LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN
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$50 BILLION INVESTMENTS LIKELY IN GREEN HYDROGEN

The investments in green hydrogen projects are expected to reach $50 billion with future expansions of this sector as the Sultanate of Oman is rushing to attract foreign investors. >A2

53RD NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAY ANNOUNCED

MUSCAT: As per the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, it has been decided that Wednesday and Thursday, 22-23 November 2023, will be an official holiday for employees in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus (public sector), other legal entities and private sector establishments on the occasion of the 53rd Glorious National Day. In a statement issued on Monday, the Ministry of Labour said that employers may agree with their respective employees to continue working during the above-mentioned two days, if deemed necessary, provided the workers be compensated for that.— ONA

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APPOINTMENT

His Majesty the Sultan issues Royal Decree

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday issued a Royal Decree No. 82/2023 appointing a Secretary General for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, reading as follows:

Appointment

Article (1) appoints Sheikh Khalifa Hamad Salim Al Badi as a Secretary General for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, along with his current grade and financial allocations.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

— ONA

HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN TO OPEN 8TH TERM CONVENING OF COUNCIL OF OMAN TODAY

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik will open the 8th term's first annual convening of the Council of Oman, on the council's premises in the Governorate of Muscat, today.

FIRST SATELLITE OF OMAN LAUNCHED

This groundbreaking satellite, aligns with the Omani Government's recent space ambitions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's inaugural satellite, 'Aman-1,' was successfully launched into space on November 11, overcoming a setback earlier this year. The satellite, deployed into orbit aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from a California launch site, marked a significant milestone for Omani space exploration.

Abdulaziz Jaafar, CEO of ETCO SPACE, the Omani Space company responsible for the satellite, expressed delight at the achievement. He said, "The launch of ETCO SPACE's first satellite is a pioneering step, and we anticipate many more."

The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology (MTCIT) congratulated ETCO SPACE on the successful launch. "We are happy with the successful launch of the Aman-1 satellite and congratulate Rising International Technologies @etco_space for this achievement, which is an important step for the space sector in the Sultanate of Oman," the ministry said on its official X handle, formerly known as Twitter. Full story on >A3

SECURITY CONCERNS

Israel's media propaganda: Far from ground reality

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Israel has been accused by some critics of using media propaganda to shape public opinion and advance its political agenda. However, it is important to note that this is a contentious and debated topic, and different perspectives exist on the matter. Here are some ways in which Israel has been using media for propaganda:

1. Controlling narratives: Critics argue that Israel controls the narrative by influencing media outlets and journalists, both domestically and internationally. They claim that Israel's government and affiliated organisations exert pressure on media organisations to present a favourable image of the country and its policies.

2. Framing the conflict: Israel has been accused of framing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a way that portrays itself as the victim and justifies its actions. Critics argue that Israel often emphasises its security concerns and the threat posed by Palestinian groups, while downplaying or omitting the Palestinian perspective and the impact of Israeli policies on Palestinian lives.

3. Social media campaigns: Israel has been accused of using social media platforms to disseminate its message and counter criticism. Some critics argue that Israel employs an army of online supporters, known as "hasbara warriors," who actively promote pro-Israel narratives and engage in online debates to shape public opinion.

4. Public relations efforts: Israel has been known to invest in public relations campaigns to improve its image abroad. Critics argue that these efforts aim to present Israel as a modern, democratic state while downplaying or ignoring issues such as the occupation of Palestinian territories, human rights abuses, and the treatment of Palestinian citizens of Israel.

5. Media manipulation during conflicts: During times of conflict, Israel has been accused of manipulating media coverage to control the narrative. Critics claim that Israel restricts access to conflict zones, targets journalists, and limits the flow of information to shape international public opinion in its favour.

It is important to note that these accusations are not universally accepted, and Israel has also faced criticism for its media practices. The Israeli government and its supporters argue that they are simply countering biased reporting and presenting their perspective in a complex and multifaceted conflict.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Omani-Saudi Coordination Council holds meet

1 The Omani-Saudi Coordination Council held its first meeting in Muscat on Monday. The meeting was jointly chaired by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, and Prince Faisal Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). >A5

OMAN

Shura Council Office to be formed tomorrow

2 On 15 November 2023, the Shura Council will hold its first regular session of the first annual convening (2023/2024) of the 10th Term (2023-2027). >A5

WORLD

ICRC urges safety of civilians in Gaza Strip

3 The ICRC urged for the protection of civilians in the Gaza Strip, "trapped in fighting, whether they are trying to evacuate or staying where they are." >A6

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	11:56pm
Asr	3:05pm
Maghrib	5:27pm
Isha	6:40pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5:03am

$50 billion investments expected in green hydrogen in Oman: Dr. Firas

Three solar power stations in Ibri, in addition to several wind energy projects in Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates are coming up

Dr. Firas Al-Abduwani, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen, Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's regulatory policies in the renewable energy sector are attracting foreign investments, and the availability of natural resources like wind and solar energy has promoted partnerships to build projects that add value to the national economy.

Steps have been taken for building the infrastructure for hydrogen projects as locations have been identified where they will be established.

Dr. Firas Al-Abduwani, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, confirmed that five hydrogen projects have been awarded in the Al Wusta Governorate, and other projects will be awarded in the Dhofar Governorate soon, indicating that the volume of investments is expected to reach $50 billion with future expansions of this sector as the Sultanate of Oman is rushing to attract huge investments.

He pointed out that there are upcoming projects in renewable energy, including three solar power stations in Ibri, in addition to several wind energy projects in the Al Wusta Governorate and the Dhofar Governorate, explaining that the Sultanate of Oman's potential in the availability of natural resources for renewable energy will qualify it to be a pioneer in this field.

Oman is currently at the forefront of countries in the world in terms of the use of renewable energy, as solar and wind energy projects have become prominent in producing clean electricity.

He added that the policies of the Sultanate of Oman are clear in the regulatory aspect of renewable energy, which encourages local and international investors to build projects and there is consensus in policies for producing clean electricity with help from countries in the region.

He revealed that since last October, economic blocs began to impose taxes on products that are not compatible with clean energy sources, which reduces these products in the markets, in light of international pressures to adapt to renewable energy.

This is a trend that is in the interest of countries to reduce the severity of harmful carbon emissions, especially in major industrialised countries, he said.

He said that the advantages enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman will enable it to benefit economically from renewable energy, and this could be paralleled with the oil and gas economy if attention is paid to supply chains and manufacturing industries for renewable energy products such as green ammonia and liquefied hydrogen.

With ONA inputs

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Oman outlines details of its participation in World Expo 2025 Osaka-Japan

TOKYO: The Sultanate of Oman outlined details of its participation in World Expo 2025 Osaka - Japan, scheduled to be held from 13 April to 13 October 2025 on the Japanese island of Osaka.

This was unveiled on Monday during an event held at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Tokyo in the presence of Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, Commissioner-General of Oman's pavilion at the global exhibition, Dr. Mohammed Said Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan, and ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries.

In line with the exhibition's main theme "Designing Future Society of Our Lives", Oman's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka - Japan reflects its constant commitment to interact with the world, said Al Busaidi.

It demonstrates Oman's keenness to promote cultural exchange and its efforts to provide a true image of its ancient heritage, its prosperous present and sustainable development envisaged within the context of a future based on innovation, he added.

Oman lays emphasis on sustainable development goals, said Al Busaidi, noting that, through Expo 2025 Osaka, Oman seeks to encourage countries of the world to contribute towards the realization of these goals, bearing in mind the expo's subthemes of "Saving Lives", "Empowering Lives" and "Connecting Lives".

Oman's pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka stands apart due to its unique architectural design that echoes Oman's environment and its ancient history. In addition, the pavilion showcases Oman's future aspirations and highlights the attention that it accords to its heritage and its civilisation.

It is worth noting that the design of Oman's pavilion at Expo 2025 is one of the outcomes of the Bilarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design.

It reaffirms uninterrupted interest in Omani architecture and the need to reflect this approach through Oman's participation in global events.

Al Busaidi pointed out that Oman's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka will help enhance bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. He added that this participation provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the future visions of the Sultanate of Oman in all fields.

In a presentation on the occasion, Bayan Musallam Al Ramadani said that the design of the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at Expo 2025 was inspired by the country's natural and topographical diversity, as well as the Omani people's adaptation to their natural surroundings.

She also explained how coexistence with this natural environment reflected on the cultural heritage of Omani people and architectural designs. This, she said, is clearly indicated in the architectural design that focuses on three main elements of "land, water, and people".

Bayan added that the external boundary of the pavilion was designed to provide a space for sitting and contemplating the facade of the pavilion, which comprises elements of architectural design inspired by the wonderful terrain of Oman. -ONA

TO SHEIKH KHALIFA

Canadian envoy presents copy of credentials

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs received here on Monday a copy of credentials of Jean-Philippe Linteau, Ambassador-designate of Canada to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sheikh Khalifa wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties. The Undersecretary also wished the relations between Oman and Canada further progress and prosperity. -ONA

WORLD EXPO 2025 JAPAN

Omani official meets Japan's Expo Minister

TOKYO: Sayyid Said Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, Commissioner-General of Oman's Pavilion at World Expo 2025 Japan, met here on Monday with Hanako Jimi, Japan's Minister for the World Expo.

The meeting discussed preparations for the Expo, which will be held in Osaka, Japan, during the period from 13 April till 13 October 2025 under the slogan "Designing the future society for our lives".

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Japan. -ONA

OCCI

Turkish Gulf Economic Forum ends

Times News Service

ISTANBUL: The Turkish Gulf Economic Forum, which was held in the city of Istanbul, concluded on Monday evening with the participation of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Nearly 500 businessmen, academics and lecturers from Turkiye and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries participated in the conference.

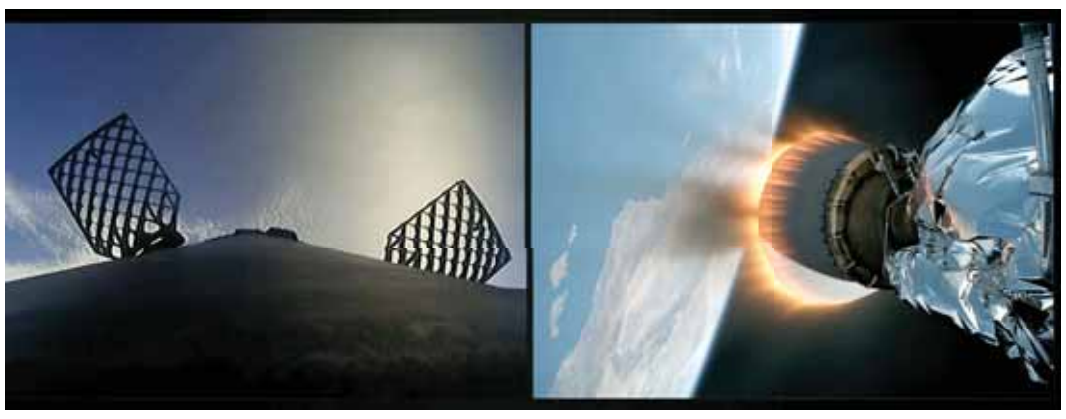
During the conference, 6 dialogue sessions were held that discussed economic and investment issues of interest to the Omani and Turkish sides.

The head of the Gulf Research Centre added that the Turkish Gulf Economic Forum sought to explore more opportunities to achieve development and serve economic interests of couintries.

It will further help in rapprochement between the two sides, and strengthen the capabilities of nations.

Boost to Oman's space mission

The launch of Aman-1 represents the beginning of ETCO SPACE's ambitious space programme



The Aman-1 mission goes beyond the mere act of sending a satellite into space; it encompasses a range of goals and ambitions aimed at promoting Oman's long-term growth, enhancing social and economic well-being, driving progress, and fostering confidence in all aspects of economic, social, and developmental relationships.

MUSCAT: On Saturday, November 11, an Omani company, ETCO SPACE, launched its first satellite, Aman-1, entering into orbit from Space Launch Complex 4E in Vandenberg, California, USA.

The satellite set off on its historic mission aboard the Falcon 9, the first orbital class rocket capable of reflight, according to a press release from ETCO SPACE.

ETCO SPACE, an Oman-based emerging technology innovator, representing the Sultanate; SpaceX: an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company; SatRev: Polish nanosatellite manufacturer and operator and TUATARA: specialists in advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and cognitive technology solutions, have collaborated to launch the nanosatellite into space.

The project began in October 2021, when the document on strategic cooperation was signed, establishing this groundbreaking Middle East space programme.

