

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Times

OF OMAN

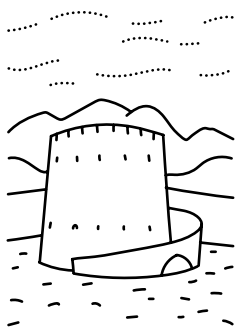


The nation rejoices

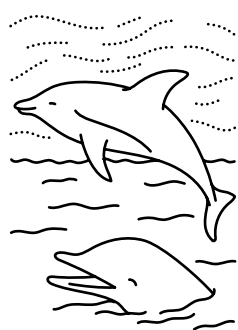
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UPGRADE YOUR WORLD

OMAN'S TREASURE

A vibrant cultural collage



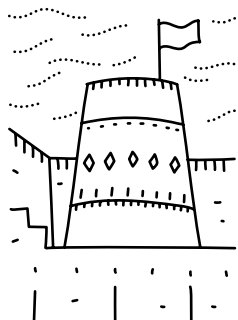
Khasab Castle
The ancient fortress in Khasab offers an expansive view of one of the world's most critical waterways, the Strait of Hormuz.



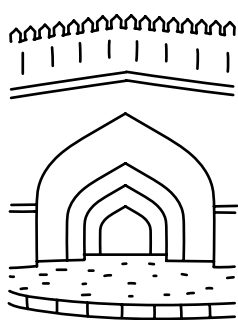
Dolphins' Watch
Oman's waters have become a sought-after destination for both nature enthusiasts and sports lovers, particularly snorkelers and divers, who seek encounters with marine life, including fish and dolphins.



Musandam Mountains
The rugged peaks and massive mountains of the Musandam Peninsula reveal a breathtaking beauty that grants visitors a fresh perspective on life.



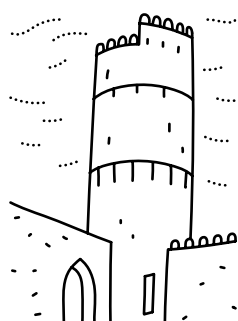
Al Buraimi's Castles
The castles situated in the heart of Buraimi city reflect a common historic pattern where castles served as the focal points of early settlements, providing protection.



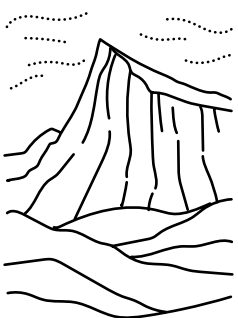
Al Buraimi Souq
Nestled on Oman's northern frontier, the souq serves as a bustling marketplace where skilled Omani traders and artisans offer a wide variety of exotic goods for sale.



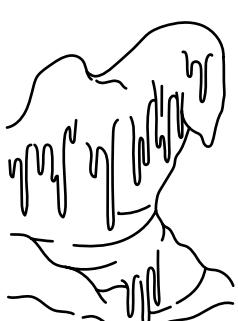
Date Palms
Ancient Omani civilisations highly valued date palms for their role as a source of food and for their leaves, which were used to thatch roofs and create mats.



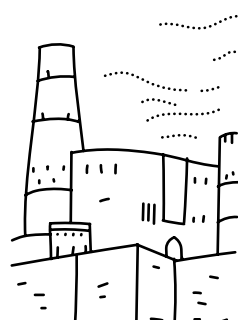
Iraqi Castle
Situated near the border with the UAE, the Iraqi castle has long served as a stronghold for the inhabitants of the region.



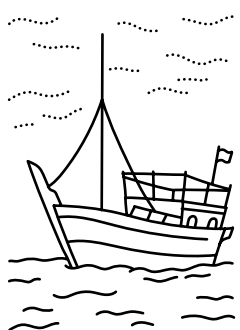
Jebel Shams
Jebel Shams, towering at 3,004 metres above sea level, boasts of the highest peak in the region, overlooking some of the Middle East's most stunning canyons, slopes, and ravines.



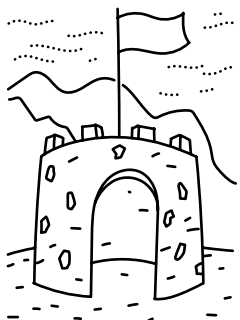
Al Hoota Cave
Discovered centuries ago, the five-kilometre-long Al Hoota Cave features its own unique ecosystem, including four lakes.



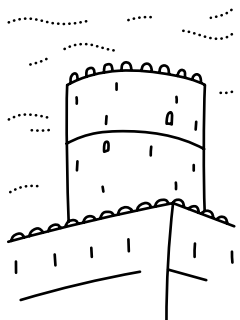
Bahla Fort
Spanning over 13 kilometres, Bahla Fort holds the distinction of being the largest of its kind in Oman and enjoys UNESCO World Heritage status.



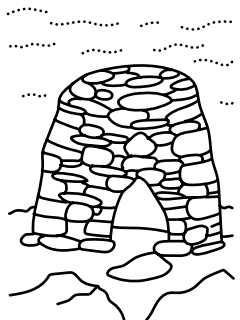
Traditional Ships
If you're presented with the opportunity to embark on a dhow, don't be surprised – these traditional ships are an integral part of Oman's rich history.



Madha
Madha, an Omani enclave situated between the UAE and Musandam, occupies a unique position halfway between the mainland and its northern bastion.



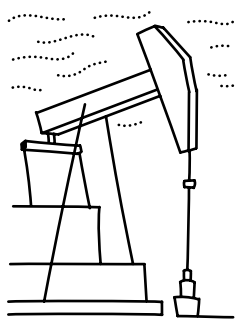
Al Sunaina Castle
Positioned between Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi, Sunainah Castle holds great significance for the local communities in both regions.



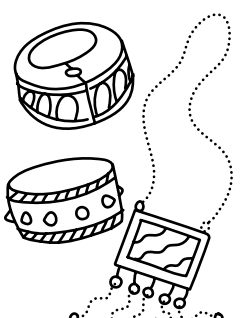
Bat Tombs
Dating back to the 3rd millennium BC, these settlements are designated as one of Oman's UNESCO heritage sites, and they once functioned as a necropolis.



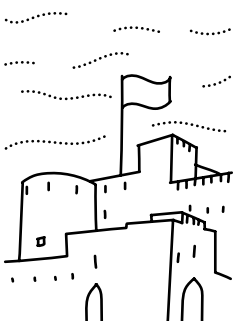
Traditional Dance
In a celebration of the Sultanate's martial history, men from diverse backgrounds assemble, adorned with swords, shields, and khanjars.



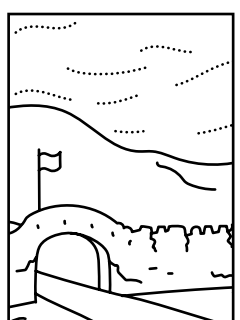
Oil Extraction Well
Serving as the lifeblood of Oman's development, oil wells are scattered across various locations in the interior regions.



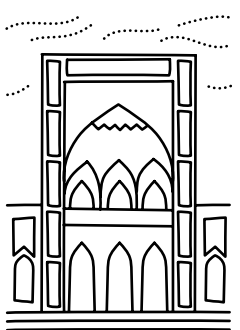
Silver craftsmanship
Oman's skilled silversmiths have a long-standing reputation for crafting exquisite works of art.



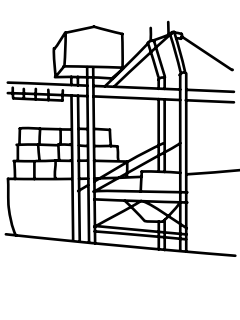
Jibreen Castle
Nestled in the picturesque oasis of Jibreen, this castle was originally built in the 17th century as a residence for Imam Bel'arab bin Sultan Al Yarubi.



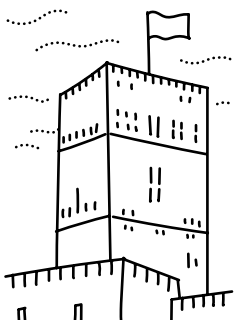
Bahla City Walls
The Bahla City Walls, included in Bahla Fort's UNESCO recognition, rank among the oldest city walls in Oman.



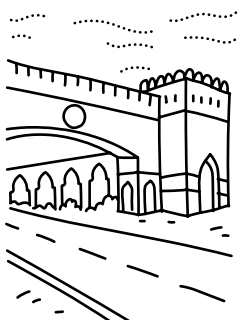
Sultan Qaboos Mosque, Sohar
The magnificent Sultan Qaboos Mosque in Sohar continues to captivate visitors with its remarkable design inspired by Central Asian influences.



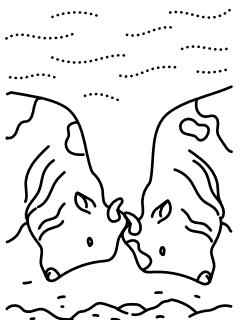
Sohar Port
Positioned as Oman's largest port, Sohar Port's strategic location at the gateway to the Gulf places it at the crossroads of global trade routes.



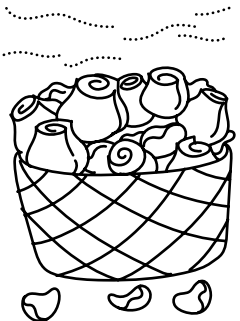
Sohar Fort
Dating back to the 13th century, the pearl-white Sohar Fort boasts of a vast citadel that safeguards the city's renowned port.



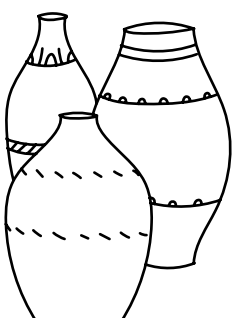
Sohar Gate
Sohar's iconic gate serves as the primary entrance to one of the region's most celebrated cities, where merchants from distant places like Canton traded their wares and legendary sailors like Sinbad and Ahmed bin Majid plied their trade.



