

**HM THE SULTAN GREETES
PRESIDENT OF LATVIA**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Egils Levits of the Republic of Latvia on the occasion of the Proclamation Day Anniversary of the Republic. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Levits and the people of Latvia. -**ONA**



HIS MAJESTY GREETES KING OF MOROCCO

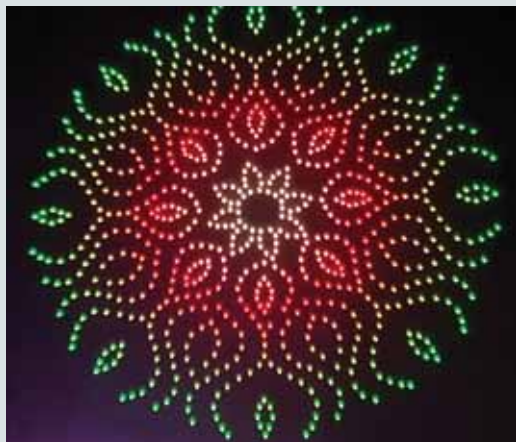
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to King Mohammed VI. His Majesty also prayed to the Almighty Allah for the return of this occasion on King Mohammed VI at a time the people of Morocco have achieved aspirations of further progress and prosperity. -**ONA**



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JOY AND PRIDE MARKS OMAN'S NATIONAL DAY



SUPREME COMMANDER

His Majesty the Sultan presides over 52nd National Day military parade in Salalah



SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, presided over a military parade staged at Al Nasr Square in the Governorate of Dhofar on Friday on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day.

The event saw the participation of symbolic units representing the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), the Royal Navy

of Oman (RNO), the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), the Sultan's Special Force (SSF), the Royal Oman Police (ROP), ground and mounted military music bands, as well as Firqat Forces.

Upon His Majesty the Sultan's arrival at the parade grounds, he was received by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Gen. Sultan bin Moham-

med Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, and Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF).

When His Majesty the Sultan ascended the Royal dais, columns of the parade performed the military salute. The joint corps of military bands played the Royal Anthem, while the Sultan of Oman's Artillery fired a 21-gun

salute to His Majesty the Sultan.

Then, the parade commander stepped forward, requesting His Majesty the Sultan to signal the start of the military show. The joint corps of military bands representing the SAF, the RGO, the ROP and the Royal Court Affairs (RCA) played sundry tunes as they marched in slow and normal pace before the Royal dais. **>A6**

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

His Majesty issues directives for overall development of Oman



SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Al Husn Palace in the Wilayat of Salalah, Governorate of Dhofar on Thursday.

At the outset of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan gave thanks and praise to Allah the Almighty for the riches with which He endowed Oman. He expressed gratitude to the Almighty for the accomplishments in all aspects of life in Oman made over the past five decades, inspiring the forward march of the country's future. He prayed to Allah the Almighty to crown the good efforts with success.

His Majesty the Sultan greeted

Omani citizens and expatriates on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day. He prayed to Allah for a happy comeback of this glorious occasion and similar occasions at a time Oman and its noble people are blessed with further progress, prosperity and tranquility. His Majesty the Sultan valued the sincere sentiments, prayers and greetings of citizens and residents in all parts of Oman on this auspicious occasion. He commended citizens' and residents' joy and celebration of the national occasion in the Governorate of Dhofar, describing the manifestations as a source of pride and an evidence of allegiance and gratitude. **>A8**



30th
MUSCAT



52ND NATIONAL DAY

Festive cheer all around on National Day

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Friday, November 18, turned out to be a day of outpouring of joy and pride for citizens and residents of the Sultanate of Oman.

The celebrations of 52nd National Day were witnessed across the Sultanate of Oman with people and organisations holding a series of events. From cake-cutting to exchange of gifts in offices to processions and marches organised in various headquarters of wilayats, the feeling of joy and pride was evident.

In capital Muscat, pomp and gaiety marked the occasion as people came out in thousands on the roads with decorated cars from early evening. Children, elderly and young were all in a celebratory mood on the National Day. Roads were chock a block with cars, with the road jam extending to more than 10 kms around 8pm.

The mood was celebratory with beautifully decorated cars and people honking horns all along as they headed to Qurum Corniche and the service roads in

Shatti Qurum.

In view of the large number of cars, the Royal Oman Police had to halt traffic at various places to manage the rush of people enjoying the festive atmosphere.

Kite, laser and drone shows

were held for the first time in three governorates to celebrate the 52nd National Day. Laser and drone shows were held in Amerat Park in Muscat and Sahel Ittin in Salalah in Dhofar while a kite show was held in



Sahel Ittin in Salalah.

On Saturday, laser and drone shows were held in the Khoudh Dam area in Muscat and the wilayat of Khasab in Musandam. The celebrations will continue on Sunday and Monday with kite shows to be held at Seeb Beach and Azaiba Beach.

Loud cheers were heard from the crowds in Al Amerat as drones displayed the portrait of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and flag of the Sultanate of Oman to express their joy. Along with Muscat, all other major cities across the nation have been decked up for the National Day with flag and colourful lights illuminating the main roads.

In Salalah, light shows using drones and lasers were held on Friday evening.

The activities, organised by the Secretariat General of National Celebrations included display of a set of photographs and words expressing love for the homeland and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, in the presence of a large number of citizens and residents.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Noufali wins content creator top award

1 Omani freestyle football player Mohammed Al Noufali has won the Best Football Tik Tok Creator award. **>A2**

WORLD COVID-19 vaccine passports mooted

2 Leaders at the G20 Summit in Indonesia signed a declaration to introduce vaccine passports for their respective jurisdictions. **>A9**

SPORTS FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 begins today

3 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar begins on Sunday with Qatar taking on Ecuador in the opening match at Al Bayt Stadium today. **>A10**

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	11:57pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:06am

MEETING

Iranian President, Sayyid Badr discuss bilateral ties

TEHRAN: Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran received in Tehran on Saturday Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister. During the meeting, Sayyid Badr conveyed greetings and best wishes of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to President Raisi and the people of Iran.



Best wishes to His Majesty
In his turn, the Iranian President expressed his appreciation and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people, wishing the relations between the two countries further progress. President Raisi also expressed his greetings to the Sultanate of

Oman on the 52nd glorious National Day.
The meeting reviewed the advanced relations between Oman and Iran and underscored the joint keenness to promote them in various spheres to serve interests of the two countries and meet aspirations of their peoples.

The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ibrahim Ahmed Al Ma'eni, Ambassador of Oman to Iran and some officials from both sides. — **ONA**

13TH DUBAI GLOBE SOCCER AWARDS

Omani freestyle footballer Noufali wins global award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: It was a night to remember for Mohammed Al Noufali as the Omani freestyle football player stood with an award on the same dais where football greats like Mohamed Saleh, Karim Benzema and Zlatan Ibrahimovic were also awarded. Noufali won the Best Football TikTok Creator award in the Digital Awards category at the 13th edition of the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards.



clared the Best men's Club of the Year. The event crowned the footballers, coaches, managers, agents and promising players who have distinguished themselves both on and off the pitch in the season.

The winners were selected by the fans from all over the world, along with a jury of global football coaches, directors and chairmen. Noufali competed with 14 other football content creators from around the world and was among the seven who qualified for the finals. The popular Omani influencer won the award after obtaining the highest number of votes.

Speaking after receiving the award, Noufali said: It is a great honour to win such a prestigious award. This is the first time that the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards have included the digital awards category and to become the first person in the world to win it is really special."

The Digital Awards category comprised Best Football Esports Player of the Year, Best Football TikTok Creator of the Year, Best Football YouTube Creator of the Year, Best Football Social Media Influencer of the Year and Best Football Journalist of the Year. The ceremony, held in partnership with Dubai Sports Council, took place in Madinat Jumeirah on Thursday night.

The Best men's Player of the Year was handed to Benzema while TikTok Fans' Player of the Year award was given to Salah. Sergio Ramos was named the Best Defender of All Time while his former club Real Madrid was de-

OQ commissions third Bisat crude processing unit

Commissioned with major contributions from Omani talents, field's production capacity to reach 60,000 barrels per day



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The exploration and production sector of OQ, the Global Integrated Energy Group, announced the commissioning of the third crude oil processing plant in Bisat oil field, located in the block 60 concession area.

The commissioning of the third plant will contribute to increasing the field's production capacity to 60 thousand barrels per day, further enhancing OQ Group's share of the Sultanate of Oman's total oil production.

Bisat oil field was discovered in 2017 and includes about 165 oil wells. It consists of three crude oil processing plants. It is worth mentioning that the crude oil processing plant "A" started its operation in August 2019, and crude oil processing plant "B" started its operation in September 2021. The crude oil processing plant "C" was commissioned on a trial basis on November 9, 2022.

OQ has successfully increased the production of Bisat oilfield from 5,000 barrels per day in 2019 to 55,000 barrels per day by the third quarter of 2022, the fastest annual growth of oil field production in the region.

A wide group of Omani talents contributed to this project, which included employees from OQ Group and employees working for the contracting companies.

The initiative is part of OQ's contribution to support the government's efforts in enabling national companies to carry on work in the areas of oil exploration and production.

The commissioning of this important project makes OQ Group one of the largest oil producer, bringing the group's production capacity to 219,000 barrels of equivalent oil per day, represent-

“

The project will support the group's strategy to boost investments in oil exploration and production while containing environmental impact. This is an important stage that precedes the full commercial operation of the project and will enable us to ensure the reliability of all equipment and components of the plant

Eng. Ahmed bin Said Al-Azkawi
CEO of the Upstream Sector, OQ Group

ing 12.6 percent of the Sultanate of Oman's total oil production.

On this occasion, Eng. Ahmed bin Said Al-Azkawi, CEO of the Upstream Sector at OQ Group, said "The project will support the group's strategy to boost investments in oil exploration and production while containing environmental impact. This is an important stage that precedes the full commercial operation of the project and will enable us to ensure the reliability of all equipment and components of the plant."

National talents

"What makes us proud is the contribution of national talents in the completion of the project and in the commissioning phase ahead of the scheduled date and within budget. In addition, the project completed more than 3,750,000

working hours without lost time injuries.

"Besides, the number of driven kilometres since the start of the project amounted to more than 1.6 million km (one million and six hundred thousand kilometres) without any road accidents, thanks to the application of best international HSSE practices. Such remarkable performance will enhance the government's trust in the national companies in oil exploration and production" he added.

"We are delighted to announce the commissioning of the third crude oil processing plant in Bisat oil field which has been designed in alignment with OQ Group drive to manage its carbon footprint through the integration of the digital platform and the equipment and devices used."