The successful launch of Aman-1, by SpaceX, included CubeSats and MicroSats for a variety of commercial and government customers. Transporter 9 lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, placing the satellites into a 500 km Orbit.

Abdulaziz Jaafar, CEO of ETCO SPACE, said: "The launch of ETCO SPACE's first satellite into space is a novel step, but hopefully one of many. We are not only excited about the data and images that Aman-1 will provide, but also committed to pushing the boundaries of our space programme in the coming months and years."

He added: "The launch of the Aman-1 satellite into orbit, represents just the beginning of ETCO SPACE's ambitious space programme. As outlined in the agreement signed by all participating companies in 2021, ETCO SPACE's journey is set to expand with the launch of more satellites, including the prospect of embarking on deep space missions."

Through its space programme, ETCO SPACE will be able to conduct ground-breaking research, collecting high-resolution satellite photos, images which will be further digitally evaluated using Computer Vision, Machine Learning, and AI technologies created by TUATARA.

After the launch, TUATARA's CEO, Krzysztof Goworek, said: "We are deeply grateful and honoured to have played a role in the success of this remarkable mission.

"Today marks an extraordinary day, not only for our Oman but also for all the companies involved in this historic endeavour. We firmly believe that the valuable scientific data obtained through satellite imagery analysis will be instrumental in advancing various fields of research and will further Oman's journey towards becoming a space-faring nation."

Grzegorz Zwoliński, CEO of SatRev, said: "The successful launch of Aman-1 and Stork-7 satellites represents the culmination of over a year's dedicated effort by the entire SatRev team. It is a moment of immense pride for my company and our partners in Oman."

The Aman-1 mission goes beyond the mere act of sending a satellite into space; it encompasses a range of goals and ambitions aimed at promoting Oman's long-term growth, enhancing social and economic well-being, driving progress, and fostering confidence in all aspects of economic, social, and developmental relationships.

ETCO SPACE's expanding space programme represents a strategic investment in technology and innovation that holds the potential to benefit multiple sectors of the economy. The satellite data is expected to drive progress in areas such as maritime industry, homeland security, environmental protection and telecommunications, ultimately contributing to Oman's economic and technological advancement.

More information about the first satellite from Oman can be found at https://aman.etco.om/.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Training programme to enhance skills of supervisors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Educational Supervision, began on Sunday, the training programme entitled "Technical Skills for Science Laboratory Supervisors in Light of Contemporary Technology."

The programme will continue for seven days targeting 37 senior supervisors and science laboratory supervisors. The programme is taking place at the Specialised Institute for Vocational Training for Teachers and being presented by senior supervisors, and technicians of science laboratories.

The programme includes presentation of "thirteen" papers. The first paper is entitled "Using Modern Technology in the Biology Laboratory," the second paper is titled "Using Electronic Sensors in the Chemistry Laboratory," the third paper is on "Using electronic sensors in physics laboratories."

The fourth paper comes under the title "Using the EasySence2 programme in chemistry experiments," the fifth paper is titled "Factors affecting the rate of enzyme-catalyzed reaction," and the sixth paper is "The digital window for science laboratories in the educational portal, and a hardware system for science laboratory supervisors."

The seventh paper is titled "Representing Sound Waves," the eighth paper is on "Science Laboratories Examination," and the ninth paper is titled "The Momentum Conservation Experiment and the Micrometer Experiment."

OMAN

Preserving Oman's cultural heritage with UNESCO listings

MUSCAT: The recent listing of Jibreen Fort and Omani historian and poet Humaid bin Mohammed bin Ruzaiq in the UNESCO programme for celebrating the 50th or centennial anniversary of the important historic events and personalities having global influence represent a qualitative addition to the Sultanate's achievements in the intellectual and cultural fields.

The two elements have utmost significance on Oman's cultural map.

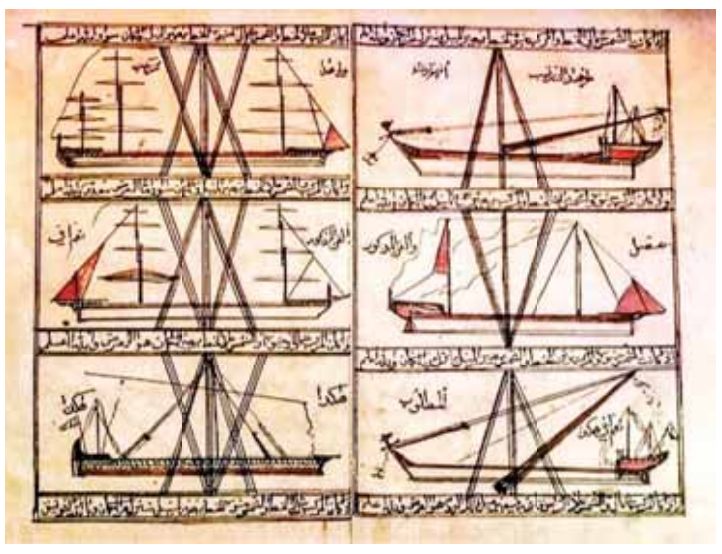
Listing of the Omani cultural and heritage elements whether being material or moral with the UNESCO programme presents the current and upcoming generations with the reality in front of their eyes.

Dr. Sulaiyam bin Mohammed Al Hinai, a researcher in Oman's history and assistant professor at Nizwa University, said that Oman's history is rich in cultural elements and Omanis have since long started communicating with other civilisations.

This communication with other civilisations contributed in the creation of diverse heritage and cultures in the Sultanate of Oman, he said pointing to the listing of Omani cultural heritage a big intellectual and cultural significance and sends a message to the world on the rich heritage of the Sultanate of Oman as evidenced in the deep-rooted history.

The listing of the cultural heritage contributes to further advance development in the Sultanate. Oman has listed five scholars in the UNESCO world heritage list, including historian and poet Humaid bin Mohammed bin Ruzaiq in the UNESCO list of evidence for the efforts accorded to acquaint the world with his talent as well as showcasing the Sultanate's cultural heritage.

Dr. Ahlam bint Hamoud Al Jahwari, a researcher and writer of history and a member of the board of Historical Association of Oman, said that the Sultanate of Oman has remarkably contributed to building human civilisations across history and succeeded through Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, in listing several cultural elements in the various programmes of the UNESCO.



The Sultanate's achievements in this field could help introduce Omani personalities of international influence (such as Al Khalil bin Ahmed Al Farahidi; Rashid bin Omaira Al Rustaqi; Nooruddin Al Salmi ; Ahmed bin Majid and Ibn Ruzaiq and other personalities) to set an example for others and for further enhancement of the values of loyalty and national identity.

She said that the Sultanate of Oman has set 10 February every year for celebrating the Omani personalities listed with UNESCO. This date coincides with the Sultanate's joining the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (10 February 1972), she added, pointing to the significance of organising research competitions and local and international seminars dealing with such personalities.

Dr. Badriya bint Mohammed Al Nabhani, a researcher of Oman's history said that listing the cultural and heritage elements in the UNESCO list would help in preserving this heritage and boosting its cultural value as well as preserving the contributions made by them across history in various fields.

Researcher and writer Younis bin Jamil Al Nuamani said that Oman is known across history with diverse culture as well as diverse topography and environments. He said that Oman is working on preservation of its history and cultural heritage and is working along with the international and regional organisations dealing with the preservation of cultural heritage.

Dr. Salim bin Said Al Busaidi, Associate Professor at Nizwa University, hoped that this listing with the UNESCO programme would open the eyes of our youth to our deep-rooted heritage. "We have to preserve and list our achievements and reflect them in our school curriculums and name the streets in their memory."-ONA

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Shura Council Office to be formed, election of heads of committees on 15 November

MUSCAT: On Wednesday 15 November 2023, the Shura Council will hold its first regular session of the first annual convening (2023/2024) of the 10th Term (2023-2027).

The session will see the formation of the Shura Council's Office through the election of six members who complete the membership of the Office during its first half term.

The session will also include the election of heads of committees and their deputies.

This was unveiled by Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council.

During the first session, the members of the Council will be briefed about the draft of the State's general budget 2024 forwarded by the Council of Ministers.

-ONA

COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING

Saudi Foreign Minister arrives in Oman

MUSCAT: Prince Faisal Farhan Al Saud, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) arrived in Muscat on Monday on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman, during which he chaired his country's delegation in the 1st meeting of the Saudi-Omani Coordination Council.

The Saudi Minister and his accompanying delegation were received at the Royal Airport by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry. -ONA

COORDINATION COUNCIL

Omani-Saudi relations see steady growth: Sayyid Badr

MUSCAT: The Omani-Saudi Coordination Council held its first meeting in Muscat on Monday. The meeting was jointly chaired by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, and Prince Faisal Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the positive results achieved. They underscored the significance of developing coordination and shaping joint positions towards regional and international issues of common interest.

In his speech, Sayyid Badr said that, over the past few years, Omani-Saudi relations saw steady growth in various fields, with investment initiatives forged and commercial activities expanded.

In this context, Sayyid Badr pointed out that the opening of the Rub-el-Khali land port between the two countries in 2022 added momentum to land transport between the two countries.

Sayyid Badr said that alternative energy projects and hydrogen production are at the forefront of the two countries' common interests. This is in addition to cooperation in the sectors of energy, logistics, maritime transport and infrastructure.

Sayyid Badr stressed the need to maximize benefits from natural resources that abound in the two countries, as well as their prominent geographical locations.

Joint initiatives

Sayyid Badr expressed the confidence that joint initiatives for cooperation can be implemented within the framework of the Omani-Saudi Coordination Council, its subcommittees, its general secretariat and follow-up mechanisms endorsed.

For his part, Prince Faisal said that Saudi-Omani relations are witnessing steady growth under the patronage of the leaderships of the two countries.

Steps have been made to consolidate cooperation and enhance the two countries' regional and international role in a manner that contributes to establishing security and stability in the region, besides achieving the aspirations of the two countries' peoples.

Prince Faisal added that the Council constitutes a podium for the two countries' joint action in maximizing benefits from investment resources. He stressed that the consensus of views on all issues demonstrates the importance of maintaining coordination on bilateral, regional and international issues and enhancing political consultation on all matters of common interest.

He added that the coordination council and its subcommittees (handling political, security, economic and investment affairs) provide an effective instrument for deepening cooperation in tackling various issues, including combating terrorism, protecting waterways and developing sources of renewable and clean energy.

The meeting saw the participation of heads of the council's subcommittees and its secretariat general.

The meeting was held in response to the two countries leaders' directives to enhance cooperation in a manner that consolidates the deep-rooted relations and meets the aspirations of their peoples. -ONA

ROP

17 held for trying to enter Oman illegally

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP), has arrested 17 foreigners for attempting to enter the Sultanate of Oman illegally.

"The Coast Guard Police in North Al Batinah Governorate seized a boat carrying seventeen people of Asian nationalities while they were trying to enter the country illegally. The legal procedures were completed against them," ROP said in a statement.

SIRAJ

Education Endowment Board holds meeting

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Education Endowment Foundation "Siraj" on Monday held its 4th meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Chairperson of the board.

The meeting discussed a range of topics, namely the foundation's investments, forming a committee regarding investments and designating a temporary headquarters for the foundation, among other topics.

Moreover, the meeting touched on programmes and initiatives to raise donations and the 2024 draft budget proposed by the executive management.

-ONA

SALALAH MILLS COMPANY SAOG

Salalah-Sultanate of Oman

شركة مطاحن صلالة (ش.م.ع.ع) SALALAH MILLS CO. (S.A.O.G) | الخريف AL KHAREEF | صلالة للمعكرونة SALALAH MACARONI | صلالة العالمية للصناعات البلاستيكية Salalah International Plastic Industries | صلالة للأعلاف الحيوانية Salalah Animal feed | صلالة العالمية للحبوب Salalah Grains International

REPORT OF MATERIAL EVENTS

Dear Shareholders,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to present to you the Unaudited Financial Statements of Salalah Mills Company for the period of nine months ended on 30th September, 2023.

Sales

The total sales revenue during the first nine months of 2023 was RO 46.9 million, showing a decrease of 17%, compared to the same period of last. The primary reason behind decline in sales is lower export sales caused due to stiff competition being faced from countries that has close proximity to wheat.

The local flour sales had increased by 19% during the first nine months of the current year compared to the same period of last year. The Animal Feed Factory sales quantity also had increased by 49% and the Macaroni Factory sales quantity increased by 8.5%, while the Poly Propylene Bags Factory sales quantity decreased by 19% compared to the same period of last year.

The Wheat and Animal Feed Subsidy

The company received 50% of the subsidy claims of the first year of Subsidy in June 2023. We hope to receive the balance subsidy of the first year during the month of November 2023. However, the Subsidy claims for the 4 main ingredients of the Animal Feed for the period 1st July 2022 to 30 June 2023 have not been received and pending for audit.

