year

to reach 2,104,690, thus making up 42.25 percent of the total population. Over the past year, the population of expatriates shot up from 38.71 percent to 42.25 percent with 328,503 expatriates arriving in the Sultanate of Oman, showing an improvement in the economy and better job

prospects. According to the NCSI statistics, the number of expatriates on February 21, 2022 were 1,776,187 while a year later the number touched 2,104,690. Last year, the number of Omanis accounted for 61.29 percent with a total of 2,812,518 but has since declined to 57.75 percent.

NATIONAL DAY

HM greets Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to Sultan Bolkiah. His Majesty also wished the people of Brunei Darussalam further progress and prosperity. - ONA

NATIONAL DAY

HM greets President of Guyana

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Mohamed Irfan Ali of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Dr. Mohammed and the people of his country. - ONA

COMMENTARY

A 48-year Times journey full of enthusiasm and hope



Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali, Chairman, Muscat Media Group, writes about the 48-year-old journey of Times of Oman and how news has evolved over the years



THE FOUNDER: Late Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali

offerings for our Arabic publication, *Al Shabiba*. It is important that there is synergy between all these elements. Today, as we step into our 49th year of being the most trusted media group in Oman, we gracefully retrace our steps back to the year 1974 when an English newspaper was perhaps just a dream for the people of this nation. In fact, the newspaper would not have come into existence if that single telex from Singapore had not reached the founder of *Times of Oman*, Late Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali's desk while he was serving as director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The telex came from a company called Flying Tiger Corporation based in Los Angeles, USA, asking for an overflight permission and as the director of the department, it was part of his duty to give permission to commercial flights, military flights and personal flights flying over Oman.

They sent the telex to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressing the country as, 'Muscat, Oman, Saudi Arabia'. This infuriated Late Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali so much that he kept it [telex] on hold for three days. That's when he thought why can't Oman have an English newspaper that would put this beautiful nation, which remained happy on its own, on the global map? **February 23, 1975** After having received the necessary approval from the Ministry of Information and intense hard work of ten months, *Times of Oman* was born on February 23, 1975. Since then, there has been no looking back. From giving an insight into events and trends, both national and international, and maintaining our credibility and reliability, relevance and high standards, *Times of Oman* grew by leaps and bounds. >A5

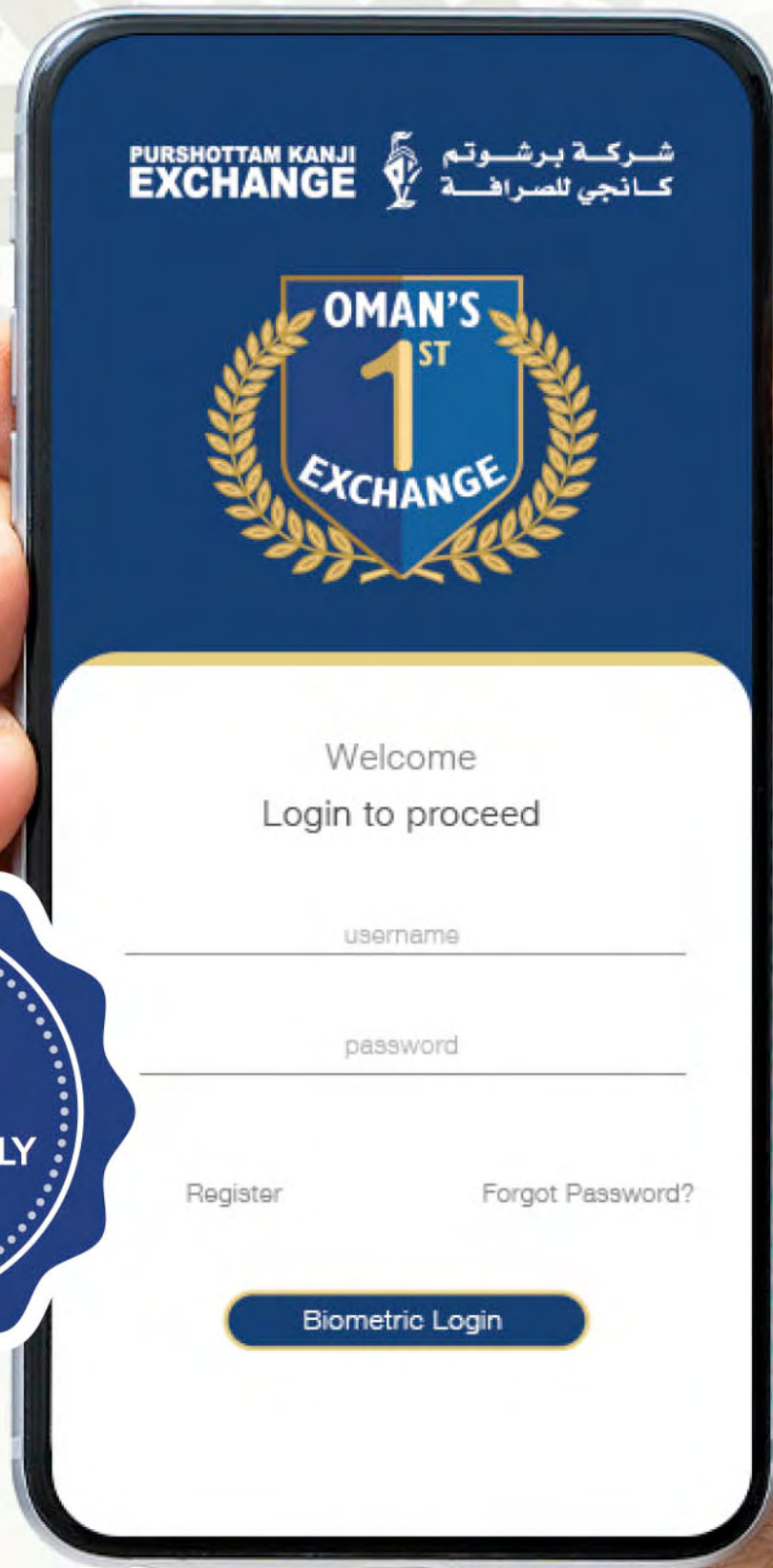
The journey of *Times of Oman* is a story of commitment, determination, and immense hard work. Though the roads traversed during the long journey have not always been smooth, it has been a fulfilling one. Since its inception 48 years ago on 23 February 1975, *Times of Oman* has literally been the timekeeper of this beautiful nation, meticulously and painstakingly chronicling every details of our country's evolution from strength to strength, redefining journalism, creating

awareness and adding value to everyone's lives. Today, I can proudly say, *Times of Oman* reaches over 65% of Oman's population through our 360° platforms. The *Times of Oman* website is the most popular platform today and receives more than 20 million views a month, while our *Times TV* channel provides plenty of diverse videos to our wide range of customers. Our radio station TFM provides better options for news and entertainment to people in Oman. We also have similar



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Fajr (Tomorrow)	5:18am



UAE
Royal Cavalry to participate in Endurance World event

MUSCAT: The Royal Cavalry at the Royal Court Affairs (RCA) will participate in the Endurance World Championship scheduled to be held at Bu Theeb village in Abu Dhabi on 25 February 2023.

As many as 143 male and female jockeys representing 37 countries will take part in the championship.

The Royal Cavalry's team includes the following jockeys; Mahmoud Al Fouri, Hisham Al Farsi, Ahmed Al Hamdani, Saleh Al Balushi and Adil Al Balushi.

The Royal Cavalry achieved the third place and bronze medal in the Endurance World Championship held in the United Kingdom in 2012. -ONA



TEAM MEMBERS: The Royal Cavalry's team includes the following jockeys; Mahmoud Al Fouri, Hisham Al Farsi, Ahmed Al Hamdani, Saleh Al Balushi and Adil Al Balushi. -ONA

IIFA
Session in Jeddah holds discussion on Islamic law

JEDDAH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, is taking part in the twenty-fifth session of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) being held in Jeddah.

The Oman's delegation in deliberations of the session is led by Sheikh Dr. Kahlan Nabhan Al Kharousi, Assistant to the Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman.


The current session witnesses the participation of 200 scholars from the OIC member states with expertise and specialisation in Sharia disciplines, economics, medicine, and sociology to discuss 160 research papers on the




issues and topics of the session.

Scholars and experts discuss the principles for implementing the objectives of Islamic law (maqasid) in conducting contemporary financial transactions in accordance with Sharia. It is

expected that the IIFA will issue resolutions dealing with a spectrum of issues within the framework of the authentic collective jurisprudential reasoning (ijtihad) of the scholars of the Islamic world in the current era. -ONA


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**'Zorba The Greek' And
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Performed by Cairo Opera House



24th February | 7:00 PM

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In an atmosphere of dramatic celebration with spirited dancers performing in the Greek style to music composed by Mikis Theodorakis, the Cairo Opera Ballet presents *Zorba the Greek*. This two-part ballet programme also features *El Leila El Kebira* created by Salah Jahin and music by Sayed Mikkawy. Integrating catchy Egyptian folk songs this playful ballet features lively scenes from a carnival with projected images from popular celebrations.



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SEASON 2022-2023

MEETING
Defence Ministry's Secretary General meets US official



MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence, received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Wednesday Daniel Benaim, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for

Arabian Peninsula Affairs in the Near East Bureau at the US Department of State.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed several matters of mutual interest. -ONA

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Site for camel shows approved



MUSCAT: The Municipal Council of the Governorate of Muscat on Wednesday viewed the programmes proposed for the development committee of the governorate.

These programmes include infrastructure projects, urban planning and design, land use and development of commercial sectors. The second meeting of

the council, held under the chairmanship of Sayyid Hilal bin Saud Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat, Chairman of the council, also approved the site proposed for camel shows in the Wilayat of Al Amerat.

