

VinFast VF 8: Redefining the Electric SUV Experience

402 hp | 0-100 in 5.5 Sec | Range Upto 493kms | Dual Motor | All Wheel Drive | 20 Advanced Driver Assist Features

The automotive industry is evolving, and at the forefront of this transformation is the VinFast VF 8. More than just an electric SUV, the VF 8 delivers a driving experience that blends innovation, sustainability, and style. With cutting-edge technology, high-performance capabilities, and a commitment to eco-friendly mobility, the VF 8 offers a glimpse into the future of transportation.

Driving Sustainability Forward – Boundless Together

VinFast's commitment to sustainability is reflected in every aspect of the VF 8. As a zero-emission vehicle, it reduces your environmental impact without sacrificing performance or luxury. High-end materials and sustainable manufacturing practices further underscore VinFast's dedication to creating a greener world.

Together with the VF 8, drivers and VinFast are paving the way for a more sustainable future, one journey at a time.

Revolutionary Design and Performance

The VinFast VF 8 showcases a sleek, aerodynamic design crafted by world-renowned Italian design house Pininfarina. With bold lines, dynamic proportions, and a sophisticated presence, the VF 8 sets a new standard for electric SUVs.

Underneath its stylish exterior, the VF 8 is powered by a dual-motor, high-performance electric drivetrain that delivers up to 402 hp and a range of up to 493 km (NEDC) on a single charge, depending on the model variant. The VF 8's all-wheel-drive capability

ensures exhilarating torque of up to 620 Nm while maintaining a stable drive. Its innovative battery system supports rapid charging, enabling a 70% charge in just 31 minutes with a DC fast charger.

A Smart SUV for a Smarter World

Step inside the VF 8, and you're welcomed by cutting-edge technology designed to elevate your driving experience. A stunning 15.6-inch touchscreen display serves as the command center for the vehicle, giving you access to entertainment and vehicle settings at your fingertips.

But it doesn't stop there. The VF 8 is packed with VinFast's smart and luxurious features, which include a 360-degree surround-view monitoring system, ventilated seats in both the first and second rows, a wireless phone charger, a power tailgate, and seamless compatibility with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Remote vehicle management through your smartphone allows you to lock and unlock the car, control the climate, and monitor battery life. Advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) such as adaptive cruise control, lane-centering assist, automatic emergency braking, and 11 airbags, including driver and front passenger knee airbags, ensure ultimate safety and peace of mind on every journey in the VF 8.



Sustainability Without Compromise

The VF 8 reflects VinFast's commitment to sustainability. As a fully electric SUV, it produces zero tailpipe emissions, helping to reduce the carbon footprint. The materials and processes used in its manufacturing are eco-friendly, further contributing to a greener planet.

By driving the VF 8, you're not just choosing a car, you're choosing a cleaner, more sustainable future.

A Customer-Centric Approach

VinFast believes that the future of driving should be worry-free. That's why the VF 8 comes with an industry-leading 10-year unlimited mileage warranty on the high-voltage battery, coupled with an exceptional 10-year or 200,000 km vehicle warranty. This ensures unparalleled peace of mind throughout VF 8 ownership.

Your Future Awaits

The VinFast VF 8 is for the eco-conscious driver, the tech enthusiast, and anyone who refuses to compromise on style or performance. With its blend of advanced technology, powerful performance, and sustainable design, the VF 8 is redefining what it means to drive.

About VinFast

VinFast, a subsidiary of Vingroup JSC, is a leading Vietnamese electric vehicle

manufacturer committed to making EVs accessible to everyone. The company offers a diverse lineup that includes electric SUVs, e-scooters, and e-buses. VinFast continues to expand globally, focusing on growing its distribution and dealership network and increasing manufacturing capabilities across North America, Europe, and Asia.

About Bahwan Automobiles and Trading LLC

Bahwan Automobiles and Trading LLC is an allied business of Bahwan International Group LLC, which is a reputed entity with over 45 associate companies with presence across the Sultanate of Oman, the Gulf region, North Africa, and South Asia. This group of companies represents an impressive portfolio of more than 40 global brands, their diversified businesses.

The exclusive VinFast service center is situated at Al Azaiba which is fully equipped and handled by specially trained EV technicians.

Boundless adventures start here. Are you ready to take the first step?

Visit www.vinfast-oman.com to learn more or contact 800 500 11 schedule your test drive today. The future of driving is here, and it's electric.

Together, we're boundless.

Images are for illustrative purposes, actual product might differ, and specification data is subject to change. Contact your nearest showroom more details.





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TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:23pm
Asr.....	3:45pm
Maghrib.....	6:16pm
Isha.....	7:27pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:09am

Oman and UK keen to enhance cooperation

LONDON: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, held a meeting on Tuesday with David Lammy, British Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs in London.

The meeting discussed historical relations and existing strategic partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Kingdom. Sayyid Badr and David Lammy expressed keenness to follow up and support the ongoing cooperation between the two countries in various domains of mutual interest.

The two leaders laid emphasis on the role of the Oman-UK Strategic Consultation Team.

The two sides exchanged views about regional and international issues.

They underlined the importance of consolidating diplomacy, dialogue and international cooperation in addressing current challenges, to help achieve security



and stability for all.

They also stressed the need to engage in joint action to resolve crises and promote peace and sustainable development through

multilateral frameworks and effective partnerships.

The meeting was attended by Badr Mohammed Al Mantheri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of

Oman to the United Kingdom, Li-ane Saunders, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of officials from both sides. -ONA

Body of missing child found on the Seeb beach



Times News Service

Muscat: The body of a missing child was found on the Seeb beach of the Muscat Governorate on Tuesday after a four-day extensive search operation, said the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) authorities.

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority said: "The body of the missing child was found lifeless on the Seeb beach area of the Muscat Governorate after a four-day search operation. The search involved several rescue teams, citizens, and relevant authorities."

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HERMITAGE MUSEUM

Oman exhibition in Russia attracts over 400,000 visitors

MUSCAT: As many as 414,481 visitors turned up at an exhibition titled “Omani Empire between Asia and Africa”, held at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, from December 2023 to January 2025.

The exhibition, the second of its kind to be organised as part of Oman Hall Initiative, was applauded by visitors from different countries of the world.

The visitors expressed their great appreciation for the unique collections which, they said, reflected the deep-rooted history of the Sultanate of Oman.

The exhibition included a selection of artefacts that represented Al Yaruba Dynasty and



Al Busaidi Dynasty, which established two maritime empires in the 17th century and whose glory peaked in the 17th Century.

The artefacts indicate important aspects of Oman’s historical identity as a role model for a prosperous, global, multicultural and tolerant nation. -ONA



LOCAL EXPERTISE

Separation surgery a boost to health sector

<FROM A1 “While there are various cases of conjoinment, those involving the pelvic area are very rare, especially among girls, which complicates the situation due to the presence of numerous organs in this complex area,” Dr. Mohammed said.

He added, “We followed up on the case during pregnancy, with communication between us and the obstetricians. We decided to perform the surgery here in Oman and take over their treatment. Thankfully, the birth occurred smoothly, and they were transferred to the neonatal intensive care unit. While we faced some challenges, we were able to overcome them. Over the 11 months of preparation, meetings, and imaging, we identified the location of the conjoinment and the shared organs between the twins. It is clear that the expertise and specialties available in Oman greatly contributed to the success of our preparation.”

Complex surgeries
Dr. Muhannad Mohammed Batal, Consultant Pediatric Surgeon, highlighted the significance of this medical success in Oman’s healthcare sector, emphasising the ability of Omani professionals to perform even the most complex surgeries.

It further strengthens the Sultanate of Oman’s position in the field of advanced surgeries.

Dr. Ali Al Jabri, Senior Consultant in Neonatal Intensive Care and Head of the Neonatal ICU, also shared his insights, stating: “The condition was discovered early by obstetricians, and coordination was made with the intensive care team to ensure a safe delivery, which was carried out via a cesarean section. The efforts culminated in a well-organised institutional plan that took almost a year. It began with daily monitoring of the twins’ condition, which was complicated, and continued with detailed planning involving surgeons, anesthetists, plastic surgeons, and radiologists.”

Further, Dr. Nawal Al Sharjiya, Consultant Pediatric Urologist, pointed out that in conjoined twins, especially those conjoined at the pelvic area, there are often complications in the urinary system. One of the main challenges during the surgery was the shared ureters.

Meanwhile, Dr. Masoud Al Abdali, Consultant Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon at Khoula Hospital, said: “I was entrusted with forming the pediatric orthopedic surgical team, which was made up of specialists in various aspects of pediatric orthopedic surgery, including spine surgery and pelvic surgery from different hospitals. We held numerous preparatory meetings to discuss the details, both within our team and with other specialties, to prepare for this operation. Our role as pediatric orthopedic

surgeons in the separation of the twins in the pelvic area involved performing pelvic cuts to bring the lower limbs closer together.”

He added: “It was a fascinating experience, and I thank the Minister of Health for placing his trust in the medical team. I also appreciate the cooperation of the Royal Hospital and Khoula Hospital, which led to the success of the surgery.”

Speaking about the operation, Dr. Shaykhan Al Hashemi, Consultant Pediatric Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgeon at Khoula Hospital, said that conjoined twins are an extremely rare condition globally, and this case of pelvic conjoinment is one of the rarest.

It requires early preparation. The primary benefit of separating conjoined twins is the careful preparation of the tissues, ensuring that each child is able to preserve vital tissues, nerves, and major arteries.

Dr. Ramla Malallah Al Qassab, Senior Consultant of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, and Head of the Anesthesia Team for the separation surgery, stated: “Anesthesia is one of the most critical stages in any surgical procedure to ensure its success. Preparation began as soon as the decision was made to perform the surgery at the Royal Hospital. We started forming the anesthesia team with great care, including anesthesiologists, technicians, and anesthesia nurses. We also reviewed all anesthesia protocols for such surgeries, espe-

cially since this was the first time of its kind in Oman.”

Furthermore, Dr. Farhana Al Othmaniya, Consultant Pediatric Intensive Care Physician at the Royal Hospital, stated that the surgery was extremely long, lasting nearly 19 hours.

Such long surgeries can lead to complications and infections, but the team handled the case with distinction.

Said Al Muslahi, the father of the now-separated conjoined twins, expressed his gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. He also lauded the professionalism of the medical team and all those who contributed to the success of this operation.

Ruqayah Al Jardaniya, Nurse and Operating Room Supervisor, stated: “We held numerous meetings and preparations to arrange the necessary requirements for the surgery. Coordination was made with other teams, including those from Khoula Hospital, who provided us with support in terms of staff and resources needed for the surgery, all the way until the separation of the twins was successfully completed.”

It is worth noting that the occurrence of conjoined twins globally is estimated to be one case for every 200,000 to 1,000,000 births. Meanwhile, the “Omphaloischisopagus” type is one of the rarest recorded cases, making this Omani medical achievement an exceptional accomplishment. -ONA

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IDEAL MOMENT FOR SELF-REFLECTION AND STAYING ENERGISED

The Holy Month of Ramadan is an ideal time for self-introspection. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we often find ourselves overwhelmed by countless worries and responsibilities. Ramadan offers a unique opportunity to pause, reflect, and redirect our focus toward personal growth and spiritual enrichment. Instead of being consumed by the monotony of daily routines, this sacred month encourages us to ponder the deeper meaning and purpose of life.

Dedicate a few moments each day to self-reflection, evaluating how you can enhance your life, strengthen your relationships, and grow closer to the Almighty. By turning inward, praying with sincerity, and setting intentions for self-improvement, Ramadan becomes a transformative period, allowing you to emerge as a better version of yourself.



While fasting during Ramadan may lead to reduced physical activity due to spending more time at home, it is crucial to

maintain a level of movement to support your overall health. Exercise offers numerous benefits, including improved circulation, enhanced energy levels, and better mental clarity. Keeping your body active ensures that blood flows efficiently, promoting healthy skin and overall well-being. Health experts recommend starting with light exercises and gradually increasing intensity to avoid overexertion, especially while fasting.

Simple activities like a brisk walk before Iftar or gentle stretching routines can help you stay active throughout the month. By balancing spiritual reflection with physical activity, you can make the most of Ramadan, nurturing both your mind and body in preparation for the challenges and opportunities ahead. This holistic approach ensures a fulfilling and healthy Ramadan experience.