Greetings to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and people of Oman on the occasion of the
52nd National Day

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SERVICES AND TRADE MARBLE CELEBRATES OMAN'S 52ND NATIONAL DAY

Services & Trade Marble, on the occasion of the Sultanate's 52nd National Day, organized a special gathering at its factory premises in Sohar Freezone. The event was held for all the employees, to join in the nation's celebrations and to honor and thank His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his wisdom and leadership in the development and prosperity of the Sultanate."



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Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

and the people of Oman

on the occasion of the 52nd National Day
of Oman’s flourished Renaissance



MET OFFICE

Oman will be affected by a low pressure on Monday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will be affected by a low pressure trough on Monday and Tuesday.

The General Directorate of Meteorology said: “The governorates of Musandam, North Al Batinah and South Al Batinah will be affected by thunderstorms of varying intensity accompanied by active downwind with chances of cumulus clouds forming on Al Hajar Mountains.”

The Meteorology department also said mainly clear skies over rest of the governorates with high and medium clouds advect



tion and chances of late night to early morning low level clouds or fog patches over parts of governorates of South Al Sharqiya, Al Buraimi, Al Dhahira and Al Wusta.

Along the coastal areas of Oman Sea winds will be south-westerly light at night becoming northeasterly light to moderate during day time while over Governorates of Al Buraimi and Al Dhahira it will be northwesterly light to moderate, and over rest of the governorates it will be north-easterly light to moderate.

Coastal areas of Dhofar

Moderate along the coastal areas of Dhofar and western Musandam Governorates with maximum wave height of 1.5 metres and slight over the rest of the coastal areas with maximum wave height of one metre.



Heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the
52nd National day

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Embassies of Oman hold reception on the occasion of 52nd National Day

The Embassies of Oman in the UAE, Japan, Tunisia, the US and Singapore celebrated the 52nd Glorious National Day



dents studying in Tunisia. The ceremony included a speech by His Excellency the Ambassador, Head of the Sultanate of Oman's Mission in Tunisia, and a speech by His Excellency the Tunisian Minister of Religious Affairs on the occasion of the glorious National Day, noting the relations of cooperation between the two brotherly countries, and a documentary clip on the renaissance in the Sultanate of

ABU DHABI: Dr. Sayyid Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Arab Emirates, held a reception on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day.

The ceremony, which was held at the Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi Hotel, was attended by His Highness Sheikh Suroor bin Mohammed Al Nahyan and His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence.

The ceremony was also attended by Sheikh Mohammed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Sheikh Sultan bin Saeed Al Nahyan, His Excellency Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chief of Police and Public Security in Dubai, and a number of senior officials. Heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to the United Arab Emirates.

In his speech, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Arab Emirates stressed the interest and keenness of the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE to develop cooperation frameworks between them in all fields under the wise leadership of the two brotherly countries and their

keenness to enhance the process of cooperation and push it to more comprehensive horizons, noting that the relations between the two countries are a role model with it.

The ceremony included a march in which a group of cavalymen participated, Abu Dhabi Police

Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Japan

Tokyo: The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Japan held a reception on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day, at the embassy's headquarters in Tokyo.

In his speech, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Said bin Khalifa Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, praised the historical relations between the two friendly countries, as they celebrate this year the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of

their diplomatic relations. His Excellency reviewed the economic recovery, financial stability and "Oman Vision 2040".

Bilateral relations

The Japanese government was represented by His Excellency Yamada Kenji, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who emphasized the depth of the Japanese-Omani relations, praising the important role played by the Sultanate of Oman at the regional and global levels under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik - may God protect and preserve him -. He also expressed the Japanese government's determination to push bilateral relations to broader horizons.

Wise foreign policies

For his part, His Excellency Ito

Seishiro, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Honorary Adviser of the Parliamentary Japan-Oman Friendship Association, and His Excellency Yamaguchi Natsuo, Chairman of the Kumei Party, partner in the ruling coalition, praised the wise foreign policies of the Sultanate of Oman.

The ceremony was attended by HE Takagi Kei, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Parliamentary Affairs, a number of Their Excellencies members of the House of Representatives and advisors of the Japanese Parliament, Their Excellencies Ambassadors of Arab and foreign countries accredited to Japan, a number of government officials, Japanese companies and businessmen, the media, and Omani students studying in universities

Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tunisia

Tunis: Dr. Hilal bin Abdullah Al-Sanani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman accredited to the Republic of Tunisia, held a reception on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day at the Four Seasons Hotel in the Tunisian capital. The Tunisian government was represented by His Excellency Ibrahim Al-Shaibi, Minister of Religious Affairs.

The ceremony was attended by a number of prominent political figures in Tunisia, as well as a number of heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, Arab and international organisations, consuls and military attachés accredited in Tunisia, a number of Tunisian university presidents, academics, media figures, artists and intellectuals, and a number of Omani stu-

US congratulates Oman

The United States of America congratulated the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day, which falls annually on November 18.

Dr. Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America, on behalf of his country, expressed his good wishes to the Sultanate of Oman on this happy occasion. Expressing his gratitude for the historical Omani-American relations and for the joint cooperation, in his congratulatory message, Anthony Blinken said that he is looking forward to the continuation of the partnership between the two friendly countries.

He said that the United States of America is aware of the great role of the Sultanate of Oman in working towards a peaceful political solution in Yemen and appreciated its unwavering support for humanitarian issues.

Consulate of Oman in Singapore

The Consul General of the Sultanate of Oman in the Republic of Singapore, Anwar bin Ahmed Mugebel, held a reception on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day.

The ceremony was attended by Mohammed Fahmy Aliman, mayor of the southeastern district of Singapore, in the presence of a number of ambassadors and official figures. - ONA

2022 SECOND QUARTER



Foreign direct investments in Oman hit OMR17.981bn

MUSCAT: The Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the Sultanate of Oman reached OMR17.981 billion up to end of second quarter of the current year, an increase of OMR2.660 billion compared to the same period in 2021.

The total FDIs in manufacturing sector amount to OMR1.694 billion at end of second quarter 2022 compared to OMR806 million during the same period of last year.

Oil and gas sector contributed for 68.14 percent of the total FDIs at the end of second quarter 2022 followed by the manufacturing sector at 9.42 percent, real estate sector activities and commercial

projects by 5.84 percent and the other sector by 7.88 percent.

The United Kingdom topped the list of countries investing in the Sultanate of Oman followed by the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and the People's Republic of China, respectively.

Quality investments

For attracting quality investments that contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP) and localising industries, transfer of advance and modern technologies and for enhancement of economic diversification sectors, the total number of investors holding

investor residence amounted to 1,004 investors for the category of ten years and 414 investors for the category of five years for the various nationalities.

The number of applications for investment licences through Invest Easy Portal amounted to 18726 application from the launch of the service on 17 November 2021 up to 9 November 2022.

The service allows the companies subjected to the foreign Capital investment law to obtain the investment licences for their projects through the self-service or the centres offering the service.

- ONA

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52ND NATIONAL DAY

HM receives commemorative gift at the end of show



<FROM A1 When His Majesty the Sultan ascended the Royal dais, columns of the parade performed the military salute. The joint corps of military bands played the Royal Anthem, while the Sultan of Oman's Artillery fired a 21-gun salute to His Majesty the Sultan.

Then, the parade commander stepped forward, requesting His Majesty the Sultan to signal the start of the military show.

The joint corps of military bands representing the SAF, the RGO, the ROP and the Royal Court Affairs (RCA) played sundry tunes as they marched in slow and normal pace before the Royal dais. Then, columns of the Protocols Guard joined the parade and performed ceremonial gestures to the accompaniment of melodies from the joint corps of military bands—performing the military salute to His Majesty, the Supreme Commander.

Then, columns of camouflage uniforms, representing the SAF, the RGO, the SSF and the ROP, queued before the Royal dais, performing the military salute to His Majesty, the Supreme Commander, to the accompaniment of melodies from the joint corps of military bands.

His Majesty the Sultan watched a musical show staged by mounted bands representing the RGO and the Royal Cavalry. They passed before the Royal dais, performing the military salute to His Majesty the Sultan.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan watched a presentation by the RAO's Firaq Forces. They chanted lyrics of allegiance and gratitude to His Majesty the Sultan as they passed before the Royal dais and gave the military salute to His Majesty, the Supreme Commander.

Later, the columns of the parade performed an ensemble of cheers

that proclaimed "Faith in Allah, Loyalty to the Sultan, Sacrifice for the Nation". They chanted thrice "Long Live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander". Then, the joint corps of military bands played the Royal Anthem, while the columns of the parade performed the military salute marking the conclusion of the military show.

On this occasion, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, received a commemorative gift from the valiant armed forces. HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs had the honour of presenting the gift. Then, His Majesty the Sultan left the parade grounds.

The military parade was attended by Royal family members, ministers, the chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, advisers, commanders of SAF, military and security departments, heads



of diplomatic missions from Arab and friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, members of the State Council and the Shura Council, undersecretaries, retired military commanders, judges, members of the Public Prosecution Department, ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry, walis, sheikhs and dignitaries from the Governorate of Dhofar, military attaches of Arab and friendly embassies in the Sultanate of Oman, senior military officers, senior state officials, senior retired officers, commissioned and non-commissioned officers and cadets of the SAF, the RGO, military and security departments and a large gathering of citizens from Dhofar Governorate. - ONA



On this Occasion of Oman's 52nd National Day of the Renaissance we would like to extend our sincere greetings to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman





His Majesty awards Medals for Excellent Service to several Royal Court officers

SALALAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, bestowed the Medals for Excellent Service and the Royal Commendation to a number of officers and non-commissioned officers at the affairs of the Royal Court.

Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary-General of the Royal Court Affairs, presented them with medals in his office in Salalah, in appreciation of their efforts in serving the country and performing their duties.

The Secretary-General of the Royal Court Affairs expressed his greetings to the officers and non-commissioned officers on the occasion of honouring them with medals, wishing them success and urged them to continue giving their utmost potential to serve the dear country and its beloved leader.

On the other hand, Sheikh Said bin Hilal bin Ali Al Khalili, Head



of the Human and Financial Resources and Support Affairs, presented medals to a number of officers and non-commissioned officers in Muscat, congratulating them on this occasion, praising their efforts and sincere bids, wishing them success in their future careers.

The two occasions were attended by a number of officials and senior officers of the Royal Court Affairs.



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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

FROM A1 HM gives instructions to endorse a number of initiatives



Then, His Majesty the Sultan explored local, regional and international developments, commenting on them as follows:

His Majesty the Sultan took note of the Council of Ministers' keenness to monitor and follow up financial indicators in light of positive results achieved by the National Fiscal Balance Programme, which contributed to maintaining the safe financial position of Oman. In this context, His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to launch the National Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Development Programme for a period of three years starting in January 2023. The objective is to make the financial sector a basic enabler for the growth of investments, as well as the economy, in a manner that secures the continuation of all development programmes.