The council also discussed a set of relevant topics and took appropriate decisions on their regard. -ONA

SQU STUDENTS
New technique invented

MUSCAT: A team of students from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) invented a technique by using graphene and polymer materials, as an alternative to silicon, to manufacture solar and photovoltaic cells.

This method improves the efficiency of solar systems by up to 60 percent.

The technique was developed

by students Aisha Al-Wahaibi, Mozn Al-Abrai, Al-Hasna Al-Adwani and Nusaiba Al-Kharousi at Sultan Qaboos University.

The project aims to develop solar cells made of locally-produced polyethylene and integrated with graphene, which is manufactured in the laboratories of Sultan Qaboos University.



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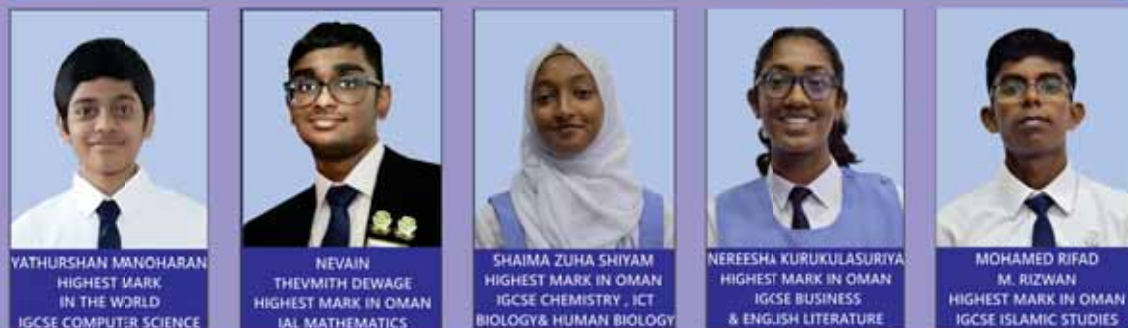
Sri Lankan School Muscat (SLSM), well-preserved its academic legacy at Edexcel International Examinations held in May / June 2022. The phenomenal academic attainment was reinforced by affirming the Highest Mark in the World and Highest Mark in Oman for subjects offered in IGCSE and IAL examinations.

Highest Mark in the World for IGCSE Computer Science was scored by **Yathurshan Manoharan**, **Highest Mark in Oman for IAL Mathematics** was obtained by **Don Nevain Thevmith Dewage**.

In addition, **Highest Mark in Oman for IGCSE Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry and ICT** was achieved by **Shaima Zuha Shiyam**, Business and English Literature by **Nereesha Shefali Kurukulasuriya** and Islamic Studies by **Mohamed Rifad Mohamed Rizwan**.

The Edexcel High Achievers Certificates by Edexcel International were awarded at the Senior Awards Day of the School for 7 students who have obtained 4 A* grades and 3 students who have obtained 3A*/A at the International Advanced Level.

Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards - June 2022



Edexcel High Achievers at International Advanced Level



Further, 11 students were awarded SLSM High Achievers Certificates for International Advanced Subsidiary Level Examinations for obtaining 4 A grades in all four subjects. Additionally, 44 students of IGCSE Level were awarded the Edexcel High Achievers Certificates. The students at International GCSE level excelled by achieving 188 Nine (9) grades, 98 Eight (8) grades and 89 (7) grades.

By celebrating the resounding success of the High Achievers, the Management of SLSM, Staff, Students and the Parents extend their heartiest compliments for all the students who have successfully completed the Edexcel Examinations in May / June 2022. Besides, the SLSM pledges to provide quality education for the future generations maintaining its long standing proud academic legacy.

“The phenomenal academic attainment was reinforced by affirming the Highest Mark in the World “

SLSM High Achievers at International Advanced Subsidiary Level



Edexcel High Achievers at International GCSE Level



OMAN



Muscat International Book Fair begins

This edition of the Book Fair, which will be held till 4 March 2023, sees the participation of 826 publishing houses from 32 countries

MUSCAT: The 27th edition of Muscat International Book Fair kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) on Wednesday.

The opening ceremony of the book fair was held under the patronage of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior.

Sayyid Hamoud toured the halls of the Fair and visited several corners and pavilions of official institutions and authorities, including those of the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA), Thakerat Oman Centre, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning and Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit.

He also toured the corner of the Omani Women's Association, several corners designated for chil-

dren and pavilions of participating countries.

Sayyid Hamoud concluded his tour by visiting the guest of honour's corner of South Al Batinah Governorate. In this corner, he viewed several displayed items which reflect the past and present time of the governorate.

This edition of the Book Fair, which will be held till 4 March 2023, sees the participation of 826 publishing houses from 32 countries. Those publishing houses will be presenting 533,063 titles and publications. Omani publications stood at 22,950. Meanwhile, recent publications stood at 5,900 while foreign books reached 204,411. Arabic books stood at 260,614.

The Book Fair includes as many as 165 cultural activities and 166 activities for children. Moreover, two corners are designated for Omani authors.

The activities that are held on the sidelines of the Book Fair include activities for children and families, scientific and cultural corners, a reading corner and cultural cafes. In addition, specific times are allocated for school students.

Many authors are present during the Book Fair to sign their publications and many institutions will be present during the event.

For the first time, Muscat International Book Fair will implement e-payments in coordination with a local bank. The Book Fair kicked off at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre under the patronage of the Minister of Interior.

— ONA



BANGLADESH SOCIAL CLUB OMAN-GREATER NOAKHALI WING

Large quantity of food items sent to earthquake-affected areas

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bangladesh Social Club Oman-Greater Noakhali Wing handed over a large quantity of winter clothing, dry food and baby foods to the Embassy of Syrian Arab Republic for their recent earthquake victims.

The convening Committee of Greater Noakhali Wing lead by Gazi Abdul Alim Palash Joint Convener & Abu Yousuf Member Secretary handed over the items to the official of the Embassy of Syr-

ian Arab Republic on 21 February, 2023.

Embassy officials welcomed the team and expressed their satisfaction for their support to the distressed citizens. Arman, Abul Hosain, Mamun, Bablu, Yakub and executive members of the Greater Noakhali Wing, Sirajul Hoque Chairman and Executive Committee of Bangladesh Social Club expressed their satisfaction for humanitarian activities of their newly formed Greater Noakhali Wing.







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INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

< FROM A1 Should you trust everything that you see in social media?

While the newspaper has had its share of trials and tribulations, it has been able to weather the storm and sail in this media ocean, always ahead.

The past 48 years can be summed up as a kaleidoscope of memories, friendship and relationships and how our organisation has undergone changes from time to time to be stronger and certainly more efficient than ever before.

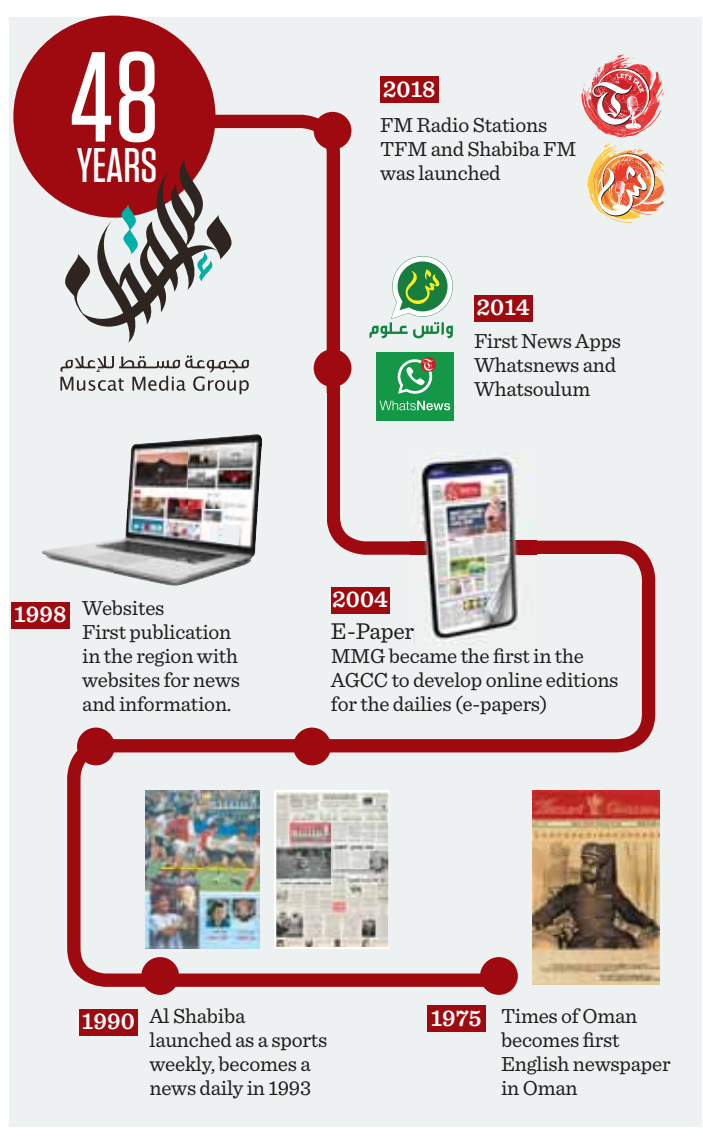
Today, as we celebrate 48 years of success and step into the 49th year of our publication, we stay strong with our unwavering efforts to connect the glorious past to a bright future.

Technology has played a significant role in the evolution of the news and media industry and we, from being just print media, proactively entered the digital landscape early on in Oman. Owing to the extensive use of digital sources, the reach of journalism, social media, and public engagement is immense.

Checking for news online through search engines, social media platforms and smartphone alerts has become almost a habit. While internet and social media platforms have made news accessible, the news cycle has also been moving incredibly fast. This has also planted seeds for fake news to flourish where any information can go viral without any fact-checking.

