

GCC INFORMATION MINISTERS HOLD 26TH MEETING

The GCC Ministers of Information yesterday held their 26th meeting via videoconferencing under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, Chairman of the current session. **>A2**



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AL SUWAIQ HOSPITAL MAIN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORK COMPLETED

The construction work is underway of Al Suwaiq Hospital in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Health at a cost of OMR75 million. The completion rate of the structure of the main building of the hospital has reached 100%, while the total completion rate for all work has reached 50%. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 163 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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AL BARAKAH PALACE

HM the Sultan receives credentials of ambassadors



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately, at Al Barakah Palace yesterday credentials of Ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors:

- Noralizan Abdul Momin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Hajer Amr Al-Nami, Ambassador of Libya to the Sultanate of Oman.

■ Dr. Liane Saunders, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman.

■ Christophe Ceska, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Sultanate of Oman.

■ Dirk Lölke, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Sultanate of Oman.

■ Raul Hernandez, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Sultanate of Oman.

■ Dr. Mohammed Ali Boughazi, Ambassador of the People's Demo-

cratic Republic of Algeria to the Sultanate of Oman.

■ Fatma Mohammed Rajab, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman.

During their side meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders and their best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty. They also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity under

the wise leadership of His Majesty.

They also expressed their great honour and delight at presenting their credentials to His Majesty the Sultan. They affirmed to exert sincere efforts to promote relations of their respective countries with Oman in various spheres in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' citizens.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his gratitude for their leaders'

greetings and best wishes. His Majesty affirmed that they would receive all support from him, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. — ONA

SEE ALSO **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Sayyid Shihab to leave for Riyadh meet

1 On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs will leave on Thursday for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to head Oman's delegation at the GCC-ASEAN Summit, due to be held in Riyadh on Friday. **>A5**

OMAN Cameras spot 3 Arabian Leopards

2 For the first time since it started monitoring wildlife, the Environment Authority reported that its cameras spotted three adult Arabian leopards walking together in one of the mountains of the Dhofar Governorate. The Environment Authority termed the sighting of the three Arabian leopards as rare in the world nowadays. **>A3**

WORLD Israel blamed for hospital blast

3 Arab nations that have sought to normalise relations with Israel have blamed the country for a blast that killed an estimated 500 people at a Gaza hospital compound. The Israeli military has denied responsibility, saying the explosion was caused by a misfired rocket from Hamas. **>A7**



AL BATINAH EXPRESSWAY GETS 18 BRIDGES, TUNNELS FOR SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW

Five box culverts are being built on road to enable crossing of vehicles

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The building of Al Batinah Expressway has been one of the strategic projects undertaken by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

A total of 18 bridges and tunnels were constructed from 2012 to 2022 by the Transport Ministry as part of the development project of Al Batinah Expressway.

For raising the capacity of the Expressway, the ministry continues with the work of building five box culverts to enable crossing of vehicles at Al Malada in the Wilayat of Al Mussanah, Al Sabi-



hi, Al Khabah and Dhayan Al Barwari in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq and Al Biraik in the Wilayat of Al Khaboura.

The Transport Ministry in co-operation with the Secretariat General of the Tender Board has awarded the work for the Phase one of Al Batinah Coastal Road which includes construction of a flyover/bridge on Al Suwaiq Roundabout on Al Batinah Expressway.

The work of this flyover is

scheduled to commence at the beginning of next year.

The work for this project was completed in three phases. The first phase comprised the construction of four bridges in the Wilayat of Barka at Hayy A'Asim, Al Haram, Al Nuaman and Al Sawadi while the second phase included three flyovers (bridges) at Al Bidayah in the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq and Soor Al Shiyadi and Majez in the Wilayat of Saham. **>A2**

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A1 Al Batinah Expressway project

The third phase included part 1 and part 2 of construction of seven tunnels at Qasabiyat Al Busaid, Deel Abdulsalam, Mukhalif, Al Zahiyyah, Al Numi, Soor bani Hamad and Saih Al Salihat (Al Farfarah) which are all open for traffic.

The Ministry has also executed four flyovers and bridges in Barka, Sohar, Salan and Falaj Al Qabayil.

-ONA

20TH MEETING

Sayyid Fahd meets heads of GCC audit and accounting authorities



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received on Wednesday met Heads of GCC audit and accounting authorities who are holding their 20th meeting in the Sultanate of Oman.

After a welcoming note, His Highness Sayyid Fahd underscored significant role of GCC audit and accounting institutions in implementing the member states' plans and programmes and unifying visions with a view to upgrading performance and extending standard services to citizens in a manner that secures public funds.

HH Sayyid Fahd stressed the need to enhance joint coordination between GCC regulatory bodies, benefit from their expertise and apply the outcome of relevant research and studies. He pointed out that the State's Audit Institution (SAI) is accorded full support by the Omani government.

He underlined the effective contribution of SAI which, he said, acts in cooperation with other establishments of state to promote integrity.

The meeting touched on key topics on the agenda of the 20th meeting of heads of GCC financial audit and accounting institutions.

The GCC meeting seeks to support and develop regulatory and accounting bodies, enhance their efficiency, upgrade the level of their performance and encourage research, studies and training to meet the aspirations of the leaders and peoples of the region.

For their part, the heads of GCC financial audit and accounting institutions expressed thanks to Oman for hosting their meeting. They lauded Oman's constant support of the GCC march.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Ghosn Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of State Audit Institution, Said Mohammed Al Sagri, Minister of Economy and Sultan Nasser Al Suwaidi, GCC Assistant Secretary General for Legislative and Legal Affairs.

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22 – 28 / 10 / 2023

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the Sultan Qaboos
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College of Science
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College of Nursing



Joint electronic app for news agencies proposal discussed

MUSCAT: The GCC Ministers of Information on Wednesday held their 26th meeting via videoconferencing under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, Chairman of the current session. The meeting covered various issues of common interest in the field of media in the GCC states. The ministers discussed means of developing a strategy to raise awareness about dealing with social media platforms, with a view to addressing their negative impacts in the upbringing of young people.

They laid emphasis on urging children to stick to good manners. They also called for preserving family values and maintaining a civilized moral identity.

The meeting touched on ways to forge common determinants for sound electronic media content, digital advertisements and licences in social media.

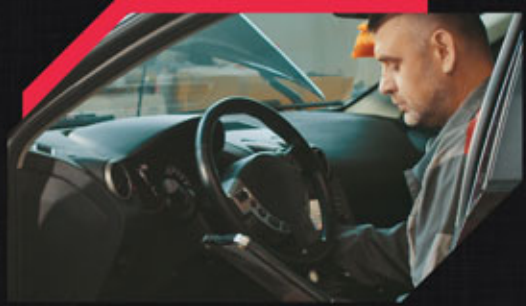
It underscored the need to activate the role of GCC missions abroad and draw up a media plan that enables them to highlight the integrated Gulf action. The ministers also discussed a proposal to develop a joint electronic app for news agencies that showcases their media services.

The meeting also discussed the serious developments in Palestine, notably Israel's escalating military operations against the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip. The ministers affirmed GCC state's firm stance—in backing Palestine—that was expressed in the extraordinary session of GCC foreign ministers.

-ONA



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‘Avoid travel to Lebanon unless necessary’

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Foreign Ministry has urged Omani citizens against travelling to Lebanon during this period unless absolutely necessary due to the security situation.

The Ministry said in a statement: “In view of the current security situation in the southern regions of the Republic of Lebanon, the Foreign Ministry would like to draw the attention of the Omani citizens that it is not appropriate for them to visit Lebanon during this period except for extreme necessity.”



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RIYADH MEETING

Israeli forces claiming lives of innocents in Gaza Strip: Oman

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry, participated in the extraordinary meeting of the executive committee meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to discuss the ongoing Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, in Riyadh on Wednesday.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation to the meeting was headed by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs.

The Sultanate of Oman emphasised in its speech that the brotherly Palestinian people are exposed to a new catastrophe and serious, painful events as a result of a brutal war by the Israeli occupation forces on the Gaza Strip,

which is claiming the lives of civilians, especially women, children and the elderly, and destroying the infrastructure, services and hospitals.

The Al-Ahli Arab Hospital massacre is conclusive evidence, exceeding all international norms, laws, and international humanitarian law rules, amid racist and provocative statements and practices witnessed by the whole world by demolishing residents' homes, violating the sanctity of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and forcing civilians to displace.

Atrocities
All these atrocities against the people of Gaza are happening and many influential countries in the world are not only ignoring this, but are supporting Israel politically.

Oman pointed out that the current events are neither new nor surprising, and will not be the last. They are a natural result of the failure of the international community to give the Palestinians their legitimate rights and their independent state.

In light of the current crisis, the Islamic and humanitarian position towards what is happening in the Gaza Strip requires all of us to put pressure on facilitating the passage of humanitarian convoys, by opening the crossings to deliver urgent aid of medical, food and other supplies, as well as immediately stopping Israeli attacks and adhering to international laws and norms in this regard. -ONA

Cameras spot three
Arabian leopards
together in Dhofar

The recent camera shots indicate the success of Oman's efforts to preserve Arabian leopards



SALALAH: For the first time since it started monitoring wildlife, the Environment Authority reported that its cameras spotted three adult Arabian leopards walking together in one of the mountains of the Dhofar Governorate.