After the Council of Ministers elaborated on the economic performance, the 10th Five Year Plan and projects endorsed for implementation within the duration of the plan, His Majesty the Sultan instructed the units of the State's Administrative Apparatus to double efforts towards the achievement of best results in economic diversification sectors, with the aim of motivating the economy in a greater scale and realise the 10th Five Year Plan's target growth rates.

His Majesty the Sultan underscored the importance of completing development projects endorsed for the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) and the finalisation of the projects as scheduled and within their approved budgets.

His Majesty the Sultan also gave directives for the execution

of additional development projects alongside projects endorsed for execution during the 10th Five Year Plan, as listed below:

Works on the Sultan Qaboos Dual-carriageway in Salalah; the restoration of rainwater drainage system in the same carriageway; and the construction of a multi-purpose port in the Wilayat of Masirah.

Following the Council of Ministers' keenness to continue offering necessary support and alleviate the impacts of inflation on citizens' livelihoods, His Majesty the Sultan gave instructions to endorse a number of initiatives as follows:

1. The promotion of 2012 government employees of the civil service system and other systems who are eligible for promotion, effective 2023.

2. Fixing vehicle fuel prices in accordance with October 2021 rates, as a maximum ceiling, until the end of 2023.

3. Extending the job security gratuity for citizens whose services are terminated within Oman until the end of June 2023.

4. Waiving of housing loan outstanding of employees and retirees of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) who get less than RO 450 per month. This follows the norm of writing off outstanding loans of citizens who are beneficiaries of housing loans provided by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

In pursuance of efforts made to revise government service fees, the Council of Ministers reviewed the outcome of the second phase of the government services pricing



guide project. It was agreed to cancel, reduce and merge an additional set of government service fees in a manner that ensures support for the activities of the economic sectors, enhances the competitiveness of the national economy and streamlines the completion of government procedures.

After the Council of Ministers listened to the executive position of initiatives related to jobs and the National Employment Programme, His Majesty the Sultan

underscored the significance of authorities' coordinating with the various sectors towards the realization and follow up of employment objectives and the acceleration of execution and support of approved employment initiatives in various sectors.

As part of the Cabinet's follow-up of preparations and organizational procedures for the municipal councils' elections for the third term, scheduled to take place on 25 December 2022, His Majesty

the Sultan commended the efforts made by authorities concerned to develop and simplify the electoral process to enable voters to cast their votes with ease.

His Majesty the Sultan laid emphasis on the roles of municipal councils within the framework of the powers granted to them. He stressed the importance of integration of these roles with the ones undertaken by governors, with the prime aim of developing governorates. His Majesty the Sultan

also touched on a number of issues related to regional and international developments. His Majesty stressed the fundamentals of Oman's foreign policy, which espouse the approach of dialogue, peace and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan spoke about several aspects of interest to the country and citizens. He wished all success in realisation the good of the nation. -ONA

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF INDUSTRY

Manufacturing sector's contribution in Oman's GDP touches OMR2.33bn up to October 2022

MUSCAT: The contribution of the manufacturing sector — one of the sectors of economic diversification — in the gross domestic product (GDP at current price) amounted to OMR2.334 billion up to October 2022.

The industrial activities growth amounted to 1.25 percent while the manufacturing activities grew by 67.4 percent.

The Directorate General of Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion supervises on the strategic and operational indicators and conducts periodical industrial surveys.

The regular industrial survey aimed to provide comprehensive and updated database on the industrial establishments in the Sultanate as to generate advance indicators for measurement of the performance of the industrial sector and to acquaint with the investment opportunities and to increase the percentage of the local content of the industry sector.



The industrial survey provides addresses, locations, activities and investments of industrial establishments along with details of national manpower and expatriate manpower of both genders. The survey also provides details of products and other details of goods. The contribution of internal commercial activities in the GDP of most economic activities including the service activities increased by 8.8 percent to

OMR8.782 billion by end of June 2022 compared to OMR8.068 during the same period in 2021.

The contribution of the activity of retail and wholesale (at current price) increased by 13.3 percent to reach OMR1.667 billion by end of June 2022 compared to some OMR1.472 billion during the same period in 2021.

The contribution of real estate activity, technical activities and administrative service increased

by 2.2 percent to reach some OMR4.995 million by end of June 2022 compared to OMR973.7 million during the same period in 2021.

The contribution of service activities amounted to 43 percent (OMR8.782 billion) in the GDP in 2022, the retail and wholesale contribution amounted to 8.1 percent and the real estate, technological and administrative services contributed by 4.8 percent. -ONA

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS



Arab Parliament Speaker praises comprehensive development of Oman

CAIRO: Adel bin Abdul Rahman Al-Assoumi, Speaker of the Arab Parliament, praised in a statement the Sultanate of Oman's comprehensive development renaissance and great achievements in various fields.

His Excellency added that the wise vision of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik - may God protect and preserve him -

strengthened the position of the Sultanate of Oman in various fields and made it a pioneering Arab and international model, expressing on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious National Day his sincere congratulations to the Sultanate of Oman, its leadership and people, wishing it More progress and prosperity.

- ONA



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CLIMATE SUMMIT

Climate negotiators seek deal as COP27 goes into overtime

CAIRO: EU climate policy chief Frans Timmermans has called on negotiators at the ongoing COP27 climate summit in Egypt to reach a deal that builds on previous climate agreements and works to keep a 1.5C cap on the rise in global temperatures.

“The EU is united in our ambition to move forward and build on what we agreed in Glasgow. Our message to partners is clear: we cannot accept that 1.5C dies here and today,” he said in a tweet on Saturday.

Negotiators are making a final push for agreements this weekend at the COP27 climate talks, as persistent disagreements over money and responsibility forced the two-week summit into overtime.

Last-minute negotiations running past the scheduled closing time have been a recurring feature of recent COP summits.

Nevertheless, the 2022 event was seen as a crucial test of global commitment to containing climate change, in light of a war in Europe and rapidly rising energy prices distracting governments the world over.

“I remain committed to bring this conference to a close tomorrow in an orderly manner, with the adoption of a series of



consensus decisions that will be comprehensive, ambitious, and balanced,” COP27 President Sameh Shoukry, Egypt’s foreign minister, told reporters late on Friday.

“It will be an intensive day, probably an intensive night, too,” German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said in Sharm el-Sheikh. “A lot of ground is still before us, but none of the questions still open are insoluble, if we are honestly prepared to make collective progress on behalf of us all.”

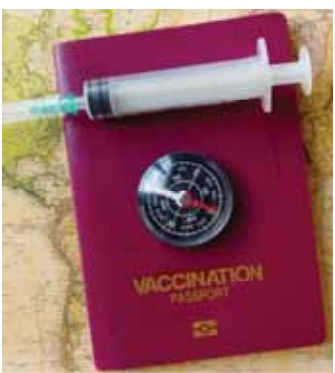
A draft statement released early on Friday suggested that a deal had been reached for the almost 200 participating countries to reaffirm past commitments to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial levels. **mw**

PERMANENT MEMBER

G20 leaders agree to introduce COVID vaccine passports in May next year

MUSCAT: In an attempt to have a better response to tackle future pandemic, leaders at the G20 Summit in Indonesia signed a declaration to introduce vaccine passports for their respective jurisdictions. Vaccine passports could create a global verification system to facilitate safe international travel.

“We acknowledge the importance of shared technical standards and verification methods, under the framework of the IHR (2005), to facilitate seamless international travel, interoperability, and recognizing digital solutions and non-digital solutions, including proof of vaccinations,” read one of the clauses of the G20



Bali Leaders’ Declaration.

“We support continued international dialogue and collaboration on the establishment of trusted global digital health

networks as part of the efforts to strengthen prevention and response to future pandemics, which should capitalise and build on the success of the existing standards and digital COVID-19 certificates.”

The G20 summit discussed issues of global importance and COVID-19 was a particular focus of this year’s meet.

In a statement, the leaders affirmed their respective countries’ support of the World Health Organization mRNA Vaccine Technology Transfer hub, which aims to build capacity in low- and middle-income countries to produce mRNA vaccines.

The leaders said they wel-

come joint production and research of vaccines and acknowledge the importance of shared technical standards and verification methods.

Indonesia’s Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin was quoted by local media that “a Digital Health Certificate using World Health Organization standards would be introduced during the next World Health Assembly in Geneva, in May next year.

“If you have been vaccinated or tested properly, you can move around. So for the next pandemic, instead of stopping the movement of people 100%, you can still provide some movement of the people.”



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LET'S KICK OFF



Hosts Qatar take on Ecuador in the opening match

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Finally, the moment has arrived. 2022 FIFA World Cup begins on Sunday in Qatar with the hosts taking on Ecuador in the opening match at Al Bayt Stadium on Sunday. The match kicks off at 8pm, Oman time.

After years and years of preparations and Qatar's potential to host the World Cup questioned, the moment has come for the world to witness the first global football spectacle in the Middle East and Arab world.

Qatar will be the first team since Italy in the second World Cup in 1934 to participate in the finals for the first time as a host without having previously qualified for the tournament.

In order to avoid a similar fate to that of Switzerland, Chile and South Africa, who all hosted but exited the finals in the group stages in 1954, 1962 and 2010, the Qatar team has undergone a thorough process of preparing for the tournament.

It started by appointing Spanish coach Felix Sanchez in 2017, whose knowledge of the region



AL BAYT STADIUM: The 60,000-capacity retractable roof stadium in Al Khor, 35km north of central Doha, will host the opener of the FIFA World Cup. The stadium takes its name from 'bayt al sha'ar' - which were tents historically used by nomadic peoples in Qatar and the Gulf region

helped him guide Qatar to the 2019 Asian Cup title, winning all matches in the process.

Sanchez's men raised eyebrows with a number of notable performances, including a 3-1 defeat of Japan in the final.

The team continued its preparations by rubbing shoulders with South America's best with participation in the 2019 Copa America.

Nonetheless, the experience proved to be a little too much for the team as they finished bottom of their group following defeats by Colombia and Argentina and a draw against Paraguay.

Qatar, similarly and upon special request, took part in the CONCACAF Gold Cup last year, where they showed improvement by topping their group and beating El Salvador in the quarterfinals before losing 1-0 to

United States in the semifinals.

The team will be under pressure by fans to achieve the desired results on home soil, especially after the Qatar Football Association decision not to allow their players to play for their domestic clubs since the beginning of the current season in order to devote themselves to preparations for the finals.