As a conscientious and responsible media group, we have combated disinformation and fake news judiciously without undermining the benefits of digital media.

We have ensured that we de-



liver high quality journalism and remain at the helm as the most trusted media house in Oman and the world.

As we celebrate our milestone, to all our employees, readers, well-wishers and friends - I thank you for your continued commitment to Muscat Media Group.



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US plans stricter curbs on new asylum-seekers

The new rules proposed by the Biden administration are similar to the asylum ban initiated by former President Donald Trump and would make it significantly more difficult for migrants to claim asylum



app, or they will have to first claim asylum in the country they crossed to reach the US. The measure will apply to migrants of all nationalities except Mexicans as they share a border with the US.

The rule is expected to be implemented after COVID-related rules, set to expire in May, are lifted.

New rules expected to face obstacles

Trump tried to impose a similar ban in 2019, but a federal appeals court prevented its implementation. The measure announced by the Biden administration is expected to face similar challenges.

The Homeland Security and Justice Departments said it anticipated illegal crossings to climb to between 11,000 and 13,000 if the new measures are not imposed.

The Biden administration stated that the new rules are meant to protect migrants from dangerous journeys and will allow the management of migrant influx in a "safe and efficient manner." — DW

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration has announced plans to impose tighter restrictions on migrants seeking asylum in the US.

The new rules proposed by the Biden administration are similar to the asylum ban initiated by former President Donald Trump and would make it significantly more difficult for migrants to claim asylum.

Under the restrictions proposed by the Biden administration, migrants who arrive at the US southern border and simply cross into the United States will be denied asylum.

Instead, migrants will need to apply for asylum online through a Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)

Nearly one million apply for asylum in EU in 2022

BRUSSELS: Nearly a million people applied for asylum in European countries last year, the highest tally since 2016, according to a Wednesday report by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).

The agency said it received some 966,000 applications in 2022, which is 50% more applications it received in 2021.

The numbers include applications for countries in the European Union, as well as Norway and Switzerland that are not members of the EU.

Ukrainian refugees in EU states are protected under a separate mechanism called

the Temporary Protection Directive and are largely not part of the asylum applications. The directive aims to avoid slowing down the asylum processes for old and new applicants. Nearly 1,251,815 people applied for asylum in 2016, when the Syrian conflict created the largest wave of refugees to Europe after World War II.

Now, the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 accounts for the largest movement of refugees since World War II, with more than 7 million people having fled the country. — DW



Printed and published by: Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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Earthquake of 5.2 magnitude on Richter scale jolts Nepal

KATHMANDU: An earthquake of magnitude 5.2 on Richter scale jolted Nepal on Wednesday. The quake occurred around Bichhiya of Bajura district at 13:45, the National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Centre (NEMRC), Nepal, said in a tweet.

"An Earthquake of ML 5.2 occurred around Bichhiya of Bajura district at 13:45 NEMRC/SC," NEMRC tweeted.

Recently, at least three houses collapsed after a magnitude 5.8 quake hit Nepal.

The epicentre of the earthquake was the border area of the Himali Village Council of Bajura and Humla's Tajakot Village Council.

Rescuers and local officials said they were finding it hard to get information on the ground due to the inclement weather condition and lack of communication means, as per information.

"A few more houses collapsed in the area after the earthquake. We have got the information that 3 more houses have collapsed in the district," said DSP Surya Thapa.

"Due to the inclement weather condition and snowfall in the area, we are not able to establish contact with other localities. The telephone is not working," Chief of Himali Village Council Govinda Bahadur Malla told ANI over the phone. — ANI



BLUE 'VERIFIED' MARK

Facebook, Instagram's subscription plan fails to impress

SAN FRANCISCO: Meta's subscription plan for Facebook and Instagram has left a lot of people scratching their heads. After a similar move last year by Twitter, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced at the weekend an option to pay up to \$14.99 (€14.09) a month for a blue "verified" mark that offers protection against impersonation. But not much else.

Tech analysts say the move has been prompted by the urgent need for new revenue streams after Meta suffered a 40% drop in profits last year and was forced to lay off thousands of staff. Some are skeptical about the demand for the

premium service, accusing the social media giant of being short on new ideas.

Twitter's verification scheme falls flat

Elon Musk's Twitter rushed out its verification plan in November and has so far attracted less than 300,000 subscribers, according to The Information website. One report suggests the churn rate — the number of people deregistering — from Twitter's blue badge scheme reached 26,000 during one week this month.

Twitter's projected \$27.8 billion in revenue this year from



verification will be a far cry from the billions needed to keep the deeply indebted platform from going bankrupt. While Facebook made a \$23.1 billion profit last year, a severe advertising downturn has hit the social media gi-

ant hard and is expected to extend until 2024. The number of users engaging with Facebook and Instagram also appears to have reached saturation point.

"This is what I describe as a risky move," Dan Ives, a Wall Street analyst from Wedbush Securities, told DW. "Many [Facebook users] could already have one foot out of the door, will this push them out?"

Less than a 1 in 10 take-up rate?

Ives estimated that only 3% to 7% of Meta's 3 billion fans will take up the subscription offer, having

enjoyed free access to their favorite social networks for more than a decade.

Meta Verified

Meta Verified will offer little value add for users at launch other than verification. Facebook already has stronger controls in place against impersonation than its rival Twitter, which is often criticized for allowing so many anonymous and fake accounts.

"A subscription is only attractive for those who are influencers or companies. I don't think many ordinary users will subscribe as there is no major advantage for

them," Martin Emmer, a professor in communication studies at Freie Universität Berlin, told DW.

Meta insists that subscribers will also benefit from direct access to customer service teams — something nigh on impossible for most users at present. Their accounts will also get greater visibility in search engines and additional protection against data theft.

While these are useful add-ons, Meta will need a "richer feature set" to make the subscription plan more attractive, according to Drew Benvie, CEO and founder of the London-based social media consultancy Battenhall. — DW

BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

36% more visas processed across India after COVID-19 pandemic: US officials

WASHINGTON: India is the main priority for the United States, US Visa officials said adding that there has been around 36 per cent rise on visa processing across the country after COVID-19 pandemic.

While addressing a presser organised by Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies on Tuesday, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services in the Bureau of Consular Affairs Julie Stuff said, "India is the number one priority that we are facing right now. We are absolutely committed to getting out of this situation. Anyone in India seeking a visa appointment or visa have to wait for that's not certainly our ideal." She further stated, "So far

this year, we have issued 36 per cent more visas than we did before the Covid-19 pandemic in India. And that is a huge percentage of progress."

She also said that they are doing everything to reduce the wait time.

"All the non-visitor time or student-visa have very very low wait times and that's really key. Our H-1B and F student's wait time were just as high almost six months ago and so we brought down the wait time," she added.

The H-1B visa, under the Immigration and Nationality Act, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or techni-



cal expertise.

Talking about the India-US relationship, Deputy Assistant Secretary for India Nancy Jackson said that people-to-people is the most important tie between US and India.

"As I look at the relationship it strikes me that people-to-people ties between our two nations are really the bedrock of what is one

of the most consequential relationships in the world and that is the India-US relationship. And we can't underscore that enough and so addressing the view wait time that we were facing is critical. Not only to maintain these people-to-people ties but also to expand in that space. So because of that, this issue remains a top priority," she added.

Earlier this month, the US Embassy in India said that Indians who are travelling abroad can get a visa appointment at the US Embassy or consulate of their destination. It cited the example of Thailand, saying that the country has opened appointment capacity for B1 and B2 visas (business and travel) for Indians. — ANI



Invitation to attend the 7th General Assembly meeting

The founding board of the Nepalese Community Social Club in Oman is pleased to invite its members and all Nepalese to attend the schedule General assembly meeting.

With reference to Ministerial Letter No: 222489696 the General Assembly has been scheduled for Friday 17th March 2023.

The event will elect and announce New Board of Directors for tenure 2023-2025. The events aim is also to unite all Nepalese in Oman for enhancement of the communities.

For details and Queries please contact below:

Non-Resident Nepali Social Club Oman
President: 98451839, General Secretary: 98748373
FB Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NRNSC>

دعوة لحضور اجتماع الجمعية العمومية السابع

يسر المجلس التأسيسي للنادي الاجتماعي المجتمعي النيبالي في سلطنة عمان دعوة أعضائه وجميع النيباليين لحضور اجتماع الجمعية العمومية الجدل الزماني.

بالإشارة إلى الرسالة الوزارية رقم: ٢٢٤١٦٩٦٦، تم تحديد موعد انعقاد الجمعية العمومية يوم الجمعة ١٧ مارس ٢٠٢٣.

سيتم انتخاب الحدث ويعلن مجلس إدارة جديد للفترة ٢٠٢٣-٢٠٢٥. بهدف الحدث أيضًا إلى توحيد جميع النيباليين في عمان لتعزيز المجتمعات. المزيد من التفاصيل والاستفسارات، يرجى الاتصال أدناه.

النادي الاجتماعي النيبالي غير المقيم عمان
الرئيس: ٩٨٥١٨٣٩، السكرتير العام: ٩٦٧٤٨٣٧٣
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Special supplement on

Japan's Ambassador extends his warm greetings to people of Oman

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would share my deepest condolences to the victims and families, and my sympathy to the injured people in Türkiye and neighbouring countries such as Syria as a result of the earthquake on February 6. The Government of Japan has expressed solidarity with the people of affected countries and endeavored to swiftly provide necessary assistance, through collaborating with the international organisations, so that the affected people in Türkiye and Syria can overcome the hardships they are facing.