Represented by the Arabian Leopard Conservation Project Management Team, the Environment Authority termed the precedent as rare in the world nowadays. Those in charge of the project stressed that, over the past few decades, it was difficult to monitor Arabian leopards in the wild, due to the declining numbers of the species.

This prompted the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to classify Arabian leopards as "critically endangered animals".

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UNION 2023

RNO commender inspects
GCC naval exercise



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Gulf naval exercise (Union 2023), which is being implemented by the Royal Navy of Oman with the navies of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, continues in the Al Batinah and Al Wusta maritime regions of the Sultanate of Oman.

The exercise is undergoing with the participation of the unified military command represented by the Unified Naval Operations Centre, and with the support of military aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Oman. The drill will continue until the twenty-seventh of this month.

To learn about the progress and events of the exercise, Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), accompanied by a number of senior officers from the Royal Navy of Oman and a number of senior officers from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, visited the force at sea to follow up on the implementation of operational plans.

They listened to a briefing on the progress of the exercise and the stages of its implementation in order to achieve the objectives of joint training. They also watched part of the exercise, represented by live ammunition shooting at supposed naval targets, which demonstrated the high levels and operational efficiency of the exercise participants.

Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman praised the capabilities plans, programmes and objectives set into reality in line with the operational requirements of the exercise.

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His Majesty the Sultan welcomes ambassadors



MEETING

Sayyid Fahd praises role of audit and accounting institutions



VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING



Meeting discusses means to boost GCC’s march to progress

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday chaired the 24th meeting of the ministerial committee tasked with implementing decisions related to joint Gulf action.

The meeting, held via videoconferencing, was chaired by Sheikh Al Fadhl Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers.

It was attended by heads of delegations from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The committee discussed various topics related to means of enhancing the GCC march and achieving the aspirations of GCC leaders.

— ONA

ON BEHALF OF HM

Sayyid Shihab to take part in GCC-ASEAN meet



RIYADH SUMMIT: The Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs will be leading an official delegation from Oman. -ONA

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs will leave on Thursday for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to head Oman's delegation at the GCC-ASEAN Summit, due to be held in Riyadh this Friday.

HH Sayyid Shihab will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and HH Sayyid Faisal Turki Al Said, Ambassador of Oman to the KSA. -ONA

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Dr. Ashik Sainu, MD, DM, MRCP
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ERCP is an acronym for Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography, which is an endoscopic modality to evaluate biliary system through common bile duct or pancreatic system through pancreatic opening from the second part of duodenum. ERCP is practised by aggressive Therapeutic Endoscopists to diagnose and treat conditions of the biliary system of liver or the pancreas.

Most common diseases, which can be treated with an ERCP include bile duct stones, jaundice because of an obstruction in the biliary tract, cancers of the biliary tract, cancers of the gallbladder and certain liver diseases, chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cancers, pancreatic stones and pancreatic leakage to name a few.

In safe hands, an ERCP is a very effective procedure to

diagnose and treat diseases involving the Bilio-Pancreatic System. The complication rates, like any other procedure, are existent for ERCP also which may range from 2-10% depending upon the disease condition that is being treated.

Construction work of Al Suwaiq Hospital’s main building over

The hospital is being implemented by the Ministry of Health at a cost of OMR75 million

AL SUWAIQ: Construction work is underway on Al Suwaiq Hospital in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Health at a cost of OMR75 million.

The completion rate in the construction structure of the

main building of the hospital has reached 100 percent, while the total completion rate for all work has reached 50 percent.

Eng. Hamad Hareb Al Alawi, Project Manager of Al Suwaiq Hospital told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the project is being built on a land area of 287,000 square metres, while the building

area is 47,357 square metres, with a total of 550 parking spaces.

He pointed out that the structural work for the main building has been completed and work is underway to complete the supporting buildings, such as the services building, a warehouse for medical gases, and another for waste, in addition to mechanical and electrical works.

He added that the hospital includes many departments and specialties, such as the adult intensive care unit, the neonatal intensive care unit, the care unit for premature infants, the dialysis unit, the rehabilitation department, the dental unit and the cardiac care unit, in addition to many departments, clinics and service facilities. Once completed, the number of beds in the hospital will stand at 256. -ONA

KHOULA HOSPITAL

Medical team performs cerebral angiography

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team from Khoula Hospital, in cooperation with the Neurology Department at Sohar Hospital in North Al Batinah Governorate, succeeded in an urgent intervention in cerebral angiography of a patient.

Dr. Ahmed bin Hamoud Al Habsi, who supervised the team said that cerebral angiography was performed on a patient suffering from a cerebral haemorrhage and arteriovenous malformations (AVMs).

Successfull operation

The team successfully completed the operation, and Dr Al Habsi further added that this type of operation replaces the need for brain surgery.

Dr Al Habsi pointed out that the patient's condition required an urgent cerebral angiography, which required the presence of the specialised team from Khoula Hospital due to the difficulty of transporting the patient to Muscat Governorate.

He further stressed that performing such cases and cases of severe strokes has now become possible at Sohar Hospital because of the difficulty of transporting patients to Khoula Hospital in a short time.

It is noteworthy that this co-operation and integration in providing health services, including specialised medical services, comes in support of the decentralisation policy implemented by the Ministry of Health, represented by the General Directorate of Khoula Hospital.

Sultan Qaboos University

TENDERS NOTICE

The investment & Revenue Department at Sultan Qaboos University Invites the companies to submit their quotations for these Tenders or the 34th graduation ceremony of Sultan Qaboos University. To be held on 10/12/2023 and 13/12/2023 as follows:

S/N	Type of Business	Event Site	Date of site visit	Tender #	The last date for collecting the Document	The last date for submission of the quotations
1	Selling flowers, sweets and gifts Rent and operate Coffee Shop (R Tenders Notice)	The Open Theater	23/10/2023 9:00 am	SQU. IRD.3/23	29/10/2023	12/11/2023
2	Selling specialty coffee	The Open Theater	23/10/2023 9:00 am	SQU. IRD.4/23		

- The priority will be for the Small and Medium Establishments (SME), which fulfils the quality requirements. All classes of companies can also apply for these Tenders.
- Tenderers who wish to participate in this Tender may collect Tender Documents from The Section of Revenue And Expenditures at the Investment & Revenue Department, Sultan Qaboos University, during the working hours for an amount of OR.25 for each tender document (non-refundable). The last date for Collecting the Document is on Sunday, 29/10/2023.
- The Site Visit for the selected shop is necessary. It will be on the above mentioned date and the assembly point will be at the Investment & Revenue Department.
- The last date for submission of the quotation on Sunday, 12/11/2023 The quotations should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Director of The Investment & Revenue Department, located on the first floor of the commercial building at Sultan Qaboos University and deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Department, before 11:00 a.m.
- The exterior of the envelope should be marked with the name and number of the Tender being presented and should bear no identification or mark of the Tenderer.
- The Tenderer should prepare the Site in accordance with the health requirements of Muscat Municipality and the requirements of civil defense in cooperation with the concerned authorities.
- Sultan Qaboos University reserves the right to reject any quotation not fulfilling the requirements and does not bid itself to accept the highest rent or any other quotations.
- Graduation ceremony dates are subject to change.

The Investment & Revenue Department
P.O Box 50, P.C. 123, Alkhod, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 24142691 – 24142682- 24142685- 24142684
E- mail: investment@squ.edu.om
The Department of Investment & Revenue Location:

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Directorate General of Khoula Hospital invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref	Description	Last date for Collection of tenders Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 09:00 am Wednesday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/DGKH-40 /3952/2023	Supply, Installation & Enduser Training for Electroencephalogram System at Directorate General of Khoula Hospital	31/October/2023	22/November/2023	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25.000

- Tenders should be submitted on line on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> .
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.
- For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone: 24402200 , Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Over 753,000 to cast votes for Shura polls

Intakhib app requires the availability of a smartphone equipped with the Near Field Communication (NFC) feature, a connection to the World Wide Web, a valid ID card and a voter number recognised at the Electoral Register

MUSCAT: Omani voters abroad will begin casting their ballots Via “Intakhib” App on Sunday, 22 October, to elect members who will represent them during the Shura Council’s 10th Term.

A week later, on 29 October, voters inside Oman will cast their ballots to pick up their desired candidates for the Council’s membership.

The total number of registered voters via “Intakhib” app and the elections website (elections.om) stands at 753,690 men and women who will take part in the elections.

The Ministry of Interior seeks to integrate the roles of the authorities concerned and introduce the latest technologies to save time and effort for the voters.

Intakhib app requires the availability of a smartphone equipped with the Near Field Communication (NFC) feature, a connection to the World Wide Web, a valid ID card and a voter number recognised at the Electoral Register, which provides top security standards and all precautions to help a voter act in complete secrecy.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed its preparedness in terms of administrative, technical, legal and media aspects, so that the election process could be realized in a perfect manner. To this end,



registration, automated counting indicators on voting day, numerical statistics showing the percentage of voting in each wilayat, a voter’s age and gender and options for submitting suggestions and reports.

The ministry affirmed that all relevant information will be available in full transparency and that the data will be broadcast live during Elections Day. It reaffirmed that the electoral process for the Tenth Term will be distinguished for accuracy and transparency.