Net Profit

The company made a net loss of RO 619 thousand in the nine months of current year compared with a profit of RO 408 thousand during the same period of last year due the reduced export sales and thinner profit margin thereon. Also, interest cost has gone up this year due to interest rate rise globally, that has put additional pressure on profitability.

Ahmed bin Abdullah Saeed Al Rawas
Chairman

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests the company in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of receipt of the request at P.O. Box No. 67, Al Awqadain, P.C. 217, Sultanate of Oman.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

ASSETS	9/30/2023	9/30/2022
Non-current Assets:	OMR	OMR
Property, plant and equipment	27,753,294	28,609,165
Advance for Capital Goods	3,758,618	
Investment in subsidiary	50,000	50,000
Right of use assets	3,634,413	2,074,999
Total Non-current Assets	35,196,325	30,734,164
Current Assets:		
Inventories	24,392,851	38,709,579
Trade and other receivables	19,681,928	14,418,812
Amounts due from related parties	1,060,558	900,806
Financial assets at fair value throught profit or loss	354,578	347,673
Cash and cash equivalents	995,014	4,847,510
Total Current Assets	46,484,929	59,224,380
TOTAL ASSETS	81,681,255	89,958,544
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity:		
Share capital	4,996,306	4,996,306
Share Premium	3,587,782	3,587,782
Legal reserve	2,089,103	2,089,103
general reserve	2,891,826	2,891,826
Retained earnings	18,244,018	18,590,922
Total Shareholders' equity	31,809,035	32,155,939
Non-current Liabilities:		
Lease liability- Long term	3,405,554	1,851,690
Borrowings-non current	10,173,614	1,851,426
Employees end of service benefits	622,790	562,340
Deferred tax liability	914,846	967,008
Total Non-current Liabilities	15,116,804	5,232,464
Current Liabilities:		
Lease liability- Short term term	113,443	276,380
Amounts due to related parties	106,077	85,452
Borrowings	30,340,819	48,098,225
Trade and other payables	4,195,077	4,037,977
Provision for Income Tax	-	72,107
Total Current Liabilities	34,755,416	52,570,141
Total Liabilities	49,872,220	57,802,605
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	81,681,255	89,958,544
Net Assets Per Share	0.637	0.644

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	9/30/2023	9/30/2022
	OMR	OMR
Revenue	46,949,543	56,668,822
Cost of revenue	(43,434,495)	(52,550,502)
Gross profit	3,515,049	4,118,320
Other Income	41,727	671,978
Administrative expenses	(2,768,437)	(2,962,819)
Selling and marketing expenses	(66,044)	(90,358)
Operationg profit	722,295	1,737,121
Finance costs	(1,320,302)	(1,256,412)
Profit for before tax	(598,007)	480,709
Income tax expense	(21,080)	(72,106)
Profit/(Loss) for the period	(619,087)	408,603
Other comprehensive income for the period		
Total comprehensive income for the period	(619,087)	408,603
Earnings/(Loss)per share	(0.01239)	0.008

@salalahmillsco

WORLD

ICRC urges protection of civilians in Gaza

Attacks are underway in densely populated areas and around hospitals which pose a risk to the lives of 'the most vulnerable people'

GENEVA: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued an urgent plea for the protection of civilians in the Gaza Strip, "trapped in fighting, whether they are trying to evacuate or staying where they are."

In a statement, ICRC said the attacks are underway in densely populated areas and around hospitals which poses a risk to the lives of "the most vulnerable people, like medical staff, patients, the wounded, premature babies, people with disabilities, and the elderly."

"An unbearable human tragedy is unfolding in front of our eyes. People call us day and night, saying they are afraid to open their door for fear of getting killed and pleading to help them reach safety," the head of the ICRC sub-delegation in Gaza William Schomburg said.

The ICRC has expressed grave concern about the precarious and unsafe conditions under which civilians are evacuating. While civilians continue to move from the north to the south of Gaza, a hundred thousand displaced people lack essentials like shelter, food, water, and hygiene. The situation is rapidly approaching a humanitarian disaster. The southern area is not equipped to cater to the massive number of people arriving, and the quantity of humanitarian aid coming in is largely insufficient.

The ICRC reiterates its call for unimpeded and regular flow of humanitarian assistance. -ONA

RESCUE OPERATIONS

Efforts on to rescue 40 workers trapped in under-construction tunnel in India

UTTARKASHI : Rescue operations at the site of the collapsed under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi have entered Day 2. Forty workers are trapped inside the tunnel, even as rescue teams manage to breach 15 metres into the tunnel.

Rescuers say the teams still have to clear about 35 metres of debris more to reach the location of the 40 trapped workers. The rescuers have been able to establish communication with the trapped workers.

Prashant Kumar, Circle Officer of Uttarkashi told ANI "The debris is about 60 meters deep. As we are clearing the debris, it is falling from above. The present situation is, that yesterday we established communication with the people trapped inside the tunnel. We have moved around 15 metres inside the tunnel, and around 35 metres are still to be covered. Everyone is safe, we have provided oxygen and water to them. We are making our way sideways to go inside the tunnel. After establishing communication, around 40 people are trapped inside."

NDRF teams says that snacks and water have been given to the workers trapped inside, and they hope that by this evening they will breach the debris and rescue the workers.

" We have managed to give the trapped workers some chips and water. We can confirm that the workers are in a safe position. The rescue operation has been continuing, we hope that by this evening we will breach the debris and reach the site of the trapped workers to rescue them. At that section the plaster work wasn't complete which is why the tunnel collapsed" Karmaveer Singh Bhandari-Assistant Commander NDRF told ANI.

On Saturday, a part of the tunnel broke about 200 metres ahead of the starting point on the Silkyara side of Brahmakhal-Polgaon.

Teams of SDRF and NDRF along with police personnel are conducting relief and rescue operations on a war footing to evacuate the people trapped inside the tunnel.

Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Prantiya Rakshak Dal (PRD) jawan said "Work is underway at a great speed. Everyone is working very hard. We were saddened yesterday because we weren't able to communicate with those trapped. But then we were able to communicate with them."

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that he is in contact with the officials briefing him about the relief and rescue operation underway at the tunnel.

Information about the tunnel collapse was received at the District Control Room Uttarkashi with the caller requesting the assistance of an SDRF team at the spot.

Acting on the information, Commander SDRF, Manikant Mishra immediately directed a rescue team under the leadership of Inspector Jagdamba Vijalwan to leave for the spot with the necessary rescue equipment, they said. -ANI

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HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS

EU calls for cessation of Gaza hostilities

BRUSSELS: The European Union has called for immediate pauses in hostilities and the establishment of humanitarian corridors, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, said in a statement.

He said that the EU is "gravely concerned" about the "deepening humanitarian crisis" in Gaza.

In the statement, Borrell said, "EU joins calls for immediate pauses in hostilities and the establishment of humanitarian corridors, including through increased capacity at border crossings and through a dedicated maritime route, so that humanitarian aid can safely reach the population of Gaza."

The EU condemned Hamas for using hospitals and civilians as human shields, according to the statement. The EU called on Hamas to immediately release all hostages and called it crucial that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is granted access to the hostages.

"The EU condemns the use of hospitals and civilians as human shields by Hamas. Civilians must be allowed to leave the combat zone. These hostilities are severely impacting hospitals and taking a horrific toll on civilians and medical staff," Borrell said in a statement.

The EU reiterated its support for Israel's right to defend itself in line with international law and international humanitarian law. In the statement, Borrell stated, "The EU calls for continued, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and aid to reach those in need through all necessary measures, including humanitarian corridors and pauses for humanitarian needs."

The EU stressed that international humanitarian law stipulates that hospitals, medical supplies and civilians inside hospitals must be protected. It further said that most urgent medical supplies must be provided to hospitals and patients that need urgent medical care need to be evacuated safely. It urged Israel to exercise restraint to ensure the protection of civilians, according to the statement released by Josep Borrell.

Amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, Israel's Defence Forces (IDF) have said that Israeli troops have provided 300 litres of fuel to Shifa Hospital in Gaza for urgent medical purposes.

Taking to X, IDF stated, "Our troops risked their lives to hand-deliver 300 liters of fuel to the Shifa hospital for urgent medical purposes."

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has said the country carried out another set of strikes against targets in eastern Syria, CNN reported.

The US Defence Secretary said the strikes were directed by US President Joe Biden and targeted a training facility and a safe house near the cities of Abu Kamal and Mayadin, respectively.

The strikes, which took place late on Sunday night, mark the third time in three weeks that the US has attacked targets in the region.

There have been as many as 46 attacks on US forces in Iraq and Syria since October 17, and at least 56 troops have been injured. Pentagon deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh said on Thursday. -ANI

FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

Climate change: Water scarcity worst in South Asia, says UN

NEW DELHI: Some 347 million children in South Asia are facing severe water shortages due to climate change, according to a UN report published on Monday.

The figure represents over half the number of children living in the region.

South Asia, comprising eight countries, is home to more than a quarter of the world's children and is increasingly affected by climate change-related disasters such as floods and droughts.

South Asia, comprising eight countries, is home to more than a quarter of the world's children and is increasingly affected by climate change-related disasters such as floods and droughts

What the UN said about children and water scarcity

The report revealed that 55% of children in South Asia are affected by water scarcity — the highest rate worldwide.

"Climate change is disrupting weather patterns and rainfall, leading to unpredictable water availability," the UN children's aid organization UNICEF said in its report.

"With an increasingly unpredictable climate, water scarcity is expected to become worse for children in South Asia," UNICEF said.

After South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa are the next worst-affected, with130 million children are facing severe water scarcity, the report added.

The report further said that 1 in 3 children — or 739 million worldwide — are already living in areas that are exposed to high or very high water scarcity.

COP28 and UNICEF

The report comes ahead of the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai that is going to be held at the end of the month.

UNICEF said that at the COP, it plans to push the international community to take necessary measures that will ensure a planet worth living on for children.

"Safe water is a basic human right," said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF chief for South Asia. -DW

In a major cabinet reshuffle, ex-PM Cameron made Foreign Secretary

James Cleverly has been appointed as the Secretary of State for Home Affairs in a cabinet rejig

LONDON : Hours after Suella Braverman was sacked from the position of United Kingdom Home Secretary, James Cleverly was appointed as the Secretary of State for Home Affairs in a major cabinet reshuffling on Monday.

In another surprising development, former Prime Minister David Cameron was also appointed as the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, Downing Street informed.

Former UK Prime Minister, David Cameron after being appointed as the Foreign Secretary in a major comeback, affirmed hope that his experience as leader and in office will help him in assisting the present British PM Rishi Sunak at a challenging juncture.

Taking to X, Cameron posted, "The Prime Minister has asked me to serve as his Foreign Secretary and I have gladly accepted."

"It will be an honour to serve our country alongside our dedicated FCDO staff and provide the continued leadership and support that they deserve," he added.

Cameron cited that the UK is facing "daunting" international challenges due to episodes of the Israel-Hamas war and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and there is a need to ensure stability and security on the global stage.

"At this time of profound global change, it has rarely been more important for this country to stand by our allies, strengthen our partnerships and make sure our voice is heard," he said.

This comes after UK PM Rishi Sunak sacked his home secretary Suella Braverman over her sharp criticism of Police amid the ongoing Pro-Palestine rallies in the United Kingdom, Reuters reported.

Notably, this is only the second time after World War II that a former Prime Minister has returned to the cabinet.

Cameron had resigned as the PM in 2016 after Britain voted to leave the European Union, in a referendum that was called by him.

Meanwhile, Braverman's removal came amid mounting pressure on PM Sunak over her article in the Times UK that criticised the Metropolitan Police for allegedly "going soft" on certain "radical elements" in Pro-Palestine rallies.

According to Reuters, the UK Home Secretary accused the police of applying a "double standard" to rallies, particularly pro-Palestinian marches, in an opinion piece published before a pro-Palestinian march on Saturday.

On October 10, Braverman issued a warning to police chiefs for displaying Palestinian flags on the streets of the UK. She stated that waving the flag "may not be legitimate" if it is viewed as a show of support for terrorism, according to an Anadolu Agency report.

On November 11, London saw one of the largest Pro-Palestine marches since the Israel-Hamas conflict began. -ANI

SOUTH-WEST ICELAND

Iceland earthquakes weaker but volcano warning persists

REYKJAVÍK: Seismic activity has eased in south-west Iceland, but a volcanic eruption is still expected, scientists say.