On the occasion of the 63rd birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on February 23, I would like to extend my warm greetings to the people of the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty is the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people. Last year, Their Majesties Emperor and Empress made their first trip outside Tokyo since the pandemic broke out. With the year marking 50 years since the Okinawa's reversion to Japan, they visited the islands, remembering the importance of peace. They also travelled to the United Kingdom to attend the State Funeral of Her late Majesty the Queen. The Majesties the Emperor and Empress always turn their minds to people in Japan and the world.

Since I arrived in Oman at the beginning of last year, I have been always determined to fulfill my duties by staying vigilant for changes and thinking outside the box. I was fortunate to start my tenure in the year of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Oman. With support



AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

by the Government of Oman and our partners such as Oman-Japan Friendship Association, we have organised functions for exhibits, performances and other cultural gatherings, that is because we believe in the power of culture to reconnect people, sustain human contacts and reunite people.

To name some of our cultural activities: a traditional theatre art 'Noh' performed by Hosho School

of Noh at the Royal Opera House Muscat, photo and calligraphy exhibitions at Omani Society for Arts, craft art 'netsuke' exhibition at GÜtech, participation in 968 GameZ and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force Band's performance to celebrate Oman's National Day. We have promoted and cherished people-to-people contact through those events.

We also saw many interpersonal

interactions in the sports field too. Year 2022 started with international hockey games attended by the Japanese women team.

The Embassy has resumed engagements with karate groups in Oman. The Japanese youth soccer team and senior table tennis players also travelled to Muscat to join the games. Together with the praise for Al Mouj Golf winning international fame, the Embassy

supports Oman's intent to emerge as a venue for international sporting events

Inter-governmental talks and visits have infused a sense of buoyancy to stimulate the bilateral relations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary: telephone talks between Foreign Ministers, H.E. Mr. Hayashi Yoshimasa and H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, visits by Mr. Honda Taro, Japanese

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Nishimura Yasutoshi, Minister of Energy, Trade and Industry was granted an audience with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and also met with H.E. Sayyid Badr and H.E. Eng. Salem bin Nasser Al-Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. During his stay, Japanese companies signed term sheet agreements with Oman LNG for the production and delivery of LNG. The total amount of LNG to be delivered is 2.35mtpa, making them the first firms to sign a long-term offtake deal with Oman. Japan's interest in new energy brought Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and others from both private and government sectors to attend Green Hydrogen Summit in December.

This month, we had a delegation of Japanese SMEs.

Another business mission headed by the Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East is scheduled to arrive in Oman in the coming few days. The mission is expected to pave the way for private enterprises to find new arenas in Oman.

We are now in the year following the 50th anniversary. Today's bond between Japan and the Sultanate of Oman is evidenced by the past beautiful years of our relationship. Hoping that our relationship lasts long, I would like to renew my wishes for good health and continued prosperity of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. On this special occasion, I celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor and wish him good health and continued prosperity. *Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Oman*

POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATION

Tourists flock to have glimpses of picturesque sites in Japan



TOKYO: Japan is a popular tourist destination around the world. Beautiful picturesque sceneries and architectural wonders such as Mt. Fuji and Kyoto are visited by many tourists from around the world.

Last October, the Japanese Government decided to promote domestic travel and ease the entry of foreign tourists.

The tourism business in Japan is picking up pace in 2023. In the new year 2023, tourists are flocking to the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Station made of bricks, and the Sky tree of the 634-metre-high observation tower. These are popular spots for tourists in Tokyo.

"It's incredible, Tokyo is an incredible city. It's much bigger than what I'm used to back home. But the people are very friendly and very welcoming. People here

are very safe with their masks and take a lot of very good precautions. And I feel perfectly safe here," a tourist from Canada said.

In another statement, a tourist from Thailand stated, "This is the first time I came to the ski resort 'Kiroro resort.'" And I feel really cold. And many people are skiing."

"I like Japan very much. I like people, culture, and everything. I feel happy in Japan," the tourist added.

The downtown area of Tokyo is called "Ginza". There are luxury brand stores and large department stores.

The pedestrian paradise event, which had been cancelled in Covid-19, resumed last year.

During the weekend and national holidays, the road is open for visitors.

"After COVID, it's getting bet-

ter. I just came back to Japan to go shopping and eat good food. I mean, I love sushi and shabushabu and everything. So I just came back to visit Japan again. That's my purpose for visiting. I feel great. Everything is getting back to normal. I love seeing people walking on the street. A lot of people are on the street now. So, it's good to be back here," the tourist from Thailand added.

Notably, the worldwide tourism industry in Japan is energised by the rebound in inbound travel.

"We arrived at Osaka and then we went to Kyoto for one day and then we spent the rest of our day in Tokyo. I really like Japan because the food is great and also the country is really great and the technology. Here it is very good," a tourist from Indonesia said regarding tourism in Japan.

Congratulations and Warm wishes to the people of Japan on the occasion of the Japanese National day

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Special supplement on **JAPAN**

A deep-rooted relationship that dates back to hundreds of years



MOHAMMED SAUD BAHWAN, Chairman of the Board, Oman-Japan Friendship Association

“Oman and Japan share a deep-rooted relationship that dates back to hundreds of years. With time, the bonds of this special relationship have grown stronger, hugely benefiting the people of both nations, economically and culturally. It is also encouraging to note that Oman and Japan have completed more than 50 years of nurturing the special relationship. Indeed a huge milestone and an inspiring achievement

Warm and Heartfelt Greetings to His Majesty, Emperor Naruhito of Japan on the occasion of His 63rd Birthday.

On the auspicious occasion of the 63rd birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Naruhito of Japan, I convey heartfelt greetings on behalf of all the Members of the Board of the Oman Japan Friendship Association (OJFA).

This year, Oman is celebrating the third Anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's, Accession day. Under his wise and visionary leadership, Oman will continue to make progress, guided by Oman Vision 2040. All the while, maintaining its impressive position as a nation of peace, progress and stability. We pray to the Almighty to bless His Majesty with good health and long life.

Oman and Japan share a deep-rooted relationship that dates back to hundreds of years. With time, the bonds of this special relationship have grown stronger, hugely benefiting the people of both na-

tions, economically and culturally. It is also encouraging to note that Oman and Japan have completed more than 50 years of nurturing the special relationship. Indeed a huge milestone and an inspiring achievement.

Oman and Japan have been long-time partners in trade. The business of imports and exports of speciality products and services between the two countries has positively grown over the years. Japan, a nation reputed for its advancements in engineering and precision manufacturing is among the top suppliers of products that include machinery, iron, steel, electronics, automotive and more to Oman. Apart from this, through joint ventures, Japanese companies have a substantial presence in various sectors in Oman, including the energy sector. Similarly Oman too has remained an active exporter of oil & gas, aluminium and fishery products to Japan. A number of Japanese companies have even invested in Oman in various sectors through joint ventures,

including the energy sector. The Oman-Japan Friendship Association on this special occasion, reiterates its commitment to growing this beautiful bond of friendship between Oman and Japan, while drawing the people of both nations even closer.

The Association in close co-



teachers started conducting classes to teach Japanese to people eager to learn the language.

In December last year, H.E. Ambassador Yamamoto hosted a reception to commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Sultanate of Oman. Many laureates of Japanese orders, Omani Government officials and those who have contributed to promoting bilateral relations attended the reception. At the ceremony, two visiting Japanese calligraphers, Mr. Kawaguchi Yuho and Ms. Kawaguchi Seiren wrote messages in calligraphy to represent the relationship between Japan and Oman.


In November 2022, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Sultanate of Oman, the Embassy of Japan and GUTech co-hosted the Japanese craft art exhibition "Contemporary Wood-Carved Netsuke" at GUTech.

In March 2022, as part of the cultural programme for the 50th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Oman, the Hosho School of NOH presented Japan's Traditional Noh Theater Art "SHAKKYO" at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts in Muscat.


Every year, through events like these, the Oman-Japan Friendship Association offers people of both the nations opportunities to increase their awareness and understanding about each other's rich heritage and culture.


On the 63rd birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Naruhito, on behalf of all the Board members of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association, I once again convey sincere greetings.

May God Almighty grant him good health and long life. And may the everlasting bonds of friendship between Oman and Japan, continue to reach even greater heights.



Congratulations and Warm wishes to the people of Japan on the occasion of the Japanese National Day and the 63rd Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito






Everlasting Bonds Built On Inspiring Values and Traditions

Oman and Japan share a warm and inspiring relationship that dates back to hundreds of years. With time, the bonds of this special relationship have grown stronger.

The Oman Japan Friendship Association strives to build lasting bonds by taking several measures to increase the levels of awareness about the rich culture and heritage of both the nations, among its people by arranging several events like book fairs, cultural dance shows and more.

The Oman Japan Friendship Association on this special occasion today, reiterates its commitment to growing this beautiful bond of friendship between Oman and Japan, while drawing the people of both nations even closer.



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by April 2023 reaching \$80.82, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.43 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$82.25. - OMA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,634.34 points, up by 0.03 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 477.98 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 9.66 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 3.53 per cent, was the top loser.

TWO-DAY EVENT

International Semiconductor Summit kicks off in Muscat

MUSCAT: The International Semiconductor Executive Summit kicked off in Muscat yesterday. The event is hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr Mahad bin Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour. The two-day event witnesses the participation of experts, specialists and CEOs of companies operating in this field from different countries of the world.

The summit covers a spectrum of topics, including investment opportunities in information and communication technology (ICT) in Oman and challenges of manufacturing semiconductors in the Middle East and North Africa.

During the event, meetings are held between participants, government and private institutions and



leading companies in the fields of information technology, communications, and semiconductors.