Royal Decree No. 6/2021 regarding the Basic Law of the State, issued on 11 January 2021 ushered in a new era in Shura work, notably by adding many provisions that fit with Oman Vision 2040 and the current stage of domestic development.

The Council of Oman Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 7/2021 constitutes a new phase for the Omani Shura Council. It is in pursuance of the historical development of Shura action and it is consistent with the requirements of the Oman’s Renewed Renaissance march in terms of legislative and supervisory powers and relat-

ed amendments.

Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary General of the Shura Council, said that the electoral process for Shura Council 10th Term reflects maturity in the thinking of candidates and voters. Accordingly, the new term of the Shura Council is expected to endorse a forward looking vision that keeps pace the future plans of Oman, Al Nadabi added.

Al Nadabi told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the use of modern technologies contributed to the regulation of aspects of election. The final lists of candidates to the Council’s membership includes 843, including 32 women.

He explained that, as per the developments, candidates reach out to their voters and present their programmes through direct tools and means of propaganda and publicity that includes a candidate’s personal information.

Al Nadabi stressed that the Shura Council’s 10th Term will feature the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 at various economic, investment and development, as well as the objectives of the 10th Five Year Plan. -ONA



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

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

INDIA’S SPACE AGENCY ISRO

India plans manned Moon mission and space station by 2040



NEW DELHI: India has announced plans for a moon mission, along with setting up a space station by 2040, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

The world’s most populous country is ramping up its space program, and is preparing for a test flight for its first crewed space mission on Saturday.

India “should now aim for new and ambitious goals,” including setting up an Indian Space Station by 2035 and “sending first Indian to moon by 2040,” the government said in a statement on Tuesday.

“To realise this vision, the Department of Space will develop a roadmap for moon exploration,” the statement added.

The three-day manned mission to outer space is called Gaganyaan or “Skycraft.” It is expected to take place next year and would cost about \$1.08 billion (€1.02 billion), according to India’s space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

India’s space ambitions
India is known for running low-budget space operations. Experts say this is made possible by streamlining existing technologies, and employing a vast pool of engineers in India who are not paid as much compared to their global counterparts.

In August, India became the first country to land a craft near the lunar south pole. Last month, India also launched a successful mission by launching a spacecraft to observe the outer layers of the sun.

In 2014, ISRO put a satellite into orbit around Mars, and launched 104 satellites 2017.

India also has plans to jointly launch a moon probe with Japan, land a craft on Mars, and send a mission to Venus in the next two years.

India says it only accounts for two percent of the \$386 billion (€384 billion) global space economy, a share it hopes to increase to nine percent by 2030. — **dw**

EUROPEAN UNION

Microplastics added to consumer products bannned

BRUSSELS: From the depths of ocean trenches to the peaks of the highest mountains, from our food and water to human blood and stool, there are few places microplastics have not been found. Indeed, the United Nations estimates there is more of it in our seas than there are stars in our galaxy.

Spread through the air, water and soil, once microplastic is in the environment, it doesn’t biodegrade and can’t be removed, meaning it stays there for centuries, posing a threat to wildlife and ultimately making its way into the food chain and the human body.

Microplastics are used as abrasive particles in toothpaste or exfoliants, or as binders that change the consistency of liquids. Currently an estimated 42,000 tons of these tiny pieces of plastic, intentionally added to products, are released in the EU annually. Yet their effect on human health remains unknown.

“That’s why it is so important to stop the stream of release into the environment,” said Johanna Bernsel, spokesperson for the European Commission.

To tackle the issue, the EU’s executive arm has adopted measures under European REACH legislation

on harmful chemicals, banning the sale within the bloc of both microplastics themselves and products to which they have been intentionally added.

Which products will be affected by the ban?

The new ban, which covers all synthetic polymer particles less than five millimeters that are organic, insoluble and resist degradation, will impact a vast array of products including cosmetics, detergents, glitter, fertilizers, plant protection items, toys, medicines, medical devices and artificial sport surfaces.



Not affected are construction materials that contain microplastics but do not release them and products used at industrial sites. However, manufacturers will have to report their estimated microplastic emissions annually and will have to provide instructions on how to use and dispose of products to prevent microplastics escaping into the environment.

The ban not only applies to products manufactured in the European Union but also to those imported from abroad.

“So in that sense, it promotes the innovativeness of the European industry,” Bernsel said.

When will the regulations come into effect?

For cosmetics containing microbeads — small plastic beads used for exfoliation — and loose glitter made of plastic, the ban will take effect in mid-October. But for other cosmetics, there will be a transition period of between four and 12



years, depending on the complexity of the product and availability of suitable alternatives.

For infill material used in sport pitches, there will be a grace period of eight years to give pitch owners time to switch to alternatives and allow most existing pitches to reach their end of life, at which point they would need to be replaced anyway.

How easy is it to find substitutes?

Marc Kreutzbruck, head of the Institute of Plastics Engineering at Germany’s University of Stuttgart, said there’s no substitute that can help us achieve our climate goals as effectively as plastic can.

“Unfortunately, that’s the reality because plastics are a material that can be shaped at very low temperatures,” he said. “Regardless of the material, whether metal, ceramic, glass or anything else, they all require significantly more energy to be made into products.”

He said recycling and sustainability are the way forward.

“We need to achieve 100% recycling. Plastic is not disposable; it’s a valuable material that needs to be collected and recycled. This mindset must be instilled in people,” he said.

Another idea is to use biodegradable plastics which break down quickly when they enter the environment. But they currently only have a market share of around a

fraction of a percent. What’s more, Kreutzbruck added, they can’t be used for all products, particularly complex ones like food packaging.

European Commission spokesperson Bernsel said it will require a concerted effort by policy makers, industry and the research community to come up with sustainable alternatives. She is optimistic the ban will provide the necessary incentives to do so. “We believe the future of the chemicals industry is to emphasize sustainability and sustainable alternatives. So this is an opportunity for the European industry to be at the forefront of the development towards more sustainability and innovation. That’s how we can keep our competitive edge,” she said.

What impact will the ban have?

Under the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the EU has committed to a 30% reduction in microplastics waste by 2030. The ban is a first

step toward that goal.

It is expected that the ban will prevent the release of about half a million tonnes of microplastics into the environment, but Kreutzbruck said more needs to be done.

“It’s important to understand that compared to the overall volume of plastic in the environment, microplastics in cosmetics comprise less than 1%. So while it’s good that these measures are being taken, it only scratches the surface,” he said.

Further steps could see the EU tackle microplastics that are unintentionally released, for instance, from clothes when they are washed or car tires.

Bernsel hopes the new regulation might inspire other regions in the world to consider taking action.

“Of course, we cannot dictate measures for other countries or regions in the world. But setting an example on environmental matters has proven very successful in other areas in the past,” she said. — **dw**

Arab countries blame Israel for hospital blast



The blast came during a wave of deadly Israeli air strikes on Gaza after terror attacks by the Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israel earlier this month

GAZA: Arab nations that have sought to normalise relations with Israel have blamed the country for a blast that killed an estimated 500 people at a Gaza hospital compound. The Israeli military has denied

responsibility, saying the explosion was caused by a misfired rocket from militants. An Israeli Defence Force (IDF) military spokesperson claimed images showed there had been no structural damage to buildings around the Al-Ahli hospital and that there was no sign of craters consistent with an air strike. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which both established ties with Israel in the Abraham Accords of 2020, blamed Israel. “The United Arab Emirates strongly condemns the Israeli attack... resulting in the death and injury of hundreds of people,” the UAE’s official news agency said. Bahrain’s Foreign Ministry “expressed the Kingdom of Bahrain’s condemnation and strong denunciation of the Israeli bombing.” Another country that recognized Israel in 2020, Morocco, also blamed Israel for the strike, as did Egypt, which was the first Arab country to normalise relations in 1979. Egyptian President Abdel Fat-

tah al-Sisi condemned in the strongest terms what he called “the Israeli bombing” of the Al-Ahli hospital, which led to “the deaths of hundreds of innocent victims” among the Palestinian citizens in Gaza. **Deliberate bombing** He called the “deliberate bombing” a “clear violation of international law.” The blast came during a wave of deadly Israeli air strikes on Gaza after terror attacks by the Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israel earlier this month killed 1,400 people. Saudi Arabia, which has suspended talks on building ties with Israel since the conflict flared, called the blast a “heinous crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces.” Jordan said Israel “bears responsibility for this grave incident.” Qatar, which has close ties to Hamas, slammed the blast as a “brutal massacre.” – **dw**

Joe Biden ‘deeply saddened’ by Gaza hospital explosion

TEL AVIV: US President Joe Biden has been speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a televised conversation after his arrival in Tel Aviv. Biden said questions needed to be answered about the explosion at a hospital in Gaza. He indicated that Washington was leaning toward the theory offered by Israel that it had been caused by a misfired rocket from the militant group. “I was deeply saddened and outraged by the explosion in Gaza yesterday. “Based on what I’ve seen, it appears that it was done by the other team, not you.” However, Biden said there were

“a lot of people out there” who were unsure about the cause of the blast. Biden also paid tribute to the people of Israel. “Their courage their commitment their bravery is stunning, I am proud to be here,” he said. **EU officials condemn hospital destruction** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also called for a comprehensive investigation. “There is no excuse for hitting a hospital full of medical staff and civilians,” she posted. “All the facts have to be established and those responsible must be held accountable.” Hamas, which rules in the Gaza Strip, says more than 500 people were killed at the Al Ahli hospital on Tuesday evening and blames Israel for the attack. Israel says a misfired rocket from the “Islamic Jihad” militant group caused the explosion. EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said that, even in a conflict, there were rules that should be followed. “This bomb explosion in the hospital, which we don’t yet know to whom it should be attributed, is another terrible manifestation of what goes on,” said EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell. – **dw**

UNITED NATIONS



UN chief calls for an ‘immediate cease-fire’

BEIJING: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said attacks by Hamas on Israel do not justify the “collective punishment” of Palestinians and urged an immediate cease-fire. Guterres, speaking at an economic forum in China, condemned the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel that killed more than 1,400 people as unjustified “acts of terror.” “But those attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people,” Guterres said.