Qatar has never before appeared in a World Cup and faces a major challenge just to emerge from Group A, which also includes Senegal and the Netherlands.

Sunday may be Qatar's best hope for a victory against an Ecuador team that is only five places above it at No. 44 in the FIFA rankings.

"Qatar has worked very hard for this moment," Sanchez told FIFA website on Saturday.

Ecuador will hope to spoil the party — and has been talked about as a potential surprise package.

But the team heads to the World Cup on the back of doubts about whether it would even be allowed to compete after claims it fielded an ineligible player during qualifying.

Chile and Peru argued that defender Byron Castillo was actually Colombian and illegally played in qualifying matches. That claim was rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Ecuador kept its place at the World Cup, but will be deducted three points before the start of qualifying for the 2026 competition because of the use of false information on Castillo's birthday and birthplace in its proceedings to grant him a passport.

Castillo was then left out of coach Gustavo Alfaro's 26-man squad for Qatar.

Qatari Olympic high jump champion Mutaz Barshim, a World Cup ambassador, said the tournament is an opportunity to unite people.

"The World Cup will positively impact our society by showcasing our culture to the world and by helping people create friendships and build networks.

"It is a golden opportunity to change negative perceptions about the region and create new and meaningful connections," he said in an interview with the Qatar 2022 website.

IN BRIEF



ITALY'S DANIELE ORSATO TO OFFICIATE OPENING MATCH

Italy's Daniele Orsato has been selected as the referee for the opening match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 between Qatar and Ecuador at Al Bayt Stadium on Sunday.

At 46 years of age, he is one of Europe's most experienced referees, having been officiating the game since 2010. He was a video assistant referee at the 2018 edition of the FIFA World Cup.



SOLAR PLANT TO OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS

The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) has announced that carbon savings from Qatar's new 800 MW solar power plant will be used to offset approximately half the emissions generated from the country's hosting of the FIFA World Cup.

The Al Kharsaah Solar PV Independent Power Producer Project will commit 1.8m tons of carbon savings to Qatar 2022. The plant opened in October and will help to considerably reduce Qatar's carbon footprint. The project covers 10km – the equivalent of 1,400 football pitches. During its first year of operation, it is expected to generate almost 2,000,000 MWh, the equivalent energy consumption of approximately 55,000 Qatari households.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$227.4 BN

At US\$227.4 billion, according to finance consultancy firm Front Office Sport, the 2022 World Cup will cost five times more than the last seven tournaments put together.

TODAY'S MATCH



Qatar vs Ecuador

8:00 pm, 13 Oman time

Al Bayt Stadium

PRESS CONFERENCE

Qatar 2022 will be the best World Cup ever: Infantino

QATAR- FIFA President Gianni Infantino expressed his confidence that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which kicks off on Sunday, will be the best in the history of the World Cup.

In a press conference held at the Qatar National Convention Center on Saturday, Infantino said that FIFA and Qatar want to present an exceptional tournament, which will make the world feel proud of football, stressing that the Qatar has prepared optimally for the event.

He said: "We welcome everyone to the World Cup. We would like to emphasise that Qatar welcomes everyone regardless of their race, religion, orientation or beliefs. This is the official opinion of the State of Qatar and FIFA, and



fans from all over the world will live in Qatar an ideal experience."

Infantino accused critics of Qatar's treatment of migrant workers of hypocrisy on Saturday, adding that engagement was the only way to improve human rights. In lengthy, and sometimes angry, opening remarks at a news conference, Infantino rounded on European critics of the host nation over the issues of migrant workers and LGBT rights.

"I am European. For what we have been doing for 3,000 years around the world, we should be apologising for the next 3,000 years before giving moral lessons," he said.

"I have difficulties understanding the criticism. We have to invest in helping these people, in

education and to give them a better future and more hope. We should all educate ourselves, many things are not perfect but reform and change takes time.

"This one-sided moral lesson is just hypocrisy," he said.

"It is not easy to take the criticism of a decision that was made 12 years ago. Doha is ready, Qatar is ready and of course it will be the best World Cup ever."

Infantino's speech that lasted 54 minutes, began by him saying: "Today I have very strong feelings, I can tell you that," he said. "Today I feel Qatari. I feel Arab. I feel African. I feel gay. I feel disabled. I feel a migrant worker."

He also announced the launch of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Legacy Fund.

INDIA ECONOMY TO GROW

India's economy is expected to grow between 6.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year based on high-frequency indicators and economic prediction models, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its monthly bulletin.

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DHL OFFICE IN SOHAR FREEZONE

DHL, the leading international provider of air, ocean, and road freight services has announced the opening of a new office in Sohar Freezone. Matrix Prime Logistics, a leading company for warehouse logistics operations at Sohar Freezone, signed a lease agreement with DHL Global Forwarding.

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RISEUP SUMMIT

Riyadh hosts biggest event for entrepreneurship in Middle East

RIYADH: Riyadh is hosting the first edition of 'RiseUp Saudi Arabia'. It is expected that the RiseUp summit, which will run until November 21 at the King Abdullah Financial District, will attract over 10,000 participants, more than 150 startups, 150 investors and 200 speakers from all over the world to share their global experiences as well as the latest developments in many fields to serve the startups and help them build foundations on which to base themselves.

The summit is supported by the National Technology Development Program (NTDP) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, in a strategic partnership with the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones (SAFCSP).

The summit also includes some sectors specialised in entrepreneurship in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, such as the Saudi Venture Investment Company; the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monsha'at); the Garage, the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO); the Ministry of Tourism, and the Angel Investors.

Princess Lolowah bint Yazeed, CEO of RiseUp Company in Saudi Arabia explained that the Kingdom witness a historic boom for the startups' community, and the Kingdom has been and will remain the largest supporter of this sector, as it represents a prosperous future for the economies of the world, and the impact of startups on the lives of the citizens of the Kingdom, which has become clear and tangible, as the efficiency of the daily life of citizens has been improved by relying on modern technology in managing all tasks, indicating that the continued growth of startups is by finding many sources and resources and abundant investments. -SPA

LATEST PLAN

IMF backs UK plan for \$65 billion of budget tightening

LONDON: The International Monetary Fund's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, said she had spoken with British finance minister Jeremy Hunt to welcome his latest plan for 55 billion pounds (\$65 billion) of budget tightening.

"It strikes the right balance between fiscal responsibility and protecting growth and vulnerable households," Georgieva said in a brief statement on social media, Reuters reports.

The IMF had criticised Hunt's predecessor, Kwasi Kwarteng, for previous budget plans in September which included 45 billion pounds of unfunded tax cuts.

Those plans led to market turmoil, pushing sterling to a record low against the US dollar, forcing the BoE to intervene in the bond market and ultimately costing the job of the British prime minister at the time, Liz Truss. -BNA

OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO (S.A.O.G)

Chairman's Report and Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statement (Unaudited) for the period ended 30th September 2022

Respected Shareholders,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of the results of the operations for the 9 months' period ended 30th September 2022.

Operating performance:

REVENUE

Group Revenue for the period ended September 2022 has reached RO 1,981.5 million compared to RO 1,802.2 million for the corresponding period 2021. The Group revenue include acquired business of Zain Group, which contributed revenues of RO 1,565.5 Mn.

Omantel (Domestic performance) Revenues reached RO 423.4 million compared to RO 396.9 million for the corresponding period 2021. Revenue increase is mainly contributed by growth in Transit voice revenue which increased by RO 21.1 Mn YoY.

EXPENSES

Group's total Operating expenses increased to RO 1,655.7 Mn compared to RO 1,507.6 Mn for the corresponding period 2021, an increase of 9.8 %.

NET PROFIT

The Group Net Profit after tax has grown by 16.1 % touching RO 195.1 Mn compared to RO 168.1 Mn in 2021. After adjusting for minority interest, the net profit for the period is RO 49.8 Mn compared to RO 48.9 Mn in 2021, an increase of 1.8 %

Oman Domestic operation Net Profit for the nine months ended September 2022 stands at RO 53.7 Mn compared to RO 54.7 Mn in the previous period. Domestic net profit levels were sustained at similar level YoY on account of increase in Postpaid Mobile revenue (11.1 %) and Fixed Broad band revenue (1.7 %), cost optimization measures, reduction in impairment provision against receivables (contributed by healthy collections) and depreciation in spite of a significant increase in competition in Fixed and Mobile retail markets. Group Earning per Share (EPS) for the period ended September 2022 is RO 0.066 compared to RO 0.065 for the corresponding period of year 2021.

SUBSCRIBER BASE

The total domestic subscriber base as of September 2022 (including mobile and fixed businesses) was 3.207 Mn (excluding Mobile Resellers) compared to 3.189 Mn of the corresponding period in the previous year, a growth of 0.6 % over the last period. Total subscriber base with mobile resellers reached 3.728 Mn compared to 3.736 Mn.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

1) Mobile Telecommunication Company (Zain):

Zain Group revenues reached RO 1,565.5 Mn as of September 2022 compared to the corresponding period revenues of RO 1,413.1 Mn. EBITDA stands at RO 604.7 Mn, compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of RO 594.3 Mn recording an increase of 1.75 %. Net profit stands at RO 208.5 Mn compared to RO 180.9 Mn of the previous period recording an increase of 15.2 %

Total customer base of Zain Group increased by 7.3 % to 52 Mn compared to 48.4 Mn of the previous period.

MARKET SHARE

Omantel's Mobile market share (including Mobile Resellers) is 47.5 % with a revenue share of 58.1 %. The Fixed Telephone (post & pre-paid) market share is 71 % with a revenue market share of 82.2 %.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our shareholders and loyal customers for their continued support that enabled us to achieve these excellent results. Also, we wholeheartedly appreciate the sincere contribution of the Executive Management and Employees for the performance in the challenging situation. With your support, we are confident that Omantel will continue its good performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we are honored to greet Sultan Haitham bin Tariq on the occasion of the 52nd National Day. We pray to Almighty Allah to return this occasion to His Majesty with good health, happiness and long life, and to the Omani people with prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty

CHAIRMAN

Note:

1. The unaudited consolidated financial statement will be delivered to any shareholders or other interested party who requests them, within 5 days of the written request. The request must indicate preference for Arabic or English
2. Request may be addressed to Secretary, Board of Directors, Omantel P.O. Box 789, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman. Fax: 242 40 586.