Although more than 500 earthquakes have hit the Reykjanes Peninsula since midnight, they have been weaker than over the past two days.

But experts stress a 15km-long (9 mile) river of magma running under the peninsula is still active, threatening the now-evacuated town of Grindavik, BBC news reported.

Most tremors have taken place under it and hundreds of people have fled.

Cracks have emerged on town roads as subsidence takes its toll on the area.

Grindavik is just 15km south of Keflavik International Airport, but flights are still arriving and departing as normal.

Travellers fear a possible repeat of the disruption caused in April 2010, when the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajokull erupted.

The resulting ash cloud brought chaos to the European air industry for a whole week, with more than 50,000 flights cancelled.

So far, however, no similar air pollution has occurred. -DNA

SUSPENDS CAMPAIGN

US Senator Tim Scott drops out of 2024 presidential race, suspends campaign

WASHINGTON, DC: US Senator Tim Scott dropped out of the 2024 presidential race on Sunday evening, suspending his campaign, Fox News reported.

Scott made the announcement on an episode of Fox News's "Sunday Night in America."

The senator also stated that he had no intentions to support another contender for the Republican nomination. "I think the voters who are the most remarkable people on the planet have been really clear that they're telling me, 'Not now, Tim,'" Scott said, according to Fox News.

"The best way for me to be helpful is to not weigh in," he added.

Some of the senator's staff were taken aback by the revelation. A few campaign aides told Fox News that they were not informed of Scott's decision before of his televised appearance on Sunday night.

Scott also rejected the possibility of running as the Republican Party's national ticket's running partner in 2024

"Being vice president has never been on my to-do list," Scott said.

Scott, notably announced his candidacy for the 2024 US Presidential elections in May this year, emerging as the latest opponent to Donald Trump, CNN reported citing the Federal Election Commission's website. Scott, the Senate's lone Black Republican, started a presidential exploratory committee in April, emphasising his evangelical faith, colour, and upbringing as the son of a single mother, CNN said on Friday.

He defined his personal ethos as "individual responsibility," and his political approach is motivated by the notion that the United States is "the land of opportunity, not the land of oppression."

In November last year, former United States President Donald Trump filed papers to contest for the post of president again. He filed his documents establishing his candidacy to run for the presidency again in 2024, CNN reported.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has for months been seen as the most serious challenger to former President Donald Trump who is also seeking to become the Republican nominee to take on Democratic President Joe Biden next year.

Other Republican candidates include Senator Tim Scott, former envoy to the United Nations Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. -DW

RELENTLESS RAINS

Somalia: Dozens killed, half a million displaced by floods

MOGADISHU: At least 31 people have died in floods caused by heavy rains in Somalia, Information Minister Daud Aweis said on Sunday.

Some 500,000 people have also been forced to flee their flooded homes. Aweis said another 1.2 million people could be affected by the disaster and the death toll may rise.

Since the beginning of November, Somalia has been battered by relentless rains, with torrents of water flooding homes and farmland.

The greatest damage was reported in the Gedo region in the south and the Hiran region in the center of the country, where the Shabelle River burst its banks and washed away houses in the town of Beledweyne.

The UN humanitarian agency, OCHA, said last week that the country was facing "once-in-a-century flooding" and warned that 1.6 million people could be affected.

According to OCHA, the situation had been exacerbated by the combined effects of two climate phenomena, El Nino and the Indian Ocean Dipole — a climate system defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between the western and eastern parts of the ocean.

El Nino typically brings increased global heat, drought in some parts of the world, and heavy rainfall elsewhere.

"The impact of the flooding is much worse because the soil is so damaged from an unprecedented recent drought - years of conflict and al Shabaab militia's presence also makes building flood defenses and resilience more complex and costly," Nazanine Moshiri, a climate analyst at the International Crisis Group, said.

The flooding is also affecting neighboring Kenya, where the death toll stood at 15 on Monday, according to the Kenya Red Cross. The rains also claimed the lives of more than 20 people in Ethiopia's Somali region.

The Horn of Africa is one of the regions considered to be the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and extreme weather, despite the region's contribution to carbon emissions — the main driver of climate change — being negligible. -DNA

OPEN DOORS REPORT

US remains top choice for Indian students seeking higher education

WASHINGTON, DC: The United States remains a top-notch destination for Indian students to pursue higher education abroad, the US Embassy release said citing the Open Doors Report.

According to the Open Doors Report (ODR), the number of foreign students from India to the United States climbed by 35 per cent, reaching an all-time high of 268,923 students in the academic year 2022-23, the report added.

The US Department of State funds the Open Doors report, which is a definitive annual survey produced by the Institute of International Education (IIE) of foreign students and scholars in the United States and of US students studying abroad in credit-bearing courses.

Apart from highlighting the rate of growth of the international student population in the United States, the report also provides data on places of origin, sources of financial support, fields of study, host institutions, and academic level.

According to the data provided by the Open Doors Report, India has surpassed China to become the largest source of international graduate students in the United States for the first time since 2009-10.

Moreover, the number of Indian students pursuing higher studies from the US skyrocketed by 63 per cent to 165,936 students, leading to an increase of nearly 64,000 students, compared to last year.

Indian undergraduate students also increased by 16 per cent, as per the report.

Indian students account for more than a quarter of the over one million international students studying in the United States.

The publication of the Open Doors Report heralds the start of International Education Week (IEW), which promotes the global advantages of international education and interaction.

According to ODR statistics, India also has the highest number of people (69,062) who pursued optional practical training (OPT), a sort of temporary work licence that allows qualifying students to gain real-world experience in their field of study, the US Embassy press release read, citing the ODR report.

During the major student visa season of June-August 2023, the US Embassy and Consulates in India granted a record-high number of student visas. In India, consular staff granted 95,269 visas in the F, M, and J categories. This marks an 18 per cent surge increase over the same timeframe.

The Ambassador of the US to India, Eric Garcetti had said that the Indian students studying in the US as well as their families deserve recognition for the achievement and success they have got.

"You did it, India! Each and every Indian student in the United States and the families supporting their success deserve recognition for this achievement. The decision to study abroad, and your choice of the United States, represents a valuable investment by you and your families. You are bringing our countries closer together and leading us towards a bright future. We celebrate the strength of the Indian educational system that prepares students to compete globally and look forward to seeing India continue to lead. -ANI

SPORTS

Ahli-Sidab down Seeb to retain Oman Hockey League crown

Defending champions rally to beat Seeb 3-1 in an entertaining final at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex on Sunday night

MUSCAT: The hockey rivalry between these two clubs goes back to four decades and the honours have moved like a pendulum over the years from one club to another.

In the recent past, it has been Ahli-Sidab that have held an upper hand against arch-rivals Seeb and on Sunday night, Ahli-Sidab fought back to beat Seeb 3-1 in the summit clash of the Oman Hockey League (OHL) 2023 to underline their supremacy at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

The hero of Ahli-Sidab's title triumph was Asaad Al Qasmi, who slammed a brace as his side rallied from a goal down at the break to register a memorable win.

Earlier on Sunday evening, Sohar beat former champions Al Nasr 2-1 to claim the final place on the podium in third-place playoff.

Mohammed bin Said Al Balushi, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Information, was the chief guest and handed over the awards and trophies in the presence of Basil Al Rawas, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth, Marwan Al Juma, Oman Hockey Association (OHA) chairman and a large number of hockey lovers.

On the pitch, Seeb got the better of Ahli-Sidab in the first quarter and after early exchanges in the middle, went ahead in the 14th minute through Qasim Al Shibli. Seeb hung on to the lead in the next quarter to go into the interval 1-0.

However, Ahli-Sidab bounced back in the next two quarters with a fine display of attacking game with Al Qasmi, finding the equaliser soon after the resumption. Laith Al Wahaibi then put Ahli-Sidab in front to set up a thrilling final quarter action.

As the match moved into the final minutes, Ahli-Sidab's Al Qasmi found the third goal in the 56th minute.

Seeb's Ahmed Al Balushi emerged as the league's top scorer, while the league's best goalkeeper award went to Sohar's Fahd Al Nofali.

The league's best player award went to Seeb's Fahd Al Lawati. Laith Al Wahaibi was named the league's most promising player.

Speaking after the awards ceremony, Marwan Al Juma said: "We are happy to have successfully conducted the league in such a short time this year as we are getting ready to host major hockey tournaments including 2024 Paris Olympic Qualifiers and the FIH Hockey5s World Cup."

He added, "Another reason for opting for a shorter league season was to keep the event monetarily viable. And for the first time, OHA didn't allow foreign players to play for clubs in this edition, providing more chances to local players."

A total of 11 clubs took part in the league this year and they were divided into three groups. Muscat Governorate group included Ahli-Sidab, Seeb, and Muscat, Dhofar Governorate pool comprised Salalah, Al Nasr, Dhofar, Al Ittihad, and Mirbat. North and South Al-Batinah Governorates pool consisted of Sohar, Saham, and Al Rustaq clubs.

Ahli-Sidab's title fetched them a trophy and a cash award of OMR 5,000, while Seeb took home silver medals and award of OMR3,500. Sohar received OMR2,500 for their third-place finish.

INDIA UNDEFEATED SO FAR

India on a special mission: Dravid

MUMBAI: India coach Rahul Dravid mentioned a very special challenge that the Indian team gave themselves during the ongoing World Cup while he assessed his team's run during the tournament so far.

India have shown exceptional form, having won all their nine group stage games and are the only undefeated side in the tournament.

Barring minor hiccups, such as being 2/3 against Australia in Chennai and being reduced to 229/9 against England in Lucknow, which were easily overcome, India have been a vehement force in the event.

Speaking to *Star Sports*, Dravid referred to a special mission that the side gave themselves as a motivating factor behind these wins.

"We set ourselves a little bit of challenge ahead of the World Cup. Thousands of fans in nine different cities, and passion of our fans. We really wanted to put our best foot forward and give a really good display. And I think the boys have responded and done really well."

India were the only side to feature in nine different venues, a new one for each of their group game, during the World Cup.

Dravid was really happy with their latest outing, a tremendous win over Netherlands in Bengaluru.

"We had six days off, so it was really nice to get a game before the semi-finals. Just to get those cobwebs out, it was good we got what we needed.

"Five of our batsmen getting in there, getting their starts. A couple of boys going on and getting some really good hundreds."

He also opined that the experimentation with the ball benefitted the side.

"And then with the ball as well, just gave us an opportunity after we got that big score to be able to mix and match a little bit and look at some of the other options that hopefully we don't need. But we may need."

Dravid displayed great confidence in his batting unit, and was especially pleased at the work done by his middle-order.

"I think our middle-order has been fantastic. Obviously, the top-order gets to bat all the time and has been scoring a lot of runs for us. When you look at the leaderboard on the numbers, you'll see the Kohlis and the Sharmas, and rightly so.

"They've been batting fantastically and batting really well. But the middle-order is critical because you're always playing in pressure situations.

"They don't always play every single game, sometimes they get to bat after 30 overs when the ball is soft, when the ball is older.

"The wicket is getting slower as well, and for them to bat the way they are, whether it is Shreyas [Iyer], whether it is KL [Rahul], you know even Jaddu [Ravindra Jadeja] or even Surya [Suryakumar Yadav] in the knock he got.

"It just gives us the confidence that we've got that experience, we've got the ability and we've also got them in form and playing really well getting into the semi-finals."

India will face-off against New Zealand at the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai in the first semi-final of the World Cup on 15 November. - cricketworldcup.com

SEHWAG, EDULJI, DE SILVA

3 new inductees into ICC Hall of Fame

DUBAI: India's Virender Sehwag and Diana Edulji along with Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva became the latest inductees in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, on Monday.

"Three greats of the game have become the latest inductees to be added to the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame," the ICC wrote in its statement.

A pioneer in women's cricket, Edulji became the first Indian woman in the ICC Hall of Fame.

Edulji, a former India captain, played 20 Tests and 34 ODIs in a career that spanned across three decades.

A left-arm spinner, she took 107 wickets across formats. She then made an impact as an administrator, working to increase employment opportunities for female cricketers in India.

Sehwag, an explosive opener, played 104 Tests, 251 ODIs and 19 T20Is for India and was part of the sides that won the 2011 ODI World Cup and the 2007 T20 World Cup.

He scored 8,586 runs in Tests, with 23 centuries to his name. He was the first Indian to hit a triple-century in Tests, and among just four players to breach the 300-run mark twice in the format.

Sehwag hit 8273 runs at a strike rate of 104.33 with 15 centuries in ODIS. His score of 219 against West Indies remains the third highest in the format.

De Silva, who hit a century to help Sri Lanka win the 1996 World Cup final, is also known for his aggressive batting.