Humanitarian cease-fire The UN chief appealed for an “immediate humanitarian cease-fire,” reiterating what he called “two urgent humanitarian appeals.” Guterres called on Hamas for the “immediate and unconditional release of hostages,” referring to at least 199 people kidnapped by Hamas.

Humanitarian aid He also called on Israel to “immediately allow unrestricted access of humanitarian aid to respond to the most basic needs of the people of Gaza, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and children.” The UN chief earlier said he was “horrified” by the deadly blast at a hospital in Gaza late Tuesday that killed hundreds of people.

WHO chief warns conflict spiralling beyond control The situation in the Gaza Strip is escalating beyond control, the head of the UN health agency warned after the hospital blast believed to have killed hundreds. “The situation in #Gaza is spiraling out of control,” World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. “We need violence on all sides to stop.” “Every second we wait to get medical aid in, we lose lives,” he added. “We need immediate access to start delivering life-saving supplies.” The WHO chief on Sunday urged Hamas to release all civilian hostages and said he was gravely concerned by Israeli attacks harming Palestinian civilians. – **dw**



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Board of Directors Report

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the un-audited results on the performance of the Company for the nine-months period ended on 30th September 2023.

The Company has achieved a net profit after tax of OMR 6.7 million (ORC Group) on a turnover of OMR 79.8 million during the nine-months period ended on 30th September 2023, compared to a net profit after tax of OMR 4.7 Million on a turnover of OMR 70.4 Million for the corresponding period of last year.

Revenue has increased by 13.4 % during the nine-months period ended on 30th September 2023, and Profit after Tax increased by 41.8% versus corresponding period of last year, mainly due to the improved results of Atlas bottling Corporation – Algerian operations.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and his Government for their wise leadership, guidance and direction which continue to motivate and inspire us towards greater participation in the development and service of Oman. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bestow His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq with the best of health and bless him with long life to lead the Sultanate of Oman on the path of prosperity.

Buti Obaid Al Mulla
Chairman

Unaudited consolidated balance sheet as at 30th September 2023

	Group 9 months ended 30th Sept. 2023 Amount Rials	Parent Co 30th Sept. 2023 Amount Rials	Group 9 months ended 30th Sept. 2022 Amount Rials	Parent Co 30th Sept. 2022 Amount Rials
Non current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	57,302,676	29,148,514	56,522,476	30,032,717
Right to use assets	43,547	-	82,631	-
Other investments	-	730,039	2,500,808	26,238,754
Goodwill	1,498,766	-	1,113,700	-
Advance for Property, plant and equipment	-	-	3,456,681	3,245,768
Deferred tax asset	889,452	-	835,525	-
Financial assets at Fair Value	3,685,959	4,246,415	2,085,037	2,715,647
	63,420,401	34,124,968	66,596,839	62,232,886
Current assets				
Goods in transit	706,603	-	88,048	-
Inventories	15,150,424	10,090,994	14,585,371	11,322,300
Trade Receivables	7,909,672	7,298,010	8,505,823	7,699,324
Other receivables	7,012,225	5,163,151	9,657,451	8,555,077
Receivables from Related parties	-	612,464	-	740,994
Loan to Subsidiaries	-	23,010,602	-	-
Investments	26,000,000	26,000,000	25,500,000	25,500,000
Bank and cash	7,527,350	5,783,249	12,340,078	10,823,866
	64,306,273	77,958,469	70,676,731	64,641,561
	127,726,674	112,083,436	137,273,620	126,874,447
Current liabilities				
Trade creditors	7,666,065	3,497,637	8,827,600	5,427,026
Accruals and other creditors	5,750,139	2,950,539	10,039,594	7,653,952
Dividend payable	-	-	-	-
Payable to related parties	-	-	-	-
Current portion of term loans	8,976,272	1,149,253	14,440,221	8,000,000
Income Tax Payable	925,561	900,657	1,078,423	1,058,513
VAT Payable	430,112	208,473	1,331,204	835,082
Excise Tax Payable	11,046,884	11,046,884	5,132,957	5,132,957
	34,795,033	19,753,443	40,849,989	28,107,530
Long term liabilities				
End of service indemnity	1,520,627	1,502,709	1,409,953	1,397,184
Lease liability	47,866	-	-	-
Term Loan	8,776,598	7,615,279	19,721,073	18,200,542
Deferred tax liability	294,824	266,097	139,884	98,989
	10,639,914	9,384,085	21,270,910	19,696,715
	45,434,947	29,137,528	62,120,899	47,804,245
Net assets				
	82,291,726	82,945,909	75,152,721	79,070,201
Shareholders' funds				
Share capital	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Legal reserve	1,696,167	1,666,667	1,684,800	1,666,667
General reserve	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Profit and loss account-b/f	66,210,813	68,958,830	61,524,606	64,179,992
	6,681,102	4,820,412	4,712,551	5,723,542
Foreign Currency Translation	203,644	-	(269,237)	-
	82,291,726	82,945,909	75,152,721	79,070,201

Unaudited consolidated income statement for the nine months ended 30th September 2023

	Group 9 months ended 30th Sept. 2023 Amount Rials	Parent Co 30th Sept. 2023 Amount Rials	Group 9 months ended 30th Sept. 2022 Amount Rials	Parent Co 30th Sept. 2022 Amount Rials
Revenue	79,845,061	57,851,920	70,438,406	56,976,847
Cost of sales	(52,627,360)	(37,720,345)	(45,567,840)	(35,322,609)
Depreciation - cost of sales	(1,942,201)	-	(1,769,588)	(1,769,588)
Gross Profit	25,275,500	18,934,897	23,100,977	20,568,316
Administration & general expenses	(4,134,109)	(5,553,859)	(3,566,017)	(2,624,409)
Selling and Distribution Expenses	(13,887,015)	(8,481,840)	(14,447,832)	(12,268,802)
Operating Profit	7,254,376	4,899,099	5,087,122	5,675,105
Finance income (net)	188,728	90,994	357,925	712,931
Other income	273,369	60,980	351,336	345,542
Investment income	-	-	-	-
Profit before taxation and minority interest	7,716,473	5,671,073	5,796,384	6,733,578
Taxation	(1,035,371)	(850,661)	(1,083,832)	(1,010,037)
Profit for the period	6,681,102	4,820,412	4,712,551	5,723,542
Minority Interest	-	-	-	-
Net profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	6,681,102	4,820,412	4,712,551	5,723,542

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

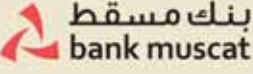
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by December 2023 reaching \$92.62, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.89 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$90.73. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,704.13 points, down by 0.41 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.33 per cent at 461.25 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 3.60 per cent, was the top gainer while Musandam Power, down 7.80 per cent, was the top loser.



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Heads of GCC audit, accounting authorities hold meeting in Muscat

The 20th meeting discussed ways of enhancing knowledge and research aspects of auditing in member states by organising the 6th GCC Audit and Accountancy Competition

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman yesterday hosted the 20th meeting of heads of GCC financial audit and accounting institutions. The meeting was held on the premises of the GCC Supreme Council's Advisory Board in Muscat. It was chaired by Sheikh Ghosn Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the State Audit Institution (SAI) and attended by the GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Legislative and Legal Affairs. The meeting discussed ways of enhancing knowledge and re-



search aspects of auditing in member states by organising the 6th GCC Audit and Accountancy Competition. The officials exchanged views about a proposal to sign a memorandum of understanding with King Fahd Library to enrich sources of knowledge for employees of member states' audit offices. They also elaborated on an initiative undertaken by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) — known as the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), which seeks to develop the capabilities of audit staff in the organisation's member states. The meeting also discussed the GCC states' training plan (2024-2025), which covered the operational plan and strategic aspects of training. Besides honing the skills of employees in financial audit institutions, the plan deals

with exchanging expertise and upgrading cooperation between professionals and researchers. Al Alawi expressed his sincere appreciation to the GCC General Secretariat for its vital role in the preparation, organisation and follow-up of all activities, which reflected positively on the efficiency and effectiveness of cooperation activities in various fields related to the work of the committee. He stressed the significance of joint Gulf action in enhancing the institutional performance of the member institutions and bureaus by sharing institutional expertise, building professional competencies and preparing unified work manuals, which come through mutual visits, seminars and collaborative training activities, as well as research competitions and other activities. Al Alawi concluded his speech