Dr Ali Amer bin Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said that Oman's hosting of this summit confirms its determination to achieve digital

transformation and build a knowledge-based economy to achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

He added that the government has adopted the National Programme for Digital Economy, which aims to digitise the service and production sectors with advanced technologies, enhance the added economic value of the communications and information



technology sector and increase the contribution of the digital economy to the gross domestic product (GDP) to about 10 per cent by 2040.

Al Shidhani indicated that the programme is based on digital transformation and accelerating smart government, enhancing the digital society, encouraging technical innovation and digitising



businesses with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Al Shidhani underscored Oman's interest in the semiconductor industry by attracting international companies specialized in this industry and training and qualifying national competencies. As many as 1.1 trillion semicon-

ductor chips were sold globally in 2021 and the economic return for this sector is estimated between \$500 to 600 billion annually.

Dr Hisham Hadara, Chairman of Si-Ware systems in Egypt, said that the Sultanate of Oman is distinguished by several factors in the field of semiconductors, such as its strategic location, infrastructure and an attractive Fahd Sultan Al Abri, Director-General of Sector Stimulation and Future Skills at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, gave a presentation that reviewed digital opportunities in Oman. Those opportunities include data centres, cloud services, multimedia, content creation, information and communication technology services, and cybersecurity, in addition to the space sector and the field of assembly and distribution of semiconductors. - OMA

Abraj IPO boosts investor confidence

The subscription of the founders in 40 per cent of Abraj Energy Services' shares enhances the confidence in the success of the IPO



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Boosting confidence in the subscription of Abraj Energy Services, a total of 40 per cent of the shares were purchased by the founders of the company including, the Saudi Omani Investment Company (SOIC).

These entities collectively constitute the 'main investors' and have complied with payment of OMR37,588,840 in the Initial Public Offering (IPO), which accounts for 40 per cent of the IPO.

Abraj offers its shares for subscription in two parallel categories. The first of the categories is

allocated for major investors and will account for a maximum of 85 per cent of the total public offering. This is directed to major and corporate investors in Oman and international investors. The subscription price in the first category is set within the range of 242 baisas to 249 baisas per share.

The total value of the IPO range between OMR91.33 - 93.97 million. As such the company's market value on being listed on Muscat Stock Exchange will range between OMR186.39 - 191.78 million.

Engineer Ahmed bin Said Al-Azkawi, Chief Executive of OQ Upstream, said, "The subscription of the founders in 40 per cent of Abraj Energy Services' shares enhances the confidence in the

success of the IPO. The signing of the anchor investment agreement with the Saudi Omani Investment Company for the purchase of 20 per cent of Abraj's shares put for sale in the IPO reflects the regional growth strategy adopted by our company and its commitment to supporting the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 by attracting direct foreign investments."

Ayad bin Ali Al-Balushi, Board Chairman of Abraj Energy Services, said, "The subscription of founding investors in 40 per cent of the shares is the source of confidence for all investors. This move demonstrates SOIC's trust in Abraj's future as a financially resilient and high-growth business with enormous potential for regional growth."

REPORT

GCC and emerging Asia bilateral trade to reach \$578 billion by 2030

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The bilateral trade between the GCC and emerging Asia is set to grow by almost 6 per cent per year over the next decade, to reach approximately \$578 billion by 2030, according to a new report.

"Trade between these two economic blocks will surpass the GCC's trade with advanced economies by 2028," according to a study by UK-based think tank Asia House, which was discussed on Wednesday at an event organised by Gulf Capital, one of the largest and most active private equity firms investing from the GCC to Southeast Asia, and Asia House.

The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) pivot towards Asia will continue to gain momentum, the study further added.

Speakers at the event included Former Minister of Trade in Indonesia, Thomas Lembong, who is currently Director, Consilience Policy Institute; Abdulla Al Hashmi, Chief Operating Officer, Parks and Zones at DP World UAE; Eric Robertson, Global Head of Research and Chief Strategist, Standard Chartered; Richard Dallas, Senior Managing Director, Gulf Capital, and Freddie Neve, Senior Middle East As-

sociate, Asia House and author of the "Middle East Pivot To Asia 2022" report.

Freddie Neve said, "Rapidly expanding ties between the Gulf and Asia are creating a fundamental global shift that will have far-ranging implications for international trade, business and politics. The investment corridor is growing in both directions and across various industries, including oil and non-oil sectors. In particular, Gulf economic diversification which is moving at a staggering pace is attracting Asian investment into emerging economic sectors within the GCC, such as construction, renewables, and technology. We also expect sustainability cooperation to grow in importance as Gulf and Asian economies transition away from hydrocarbons over the next few decades."

GCC trade with emerging Asia, according to the report, will rise to approximately 36.41 per cent of total GCC trade from the current 30.83 per cent.

Dr Karim El Solh, co-founder and CEO of Gulf Capital, said: "We are operating in the fastest growing economic corridor in the world today, one that is geopolitically neutral and enjoys demographic and economic fundamentals."



Moroccan



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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Insurance, up 9.66 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 3.53 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,634.34 points, up by 0.03 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.22 per cent at 477.98 points. Dhofar Insurance, up 9.66 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Fisheries, down 3.53 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 374 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.5 million, with more than 8.99 million shares changing hands. Out of 39 traded securities, 13 advanced, 9 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR159,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR97,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR61,000

worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,463.30 points, up 0.13 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Insurance, United Finance, National Bank Oman, Al Sharqia Investment and Sohar International Bank were up by 9.66 per cent, 1.72 per cent, 1.54 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 1.02 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful and Bank Nizwa were up by 1.25 per cent, 1.10 per cent and 1.01 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,855.56 points, down 0.38 per cent. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill were up by 8.93 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy and Galfar Engineering were up by 3.53 per cent, 2.40 per cent, 1.96 per cent and 0.53 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.1 per cent before closing at 1,692.82 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDEXES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,648.19	4,620.20	4,634.34	4,632.75	1.59	0.03
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,463.30	7,443.17	7,463.30	7,453.83	9.47	0.13
Industry Index	5,871.42	5,842.24	5,855.56	5,877.89	-22.33	-0.38
Services Index	1,695.03	1,699.22	1,692.82	1,674.43	18.39	1.10
MSX Shariah Index	477.98	477.98	477.98	479.02	-1.04	-0.22
MSX TR INDEX	5,869.13	5,833.79	5,851.64	5,849.63	2.01	0.03
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,788.45	7,809.51	7,809.51	7,799.60	9.91	0.13
SERVICES TR IDX	1,798.20	1,770.82	1,795.86	1,776.35	19.51	1.10
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,112.88	6,082.49	6,096.36	6,119.61	-23.25	-0.38

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,994,782	2,496,726	374	23,499,394,054	13	9	17	39

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF/PT.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	2,500	2,653	3	1.060	1.065	1.065	0.980	0.085	8.673	1.065	1.000	1.065	0.100	73,485,000	
OM000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	208,679	54,914	18	0.258	0.264	0.258	0.264	0.004	1.538	0.264	0.261	0.266	0.100	429,248,838	
OM000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	100,000	7,550	5	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	5,840,000	
OM000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	2,100,000	207,900	27	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	454,418,167	
OM000001525	OMAN INVEST. FIN.	131,500	17,996	5	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.001	0.775	0.130	0.124	0.135	0.100	30,810,000	
OM000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	426	575	2	0.648	0.648	0.644	0.644	0.000	0.000	0.644	0.644	0.648	0.100	101,430,000	
OM000001749	OMAN CEMENT	31,605	9,482	5	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.299	0.300	0.100	99,261,813	
OM000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	1,000	137	2	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.000	0.000	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.100	41,540,288	
OM000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,000	310	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.000	0.310	0.100	68,200,000	
OM000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,179,499	623,739	64	0.286	0.288	0.286	0.286	0.000	0.000	0.286	0.286	0.287	0.100	1,146,829,560	
OM000003026	OMAN TELECOM	872,405	814,517	38	0.948	0.948	0.924	0.932	0.000	0.000	0.932	0.928	0.928	0.100	699,000,000	
OM000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	229	96	2	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.422	0.100	23,100,000	
OM000003968	OOREDOO	662,104	266,660	42	0.408	0.408	0.398	0.404	-0.006	-1.485	0.398	0.398	0.400	0.100	259,075,804	
OM000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	386,864	172,590	24	0.448	0.448	0.430	0.432	0.000	-0.008	0.432	0.432	0.436	0.100	102,129,120	
Total		14	6,677,811	2,177,917	238											
Parallel Market																
OM000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	62,838	14,129	7	0.219	0.227	0.219	0.227	0.007	0.020	0.227	0.000	0.226	0.100	23,780,984	
OM000002036	Muscat Thread MILL	200	12	2	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.056	0.005	8.929	0.061	0.000	0.061	0.100	980,432	
OM000001160	NATIONAL GAS	15,200	1,501	5	0.098	0.105	0.098	0.104	0.009	0.005	0.104	0.099	0.106	0.100	8,820,000	
OM000002910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,200	115	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.092	0.004	4.348	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.100	19,200,000	
OM000004925	ALBATAH POWER	1,100	36	2	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	0.003	0.001	0.030	0.034	0.030	0.033	22,946,173	
OM000004248	SMAN POWER HOLDING	10,100	525	3	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.001	1.923	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100	10,580,687	
OM000002374	UNITED FINANCE	87,820	5,181	9	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	20,599,520	
OM000005963	PHOENIX POWER	12,100	712	4	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.001	1.724	0.059	0.057	0.059	0.100	86,293,486	
OM000001301	BANK DHOFAR	340	24	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.000	0.070	0.100	5,659,500	
OM000002341	BANK CHORINE	100	57	1	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.000	0.000	0.570	0.514	0.570	0.100	38,819,086	
OM000002495	BANK DHOFAR	89,965	13,495	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.100	449,452,715	
OM000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN	140	20	1	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.126	0.149	0.100	18,692,302	
OM000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,100	36	3	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	0.000	0.000	0.034	0.032	0.033	0.100	24,289,616	
OM000008868	THE PEARL REIF	44,800	5,218	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.116	0.118	0.100	49,698,115	
OM000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	12,245	2,314	5	0.189	0.189	0.188	0.189	0.001	-0.526	0.189	0.180	0.189	0.100	38,364,438	
OM000004420	BANK NIZWA	760,000	74,570	25	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.099	-0.001	-1.010	0.098	0.097	0.099	0.100	219,221,397	
OM000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	110,900	9,981	4	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	15,750,000	
OM000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	117,100	9,283	11	0.079	0.081	0.079	0.079	0.000	-0.001	1.259	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	15,800,000
OM000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	723	72	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.102	-0.002	-1.961	0.100	0.103	0.110	0.100	8,140,275	
OM000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	826,260	101,971	30	0.121	0.125	0.119	0.122	0.003	-2.400	0.122	0.122	0.124	0.100	24,400,000	
OM000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	68,600	5,618	8	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.005	-0.003	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	14,830,429	
Total		21	2,222,831	244,870	127											

MEETING



G-20 finance leaders set to discuss challenges to global growth in India

DELHI: Top financial leaders from the Group of 20 leading economies are gathering in the south Indian technology hub of Bengaluru this week to tackle myriad challenges to global growth and stability, including stubbornly high inflation and surging debt.