VOLTAMP ENERGY SAOG

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DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the seventeenth Annual General Meeting of Voltamp Energy SAOG (VE) and present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS:

The company has accelerated its profitability from last year while achieving strong growth, posting an impressive 535% increase in net profits compared to 2023. This achievement highlights our strategic emphasis on expanding our portfolio with premium, value-driven products and boosting exports by entering new markets. Our unwavering focus on growth and innovation is producing significant results, with 2024 marking a pivotal moment where our vision is turning into concrete success. This accomplishment reinforces our commitment to excellence and lays the foundation for continued momentum in the years to come. The Company includes the following subsidiaries:

- Voltamp Transformers Oman SAOC (VTO) is a 100% subsidiary of VE and manufactures transformers ranging from 100 KVA to 10 MVA, up to 33 KV. VTO continued its product portfolio and expanded in renewable products and executed large projects in GCC region.
- Voltamp Power SAOC (VP), an 81% subsidiary of VE, is the largest Power transformer company in the GCC with capability to produce transformers up to 400 KV 500 MVA. VP has expanded its market base substantially and expanded product portfolio with large projects in MENA region with new order and market of USA.
- Voltamp Technology LLC (VT) is also a 100% subsidiary of VE and manufactures low and medium voltage switchgears and Package substation, VT has strengthened its PSS foot print in GCC market.
- National Transformer company Limited (NTCL), a 49% subsidiary of VE with controlling interest in the company is being developed in Saudi Arabia, this should come into construction during 2025 and operations in 2026.

The summary of the Company's performance (including subsidiaries) is as follows:

Particulars	2024	2023	% Increase/ (decrease)
Revenue	41,552,772	30,512,671	36.18%
Other Income	328,122	78,274	319.20%
Expenditure	(34,602,595)	(29,151,552)	18.70%
Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	7,278,299	1,439,393	405.65%
Taxation	(1,204,479)	(462,545)	160.40%
Profit / (Loss) After Tax	6,073,820	976,848	521.78%
Basic Profit / (Loss) per share	0.065	0.010	550.00%
Net assets per share	0.271	0.209	29.67%

From the Profit after tax of RO 6,073,820 and considering the incurred fair value gain of RO 372,575 in its "Available for Sale" of investment during 2024 the total comprehensive profit achieved in 2024 after this is RO 6,446,395 compared to a profit of RO 922,030 in 2023.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

- Enhanced and strong Order booking with new market entries.
- Securing large Orders of 400 kV power Transformers.
- Opened key large markets in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(KSA), United States of America (USA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Secured 1.8 GW of Power transformer for UAE project and supplied major quantity in record time.
- Opened new product and order for 400 kV Shunt reactor.
- Successfully supplied, installed & commissioned 420 MVA, 400 kV Generator transformer in record time and established commitment to local market need.
- Launched the Solar Energy Skid Solution in Oman Sustainability.
- Signed a Joint venture agreement for the establishment of power transformer facility with Al Sharif Group in KSA, the plant is expected to come up in Rabigh Industrial area.
- Signed a Joint venture agreement for the establishment of power transformer repair facility with GCC Lab technical services in KSA, the plant is expected to come up in Damman Industrial area 3.
- Established sales offices in KSA, UAE and Qatar to meet the growing demand and aligning with customer.
- Breakthrough in winning large contract for supply of distribution transformer with Kahramaa.

EMPLOYEES WELFARE

The health and wellbeing of our workforce being a key priority, the Company provides its employees comprehensive medical insurance coverage. Voltamp is committed to Zero Harm at its work place and therefore Environmental Health & Safety is the top priorities in all its endeavors. Employee wellbeing is of most importance and Voltamp conduct regular updates and information to its employees.

The Company recognize the importance of mental health and is engaged in providing the employees stress free and comfortable work place which brings happiness at work. We are also engaged in bringing facilities and policies in place which enhances the work environment.

OMANISATION

Recruiting and training Omanis at all levels across the organisation is a Company policy as part of its commitment to foster national workforce and create an effective local human asset base that will generate substantial returns to the Company. The Company is proud to report the presence of Omani leadership in multiple positions and an Omanisation of 40% spread across the organization.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Company assumes its social responsibility role seriously, CSR is our commitment, Voltamp has been engaged with multiple organization and institute to support them through the budget of CSR, its employee emergency requirement committee. Voltamp us working towards fine tuning and approaching CSR in an

organized and structured manner to enable increase its support.

ESG, HEALTH SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

ESG is indeed an important aspect of business sustainability, the company has launched its first edition of "Sustainability report" with a tag "preserving the present", the report aligns with the requirement of MSX 30 key matrix.

Health and Safety remains priority for the Company. It has been regularly upgrading its Health and Safety Management Systems to international standards and also monitoring its HSE performance continuously. During the year Company organized multiple trainings and mock drills to keep the awareness and readiness on HSE requirements and has no major accidents.

Company has implemented ISO 45001 on Occupational Health and Safety Management, in all its manufacturing facilities.

Voltamp is committed to Zero Harm at its work place and therefore Environmental Health & Safety is the top priorities in all its endeavours. Employee wellbeing is of most importance and Voltamp conduct regular updates and information to its employees.

Voltamp has implemented ISO 27001 on Information Security Management in line with FSA requirement for information security.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:

Corporate governance at our company is built on a foundation of transparency, accountability, and integrity. We are committed to maintaining high standards of ethical conduct and ensuring that our decisions are aligned with the best interests of all stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, and the broader community. Our governance framework includes a clear structure of oversight, with an independent board of directors, regular audits, and robust risk management practices. We continuously strive to foster a culture of responsibility, innovation, and long-term value creation, ensuring sustainable growth and trust in our operations.

The Board and Management believe in maintaining a high level of professionalism and integrity in all operations and confirm standing fully compliant with the Code of Corporate Governance.

Corporate Governance and the Management Discussion and Analysis Reports are included in the Annual Report.

DIVIDEND

Board of directors are pleased with the performance and profitability for 2024 and proposed distributing 35% cash dividends and 15% of stock dividends (from stock premium) subject to the final approval at the forthcoming Annual General meeting of Shareholders.

OUTLOOK:

Our outlook projection for 2025 is "optimistic". The company's strategy is to address global market demand and overcome through expanding the market base, relationships and product differentiation, which has been seamlessly developed and being continued.

The company has successfully delivered and commissioned large transformers, special transformers and switchgears, establishing a strong presence in this niche market. This success is expected to demonstrate and continue the company's capability to meet similar demands across the region, contributing to the nation's ICV vision. Voltamp is also dedicated to supplier development, strengthening the value chain by working with multiple key suppliers in Oman. Additionally, the company plans to enhance its localization by organizing events, participation and development of SME's and manufacturers, handholding and supplier development thereby enhancing the In country value.

The Company is focusing rigorously on business development and plant expansion to make its availability in customer centric regions, in pursuance to this strategy, Voltamp has signed two joint ventures, firstly with Al Sharif Group where company is registered with "National Transformer company" this company will have its plant in Rabigh in Saudi Arabia with construction to start by Q2-25 and expected production to begin by Q2-26. One more joint venture with GCC lab technical service is signed and detail feasibility is in progress, this plant construction should start by Q3-25 and plant should be in operation by end 2026.

We have had few strategic advances in this space where technology partnership and new regions with large MNC has been signed for partnering in new markets. This will bring resilience to the business model and help sustainability.

Voltamp maintains a leadership position in Oman due to its technology, quality, and after-sales support. The company is the largest power transformer manufacturer in the GCC, facing competition from various large and multinational brands entering through EPC projects. Given the global transformer demand and material shortages, Voltamp's repair business holds strong potential. A Saudi JV with GCC Technical Services will play a key role. The company selectively engages in low-voltage switchgear while focusing on medium-voltage products and new technological partnerships.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

On behalf of Voltamp Energy SAOG, the Board of Directors expresses gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and the Omani Government for providing a secure and stable economic environment focused on driving growth and continued prosperity for all.

The Board expresses sincere appreciation for the support extended to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Financial Service Authority, Muscat Securities Market, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates, Rusayl Industrial Area (Madany).

The Board also extends appreciation to all customers and banks dealing with the company for their continuous support and to the valued Shareholders for their confidence in the Company and its Board of directors.

Finally, I would like to thank and recognize all the Company's employees and Management for their loyalty, hard work, dedication and commitment.

Aymen bin Hamad Al Busaidi
Chairman
Voltamp Energy SAOG

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2024

	Group		Parent Company	
	2024 RO	2023 RO	2024 RO	2023 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	8,809,981	8,504,687	544,828	584,439
Right-of-use assets	2,903,325	2,332,369	--	--
Investments in subsidiaries	--	--	8,278,281	8,255,455
Intangible assets	491,284	481,153	--	110,956
Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	23,489	173,792	23,489	173,792
Deferred tax assets	911,447	912,072	547,491	606,023
Total non-current assets	13,139,526	12,404,073	9,605,211	9,730,665
Current assets				
Inventories	15,205,671	7,106,532	1,145,155	717,883
Trade and other receivables	23,296,034	16,325,329	2,365,079	1,645,282
Investment at fair value through profit or loss	2,570,580	--	--	--
Amounts due from related parties	--	--	1,504,244	1,799,570
Term deposits	3,500,000	559,566	500,000	422,777
Bank balances and cash	560,503	878,133	44,062	213,894
Total current assets	45,132,788	24,869,560	5,558,540	4,799,406
Total assets	58,272,314	37,273,633	15,163,751	14,530,071
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	8,140,275	8,140,275	8,140,275	8,140,275
Share premium	3,146,070	3,146,070	3,146,070	3,146,070
Legal reserve	3,599,967	3,117,932	2,384,141	2,334,238
Fair value reserve	(37,059)	(1,212,798)	(37,059)	(1,212,798)
Retained earnings	7,194,161	3,849,577	(402,099)	603,165
	22,043,414	17,041,056	13,231,328	13,010,950
	1,877,097	1,060,924	--	--
Non-controlling interest	23,920,511	18,101,580	13,231,328	13,010,950
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Employees' end of service benefits	815,197	747,167	143,087	134,960
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	3,293,502	2,674,997	--	--
Deferred tax liability	213,948	133,227	--	--
Total non-current liabilities	4,322,647	3,555,391	143,087	134,960
Current liabilities				
Bank borrowings	4,722,506	6,054,339	111,372	346,636
Current portion of lease liabilities	423,014	595,894	--	--
Trade and other payables	26,093,646	9,269,252	1,431,674	1,033,022
Amount due to a related party	88,950	106,631	246,290	4,503
Taxation	1,107,605	183,958	--	--
Total current liabilities	30,029,156	15,616,662	1,789,336	1,384,161
Total liabilities	34,351,803	19,172,053	1,932,423	1,519,121
Total equity and liabilities	58,272,314	37,273,633	15,163,751	14,530,071
Net assets per share	0.271	0.209	0.163	0.160

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2024

	Group		Parent Company	
	2024 RO	2023 RO	2024 RO	2023 RO
INCOME				
Revenue from contracts with customers	41,552,772	30,512,671	4,653,479	2,609,597
Direct costs	(28,234,438)	(23,881,549)	(3,775,060)	(2,461,421)
Gross profit	13,318,334	6,631,122	878,419	148,176
Other income	328,122	78,274	54,787	50,066
	13,646,456	6,709,396	933,206	198,242
EXPENSES				
General and administration	5,945,143	4,674,109	1,041,917	832,489
Net finance charges / (income)	423,014	595,894	(16,398)	16,704
	6,368,157	5,270,003	1,025,519	849,193
Profit / (loss) from operations	7,278,299	1,439,393	(92,313)	(650,951)
Dividend income from subsidiary	--	--	649,870	--
Profit / (loss) before taxation	7,278,299	1,439,393	557,557	(650,951)
Tax (charge) / credit	(1,204,479)	(462,545)	(58,532)	78,608
Net profit / (loss) for the year	6,073,820	976,848	499,025	(572,343)
Net profit / (loss) for the year attributable to:				
Shareholders of the Parent Company	5,281,005	816,510	499,025	(572,343)
Non-controlling interest in the subsidiaries	792,815	160,338	--	--
	6,073,820	976,848	499,025	(572,343)
Other comprehensive income for the year:				
Not reclassifiable through statement of income:				
Fair value changes in investments at FVOCI	372,575	(54,818)	372,575	(54,818)
Total comprehensive income for the year	6,446,395	922,030	871,600	(627,161)
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to:				
Shareholders of the Parent Company	5,653,580	761,692	871,600	(627,161)
Non-controlling interest in the subsidiaries	792,815	160,338	--	--
	6,446,395	922,030	871,600	(627,161)
Basic earnings per share	0.065	0.010	0.006	(0.007)

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

54 institutions from Oman taking part in ITB Berlin

Times News Service

BERLIN: The Sultanate of Oman has begun its participation in the International Tourism Exchange Berlin 2025, which kicked off on Tuesday in the German capital, Berlin, and will continue for three days.

The delegation of the Sultanate of Oman includes - in addition to the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism - representatives of 54 institutions specialised in travel, tourism

and hotels and 4 strategic partners.

The Sultanate of Oman's participation in the ITB Berlin aims to highlight the Sultanate of Oman as a prominent tourist destination that includes unique and attractive tourism experiences and styles that cover various interests, in addition to concluding a number of agreements related to improving the sector and upgrading it in a manner that keeps pace with global tourism trends.