by emphasising the importance of continuing the active contribution and optimal use of regional and international organisations concerned with the fields of financial audit and accounting, and the active participation in the activities of these organisations through membership in the councils and committees emanating from them, as well as hosting their various meetings and initiatives, which reflect the sound professional orientation and the leading institutional role of our member SAIs, in addition to cooperation with peer SAIs and transfer of experiences and expertise. Consultant Sultan bin Nasser Al Suwaidi, Assistant Secretary-General for Legislative and Legal Affairs delivered the speech of the GCC Secretariat General, in which he expressed sincere thanks and great appreciation to



the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the meeting and praised the efforts of the State Audit Institution in managing activities related to the work of the committee. He added that the GCC Audit Bureaus and Institutions are constantly keen to reflect joint work through exchanging experiences and building functional capabilities and competencies of their members through a variety of specialised professional activities, which has contributed to the effectiveness of their role in the national work system. He also stressed the keenness of the GCC Secretariat General on the effective management of organisational and technical activities. During the meeting, a number of main topics were reviewed and discussed, the most significant of which were enhancing the knowledge and research aspect through

the Sixth Competition of the Co-operation Council for Research and Studies in the field of audit and accounting, and discussing the proposal to update the regulation organising the competition that aims to highlight the best professional practices in auditing, as well as enhancing the audit culture and spreading it among employees, in addition to enhancing communication and cooperation between Institutions and bureaus and directing research efforts to keep pace with all updates of audit and accounting work. During the meeting, the delegates also reviewed the final drafts of updating some joint audit manuals, namely the manuals of performance audit, preparing and writing audit reports, information technology audit, privatization audit, governance audit, and public projects audit.

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB's OMR50 million perpetual bonds issuance oversubscribed by 60%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) successfully closed a new Subordinated Perpetual Additional Tier 1 Bond issuance of OMR 40 million with a green shoe option of OMR 10 million to meet strong investor demand. The bond attracted an overwhelming response from investors and was oversubscribed by 60 per cent. The bonds will carry a coupon rate of 7.00 per cent p.a. for the first five years and will be listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX). Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of Oman Arab said: "Our recent bond offering has been met with great success, drawing substantial and

diversified investor interest at a very competitive price. The exceptional demand is a testament to the confidence and trust investors have in the bank's growth potential and its capabilities. We are committed to diversify our funding sources to further strengthen our capital position for a more robust financial future." The issuance was designed to enhance the bank's capital and increase its ability to service its obligations. Oman Arab Bank has been working domestically, regionally and internationally on bonds offerings for many years; this included the first issuance of AT1 Perpetual bonds of OMR 30 million on the December 29, 2016 listed in the MSX.

REPORT

GDP of Gulf countries could more than double to \$13 trillion by 2050

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the hydrocarbon-rich Gulf countries could more than double from a projected \$6 trillion to \$13 trillion by 2050, if the countries embrace a green growth strategy, according to a research report. The combined GDP of the GCC countries has already touched the US\$2 trillion mark and investment in green and sustainable projects could transform the region into a global economic powerhouse, according to Gulf Investment Report 2023, published by Century International Holdings. "Gulf Investment Report 2023 has been initiated by Century Group as a knowledge series developed through in-depth data compilation for the wider industry stakeholders that will help them chart their future growth strategy and re-adjust their expansion plan as per the ground reality," Bal Krishen Rathore, Chairman of Century International Holdings Ltd (CIHL), said. However, the economic potential of the Gulf countries is not reflected in the global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ranking published every year in the annual World Investment Reports released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Total FDI flow into the GCC region declined 17.91 percent to \$37.12 billion in 2022, down from \$45.22 billion recorded in 2021, despite the UAE recording a 10 percent increase in FDI from \$20.66 billion in 2021 to \$22.73 billion in 2022, according to the World Investment Report 2023.



This is lower than the \$46.96 billion FDI attracted by Sweden last year and way below than the \$117.73 billion FDI received by Hong Kong or the \$141.21 billion FDI attracted by Singapore. Despite this decline, the total FDI inflow into the GCC countries more than doubled in six years, reaching \$37.12 billion in 2022, up from \$15.52 billion in 2017 – which demonstrates a strong growth in the overall investment landscape. The GCC region's inward FDI stock rose to \$529.78 billion at the end of 2022. This is at the backdrop of a 12 percent decline in global FDI flow to \$1.3 trillion in 2022, according to the Gulf Investment Report 2023. However, in the GCC, the UAE stands out in terms of attracting investment. FDI inflow of \$22.73 billion into the UAE in 2022 represents 61.24 percent of the total FDI inflow of \$37.12 billion into the GCC in 2022, the records show.

The UAE ranks fourth globally in greenfield investment projects with the number of projects reaching 997 in 2023, according to the World Investment Report 2023. "The GDP of the GCC region has already touched the \$2 trillion mark. If the GCC countries continued business as usual, their combined GDP would grow to an expected \$6 trillion by 2050. "However, embracing a green growth strategy could see the GCC GDP grow to over \$13 trillion by 2050," World Bank said in an economic update. Issam Abou Sleiman, Regional Director of World Bank in the Mena region, said, "The GCC economies have been a bright spot in an otherwise dark economic landscape. Average growth in the GCC surpassed 7 percent in 2022 led by Saudi Arabia, its biggest economy, which was globally the fastest growing large economy." "The transition to a low-carbon

economy has been accelerated by high oil and gas prices and the need for greater energy security in the wake of the war in Ukraine. Renewable energy industries will witness trillions of dollars of new investment as well as opportunities in upstream and downstream industries." "The region also has the potential to be a lead producer of green and blue hydrogen. With the right regulations, policies, and investments to support the transition, GCC countries can emerge with stronger, more sustainable economies that generate rewarding jobs for their youth while simultaneously protecting the planet," the report said. The GCC countries have been attracting investment from all over the world for quite some time now. Information on investment has been published in bits and pieces in a scattered manner without coordination.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Gulf Mushroom Products, up 3.60 per cent, was the top gainer while Musandam Power, down 7.80 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,704.13 points, down by 0.41 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.33 per cent at 461.25 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 3.60 per cent, was the top gainer while Musandam Power, down 7.80 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 293 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.33 million, with more than 7.15 million shares changing hands.

Out of 34 traded securities, 12 advanced, 9 declined, and 13 remained unchanged.

At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR226000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR222900, followed by foreign investors for OMR31,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,666.81 points, down 1 per cent.

Prices of Bank Nizwa were up by 1.01 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Global Financial Investments, Bank Muscat, National Bank Oman were up by 6.08 per cent, 4.84 per cent, 2.89 per cent, 0.65 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,540.31 points, up 0.37 per cent. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cables Industry were up by 3.60 per cent, 2.07 per cent, 2.05 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement were up by 1.53 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.31 per cent before closing at 1,626.62 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Barka Water & Power Company, Muscat Desalination, SMN Power Holding, Oman Oil Marketing were up by 3.45 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.47 per cent, 1.37 per cent, 0.11 per cent respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services, Oman National Engineering, Ooredoo were up by 4.08 per cent, 1.84 per cent, 1.37 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,737.859	4,704.127	4,704.127	4,723.471	-19.344	-0.41
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,776.995	7,663.053	7,666.806	7,744.141	-77.335	-1.00
Industry Index	5,540.312	5,518.316	5,540.312	5,519.730	20.582	0.37
Services Index	1,630.123	1,626.615	1,626.615	1,631.600	-4.985	-0.31
MSX Shariah Index	461.867	459.603	461.253	459.722	1.531	0.33
MSX TR INDEX	6,237.960	6,193.549	6,193.549	6,219.018	-25.469	-0.41
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,486.130	8,361.798	8,365.893	8,450.280	-84.387	-1.00
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,918.432	5,894.935	5,918.432	5,896.445	21.987	0.37
SERVICES TR IDX	1,809.220	1,796.510	1,796.510	1,802.016	-5.506	-0.31

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,158,176	3,333,156	293	23,724,947,285	12	9	13	34