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 September 2022 (Unaudited)

	Unaudited 30 Sept 2022 RO'000	Audited 31 Dec 2021 RO '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and bank balances	421,902	390,214
Trade and other receivables	1,070,467	972,305
Contract assets	111,420	90,679
Inventories	68,812	79,853
Investment securities at FVTPL	49,776	43,329
Assets of disposal group classified as held for sale	365,917	31,589
	2,088,294	1,607,969
Non-current assets		
Contract assets	68,152	52,937
Investment securities at FVTPL	25,188	25,522
Investment securities at FVOCI	23,603	22,438
Investment securities at amortised cost	1,000	1,000
Investments in associates and joint venture	146,765	114,288
Other non-current assets	107,102	83,463
Right of use of assets	178,787	225,860
Property and equipment	1,681,799	1,982,990
Intangible assets and goodwill	3,392,055	3,450,987
	5,624,451	5,959,485
Total Assets	7,712,745	7,567,454
Liabilities and Equity		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,361,245	1,354,169
Deferred revenue	134,389	139,043
Income tax payables	36,668	45,479
Borrowings	424,616	579,725
Lease liabilities	33,749	46,277
Liabilities of disposal group classified as held for sale	127,013	3,249
	2,117,680	2,167,942
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	2,106,983	1,823,187
Lease liabilities	155,704	202,379
Other non-current liabilities	538,003	606,893
	2,800,690	2,632,459
Equity		
Attributable to the Company's shareholders		
Share capital	75,000	75,000
Capital contribution	7,288	7,288
Capital reserve	36,893	36,893
Legal reserve	25,000	25,000
Voluntary reserve	49,875	49,875
Foreign currency translation reserve	(93,667)	(88,590)
Investment fair valuation reserve	(3,043)	(2,375)
Other reserves	5,209	(4,217)
Retained earnings	488,896	480,331
	591,451	579,205
Non-controlling interests	2,202,924	2,187,848
Total equity	2,794,375	2,767,053
Total Liabilities and Equity	7,712,745	7,567,454

Condensed Consolidated Statement of
Profit or Loss – 30 September 2022 (Unaudited)

	Three months ended 30 September		Nine months ended 30 September	
	2022 RO'000	2021 RO '000	2022 RO'000	2021 RO '000
Continuing operations				
Revenue	686,931	608,445	1,981,542	1,802,213
Cost of sales	(240,026)	(190,182)	(691,843)	(554,464)
Operating and administrative expenses	(180,242)	(164,961)	(517,219)	(493,926)
Depreciation and amortization	(136,911)	(149,995)	(412,619)	(443,416)
Expected credit loss on financial assets (ECL)	(15,307)	4,371	(34,046)	(15,763)
Interest income	2,691	1,653	5,778	4,916
Investment income	4,130	(867)	6,875	2,407
Share of results of associates and joint venture	857	2,241	3,723	3,310
Other (expense)/ income	(11,112)	(4,815)	(19,674)	3,932
Gain on sale and lease back transaction	495	-	495	783
Finance costs	(44,355)	(35,042)	(113,127)	(103,798)
(Loss)/Gain from currency revaluation	1,086	(18)	3,690	(9,441)
Net monetary gain/ (loss)	-	(918)	-	(1,701)
Profit before income tax from continuing operations	68,237	69,912	213,575	195,052
Taxation	(3,291)	(10,195)	(18,104)	(26,303)
Profit for the period from continuing operations	64,946	59,717	195,471	168,749
Discontinued operations				
Profit/(Loss) for the period from discontinued operations	1,499	(251)	(406)	(688)
Profit for the period	66,445	59,466	195,065	168,061
Attributable to:				
Shareholders of the Company	15,202	16,502	49,805	48,934
Non-controlling interests	51,243	42,964	145,260	119,127
	66,445	59,466	195,065	168,061
Earnings per share				
Basic and diluted – RO				
From continuing and discontinued operations	0.020	0.022	0.066	0.065



MARKET



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DHL Global Forwarding to open new office in Sohar Freezone

Times News Service

MUSCAT: DHL, the leading international provider of air, ocean, and road freight services has announced the opening of a new office in Sohar Freezone.

Matrix Prime Logistics, a leading company for warehouse logistics operations at Sohar Freezone, has signed a lease agreement with DHL Global Forwarding, for the sublease of warehouse space for the efficient distribution of goods in Oman and other global markets. The warehouse is strategically located at Sohar Freezone and the partnership will further cement Sohar's role in positioning Oman as an attractive

global logistics and transit hub.

"The shift to the Sohar Freezone will enable DHL Global Forwarding to further expand operations and enhance and streamline our process management. We are confident this move will provide even more efficient services and stable supply chain solutions as the international freight market and e-commerce sectors continue to grow," said Amadou Diallo, Chief Executive Officer of DHL Global Forwarding Middle East & Africa.

Roy Scaria, Country Manager - DHL Oman said, "This is DHL's step towards contribution to Oman Vision-2040 and capitalise on Sohar's land connectivity and provide

more solutions to our esteemed customers. DHL is now the only global logistics company with offices in both Salalah Freezone and Sohar Freezone. DHL is now well poised to offer faster and greener freight services across the region, particularly with the much anticipated imminent launch of the 303-km-Oman-Etihad Rail project connecting Sohar to Abu Dhabi."

Saib Jasim, Managing Partner of Matrix Prime Logistics said, "All our smart warehouses at Sohar Freezone are riding the waves of technological innovation. They are designed and built according to the highest international standards and can accommodate vari-

ous cargo types and activities. We offer customised warehousing solutions for various commercial, logistics and industrial activities, including for an international freight forwarding specialist such as DHL Global Forwarding."

Sohar Port and Freezone acts as the main gateway for import and export in Oman and to the main shipping routes among global markets. Sohar offers an advantageous base for logistics operators such as DHL Global Forwarding, the division of the Deutsche Post DHL Group, one of the world's leading postal and logistics providers which currently covers more than 220 countries across the globe.





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India economy to grow at 6.1%-6.3%

MUMBAI: India's economy is expected to grow between 6.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year based on high-frequency indicators and economic prediction models, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its monthly bulletin.

"If this is realised, India is on course for a growth rate of about 7 per cent in 2022-23," the central bank said.

Data for the July-September quarter will be released at the end of this month, Reuters reported.

"With headline inflation beginning to show signs of easing, the domestic macroeconomic outlook can best be characterised as resilient, but sensitive to formidable global headwinds," the RBI said. "While urban demand appears to be robust, rural demand is muted, but more recently pick-

ing up traction."

The central bank, however, highlighted that the global economy continues to be clouded with downside risks, with global financial conditions tightening and deteriorating market liquidity amplifying financial price movements.

"Markets are now pricing in moderate increases in policy rates and risk-on appetite has returned," the RBI said. -BNA



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China in action to guarantee energy supply for winter heating

BEIJING: As chilly weather started to grip a vast part of north China, sending temperatures plunging, natural gas production and supplies have been running in full swing in the Changqing oilfield to ensure residents a warm room temperature in winter.

The oilfield, located in northwest China's Erdos basin, is China's largest oil-and-gas field that supplies natural gas to more than 40 major cities, including Beijing and Tianjin. To ensure sufficient natural gas for this year's winter heating, the oilfield planned seven months ahead to arrange the production.

Besides the Changqing oilfield, other key energy suppliers in northern regions, such as the Daqing oilfield and Tarim oilfield, have all kicked into high gear to meet the heating needs of households as winter comes.

As one of the most concerning public services for people in northern regions, winter heating always remains an important livelihood issue for Chinese authorities.

Earlier this week, a fresh move came as the country's top economic planner pledged stronger support for upstream firms to beef up natural gas production and stock to help tide over heating peaks during the winter.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said it will urge localities to stay true to related price policies to maintain relatively stable natural gas prices for households.

Noting that the grim and complex international situation has added pressure on China's energy supply during winter peaks, NDRC spokesperson Meng Wei said the country can generally secure the natural gas supply for winter heating demands this year.

Prior to this, a key meeting on winter heating and energy supply held in late October stressed efforts to steadily increase the output and storage of coal and natural gas, and keep the energy prices stable to make sure residents stay warm in winter.

Official data showed that during the first 10 months of this year, the output of natural gas and coal climbed 6 per cent and 10 per cent year on year, respectively.

Storage of coal, a traditional key energy source for heating, at the country's power plants has been above 170 million tonnes since September, sufficiently ensuring coal demand for heating and power generation, according to the National Energy Administration. On top of that, the country is also striving to diversify its energy mix for winter heating to accelerate the energy sector's low-carbon shift. -Xinhua

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abhinivṛtyakti

A PALETTE OF RASAS

A PALETTE OF RASAS

The ballet 'Abhivyakti ... a palette of Rasas' was all about 9 types of expressions and emotions, Navaras, we human beings emotive in everyday life like Rudra- anger, Karun- pathos, Adbhut- wonder, Hasya- joy etc. Under the able guidance of their Guru Ms Jhumpa, the students of Leel- angika expressed each of the rasas so beautifully through different mythological stories that the audience were simply enthralled.



Kathak dance group Leel-
angika recently staged
their new production 'Ab-
hivyakti a palette of Ras-
sas' directed and conceptualised by
Jhumpa Chakraborty at the Oman
Hall of the College of Banking and
Financial Studies, to a full house of
multi-ethnic audience.

The evening began with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest Prema Nagesh, founder director of Vyaniti Yoga Studio. The Kathak recital started with a Guru Vandana, which Jhumpa dedicated as a tribute to both her dance Gurus Late Pt. Birju Maharaj ji and Late Munna Lal Shukla ji. Following the Guru Vandana the students of Leel-angika presented tukras, parans, tihais and kavittas in Teental, Ektal and Pancham Sawari and Jhumpa performed Gat Nikas. A vision of Kathak in the Mughal court was presented through 'Darbar-e-Kathak', a spellbinding choreography by Jhumpa.

The ballet 'Abhivryakti.....a palette of Rasas' was all about 9 types of expressions and emotions, Navaras, we human beings emote in everyday life like Raudra- anger, Karun- pathos, Adbhut- wonder, Hasya- joy etc. Under the able guidance of their Guru Ms Jhumpa, the students of Leelangika expressed each of the rasas so beautifully through different mythological stories that the audience were simply enthralled. The dancers of the evening were: Arya, Vishwa, Aaheli, Ahana, Priyanjana, Anya Anoop, Kanyana, Rihanna, Bhavya, Suhana, Pehel, Diya, Juana, Jahnnabi, Anoushka, Dishita, Bhoomi, Reina, Rupsa, Anya Sharma, Maheeka, Vyatiba, Aviva, Aditi, Shaivi, Manvi, Shrabosthi, Zanam, Mahua, Dona, Subhasree, Dilna, Vandana, Anu, Sunita and Jhumpa. The narration for the ballet was impeccably done by Rahul Kar and the dramatic use of lighting on the stage by Tapas Chakraborty made the dance performances absolutely breathtaking.