He racked up 6,361 runs in 93 Tests while scoring 9,284 runs in 308 ODIs. - cricketworldcup.com

OMAN OIL PRICE UNCHANGED

Oman oil price (January delivery 2024) yesterday reached $81.40, thus remaining unchanged from the price of last Friday, which stood at $81.40. The average price of Oman oil (November delivery 2023) has stabilised at $92.77, thus 6.02 per barrel higher than October delivery 2023.- ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,564.83 points, up by 0.1 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.66 per cent at 437.38 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.88 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser.

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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT Q3 2023

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present the unaudited accounts for the quarter ended September 30, 2023.

As stated in the first half of this year, 2023 is a year of transition. Occupancy at Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD) remains a challenge, but our pure services business has shown a healthy growth with a recalibration of contract rates and ongoing focus on cost optimisation and rationalisation.

As part of our strategic growth initiatives, we are proactively working with existing and potential clients to turn single-service cyclical contracts into IFM (Integrated Facilities Management) opportunities. We continue to explore project-based investment opportunities in waste management, utilities and new geographies, with particular emphasis on identifying and securing public-private partnership (PPP) projects in Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

Financial Performance

RS Consolidated

	Rial Million		USD Million	
	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	**Q3 2023**	Q3 2022
Revenue	**77.89**	89.05	**202.31**	231.30
EBITDA	**16.77**	19.06	**43.56**	49.51
Operating profit	**10.75**	13.23	**27.92**	34.36
Net profit after tax	**7.75**	10.02	**20.13**	26.03
Net profit after non-controlling interest	**8.18**	8.48	**21.25**	22.03

Performance

While there was a short-term upswing in occupancy at RSVD in the third quarter, visibility of a sustainable long-term demand in Duqm emerged at the recently convened Duqm Economic Forum. The message from the Forum which was attended by all stakeholders including existing and prospective investors, is that Duqm is uniquely placed to provide gas to green industries as they make the transition to renewables. Positioned as the future industrial hub with abundant potential for renewable energy, two green steel projects are expected to break ground in 2024 and another in 2025, among others.

New contract awards over the last quarter included catering services at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital (SQUH) and the Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre for two years, taking the total year to date awarded value to c. RO18mn. The wins demonstrate that clients are looking for overall value from their service providers and price is not the only determinant. For SQUH, we are pleased to be back with one of our esteemed clients, with whom we have had an association of over 17 years beginning in 1997.

A few major tenders submitted during the year are under different stages of evaluation and the outcomes are scheduled to be announced either at the end of 2023 or early 2024. These include both new tenders as well as defending our existing contracts with key clients. The planned temporary expansion of the PDO PACs (Permanent Accommodation for Contractors) has been commissioned as scheduled and we are expecting contractor mobilisation in the last quarter of 2023.

ESG

We are in the process of building a multi-year strategy that drives sustainability and cost-effectiveness in parallel. As part of this, we have progressed on our Net-Zero framework by capturing the baseline Scope 1 and Scope 2 Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Inventory to understand the Carbon Footprint impact of our operations and assets. UK-based Carbon Trust Advisory has been onboarded to commence with the near-term target modelling of Renaissance's emission reduction pathway in line with the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) standard.

Renaissance recognises the importance of nurturing the potential of our youth, building capacity and creating a brighter future for the community and society as a whole. We are delighted to have extended strong support to the 2023 edition of Oman Sail's Mussannah Race Week, which brought together some of the most talented young sailors from the region for a week of intense coaching and racing.

The company is nearing completion of its assessment of all governance policies with both internal and external reviewers, along with the restructuring of control processes. We have also strengthened company reporting mechanisms like a Whistleblower Committee and an Employee Welfare Committee to safeguard against company risks and better protect our staff.

We have launched a comprehensive programme through leveraging technology, training and women-friendly policies to encourage more women to join the IFM sector. Currently, we have over 1,200 women working with us and we are looking at both, increasing this overall number and the number of women in supervisory and leadership roles through specialised development plans.

Operational Excellence

Our Operational Excellence efforts continue to evolve, delivering high-quality products and services, enhancing customer satisfaction and gaining a competitive advantage in the market. Restructuring of tasks has helped optimise staff strength across operations. By implementing smart devices and water-saving technologies like sensors, aerators and pressure regulators, our teams have been able to reduce per capita water consumption at RS Villages for better water efficiency.

We are happy to report that implementing new cloud-based customer service software is helping us enhance customer experience at Al Mouj Muscat. At the same time, we have moved ahead in engaging with leading academic institutions like the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore, which has now led to new methods of reducing food waste.

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance operational effectiveness and QHSE standards, we recently joined Oman Logistics Association (OLA) and Middle East Facility Management Association (MEFMA). Additionally, we have implemented British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICSc) training standards, another positive move towards adopting industry best practices throughout operations. We are confident that these new affiliations will lead to an improved customer experience and the development of our human resources, thereby driving long-term business sustainability.

People

Developing national talent has been a cornerstone of Renaissance's people strategy and we are proud to maintain an Omanisation percentage that is above the required limit set by the government and a recruitment policy that is based on merit. Mobilisation of new projects this year added to our Omani strength, along with recruitment, promotion, or reskilling of our national workforce for managerial and supervisory roles. Senior appointments in Q3 include Director - QHSE, who brings in almost two decades of professional expertise in planning, managing, and executing QHSE activities across multiple sectors like civil defence, power, oil & gas and environmental services.

Outlook

This has been a year of transition and consolidation of the many programmes that the company had embarked upon. Economic growth is projected to double in 2024 and along with this, the company is optimistic about capitalising on its many initiatives as it looks forward to the new year.

Though the immediate outlook remains muted in Duqm, going forward the company remains positive given the next wave of new projects anticipated to begin in 2024.

We remain focused on driving efficiency through the organisation and faster adoption of digital solutions to raise internal productivity as well as offer our clients customised solutions.

Our current initiatives in the PPP area in Oman and KSA run alongside our keen interest in major opportunities in the utilities and waste management sectors in Oman. Aligned with our efforts to promote a circular economy, we are actively identifying and developing recycling opportunities with partners and clients to minimise waste going into landfills.

Tribute

On the occasion of the 53rd National Day, we express our deepest appreciation and send our warmest greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik for his wise and effective leadership that is contributing to the holistic development of the nation. We reaffirm our dedication and promise to support the government's various initiatives aimed at promoting In-Country Value (ICV). Our commitment to providing cost-effective services to both the public and private sectors through our IFM expertise remains unwavering, as we strive to meet the growth and development needs of our nation.

Samir J. Fancy
Chairman

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

	2023 Rial '000	2022 Rial '000
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	**138,325**	139,397
Intangible assets	**1,926**	1,935
Investments	**6,490**	5,578
	146,741	146,910
Current assets	**65,256**	69,219
Current liabilities	**47,654**	45,335
Non-current liabilities		
Term loans excluding current maturities	**55,226**	66,562
Non current payables and advance	**10,498**	10,570
	65,724	77,132
Net assets	**98,619**	93,662
Equity		
Share capital	**23,641**	23,641
Treasury shares	**(6,853)**	(6,853)
Share premium	**26,936**	26,936
Legal reserve	**9,012**	8,801
Other reserves	**484**	462
Retained earnings	**24,867**	18,268
	78,087	71,255
Non controlling interest	**20,532**	22,407
Total equity	**98,619**	93,662

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

	2023 Rial '000	2022 Rial '000
Revenue	**77,893**	89,050
Operating expenses	**(67,148)**	(75,820)
Profit from operations	**10,745**	13,230
Net finance costs	**(2,964)**	(3,366)
Profit before tax	**7,781**	9,864
Tax	**(29)**	157
Profit for the period	**7,752**	10,021
Net profit attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Parent Company	**8,181**	8,478
Non-controlling interest	**(429)**	1,543
	7,752	10,021

Notes
1) The complete accounts will be sent by mail to shareholders within 7 days of receipt of request.
2) The complete set of financial results can be accessed at www.renaissanceservices.com

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Education & Training, up 9.88 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,564.83 points, up by 0.1 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.66 per cent at 437.38 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.88 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1236 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR7.79 million, with more than 60.49 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 14 advanced, 16 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR543,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR446,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR97,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,466.20 points, up 0.31 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Global Financial Investments, Bank Muscat, Ominvest, and Al Madina Takaful were up by 8.82 per cent, 3.57 per cent, 2.70 per cent, 2.50 per cent, and 1.21 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Oman & Emirates Investment, Bank Nizwa, Al Anwar Investment, and Bank Dhofar were down by 9.09 per cent, 3.85 per cent, 2.06 per cent, 1.37 per cent, and 1.18 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,362.33 points, up 0.3 per cent.

Services Index was down by 0.12 per cent before closing at 1,560.62 points. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,568.723	4,550.885	4,564.825	4,560.446	4.379	0.10
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,475.154	7,432.016	7,466.203	7,443.024	23.179	0.31
Industry Index	5,377.296	5,345.222	5,362.333	5,346.253	16.080	0.30
Services Index	1,562.488	1,543.238	1,560.615	1,562.488	-1.873	-0.12
MSX Shariah Index	440.272	437.384	437.384	440.272	-2.888	-0.66
MSX TR INDEX	6,022.126	5,998.613	6,016.988	6,011.215	5.773	0.10
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,156.766	8,109.695	8,146.999	8,121.706	25.293	0.31
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,744.290	5,710.027	5,728.306	5,711.128	17.178	0.30
SERVICES TR IDX	1,738.254	1,716.838	1,736.170	1,738.254	-2.084	-0.12

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
60,495,887	7,789,485	1,236	23,750,255,066	14	16	20	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	SECIRITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	4,614	1,223	1	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.265	0.286	0.100	OUIC	26,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	75,531	30,222	3	0.400	0.410	0.400	0.410	0.400	0.010	2.500	0.410	0.400	0.000	0.100	OMVS	274,029,825
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	12,000	600	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.052	-0.002	-3.846	0.050	0.051	0.057	0.100	OEIO	6,093,750
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	700	223	1	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.300	0.019	6.333	0.319	0.000	0.318	0.100	OCOI	105,548,394
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	5,000	825	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.169	-0.004	-2.367	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.100	AACT	36,300,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	104,354	23,901	6	0.230	0.230	0.229	0.229	0.230	-0.001	-0.435	0.229	0.230	0.230	0.100	ATMI	28,601,633
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	1,500,000	252,000	2	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.170	-0.002	-1.176	0.168	0.160	0.170	0.100	BKDB	503,387,041
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	5,989,177	1,574,136	144	0.255	0.266	0.255	0.266	0.259	0.007	2.703	0.266	0.266	0.266	0.100	BKMB	1,996,701,618
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	700	750	3	1.080	1.080	1.050	1.050	1.050	0.000	0.000	1.050	0.995	1.050	0.100	MHAS	72,450,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	239,306	242,451	28	1.015	1.018	1.009	1.018	1.015	0.003	0.296	1.018	1.011	1.015	0.100	OTEL	763,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	173,602	9,852	22	0.056	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.056	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	GFIC	11,600,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	6,323	2,465	6	0.388	0.390	0.388	0.390	0.388	0.002	0.515	0.390	0.381	0.390	0.100	RNSS	92,199,900
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	41,344,289	4,134,406	11	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	BKSB	546,788,850
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	51,500	17,003	6	0.335	0.335	0.330	0.330	0.340	-0.010	-2.941	0.330	0.330	0.345	0.100	ORDS	214,811,596
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	5,000	350	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	SMNP	13,974,492
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	9,583	805	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	AMAT	14,700,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	500	100	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.190	0.199	0.100	AMCI	11,000,000
Total		17,49,522,179	6,291,313	239													