It also seeks to learn about pio-

neering global experiences and discuss plans and strategies that will achieve record levels of tourism growth and attract nontraditional markets. The Sultanate of Oman's participation in this exhibition, which is classified as one of the largest exhibitions in the field, comes to create innovative mechanisms and marketing and promotional pillars that ensure expansion in the European and international market in general and the German market in particular.



Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information show that the German market is the highest - among European countries - in terms of the number of visitors coming to Oman, with their number reaching more than 135,000 by the end of last year, ranking fourth in the total number of tourists coming to Oman after the UAE, India and Yemen, while the number of visitors from European countries in December alone reached about 103,800.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS

New platform to enhance community participation

<FROM A1 Dr. Amal Talib Al Jahwari, Director of Information Department at Majlis Al Shura, said that the launch of the National Platform for Suggestions, Complaints and Reports represents a vital stage in enhancement of the community participation in response to the Royal Orders of His Majesty the Sultan on the launch of a specialised platform to receive the complaints and suggestions for enhancing communication between citizens and the government departments.

Mubarak bin Khamis Al Hamadani, a social researcher, said that the National Platform for Suggestions, Complaints and Reports represents a qualitative shift in the government work in the Sultanate of Oman.

Rashid bin Abdullah Al Shizani a researcher and analyst in public affairs said that the platform would enhance the communication between the government and the members of the community in terms of timely response to the suggestions, complaints and reports submitted by them.

He said that the platform would help boost the culture of constructive suggestions, complaints and reports.

The platform would use artificial intelligence, which would enhance the experience of the user.

Meanwhile, central and executive teams have been formed in the government departments to ensure achievement of strategic goals. The platform was launched with the third edition of "Together We Progress" Forum to improve the efficiency of the government services.



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender number	Last date for Inquiries	Last date to submit the tender	Tender documnet price
Supply of Computers IT products and services for three years	07/2025	31/03/2025	07/04/2025	1500 OMR
Supply for the provision of Catering and Associated for Michmss Alkhoudh – Salalah- mam for five years	09/2025	07/04/2025	14/04/2025	1500 OMR

- Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs. on the working days.
- Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting of Izdihar Real Estate Investment Fund

The Fund Management Board of Izdihar Real Estate Investment Fund (the“Fund”) has the pleasure to invite shareholders of the Fund to the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 20th March 2025, through the electronic platform of the general meetings, which you can access through the Muscat Clearing and Depository website (www.mcd.om).

Failing quorum of the general meetings, the second AGM shall be convened at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, 23rd March 2025, through the electronic platform of the general meetings, which you can access through the Muscat Clearing and Depository website (www.mcd.om), to discuss and consider the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Management Board Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To consider and approve the Auditor’s report and the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Fund for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To ratify the payment of sitting fees to the Management Board and Sub-Committees for the financial year ended 31st December 2024 and to determine the sitting fees of the Management Board and Sub-Committees for the next financial year 31 December 2025.
- To notify the General Assembly of the transactions carried out by the Fund with related parties during the financial year ending 31st December 2024.
- To consider and approve the proposed related party transactions to be entered by Fund during the financial year ending ended 31st December 2025.
- To ratify the decision passed by the Board of Directors of the fund appointment of Crowe Mak Ghazali as statutory auditors for the year 2024 with a fixed fee of OMR 2,900 (Omani Riyals two thousand nine hundred).
- To appoint the statutory auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2025 and approve their fees.

In accordance with the Rules for Convening General Meetings via Electronic means, issued by the FSA we would like to call your attention to the following:

- (a) only a corporate person may authorize a natural person to attend and vote on its behalf on decisions/resolutions of the AGM through electronic means, provided such natural person has an investor number with the MCD.
- (b) voting on any item of the agenda shall commence prior to the convention of the AGM at a maximum of three (3) days and ends on the day of the AGM. If a shareholder’s balance is changed either by increase or decrease, the voting process shall stand canceled and must re-vote at the AGM.

For more information, kindly contact Mr. Maawiya Abdullah Ali Al Harthi at the following phone number (+968) 24801584.

CR No. 1/14573/8



Ramadan Iftar Program

The Prophet (ﷺ) said "Whoever breaks the fast for a fasting person, will have a reward similar to his reward, however, nothing is detracted from the reward of a fasting person".

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1446 AH AD 2025

You can donate through the following means:

donate via "ONEIC" automated payment machines



Bank Muscat

0423010700010017

For Omantel users send Donate to 90022

Bank Dhofar

01040301500001

For Ooredoo users send the word Donate to 90909

National Bank of Oman

1049337798001

or donate through the Jood platform jood.om

OCO Headquarters : Muscat Governorate , Al Khuwair 33 , Street No. 47, next to Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque, or one of its branches :



South Al-Sharqiyah Governorate 28541087 Sur / Al-mutalla

North Al-Batinah Governorate 28884241 Salha / Al-Hamra

Musandam Governorate 28731888 Khawab / Al-Shaibah

Dhofar Governorate 23234735 Salalah / Al-saada

Scan the QR code to access the OCO website



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24297960 24297961

شركة إسمنت عمان (ش.م.ع.) Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)

P.O. BOX 560, RUWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN [Factory Al Misfah West, Bausher, Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777]

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of OMAN CEMENT SAOG (the “Company”) has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday at 03:00 PM on 20/03/2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) . If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting General Meeting shall be held on Monday at 02:00 PM on 24/03/2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) to discuss the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Director’s Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2024
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31st December 2024
- To consider the Auditor’s Report and to approve the Financial Statements of the Company for the financial year ended 31st December 2024
- To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend to the shareholders, as on the date of the meeting, amounting to 90 baisa for each share for the financial year ended 31st December 2024
- Ratification of sitting fees for the Board of Directors and its sub committees for the year ended 31st December 2024 and determination of sitting fees for the year 2025
- Inform the shareholders about the related party transactions during the financial year ended 31st December 2024
- Review the related party transactions proposed for the financial year ending on 31st December 2025 for approval
- To consider and approve the Board of Directors evaluation report for the Board Term (2022-2024)
- To consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of RO 110,250 as remuneration for the Board of Directors of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024
- To elect a new Board of Directors for the Company from amongst Shareholders or non- shareholders. Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director’s Nomination Form and email (nader.faraj@omancement.com). The completed Form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company (no later than the end of business hours on Thursday, 13 of March 2025). The candidate must satisfy the company’s board membership requirements
- To notify the general meeting of the activities of the Company in relation to the Corporate Social Responsibility for the financial year ended 31 December 2024
- To allocate an amount of RO. 200,000 as a budget of the Company in relation to Corporate Social Responsibility for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.
- Appointment of the auditors of the company for the financial year ending 31st December 2025 and fixing their fees

According to the Company’s Article of Association and the procedures issued by FSA for conduction AGM using modern technology, we would like to draw your kind attention to the following:

- A. A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the AGM and vote on his behalf through electrical channel, provided that this natural person has an investor number in the MCD.
- B. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder’s shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For queries, please contact Mr. Nader Faraj, Acting Board Secretary, at Phone No. 99380551 or 97933040

REGION'S PREMIER PLATFORM

DLIVE 2025 & DLIVE Awards: Shaping the future of digital innovation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman is set to host DLive 2025, the region's premier platform for AI, Blockchain, IoT, Automation, and Digital Transformation. Bringing together visionary leaders, tech pioneers, investors, and government officials, the event will explore cutting-edge innovations driving business success, economic growth, and digital transformation across industries.

The event is organised by Muscat Media Group and Gulf Leaders Circle with Times of Oman and Al Shabiba as the media partners and Manzana as the event partner.

As part of this transformative event, the DLive Awards 2025 will recognise trailblazing individuals, groundbreaking innovations,

and leading organisations shaping the future of technology. These awards honour excellence in digital transformation, automation, fintech, cybersecurity, and beyond, inspiring the next wave of industry advancements.

Why DLive Matters

With technology at the core of economic progress, DLIVE 2025 serves as a catalyst for innovation, investment, and collaboration.

The event will feature:

Inspiring Talks & Panels – Learn from top tech and business leaders.

Powerful Networking – Connect with key decision-makers, industry experts, and investors.

DLIVE Awards – Celebrating in-

novation and leadership in digital transformation

The DLive Awards: Recognising Excellence in Innovation

Aligned with Oman's Vision 2040, the DLiveAwards 2025 celebrate the visionaries and innovators shaping a knowledge-based economy through technological advancements. Categories include:

- AI & Automation Excellence
- Blockchain & Fintech Innovation
- Smart Infrastructure & IoT Leadership
- Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Pioneer
- E-commerce & Digital Retail Excellence
- HealthTech & Telemedicine Advancement

- Sustainability Through Technology
- Human-Centered AI & Ethics Leadership
- Robotics & Industry 4.0 Transformation
- Education & Digital Skills Development

The DLive Awards don't just recognize achievements—they inspire the future. By celebrating those driving digital transformation, these awards help accelerate technological progress, economic growth, and industry-wide evolution. For nominations, sponsorship, or event details, contact: Sanjeev Rana – sanjeev@mmg.om | +968 97221630 Emna Ben Slimane – emna@gulfleaderscircle.com | +968 94797919



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UNITED STATES

Trump says ‘no room left’ for Canada, Mexico to avert US tariffs

WASHINGTON, DC: President Donald Trump has stated that there is “no room left” for Canada or Mexico to avert US tariffs that will go into effect on Tuesday.

When asked about the possibility of a deal, Trump confirmed that “tariffs are all set and are going to effect” on March 4 as planned.

“No room left for Mexico or for Canada. No, the tariffs, you know, they’re all set. They go into effect tomorrow,” he said during his ‘investment announcement’ on Monday.

Earlier in the first week of February, Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico and an additional 10 per cent on goods from China. Later on February 4, he paused tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico for 30 days, saying that he had secured new commitments from the two countries to improve border security. The pause was put in place after President Trump said he spoke to his counterparts from Mexico and Canada.

Trump also shared a post on Truth Social, saying, “To the Great Farmers of the United States: Get ready to start making a lot of agricultural product to be sold INSIDE of the United States. Tariffs will go on the external product on April 2nd. Have fun!”

Last month, Trump decried illicit drugs coming into the country allegedly from the borders of Canada and Mexico, and has decided to continue with the imposition of tariffs on both countries from March 4, while also deciding to continue the imposition of reciprocal tariffs “with full force”



on April 2. “Drugs are still pouring into our Country from Mexico and Canada at very high and unacceptable levels. More than 100,000 people died last year due to the distribution of these dangerous and highly addictive POISONS,” Trump said in a Truth Social post last February.

Citing the smuggling of drugs across the border, Trump has vowed to stop or “seriously limit” such drugs, especially Fentanyl.

“Millions of people have died over the last two decades. The families of the victims are devastated and, in many instances, virtually destroyed. We cannot allow this scourge to continue to harm the USA, and therefore, until it stops, or is seriously limited, the proposed TARIFFS scheduled to go into effect on MARCH FOURTH will, indeed, go into effect, as scheduled,” read the Trump’s post. – Agencies

\$53 BILLION

UN endorses Egypt’s Gaza reconstruction plan

CAIRO: Egypt has proposed a plan for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged Gaza Strip at an emergency summit in Cairo.

The five-year plan to rebuild Gaza will cost \$53 billion (€50.5 billion), according to draft documents, with Egyptian President

Abdel Fattah al-Sissi saying the proposal would allow Palestinians to “remain on their land.”

“There will be no real peace without establishing a Palestinian state,” he said, opening the summit. “Peace will not come by force and cannot be forced.”

But in order for the ceasefire to proceed to the next phase, Israel has demanded Hamas’ disarmament.

According to the 112-page draft document seen by the DPA and Reuters news agencies, an initial six-month recovery phase would focus on removing rubble and in-

stalling temporary housing at a cost of around \$3 billion.

In a first phase proper, the plan calls for the building of 200,000 housing units in Gaza over the next two years. A second stage will see 200,000 more housing units. – DW

TO BOOST DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

EU floats \$158bn fund

BRUSSELS: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed an overall 800 billion euros (USD 841.5 billion) fund to boost defence capabilities, including military aid to Ukraine.

Dangerous times

Europe is now in the most critical and dangerous times, von der Leyen told reporters in Brussels, highlighting that Europe is ready

to significantly boost its defense spending. She added that 150 billion euros would be lent to EU member states, and that the plan would also provide immediate assistance to Ukraine.

The EU is facing mounting pressures to boost defense spending amid escalating security challenges to the bloc as a result of the war in Ukraine and the US hinting it could withdraw its military bases in Europe. – DNA

NOTICE

According to this announcement, we inform all concerned parties that **Mr. Ahmed Ali Almalki** No longer authorized to sign the administration February 1, 2025.

Therefore, please be aware that anyone dealing with him will be responsible for their own actions.

For any inquiries or claims, please contact before March 15, 2025.