Jhumpa Chakraborty's new production 'Abhivyaakti....a palette of Rasas' literally stole the heart of each and every person in the audience and left them wanting for more.

AN EVENING OF EXPRESSIONS AND EMOTIONS

THE EVENING BEGAN WITH THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMP BY THE CHIEF GUEST PREMA NAGESH, FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF VYANITI YOGA STUDIO.



International Men's Day 2022:

History, theme and significance of the day

International Men's Day, commemorated on November 19, is a day to honour men and recognise their contributions to society in terms of politics, culture, and socioeconomic accomplishments. In contemporary society, men are eminent pillars. We frequently avoid discussing men's contributions and dedication in all of their roles, including those of father, partner, and son, but let's break this cycle today by embracing men's vulnerability, accepting them without demeaning them for their emotional nature.

Date and History:

On November 19, men throughout the world commemorate International Men's Day to honour their contributions to society and to put the spotlight on the welfare of men by making a difference and spreading awareness of the problems they confront every day.

Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, a history professor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago, first celebrated Men's Day in 1999. He did so to mark his father's birthday.

Additionally, he encouraged everyone to use this day to discuss issues that affect boys and men.

Yet Thomas Oaster officially introduced International Men's Day in 1992. It apparently happened a year earlier. Due to the significance of the day, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh decided to resurrect it in 1999. In addition to hosting the event on his father's birthday, he also decided to commemorate how, on the same date in 1989, Trinidad and Tobago's soccer team had brought the society together to qualify for

the world cup.

Dr. Teelucksingh advocated for International Men's Day to be a day to consider issues that affect men and boys around the world rather than only celebrating gender.

Theme:

The theme of this year's International Men's Day is "Helping Men and Boys." Through a variety of programmes and conferences, awareness will be raised about the problems that men and boys confront.

Significance:

This is an occasion to commemorate manhood talk about the gender-based discrimination that men and boys experience, and learn how to be more "masculine." This day serves as a reminder that although all men are unique, they all deserve to be heard and recognised on an emotional level.

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AT HEAD OFFICE

Bank Muscat celebrates 52nd National Day with grand event

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, celebrated the glorious 52nd National Day with a grand celebration at its head office at Airport Heights.

National pride and patriotic fervour were on full display at the mega event at the Head Office, which was well decorated with the national colours of red, green and white. The bank's management team and employees participated actively in the celebrations and extended their sincere appreciation and best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the occasion.

The highlights of the 52nd National Day celebrations included live performances by a traditional Omani music band and a classical ensemble. An Omani crafts exhibition featuring traditional weaving and pottery stations was the other highlight of the festivities. It enthralled both employees and visitors alike while showcasing the Sultanate's vibrant heritage and culture and offering a rare opportunity to interact with veteran craftsmen pursuing popular traditional crafts. A selection of traditional Omani cuisine was also served to those gathered for the festivities via a live food station featuring traditional Omani cuisine like Rakhal bread, Luqaimat and Omani halwa, with large



numbers of customers and visitors enjoying the celebrations.

As the nation's flagship bank, Bank Muscat seizes every opportunity, especially on occasions of national importance, to reach out to citizens and residents across Oman. To enhance public participation in National Day celebrations, the Bank launched competitions on its social media channels (Instagram and Twitter) and FM radio channels for the general public to promote the National Day celebrations. Exciting prizes will be given away to the lucky winners. To know more about the competition, please check out the details from the bank's official accounts on Twitter and Instagram.

Over the past decades, Bank Muscat which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year has been closely involved in facilitat-

ing the development of projects in Oman, in line with its strong support for Public-Private Partnership efforts including those that promote Oman as a unique destination. Bank Muscat, which is itself a major milestone in the Renaissance of Oman, continues to contribute significantly to the rapid growth and development of the Sultanate of Oman and its people. With about 95 per cent Omanisation across its various departments and sections as a result of its continuous investments in human resources, Bank Muscat is a dream employer for Omani youth and is well known for its positive work culture, common values, fostering of innovation, employee engagement activities, and sound HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) practices.

Bank Muscat is also the first



choice for over 2 million customers in Oman, with 174 branches and more than 800 touchpoints including Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs) and Fully Func-

tional Machines (FFM) installed across the country. The Bank continues to play an important role in enhancing financial inclusion in Oman through several new products and services targeting differ-

ent demographic segments like the youth, pensioners and persons with disabilities as well as by expanding its network in rural areas.

The bank has achieved remarkable successes in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability through the implementation of many sustainable initiatives and programs, which have benefited many citizens. Furthermore, it has contributed a lot to the development of Omani society in several spheres including financial literacy, sustainable tourism, a green environment and an enriched lifestyle.

Bank Muscat, which is Oman's leading financial services provider, runs over 10 long-term social responsibility projects including the flagship Green Sports programme, Al Wathbah SME Academy, the Maliyat financial literacy programme and Irshad financial coaching, which are all aimed at supporting different segments of Omani society.

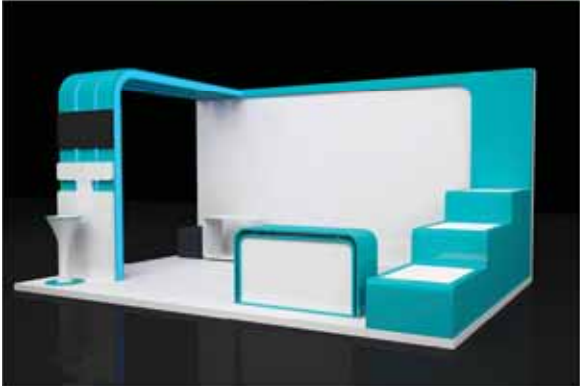
In 2022, the bank extended its support to 20 youth sports teams as part of its flagship Green Sports programme. The Bank has recently signed an agreement to implement an advanced training programme for 30 Omani entrepreneurs.

The bank also successfully continued the 2022 edition of its Tadamun Programme for social welfare families.

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OMANI PRODUCTS EXHIBITION

Lulu celebrates 52nd National Day by promoting Omani products

MUSCAT: Coinciding with Oman's 52nd National Day celebrations, Lulu Hypermarket launched its signature initiative to promote Omani products in all its stores. The Omani products exhibition was inaugurated by Qassem Al Ameri, Member of the Shura Council, representative of the Wilayat of Seeb on November 17, 2022, at Lulu Hypermarket, Al Bandar, Mawaleh.

The campaign, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion, aims to provide endorsement and support to SMEs by providing them with an opportunity to promote their local products in the market, which will directly support the economy. The promotion will run from November 17 to December 10 at selected Lulu outlets across the country.

Commenting on the campaign, Saif Al Mamari, Export Development Director-General Assistant at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said: "The Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion



devotes its efforts to raising awareness of the importance of supporting locally made products and increasing their competitiveness."

He also added, "By buying local products, we help stimulate the economy and contribute to achieving the diversification goals of Oman Vision 2040."

As part of National Day celebrations, all the Lulu outlets have been decked up in national colours. Various cultural activities and other exciting events have

also been planned. Also, specially devised aisles reflect the Omani market concept and replicate the traditional style. Different SMEs will showcase their products in the Omani market, creating awareness among consumers and motivating them to buy locally manufactured products.

Speaking on the promotion of the Omani products, Ananth A V, Director of Lulu Hypermarkets Oman & India, stated, "I would like to express my heartfelt con-



gratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, the citizens and residents of this nation on the occasion of the 52nd National Day. We are proud to play a small part in this remarkable transformation journey. This is a momentous occasion for each of us to celebrate the country's growth and achievements under the able leadership of His Majesty."

"We are glad to have launched this promotion to coincide with our 52nd National Day celebra-

tions as an ideal platform to market Omani products. We are sure this promotion will also create awareness among local and expat consumers on the high quality and uncompromising standards of locally manufactured products and highlight the importance of buying local products to contribute to the national economy," he added.

Shabeer K A, Regional Director - Lulu Hypermarkets, Oman, stated, "The Omani products promotion is in line with our com-

mitment to encourage customers to buy local products to provide a fillip and thrust to the local producers. This is also an initiative to extend support to Omani entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium businesses to develop their ventures as well as market their local products. We thank the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion for supporting us in organising this promotion to spread awareness on the importance of supporting Omani products among various segments of the society."

As part of this promotion, all Lulu outlets have been stocked up with a wide range of local products for customers to choose from. Separate counters have also been set up to display a wide range of Omani products on special discounts and offers. Locally sourced products, including honey, dates, incense, Omani sweets, coffee, spices, nuts, milk and dairy products, perfumes, cosmetics, gift items and other household items, will be available across all hypermarkets during the promotional period.

PARTNERSHIP

VOX Cinemas inks deal with beIN Sports to screen live coverage of Fifa World Cup in Oman

MUSCAT: VOX Cinemas, the dedicated cinema arm of Majid Al Futtaim, is excited to announce its partnership with beIN Sports, the official broadcaster of the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022 in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena), to screen the much-anticipated tournament live across its cinemas in Oman.

Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022 kicks off on November 20 at the Al Bayt Stadium as Qatar takes on Ecuador.

Toni El Massih, Managing Director, VOX Cinemas said, "At VOX Cinemas, we are dedicated to showing a diverse selection of premium content including major blockbusters as well live sporting events and concerts as part of our alternative content programming. Like the film, football has the power to transcend barriers and inspire and connect people. We are extremely excited to partner with beIN Sports to showcase one of the largest global sporting events on the big screen. We will be bringing the action of the pitch to life with our cutting-edge audio-visual technology, stadium-like atmosphere and a



wide array of F&B, so audiences can expect an unrivalled fan experience. We also have a range of corporate packages so you can cheer on your nation in the company of team members."

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For more information visit vox-cinemas.com or the VOX Cinemas app. For group or corporate reservations, email events@maf.co.ae.

INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB



Himachal Wing celebrates Diwali at Crowne Plaza Muscat

MUSCAT: Himachal Wing of Indian Social Club Oman organised a cultural event to celebrate the Diwali festival in The Crowne Plaza Qurum in Sindbad Ballroom, Muscat on Friday, November 11.

The event was graced by the chief guest Munir Abdalnabi Yousuf Makki, a businessman and former Ambassador of the Republic of France with his wife. The chief guest in his introductory address conveyed his best wishes and honoured the parents of the members at the event. The event was also attended by the Vice Chairman of Indian Social Club Oman Karanjeet Singh Mathroo.

Himachal Community in the Sultanate presented a colourful cultural program with traditional fervour which was well received by all guests. The Convener of Wing, Sanjeev Sharma, said that

over 125 Himachali wing members and guests participated in the event.