India has invited the Sultanate of Oman as a guest country for the Group of 20 leaders' summit to be

held in New Delhi in September.

India is hosting the G-20 financial conclave for the first time in 20 years. Later in the year, it will convene its first summit of G-20 economies.

The meetings offer the world's second most populous country a chance to showcase its ascent as an economic power and its status as a champion of developing nations.

India's economy is forecast to expand at a 6.1 per cent annual rate in 2023 after growing 6.8 per cent last year, the IMF said in a report issued last Monday.

The G-20 includes the world's largest economies and has a rotating presidency. In 2022, Indonesia was the host and next year, Brazil will take over, followed by South Africa in 2025. — **ONA**

SHARE

India's Sensex crashes 927 points, tracking global cues

MUMBAI: India's domestic equity market suffered losses on Wednesday, tracking weak global cues. Growing concerns over the anticipation that US Federal Reserve might keep interest rates higher for longer kept investors on their toes.

The key indices in the domestic market - BSE Sensex went down 927 points and settled at 59,744.98 level while NSE Nifty lost 280 points and closed the session at a 17,546.55 level. Among the most active stocks on BSE that went up on Wednesday were Supreme Petrochem, Thermax, Johnson Controls-Hitachi Air Conditioning India, Religare and Carysil.

Investors await cues on the trajectory of rate hikes by the central bank. — **ANI**

LOGISTICS SECTOR



Workshop focuses on last mile delivery and eCommerce

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, represented by Oman Logistics Centre organised a workshop on Last Mile Delivery and eCommerce.

The 3-day event comes within the context of 'Manjam Labs' which aims at streamlining government service procedures.

The workshop seeks to encourage technology and innovation in the logistics sector in a way that comes in line with Oman Logistics Strategy 2040. The workshop contributes to solving challenges and coming up with solutions and opportunities that enable the labour market in last mile delivery applications and e-commerce. — **ONA**

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SPORTS

Oman move a step closer to ICC Cricket World Cup berth

Bigger than big moment, says Oman Cricket chairman Pankaj Khimji

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than three and half years of hard work and team work, which witnessed thrilling victories and agonising defeats, finally brought joy to the Oman men's cricket team as they became the second team, after Scotland, to advance to the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier from the seven-nation ICC World Cricket League (WCL) Division 2.

ICC, the world cricket body, confirmed that Oman have booked their spot in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier, the final round for a place in the Cricket World Cup 2023 in India, having collected enough points to finish among the top-three WCL 2 sides.

Oman Cricket (OC) chairman Pankaj Khimji heaped praise on his players, coaching staff and corporates who supported the Team Red throughout the WCL Division 2 series.

In his remarks after Oman secured a spot in the World Cup Qualifier, which will be played in Zimbabwe from June 18, Pankaj Khimji said: "It is a surreal feeling: Oman making it to the ODI World Cup Qualifier. It is a bigger than big moment."

"The hard work that the boys put in, guided by Duleep Mendis [chief coach] and his coaching staff, ground and administration staff have finally paid off. In this glorious moment, our greatest appreciation goes out to the sports ministry and His Highness Sayyid Theyazinbin Haitham al Said, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth. Of course, to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al Said, patron-in-chief of Oman Cricket and our leader. This is a tribute to them, a tribute to our nation for making this moment happen."



Pankaj Khimji: OC chairman



Madhu Jesrani: OC secretary



Alkesh Joshi: OC treasurer

Khimji added: "As far as the preparations for the Qualifier are concerned, there will be no full stops. We will pull all our resources together to ensure that this team goes to Zimbabwe as the best prepared team to fight the Qualifier."

The OC boss, who is also the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) vice-president and an ICC director, said: "Oman Cricket deserves its recognition. It has earned it and we have made a mark on the global cricket stage. I am indebted to all my fellow board members, advisors and all those companies and corporates who have supported us over the years for making cricket the most admired sports among the expatriates and now among the locals."

"The last three years have been fantastic and it has been a dream come true for us: from hosting of ICC T20 World Cup to participating in the T20 World Cup as Associate nation. But now this,

the ODI World Cup Qualifier is an unprecedented achievement. Hats off to my teammates, to my players, who deserve all the accolades."

Oman finish with 44 points

Oman, skippered by allrounder Zeeshan Maqsood, ended the 36-match ICC WCL Division 2 cycle, played over the past three and half years, with 44 points, six points adrift from table topper Scotland.

Oman won 21, lost 13 and tied one while one match was abandoned to reach 44 points with a net run-rate of 0.039. Scotland won 24, lost 10 while two of their games were abandoned to end with 50.

Namibia, UAE and Nepal are in fray for the third and final berth from the ICC WCL Division 2. Namibia have 37 points and two matches remaining, UAE have 27 points from 26 matches while Nepal have 26 from 28 games. USA, who ended their campaign with 35 points, and Papua New Guinea

(PNG), are out of reckoning with just 5 points from 28 games.

The equation favours the UAE as they can still garner 20 points from their 10 remaining games to reach 47 if they stay unbeaten. Namibia can reach a maximum of 41 points while Nepal have eight more games remaining and can reach a maximum of 42 points if they win all their remaining fixtures.

World Cup Qualifier in June

This is the first time Oman have made it to the ICC World Cup Qualifier through a qualifying process. The team did play in the World Cup Qualifier in 2005 and 2009.

Oman and Scotland will be joined by either the UAE, Namibia or Nepal from the WCL Division 2 at the Qualifier, which begins in Zimbabwe from June 18-July 9.

The Qualifier will be a ten-nation tournament with top two teams from the Qualifier making it to the Cricket World Cup, to be played in India in October-November.

Seven teams have secured World Cup qualification, including India as tournament hosts. The other teams that have qualified are New Zealand, England, Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Just one spot for the automatic qualification remains through the ICC Super League pathway with West Indies, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Ireland in the race. Zimbabwe and Netherlands have been ruled out of a top-eight spot and will play in the Qualifier.

Besides the top eight teams that gain automatic qualification, the remaining five teams will take part in the World Cup Qualifier along with 5 Associate teams. Zimbabwe and the Netherlands are out of race in the Super League and will feature in the Qualifier.

The bottom-four teams in WCL Division 2 will play a Qualifier playoff and will be joined by winner of Challenge League A and B. The top-two teams from this event will play in the Qualifier.

'Players are my heroes'

A delighted Mendis said: "It has been a fantastic journey for Oman Cricket. We started the WCL Division 2 nearly four years back and have finished among the top-three after playing 36 matches against six high-performance teams. I thank the OC board, headed by Pankaj Khimji, and secretary Madhu Jesrani, for all their support during the journey. They backed us solidly and supported us not only when we were doing well but also when we weren't performing."

"All credit to my players, they are my heroes. They made it happen. It is a very happy occasion for Oman and players, who now stand among the best in the world. When we go for Qualifier, we go with lot of hopes and courage and we will give our best like how we did in the League 2."

Jesrani, who is OC secretary and travelled as team manager during the WCL tours, was overjoyed. He said: "I would like to pay tributes to former OC chairman late Kanak Khimji, whose contribution to the growth of the game is unparalleled. The boys were committed and I am proud of them. The coaching staff,

led by Duleep Mendis, was exceptional. The tri-series and overseas trips were tough and challenging. But we achieved our goal, a feat we all should be proud of."

Alkesh Joshi, OC treasurer, said: "For an upcoming Associate nation like Oman, this qualification is perhaps the biggest milestone. It has been a result of years of planning and hard work to reach this stage. We are just a step away from making history: playing our first ODI Cricket World Cup."

Joshi added: "The OC board, led by Pankaj Khimji, under the guidance of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth have been the backbone of our success. Along with our advisors and support from the ACC and the ICC, Oman cricket has grown significantly. The players have been true ambassadors of Oman and the team's chief coach, Duleep Mendis, has guided them brilliantly."

Jatinder and Bilal shine

In the 36 matches, Oman played since August 2019, Jatinder Singh, the dashingly top-order batter, amassed a total of 1,098 runs with an average of 32.29. In his 35 innings, he struck three centuries and six half-centuries with his highest score, an unbeaten 118, making him one of the leading batters among all the seven nations.

Oman's bowling spearhead, Bilal Khan, had a dream run with the ball as he picked up 76 wickets in 35 matches, to emerge as the most successful bowlers in the WCL Division 2. Bilal is likely to finish as the highest wicket-taker of the series as the next best bowler, Saurabh Netravalkar of the USA, has 58 wickets. Spinner Sandeep Lamichhane of Nepal, who has still eight more games to play, is third with 55 wickets.