Tel: +971 56 289 0111

- 1- SUB COOLTRADING SPC
CR Number (1401751)
- 2- Rime Refrigeration SPC
CR Number (1473750)



شركة عُمان للمربطات ش.م.ع.ع. OMAN REFRESHMENT COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box 30, C.P.O. A'Seeb P.C. 111, Sultanate of Oman, Tel. 24589000, 24589100, Fax : 24589099 e-mail : info@pepsioman.com, Website: www.pepsioman.com

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of OMAN REFRESHMENT SAOG (the “Company”) has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting , which will be held on **Thursday at 03:00 PM on 20/03/2025**, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting General Meeting shall be held on Sunday at 05:10 PM on 23/03/2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) to discuss the following agenda:

Annual Ordinary General Meeting Agendas :

1. To consider and approve the Board of Director’s Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31December 2024.
3. To ratify the decision of Board of Directors to appoint statutory auditors for the financial year ended 31/12/2024.
4. To consider the Auditor’s Report and to approve the Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account) of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
5. To ratify the sitting fees paid to the board of directors and its subcommittees during the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and determine the sitting fees for the financial year 2025.
6. To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the company's social responsibilities for the year ended on 31 December 2024.
7. To discuss and approve the proposed allocation of RO 50,000 to fulfill the Company's Corporate Social responsibilities for the year ending on 31 December 2025.
8. The appointment of the Auditors for the Company for the financial year ending 31/12/ 2025 and to approve their fees.

According to the Company’s Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
2. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on
Telephone No: 24589022 or Email: la@pepsioman.com

Chairman
Buti Obaid Al Mulla

Legal Advisor
Rajab AlKathiri & Associatess

External Auditor
BDO

JAZEERA STEEL



حديد الجزيرة

INVITATION TO ATTEND ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG (“Company”) are delighted to invite the shareholders of the company to attend the Ordinary Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) to be held on **Sunday, 23 March 2025 at 3.00 PM** through Muscat Clearing & Depository website (www.mcd.om). In the event the legal quorum for the meeting is in-sufficient, a second meeting will be held on Thursday, 27 March 2025 at 3.00 PM to consider the following agenda:

1. To consider and approve the Board of Directors Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2024.
2. To consider and approve the Company’s Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2024.
3. To consider and approve the Performance evaluation report of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended 31st December 2024. (Annexure 1)
4. To consider and approve the auditor’s report on the Company’s audited financial statements for the financial year ending on 31 December 2024.
5. To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend to the shareholders, as on the date of the meeting, amounting to 43 Baisa for each share for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
6. To consider and approve the sitting fees of the Directors and Subcommittees for the past year and determination of the fees for the next financial year. (Annexure 2)
7. To consider and approve the remuneration to the directors for the year ending 31 December 2024 amounting to RO 112,100.
8. To consider the related party’s transactions the Company entered in the financial year ended 31 December 2024. (Annexure 3)
9. To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the Company’s social responsibilities for the year ended on 31 December 2024. (Annexure 4)
10. To consider and approve the proposed allocation of RO 20,000 to fulfil the Company’s Corporate Social responsibilities for the year ending on 31 December 2025.
11. To appoint the statutory Auditors of the company for the financial year ending 31 December 2025 and fix their fees.

Pursuant to the Company’s Articles of Association and procedures issued by Capital Market Authority for holding General Meeting through electronic platform, we would like to draw your attention on the following points:

- a) A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the meeting of the General Assembly and vote on his behalf through electronic portal, provided that this natural person has an investor number with the MCD.
- b) Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three (3) days before the date of the AGM until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. If the shareholder’s shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the AGM.

If you have any queries you may please contact **Mr. Yousuf Ismail Al Kamali** on telephone **26751763/4/5** Ext: **117**

Chairperson

Auditor

Legal Advisor

IN GAZA

UNICEF warns of devastating consequences of aid blockade

GAZA: UNICEF warned that the stoppage of aid deliveries into the Gaza Strip will quickly lead to devastating consequences for children and families across Gaza who are struggling to survive.

UNICEF urgently called for taking immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and to facilitate the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip through multiple crossings.

“The aid restrictions will severely compromise lifesaving operations for civilians,” UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Edouard Beigbeder said.

He added, “It is imperative that the ceasefire remains in place, and that aid is allowed to flow freely so we can continue to scale up the humanitarian response.”

During the first phase of the ceasefire, UNICEF and its partners were able to bring in more essential supplies and reach more children in need.

The Israeli occupation had ear-



lier announced the suspension of the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip and the closure of the crossings “until further notice.”

Death toll surges to 48,405

The death toll arising from the Israeli genocidal aggression on the Gaza Strip climbed to 48,405 people, medical sources said on Tuesday.

They announced that the death toll and the toll of casualties as a result of the Israeli genocidal offensive on the war-torn Strip rose to 48,405 and 111,835

respectively.

At least 10,000 people are unaccounted for, presumed dead under the rubble of their homes throughout the Strip.

The sources added that within the last 48 hours, the bodies of eight Palestinians and 11 casualties were admitted to hospitals in the Strip.

Gazan children enrolled in distance learning programmes

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said that nearly 260,000 children from the Gaza Strip have enrolled in its distance learning program since last January.

It said in a post on the X platform on Tuesday, that “nearly 260,000 children have enrolled in UNRWA’s distance learning programme since January.”

It added that its teams “UNRWA health teams continue to provide mental health and psychosocial support in the Middle and Khan Younis areas.” – Agencies

USS CARL VINSON

North Korea threatens response to US carrier in South

PYONGYANG: North Korea’s Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, on Tuesday threatened with a series of provocations in response to the US deploying its aircraft carrier in South Korea.

On Sunday, the USS Carl Vinson and its strike group arrived in South Korea’s port city of Busan for a scheduled visit. This is the latest such deployment aimed at displaying Washington’s firm support for South Korea in the face of North Korea’s growing threats and hostilities.

The carrier arrived days after North Korea conducted its fourth missile launch test of the year.

Kim Yo Jong called the deployment “confrontation hysteria of the US and its stooges.” She has previously made similar statements, calling South Korea’s live-fire drills “suicidal hysteria.” – DW

UNSPECIFIED ISSUE

SpaceX abandons Starship test flight

FLORIDA: Billionaire Elon Musk’s SpaceX called off the eighth test flight of its Starship rocket on Monday, over an unspecified issue in the core chip of the spacecraft.

“Too many question marks about this flight and then we were 20 bar low on ground spin start pressure,” the tech mogul wrote in a post on his social media platform X.

“Best to destack, inspect both stages and try again in a day or two,” he wrote, responding to a SpaceX post saying the Starship team was determining the “next best available opportunity to fly.”

The announcement came seconds before the flight was scheduled to take off.

According to the company livestream on X, a 40-second count-

down had been paused when engineers likely found issues with the spacecraft during a final check.

This was set to be the first Starship launch since the one in January, which eight minutes into the flight, exploded over the Caribbean.

Debris from the rocket then rained down on the Turks and Caicos Islands prompting a federal probe. – DW

AL JAZEIRA SERVICES CO. SAOG
P.O. Box 2885, Ruwi, P.C 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel.: 24706499, Fax: 24703653

Notice and Invitation to Attend the Annual General Meeting

The Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Services Co. SAOG (“the Company”) has pleasure to invite the Shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday at 05:00 PM on 24 March 2025 via the electronic platform which can be assessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting shall be held on Wednesday at 5:00 PM on 26 March 2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) to discuss the following agenda:

Annual General Meeting Agendas:

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors’ report on activities of the company and its financial status for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To consider and approve the corporate governance report of the company for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To consider and approve the auditor’s report on the company’s audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend to the shareholders, as on the date of the meeting, amounting to 15 baisa for each share for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To approve the sitting fees of the Board and Committees meetings paid to the Board Members for the previous financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the upcoming financial year.
- To consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of Omani Rials 12,500/- as remuneration to the Board of Directors of the company for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To consider the transactions entered into by the company with related parties during the financial year ended 31st December 2024.
- To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the company’s social responsibilities for the year ended 31st December 2024.
- To discuss and approve the proposed allocation of Omani Rials 15,000/-to fulfill the company’s social responsibilities for the year ending on 31st December 2025.
- To appoint statutory auditors of the company for the financial year ending 31st December 2025 and to fix their fee.

According to the Company’s Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the Financial Services Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCD.
- Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder’s shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information, please contact Badriya Al Abri on telephone No. 24706499 or email: damacinv@omantel.net.om

Deputy Chairman

Legal Advisor

External Auditor

شركة إسمنت عمان (س.ا.و.ج.)
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G.)
P.O. BOX 565, RUWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Meflah West, Bausher, Tel. # 09968 2437070 ext. 102, Fax # 09968 2437777)

TENDERS

The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl.	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1	Re Tender 1565000402-25t	Modification of the Cyclone Feed Pile Splash Plate	OMR. 52.500	03rd April 2025 2359 Hours	08th April 2025 2359 Hours
2	1565000464-25	Installation new Gas Train & modification tire feeding	RO. 52.500	03rd April 2025 2359 Hours	08th April 2025 2359 Hours
3	1700000160-25	Supply of Chemicals for Water Treatment at OCC Plant	RO. 52.500	03rd April 2025 2359 Hours	08th April 2025 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by paying the below amount online to the Company’s account detailed below: Account name: Oman Cement Company SAOG

Bank Name:

Bank Muscat SAOG

Account number:

0423 0106 3070 017

Account Type:

OMR

SWIFT Code:

BMUSOMRX

Copy of deposit transaction of a non-refundable amount of writing on the above as tender fees to be emailed to CFOSecretary@omancement.com & Treasury@omancement.com with the Subject showing “Tender No.” and “Tender Description” enabling the Company to provide tender document through email to your company. The above payment is a non-refundable amount.

Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, Mobile number: +968 97932277

The last date for submission of offers is on Tuesday, 2359 hours detailed date on the above table, accompanied by a bid bond issued by any local bank in Oman (equivalent to 1%) of the total tender value. The bid bond must be valid for 120 days from the last date of submission of offers and the ORIGINAL bid bond must be submitted on the tender box at the reception on our Administration Building, Al Meflah West factory Site, Bausher, Muscat, Oman.

Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by a tender bond will NOT be considered. This publication is part of the tender documents.

شركة بركاء لتحلية المياه
Barka Desalination Company

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BARKA DESALINATION COMPANY SAOG

The Board of Directors of Barka Desalination Company SAOG (the “Company”) is pleased to invite all shareholders to the Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) to be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, 19th March 2025 on the e-portal for convening general meetings which you may access through Muscat Clearing and Depository (SAOC) (“MCD”) website (www.mcd.om).

Failing quorum of the AGM, a second AGM shall be convened at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 24th March 2025 on the e-portal for convening general meetings which you may access through MCD website (www.mcd.om), to discuss and consider the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors’ report for the Company’s activity and its financial position during the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (**Annexure 1**).
- To consider and approve the Report on Corporate Governance for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 (**Annexure 2**).
- To consider and approve the Auditor’s Report and Audited Financial Statement of the company for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024. (**Annexure 3**).
- To ratify the payment of sitting fees to the Board of Directors and Sub-Committees for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and to determine the sitting fees of the Board of Directors and Sub-Committees for the next financial year 31 December 2025 (**Annexure 4**).
- To notify the General Assembly of the transactions carried out by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (**Annexure 5**).
- To consider the proposed related party transactions to be entered by Company during the financial year ending 31 December 2025 (**Annexure 6**).
- To notify the General Assembly of donations disbursed to support community services during the financial year ended on 31 December 2024. (**Annexure 7**).
- To consider the Proposal the allocation of an amount of OMR 19,225 to support community services during the financial year ending 31 December 2025.
- To approve the proposal authorizing the Board of Directors’ to determine and distribute cash dividends to the Company’s Shareholders (who are registered with the MCD as of the dates to be decided by the Board of Directors) in May 2025 and November 2025 out of the retained earnings as per the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, provided that the aggregate amount shall not exceed 12 Baisas per share.
- To appoint statutory auditors of the Company for the financial year ending on 31 December 2025 and approve its fees.
- To consider and approve the report on the evaluation of the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024. (**Annexure 8**).
- To elect one (1) new directors of the Company to fill the vacancy in the Board from the shareholders and non-shareholders.

Any person who wishes to nominate himself/herself to the Board of Directors should complete a nomination form. The nomination form can be obtained from the Company’s head office. The completed forms should be delivered to the Company minimum five (5) days prior to the AGM date. Nomination forms received after 5pm on Thursday, 13th of March 2025 shall not be accepted.

In accordance with the Rules for Convening General Meetings via Electronic Means, issued by the CMA we would like to call your attention to the following:

- Only a corporate person may authorize a natural person to attend and vote on its behalf on decisions/resolutions of the general meeting, through electronic means, provided such a natural person must have an investor number at MCD.
- Voting on any item of the agenda shall commence prior to the convention of the general meeting at a maximum of three (3) days and ends on the date of the meeting. If a shareholder’s balance is changed either by increase or decrease the voting process shall stand canceled and must revoke on the date of the meeting.