The guests were traditionally welcomed by the children. Ladies from Wing performed folk dance and the kids' performance was the attraction of the event. The event was moderated by Committee member Arti Luthra. The committee members, Gaurav Sood, Manoj Sharma, Umesh Chauhan and Sanjeev Rana welcomed all the guests.

The event was sponsored by prestigious business houses like The Movers, Middle East Scientific Corporation, Sea Pearls, Malabar Gold, Kesar restaurant, Chandni Chowk restaurant, Khimji Ramdas, Omar Trading and Lulu Hypermarket.

The event was very well received and appreciated by all members and guests.

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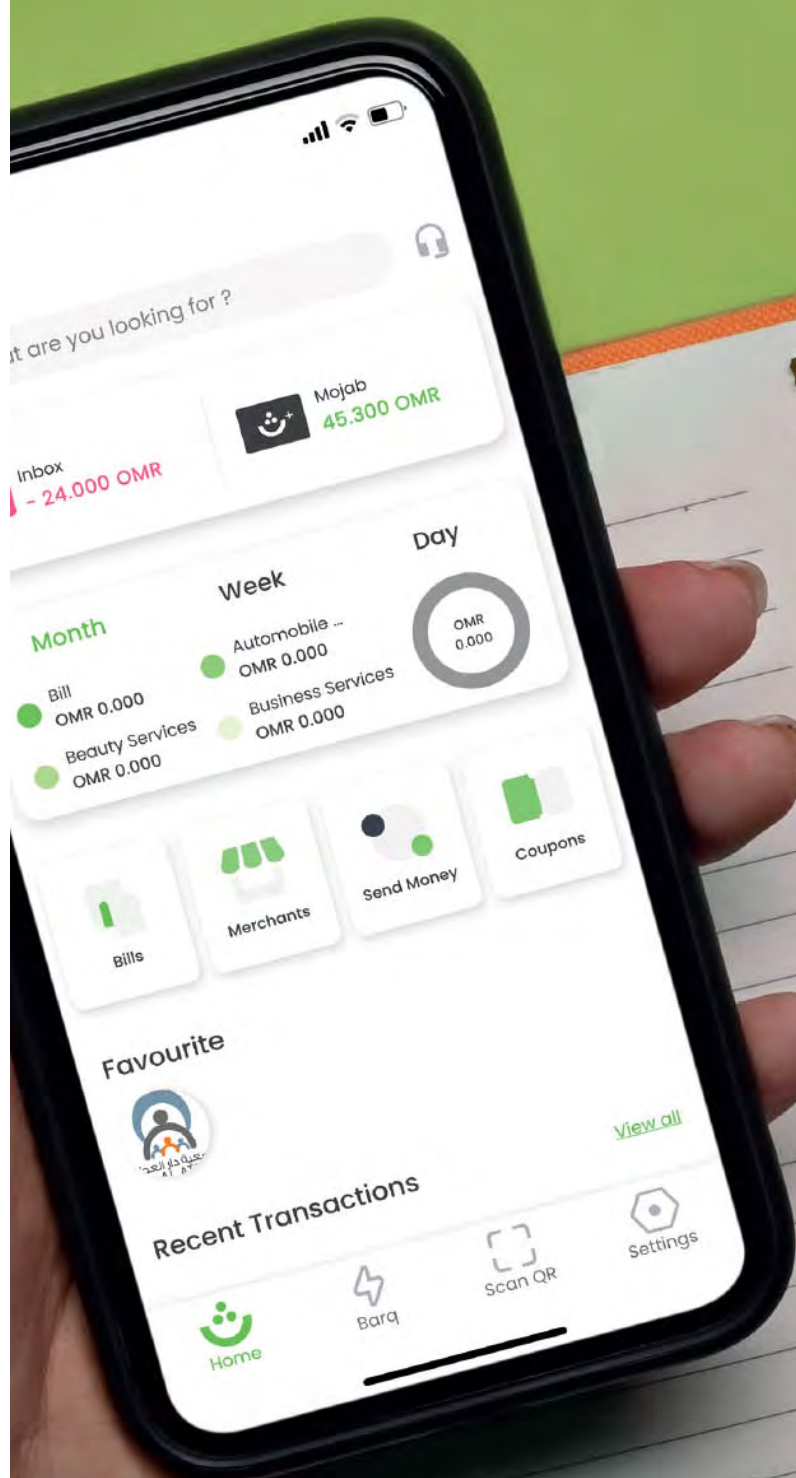
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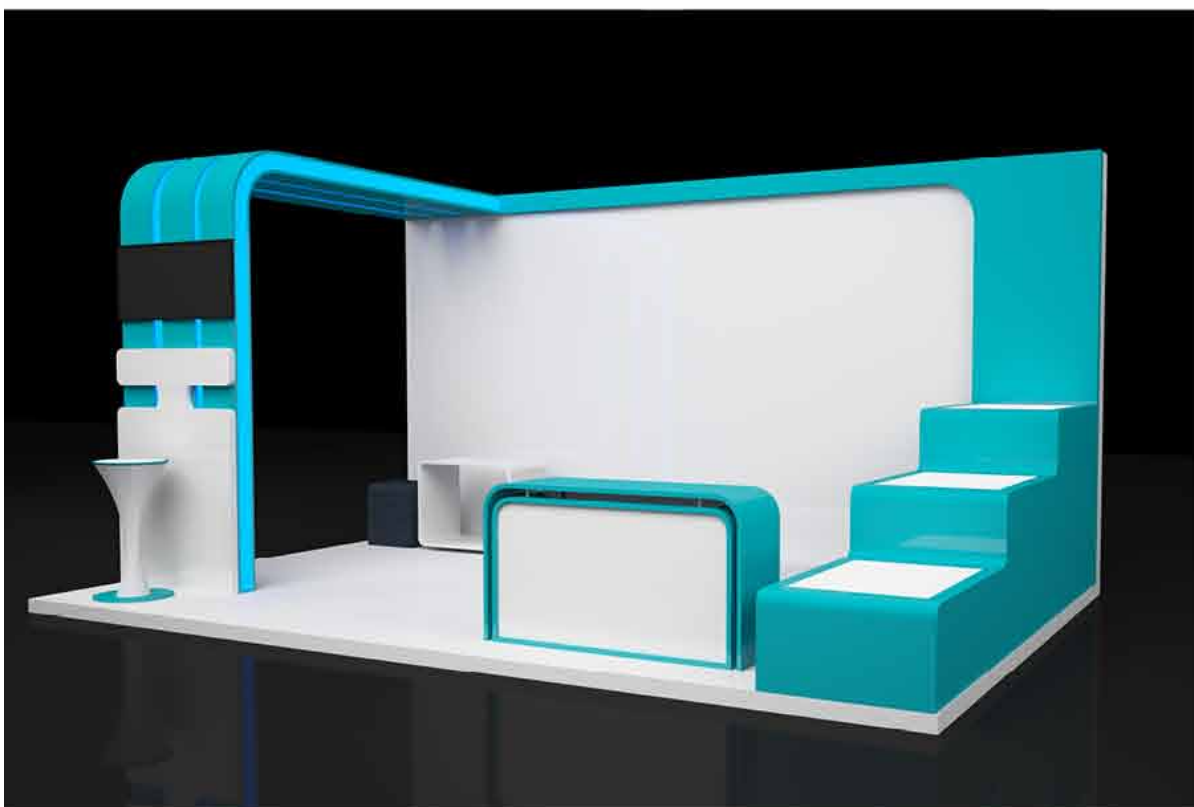
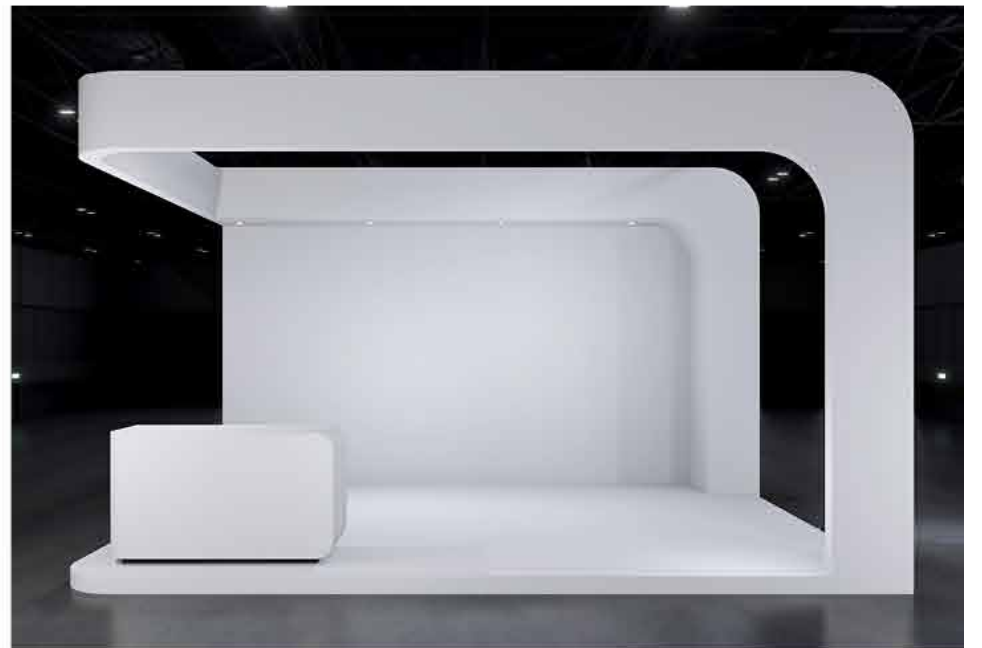
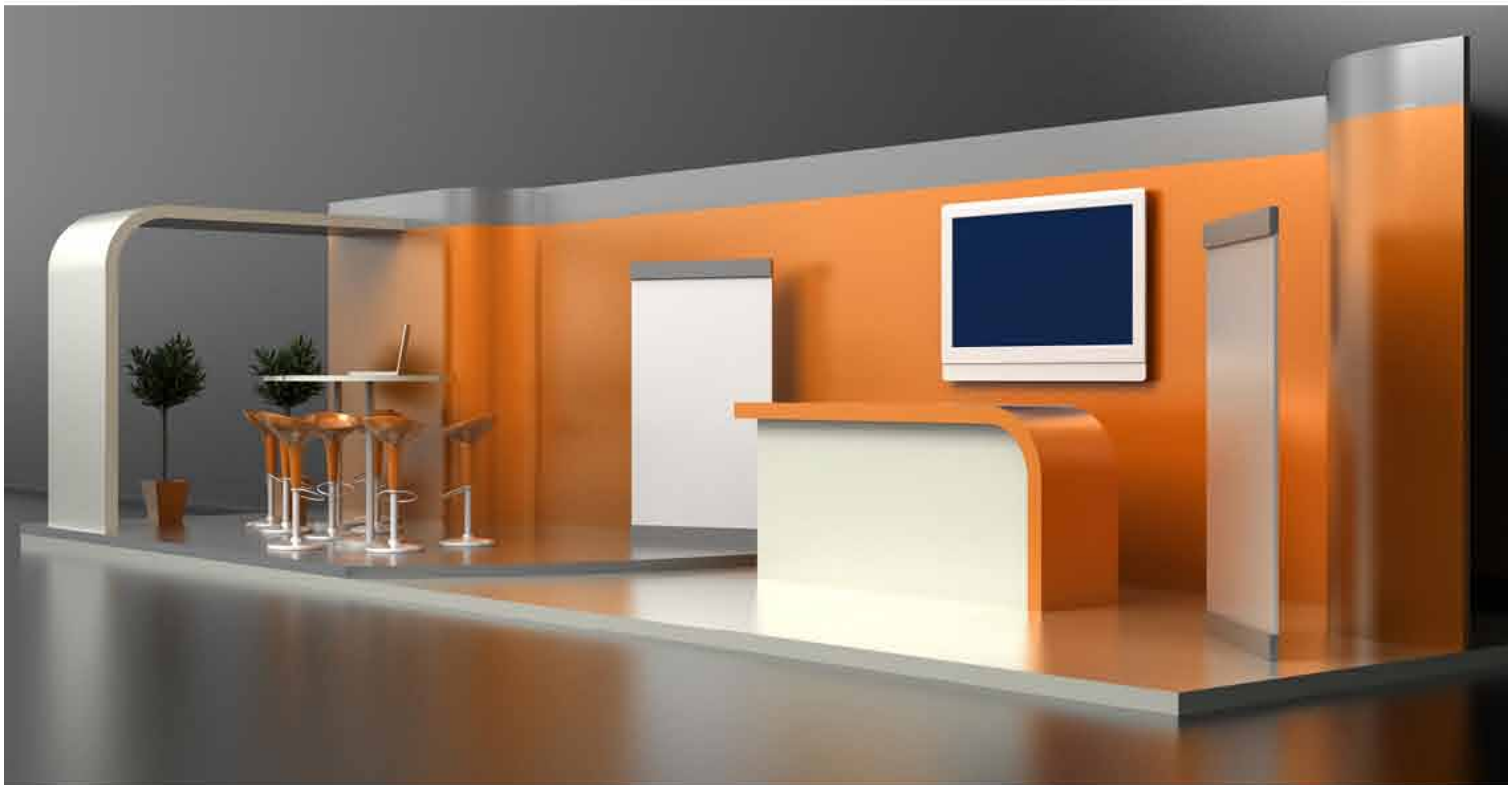
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FIFA WORLD CUP