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER, PAI VALUE, SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,300	356	3	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.000	0.000	0.274	0.269	0.274.....0100.....OUIK	27,400,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	39,318	4,222	7	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.109	-0.002	-1.835	0.107	0.107	0.108.....0100.....ONES	16,050,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	175	54	1	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.310	-0.002	-0.645	0.308	0.000	0.308.....0100.....NBOB	500,791,477
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	500,000	87,500	2	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.175	0.187.....0100.....BKDB	524,361,501
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,045,977	555,098	143	0.277	0.277	0.269	0.269	0.277	-0.008	-2.888	0.270	0.269	0.100.....0100.....BKMB	2,019,220,610
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	237,000	241,266	8	1.018	1.018	1.018	1.018	1.018	0.000	0.000	1.018	1.018	1.020.....0100.....OTEL	763,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	96,750	5,617	7	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.062	-0.003	-4.839	0.059	0.058	0.059.....0100.....GFIC	11,800,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	258	103	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.417	-0.017	-4.077	0.400	0.400	0.415.....0100.....RNSS	94,564,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	482,700	50,684	10	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.103	0.105.....0100.....BKSB	574,128,293
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	44,709	16,105	9	0.365	0.365	0.360	0.360	0.365	-0.005	-1.370	0.360	0.360	0.360.....0100.....ORDS	234,339,923
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	43,000	3,172	3	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.074	0.071	0.080.....0100.....SMNP	14,773,034
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	21,000	1,806	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.085	0.086.....0100.....AMAT	15,050,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	466	110	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.235	0.000.....0100.....AMCI	12,925,000
Total	13	3,512,653	966,092	197											
Parallel Market															
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	317	16	1	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.000	0.050.....0100.....CMII	3,125,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	179,980	23,218	25	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.129	0.131	-0.002	-1.527	0.129	0.129	0.129.....0100.....RCCI	25,800,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	28,411	55,264	2	1.945	1.990	1.945	1.990	1.950	0.040	2.051	1.990	1.755	1.990.....0100.....OCAI	178,503,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	102,450	7,991	9	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.078.....0100.....AAIC	16,068,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	7,500	1,240	2	0.170	0.170	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.163	0.170.....0100.....ABOB	382,994,167
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	500	115	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.222	-0.008	-3.604	0.230	0.222	0.230.....0100.....GMPI	10,526,134
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	10,000	9,000	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.899	-0.001	-0.111	0.900	0.900	0.900.....0100.....OOMS	55,147,500
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	150	44	1	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.290	-0.006	-2.069	0.296	0.270	0.296.....0100.....SPFI	35,520,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	65,300	2,552	3	0.039	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.039	-0.001	-2.564	0.040	0.039	0.040.....0100.....BWPC	6,400,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,122	135	4	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.120.....0100.....VOES	9,768,330
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	37,914	3,754	9	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	-0.001	-1.010	0.100	0.099	0.100.....0100.....BKNZ	223,695,303
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	800	19	2	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.023	0.025.....0100.....SUNP	17,145,752
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,616	225	1	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.148	-0.009	-6.081	0.139	0.139	0.148.....0100.....OAB	232,047,990
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	930	56	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.058	-0.002	-3.448	0.060	0.057	0.060.....0100.....PHPC	87,756,088
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	35,000	2,905	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.081	-0.002	-2.469	0.083	0.083	0.087.....0100.....MCDE	12,910,683
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	8,400	2,286	5	0.265	0.280	0.260	0.260	0.282	-0.022	-7.801	0.260	0.260	0.280.....0100.....MSPW	18,301,400
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	64,700	7,804	3	0.120	0.122	0.120	0.122	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.122	0.122	0.122.....0100.....PRPD	61,888,633
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	54,862	16,205	19	0.295	0.298	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.000	0.000	0.295	0.295	0.297.....0100.....ABRJ	227,209,000
Total	18	599,952	132,829	91											

FOR 2023

China confident of achieving growth target

BEIJING: China is highly confident in meeting its growth target for 2023, said a senior official with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Wednesday.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5.2 percent year on year in the first three quarters of this year, paving a solid foundation for the country to achieve its annual GDP growth target of around 5 percent in 2023, Sheng Laiyun, deputy head of the NBS told a press conference.

To fulfil the annual growth target, China's GDP needs to meet a growth target of at least 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, Sheng added.

The growing momentum in the economic recovery process, a slew of pro-growth policies and a relatively lower base from the same period last year will contribute to the country's economic growth in the fourth quarter, according to the NBS official. —Xinhua

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

FAO hopes COP28 will achieve Paris Agreement goals

ABU DHABI: Kayan Akram Jaff, Senior Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Adviser, Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said that the organisation has already begun preparations for participating in the Conference of the Parties (COP28), which will be held in the UAE before the end of this year.

"A large delegation from the organisation, led by the FAO Director-General, is expected to attend," Jaff said in a statement to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on the sidelines of the 8th World Investment Forum held in Abu Dhabi.

Jaff added, "We hope that COP28 will contribute to achieve the goals and targets of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement by capping global temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Celsius."



He explained that the participation of the FAO in the Global Investment Forum is necessary, as this forum is a prestigious global platform for investment and development, working on formulating strategies and solutions

for the challenges facing global investment and development.

The FAO official also shed light on the UAE's significant humanitarian role globally through its continuous efforts to reduce human suffering in disaster, famine, and crisis areas.

He added that the UAE is one of the most essential supporting and reinforcing countries for the FAO in achieving its humanitarian goals and aspirations, highlighting that "the country will spare no effort in expanding humanitarian communication with the organisation, especially in combating poverty, hunger, epidemics, and malnutrition worldwide."

Jaff highlighted the UAE's role in promoting local, regional, and global food security, noting that the country possesses significant expertise in this field, and its food security system serves as a model for many neighbouring countries. —WAM

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INFORMATIVE SESSION

Bank Muscat hosts seminar on Global Economic Prospects

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to strengthening its partnerships, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, hosted a special seminar about Global Economic Prospects presented by Dr Gaurav Ganguly, the Chief Economist for Europe and the Middle East, and the Head of the Climate Scenario Group at Moody's Analytics.

The event was attended by a number of officials representing different institutions and corporates and senior officials from Bank Muscat.

Addressing the gathering, Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, General Manager - Corporate Banking, Bank Muscat, said, "It is one of Bank Muscat's priorities to organise events like this and connect with our corporate partners with the aim of keeping them informed about the latest developments in the banking and economic sectors.

"The bank is also keen to attract expertise and exchange knowledge in the related fields. Our aim is to ensure that our partners are well-aware about all the latest trends on the local, regional and international arena. We will continue to go above and beyond to serve our customers and contrib-



ute to the prosperity of Oman."

During the seminar, Dr Gaurav Ganguly focused on a number of points around global prospects including non-oil economy in the GCC, inflation and risks, long term growth prospects, shifting Fiscal Breakevens, improvement of government balances, top CO2 emitters, global greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption and supply amongst other related points.

Through continuously upgrading the services and products, Bank Muscat seeks to meet the aspirations of its customers by keeping pace with the latest trends in banking sector and it exerts efforts to provide only the best to them. The bank has succeeded over 40 years to gain people's trust which can be seen in

the ever-growing bank's family.

As part of its efforts to enhance convenience and add value to services offered to the governmental institutions, corporates and SMEs, the bank's five exclusive corporate branches are located at major business hubs in the Sultanate, Al Nahdha Towers branch, CBD corporate branch, Sohar corporate branch, Salalah corporate branch and the newly-opened branch in Duqm.

The corporate banking branches represent a one-stop shop for all business banking requirements ranging from a simple account opening to availing of credit facilities and more complex transactions such as global trade services. They maintain and build relationships with government bodies, large corporates and

SMEs and provide products and services that meet their various business requirements.

Bank Muscat is proud to partner with the different government entities and corporates and be part of the renaissance of modern Oman as it invests in vital sectors including roads, health, education, communications, housing, municipal, agricultural, fisheries and other development projects. The bank has been supporting the Omani economy throughout its history by financing development projects and providing support to companies and institutions through various financing options. It has also invested in the banking sector by the use of modern technologies to keep pace with current and future developments.



LIFESTYLE

69TH INDIAN FILM AWARDS



Alia Bhatt, Kriti Sanon to Allu Arjun, check full list of winners

NEW DELHI: The 69th National Film Awards ceremony was held in Delhi on Tuesday and honoured actors for their outstanding performance in Indian cinema.

From Alia Bhatt to Kriti Sanon, Pankaj Tripathi and Allu Arjun several others won the prestigious awards for their projects.

The ceremony took place at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. President Droupadi Murmu and Union Minister Anurag Thakur were present on the occasion.

Actor Alia Bhatt was conferred with the Best Actress Award for her performance in the film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' at the 69th National Film Awards.

On receiving the prestigious award, Alia Bhatt said, "It is a very big moment and I am very grateful."

Alia arrived at the ceremony along with her husband and actor Ranbir Kapoor.

She won everyone's hearts with her sartorial choice at the event as she marked her presence in the same saree that she wore during her wedding ceremony with Ranbir.

She styled the saree in a different manner this time. Also, she tied her hair in a bun instead of keeping it open. She accessorised her hair bun with white flowers.

For the glam, she opted for subtle make-up that comprised defined brows, kohl-rimmed eyes, nude lips and a small red bindi. Her gold and pearl choker necklace gave her look a royal touch.

Ranbir complemented her in a black bandhgala blazer.

Actor Kriti Sanon was also conferred with the Best Actress Award for her performance in the film 'Mimi'.

Kriti arrived at the ceremony along with her parents.

She looked beautiful as she donned a pastel saree at the ceremony that complemented the Indian culture.

Reacting to her win, Kriti said, "Just very very overwhelmed. I feel very blessed & grateful. It is a very special moment, especially for Mimi & also my parents were here watching me. I don't think I've felt this before."

Telugu star Allu Arjun was honoured with the Best Actor Award at the 69th National Film Awards here on Tuesday.

He received the award for his role in 'Pushpa: The Rise - Part 1. This is Allu Arjun's first National Award.

Actor Rakshit Shetty's film



'777 Charlie' won the Best Kannada Film award. He received the award on behalf of team '777 Charlie' from President Droupadi Murmu.

For the award ceremony, Shetty donned an all-black suit.

Actor Pankaj Tripathi received the Best Supporting Actor award for his performance in the film 'Mimi'.