Please attend at the venue or online at least 30 minutes prior to the AGM.

For further information, please contact Ms. Raiya Al Rawahi on telephone number 96573353.

ميناء صلالة
Port of Salalah

P.O.Box 369, PC 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: +968 23220000, Fax: 968 23219236, info@salalahport.com. www.salalahport.com.om

NOTICE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG (the Company) invites shareholders to attend the annual ordinary general meeting (AGM) of the Company to be held on Thursday, 20th March 2025 at 3:00 pm, via electronic means for holding AGMs, which can be accessed from the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum has not been met to convene the AGM, another meeting will be held on Sunday, 23 th March 2025 at 2:00 pm, via the aforementioned electronic platform, to discuss the following agenda:

AGM AGENDA

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors’ Report on the Company’s activities and its financial status during the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To consider and approve the Board of Directors’ Report on the organization and management of the Company (Corporate Governance Report) during the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To consider and approve the Auditor’s report on the audited financial accounts (Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account) of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To consider and approve the proposed distribution of dividends of 10 baiza per share to the shareholders as of the date of the AGM.
- To ratify the sitting fees payable to the Board of Directors for attending Board and subcommittee meetings for the previous financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the upcoming financial year (as per attachment).
- To consider and approve the proposed distribution of RO 150,000 as remuneration for the directors for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To disclose the transactions that the Company entered into with related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2024 (as per attachment).
- To disclose voluntary contributions which have been made to support community services during the financial year ended 31 December 2024 (as per attachment).
- To consider and approve setting aside RO 100,000 in support of community services during the financial year ending 31 December 2025.
- To elect the new Board of Directors of the Company.

Any person who wishes to be nominated shall complete the director’s nomination form and submit it to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting, i.e. no later than close of business on Thursday, 13 March 2025. The candidate must ensure compliance with the established criteria for membership to the Board of Directors.

- To appoint the auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2025 and determine their fees.
- To approve the criteria for evaluation of the performance of the Board of Director’s (as per attachment).
- To consider and approve the appointment of an independent entity to evaluate the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ending 31 December 2025 and determine such entity’s fees.

In accordance with the Company’s Articles of Association and the rules for convening general meetings via electronic means issued by the Financial Services Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- A legal (juristic) person, exclusively, shall have the right to appoint a natural person, as proxy, to attend the general meeting, and vote on decisions taken on his behalf using electronic means. Such natural person must have an investor number registered with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.
- Shareholders will be able to vote for the items set out in the agenda starting from 3 days prior to the meeting date up until the end of the voting process for that particular item presented in the agenda on the day of the meeting. If a shareholder acquires or disposes of shares before the date of the meeting, any votes it has already cast will be void and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the general meeting.

All invitees are requested to attend the meeting at least half an hour before the stated time.

For any queries relating to the above agenda,
please contact Mrs. Eman Al Shahry (+968-224090890/ 99281812 or at eman.alshahry@salalahport.com).

Chairman

Auditors

Legal Advisor



SPORTS



SEND US YOUR VIEWS
AND COMMENTS

editor@timesofoman.com
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Kohli's 84 steers India into final



Defeated Australia by four wickets in Champions Trophy semi-final; to face winner of NZ vs SA for the title

DUBAI: Virat Kohli once again proved why he thrives in high-pressure chases, crafting a masterful 84 to lead India to a four-wicket victory over Australia in the Champions Trophy semi-final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

His composed knock off 98 balls laid the foundation for India's successful pursuit of 265, ensuring their place in the final with 11 balls to spare as they reached 267/6. India's chase started shakily, with openers Rohit Sharma (28) and Shubman Gill (8), falling early to leave them at 43/2 in eight overs.

But Kohli, unfazed by the situation, steadied the innings with a crucial 91-run stand alongside Shreyas Iyer (45). Mixing patience with precision, Kohli reached 84 (5x4) before getting dismissed by Adam Zampa.

By then, India needed just 40 runs off 44 balls. KL Rahul (42*) and Hardik Pandya (28) saw the team reach 259 before the latter was dismissed.

Rahul then finished in style by lofting Glenn Maxwell for six over long-on with Ravindra Jadeja at non-striker's end in the 49th over.

Earlier, Australia opted to bat and posted a total of 264, with skipper Steve Smith top-scoring with 73 (96 balls, 4x4, 1x6) and Alex Carey adding a valuable 61 (57b, 8x4, 1x6).

The Australian innings saw promising partnerships but lacked a defining stand.

Mohammed Shami led India's bowling attack with 3 for 48, while spinners Ravindra Jadeja (2/40) and Varun Chakravarthi (2/49) claimed two wickets each to keep the pressure on.

India will now face the winner of Wednesday's second semi-final in Lahore between New Zealand and South Africa on March 9 in Dubai for the title.

India qualified for their third successive ICC Champions Trophy final.

On Tuesday, India equalled their highest successful run-chase in Champions Trophy history, matching the 265-run chase in their previous semi-final appearance against Bangladesh in the 2017 edition of the tournament.

The win also broke India's 3-3 deadlock with Australia in knock-outs of ICC white-ball tournaments which began with a win in the quarter-final of the 1998 edition of the Champions Trophy (then called ICC Knockout Trophy).

Since their ODI World Cup quarter-final win in 2011 in Ahmedabad, India lost twice in the 2015 World Cup semi-final and the World Cup final in 2023.

Rohit Sharma's team also lost the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in June 2023.

Brief scores: India 267/6 in 48.1 overs (Virat Kohli 84, Shreyas Iyer 45, KL Rahul 42*; Nathan Ellis 2-49, Adam Zampa 2-60) beat Australia 264 in 49.3 overs (Steve Smith 73, Alex Carey 61; Mohammed Shami 3-48, Ravindra Jadeja 2-40, Varun Chakravarthi 2-49).

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From 12th February to 12th April 2025

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Campaign Period: 23.02.2025 - 31.03.2025. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Oman only, excluding diesel graded) on Yaris, Corolla, Corolla Cross, Camry, Camry HEV, Rizea, Urban Cruiser, Veloz, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Fortuner, Prado, Highlander, Hilux and Life Ace. Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. **3 Years / 30,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for LitaAce & Crown **3 Years / 36,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 12,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for GR86 **3 Years / 45,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 15,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Supra **4 Years / 40,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 4 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for LC Wagon, Hilux, Highlander **4 Years / 60,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 4 services at 15,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Urban Cruiser **5 Years / 50,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 5 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Yaris, Corolla Cross, Camry, Camry HEV, Rizea, Veloz, RAV4, RAV4 HEV, Fortuner **8 Years / 80,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 8 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Prado **10 Years / 100,000 Kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 10 services at 10,000 Kms service interval based on normal operating conditions for Corolla. # Scratch & Win Card: Scratch & Win coupon will be issued to customer who meets the above eligibility. Coupon will be handed over to the customer at the time of delivery. Once the Coupon is issued to the customer, will not be replaced under any circumstances and the prize (gift) will not be changed. The Scratch & Win gifts include Apple iPhone Pro max 256GB, Apple watch, Nano Ceramic Coating, 3M Films & Golden Seven package. @ Raffle: 2 units of Prado 2.4 T Classic as raffie. The raffie will be applicable for all Toyota customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. Campaign will not be applicable for ministry and government deals/supplies.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by May 2025 reaching \$70.32, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$3.09 from the price of Monday, which was \$73.41. - **OWA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,411.43 points, down by 0.31% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.41% at 402.93 points. Phoenix Power, up 1.70%, was the top gainer while Muscat Thread Mill, down 7.14%, was the top loser.

Ministry floats 21 investment opportunities in Al Buraimi

The overall aim is to support food security and enhance investment in the agricultural sector in Oman



MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has floated 21 new investment opportunities in Al Buraimi Governorate, through Tatweer platform, for the utilisation of land areas totalling 659.4 acres. The opportunities range be-

tween agricultural projects, live-stock production units and water bottling units. The overall aim is to support food security and enhance investment in the agricultural sector in Oman. The opportunities also include

projects for the cultivation of crops like date palm trees and date production units in the Wilayats of Mahdha and Al Buraimi. The areas allocated for these projects range between 12.6 and 64.6 acres each.

Larger areas have been allocated for the cultivation of potatoes in the areas of Safwan, Al Madam Plain and Al Qabil. In addition, farming areas totalling 100 acres have been allocated for planting onions in Safwan and Al Qabil. - **OWA**

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

EDUCATING SHAREHOLDERS



FSA launches awareness campaign to boost shareholder participation in AGMs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To achieve its goals in disseminating awareness of investors in securities, the Financial Services Authority is currently launching an awareness campaign via social media accounts under the hashtag #Your attendance makes difference, coinciding with the season of annual general meetings of public joint companies, which will be held during the current month of March.

The move aims to educating the shareholders on the importance

of attending the general meetings, interacting with its agenda and exercising their legal rights to vote on the resolutions and hold the boards of directors accountable through video conferencing via the online platform administered by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company or personal attendance if it is held at a specific location.

The annual general meetings take place after the listed companies on the Muscat Stock Exchange disclose the audited annual financial statements, board of directors' report, management

discussions and analysis report, the company's corporate governance report and other reports related to the audited financial statements. The annual ordinary general meetings are held within a maximum of 90 days from the end of the issuers financial year.

Specific measures

It is worth noting that the FSA continuously emphasises to listed companies and funds the importance of taking specific measures to convene the general meeting and send the notices to sharehold-

ers and investment unit holders via the platform within sufficient time at no less than 15 days from the date of the general meeting.

The general meetings of companies and funds have extensive powers including shareholder's right to vote and object to the resolutions in addition to assessing the efficiency of the board members and their ability to contribute effectively in directing the executive management of the company and its role in electing board members capable of leading the company to achieve the interests of its shareholders.

Circular issued emphasising compliance with international auditing standards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Executive President of the Financial Services Authority has issued a circular to owners of accounting and audit firms emphasising the importance of adhering to international auditing standards when performing audit engagements and to ensure that the audit reports are signed by the owner of the firms or a partner or a duly authorised manager as per the provisions of the law regulating the accounting and auditing profession promulgated by Royal Decree No. 77/86.

The circular stressed that practicing the accounting and

auditing profession without obtaining a license from the FSA is a violation of the law and that the audit and review processes must be according to highest standards of quality. The circular stated that the only reference for selecting licensed accounting and audit firms to perform external audit of financial reports is the official website of the FSA.

The move comes after FSA has noticed that some firms are not keeping audit workings evidencing performing audit to safeguard the profession and enhance the transparency and creditability of the financial and accounting sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

REPORT

AI, cybersecurity top list of emerging governance risks in India

MUMBAI: As Indian enterprises are confronted by an increasingly complex risk management landscape, new governance risks related to cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies have been deemed as most critical by a majority of internal audit professionals, according to the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) - Protiviti India Survey 2025.

As many as 66 per cent of Chief Audit Executives (CAEs) across large and mid-sized enterprises interviewed for the survey consider emerging technologies including AI, ML, and bots, and cybersecurity

as the top risks confronting their organisations.

These professionals are directly responsible for corporate governance and compliance and for protecting their organisations from fraud and operational risks.

"Internal audit has evolved beyond a compliance function--it is now a strategic enabler of business resilience and governance, especially in an era of rapid digital transformation and complex regulations. However, gaps in governance and expertise persist, highlighting the urgent need for organizations to strengthen their

risk frameworks and invest in digital readiness," said Anthony Pugliese, President and CEO, IIA Inc.

The IIA India - Protiviti survey also found that despite the growing recognition of digital tools as both risks and enablers, digitization of the internal audit function is still not widespread. A large majority of CAEs (60 per cent) admitted that their department currently is partially digitized, while 23 per cent stated they are yet to start on this journey.

Further, CAEs are increasingly looking to engage domain experts who can identify risks in areas where high degree of techni-

cal competencies are needed. As many as 56 per cent of respondents cite the lack of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for auditing technical or emerging risk areas as the biggest gap in their current and future needs for internal audit.

While data analytics and AI-driven tools have significantly improved audit quality, many organizations have yet to fully integrate advanced analytics into their audit processes. Only 18 per cent of the respondents claim to be using data analytics extensively, while a vast majority of 82 per cent are using it moderately or rate-to-none. - **ANI**

BANK MUSCAT

Oryx Fund increases its dividend consecutively for 8th year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, announced that the fund management body of Bank Muscat Oryx Fund has proposed a dividend distribution of 74 baisas per unit to be paid to the unitholders for FY 2024, subject to requisite approvals from the unitholders and other competent authorities. Accordingly, the Fund has maintained its track record of consistently growing dividend distributions despite a challenging market environment.

In addition to the regular income distributions through dividends, the Fund has also been rewarding its investors with attractive capital appreciation since its inception in 1994.