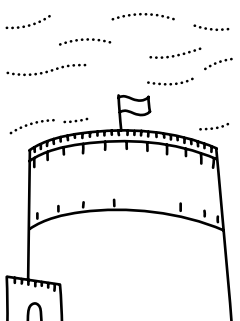
Bullfighting
For generations, the people of the Batinah region have been engaged in a distinct form of bullfighting that is without matadors, and prize money.



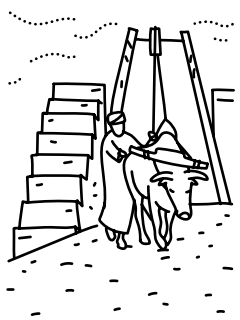
Mountain Roses of Jebel Akhdar
Farmers in Jebel Akhdar cultivate fragrant roses, which are then distilled to produce the renowned rosewater of the mountain.



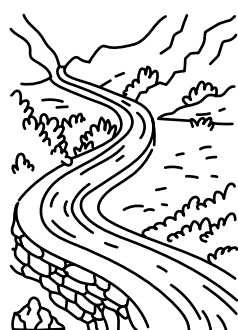
Pottery
Bahla, due to the abundance of clay in its soil, is renowned for the exceptional quality of its pottery.



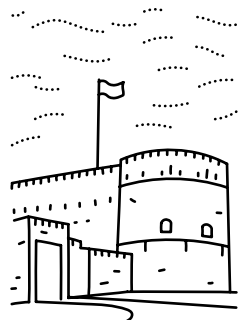
Nizwa Fort
Constructed in the 17th century, this fort is a masterpiece of traditional Omani architecture and stands as one of the most iconic landmarks in the country.



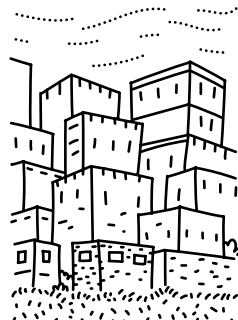
Traditional Water Wells
Traditional water wells often form part of a vast network of irrigation systems used in traditional agriculture.



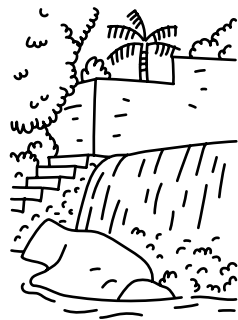
Al Aflaj
Oman's aflaj irrigation systems are supplied by mountain springs and subterranean channels, supporting farming communities for centuries.



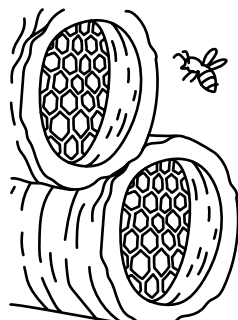
Al Hazm Castle
Al Hazm Castle, distinguished by its centuries-old gateway and renowned cannon gallery, once served as the primary residence for Oman's rulers.



Bilad Sayt
The mountain village of Bilad Sayt exemplifies the traditional Omani way of life, making it a prime example of this cultural heritage.



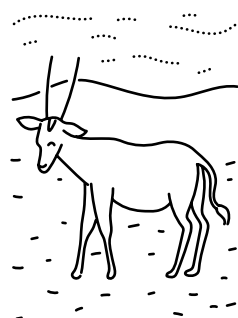
Ath Thawarah Spring
The springs that nourish Ath Thawarah flow year-round from the mountains in Wilayat of Nakhl.



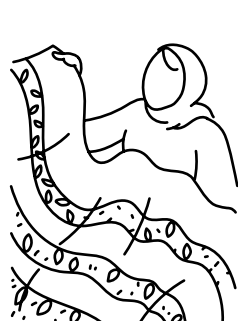
Beekeeping
Traditional beekeeping has been an integral part of Omani culture for centuries, providing farmers with a valuable organic crop.



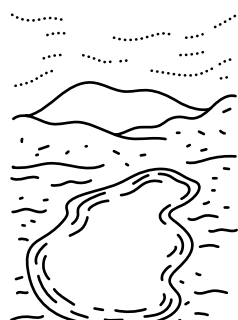
Jebel Akhdar
Rising to an impressive height of nearly 3,000 metres, Jebel Akhdar is celebrated for its Mediterranean climate and lush landscapes, attracting visitors year-round.



Al Wusta's fauna
Oman is a habitat for various rare animal species, and the government actively promotes conservation through its programmes.

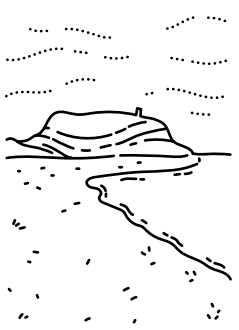


Textile craftsmanship
Oman is placing significant emphasis on the rejuvenation of its textile industry, recognising the pivotal role textiles will play in the Sultanate's future.

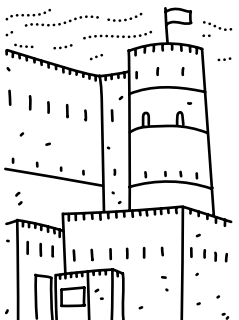


Pink lakes
The distinctive colour of the lake is attributed to the presence of an algae known as *Dunaliella*, which thrives in areas with high saltwater concentration.

The Sultanate of Oman, situated in the heart of the Arabian Peninsula, is a land of remarkable natural beauty and cultural richness. With its diverse landscapes that encompass rugged mountains, expansive deserts, and pristine coastlines along the Arabian Sea, Oman offers a wide range of breathtaking vistas for travellers to explore. Its historic forts and architectural marvels reveal the nation's rich heritage, while bustling souqs and traditional markets provide an authentic taste of Omani life and craftsmanship. Oman's unique blend of modernity and tradition, set against a backdrop of stunning natural wonders, make it a destination worth visiting for those seeking an unforgettable experience.



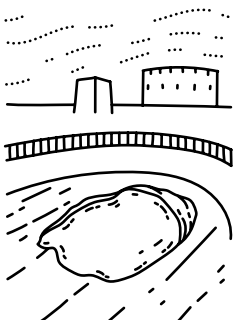
Sawadi Beach
Sawadi Beach, located a mere 70 kilometres from Muscat, is a crucial nesting ground for both indigenous and migratory birds, making it a birdwatcher's paradise.



Rustaq Fort
Rustaq Fort, an imposing and intricately designed fortress dating back to the 13th century, features four towering turrets that dominate the city's skyline.



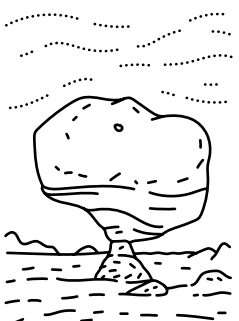
Wakan Village
Perched at an altitude of 2,000 metres above sea level, the traditional village of Wakan has gained fame for its natural beauty and hiking trails.



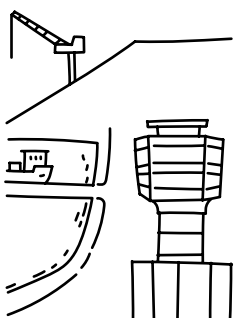
Ain Al Kasfah
The hotspot of Ain Al Kasfah is known for its sulfate-rich waters, which can reach temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius and are believed to possess therapeutic qualities.



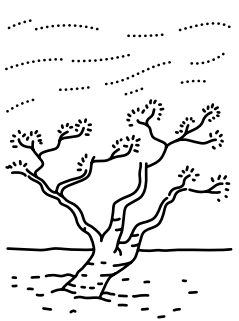
Omani Halwa
Halwa, with its sweet and succulent flavour, is an essential element of Omani hospitality, and no occasion in the Sultanate is complete without it.



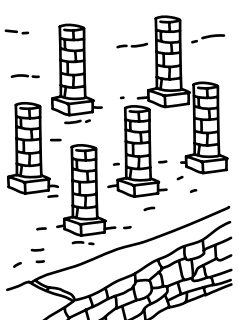
Rock Garden
Duqm's rock garden boasts of a striking natural formation that appears as though it was sculpted by the very hands of creation itself, drawing numerous visitors to its unique beauty.



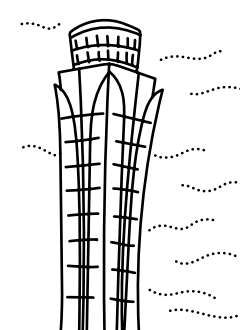
Duqm Port
The focal point of Oman's efforts to establish itself as a key regional shipping hub, Duqm Port holds the key in transforming Oman as a logistics hub.



Frankincense Tree
The finest type of frankincense, known as hajiri, is cultivated in the Dhofar region, and its resin holds immeasurable value for those who harvest it.



Al Baleed and Khor Rori
The port of Al Baleed, along with the economic town of Khor Rori, is now designated part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the category of the Land of Frankincense.



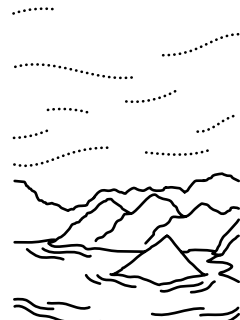
Muscat International Airport
Muscat International Airport greets more than 10 million visitors to the Sultanate annually and serves as Oman's primary aviation gateway.



Muttrah Fort
A formidable structure erected by the Portuguese in the 1580s, it dominates the Muttrah landscape.



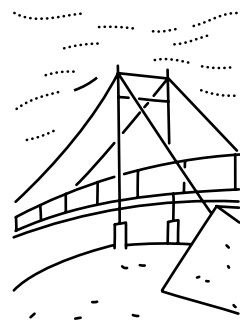
Port Sultan Qaboos
Inaugurated in 1974, this major port enjoys prominence as Muscat's primary maritime gateway due to its strategic location along the Sea of Oman.