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	SECIRITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	75,900	14,042	7	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.180	0.185	0.100	DICS	20,195,500
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	16,710	1,404	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.090	0.100	NGCI	7,140,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	14,614	1,491	4	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.110	-0.008	-7.273	0.102	0.100	0.108	0.100	MGMC	3,060,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	42,700	5,512	13	0.130	0.130	0.127	0.129	0.130	-0.001	-0.769	0.129	0.127	0.129	0.100	RCCI	25,800,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,730,221	136,511	5	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.051	0.100	MFCI	15,357,316
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	20,000	37,960	3	1.898	1.898	1.898	1.898	1.900	-0.002	-0.105	1.898	1.850	2.090	0.100	OCAI	170,250,600
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	4,000	289	2	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	AAIC	14,832,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	163,946	6,011	9	0.036	0.037	0.035	0.037	0.034	0.003	8.824	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.100	AMII	3,145,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	30	25	1	0.840	0.840	0.840	0.840	0.840	0.000	0.000	0.840	0.840	0.840	0.100	SOMS	79,800,000
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT HO.	29,070	2,621	10	0.094	0.094	0.090	0.090	0.099	-0.009	-9.091	0.090	0.090	0.095	0.100	DBIH	2,700,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	1,000,001	278,000	2	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.253	0.025	9.881	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	OETI	19,460,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	2,525	805	2	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.319	0.320	-0.001	-0.313	0.319	0.320	0.340	0.100	SPFI	38,280,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	1,430	86	3	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.100	FINC	4,271,828
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	3,215	116	2	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.036	0.038	0.100	BWPC	5,760,000
OM0000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	6,802	3,945	1	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.000	0.000	0.580	0.580	0.638	0.100	NDTI	11,600,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	25,147	3,068	12	0.122	0.122	0.120	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.120	0.122	0.100	VOES	9,931,136
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	22,300	2,139	3	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.097	-0.002	-2.062	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	BKNZ	212,510,538
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	106,691	9,633	8	0.093	0.095	0.090	0.095	0.093	0.002	2.151	0.095	0.090	0.094	0.100	SSPW	90,684,335
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	63,290	1,329	8	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.023	-0.002	-8.696	0.021	0.021	0.024	0.100	BATP	14,172,636
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	76,715	1,611	13	0.021	0.023	0.020	0.023	0.022	0.001	4.545	0.023	0.020	0.024	0.100	SUWP	16,431,346
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	700	95	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.130	0.000	0.100	OAB	225,370,350
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	123,334	6,455	16	0.053	0.055	0.052	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.052	0.055	0.100	PHPC	80,443,080
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	7,372	582	4	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	MCDE	12,288,482
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	770	196	3	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.258	-0.003	-1.163	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.100	MSPW	17,949,450
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	100	10	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.093	0.099	0.100	AMAN	19,600,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	6,000	510	2	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.080	0.005	6.250	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.100	OMRF	40,050,843
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	7,200	893	2	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.118	0.006	5.085	0.124	0.121	0.124	0.100	PRFD	63,004,840
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	49,968	14,743	24	0.294	0.296	0.293	0.294	0.296	-0.002	-0.676	0.294	0.294	0.300	0.100	ABRJ	226,438,800
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	6,225,425	928,146	821	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	OQGN	645,262,964
Total		29,10,826,176	1,458,227	983													

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR36 million

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR36 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR10 million, for a maturity period of 28 days.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.595 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.595 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.27946 per cent and 5.30093 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR26 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.665 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.665 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.35467 per cent and 5.42712 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

FICCI SURVEY

Indian manufacturing sector growth expected to continue

NEW DELHI: Indian manufacturing has accelerated through the second quarter of 2023-24 and is likely to continue for the subsequent quarters of the financial year 2023-24, notwithstanding the slowdown in developed nations, industry body FICCI's latest quarterly survey revealed.

The industry body's latest quarterly survey assessed the performance and sentiments of manufacturers for the July-September 2023-24 quarter for ten major sectors - automotive and auto components, capital goods and construction equipment, cement, chemicals fertilisers and pharmaceuticals, electronics and white goods, machine tools, metal and metal products, textiles, apparels and technical textiles, paper, and miscellaneous.

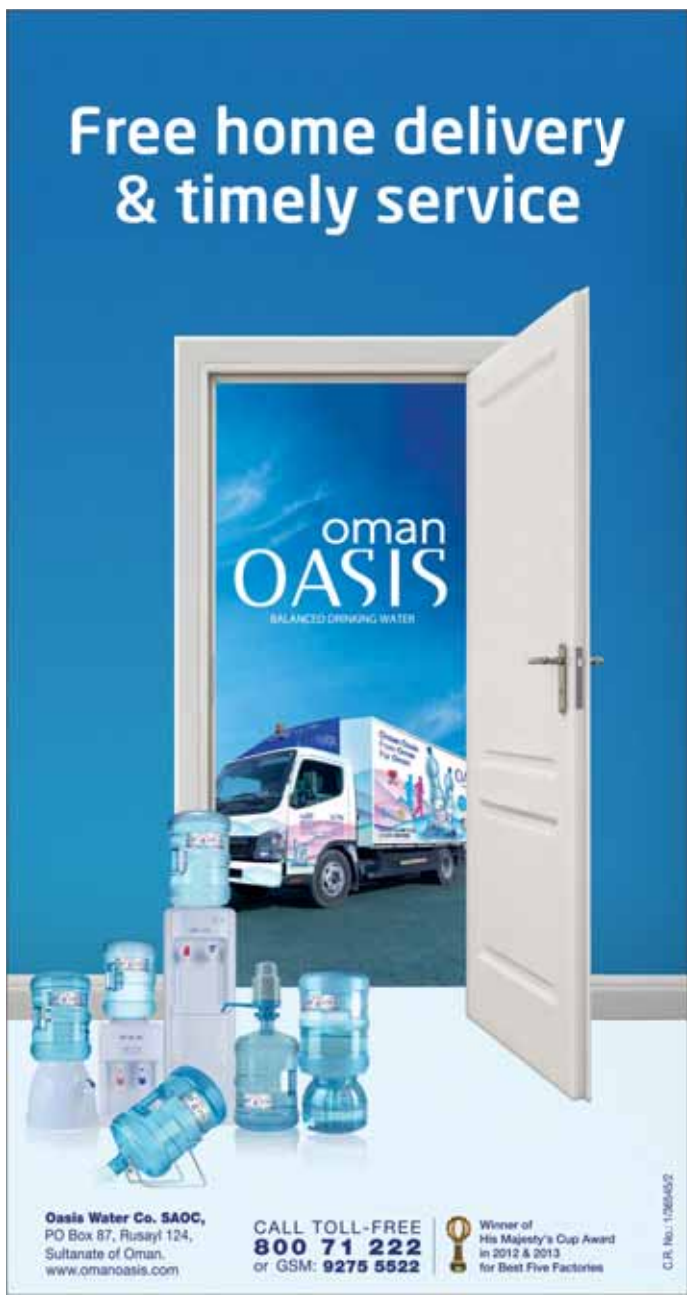
It sought responses from over 380 manufacturing units from both the large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over Rs 4.88 lakh crores.

The existing average capacity utilisation in the Indian manufacturing sector is around 74 per cent, slightly higher than the 73 per cent recorded during the previous quarters.

The future investment outlook has also improved as compared to the previous quarter as over 57 per cent of respondents reported plans for investments and expansions in the coming six months. This is also a slight improvement over the previous survey.

In terms of major constraints, demand is a limiting factor to realise the true potential of the manufacturing sector in India, with over 40 per cent of respondents highlighting this as a significant constraint.

"Whether it is domestic demand or exports, this remains a major limiting factor. Some other constraints, though not major ones are high raw material prices, increased cost of finance, logistics, and other supply chain disruptions are some of the major constraints which are affecting expansion plans of the respondents," finds the FICCI survey. -ANI



ASIAN EQUITY INVESTORS

Chip stocks cheered while rest retreat

FRANKFURT: Chip stocks gave Asian equity investors a small bit of cheer to start the week, picking up where Wall Street left off while US yields stayed subdued, but elsewhere, bears were firmly in control, Reuters reported.

Looking across the region, Japan's tech-heavy Nikkei managed to keep its head above water, buoyed by gains for its two biggest chip-related shares. Taiwan's benchmark advanced 0.8 per cent.

But Hong Kong flipped from early gains to a loss of about 0.15 per cent. A sub-index of tech shares remained firmly positive but another of mainland property developers slumped more than 1 per cent. China's blue chips fell 0.5 per cent.

ECB President Christine Lagarde said last week that rates will stay restrictive for at least several quarters. Lagarde deputy Luis de Guindos has his say a little later today, giving the keynote speech to kick off Euro Finance Week.-BNA

WIDE-BODY AIRCRAFT

flydubai places $11 billion order for 30 Boeing 787 Dreamliners

DUBAI: The Dubai-based carrier, flydubai, and Boeing announced flydubai's commitment to purchase 30 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners as the airline diversifies its fleet with the introduction of wide-body aircraft.

The signing ceremony was attended by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai; His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the UAE; His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of flydubai; Boeing Commercial Airplanes President and CEO, Stan Deal and Ghaith Al Ghaith, CEO of flydubai, on the opening day of the Dubai Airshow 2023.

Commenting on the milestone announcement, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of flydubai, said: "In 2008 when we placed our first ever order for 50 Boeing 737 aircraft, we were confident of the vital role flydubai would play in supporting Dubai's aviation hub. I am proud today to see flydubai evolve further, surpassing labels and challenging the traditional conventions around travel. Today's order reaffirms flydubai's commitment to enabling more people to travel across its expanding network. The highly fuel-efficient Boeing 787 Dreamliner will allow flydubai to expand its horizon and cater to the growing demand on existing routes."

Commenting on the choice of aircraft, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive officer at flydubai, said: "innovation is at the heart of everything we do at flydubai. We are committed to offering the right product at the right time to cater to the changing market and customer needs. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner offers a perfect combination of operational excellence, fuel efficiency as well as passenger appeal."

flydubai is currently evaluating engine options for its first Dreamliner order. Stan Deal, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said: "The 787-9 is perfectly suited for the needs of flydubai as it looks to open up new, longer-range routes and add capacity across its network. flydubai passengers will enjoy the Dreamliner effect, an experience like no other in the air, flying with more comfort and arriving to their destinations feeling more refreshed. We are proud of the confidence that flydubai continues to place in our products with an all-Boeing fleet. We look forward to further strengthening this partnership and to seeing our 787-9 Dreamliners play a central role in flydubai's strategic expansion plans."

LIFESTYLE

5 THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN BUYING A NEW STOVE

Choosing the right slide-in range, (AKA "stove") is essential for any home chef, and yours should not only cater to your cooking needs, but also complement your kitchen design.

"Navigating the many slide-in range options available today can feel daunting. That's why it's important to identify your must-have features before making a purchase," says Peter Weedfald, senior vice president of sales and marketing at a home electronics company of America.

Not sure where to start? This range-purchasing guide offers five important factors to consider:

1. Size. A standard 30-inch slide-in range is a great option for most homes. If you're looking for more cooking surface however, scale up to a 36-inch model. There are also 24-inch options for compact kitchens. Before making any purchase, measure the space to ensure the unit will fit, and that you can open the door.

2. Cooktop Surface and Fuel Source. There are three main cooktop surfaces to choose from: gas, radiant (electric) and induction. This decision can be influenced by the power source supply in your kitchen. If you have a gas line, you could choose any of the three, as long as there is also electric connectivity. If you don't, consider a radiant or induction slide-in range. If you love the power from the open flame of a gas cooktop but desire the cooking capabilities of electric ovens, you can narrow your search to dual ovens. Helpful Hint: The cooking power measurement will indicate whether you're dealing with gas or electricity. Gas ranges use BTUs (British Thermal Units) and electric ranges measure power output in watts.

3. Capacity. The interior capacity is the space within the range's cavity. This is the oven. Knowing your cooking habits can help guide you in the right direction.

While a standard slide-in range often offers enough capacity for an average-sized family, if you're prone to entertaining crowds, a larger capacity like 6.1 or 6.3 cubic feet may better suit you. If you find yourself often preparing food at two different temperatures and cooking times, a dual oven may be your best bet.

4. Finish. Whether you're curating your kitchen piece by piece or all at once, choose an exterior finish that fits your vision. Check out the oven's interior cavity as well. You can make a statement with an unexpected pop of color here! The Sharp 30-inch Electric Convection Slide-in Range with Air Fry (SSR3065JS) offers a sleek edge-to-edge black glass exterior paired with a cobalt blue interior. If you prefer a more neutral, toned-down feel, keep it classic with a black or gray cavity.

5. Oven Features. When prioritising features, consider your cooking habits and needs. If counter space is a priority, use a family-size air fryer, so that is one less thing to take up your precious space.

A good oven has 34,500 BTUs of cooking power and a variety of cooking modes, including Pizza, Convection Bake/Roast, and Air Fry. It can help take the guesswork out of cooking meat. Both ranges have built-in precision probe thermometers that automatically turn off the oven when the internal food temperature reaches the programmed setting.

Learn more about slide-in range cooking features and design choices by visiting shop.sharpusa.com/products/ranges.

"When curating your dream kitchen, the ultimate goal is finding a range that looks great in your space and can help you bring your culinary creations to life," recommends Weedfald. -StatePoint

SPORTS

Chelsea hold City in a thriller; Salah's brace in Reds victory

Palmer scores late equaliser for Blues in a 4-4 stalemate against defending champions City

LONDON: Cole Palmer's stoppage-time penalty denied his former club Manchester City victory in a 4-4 thriller against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

In a game of the highest quality in treacherous conditions, fortunes swung both ways, *BBC Sport* reported.