Bank Muscat Oryx Fund continues to reward its investors with its stellar performance with an average return of 13.4% per annum to investors over the last 5 years which translates into an aggregate return of 87.5% over this period. For example, an amount of OMR 10,000 invested in Oryx Fund has grown to approximately OMR



18,750 over the last 5 years, consisting of original investment of OMR 10,000 and investment gain (returns) of OMR 8,750.

The return delivered by Oryx Fund over the last 5 years is significantly higher than average returns offered by alternatives over the same period like the MSX 30 Index 2.8% per annum, S&P GCC Index 5.4% per annum, MSCI Emerg-

ing Markets index negative 0.7 per cent per annum. As such, Oryx Fund clearly stands out as an attractive investment choice for prospective investors with a medium to long term view. Furthermore, Bank Muscat Oryx Fund has delivered a positive performance of 4.4 per cent for the one year ended December 31, 2024, against a return of 2.2 per cent in its benchmark i.e.

S&P GCC index.

Bank Muscat Oryx Fund has won several accolades for generating wealth for its investors and for significant outperformance compared to peers. It has been top-rated by various renowned global fund reviewers such as Lipper, Mena Fund Manager and Emerging Market Finance.

Oryx Fund represents an attrac-

tive investment proposition for medium to long-term investors. The fund's strategy to follow a bottom-up approach focused on selection of quality stocks has been proven over various market cycles and time periods. The fund management team's insights in the GCC region, quality of research across industries and sectors and knowledge of investee companies' performance and future direction are the key factors that have enabled the fund to provide consistent and stable long-term returns to the investors.

An open-ended fund regulated by the Financial Services Authority, Oman, Oryx Fund offers daily liquidity, providing flexibility to invest or redeem on any business day. Investors can subscribe to the fund with a minimum subscription amount as low as OMR50. Investors may also choose to invest every month by subscribing to Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) option. The fund's NAV is published daily on Bank Muscat website and Muscat Stock Exchange website so that investors can track the value of their investments daily. Interested investors may contact the fund's Investor Servicing Desk through

email at assetmanagement@bankmuscat.com to understand the process to subscribe to the fund.

Bank Muscat also enabled subscriptions and redemptions of its mutual funds through its Internet and Mobile banking platforms for retail customers. This has eased the process of investment into Bank Muscat's mutual funds for eligible investors as they are now able to complete the entire process of investing through online channels, making fresh investments and redeeming existing investments without the need to visit any branch or submit any documents or paper applications. Corporates and government institutions may approach their account relationship managers.

Bank Muscat's Asset Management business has a proven track record of successful operations for almost 30 years and is the largest asset manager in Oman and one of the leading asset managers in the GCC region, with approximately \$3.6 billion of AUM.

It offers tailored investment solutions across asset classes including equity, fixed income and real estate investments.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Phoenix Power, up 1.70%, was the top gainer while Muscat Thread Mill, down 7.14%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,411.43 points, down by 0.31% from previous close. The Sha-ria Index ended down by 0.41% at 402.93 points. Phoenix Power, up 1.70%, was the top gainer while Muscat Thread Mill, down 7.14%, was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 617 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turn-over of RO 3.69 million, with more than 14.3 million shares changing hands. Out of 57 traded securities, 9 advanced, 19 declined, and 29 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 730K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 580K, followed by domestic investors for RO 150K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,720.19 points, down 0.25%. Prices of United Finance, Bank

Muscat were up by 1.70%, 0.39% respectively. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Bank Nizwa, Oman Arab Bank, Ominvest were down by 1.50%, 0.99%, 0.70%, 0.30% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,800.71 points, down 0.35%. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cables Industry, Oman Cement were up by 1.16%, 0.21%, 0.20% respectively. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Packaging were down by 7.14%, 3.10%, 1.28%, 0.80%, 0.61% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.24% before closing at 1,616.97 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Dhofar Generating, OQ Gas Networks were up by 1.70%, 1.61%, 0.78% respectively. Prices of Muscat Desalination, OIFC, Oman Telecom, National Gas, Ooredoo were down by 3.08%, 2.44%, 1.84%, 1.30%, 1.01% respectively. — United Securities

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,426.70	4,405.02	4,411.43	4,425.02	-13.60	-0.31
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,738.83	7,719.81	7,720.19	7,739.53	-19.34	-0.25
Industry Index	5,830.59	5,800.71	5,800.71	5,821.16	-20.44	-0.35
Services Index	1,623.73	1,612.36	1,616.97	1,620.91	-3.95	-0.24
MSX Shariah Index	404.66	402.93	402.93	404.58	-1.65	-0.41
MSX TR INDEX	6,201.75	6,171.38	6,180.36	6,199.40	-19.05	-0.31
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,792.10	8,770.50	8,770.93	8,792.90	-21.97	-0.25
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,727.11	6,692.65	6,692.65	6,716.23	-23.59	-0.35
SERVICES TR IDX	1,947.29	1,933.66	1,939.18	1,943.91	-4.73	-0.24
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
14,309,398	3,687,550	617	27,237,555,322	9	19	29	57

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 4

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PR.PREV. CLOSEDIFFDIFF %LAST PR.LAST BIDLAST OFFERPREV. VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	460,867	27,652	13	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100	21,267,638
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,639,072	213,038	47	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.001	0.775	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.100	1,562,981,110
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,595,838	409,700	26	0.256	0.258	0.256	0.258	0.257	0.001	0.389	0.257	0.257	0.232	0.100	1,936,650,442
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	27,559	13,642	12	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.484	0.001	0.202	0.485	0.484	0.500	0.100	163,781,991
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	45,000	5,440	10	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.100	15,150,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	160	11	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	8,287,500
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	152,918	19,095	15	0.124	0.125	0.124	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.125	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000002175	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	5,947	2,379	3	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.390	0.440	0.100	49,959,184
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	13,000	7,670	4	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.000	0.000	0.590	0.540	0.590	0.100	56,050,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	8,517	647	2	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	6,840,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	15,000	5,700	4	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	45,600,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	117,935	10,496	16	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	100,143	9,013	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	85,914,476
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	10,000	840	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	385,901	23,195	22	0.066	0.067	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.100	44,542,570
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	484,148	30,985	10	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.063	0.069	0.100	45,722,006
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	222,570	54,591	34	0.245	0.246	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.000	0.000	0.245	0.245	0.246	0.100	188,699,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	3,956	1,990	2	0.343	0.344	0.343	0.344	0.345	-0.001	-0.290	0.344	0.344	0.345	0.100	31,325,040
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	80,976	26,965	12	0.332	0.334	0.332	0.334	0.335	-0.001	-0.299	0.334	0.332	0.334	0.100	223,234,052
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,830	761	4	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.270	-0.001	-0.370	0.269	0.268	0.269	0.100	18,934,910
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	75,900	15,039	15	0.199	0.199	0.197	0.197	0.199	-0.002	-1.005	0.197	0.190	0.198	0.100	128,236,013
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,285,468	181,889	37	0.132	0.132	0.130	0.131	0.133	-0.002	-1.594	0.131	0.130	0.131	0.100	866,859,291
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	288,855	235,516	43	0.820	0.820	0.800	0.800	0.815	-0.015	-1.840	0.800	0.800	0.805	0.100	600,000,000
Total	23	7,122,460	1,297,595	338												

Parallel Market

OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	12,519	739	3	0.059	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.054	0.060	0.100	87,756,638
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	15,814	996	2	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.001	1.613	0.063	0.000	0.065	0.100	14,001,120
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,200	957	4	0.437	0.437	0.435	0.435	0.430	0.005	1.163	0.435	0.435	0.435	0.100	68,512,500
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	750	1,826	1	2.435	2.435	2.435	2.435	2.430	0.005	0.206	2.435	2.420	2.435	0.100	218,419,500
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	29	87	1	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	0.000	0.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	1.000	5,900,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	34,601	2,941	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.100	2,550,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	28,749	1,380	5	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.052	0.100	14,743,024
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	535,500	36,414	21	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.070	0.100	19,659,009
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	117,25	2,111	1	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.172	0.180	0.100	7,711,738
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	55,000	7425	2	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.135	0.137	0.100	77,450,078
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	33,134	11,425	13	0.344	0.345	0.344	0.345	0.345	0.000	0.000	0.345	0.340	0.345	0.100	68,874,282
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	300	27	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	4,390,647	1,404,729	144	0.320	0.322	0.318	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.0102	560,000,000
OM0000009906	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	635,066	64,770	17	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.040	352,868,067
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,101	181	2	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.165	-0.001	-0.606	0.164	0.000	0.164	0.100	5,319,481
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	700	511	1	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.735	-0.005	-0.680	0.730	0.730	0.800	0.100	44,730,750
OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	63,477	9,065	4	0.144	0.144	0.142	0.142	0.143	-0.001	-0.699	0.142	0.140	0.142	0.100	237,055,220
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	100	12	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.125	-0.001	-0.800	0.124	0.117	0.124	0.100	6,820,000
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	9,100	9,296	5	1.022	1.022	1.020	1.020	1.030	-0.010	-0.971	1.020	0.930	1.100	0.100	70,380,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	282,439	28,255	12	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.099	0.101	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	80,000	6,180	5	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.075	0.080	0.100	15,629,956
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	96,159	4,472	4	0.078	0.078	0.076	0.076	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.076	0.075	0.080	0.100	6,460,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	25,297	1,603	4	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.065	-0.002	-3.077	0.063	0.063	0.068	0.100	9,799,675
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	5,390	3,071	3	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.080	-0.018	-3.103	0.062	0.063	0.080	0.100	45,748,346
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	9,600	1,204	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.140	-0.010	-7.143	0.130	0.130	0.145	0.100	2,291,076
Total	25	6,319,987	1,601,722	261												



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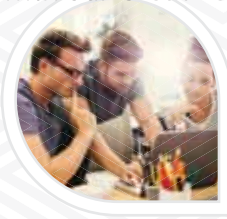
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Urgently required AC Technician required minimum 3-5yrs experience Send CV to: mm (@theimcworldwide.com	Sri Lankan Senior accountant, having Bachelor's Degree. 7+ yrs of experience. Expertise in finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, income tax. Contact : 97092478	Graduate Architect with valid Oman D/L. Proficient in various Design software. Looking for Architect, interior designer roles. Contact: 93249129, Email: psmenez2015@gmail.com	Civil Engineer with 18 yrs of comprehensive experience in quantity surveying, commercial management and administration on Oman visa.Available for immediate joining. Contact: 94006748, Email: deepak190374@gmail.com	LOGISTIC	SALES/MARKETING
SALES/MARKETING	B.Com graduate with 7 yrs experience as an accountant,also experienced in store operations & document controlling. knowledge in tally, MS excel. MS office, VAT, tax filling & other finance operations. Contact: +968 76411551, WA+91 8547107262	Architect, Interior designer having more than 8+ yrs of experience with design and engineering consultants. Contact: 95759832, Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com	Indian, male, Mechanical engineer with 1yr experience in HVAC engineering, looking for a suitable job. Contact: 76342333 Email: mohdyaz750@gmail.com	BE Project engineer 12-13 yrs experience. Contact: 93850875, Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com	Indian, MBA, 20yrs of experience in Sales(FMCG/Retail) with D/L. Seeks suitable placement. Contact: 95548480
Urgently required showroom sales vacancy for construction tools.Tally experience is must, good communication skill. Email: srik7786@icloud.com	Indian graduate having 2 yrs experience in accounts & sales department. Contact: 7642 0699, Email: saqibahmed0319@gmail.com	Driver	BE Civil site, project engineer (Keralite) having 12 years of experience in Oman looking for a suitable position as a site engineer (part time/full-time) in any reputed companies. having valid Oman D/L. Contact: 91281006, 78385414	MANAGER	Looking for saleman job, 10 yrs experience in building materials,tiles & sanitary. Contact: 76396606
JOB WANTED	Sr. Accountant, accountant, 16 yrs of experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalisation and auditing. Contact: 94001764.	Chemistry teacher with 7 yrs experience of teaching IGCSE chemistry (Pakistani). Currently in Oman. Contact: +968 78684306	Indian, male, Mechanical engineer with 1yr experience in HVAC engineering, looking for a suitable job. Contact: 76342333 Email: mohdyaz750@gmail.com	Indian, male, having 19 yrs of experience in manufacturing & FMCG operations management & 10 yrs experience in supply chain, logistics, procurement and project management. Contact: 95272472. Email: kemeir@hotmail.com	Indian Mechanical Engineer with D/L. 1 yr experience and NEBOSH IGC certified, Seeking job opportunities. Contact: 79860144
ACCOUNTS/FINANCE	Indian female, (MBA finance) having more than 15 yrs of experience in Oman in finance & accounts seeks suitable senior position. Contact: 94953826, 92824146	Indian male, having 2.5 yrs of experience in Accounts, finance, admin looking for job. Contact: +968 79414996, Email: sajadzn29@gmail.com	Indian, male, Mechanical engineer with 1yr experience in HVAC engineering, looking for a suitable job. Contact: 76342333 Email: mohdyaz750@gmail.com	Finance manager with 15 yrs of experience in oil & gas multinational company looking for suitable placement. Contact: 95230609	Indian male, Sales executive (MBA in Marketing) with 10 yrs of experience in FMCG & automobile with strong communication skills, holding valid Oman. D/L. Contact: 92350798
Indian (male), 20 yrs Oman exp, knowledge of finalisation of accounts, VAT, TAX, LCLTR, & ERP Oracle. Contact: 92383882	Highly skilled Chief accountant looking for suitable position. Contact: +968 79888153	Indian female, completed MCA and also having experience in teaching, available in Oman on family visa, looking for a suitable job. Contact: +91 79090343/ +968 94117967, Email: induchandran01@gmail.com	Civil Engineer with expertise in Software such as revit, autocad,naviswork, sketchup and having experience in site supervision is looking for job in Oman. Contact: +968 78441832, Email: shamilabdulla664@gmail.com	Indian male, MBA. 12 yrs of experience as (branch Manager & key accounts executive) looking for suitable position. Contact : 98132055	Indian male MBA graduated specialized with Marketing & HR (fresher). Looking for suitable positions . Currently in Muscat Oman. Contact: +968 71084371, Email: ccrashid9@gmail.com
Indian (M), 28, Accountant with overall exp 3 yrs Valid D/L. Contact: 78624277	Indian male with 4+ yrs exp. in Oman, worked as Accounts & admin executive Bachelor Degree in Management (BBA) with valid D/L, ready to join immediately. Contact: 93536020, Email: naseemt24@gmail.com		BE Project Engineer. 12 -13 yrs. experience. Contact: 93850875, Email: abdulcivilco2015@gmail.com		
Sr. Accountant, 16 yrs of experience in Oman. Accounts up to finalisation and auditing. Contact 91469060.			Indian, male, Diploma Civil site engineer with 27 yrs experience in Oman looking for a job. Contact: 99423274, Email: mmthomasvarghese@gmail.com		