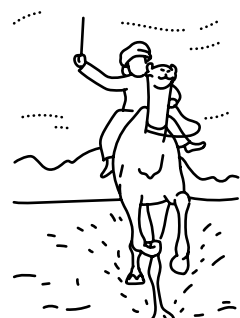
Wadi Dayqah Dam
Wadi Dayqah, Oman's largest dam, has the capacity to store up to 100 million cubic metres of water and features an impressive 8km long lake.



Wadi Bani Khalid
Wadi Bani Khalid features crystal-clear blue water amidst palm trees and is surrounded by imposing cliffs, creating a stunning natural landscape.



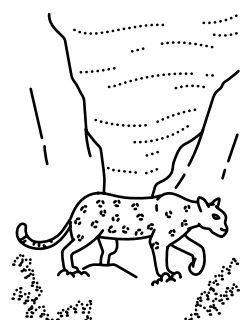
Al Aijah Bridge
Al Aijah Bridge serves as a connecting link between western Sur and the smaller eastern portion of Sur, standing as a prominent local landmark.



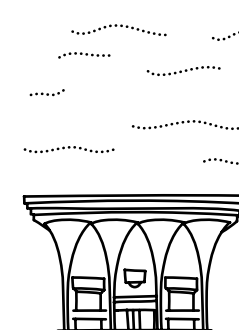
Camel Races
Camel races continue to be a vibrant community activity across all of Oman's governorates, reflecting the enduring cultural significance of these races in the country.



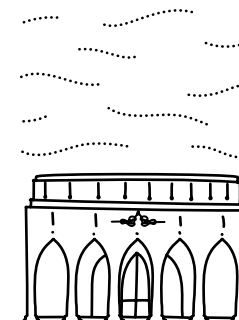
Khareef Season
The Khareef season is distinguished by misty mountains, refreshing showers, and lush green landscapes, with temperatures dropping as low as 20 degrees Celsius.



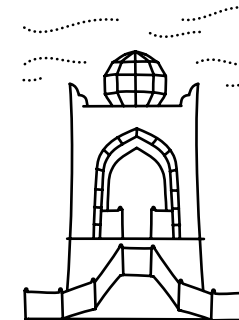
Dhofari fauna
Oman boasts of a variety of exotic animal species, including the Arabian leopard and the Nubian ibex, among others.



Al Alam Palace
Al Alam Palace is the place where Oman formally welcomes its state dignitaries.



Royal Opera House Muscat
The Royal Opera House Muscat, boasting state-of-the-art facilities, has been the epicentre of world and Oman's artists since its inauguration in 2011.



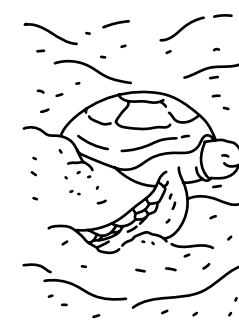
Muttrah Souq
Located just opposite the Muttrah's picturesque Corniche, this bustling marketplace is the ideal place to explore the charms of the souq.



Sinkhole
The water feature within the Bimmah Sinkhole, surrounded by a pool, has sculpted the surrounding limestone over time.



Wadi Shab
Wadi Shab is renowned for swimming, camping, and rock climbing. It features a narrow yet deep waterway, towering cliffs, and lush vegetation.



Sea turtle nesting
The Omani government, in collaboration with wildlife organisations, is actively engaged in conservation efforts aimed at preserving and increasing turtle populations in Oman.



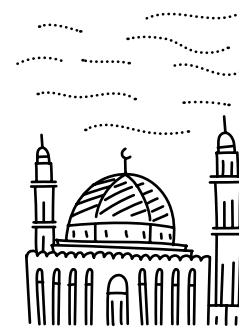
Sea birds
Oman is a sanctuary for numerous migratory bird species, with 39 different species documented, including the Eurasian woodcock, jack snipe, and black-tailed godwit.



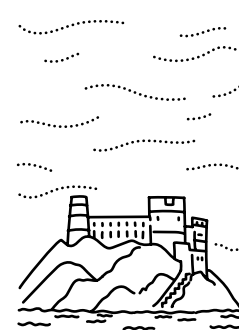
Traditional Dhofari dress
The unmistakable Dhofarithobehudail is a unique garment with a name that translates to 'father of the tail'.



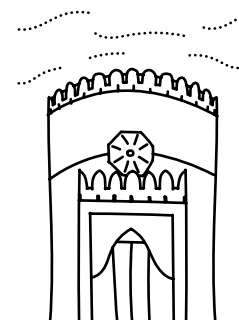
Salalah Port
Situated at the southernmost point of the Arabian Sea, Salalah Port plays a pivotal role as a crucial hub in global shipping.



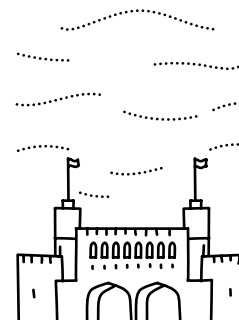
Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque
The largest mosque in the Sultanate can host a congregation of up to 20,000 worshippers.



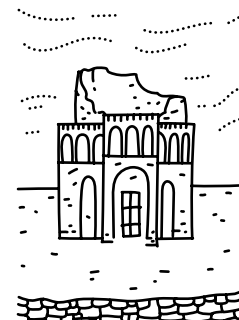
Al Jalali and Mirani Forts
Perched gracefully above Old Muscat, these 16th century forts stand as a testament to Oman's captivating history.



Bait Al Zubair
Bait Al Zubair houses one of the largest private collections of artifacts in Oman, offering visitors a glimpse into the Sultanate's rich cultural heritage.



Muscat Gate
Muscat Gate stands as the most scenic entrance to Old Muscat, the cultural nucleus of Oman's capital city.



Ancient City of Qalhat
The ancient city of Qalhat was visited by the renowned explorer Marco Polo in the 13th century, and a century later, Arab geographer Ibn Battuta also explored its historical charms.



Boat Building
Reflecting the deep-seated affection of Omanis for the sea, the boats constructed even today serve various purposes, including trade, fishing, and leisure activities.



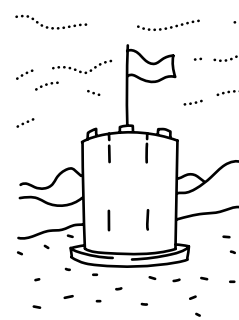
Ras Al Jinz
Ras Al Jinz in Oman is designated as a conservation zone for turtles and hosts a turtle reserve managed by the Omani government.



Ras Al Hadd
As one of the primary turtle conservation areas, Ras Al Hadd witnesses a significant influx of turtles that come to lay their eggs on its shores.



Sharqiyah Sands
Named in honour of the Bani Wahiba tribe, this place is a favourite destination for those who enjoy activities like dune bashing and camping, offering a glimpse into Oman's ancient Bedouin culture.



Habarut Triangle Tower
Overlooking the border shared by Yemen and Oman, this tower has stood witness to some of the oldest Arabian civilisations throughout the history.



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On the move...

MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC



HIS MAJESTY PRESIDES OVER 53RD NATIONAL DAY MILITARY PARADE

His Majesty was received by Sayyid Shihab on arrival at the military parade ground

ADAM: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, presided over a military parade staged at the military parade ground of Adam Air Base in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah on the occasion of the 53rd Glorious National Day on Saturday.

The event saw the participation of symbolic units representing the Royal Army of Oman

(RAO), the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), the Sultan's Special Force (SSF), the Royal Oman Police (ROP) and the Royal Court Affairs (RCA), in addition to the ground and mounted military music bands.

Upon His Majesty the Sultan's arrival at the parade ground, he

was received by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO).

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

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

The joint corps of military music bands representing the RAO, the RAFO, the RNO, the RGO, the ROP and the RCA played sundry tunes as they marched in slow and normal pace before the Royal Dais.

Then, columns of the Protocols Guard joined the parade and performed ceremonial gestures to the accompaniment of melodies from the joint corps of military music bands—performing the military salute to His Majesty, the Supreme Commander. **>A10**



53

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COMMENTARY

Oman: A Haven of Peace



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Oman has widely been portrayed as a major international peace broker in the turbulent region negotiating delicately the political imbalance between its neighbours and the super powers.

The latest one is the mending of more than a decade of hostilities when Oman, working with China, restored diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran in June this year. Also this year, Oman worked tirelessly behind the scenes to reinstate Syria back into the Arab League.

Three months before that, Oman silently negotiated a truce with its neighbours the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen towards a peaceful solution. Currently, Oman is mediating a permanent solution in Palestine by pulling in superpowers in an attempt to forge ahead with a peace truce between Israel and the explosive situation in Ghaza.

The Sultanate is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula, which is made up by Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen, which is at the junction of Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Southeast. From its northern enclave of Musandam, Oman controls part of the strategic sea of the Strait of Hormuz, where over half of the world's oil and gas supplies pass through on daily basis to international customers.

Oman's immunity in dealing



with international crises is based on its neutrality while at the same time forging an alliance with the rest of the GCC states by maintaining its foreign policies independent beyond the region with the superpowers, both in the West and the East. In an article in the *New York Times*, Oman was described as the 'cool head on the body of the Middle East' to balance out constant regional pressures.

But Oman's geo-political stand on the region and connection with the world at large goes back for many centuries. The Sultanate has been using the maritime highways to connect to the rest of the world for over 500 years, long before Vasco da Gama or Christopher Columbus were born. The dhows of Omani sailors ploughed the oceans to 'new countries,' the term veteran seaman Ahmed bin Majid Al-Saadi wrote in his maritime records, to understand the cultures of different people on the globe.

Oman was an important destination for the Silk Route in the 7th century when traders from different countries used Omani boats to sail to China. Using this lucrative route,

Omanis used their maritime skills stopping over each port of Eastern European countries to China.