Talking to ANI, Pankaj Tripathi reacted to his National Film Award win and said, "There is hard work of the whole team/unit behind any film. I am thankful to the jury for choosing me for this award... I dedicate this award to my father."

Actor Pallavi Joshi bagged the Best Supporting Actress award for her performance in the film 'The



Kashmir Files'.

Talking to ANI, Pallavi said, "Whenever one receives a national award, it feels really good... My expectations are very high now regarding audience view, after the level of recognition that 'The Kashmir Files' subject has got."

Apart from this, 'The Kashmir Files' also won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration.

Director Vivek Agnihotri received the award on behalf of the team 'The Kashmir Files'.

Ace music composer MM Keeravani was felicitated with the National Award for the Best Background Score for director SS Rajamouli's 'RRR'.

Keeravani's son Kaala Bhairava, too, won best playback singer for the song 'Komuram Bheemudo'.

Ace filmmaker Karan Johar's production 'Shershaah' starring Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani bagged the Special

Jury Award.

Karan and director Vishnu Vardhan received the award on behalf of the team from President Droupadi Murmu.

Actor Sidharth Malhotra dropped a post and reacted to the film's prestigious win.

He wrote, "Special Jury Award at the 69th National Film Awards for #Shershaah! The award received today is a tribute to hard work, determination, and patriotism. Its significance will remain etched in my heart forever. Deep gratitude and respect to my entire team, and above all, to you for your constant support."

Actor R Madhavan's directorial project 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' bagged the Best Feature Film at the 69th National Film Awards.

On receiving the award, Madhavan said, "I feel very happy and proud. It is a lovely award. It feels gratifying."

Veteran actress Waheeda Reh-

man was conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award.

The ceremony saw Waheeda Rehman receiving a standing ovation as she went up to the stage to receive the award.

After the honour, the veteran actress, in a speech, said, "I feel very honoured, very humbled. But the place where I am standing today is all because of my love for the film industry. Luckily, I got to work with the best directors, producers, technicians, writers, and music directors, and they all supported me. They gave me love and respect."

A short video was also played at the ceremony that showcased Waheeda Rehman's film work over the years.

Waheeda Rehman attended the ceremony in a graceful cream saree. She looked extremely emotional when she received the honour for her immense contribution to Indian cinema.

After the ceremony, Waheeda Rehman spoke to the media and said that she was "very happy."

Singer Shreya Ghoshal received the Best Female Playback Singer award for the song 'Mayava Chayava' from the Tamil film 'Iravin Nizhal'. This marks Shreya's fifth National Film Award.

Renowned music director Devi Sri Prasad won the Best Music Director Award for his composition in the Telugu blockbuster film 'Pushpa: The Rise'.

On receiving the award, Devi Sri Prasad told ANI, "I will always be grateful to everyone. This is one of the most prestigious awards. It is the biggest dream of any artist. The dream has come true today." -ANI

BankDhofar launches ‘Ladies Banking’ to empower women

The bank is offering a host of exceptional features and privileges, such as providing an elegant vertical debit card as a symbol of empowerment and distinction

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, one of Oman's leading banks, announces the Ladies Banking, a dedicated financial proposition designed exclusively to empower women.

The bank is offering a host of exceptional features and privileges, such as providing an elegant vertical debit card as a symbol of empowerment and distinction. It is specially crafted to cater to the



preferences and needs of our female customers. This elegant card is not just a payment tool; it's a statement of empowerment.

BankDhofar is committed to

supporting women in achieving their financial goals. To that end, the Ladies banking offers special rates on loans and deposits, ensuring that women can access fi-

nancial resources on preferential terms, whether it's for personal or business needs.

Ghada Mohammed Al Raiisi, Head of Capital branches at Bank-

Dhofar stated, "We at BankDhofar believe in the power of diversity and inclusion. The Ladies Banking represents our commitment to providing women in the Sultanate

of Oman with the financial tools and opportunities they deserve. We understand that women have unique financial needs, and we are here to address them."

The ladies banking customers will also gain access to exclusive offers on credit cards, including rewards, discounts at partner merchants, and exciting privileges that enhance their lifestyle. BankDhofar's experienced customer service advisors will be available to provide personalised guidance and financial planning assistance, ensuring that women can make informed decisions about their financial future. The ladies banking also offers tailored savings solutions, allowing women to grow their wealth while taking into account their unique financial objectives.

A personalised cheque book with enhanced security feature with the account holder name giving flexibility of payment convenience.

This aligns with BankDhofar's ongoing mission to serve as a trusted partner in the financial journeys of its female customers. The bank aims to empower women to take control of their finances, make informed choices and achieve their financial aspirations.

EXPO

EduTraC Oman 2023 to showcase best of higher education, training and career opportunities



MUSCAT: The 10th edition of EduTraC Oman, the Sultanate's leading Higher Education, Training, and Career Expo, will be held from October 22-24, 2023, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre. The show will be officially inaugurated by Prof. Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Oman's Higher Education, Research, and Innovation Ministry (MOHERI).

EduTraC Oman is held annually in Muscat, Oman. The event is expected to attract over 10,000 visitors, including students, parents, professionals, and government officials. It will feature a wide range of exhibitors from local and international universities, colleges, training institutes, and employers.

Visitors to EduTraC Oman 2023 will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the latest educational and training programs available
- Meet representatives from universities and colleges to discuss their admission requirements and scholarship opportunities
- Attend workshops and seminars on topics such as career planning, job search skills, and

entrepreneurship

Network with employers and explore job opportunities

Commenting on the upcoming event, Salim Omar Al Hashmi, Chairman at Al Nimr Expo, said, "EduTraC Oman plays a vital role in promoting the Sultanate's education and training sector. It provides a unique platform for students, parents, professionals, and employers to come together and explore the various opportunities available. We are excited to host the 10th edition of the event and look forward to welcoming visitors from all over the country."

EduTraC Oman 2023 is organised by Al Nimr Expo, one of Oman's leading trade exhibition and conference organisers. The event is supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation, the Ministry of Education - Career Guidance & Student Counselling Center, and other leading organisations in the Sultanate of Oman.

For more information about EduTraC Oman 2023, please visit the event website www.edutracoman.com



ROUND-UP

Alizz Bank Sharia Supervisory Board holds its 4th meeting

During the meeting, the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank gave a presentation about the local economic performance and the bank's performance during the third quarter of this year and the desired expectations during the coming period

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) of Alizz Islamic Bank held its fourth meeting for the year 2023 at the bank's headquarters in the Central Business District of Ruwi, in the presence of the Chairman of the Sharia Supervisory Board, Sheikh Dr Es-



sam Al Enezi and the other members of the SBB as well as Ali bin Saif Al Mani, the bank's CEO, members of the executive management team and the Internal Sharia Auditors.

The meeting was also attended by scholars from the "Empowering the Second Line of Sharia Supervisory Board Members" programme, where they participated alongside

members of the Sharia Supervisory Board for practical experience and direct vocational training.

During the meeting, the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank presented a presentation about the local economic performance and the bank's performance during the third quarter of this year and the desired expectations during the coming period. Moreover, the meeting

discussed the Sharia Audit Report for the third quarter of the year and the Sharia Compliance and Risks Report, as well as several issues of interest. The meeting also discussed some of the requests to reschedule corporate finance and issued the appropriate decisions in this respect.

It is worth noting that the Sharia Supervisory Board, through

the reports submitted to it, monitors the Sharia performance of the bank, which enables the board to evaluate the extent of compliance with Sharia directives and decisions. It also provides recommendations and advice to create value-added products for the Islamic banking industry and provides financing solutions to meet the high customer demand in the

market. The Sharia Compliance and Audit Department plays a very important role in monitoring the correct application of the Sharia Supervisory Board's instructions by overseeing the mechanisms used to create products and develop product-related documents, while examining the executed transactions and applying control and auditing tools.

LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

FUN VR



Chery Tech Day commences at Chery International User Summit

MUSCAT: 2023 Chery International User Summit kicked off on October 15. An important part of this event, the Chery Tech Day ran concurrently. It featured a press conference on October 16, providing a comprehensive display of Chery's latest achievements in technological advancement.

In 2022, during the Chery Tech Day, Chery introduced the Chery Future Research Institute, with the "Yao Guang Plan" at its core, realising the vision of leading the future development of the global automotive industry.

The photo depicts the scene of the 2022 Chery Tech Day. The 2023 Chery Tech Day marks the grand occasion of "Yao Guang 2025 Technology Strategy 2.0 and New Technology Launch". The event unveiled over a hundred innovative technological achievements and a range of vehicle models. With a keen focus on technology and users, it centres on forward-looking technology as its core, bolstered by a research and development framework, emphasizing core technological architecture, ultimately driving a technological revolution.

During the press conference, Chery Group unveiled new product designs and concept cars.

They also collaborated with international partners, developers, and ecological chain partners, among other distinguished guests, to establish the "Yao Guang Technology Alliance".

This initiative aims to build a technology innovation chain for the new era, contributing to the high-quality development of the automotive industry. At Chery's dedicated technology showcase area, a versatile skateboard platform demonstrates Chery's technological advantages. The intelligent chassis showcases its structural advantages as well as its technologies in intelligence, safety, comfort, and handling. The display includes Chery's latest hybrid-dedicated engine, electric drive, E-Fuels/engine, and intelligent driving cabin.