Qatar 2022

1930 FRANCE 4 MEXICO 1, ESTADIO POCITOS, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

The World Cup was a newcomer on the sporting scene 92 years ago and garnered none of the attention the 32 teams in Qatar can expect over the next month. There's a nice symmetry, nonetheless, in France scoring four times, just as they did in the most recent World Cup fixture, when Didier ' side defeated Croatia in the 2018 final. The victory – earned after racing into a three-goal half-time lead – was as good as it got for the French. They lost their subsequent two fixtures, while Mexico finished pointless, in a tournament won by hosts Uruguay.

1934 ITALY 7 USA 1, STADIO NAZIONALE PNF, ROME, ITALY

The notion of the first match as a stuffy affair, with the avoidance of defeat a priority, hadn't entered anybody's thinking when Italy began their home tournament with a drubbing of USA. This 1934 World Cup was played as a straight knockout among the 16 entrants. Italy advanced in large part due to a hat-trick from Angelo Schiavo – and the hosts would be back in the same capital stadium a fortnight later to beat Czechoslovakia in the final following Schiavo's extra-time winner.

1938 SWITZERLAND 1 GERMANY 1, PARC DES PRINCES, PARIS, FRANCE

Another sudden-death competition when one defeat signalled the end of a country's World Cup hopes. Switzerland and Germany couldn't be separated over 120 minutes in the French capital after Andre Abegglen levelled Josef Gauchel's opener for the Germans. Switzerland won the replay 4-2 but would exit in the quarter-finals following a 2-0 loss to Hungary.

1950 BRAZIL 4 MEXICO 0, MARACANA STADIUM, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

It would be another eight years before Brazil claimed the first of their record five world titles. But the South Americans were beginning to make an impression on the global game. They finished third in 1938 and, as hosts, started the 1950 party in characteristically flamboyant style, putting Mexico to the sword 4-0. The tournament would end in heart break when Uruguay toppled Brazil in front of close to 174,000 in the Maracana to smuggle the Jules Rimet Trophy to a different corner of the continent.

1954 YUGOSLAVIA 1 FRANCE 0, LA PONTAISE, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

The first of the cagey opening affairs of popular legend was settled by Milos Milutinovic's 15th-minute goal. Yugoslavia's victory ultimately earned their progress at the expense of France by one point but eventual champions West Germany knocked them out in the last eight.

1958 SWEDEN 3 MEXICO 0, RASUNDA STADIUM, SOLNA, SWEDEN

A third World Cup opening match for Mexico and a third comprehensive loss. The story, here, however, was Sweden, the host country, who laid the platform for a run to the final, where they came unstuck against Brazil and the South American's 17-year-old sensation, Pele.

1962 CHILE 3 SWITZERLAND 1, ESTADIO NACIONAL, SANTIAGO, CHILE

A hush descended over 65,000 boxed into Chile's national stadium when Switzerland's Rolf Wuthrich scored after six minutes. Relief all round following an equaliser from Leonel Sanchez 60 seconds before half-time. And Sanchez completed the scoring on 56 minutes after Jaime Ramirez turned the game on its head following the break. Chile would reach the semi-finals where coach Fernando Riera's team and the partisan locals were no match for a Brazil team that successfully defended its title against Czechoslovakia in the final.

1966-1978

The fallow years: 1966-1978
Arguably the period when the reputation of the safety-first World Cup opening match was born. England's 1966 champions gave no indication of what was to follow in a scoreless Wembley draw with Uruguay. Mexico broke their first-match curse, at least, when they drew with Soviet Union in the crackling Estadio Azteca four years later. The legendary Brazil of 1970 began their ultimately failed title defence by sharing a stalemate with Yugoslavia in Frankfurt's Walsstadion. And the drought extended to a fourth tournament when holders West Germany drew 0-0 with Poland in Buenos Aires.

1982 BELGIUM 1 ARGENTINA 0, CAMP NOU, BARCELONA, SPAIN

Erwin Vandenbergh became the first man to score in the World Cup's opening fixture since Switzerland's Wuthrich 20 years earlier when an unusually generous Argentina defence granted the Belgian forward the freedom of Camp Nou to drill home a low finish and spark tremendous celebrations. Both teams would eventually progress – but between them didn't put a single point on the board in the second group stage.

FROM DROUGHT
TO GOALS GALORE:
**A HISTORY OF
WORLD CUP
OPENING MATCHES**

1986 ITALY 1 BULGARIA 1, ESTADIO AZTECA, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

How Mexico must have wished they'd had the opportunity to make it fifth-time lucky in an opening match back on their own soil, given the hosts started with a 2-1 victory over Belgium. In the event, defending champions Italy were held to a draw by Bulgaria after Nasko Siarkov equalised with five minutes remaining following Alessandro Altobelli's opener.

1990

CAMEROON 1 ARGENTINA 0, SAN SIRO, MILAN, ITALY

Perhaps the most famous opening game of them all. It is sometimes lost with the passage of time that Cameroon got as far as the quarter-finals. Likewise, the fact Argentina reached the final. This one-off game eclipsed all of that. Francois Omam-Biyik's header squirmed beyond goalkeeper Nery Pumpido and, despite red cards for Andre Kana-Biyik and Benjamin Massing either side of the goal, the Africans secured one of the great World Cup victories.

1994

1994: GERMANY 1 BOLIVIA 0, SOLDIER FIELD, CHICAGO, USA

No such drama four years later. Jurgen Klinsmann scored the only goal for the Europeans, who looked set for another strong tournament until a shock quarter-final defeat by Bulgaria.

1998

BRAZIL 2 SCOTLAND 1, STADE DE FRANCE, SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE

John Collins' penalty briefly threatened to stall the favourites after Cesar Sampaio's fifth-minute breakthrough. But defender Tom Boyd scored into his own net after 74 minutes, providing the springboard for Brazil to advance to the second of three successive finals.

2002

SENEGAL 1 FRANCE 0, SEOUL WORLD CUP STADIUM, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

This had all the ingredients for a repeat of Cameroon's heroics 12 years earlier: imperious defending champions, fancied to retain their trophy, against underdogs from Africa. Only nobody really believed lightning would strike twice. Nobody, that is, outside coach Bruno Metsu and his team, who were fully worth their 1-0 win following Papa Bouba Diop's goal on the half-hour.

2006

GERMANY 4 COSTA RICA 2, FIFA WORLD CUP STADIUM, MUNICH, GERMANY

The hosts dominated from the moment Philipp Lahm curled in a superb sixth-minute goal – but Germany couldn't shake off dogged Costa Rica. The Central Americans equalised and closed the deficit again after Germany led 3-1. But coach Klinsmann's team finally put the game to bed when Torsten Frings scored a screamer on 87 minutes.

2010

SOUTH AFRICA 1 MEXICO 1, SOCCER CITY, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Siphiwe Tshabalala never played club football outside South Africa but the forward gained worldwide renown as the first man to score in an Africa-staged World Cup. Rafael Marquez equalised and the 'away team' threatened to burst the hosts' balloon. That point was ultimately sufficient for Mexico to progress from the group ahead of South Africa on goal difference.

2014

BRAZIL 3 CROATIA 1, ARENA DE SAO PAULO, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

A 12th-minute own goal from Marcelo didn't quite fit the scenario envisaged by Brazilians over the seven years following confirmation the World Cup would return to the country after 64 years. What followed was more like it. Neymar scored twice and Oscar added another, raising hopes of a home triumph – cruelly, it would transpire.

2018

RUSSIA 5 SAUDI ARABIA 0, LUZHNIKI STADIUM, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Fears over the hosts' ability to shine at their own World Cup were alleviated with this crushing win. Man-of-the-match Denis Cheryshev scored twice – he would finish joint-second for the Golden Boot – and Russia kicked on to the quarter-finals, where eventual runners-up Croatia needed penalties to prevail.



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