Three centuries later, Omanis presence in East and Central Africa mediated many truces among the feuding tribal chiefs to reach a peaceful settlements for their people. These old records show that the mediation skills of Omanis are not new.

So is Oman's diplomatic skills.

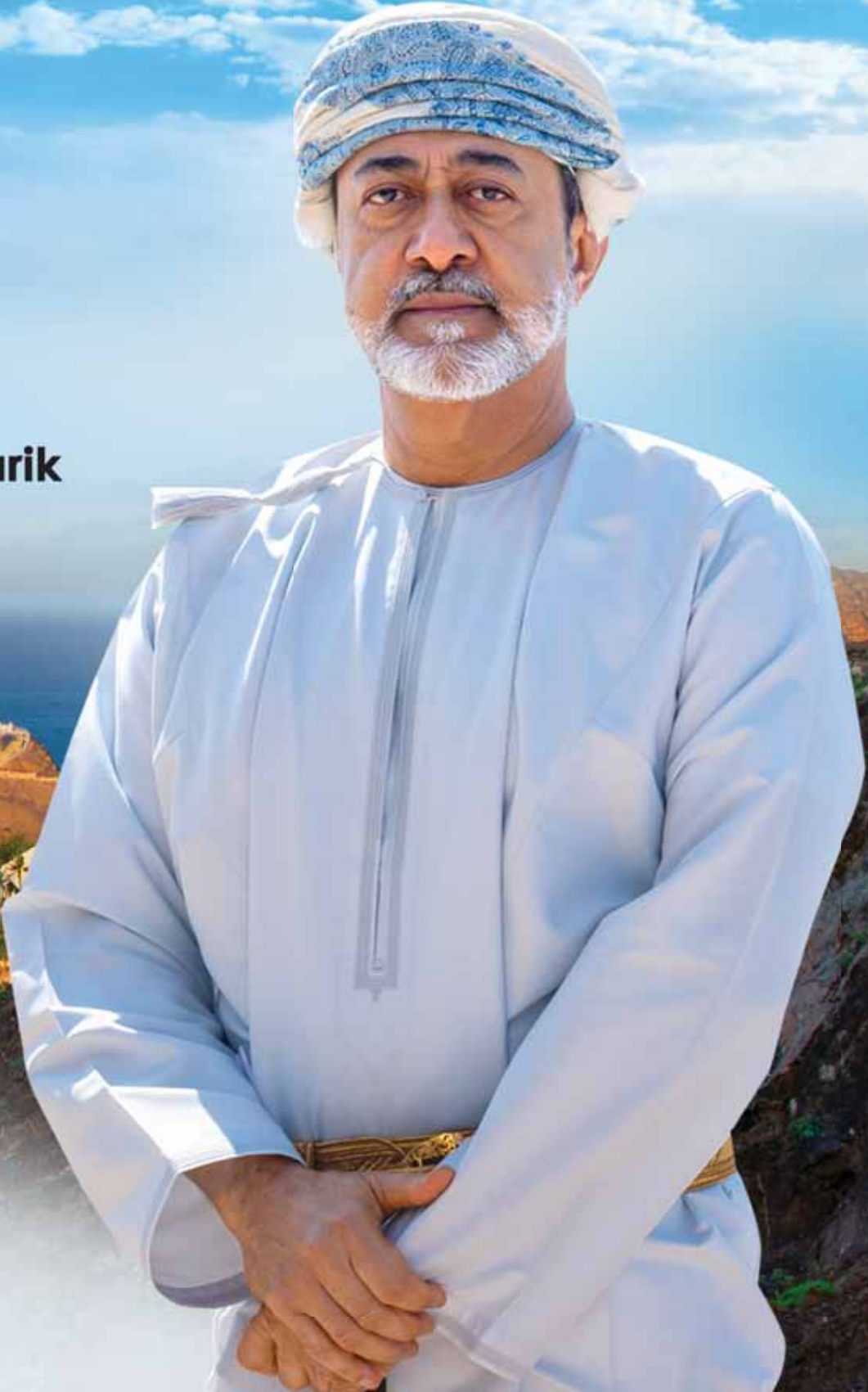
In 1840, Sayyid Said bin Sultan, the then Sultan of Oman, sent a Special Envoy Ahmad bin Naaman Al-Kaabi to the United States in a ship specially built for the occasion. On record, he was the first Envoy from the Arab world to start a diplomatic tie with the United States. To sum up Oman's international diplomatic and mediation skills, Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi was quoted by the media as saying, "Our neutrality is not passive. It's constructive, it's positive and proactive."

Adding that "we really stick to the principle of creating a sustainable environment for peace, security and stability so that our people and our generations can prosper."



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







53

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PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP) extends our warmest congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the auspicious occasion of the 53rd National Day of the Sultanate of Oman.

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and the people of Oman on the occasion of the National Day

53 — 18TH OF NOVEMBER —
NATIONAL DAY



Congratulations and warm wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 53rd National Day



CONGRATULATIONS
**TO HIS MAJESTY SULTAN
HAITHAM BIN TARIK**
and the people of the Sultanate of Oman
on the joyous occasion of the
53rd NATIONAL DAY



Heartiest congratulations to
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occasion of **53rd National Day**



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Royal family members, dignitaries attend military parade in Adam



<FROM A1 His Majesty the Sultan watched a musical show staged by mounted bands representing the RGO cavalry and the Royal Cavalry at the RCA. They passed before the Royal Dais, performing the military salute to His Majesty the Sultan.

Later, the columns of the parade performed an ensemble of cheers that proclaimed "Faith in Allah, Loyalty to the Sultan, Sacrifice for the Nation". They chanted thrice "Long Live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the Supreme Commander".

Then, the joint corps of military music bands played the Royal Anthem, while the columns of the parade performed the military salute marking the conclusion of the military show.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan left the parade grounds.

The military parade was attended alongside His Majesty the Sultan by Royal family members, ministers, advisers, chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), commanders of military and security units, heads of the diplomatic missions of the Arab and foreign countries accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, members of the State Council and Shura Council, undersecretaries, governors, ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry, retired military commanders, judges, members of the Public Prosecution Department, walis, sheikhs and dignitaries.

It was also attended by the military attaches of the Arab and foreign embassies in the Sultanate of Oman, senior military officers, senior state officials, senior retired officers, commissioned and non-commissioned officers at SAF and other military and security units. **-OHA**







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Tender No. : 2023-ENG-SOW-0088

Tender Title : Flow meters for the compressors air discharge lines

Scope : As part of compressors performance monitoring requirements and for compressors efficiency improvement, SA requires specialised flow meters at the outgoing pipes to measure the flow and provide long term trends.

Tender No. : 2023-ENG-SOW-0077

Tender Title : Smelter stacks CEMS

Scope : SA requires online CEMS for FTC and 2 GTC stacks which will provide live data for both internal and external stakeholders. The system is required for monitoring 24*7 CO/SO2/NOx by installing CEMS on all 3 stacks.

Last Date for Applying Tender Documents
30 November 2023

Date of Issuing Tender Documents
2 December 2023

Last Date for Tender Submission
20 December 2023

Detailed scope of work will be shared with the vendors expressing their interest to participate in this tender.

Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com
For list of active tenders visit: <https://www.sohar-aluminium.com/en/content/tender-listing>



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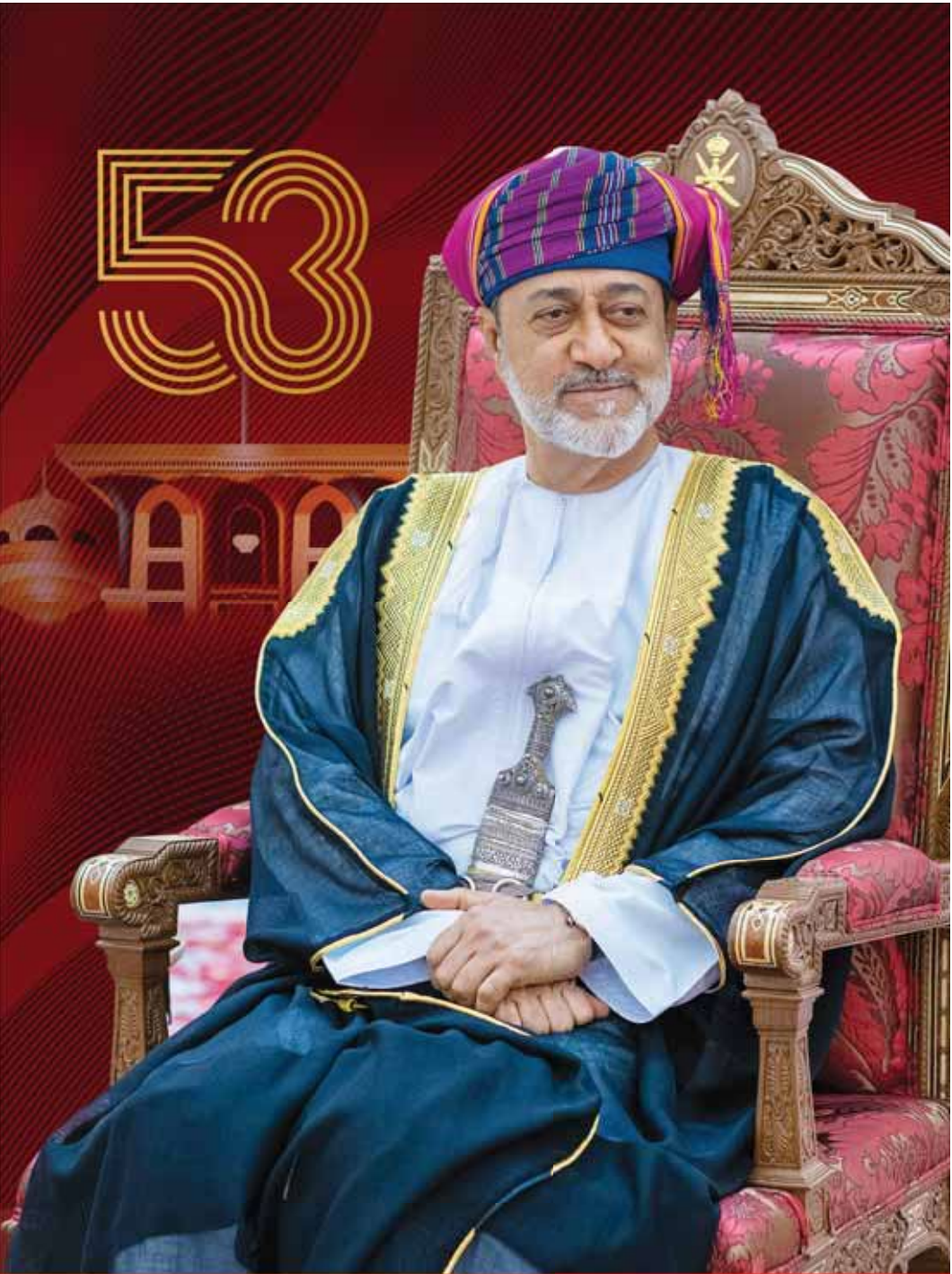
Oman’s economy on recovery path: IMF