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LIFESTYLE

AIR POLLUTION
MAY BE HIGHER
INSIDE YOUR HOME
THAN OUTDOORS:
STUDY

The researchers found significant differences in PM levels between the three houses, with one home exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) 24-hour PM2.5 limit on nine days

A new study reveals that people may be exposed to unhealthy levels of airborne pollutants inside their homes, even if the outdoor air quality is good.

Researchers at the University of Birmingham used low-cost sensors and innovative techniques over a two-week period to compare particulate matter (PM) in three homes. They discovered that pollution levels in each house were higher and more variable than outdoor levels. The researchers found significant differences in PM levels between the three houses, with one home exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) 24-hour PM2.5 limit on nine days.

This highlights the importance of monitoring indoor air quality at a household-specific level.

Published in Scientific Reports, this is the second paper published by McCall MacBain Clean Air Fellows studying the philanthropically funded Master's degree in Air Pollution Management and Control at the University of Birmingham.

Co-author and Clean Air Fellow Catrin Rathbone commented: "Our study shows the need to monitor indoor air pollution, as people can have unhealthy air at home even if outdoor air is good. PM levels varied significantly between homes, indicating that monitoring just one location isn't enough."

The team note that factors such as household location, ventilation, and occupancy patterns influenced particle levels - demonstrating the complexity of indoor air quality.

Co-author and Clean Air Fellow Owain Rose commented: "With more time spent working from home, understanding the factors that affect air quality within households is increasingly important. The methods we used accurately modelled indoor PM levels, helping to improve exposure estimates at a low cost."

Researchers identified five different factors contributing to PM in indoor spaces - two relating to indoor activities, such as increased movement by residents and three linked to external factors such as a nearby restaurant's kitchen vent. They found that larger particles (PM10) tended to settle faster compared to smaller particles (PM1, PM2.5).

Researchers used Non-negative Matrix Factorisation (NMF) - a powerful tool for uncovering latent patterns in data - to more accurately model indoor PM levels. Using low-cost sensors enabled them to build a more detailed picture of pollutant levels within the properties. - ANI

SPORTS

CONTRACT RENEWAL

Vinicius Jr eyes Real Madrid legacy, dismisses Saudi transfer talk



MADRID: Vinicius Jr has reaf-firmed his commitment to Span-ish giants Real Madrid, stating he is eager to extend his contract despite reported interest from the Saudi Pro League. The 24-year-old Brazilian for-ward, whose current deal runs until 2027, emphasized his happiness at the club and his ambition to cement his legacy among Madrid's greats. "I am very calm because my con-tract lasts until 2027, and I hope to renew my contract as soon as possible because I am happy here," Vinicius said. "I am living the dream of playing

with the best players in the world, the best coach, the best president, the best fans. Here, everybody loves me so much. I couldn't be in a better place." Having joined Real from Fla-mengo in 2018, Vinicius has al-ready lifted three La Liga titles and two Champions League trophies. He heads into the Champions League last-16 first-leg clash against Atletico Madrid with 102 goals in 300 appearances for the club. "My childhood dream was to make it here," he said. "Now that I have, I am writing my story. I have won, but I can still

win much more and make history at this club. That is very compli-cated because many great players have been here - legends - and I want to be just like them." Vinicius claimed his first major individual accolade in 2024 when he was named FIFA Best Men's Player of the Year. However, he narrowly missed out on the Ballon d'Or, finish-ing behind Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri. Real Ma-drid boycotted the Paris ceremony, reportedly in protest after learning Vinicius would not win the award. Asked about missing the event,

he responded: "I did what the club told me to do. The club asked me to stay in Madrid, so I calmly stayed and now we wait for the next one." Despite the disappointment, Vinicius remains focused on col-lective success. "I have never dreamt about win-ning the Ballon d'Or, but, of course, once you are so close, you want to win it," he admitted. "I am going to have many chances to win other awards and silverware with this club, which is more important. I have won two Champions Leagues so far, and I am here to win many more." - Agencies

Forest edge past Ipswich



Nottingham won in a penalty shootout to set up FA Cup quarter-final clash with Brighton

LONDON: Nottingham Forest held their nerve in a dramatic pen-alty shootout on Monday to edge past Ipswich Town 5-4 and secure a place in the FA Cup quarter-fi-nals, where they will face Brighton. Goalkeeper Matz Sels emerged as the hero for the hosts, saving Jack Taylor's decisive spot-kick after a 1-1 draw in regulation and extra time. Ryan Yates had earlier cancelled out George Hirst's sec-ond-half opener, forcing the game into extra time at the City Ground. With England manager Thomas Tuchel watching on ahead of his first squad announcement for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers, the contest took time to ignite. The first half was largely un-eventful, but the match came to life eight minutes after the break



when Sels tipped Sam Morsy's ef-fort over the bar. From the ensu-ing corner by Ben Johnson, Hirst stooped to head home his third goal of the season, giving Ipswich a shock lead. However, the advantage lasted just 15 minutes as Yates, Forest's inspirational captain, nodded in Anthony Elanga's pinpoint cross to restore parity. The midfielder thought he had doubled his tally when he found

the net again, only for his effort to be ruled out for offside. Callum Hudson-Odoi came closest to a winner in normal time, rattling the crossbar as Forest pushed for a decisive goal. The game ultimately went to penalties, where Forest showcased their composure. Nuno Espirito Santo's men, who had also triumphed in a shootout against League One side Exeter City in the fourth round, repeated

their success with a flawless dis-play from the spot. Taylor's miss proved costly for Ipswich, espe-cially as the midfielder had also failed from the spot in a Carabao Cup loss to AFC Wimbledon ear-lier in the season. "We always prepare for penal-ties in every FA Cup draw," said Nuno after the match. "We kept the same order as we did against Exeter, and the players executed perfectly. It's a nerve-



wracking experience, but credit to the team for staying composed." With their FA Cup journey still alive, Forest now shift their fo-cus back to the Premier League, where they continue their push for Champions League qualification. Sitting third in the table, they prepare for a high-stakes clash against Manchester City on Sat-urday, with just a point separating the two sides and a tight race un-folding behind them.

For Ipswich, their cup run ends as they turn their attention to a battle for survival in the league. Manager Kieran McKenna had hoped to rekindle memories of the club's 1978 FA Cup triumph, but his team must now concentrate on avoiding relegation. Forest's dream of FA Cup glory remains intact, and with a quarter-final showdown at Brighton next, they will be eager to keep their pursuit of silverware alive. - Agencies

HIGH-STAKES PARTNERSHIP

Murray to coach Djokovic at Indian Wells and Miami

LONDON: Andy Murray will ex-tend his coaching stint with Novak Djokovic at the upcoming Indian Wells tournament and continue guiding the 24-time Grand Slam champion through the Miami Open. Djokovic, 37, is set to compete in both ATP Masters events - known as the 'Sunshine Double' - for the first time since 2019. Murray, also 37, flew to the United States on Monday to join his long-time rival. The Indian Wells main draw be-gins later this week, with the Mi-ami Open following on March 19. Djokovic's last competitive match ended in a first-round loss to Italy's Matteo Berrettini at the Qatar Open on February 18, where Murray was absent. The Serbian initially brought Murray onto his team on a trial ba-sis at January's Australian Open, where he reached the semifinals but was forced to retire against Germany's Alexander Zverev due to a hamstring injury. Following his Melbourne exit,



Djokovic had suggested that both he and Murray needed time to "cool off" before making future coaching decisions. However, speaking in Qatar last month, he confirmed that Murray had agreed to continue working with him. "It's indefinite in terms of how long we are going to work together, but we agreed to team up in the States and possibly for some clay-court tournaments. We'll see how

it goes after that," Djokovic said. Currently ranked seventh in the world, Djokovic is eager to return to Indian Wells and Miami in pur-suit of history. He aims to claim the all-time record for most men's sin-gles titles at both events. Djokovic has won five Indian Wells titles, a record he shares with Roger Federer. In Miami, he holds six titles, tied with Andre Agassi. However, he has not lifted either trophy since 2016. - Agencies

WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

Verstappen and Biles among leading Laureus nominees

LONDON: Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen and gymnastics legend Simone Biles are among the standout nominees for the 2024 Laureus World Sports Awards, which will take place in Madrid on April 16. Verstappen, last year's Laureus Sportsman of the Year, is once again in contention after securing his fourth consecutive Formula 1 title with a dominant season for Red Bull. He faces competition from Olympic champions, including pole vault star Mondo Duplan-tis and French swimmer Leon Marchand. Duplantis retained his Olym-pic title and has broken the world record 11 times, and swimmer Marchand, the winner of four golds at his home Games, both en-joyed Olympic success last year. Also on the shortlist are Slove-nian cyclist Tadej Pogacar, who won the Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and world title, and Span-ish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz, the winner of Grand Slam titles at



the French Open and Wimbledon. However, Alcaraz's on-court rival Jannik Sinner, the world No.1 had his nomination withdrawn last week after he was given a three-month doping ban. Biles, the most decorated gym-nast in history, is aiming for a fourth World Sportswoman of the Year award after her triumphant return to the sport. She won three gold medals in Paris - team, all-around, and vault - along with a silver on the floor exercise, bring-ing her total Olympic tally to 11 medals. She is joined on the shortlist by a trio of athletes - American



McLaughlin-Levrone, the 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay cham-pion, Kenya's Kipyegon, who won a third 1500m title and Dutch star Hassan, the marathon champion. Last year's winner, the Spanish footballer Aitana Bonmati, and tennis world No.1 Aryna Sabalen-ka of Belarus complete the list. The Team of the Year category includes F1's McLaren, the only nominee outside of Spain and the USA. The team ended a 26-year wait to win the 2024 Constructors' Championship. Other contend-ers include Real Madrid, Spain's men's national football team, and the Boston Celtics. - Agencies

CONTROVERSIAL PAYMENT

Blatter and Platini face Swiss Appeals Court in FIFA fraud case

MUTTENZ: Former FIFA presi-dent Sepp Blatter and French foot-ball icon Michel Platini returned to court in Muttenz, near Basel, Blatter, 88, once again asserted his innocence. "When you talk about false-hoods, lies and deception, that's not me. That didn't exist in my whole life," he told the court. Platini, 69, also maintains that the payment was legitimate. His lawyer argued that the 2022 trial had rightly concluded that the money transfer was lawful. Platini, a three-time Ballon d'Or winner and one of France's greatest footballers, captained his country to victory in the 1984 European Championship and led

A final ruling is set to be deliv-ered on March 25. Appearing before an appeals court in Muttenz, near Basel, Blatter, 88, once again asserted his innocence. "When you talk about false-hoods, lies and deception, that's not me. That didn't exist in my whole life," he told the court. Platini, 69, also maintains that the payment was legitimate. His lawyer argued that the 2022 trial had rightly concluded that the money transfer was lawful. Platini, a three-time Ballon d'Or winner and one of France's greatest footballers, captained his country to victory in the 1984 European Championship and led



Juventus to European Cup glory in 1985. He later coached France's na-tional team before becoming UEFA president in 2007.