City thought they had the three points when Rodri's shot from the edge of the area touched off Thiago Silva past Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez with four minutes left.

Chelsea, showing superb resilience, were not to be denied and Palmer - a summer signing from Pep Guardiola's side - stayed cool amid the mayhem to beat Ederson from the spot to leave City just a point clear of Liverpool at the Premier League summit.

The reigning champions led in contentious fashion after 25 minutes when they were awarded a penalty for Marc Cucurella's pull on Erling Haaland, despite Chelsea's protests that the full-back had been fouled first.

Haaland dispatched the penalty with ease, but the hosts were level four minutes later when Brazil centre-back Silva glanced home Conor Gallagher's corner at the near post. Chelsea turned the game around when Raheem Sterling also scored against his former club after 37 minutes, turning in Reece James' cross after Josko Gvardiol's mistake.

City, though, levelled on the stroke of half-time when the unmarked Manuel Akanji headed in Bernardo Silva's cross.

Two minutes after the break City went in front again when Haaland scrambled in Julian Alvarez's cross at the far post.

Yet Chelsea again battled back and deservedly drew level in the 67th minute when Nicolas Jackson pounced after Ederson pushed out Gallagher's low drive.

Guardiola's side thought they had won it with Rodri's stroke of good fortune - until the late penalty drama capped an entertaining, eventful encounter.

Defender Ruben Dias was penalised for a foul on Chelsea substitute Armando Broja and Palmer's calm finish left honours even.

Chelsea - and manager Mauricio Pochettino - have not just had their most eventful week of the season, but their best week of the season.

The 4-1 win at Tottenham on Monday was overshadowed by the blizzard of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) interventions which reduced Chelsea's opponents to nine men before striker Jackson's hat-trick settled the outcome.

The Londoners went toe-to-toe with Treble winners City in a magnificent, free-flowing eight-goal classic where no-one could begrudge them a point after Rodri's deflected shot looked like it would inflict a cruel defeat on Pochettino's men.

Their Argentine boss will understandably be dissatisfied with conceding four goals at home, even against a side of City's threat and calibre, but Chelsea showed quality and huge reserves of character to come from behind three times.

Salah strikes twice

Mohamed Salah scored twice as Liverpool maintained their 100 percent record at Anfield this season with victory against Brentford to move up to second in the Premier League.

Salah opened the scoring just before the break, latching onto a pass from Darwin Nunez before placing a finish beyond Mark Flekken.

That was Salah's ninth Premier League goal of the season and his 10th arrived midway through the second half when he nodded in from Kostas Tsimikas' cross.

Salah - once again excellent on home soil - really should have had a hat-trick, having also volleyed over from a superb Trent Alexander-Arnold cross just before half-time.

Diogo Jota then rounded off another dominant home display with a thumping strike.

The victory means Liverpool have 27 points and move ahead of Arsenal on goal difference, while Brentford are 10th.

Liverpool may have laboured to a 1-1 draw at Luton in their last Premier League outing but their home form has been impeccable.

The Reds have now won all six of their league games at Anfield this season with an aggregate score of 17-2 and, with Brentford having not won there since 1937, the visitors faced a daunting task.

Salah's goals mean he is now just the the fourth player to score in each of his club's opening six home games of a Premier League season, after Alan Shearer (1995-96 for Blackburn Rovers), Les Ferdinand (1995-96 for Newcastle United) and Thierry Henry (2004-05 for Arsenal).

Salah's double means he has now scored 200 goals in English football.

Elsewhere, Sheffield United moved off the foot of the Premier League table by coming from behind to claim a point at 10-man Brighton with a 1-1 scoreline.

The Seagulls led for much of the game through Simon Adingra's wonderful early opener but were left to rue a failure to convert their dominance into further goals.

The match turned on Brighton midfielder Mahmoud Dahoud's senseless 69th-minute red card for a raking challenge down the back of Ben Osborn's leg.

Brighton defender Adam Webster turned Jayden Bogle's cross into his own net to bring the Blades level only five minutes later.

Other results: Aston Villa 3 Fulham 1, West Ham 3 Nottingham Forest 2. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Lewandowski scores twice as Barca fight back to win

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski scored twice as Barcelona came from behind to beat struggling Alaves in La Liga 2-1 on Sunday.

Samu Omorodion's goal after 18 seconds had given the visitors a shock lead. Lewandowski headed the hosts level from Jules Kounde's cross and then scored the winner from the penalty spot after Raphinha was fouled.

The result leaves Barca third in the table, four points behind surprise leaders Girona and two adrift of second-placed Real Madrid, *BBC Sport* reported.

Lewandowski's goals were his sixth and seventh in the Spanish top flight this season, ending a run of six games without a goal for the 35-year-old, his worst sequence

at club level since February 2011 with Borussia Dortmund.

However, they masked a disjointed performance from Xavi's side, with Omorodion's goal the fastest conceded by Barcelona in a home league match this century.

The hosts, who were playing in a half-empty Barcelona Olympic Stadium, with the Nou Camp under renovation, were also fortunate not to fall further behind with Omorodion missing a glorious close-range chance to double Alaves' lead.

"We need to be conscious about our moment and be self-critical, we are not playing good football lately and need to improve mightily going forward," Xavi told *Movistar Plus*.

"The international break has arrived at a good time and will do good for us, so we can reflect and work hard to correct our mistakes. I'm optimistic and I think we have enough talent and grit to come back much better in two weeks." - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Alonso's Bayer return to top

MUNICH: Bayer Leverkusen returned to the top of the Bundesliga with a 4-0 home win over Union Berlin on Sunday.

Xabi Alonso's side have taken 31 points from a possible 33 this season, equalling the record set by Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich in 2015-16, *BBC Sport* reported.

Alex Grimaldo, Odilon Kossounou, Jonathan Tah and Nathan Tella scored as Leverkusen replaced Bayern at the top.

"The feeling is great at the moment," said former Spain and Liverpool midfielder Alonso.

"We have played with a lot of focus and concentration. But there are still a lot of matches and a lot can happen in football and suddenly all expectations are gone."

Leverkusen have won 16 of their 17 matches in all competitions this season, including the past 12 in a row.

Alonso was appointed in October last year with Leverkusen second from bottom of the table after eight games.

They ended the season in sixth and reached the Europa League semi-finals.

Alonso's only previous managerial experience was a three-year spell in charge of Real Sociedad's B team, having retired from playing in 2017.

Champions Bayern moved to the top of the table with a 4-2 win over Heidenheim on Saturday. Union Berlin stay bottom on goal difference following a club record ninth successive defeat. - Agencies

ATP FINALS 2023

Djokovic beats Rune to secure year-end No.1 ranking for eighth time

TURIN: Novak Djokovic will end the year as world No.1 for a record eighth time after he beat Holger Rune at the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy on Sunday.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion overcame the Dane 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (1-7), 6-3 in his opening Green Group match at the season-ending event on Sunday, *BBC Sport* reported. Victory for Djokovic extends his winning run to 19 consecutive matches.

The 36-year-old Serb won three Slams in 2023 to set a men's record of 24 career major titles.

Earlier on Sunday, home favourite and fourth seed Jannik Sinner beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4 6-4.

Rune, 20, who is making his debut at the event, claimed the first break to lead 3-2 before Djokovic hit back and went on to win the opening set tie-break.

Rune reacted well and continued his streak of winning a set in every previous meeting with Djokovic to level the game in a second set tie-break.

The Serb broke immediately in the deciding set, but Rune was able to respond before his opponent broke for a second time and ended the youngster's challenge.

Djokovic is on course for a seventh ATP Finals title, which would make him the record holder, having equalled Roger Federer's tally of six last year.

"It took everything," Djokovic told Prime Video. "I saw in the first game when he fired shots from the

baseline, I knew it was going to be a tough night for me. I thought he played great. I played great in some moments.

"Overall, a win is a win. It was a very emotional win and a tough win knowing the significance of tonight's match. After a really terrible second-set tie-break, I think I played a really solid third set."

Sinner put in a dominant performance to wrap up a straight-set win over 2019 champion Tsitsipas, sealing victory with his ninth ace.

Greece's Tsitsipas, runner-up at the Australian Open in January, struggled to match his opponent and did not force a single breakpoint.

"I was excited to step on court and opening the Finals is really, really special," Sinner, 22, said.

"I knew it was going to be very tough but I think I handled the situation well. I tried to stay aggressive and I am very happy with the performance.

"I am happy to start off with a win and hopefully I can continue with this intensity."

It is the first time Sinner has qualified for the ATP Finals on merit, having replaced Matteo Berrettini in the line-up for the 2021 edition after his compatriot withdrew through injury.

This year he reached his first Grand Slam semi-final at Wimbledon and won his maiden Masters 1000 title at the Canadian Open in August.

He came into the tie with Tsitsipas having trailed the sixth seed 5-2 in their head-to-head but looked relaxed on court as he saw out the win in one hour 25 minutes.

The ATP Finals features eight of the year's best men's players split into two groups of four, with the top two qualifying for the semi-finals. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Al Mouj Muscat signs MoU with Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth to support Omani talents

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, oversaw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Al Mouj Muscat and the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth to provide development and on-the-job training opportunities for the Omani youths. Under the agreement, these young talents will gain invaluable hands-on experience in a variety of fields.

Commemorating the partnership, Al Mouj Muscat also hosted a memorable showcase that brought together the nation's brightest talents to mark this year's Omani Youth Day. Under the theme, "Horizon", the activities featured art, culture and creative performances, designed in four different zones for all ages to explore and enjoy.

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said "Our youth are our future and the driving force behind our nation's vision. At Al Mouj Muscat we are proud to provide a platform that fosters their growth and empowerment. Our partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth for this year's Omani Youth Day program has enabled us to not only shed-light on the tremendous talent and potential we have locally but also provide youth with the right tools and skills to succeed in today's competitive job market."

The four main zones encompassed, 'Energies', a blend of innovations, ideas, artistic initiatives and live youth performances, and 'Reflections', an immersive experience that encouraged youth to continue pursuing their dreams and aspirations through digital displays. Visitors were also invited to take a stroll through 'Span or length', a creative path of digital arts curated by youth, while the Stage Area hosted various activations and performances in addition to the official opening event.

Al Mouj Muscat continues to identify opportunities that will further develop Oman's budding talents. Whether by providing space, training or support, it remains committed to help propel the nation forward, working towards a shared goal of growth and prosperity for Oman and its people.

OAB appoints new assistant regional manager for Muscat

The appointment is part of the bank's strategic agenda to advance women to lead in the competitive financial sector

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) has reinforced its ongoing commitment to empowering women in the organisation and producing a pipeline of female leaders with the appointment of Asila Al Mashari as its new Assistant Regional Manager for the Muscat region.

The appointment is part of the bank's strategic agenda to advance women to lead in the competitive financial sector.

Promoting gender diversity and empowering women in the workforce is one of OAB's top priorities. The bank has instituted a number of multi-faceted training and development programs, including Ruwad Al Arabi for Leadership Development, in association with Harvard Business Publishing Corporate Learning. Today, more than 39% of the bank's workforce consists of women, and 36% of middle management positions are held by women. A third of all branch managers within OAB are female.

Essam Al Busaidi, Head of Human Resources at Oman Arab Bank, said: "I am proud to say that OAB has championed women across all levels of the organization, from the trainees to senior management. We believe that leadership is about talent and we are committed to supporting women to excel in their careers. We also understand that diversity enriches decision making, fuels innovation and contributes to the sustainability of not only the bank but the nation as a whole."

OAB recognises the importance of fostering an inclusive organizational culture and providing equal opportunities for both men and women to pursue a variety of roles, while actively promoting a strong representation of women in senior leadership positions. The bank is dedicated to attracting and developing local talent through learning and development, talent management and leadership development. Training and development opportunities are available at every stage of an employee's career, ensuring that they have the necessary skills to succeed both personally and professionally.

FOCUS ON HSE

Oman Textile Mills introduces new corporate wear line under brand NaseejOman

MUSCAT: NaseejOman, the flagship brand of Oman Textile Mills, has been at the forefront revolutionising safety and functionality of customised workwear and institutional uniforms that form an integral part of various sectors and industries across Oman.

With 35 years of expertise, NaseejOman has gained the trust of companies from oil and gas sector to military and beyond, in Oman and the GCC. The company boasts of high in-country-value and Omanisation.