MUSCAT: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that the Omani economy will continue making headways on the recovery path, after achieving a growth rate of 4.3% in 2022, driven mainly by a rise in oil prices and the growth of oil and non-oil activities. This was unveiled in a statement marking the conclusion of IMF experts’ mission in the Sultanate of Oman. The IMF visit was in pursuance of an annual programme of periodic consultations, based on Article IV of the IMF’s Articles of Agreement. The Fund’s mission experts praised the positive outcome of the economic and financial performance of the Sultanate of Oman, notably the intactness of the banking sector, and the progress made in the external account and efforts made to contain inflation. Experts highlighted the acceleration in the pace of growth of non-oil activities in Oman from 1.2% in 2022 to 2.7% in the first half of 2023, thanks to the recovery of agricultural, forestry, fishing and construction activity and improved performance of service activities. -ONA



Congratulations and warm wishes to
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INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

HM the Sultan receives greetings cables on 53rd National Day

MUSCAT: With the advent of the 53rd Glorious National Day and celebrating the milestone achievements that have covered all parts of our dear Oman under the inspiring leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Majesty has received cables of greetings on this national occasion from the kings and leaders of Arab, Islamic and

foreign countries, crown princes and senior officials.

In their cables, the well-wishers commended the wise approach outlined by His Majesty the Sultan in leading his country towards ranks of advancement among countries.

They congratulated His Majesty for the accomplishments made at all levels in Oman.

Progress and prosperity

They also prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow overwhelming welfare on Oman and progress and prosperity to the Omani people. They prayed to the Almighty for the return of this and similar occasions on His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people for many years to come.

His Majesty the Sultan has

also received cables of greetings on this glorious anniversary from members of the Royal Family, ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), the Royal Oman Police (ROP) and other security units, members of the State Council and the Shura Council, undersecretaries, Omani ambassadors, sheikhs, dignitaries and citizens. -ONA

CABLE

HM the Sultan sends greetings to Prince Albert II

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulation to Prince Albert II of Monaco on his country's National Day.

In his cable, His Majesty the

Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to Prince Albert II and to his country's people further progress and prosperity.

-ONA

STEADY GROWTH

Bahrain envoy affirms strong ties with Oman

MUSCAT: Juma Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Sultanate of Oman, commended Omani-Bahraini relations, describing them as strong, durable and deep-rooted in history.

Al Kaabi pointed out that relations between Oman and Bahrain are undergoing steady growth. He hoped that the forthcoming stage will witness further rapprochement that would culminate in full integration between the two countries.

Al Kaabi said in a press statement that Oman's celebration of the 53rd National Day is reminiscent of a brilliant mark in history that enriches the life of every Omani man and woman, besides renewing the pledge of loyalty to the wise leadership of the country.

Al Kaabi stressed that Oman Vision 2040 ushered in a host of great accomplishments unveiled day after day, thanks to elaborate planning.

Al Kaabi congratulated His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Omani people on this glorious occasion.

In his statement, Al Kaabi laid



Juma Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain. -ONA

emphasis on Oman's engagement in green hydrogen investments worth more than \$30 billion. He noted that, through this approach, Oman seeks to be one of the largest producers of green hydrogen in the world by 2030.

He pointed out that Oman is steadfast in its efforts to achieve zero neutrality by 2050 through a declared national plan based on clean energy projects and green hydrogen projects, in addition to steady the expansion of green spaces and the conservation of natural reserves. -ONA

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

'Renewed renaissance is full of achievements'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In appreciation of the national achievements and gains in the Sultanate of Oman in various fields, and on the occasion of the glorious fifty-third National Day, Sheikh Ghuson bin Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of State Audit Institution, expressed sincere greeting and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, to return this national occasion on His Majesty with good health, and to the Sultanate of Oman and the loyal Omani people with goodness, prosperity, and continued progress.

In his statement, he emphasised that the comprehensive development process since the beginning of the blessed renaissance and renewed renaissance is full of achievements that showcases the royal will of the wise leadership, in addition to institutional work and community solidarity towards building Omani monuments in all fields.

He indicated that various sectors have received attention and care to achieve national objectives, for which society is the tool and the goal.



Sheikh Ghuson bin Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of State Audit Institution.

He stated that celebrating the glorious anniversary of the National Day represents an appreciation of gains, stressing the shared responsibility at the institutional and societal levels.

He stated that the process of auditing has witnessed significant progress and confirmed the keenness of State Audit Institution in performing its national role by harnessing all its resources and directing its expertise to achieve its objectives, implement its responsibilities, in line with with Oman Vision 2040.

EUROPE

Tourism promotion workshops continue



Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the participation of 22 tourism companies and hotel establishments, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism continues to organise mobile promotional workshops in Italy and Germany, to promote heritage and tourism components of the Sultanate of Oman.

The first promotional workshops were launched in the Italian city of Milan, then in Rome, after that in Berlin and finally in Munich in Germany.

The programme of promotional workshops includes presenting a visual presentation of the latest developments in the tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman, holding bilateral meetings and joint meetings, and working with representatives of the participating Omani tourism institutions and establishments and their counterparts from the Italian and German tourism sectors.

Meetings were held between the Omani delegation and a number of officials in the tourism sector in the Republic of Italy and 270 tourism institutions participated in the workshops.

The workshops shed light on tourism experiences in the Sultanate of Oman to promote heritage, natural and adventure tourism, and introduce the components and capabilities of the tourism sector in the European market.

These workshops are an opportunity to introduce the tourism components, products, services and experiences that Oman abounds with. This contributes to tourism promotion and increasing the flow of more tourists from exporting markets.

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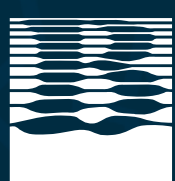
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Immortality 100
overs away as Rohit
Sharma's men take
on battle-hardened
Pat Cummins' side at
the 130,000-capacity
stadium in
Ahmedabad today

AHMEDABAD: Hosts India and Australia have faced off in some of the most thrilling contests in recent times and a new chapter to their glorious rivalry will be added when they battle the 50-over cricket's ultimate glory in Sunday's ICC Men's World Cup final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The match begins at 12.30pm, Oman time.

The familiar foes will conclude their campaign like they started it, against each other, and none of the 130,000-odd seats at the stadium will be empty. Favourites India comprehensively beat No.2-ranked Australia in their tournament opener and then strung together 10 wins in a row to storm into the final of their home World Cup with an unblemished record.

Australia, by contrast, began with two defeats before going on an eight-match winning streak.

Over the last few weeks, this World Cup had become a furious whirl of irresistible narratives.

There was Virat Kohli's tenacious run to 50 ODI hundreds, Glenn Maxwell's fastest World Cup hundred, then that manic 201* against Afghanistan, a timed-out dismissal sparking major controversy, New Zealand pushing the big teams close but not quite making it, Pakistan's exit setting off major reshuffles at home, Sri Lanka nose diving into a deep administrative and cricketing ravine, Bangladesh engaging in some soul-

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Mohammed Shami: He has played six matches in this tournament, having only come into the team post Hardik Pandya's exit. He's since taken a tournament-high 23 wickets at 9.13, with an economy rate of 5.01. Three times he's taken five wickets, and once he's taken four. There are excellent reasons to put Jasprit Bumrah's name down on the team sheet first, but

in terms of wicket-seekers, there has been no bowler better than Shami, constantly coming at the stumps, often muddling batters' brains to such an extent that they are forced to play wild shots. He is also part of the reason why India - who very arguably have the best pace attack of the competition (that they have the best overall attack is more widely accepted) - can prosper on any kind of deck, even the low, slow ones. The Ahmedabad pitch for this game is a used deck. You have to expect Shami wickets.

Pat Cummins: He has the chance to join the Australian pantheon of World-Cup-winning captains, something he will obviously savour. But for the neutral cricket lover, there is a more exclusive, and perhaps more impressive list: fast-bowling World-Cup-winning captains, of whom there are only two - Imran Khan and Kapil Dev.

Cummins has had a decent tournament, but perhaps not for the reasons you'd expect. He's av-

eraged 37 with the ball, with an economy rate of 6.05. His more memorable contributions have been with the bat. He batted out 68 balls against Afghanistan so Maxwell could play that innings, and on Thursday, his 14 not out against South Africa was an important contribution in a string of important contributions that saw Australia through to the final. When he has taken wickets, though, they have tended to be important ones - the dismissal of centurion David Miller in that semi-final a case in point.