Encompassing Chery's innovative technologies in the field of new energy power and "humanoid" intelligent technology fields, the presentation of these various technological products reflects Chery's commitment to offering products known for

their "cost-effectiveness, reliability, and user-centric warmth". This showcases Chery's vision of continuously empowering users to experience a higher quality of driving life.

Furthermore, the 2023 Chery Tech Day also introduced numerous innovations, continually reshaping brand perception, enriching brand essence, and presenting Chery's brand image of warmth and warmth in addition to technology.

With the 2023 Chery International User Summit as a fresh starting point, Chery will continue to innovate in technology with the courage to embrace changes and lead transformations, seizing the "source of power" for the development of "pinnacle of intelligent". Recently, Kantar and Google jointly released the 2023 Chinese Global Brand Builders Top 50. Chery is ranked as the best Chinese global brand builder in cars and 14th in the overall list and its brand power has achieved strong growth.

Chery Automobile took the first spot among all Chinese automotive brands in J.D. Power 2023 China Initial Quality StudySM (IQS).

In Oman, Chery will soon be launched by Saud Bahwan Group.

Mall of Muscat launches premier virtual reality gaming arena



MUSCAT: Mall of Muscat, Oman's premium shopping and leisure destination, has launched Fun VR, Oman's premier virtual reality gaming arena to become the market leader in the Sultanate of Oman for fun and entertainment activities.

In addition to the existing entertainment options such as Oman Aquarium, Fabyland, Extreme Zone, Novo Cinemas etc, at Fun VR now, avid gamers can delve into alternate virtual universes using cutting-edge VR technology. Whether playing alone or competing with friends and family, exciting games are available for them to indulge in.

One of the largest virtual reality experience venue in Oman, Fun VR at Mall of Muscat aims

to redefine the boundaries of immersive entertainment and interactive exploration for gamers and enthusiasts alike. With this new opening, gamers can discover a world of art and adventure in virtual reality, making visits to Mall of Muscat an even more enriching experience filled with fun, entertainment and exploration.

Immersive experiences

A spokesperson for Mall of Muscat said, "As a focal point for the community, Mall of Muscat is pleased to announce the introduction of Fun VR, offering a wide range of state of the art immersive experiences. Moreover, recognising the desire for families and friends to engage in meaningful interactions, we are constantly

looking to enhance our fun quotient at the mall, we extend an invitation to one and all to explore Fun VR's comprehensive array of both fun and entertaining virtual activities."

Fun VR functions with the goal of rendering virtual reality experiences that are user-friendly and engaging. Irrespective of one's familiarity with technology or virtual reality, the selection of games and specially crafted environment at Fun VR make it accessible and thrilling for individuals across all age groups.

With an impressive array of 240+ brands spanning across fashion, lifestyle, sports, and electronics, Mall of Muscat offers an unparalleled shopping and entertainment experience in Oman.





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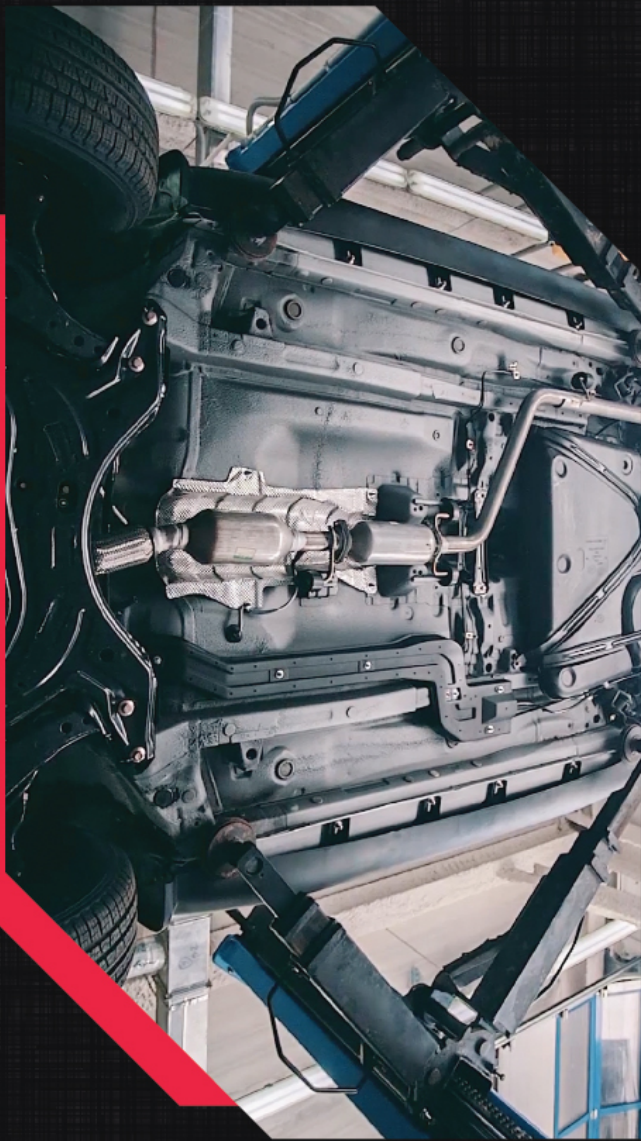
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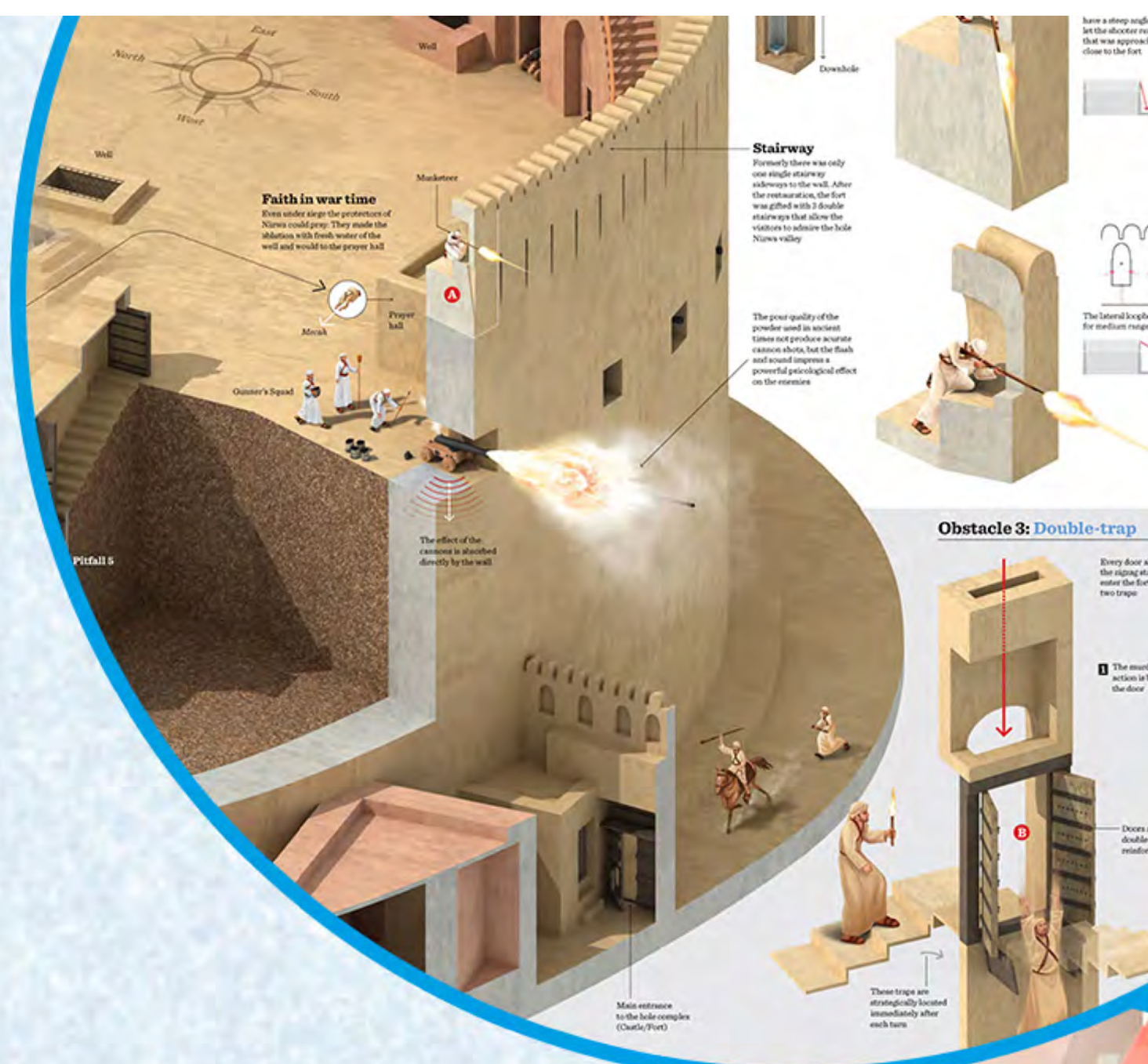


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The Main board and electric box is enclosed in fire proof material for additional safety.

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EER: 11.70

GS24GMAX60
22178 BTU
EER: 11.60

GS26GMAX60
24000 BTU
EER: 12.00

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EER: 11.96



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