As industries continue to prioritise the well-being of their workforce even more in a post pandemic world, the importance of customised workwear and uniforms has also increased exponentially. NaseejOman recognises this need and has positioned itself as the trustworthy partner for companies across sectors, offering them bespoke solutions without compromising on safety, functionality, and industry-specific requirements.

Faseem P. P., the Chief Marketing Officer of Oman Textile Mills, said, "We have always strived to ensure that we deliver exceptional products that surpass industry standards and cater to safety and well-being of workers in every sector. We firmly believe that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach does not work when it comes to workwear and institutional uniforms and hence our team of experts works closely with clients to understand their specific needs and deliver products accordingly."NaseejOman's workwear range includes overalls, pants, shirts, jackets, T-shirts, polos, vests, smelter socks, arc flash shirts, disposable coveralls, and more.

Explaining the stringent manufacturing process, Devraj Mehta, Factory Manager, Oman Textile Mills – says, "Our work-wear garments are crafted from basic to technical fabrics, including inherent flame-retardant varieties, taking into consideration the challenging climatic conditions in the region."

The mill is well-equipped with production lines from Europe and Japan, having Shuttle less Projectile Looms in Weaving Department, Dyeing and Finishing machines, Screen and Digital Printing in Process House. With a processing capacity of 6 Million meters per annum, OTM can dye and print multi-fibre fabrics including Cotton, Polyester, Silk and Viscose.

Adherence to international standards of manufacturing and safety means that protective clothing is offered in pre-shrunk, sanforised fabrics with specialty treatments or with in-built performance fibres. The clothing solutions strike a balance between comfort and durability. Customised styles are available for corporate and institutional needs."

All workwear and uniforms are manufactured in-house in state-of-the-art Oman Textile Mills factory, which is committed to maintaining international manufacturing standards and sustainable practices. The company implements Quality Management standard of ISO 9001: 2015 and Environmental Management System (EMS) of ISO 14001: 2015 standard.

They ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislations and regulations while promoting environmental protection and pollution prevention. This includes suitable treatment of effluents, efficient and safe handling and storage of products, waste minimisation and recovery, and safe disposal of wastes. Oman Textile Mills also prioritises energy saving and resource conservation.

Mohammed Ibrahim Al Balushi, Head of HR at Oman Textile Mills – says, "As an Omani company, we are proud to be the go-to brand not just for local industries but also those in the GCC and the region. This is a testament to trustworthiness to our work force and technical expertise. It has allowed us to build strong relationships with major industry players, who expect only the most reliable and innovative solutions from us."

EDUCATION GROUP

ABQ launches job shadowing initiative for Grade 11 students

MUSCAT: ABQ Education Group announced its innovative Job Shadowing Initiative (JSI) aimed at empowering Grade 11 students with valuable insights into the professional world. This programme promises to be a transformative experience, allowing students to step into the shoes of experts in their chosen career fields.

ABQ has joined hands with owner company, The Zubair Corporation, and more than half of their Grade 11 students will have the opportunity to job shadow at Zubair-affiliated companies in November 2023.

The official launch event, attended by these Grade 11 students and parents, ABQ and The Zubair Corporation representatives, as well as several corporate partners, took place at the historic Bait Al Zubair Heritage and Cultural Centre in Old Muscat.

During this event, Humayun Kabir, ABQ Education Group Chief Executive Officer, highlighted the significance of this initiative, stating, "This is a historic moment in the making! This incredible opportunity has the potential to shape the future of ABQ students profoundly, offering them a glimpse into the inner workings of the professional world."

Kabir emphasised the importance of approaching this experience with an open mind and a willingness to embrace new opportunities, highlighting that job shadowing is not merely a glimpse into the future but a crucial step in making informed career decisions.

Sharifa Al Balushi, Group Head – Human Capital Centre of Excellence at The Zubair Corporation, emphasised, "We firmly believe in nurturing talent and investing in the future generation, and the JSI is a testament to this belief. It bridges the gap between education and industry, offering young minds a glimpse into the real world of business and innovation. The programme is designed to provide students with first-hand experience of the professional world, allowing them to discover their passions, interests, and potential career paths."

The integration of personalised job shadowing into ABQ's pioneering Discovering You Program is a significant milestone, equipping students with practical knowledge beyond the classroom. This experience is expected to infuse purpose and motivation into their academic journeys.

ABQ extends its appreciation to The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries, including ARA Petroleum, Business International Group, Federal Transformers & Switchgears, OOISS, Zubair Electric – Smart Electrification & Automation, Oman Oasis, Inma, Zubair Automotive Group, Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, OCS Infotech, Zeenah, and Zubair Enterprises Development Centre for their commitment to nurturing the future of Oman by providing students with interest-specific job shadowing opportunity.

The students and their parents had the opportunity to meet representatives of these hosting companies in person before the commencement of the actual job shadowing experience.

Collectively, over 20 companies and organisations spanning diverse industries and areas of expertise have agreed to host the Grade 11 students from ABQ Azzan Bin Qais, ABQ Seeb and ABQ Sohar Internationals School in the inaugural year of this programme.

The launch of the ABQ Job Shadowing Initiative signifies a significant step towards an even brighter future for Oman. By empowering students to gain practical insights and make informed career choices, ABQ is nurturing aknowledgeable and motivated generation that will contribute to the nation's growth and development. The collaboration between ABQ Education Group and The Zubair Corporation exemplifies a collective effort to shape a prosperous future for Oman, one student at a time.

ROUND-UP

Celebrate this National Day with all-new 2024 Mitsubishi Outlander

The Mitsubishi Outlander SUV is nothing short of revolutionary, with a stylish design, cutting-edge technologies, and rally-bred performance

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, is celebrating National Day by launching an exciting offer of 50,000 km/3 years free service along with 3 value added benefits on 53 Outlanders.

The promotion includes a wide range of benefits such as Free Insurance, free registration, free llumar window tint, 6 years unlimited km warranty, and 6 years roadside assistance along with the 50,000 km/3 years free service. There is also a trade-in facility for customers looking to exchange their old cars. The offer comes as a part of the General Automobile Company's ongoing efforts to provide outstanding value to its esteemed customers.

Talking about the ongoing promotion, Aftab Ahmed Khan, Head of Sales at Mitsubishi Motors Oman, said, "Through this promotional offer, we can fulfil the dreams of many Mitsubishi loyalists looking to own the all-new 2024 Outlander. We are confident that this offer will attract many citizens and expats alike due to the high value it brings to them."

The Mitsubishi Outlander SUV is nothing short of revolutionary, with a stylish design, cutting-edge technologies, and rally-bred performance. The completely reimagined and meticulously redesigned Outlander stands proud with striking LED headlights with LED DRLs, sculpted flanks, a horizontal rear profile, and commanding 20-inch alloy wheels. Mitsubishi's innovative Super-All Wheel Control technology allows you to explore your surroundings on any surface or terrain, in practically any circumstance.

The 4WD Outlander has six different drive modes and 5 with the 2WD model, each designed for a specific road condition. The Drive Mode enables users to drive across all road conditions and driving styles. The Full Digital Driver Display turns the speedometer and rev counter into an info hub.

Hill Descent Control automatically applies the brakes to maintain speed when travelling downhill. Apart from the features mentioned above, there are many more attractive features in the all-new Outlander.

BANK MUSCAT

Enjoy extra discounted rate for Sayyarati auto loan

MUSCAT: Coinciding with the 53rd National Day celebrations, and in commitment to provide best services to customers, Bank Muscat the leading financial service provider in Oman, launched an exclusive offer for Sayyarati Auto loan for a limited period starting from November 1, 2023, that includes a discounted rate starting from 3.75% on new and pre-owned cars, waiver of fee on credit cards for the first year, and a free third-party motor insurance for used cars.

Besides, Asalah priority banking customers will have a further discounted rate starting from 4.75% for a maximum loan tenure of 60 months.

Omani nationals employed in government, quasi - government, Tier 1 companies, will get a loan tenure up to, 10 years, while those working in Tier 2 companies, will get a loan tenure up to 7 years. The offer also applies to expatriates working in government, quasi - government, Tier 1 companies who will get a tenure period up to 8 years. To make it easier for customers to take advantage of the benefits offered by financing products, they can now also apply through Internet and Mobile Banking.

On this special occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, General Manager – Products, Bank Muscat, said: "Bank Muscat is keen to launch financing offers on an ongoing basis. We are pleased to continue launching new features and competitive interest rates to give customers the opportunity to take advantage of financing products. Sayyarati is one of the popular products that is witnessing a great turnout by customers looking to purchase their dream car. Through such initiatives on various occasions, the bank's customers can achieve their goals with our special discounted offers tailored specifically to cater to their needs. I would like to thank all customers for their continued confidence in the services and products of the bank and for their valuable feedback to develop products to provide them with the best possible service."

With a fast turnaround time and absolutely no need for post-dated cheques, the feature-rich auto finance can be obtained within the shortest possible time through Mobile Banking or the Internet banking. The service is also available in Sayyarati Centres in Salalah and Wattayah as well as Bank Muscat branches located across Oman. Loans will be offered for both new and pre-owned cars. The documents needed to process the loan facility are minimal and include the buyer's ID card, salary assignment letter, quotation / car valuation from the approved values, driving license, Mulkiya (for pre-owned cars only) and seller's ID card (for pre-owned cars only). The Monthly loan installments for Sayyarati are automatically deducted from the customer's account once the mandate to do so is provided to the bank by the customer. All customers wishing to own their dream car can take advantage of the fast transaction processing, as the transaction is completed within 24 hours, provided all the required documents are available.

As the leading financial institution in the Sultanate for the past four decades, Bank Muscat has the largest banking network in Oman with 178 branches, in addition to more than 820 ATMs, CDMs and multi-use machines, as well as Internet and Mobile Banking platforms offering round-the-clock banking services.

DISHDASHA BRAND

Al Obaidani expands its retail presence

MUSCAT: Al Obaidani, the most preferred Dishdasha brand in Oman with a rich history of heritage and stepping towards 60 years. Now opened its 31st store in Al Khoud, 6th entrance located near Sultan Qaboos University, this spacious store offers a wide variety of high-quality fabrics for quality-oriented for the gentlemen in Oman at affordable prices. The store was opened to the public on November 8.

Commenting on the opening new store, the Director of AlObaidani Stores, Khalil Al Obaidani said, "We are extremely delighted to open our 31st store at Al Khoud. Being one of the leading Dishdasha brands in Oman, we continue to expand and bring the very best quality fabric to our customers. In future, we hope to expand our network further. Our commitment to excellence extends beyond what we offer, we pride ourselves on providing unparalleled customer service. You will experience this in any of our Al Obaidani Stores."

The company believes it can reach out to a new set of customers with the opening of its latest store. Specialized in crafting high-quality custom-made Dishdashas, Al Obaidani offers a range of extremely high-quality Dishdasha fabrics to its customers. Al Hindam, launched in 2019 has become an extremely popular fabric among the men's in Oman.

Through fabric brands like Saktoun, Al Hilali, Al Barzah, Bahla, Jabreen, Khalas, Mazaya, Royal, Wathba, Al Obaidani offers a wide range of fabrics at different quality and price levels. The customers are always offered a wide choice to select.

High quality, breathability, Comfortability, and the look are the main characteristics of Al Obaidani Dishdasha Fabric. Once the measurements are given, you can collect your precious Dishdasha within 7 days from the purchased outlet. The company recently introduced a door-to-door delivery facility upon the customer's request as a value-added service, a dedicated team of specialists will visit the customer resident to take the measurements. Once the Dishdasha stitching is completed, it will be delivered to those customers.

The research and development team of Al Obaidani are constantly improving and expanding the fabric range.

Al Obaidani is in collaboration with world-class fabric producers from Japan, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK to source the best quality fabric all the time.

The brand Al Obaidani exemplifies quality, reliability and innovation, and the brand aims to inspire its customers to embrace an elevation in style and personality.

Al Obaidani is a brand that has imbued the hearts of the Omani people. Ever since its inception in 1964, the brand has served as a pride hallmark among Omani Gentlemen, who consider wearing Dishdasha as a mark of personality, character and elegancy. Al Obaidani always assures its customers the trust, quality, comfort and unmatched service.

Visit the new store in Al Khoud 6th entrance now open from 9am to 10pm daily. Apart from providing regular high-quality Dishdasha, the new outlet also provides the Omani Bishoot, Mussars, Omani Traditional Stick, Pure linen shirts, wuzars and fenilas.

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- Offer is applicable only at Saud Bahwan Automotive Tyre Retail Outlets on cash/bank card sales.
- Offer is valid on select sizes.
- Prices/offers does not include tyre fitting, balancing & Alignment charges.
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