Bilal's economy rate was 4.75 with best figure of 5/31, one of his three five-wicket hauls. He also bagged four wickets in a match on three occasions.

Among the best match bowling spells during the WCL Division 2, Oman's Khawar Ali's performance was noteworthy as the all-rounder returned with figures of 8-2-15-5 against Papua New Guinea at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat on 1 October, 2021.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid roar back to rout Liverpool



LIVERPOOL: In a thrilling contest at Anfield, Real Madrid came back from two goals down to run out comfortable 5-2 winners over Liverpool in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie.

Liverpool got off to a dream start against the European champions, taking the lead inside four minutes. Mohamed Salah on the right played a lovely ball for Darwin Nunez who made a clever run across the defence then flicked the ball beyond a helpless Thibaut Courtois.

If they didn't already, fans must surely have thought they were dreaming when the lead was doubled 10 minutes later. Courtois stumbled and took a poor touch in the box, allowing Salah to pounce and score with just one touch.

By half time, however, Vinicius Junior had brought Liverpool back down to earth. First, the Brazilian conjured space in the box and whipped the ball past Alisson at his far post.

Next, it was the Liverpool goalkeeper's turn to gift a goal after a Joe Gomez passback. Alisson at-

tempted to return the ball to his defender, but the pass ricocheted off his international teammate and looped behind him into the goal.

Things went from bad to worse for Liverpool after the break. A well-worked free-kick routine saw Luka Modric find an unmarked Eder Militao who made it 3-2 just after the restart.

Eight minutes later, Karim Benzema got in on the action with his first of the night.

After exchanging passes with Rodrigo on the right, his shot took a deflection off Joe Gomez which left Alisson stranded.

The fifth goal for Los Blancos was all about Luka Modric's energy and drive in midfield, bursting forward before feeding Vini who slipped it to Benzema. The Frenchman showed great footwork to sit Alisson down and blast the ball into the net despite the attentions of three defenders.

Real Madrid are now in a great position ahead of the return leg at the Bernabeu on 15 March 2023. The big games keep coming, too, with Atletico Madrid then Barcelona up next for Los Blancos. **OMN**

YOUTH SAILING TEAM

Oman sailors claim gold and silver at Kuwait International Regatta 2023

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's youth sailing team has returned home from the Kuwait International Regatta with four medals, including gold and silver in the Optimist Junior category. The competition took place at Messilah Beach and featured some of the very best young sailors from across the region as part of a 33-strong fleet representing eight countries.

Hood Al Noofli claimed gold in the Optimist Junior, open to sailors under 11 years of age, while Hasan Al Alawi took silver in his first regatta outside of Oman.

Tamim Al Balushi also won silver in the Optimist Overall competition after a hard-fought contest with Idriss Dardouri of Tunisia. The pair traded first place finishes over the first six races, each winning three, but Tamim narrowly missed out on gold by just four points after what was a very strong performance by both sailors.



The team, coached by Sultan Al Zadjali, national team coach, also featured siblings Yousuf Ahmed Al Motawa and Sultan Ahmed Al Motawa and Jibreel Al Harthi.

Commenting on the progress of his team, Sultan Al Zadjali said, "Our team is very young, and the sailors are all at different stages of their development. To be able to perform so well and win medals

at this level is a huge achievement and proves that the hours of hard work has paid off."

"Conditions were difficult - it was very cold with strong winds of between 15 and 25 knots - but our team coped very well and showed their resilience. We will continue to improve and prepare the team for future regattas where they will have more chances to learn, im-



prove and represent Oman on the water," he added.

In addition to competing, two Oman Sail coaches were invited by the organisers to be part of the Race Committee. Ahmed Al Qasbi and Ghalib Al Mamari gained valuable experience in adjudicating and running a regatta and will look to build on this in the coming months.

END OF A STELLAR CAREER

Sania concludes her illustrious career

DUBAI: Sania Mirza closed her glorious career with a first-round defeat in Dubai Tennis Championships on Tuesday, losing her women's doubles alongside America's Madison Keys 4-6, 0-6, against Russian pair Viktoria Kudermetova and Liudmila Samsonova.

Mirza had earlier announced that she will retire after the WTA 1000 tournament in Dubai. The Indian tennis player and her American women's doubles partner Madison Keys lost their first-round encounter 6-4, 6-0 to Veronika Kudermetova and Liudmila Samsonova.



Sania Mirza retires as the greatest women's tennis player in the history of India, despite the lacklustre conclusion to her career. Six-time Grand Slam champion

Sania Mirza has won 44 WTA titles throughout her career, only one of them was in singles. Her most recent doubles victory was alongside Zhang Shuai of China at the Ostrava Open 2021. Often regarded as the definitive gauge of a top tennis player's achievements on the pro circuit, Sania Mirza's trophy cabinet is studded with six Grand Slam winners' medals.

The maiden triumph came in 2009, as she partnered Mahesh Bhupathi to clinch the Australian Open mixed doubles title.

The duo of Mirza and Bhupathi paired up to do India proud yet

again three years later, this time on the hallowed clay of Roland Garros. Her third mixed doubles title at the Slams was at the 2014 US Open, partnering Brazilian player Bruno Soares.

In 2015 Sania Mirza partnered up with Swiss legend Martina Hingis, with whom she won three back-to-back Grand Slam doubles titles.

Due to her accomplishments in tennis, Sania Mirza has also been conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2004, Padma Shri in 2006, Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2015 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016. **ANI**

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ROUND-UP

Experience Moroccan flavours at Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel

The Moroccan Food Festival will feature a team of expert chefs from Morocco who will showcase their skills and expertise in authentic Moroccan dishes

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel, an award-winning five-star hotel located at the heart of the city, announced the Moroccan Food Festival, taking place from February 27 to March 18. The festival will feature a team of expert chefs from Morocco who will showcase their skills and expertise in authentic Moroccan dishes. Guests will have the opportunity to experience a variety of cuisine including live street food cooking sta-

tions and cooking classes. During lunch, guests can choose from an a la carte menu or a three-course lunch set menu for only OMR 8.5 per person from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Dinner options include an a la carte menu from Friday to Wednesday from 18h30 to 22h30. On Thursdays, guests can enjoy Moroccan Street Food Nights. Friday nights will feature a section during the Grand Street Food Night along with street foods from

other countries. For those interested in learning more about Moroccan cuisine, the hotel will be offering traditional Moroccan cooking classes Mondays 6th and 13th of March. Classes start at 10h30 Am to 12h00 and will be held at Bahriyat restaurant for OMR 15 per person. During ladies' night on Tuesday 7th, 14th and 21st of March, Chef Fatiha will host a special dinner at the rooftop pool during the ladies' night. Ladies will be presented with the most delicious traditional Moroccan food overlooking the Muscat skyline- only 15 OMR / Person. Luca Medda, Cluster General Manager at Grand Millennium Muscat, commented, "We are thrilled to host the Moroccan Food Festival at the Grand Millennium Muscat. This event is a celebration of the rich flavours and traditions of Moroccan cuisine, and we are

excited to welcome a team of experienced chefs from Morocco. We invite everyone to come and join us for a delicious and immersive culinary experience." The Grand Millennium Muscat is located at the heart of the city, making it the perfect location for guests to experience the festival while also exploring all that Muscat has to offer. A tribute to the rich, cultural heritage and time-honored values of Oman, the 5 star Grand Millennium Muscat is located in the heart of the city, close to the airport, and is seamlessly connected to the Muscat Grand Mall. Centrally located in the business, government and diplomatic district, our luxury hotel is uniquely convenient. The airport is just 15 minutes away, and we are within easy reach of beaches, the Avenues Mall and the Royal Opera of Muscat.



ANNIVERSARY



Ominvest set to celebrate 40 years of achievements

MUSCAT: Oman International Development & Investment Company (Ominvest) is celebrating its 40th anniversary today, marking four decades of its achievements. The high-profile gala event will take place later today and promises to be a momentous occasion attended by government and international dignitaries, prominent business leaders and guests from Oman and overseas. Since its inception in 1983, Ominvest has grown to become Oman's largest publicly listed investment company and one of the largest publicly listed investment companies in the Mena region. It has built a reputation for its portfolio of high-quality, durable

assets in diversified sectors that have produced healthy cash flows for four decades. Ominvest's enviable track record of consistent profitability and uninterrupted dividend payments to shareholders has further reaffirmed its position as a leading player in the industry. Ominvest's 40th anniversary is a significant milestone for the company and is a testament to its visionary board, capable management team, and talented employees. The celebration of this achievement will be a night to remember, showcasing Ominvest's success story, its continued commitment to enhancing value for all stakeholders, and its vision for the future.