If there is a criticism to be made here, perhaps it's that he's occasionally been too rigid with his captaincy. Why not bowl out Josh Hazlewood when he's had such spectacular first and second spells, against South Africa, for example? Why give Mitchell Starc the vital last over against New Zealand, when Starc had struggled in that game? And yet also, he has also embodied the resilience his team has shown since going 2-0 down early.

If there is one team that might not be daunted by more than 100,000 fans in the biggest stadium the sport has, however, it is Australia.

Perhaps being battle-tested counts for something too. If the game gets close, Australia have had more recent experience in such situations, and have a long-term history in keeping themselves sharp and collected.

For all the data that has now swept cricket, this is still a game played by human beings ruled at times by emotion. - Agencies

course of the campaign, and the other - Shubman Gill - still averages 50 and has struck at 108.02. They have also fed off, rather than been overwhelmed by, their roaring home crowds, Kohli directing entire stadiums like an orchestra conductor.

In fact, watching India in their grand stadiums in this World Cup has at times felt like a grand, synchronous performance - every instrument in tune, every voice in perfect pitch, all the broader forces acting on the match advancing the march towards India's glory.

PITCH CONDITION

This is the same track that was used for the India-Pakistan match in the second week of the World Cup, but that doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to be a low-scoring match. Cummins has said he doesn't have any issues with it and there is an extended story on the surface here. There may be some dew to contend with, however.

It's for us to win the title
for Indian legend: Rohit

AHMEDABAD: India captain Rohit Sharma is battle-ready for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Final and wants to win the silverware in honour of an Indian legend.

During the press conference on the eve of the final, Rohit pin-pointed the understated role of Rahul Dravid in India's run as well as his own batting, while emphasising the team's determination to win the trophy in honour of the Indian legend.

"His [Dravid's] role has been absolutely massive in terms of getting that clarity which I keep talking about," Rohit said. "It's one thing for me to think about and another thing for the coach to not agree to certain things."

"Clearly, looking at how Rahul bhai himself has played his cricket and how I play these days is quite contrasting. For him to agree and give me that freedom and liberty to go and play like that says a lot about him."

Under the leadership of Rohit and Dravid, India managed to make it to the semi-final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 but fell short against England.

The Indian captain glow-



ingly spoke about how the coach has helped the team bounce back thereafter in the months leading to the 2023 World Cup.

"Also the way he has stood by the players in difficult times, especially during and after the T20 World Cup," Rohit added.

"We had a good run up until the semi-finals and then we lost. And how he reacted to certain situations and informed the players about how we want to play says a lot about him as well."

"And obviously what he has done for Indian cricket is massive. He too feels that he wants to be a part of this big occasion. It's for us to do it for him." - cricketworldcup.com

LIKELY TEAMS

India: 1 Rohit Sharma (capt), 2 Shubman Gill, 3 Virat Kohli, 4 Shreyas Iyer, 5 KL Rahul (wk), 6 Suryakumar Yadav, 7 Ravindra Jadeja, 8 Mohammed Shami, 9 Jasprit Bumrah, 10 Kuldeep Yadav, 11 Mohammed Siraj.

Australia: 1 David Warner, 2 Travis Head, 3 Mitchell Marsh, 4 Steven Smith, 5 Marnus Labuschagne, 6 Glenn Maxwell, 7 Josh Inglis (wk), 8 Mitchell Starc, 9 Pat Cummins (capt), 10 Adam Zampa, 11 Josh Hazlewood.

STATS & TRIVIA

Six of the likely players across the two teams have played in a World Cup final before (Kohli, Warner, Smith, Maxwell, Starc, Hazlewood).

Jasprit Bumrah is ranked joint fifth in terms of wicket-takers this World Cup, with 18 dismissals. But his economy rate is a splendid 3.98.

Mitchell Starc is third on the all-time World Cup wicket-takers' list, with 62. He need six more to match Muttiah Muralitharan, the second-highest wicket taker behind Glenn McGrath.

Mohammed Shami is already India's most-successful World Cup wicket taker, and will surpass two ODI greats if he takes three wickets. Shami is currently on 54 dismissals, Wasim Akram (fifth on the overall list) had 55, and Lasith Malinga finished on 56.

PAT CUMMINS SPEAKS

'Aim to silence one-sided home crowd'



AHMEDABAD: When Yuvraj Singh walloped Brett Lee through the covers to hit the winning runs in the 2011 World Cup quarter-final in Ahmedabad, it brought an end to an era of domination that had spanned nearly 12 years and delivered three back-to-back World Cup wins.

Now, 12 years later, Australia return to Ahmedabad to try and cement a legacy of a different kind.

They have been T20 World Cup champions, in 2021, and became Test world champions this year, during which they have also won a Test match in India and retained the Ashes in England.

And now, they are on the cusp of an unprecedented sixth World Cup title - no one else has

won more than two.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins is thrilled to be in a position to achieve "something special".

On Sunday, there are likely to be well over 100,000 fans in, mostly in India's blue.

It can be an intimidating prospect at the best of times. Is this Australia team equipped mentally to be immune to a partisan crowd of this size?

"I mean, potentially. We play over here in India a lot, so the noise is not something new," Cummins said.

"Yeah, I think, on this scale it's probably bigger than we would have experienced before, but it's not something totally foreign to what we've had before. Everyone deals with it slightly differently.

You see Davey [Warner] probably dancing and winning the crowd over [and] other guys just staying in their own bubble - yeah, it should be good.

"I think you've got to embrace it. The crowd's obviously going to be very one-sided but, in sport there's nothing more satisfying than hearing a big crowd go silent and that's the aim for us tomorrow."

"Yeah, you've just got to embrace every part of it, every part of a final - even in the lead-up, there's going to be noise and more people and interest, and you just can't get overwhelmed."

"You've got to be up for it, you've got to love it, and just know what-ever happens its fine, but you just want to finish the day with no regrets." - Agencies



The Board, Management and Staff of the
STS Group of companies extend their warmest Felicitations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and the people and government of Oman on the glorious occasion of the
53rd National Day of the Renaissance



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Exceeding
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personnel



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Oman
(Nizwa & Sohar)
covering an area of
125,000
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53rd National Day

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His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

- May Allah protect, preserve, and bless him -
and the people of Oman on the glorious occasion
of Oman's 53rd National Day.



مؤسسة الزبير
The Zubair Corporation

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE

53

OMAN

NATIONAL DAY

MSX CLOSES WEEKLY TRADING

The Omani stock market's Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 index closed the week with a positive performance, gaining 1.77 percent. This marked the second consecutive week of increases for the index, partially correcting the sell-off experienced during the second half of October.

Investment in Oman's industrial cities, SEZs exceeds OMR16.6bn

The investment was distributed among the zones managed by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total investment in Oman's special economic zones and industrial cities had surpassed OMR16.6 billion by June 2023.

The investment was distributed among the zones managed by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz). Out of the total investment, the existing industrial cities received OMR7.3 billion, while Salalah Free Zone received OMR4.5 billion. The special economic zone at Duqm received over OMR3.8 billion and Sohar Freezone received OMR570 million. Additionally, the Al Mazunah Free Zone received over OMR139 million in investment. The total cumulative investment committed until the last quarter in Khazaen Economic City amounted to OMR323 million.

Sezad

From January to the end of June this year, Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) received an investment of OMR185 million the total cumulative investment is



more than OMR3.8 billion. During this period, 16 investment agreements were signed and 111 investment applications were received. Additionally, 80 applications for commercial activities were registered and 420 public service licenses were issued.

Sezad also approved 22 building permits and 34 environmental permits and licenses.

Sohar Freezone

The investments in the Sohar Free Zone from the beginning of the year until the end of June amounted to OMR94 million, bringing the total cumulative investment to OMR570 million. During this period, Sohar Freezone signed four investment agreements and received 179 investment applications and 31 commercial activity applications. Additionally, Sohar Freezone issued 284 licenses for public services and approved nine building permits, along with 90 environmental permits.

Sohar Freezone has a total area of 45 square kilometres and boasts an integrated infrastructure, sup-

ported by a large and vital port. It is home to diverse projects that span various sectors, including minerals, petrochemicals, and food industries. One of Sohar Freezone's competitive advantages is that it offers warehouses and prefabricated offices for rent to companies.

Salalah Free Zone (SFZ)

Investments worth OMR727 million were made in SFZ from January to the end of June 2023, taking the total cumulative investment to OMR4.5 billion. During this period, SFZ received 127 investment applications and 18 commercial activities applications. SFZ signed 6 agreements, issued 173 public service licenses, approved 3 building permits, and granted 41 environmental permits and licenses. Additionally, SFZ issued 1512 business and investor licenses.

SFZ Administration is committed to delivering solutions to business owners and multinational companies who are looking to expand their business networks in the Middle East, Africa, Southern Europe, and South Asia. SFZ

offers comprehensive assistance in meeting all requirements for establishing and managing the business, including visa procurement for employees, government permit issuance, and office facility services.

Al Mazunah Free Zone

The total investments in Al Mazunah Free Zone (MFZ) during the period from the beginning of the year to the end of June amounted to OMR1.3 million. This brought the total cumulative investment to OMR139 million. Furthermore, MFZ registered 25 investment applications and issued 19 business licenses, as well as 50 business and investor licenses. The number of workers in the zone surpassed 300.

It's important to note that the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn" manages the operation of MFZ. MFS acts as the Gulf gateway for transit trade to Yemen. The establishment of MFZ has strengthened the relationship between the two countries and has helped revive economic activity on both sides of the border.

Madayn

During the period from January to the end of June this year the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) recorded investments exceeding OMR 7.6 million distributed among various industrial cities in the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, bringing the total cumulative investment to OMR7.3 billion. Since the beginning of the year, Madayn has received 122 new investment applications, while it has registered 80 applications in various commercial activities and issued 843 licenses to practice activities.

Madayn is currently working on building two industrial cities in Oman. The first city is located in Al Wadi Al Kabir and spans an area of 2.15 million square metres. The second city is Mahas Industrial City, located in the Wilayat of Khasab, and covers an area of 1.5 million square metres. Currently, Mahas Industrial City houses 10 diverse industrial projects, including cement products, bricks, ready-mix concrete, quarries, and electricity production.

Madayn also manages and operates industrial cities that cover a total area of 122 square kilometres, distributed across several governorates, such as Sur, Sohar, Raysut, Nizwa, Buraimi, Rusayl, Samail, Ibri, Mudhaibi, Mahas, Al Wadi Al Kabir, Muscat Knowledge Oasis and MFZ.

Khazaen Economic City

Since its establishment, Khazaen Economic City (KEC) has signed over 110 investment agreements. The signed agreements commit more than 323 million Omani riyals in various sectors. The most prominent investment was the \$50 million logistics project signed with the Qatari Group. Additionally, KEC also signed an investment

agreement with Al-Raya Investment Company to establish a factory specialised in the production and packaging of mineral water. The investment value is estimated to be OMR1 million.

Khazaen celebrated laying the foundation stone for the second phase of the Opal Biopharma factory in the Pharmaceutical City. It is the first Omani factory specialising in the production of vital medicines and vaccines and has an investment value of OMR60 million. KEC has also been involved in several other investment projects.

The Economic Zone at Al Dhahirah (EZAD)

Opaz has recently announced a tender for Omani and Saudi companies to bid through the electronic tender system (ESNAD) for consulting services related to the design and supervision of infrastructure facilities. The infrastructure facilities will be implemented in preparation for the commencement of construction work for the establishment of EZAD.

Business development

Opaz has completed its efforts towards developing and governing business in the zones it oversees. During the first half of 2023, it focused on several initiatives aimed at improving and developing services provided to investors by implementing measures such as reducing fees for small and medium enterprises by 50%, setting fees for more than 80 services, and re-engineering import and export procedures. The Authority also made significant efforts to ensure the satisfaction of its beneficiaries in the zones it oversees, with a satisfaction rate of 86% among beneficiaries of the Authority's services until the end of June 2023.

53

OMAN

NATIONAL DAY

بنقدم بثقة

Moving Forward

with Confidence

رؤية عمان

2040

Celebrating the pathway of renewed renaissance

Congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the 53rd National Day. As the nation celebrates this momentous occasion, Khimji Ramdas Group and its Social Foundation, Eshraqa extend their heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty's visionary leadership that has allowed us to evolve and advance on our commitment towards a sustainable nation aligned with Oman's Vision 2040.

We salute our nation's zeal and determination to reach extraordinary heights of success and to leave an everlasting imprint on the world.

KR

كيمجي رامداس

KHIMJI RAMDAS





C. Steinweg Oman LLC

C. Steinweg Oman LLC congratulates
- His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik -
and the people of Oman and its residents
on the celebration of the 53rd National Day



C. Steinweg Oman LLC (CSO), located in the port of Sohar, just outside the Strait of Hormuz in the Sea of Oman, offers logistic services like stevedoring, warehousing, CFS and forwarding. These services are provided for a variety of cargoes: general cargo, project cargo, RoRo cargoes, break bulk and dry bulk.



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Heartiest congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 53rd National Day





OMANI STOCK MARKET

MSX closes weekly trading with positive performance



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market's Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) 30 index closed the week with a positive performance, gaining 1.77 percent.

“This marked the second consecutive week of increases for the index, partially correcting the sell-off experienced during the second half of October,” according to an analyst.

Recent improvement

“Despite this recent improvement, the outlook remains uncertain while the market could be exposed to price corrections if traders move to secure their gains in particular

after this week's strong gains,” said George Pavel, General Manager at Capex.com Middle East, said.

Monetary policy

However, changing expectations regarding monetary policy in the US could help improve sentiment. The Federal Reserve could lean toward a softer stance after US inflation data came up lower than expected, he added.

“As a result, interest rate cuts could be closer than previously thought and could help reduce pressure on the economy in Oman and boost the appetite for risks among local and international investors,” George Pavel said At

the same time, some uncertainty could remain as new data is released ahead of the December policy meeting.

Oil markets could also remain a source of risks for the Omani stock market. Crude prices have been declining since the end of September and are not showing signs of a slowdown. “Concerns about global demand could continue to weigh on energy prices while geopolitical risks in the Middle East, which initially created concerns about supply, remain contained,” he added.

Key sectors

The market's three key sectors recorded mixed performances.

The financial sector led gains in the market with a 1.56 percent increase, extending profits for a second week in a row, and was spearheaded by Bank Muscat. The latter gained 7.51 percent along with Ominvest with 7.50 percent. Banks like Bank Dhofar and Sohar International Bank recorded losses while Al Madina Investment Holding saw the best performance on the market this week.

The services sector rebounded after four successive weeks of losses and climbed by 0.61 percent. The sector recorded a strong performance from Oman Education & Training Investments which gained 26.48 percent, followed

by Renaissance Services which jumped 7.22 percent. Oman Telecom, which saw improving revenue and profits in the third quarter of this year, recorded gains along with OQ and Abraj helping drive the sector to the upside.

Conversely, the industrial sector experienced a decline of 0.65 percent and continued its multi-week slide. Compared to the previous week, trading volume increased more than 836 percent. Trading in Bank Muscat shares dominated the market and accounted for more than 91 percent of the value traded and more than 87 percent of the volume traded on the Omani stock market this week

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



OCCI establishes Foreign Investors Committee

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) has established a Foreign Investors Committee under the chairmanship of Abdul Latheef, OCCI board member.

Other members nominated to the committee for the period 2023 to 2026 are Davis Kallukaran, Ahmed Rayees, Dr Thomas Alexander, Sheikh Julanda Al Hashmi, Ahmad Subhani, Naji Salim Al Harthy, Alwyn and Giovanni Piazzolla. Shurooq Hamed Al Farsi is the coordinator for the committee.

The committee formally met under the chairmanship of Abdul Latheef at the Chamber, in the presence of the legal advisor Ali Al Khasbi.

Shurooq Hamed Al Farsi made the presentation on the sectorial committee's structure, mandates, mechanism of functioning and the articles of association of the committee.

Davis Kallukaran was unanimously nominated to be the vice chairman of the committee. Kallukaran is also one of the founders directors of Indo Gulf Middle East Chamber of Commerce (INMECC) incorporated in India and having chapters across the states of India and the Middle Eastern countries including Oman.

The committee has been established with the following mandates:

Identifying obstacles and issues facing the private sector and trying to find solutions

Preparing statistical reports to follow up on the recommendations

Holding meetings with state officials and directly discussing the concerns and aspirations of the private sector.

Conformity with the proposed targets and Oman Vision 2040

Study and review developments related to economic affairs

Participation in seminars, conferences and workshops

Working according to plans and programmes that are consistent with the strategic objectives of the chamber

Submitting recommendations to the concerned authorities supported by the necessary information and statistics

Highlighting the role of the sector in the media and introducing it and its importance

Integration between sectoral committees in the main centre and branches in the governorates.

Apart from the above, the committee will be engaged in managing internal and external delegations, holding specialised workshops, holding joint meetings with chamber branches, representing OCCI in meetings outside, representing the chamber in conferences and events, holding conferences and seminars, participation in meetings held in OCCI, hosting officials, establishing emergency work teams and conduct studies in coordination with the Chamber.

A detailed report on the activity of the committee will be submitted quarterly, semi-annually and annually to the office of the chairman of the Chamber.



OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (S.A.O.G)
Chairman's Report and Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of 30th September 2023 (Unaudited)

Respected Shareholders,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of the results of the operations for the 9-month period which ended on 30th September 2023.

Operating performance:

REVENUE:

Group Revenue for the period which ended on September 2023 has reached RO 2,192.5 million compared to RO 1,981.5 million for the corresponding period in 2022, an increase of 10.6 %. The Group revenue include the acquired business of Zain Group, which contributed revenues of RO 1,750.1 million.

EXPENSES:

Group's total Operating expenses (including depreciation) increased to RO 1820 million compared to RO 1655.7 Mn for the corresponding period 2022, an increase of 9.9 %.

NET PROFIT:

The Group Net Profit after tax has grown by 28.7 % touching RO 251 million compared to RO 195.1 million in 2022. After adjusting for minority interest, the net profit for the period is RO 56.1 million compared to RO 49.8 million in 2022, an increase of 12.7 %.

Group Earning per Share (EPS) for the period ended September 2023 is RO 0.075 compared to RO 0.066 for the corresponding period of year 2022.

Omantel Domestic operations (Domestic performance)

Revenues reached RO 458.1 million compared to RO 423.4 million for the corresponding period in 2022. Revenue growth is mainly coming from wholesale transit voice revenue which increased by RO 17 million and device revenue which increased by RO 10.9 million. Growth in retail revenue is contributed by Mobile Postpaid revenue which increased by 11.4 % and Fixed Broadband revenues which increased by 4.4 %.

Net Profit for the nine months which ended in September 2023 stands at RO 54.7 million compared to RO 54.9 million in the previous period. In spite of the aggressive competition in both Mobile and Fixed segments, net profit is maintained at similar levels compared to last year on account of sustainable revenue growth in Postpaid Mobile revenue, fixed broadband revenue, reduction in finance cost and tax expense.

SUBSCRIBER BASE

The total domestic subscriber base as of September 2023 (including mobile and fixed businesses) was 3.363 million (excluding Mobile Resellers) compared to 3.207 million in the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of 4.9 % over the last year. Total subscriber base with mobile resellers reached 3.972 million. Zain's total subscriber base as of September 2023 was 52 million.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANY:

Mobile Telecommunication Company (Zain):

Zain Group revenues as of September 2023 was RO 1,750.1 million compared to RO 1,565.5 million in the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of 11.8 % over the last year. EBITDA stands at RO 655.8 million, compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of RO 604.7 million recording an increase of 8.4 %. Net profit stands at RO 283.7 million compared to RO 208.5 million of the previous period, an increase of 36 % over the last year.