EXPANDING PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

Panasonic reinforces ties with Omasco as it seeks to broaden its market reach in Oman

MUSCAT: Panasonic Marketing Middle East & Africa (PMMFA) is all geared up for its next phase of growth as it bolsters deeper relations with its local partner Oman Marketing and Services Company (Omasco). The Japanese manufacturer has a long-standing relationship with Omasco and with this development, Panasonic seeks to further grow its business and reach in the Sultanate mainly by expanding its product portfolio with its latest innovations in response to evolving consumer demands. The renewed collaboration between Panasonic and Omasco was announced during a convention held in Muscat, Oman. At the event, Panasonic also displayed some of its newest launches, with a key focus on highlighting its strong mission to contribute to the overall well-being of people, society, and the planet. John Hardy, Director - Sales, Panasonic Marketing Middle East and Africa (PMMFA), said, "Oman has always been a key market for Panasonic and we are proud to say that we have been enjoying the trust and confidence of our Omani customers which helps us maintain market leadership status, especially in the home appliances category as well as the air conditioning segment. Today, as we emphasise anew our commitment to the Omani market, we are again honoured to have the support of Omasco as we strive harder to further Panasonic's mission of



providing innovative solutions with industry-leading features and more importantly, with the requirements of our local customers in mind." For his part, Navin Batta, Assistant General Manager, Consumer Electronics, Omasco commented, "Omasco continuously endeavours to improve our products and services to maintain a high level of excellence our customers expect from us. This partnership with Panasonic has been a natural fit - offering the most innovative technologies that meet the local market's needs. Leveraging the expertise and best-in-class solutions of Panasonic, we at Omasco are able to engage with our growing customer base in unique ways. We are delighted to deepen our strategic alliance with Panasonic and we look forward to the next chapter of this powerful partnership which is central to our growth strategy over the coming years." Omasco is one of the most prom-

inent business groups in Oman and represents world-renowned and best-in-class brands across the Sultanate. With the strengthening of Panasonic's ties with Omasco, the global electronics giant also moves to restate its commitment to creating useful products and delivering innovative technologies designed to enrich the lives and well-being of its Omani customers. In addition, and line with its new brand action slogan "Create Today. Enrich Tomorrow", the company aims to advance further its efforts on building a greener planet for a more sustainable future. At Panasonic, well-being is divided into three categories: Inner Well-being, Outer Well-being, and Spatial Well-being. The company offers products and services to support all three areas of well-being. For Inner Well-being, the main focus is promoting a healthy eating lifestyle through products designed for convenient and nutritious cook-

ing. Under Inner Wellbeing, Panasonic also offers solutions that optimise the storage and freshness of food. Products displayed at the event that highlight Inner wellbeing included kitchen appliances - such as slow cookers and blenders, as well as microwave ovens and refrigerators. For Outer Wellbeing, Panasonic featured its beauty and grooming products from the Personal Care range, including hair dryers and straighteners as well shavers and body trimmers. Outer Wellbeing is all about innovations that ensure cleanliness and hygiene and that people's physical appearance and health management are in the best possible condition. Meanwhile, the Spatial Well-being showcase had an extensive display which included Living products - such as Iron, Garment Steamer and Water Dispensers, as well as Residential and Commercial Air Conditioners, Washing Machines, and TVs.

AWE-INSPIRING LOOKS

Escalade: Epitome of Cadillac-inspired innovation and design

MUSCAT: Sending pulses racing among motoring enthusiasts with a penchant for full-size SUVs is the Cadillac Escalade - a much-coveted brand among customers with large families, as well as individuals with a passion for imposing workhorses. Since its arrival in the Sultanate of Oman, the Escalade has been turning heads, not least for its stunning looks and powerful persona. After all, this latest offering represents the culmination of years of Cadillac-inspired innovation and design, immaculately crafted together to revolutionise the motoring experience for its

niche customers. Everything about Escalade is awe-inspiring. By far the biggest in its segment, the luxury SUV makes a dramatic statement with its captivating features, including its standard 22-inch wheels, the sleek horizontal headlamps, and the iconic 3D, 3-footall LED tail-lamps. To complement its formidable looks and imposing size, the Escalade is powered by a 6.2L V8 engine that is paired with intelligent 10-speed automatic transmission - a combination that allows the driver to harness its prodigious 420 hp with effortless ease. Moreover, the SUV's advanced engine



technologies, such as Dynamic Fuel Management, Direct Injection and Variable Valve Timing, can be leveraged to maximize the

full potential of the engine's 624 Nm of torque. The entire package has been designed to provide a powerful yet nimble performance.

Significantly, the interior is just as lavish and expansive as the exterior. Ample legroom between the second and third rows makes the Escalade the most comfortable in its segment. An outstanding feature of the spacious cabin is the curved 38-inch OLED display that offers more pixel density than a 4K TV and the largest color range available in the automotive space. Augmented Reality enabled navigation widens viewing horizons, while a 36-speaker AKG Studio Reference sound system provides an immersive 360-degree listening experience. Safety is embedded in the DNA of

the Escalade as it is across the GM automotive range. Escalade comes with a suite of leading-edge safety and driver assistance features, including Front Pedestrian Braking, Automatic Emergency Braking, Forward Collision Alert, Safety Alert Seat, Rear Seat Reminder, Rear Park Assist, HD Rear Vision Camera and Vehicle Diagnostics. Escalade comes in five distinctive model offerings that customers can choose from, based on their specific tastes. Leading automotive firm OTE Group is the exclusive distributor of Cadillac models in the Sultanate of Oman.

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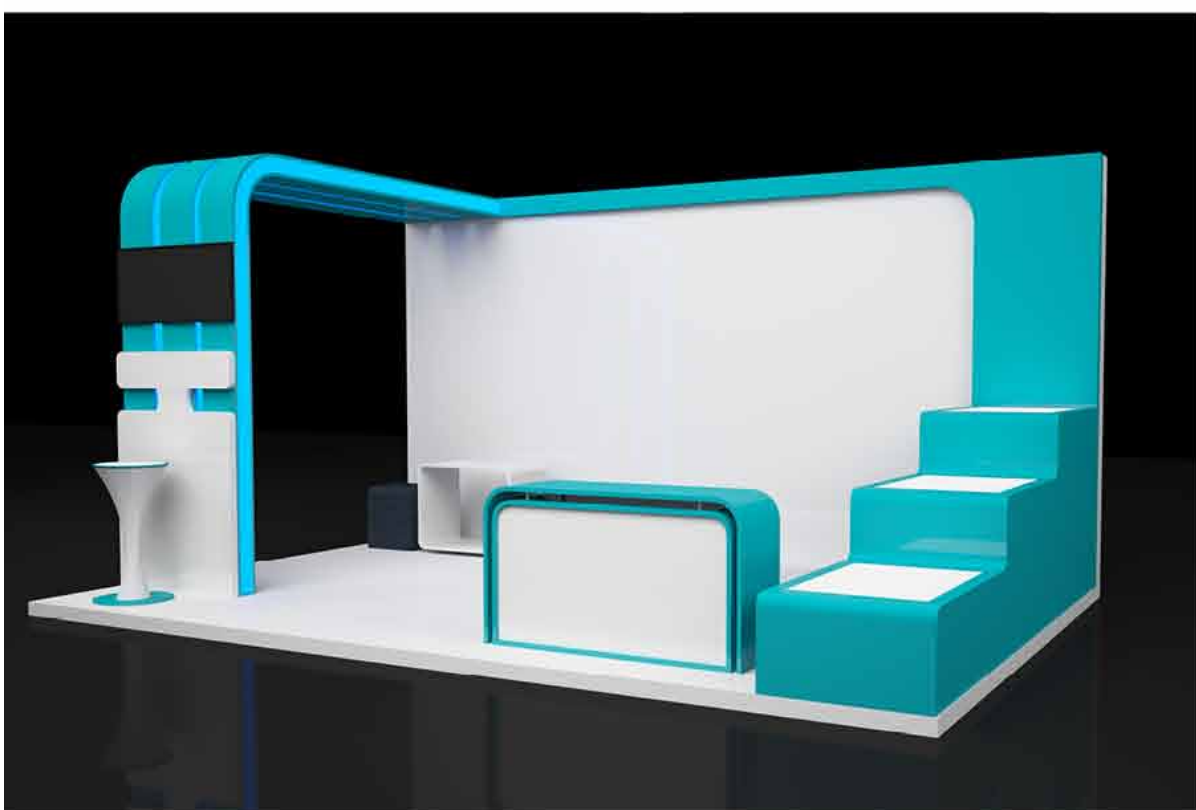
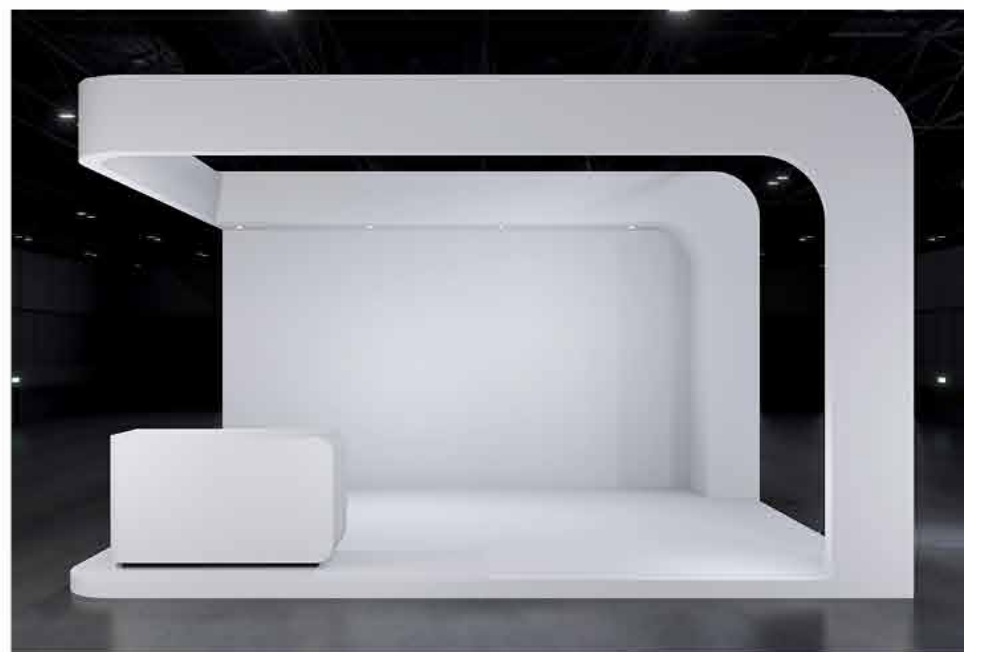
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