DOMESTIC MARKET SHARE:

Omantel's Mobile market share as of September 2023 (excluding Mobile Resellers) is 39.0 %. The fixed broadband market share as of September 2023 is 56.7 %.

Thanks and appreciation

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

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we are honored to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his visionary leadership. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him long life and good health to achieve every growing prosperity for Oman and its people.

CHAIRMAN

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

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of 30th September 2023

	30th September 2023	31st December 2022
	Unaudited	Audited
	RO '000	RO '000
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank balances	405,244	451,324
Trade and other receivables	1,360,720	1,122,000
Contract assets	117,865	108,940
Inventories	73,198	69,573
Investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	110,012	50,708
Investment securities at amortized cost	-	1,000
	<u>2,067,039</u>	<u>1,803,545</u>
Assets of disposal group classified as held for sale	126,916	322,956
Total Current Assets	2,193,955	2,126,501
Non-current Assets		
Contract assets	65,161	65,983
Investment securities at FVTPL	25,462	24,528
Investment securities at FVOCI	23,902	21,794
Investment securities at amortized cost	1,000	-
Investments in associates and joint venture	239,697	150,027
Other non-current assets	94,830	59,752
Deferred tax asset	29,594	29,269
Right of use of assets	239,543	206,539
Property and equipment	1,672,358	1,761,504
Intangible assets and goodwill	3,280,652	3,389,546
Total Non-current Assets	5,672,199	5,708,942
Total Assets	7,866,154	7,835,443
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,649,330	1,466,164
Contract liabilities	128,136	122,772
Income tax payables	36,077	38,652
Borrowings	410,153	547,584
Lease liabilities	46,460	33,078
	<u>2,270,156</u>	<u>2,208,250</u>
Liabilities of disposal group classified as held for sale	43,141	109,318
Total Current Liabilities	2,313,297	2,317,568
Non-current Liabilities		
Borrowings	1,753,137	1,740,067
Lease liabilities	272,795	210,914
Other non-current liabilities	616,643	679,958
Total Non-current Liabilities	2,642,575	2,630,939
Total Liabilities	4,955,872	4,948,507
Equity		
Share capital	75,000	75,000
Legal reserve	25,000	25,000
Voluntary reserve	49,875	49,875
Capital contribution	7,288	7,288
Capital reserve	36,893	36,893
Foreign currency translation reserve	(93,821)	(90,719)
Investment fair valuation reserve	(3,544)	(3,653)
Other reserves	1,121	5,204
Retained earnings	541,521	530,408
Attributable to the Company's shareholders	639,333	635,296
Non controlling interest	2,270,949	2,251,640
Total Equity	2,910,282	2,886,936
Total Liabilities and Equity	7,866,154	7,835,443

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit and Loss - 30th September 2023 (Unaudited)

	Three months ended 30th September		Nine months ended 30th September	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000
Continuing Operations				
Revenue	753,341	686,931	2,192,531	1,981,542
Cost of sales	(266,566)	(240,026)	(755,365)	(691,843)
Operating and administrative expenses	(215,221)	(180,242)	(626,375)	(517,219)
Depreciation and amortization	(137,660)	(136,911)	(407,782)	(412,619)
Expected credit loss on financial assets (ECL)	(2,385)	(15,307)	(30,480)	(34,046)
Interest income	4,029	2,691	13,973	5,778
Investment income	(462)	4,130	2,654	6,875
Share of results of associates and joint venture	1,852	857	3,117	3,723
Other expense	(12,031)	(11,112)	(32,138)	(19,674)
Gain on sale and lease back transaction	15,910	495	57,951	495
Gain on disposal of subsidiary	686	-	686	-
Finance costs	(52,396)	(44,355)	(145,869)	(113,127)
(Loss)/Gain from currency revaluation	2,078	1,086	1,647	3,690
Profit before income tax from continuing operations	91,175	68,237	274,550	213,575
Taxation	(9,124)	(3,291)	(23,604)	(18,104)
Profit for the year from continuing operations	82,051	64,946	250,946	195,471
Discontinued operations				
Profit/(Loss) for the period from discontinued operations	-	1,499	-	(406)
Profit for the period	82,051	66,445	250,946	195,065
Attributable to:				
Shareholders of the Company	17,626	15,202	56,113	49,805
Non-controlling interests	64,425	51,243	194,833	145,260
	<u>82,051</u>	<u>66,445</u>	<u>250,946</u>	<u>195,065</u>
Earnings per share				
Basic and diluted from continuing and discontinued operations – RO	0.024	0.020	0.075	0.066

ROUND-UP



Muzn unveils Flexi Wakala Saving Account

One of the standout features of the Flexi Wakala Saving Account is its competitive profit rates, which can reach up to 3 per cent



MUSCAT: NBO's Islamic banking window, Muzn, introduced the Flexi Wakala Saving Account, a financial solution designed to empower individuals seeking to save for their future or retirement whilst adhering to Sharia principles.

One of the standout features of the Flexi Wakala Saving Account is its competitive profit rates, which can reach up to 3 per cent. This is an attractive option for individuals seeking to grow their savings and maximise their returns. What truly sets this account apart is its flexibility, allowing account holders to access their funds at any time,

without incurring any fees. The higher your deposit, the higher the profit rate you earn, making it a lucrative choice for those looking to increase their earnings.

Salima Al Marzooqi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer of Muzn Islamic Banking, said, "We recognise the increasing need for secure financial planning within the framework of the Sharia. That's why we are pleased to introduce Muzn's Flexi Wakala Saving Account; with

its higher returns and unparalleled flexibility. Our goal is to facilitate financial growth of our customers and continue upholding Sharia principles. This launch underscores our commitment to delivering innovative and ethical banking solutions, solidifying Muzn's leadership in the Islamic banking sector."

In addition to its competitive features, Muzn has tailored this account to meet the unique needs of its customers. Account holders can

enjoy the convenience of a cheque book and conduct transactions such as deposits and withdrawals at any Muzn Islamic Banking branch or through its various digital channels. Furthermore, they can access their funds 24/7 through ATM/Debit Cards, with the added benefit of free withdrawals at Muzn and NBO ATMs. It's a convenient and hassle-free banking solution designed to cater to individual financial requirements.

CUSTOMER GATHERING



Isuzu customer meet draws impressive turnout in Sohar

MUSCAT: The seaport city of Sohar recently hosted the latest in a series of customer gatherings arranged by OTE Group, the exclusive distributors of Isuzu trucks in the Sultanate of Oman. These events are part of OTE Group's ongoing initiative to engage with Isuzu's ever-expanding customer base throughout the country.

The latest event, held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sohar, attracted transport operators and company owners who rely on Isuzu trucks for seamless and ef-

ficient business operations, free from the typical technical and operational challenges faced in the goods transportation sector.

Similar to previous customer meet-ups held across Oman, this occasion provided customers with an opportunity to connect and strengthen their shared bond with the Isuzu brand. Attendees were also introduced to Isuzu's latest offerings, including the highly acclaimed Isuzu D-Max and the N-Series of trucks, with representative models prominently on display at the venue.

EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE

Aloft Muscat announces special National Day offer

MUSCAT: Aloft Muscat, a trendy and vibrant hotel in the heart of the city announced a special Oman National Day Offer in commemoration of the country's 53rd National Day. This exclusive package is designed to honour the spirit of unity and pride that defines Oman, offering guests an exceptional experience at an unbeatable value.

For a limited time, guests can indulge in a two-night stay at Aloft Muscat for just OMR 53. This special rate includes an OMR 10 voucher, redeemable on delectable food and beverages within the hotel premises. What's more, this voucher remains valid for an extended period of 53 days, allowing guests to savour the culinary delights at their leisure.

As a sweet addition to the momentous occasion, each booking will be complemented with a special National Day Cake, symbolising the joy and spirit of Oman's National Day.

"We are thrilled to join the na-



tion in fervour of Oman's 53rd National Day, and what better way to do so than by offering our guests an unforgettable experience at Aloft Muscat," said Ramy Hamdoun, General Manager. "Our National Day Offer is a token of appreciation for the warmth and hospitality that defines Oman, and we look forward to welcoming guests to mark the occasion with us."

The Oman National Day Of-

fer at Aloft Muscat is valid from November 18 to December 1, providing an excellent opportunity for both residents and visitors to enjoy a memorable stay at one of Muscat's most vibrant hotels. Guests are encouraged to book early to secure their spot and take advantage of this incredible offer.

To obtain further information and make reservations, feel free to get in touch with Aloft Muscat.

KIDS ISLAND SOFT PLAY AREAS

Remarkable indoor play area where families keep coming back in Muscat

MUSCAT: Kids Island Soft Play Areas, located in Al Araiimi Boulevard Mall, Seeb, Al Meera Mall in Al Amerat, and Panorama Mall in Bausher, are the ultimate destinations for children to unleash their energy, creativity and imagination.

These vibrant and interactive play areas offer a safe and engaging environment where children can have fun, make new friends, and embark on exciting adventures. Let's dive into the delightful world of Kids Island and discover why it has become a beloved spot for families in Oman.

Play and fun, thrives kids to be more creative innovative and expand their creativity.



At Kids Island, children are able to explore the different attractions, have fun and bond with new friends. Each playground component is made to last thanks to high-quality materials, and a

commitment to quality control.

The team knows its equipment inside and out, and are available to answer questions or identify parts if do need to maintain, repair or update any equipment.



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— 18TH OF NOVEMBER —

NATIONAL DAY

Heartiest congratulations to

HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK

and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 53rd National Day



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Felicitations to our great leader
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
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