The origins of the controversy The case dates back to 2015, when Swiss prosecutors accused Blatter and Platini of fraud and financial

misconduct within FIFA. During their first trial, Blat-ter testified that in 1998 he had enlisted Platini as an adviser but that FIFA was unable to afford the Frenchman's requested 1 million Swiss franc annual salary at the time. They instead agreed on par-tial payment, with the remainder to be settled later. Platini ceased working for FIFA in 2002 and did not initially de-mand the outstanding sum. How-ever, in January 2011, he submit-ted an invoice, and the amount was paid with Blatter's approval. Swiss prosecutors argued that the pay-ment was fraudulent, leading to the duo's suspension from football in 2015 for ethics breaches - ini-

tially for eight years, though later reduced. Blatter, a controversial figure in world football, joined FIFA in 1975, became general secretary in 1981, and took over as president in 1998. He remained in office for 17 years before stepping down amid corruption investigations. Platini, once seen as his natu-ral successor, withdrew from the FIFA presidential race following the scandal. Despite their acquittal in 2022, the Swiss prosecution remains determined to overturn the ver-dict. As Blatter and Platini face the appeals court once more, the case continues to be a defining chapter in FIFA's troubled history. - Agencies

Elevating compact SUV standards – Lynk & Co 06 hits Oman’s roads



Marking a new era in compact crossover SUVs, the 06 is set to make a remarkable impact in the Omani market with its superior build quality, bold design and advanced technology

MUSCAT: Lynk & Co has officially introduced the much-anticipated Lynk & Co 06 at a spectacular launch celebration at its showroom in Ghala Heights, Muscat.

Marking a new era in compact crossover SUVs, the 06 is set to make a remarkable impact in the Omani market with its superior build quality, bold design and advanced technology.

Starting at just OMR 6,966, the Lynk & Co 06 is designed for those who seek both style and substance. This trendy, sporty SUV is powered by a 1.5L turbocharged engine which delivers an exhilarating driving experience while maintaining excellent fuel efficiency. It features an array of ad-



vanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), ensuring superior safety and convenience on the road. With its bold aesthetics and high-end performance, the 06 strikes a perfect balance between affordability, modernity & reliability. Ideal for small families and young drivers looking for their first new car, this compact crossover is redefining value in its segment.

The Lynk & Co 06 packs a powerful 181PS engine, delivering an exciting yet efficient drive. For

added convenience, it comes with a power tailgate, remote start, and keyless entry for effortless access, making every journey memorable. Inside, it offers comfort and style with integrated sports seats enhancing its trendsetting appeal.

Riyadh Ali Sultan, General Manager of Towell Auto Centre highlighted the collaboration between Mobility Auto and Lynk & Co in Oman.

He remarked, “This partnership has been a remarkable journey

driven by innovation, sustained growth and an unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional customer satisfaction. Since Lynk & Co’s introduction in Oman, it has established itself as a premium automotive brand offering a seamless blend of technology, performance, and modern design. With an expanding lineup including the 01, 03, 03+, 05, 09, and now the 06, we continue to cater to the evolving needs of Omani consumers.”

Lynk & Co is rapidly expanding

worldwide, with nearly 700 retail touchpoints across Europe, SEA, MENA, and LATAM. In Oman, the brand launched in August 2023 under Mobility Auto (Towell Group) and has been expanding strategically through localized offerings, exceptional after-sales service and comprehensive service packages. Our models are designed to meet Omani driving needs, emphasizing durability, safety and off-road capabilities.

Lynk & Co continues to push

boundaries in the Omani automotive market through its association with Towell Auto Group and Mobility Auto ensuring customers receive world-class vehicles. As the official brand dealers in Oman, Towell Auto Group & Mobility Auto provide a seamless ownership experience reinforcing Lynk & Co’s position as a leader in modern mobility solutions. The Lynk & Co 06 is now available for test drives at the Lynk & Co showroom in Ghala Heights, Muscat.

OFFER

Own Classy Kia K8 now with VAT paid by Kia in Ramadan

MUSCAT: This Ramadan, let the spirit of togetherness shine brighter with Kia’s incredible Ramadan offer! Kia is bringing you the perfect way to celebrate – an exceptional opportunity to own the dynamic, classy Kia K8.

In this blessed month, Kia pays the VAT for you, so you can focus on what truly matters – your spiritual journey.

Savour the sweetness of community and enjoy iftars, with a Kia K8, enjoy shared moments of gratitude and find joy in simplicity of life. The K8 is not just a car, you’re embracing a lifestyle of comfort, luxury, and performance – all with unbeatable perks.

Over and above the VAT being paid by Kia get everything that you wish for and enjoy your rides with a range of exclusive benefit including free service plans up to 50,000 kms, one year of registration and insurance. Also, enter the grand raffle to own a Kia EV6, an all-electric crossover when your purchase a Kia.

Imagine making unforgettable memories with your family in the Kia K8, a high-performance sedan that reflects Kia’s dedication to elegance and power. Powered by the 3.5 GDI Smartstream powertrain, the K8 makes your spiritual journey smoother, more peaceful, and more enjoyable. Plus, with 510L of boot space, long journeys will feel effortless and stress-free, giving you the freedom to go wherever your heart desires.

Step inside, and be greeted by futuristic technology – a 12.3 – inch TFT digital cluster for displays important information and a 12.3-inch infotainment system



that connects you to the world like never before. And when it comes to sound, the Kia K8 sets the bar high with its sophisticated 14-speaker Meridian surround sound system, delivering an experience that feels like you’re at a concert.

In K8 every journey is a pleasure, thanks to the Ergo Motion Seat designed for ultimate comfort. Whether it’s the driver’s seat, with its relaxing stretching mode that

builds confidence, or the passenger seat with adjustable comfort settings, every detail is crafted for your well-being. The K8’s center armrest, featuring a USB charging port, sliding cup holders, and a media control device for the second row, ensures everyone enjoys a connected, comfortable experience.

Driving the K8 through the city becomes an effortless adventure, with Kia’s Advanced Driver As-

sistance System (ADAS) reducing risks and keeping everyone safe. With the Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist (FCA), you can drive with peace of mind, knowing that if a collision risk arises, the K8 will take action.

The K8’s intelligent systems, like the Smart Cruise Control (SCC), and Highway Driving Assist (HDA), make your journeys not only safer but also more enjoy-

able. Parking is a breeze with the Surround View Monitor (SVM) and Front & Reverse Parking Assist, making it easier to park in tight spots.

The Kia K8 is more than just a car – it’s a symbol of Kia’s commitment to innovation, sustainability, and making your driving experience extraordinary. It’s all about you. So, what are you waiting for? Head to your nearest Kia

showroom and embrace a new era of driving with the Kia K8.

Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the official distributor for Kia in Oman, ensures an unforgettable ownership experience. With Kia ranked #1 for Sales Customer Satisfaction in 2024 in the Middle East and Africa, RIA offers not just cars, but a lifetime of satisfaction and excellence on every mile of your journey.

ROUND-UP



Geely Starray launched in Muscat: Redefining 4WD SUV excellence

Designed to suit the demands of today's drivers, the Starray combines innovation, safety, and road command in perfect harmony while offering outstanding value as an affordable family SUV

MUSCAT: Geely Auto International Corporation & Towell Auto Centre unveiled the all-new Geely Starray Muscat on 25 February. Introducing the Geely Starray, a revolutionary 4WD SUV that sets new benchmarks in design, technology, and performance.

Designed to suit the demands of today's drivers, the Starray combines innovation, safety, and road command in perfect harmony while offering outstanding value as an affordable family SUV. The much-awaited launch ceremony was held on February 25, 2025, at Crowne Plaza - Grand Lawn, and was graced by industry leaders, automotive enthusiasts, and dignitaries.

Michael Song, Vice President of Geely Auto and General Manager of GAIC says, "Geely Starray is the future of intelligent mobility, combining aesthetic excellence with safety and digital innovation. It represents the evolution of design philosophy and engineering prowess, crafted for discerning drivers."

The ultimate urban-to-adventure SUV
The Geely Starray 4WD is designed for those who seek both versatility and adventure. With an advanced 4WD system and the performance of an 8-speed auto-

matic transmission (8AT), it offers exceptional control, power, and smoothness—whether driving on city roads or conquering off-road adventures.

With advanced technology, lavish comfort, and uncompromising safety, the Starray raises the bar in performance and versatility, redefining the driving experience on urban and highway terrains.

Highlights include:
4WD System: Advanced traction and control technology to handle varied terrain with confidence, from city streets to sand, mud, and gravel.
8-Speed Automatic Transmission (8AT): Provides seamless gear shifting, improved fuel economy, and enhanced driving dynamics for performance and comfort.
Smart Safety Features: Innovative ADAS technologies, such as adaptive cruise control and lane-keeping assist, for a level of security like no other.

Premium design
A bold exterior matched with a spacious, tech-laden interior, offering both style and substance. "With the Starray 4WD, we're not just introducing a new car; we're redefining what versatility means for modern drivers," said [Alex Gu], [Geely Middle East & Africa General Manager]. "Its



powerful 4WD system and advanced 8AT transmission ensure a smooth, confident driving experience, no matter where the road leads."

Bold yet aerodynamic exterior design.
The Geely Starray features an aerodynamically streamlined shape, exuding confidence and flair. Its striking and dynamic exterior de-

sign boasts Stars-Aligned Daytime Running Lights and a distinctive front face, with the Flying Arrow Full-Width Taillight that enhances both visibility and road presence. Complementing its authoritative posture, the Starray rides on 20-inch silver and black alloy wheels wrapped in Goodyear Eagle F1 tires for enhanced grip and stability. A programmable power tailgate and thin rear spoiler com-

bine sportiness and elegance to make a dramatic figure on the road. Every detail of the Starray's exterior is meticulously crafted to fulfill function and form. Aerodynamic lines are formed to enhance performance, while LED light components are crafted to provide maximum visibility and safety, especially when driving at night. The Starray's design language represents a vision for the future, combining sophistication and high-performance capabilities.

Designed for exploration
The Geely Starray 4WD is engineered for adventure, combining a bold exterior with a spacious, luxurious interior to inspire exploration. Whether navigating city streets or tackling demanding environments, the Starray provides a comfortable, connected, and thrilling driving experience.

Key design and feature highlights:
Striking Exterior
With LED headlights, a bold grille, and aerodynamic styling, the Starray captures the essence of both adventure and elegance.

Refined Interior
Spacious and high-tech interior with luxurious material, advanced infotainment, and adjustable mood lighting provides an immersive and calming ride.
Unmatched Versatility
Designed with industry-leading ground clearance, dynamic suspension system, and 4WD, Starray easily transfers from urban driving to off-road terrain, presenting unmatched performance and stability.

Exclusively available at after-sales commitment
The Geely Starray is exclusively available in the Oman Market by Towell Auto Centre (TAC), Geely's authorized distributor. TAC's commitment to superior customer service, maintenance schemes, and after-sales services guarantees that Starray owners have a hassle-free and rewarding ownership experience.

To further complement the customer experience, TAC will offer customized financing schemes, extended warranty packages, and regular service promotions, further affirming Geely's dedication to quality and customer satisfaction. In Oman, Geely vehicles are brought to you by Towell Auto Centre. Established with a commitment to excellence, Towell Auto Centre has been delivering premium automotive products and services to the Sultanate of Oman over the years. And today it offers a comprehensive range of exceptional customer support services, managed by industry-leading professionals, and backed by superior after-sales services. The addition of Geely to its line-up is a testament to the company's commitment to providing its customers with the latest and most innovative automotive products.

AWARD

NBO recognised as Most Innovative Digital Retail Bank in Oman for 2024

MUSCAT: The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has been awarded the Most Innovative Digital Retail Bank in Oman for 2024 by the Global Business Outlook Awards, reaffirming its commitment to transforming the banking experience through cutting-edge digital solutions tailored to customer needs. As part of its mission to drive innovation and enhance Oman's digital banking landscape, NBO has introduced several pioneering initiatives. Among them is the launch of Eid note dispensing machines, the first of their kind in Oman, strategically placed across five locations. This service addresses the common challenge of obtaining Eidiya notes during Eid, further reinforcing the Bank's focus on customer-centric solutions. In addition, NBO has rolled out self-service kiosks at multiple locations, offering a broad range of banking services without the need to visit a branch. These kiosks enable customers to open new accounts, apply for Debit and Badeel Prepaid Cards, renew or replace



Debit and Badeel Prepaid Cards, and top up Badeel Prepaid Cards, ensuring a seamless and efficient banking experience. Further strengthening its digital offerings, NBO introduced Oman's first digital credit card application facility, allowing both existing and new customers to apply for credit

cards using digital signatures, in compliance with Central Bank of Oman guidelines. The Bank has also launched a new digital verification and update feature on the NBO app, enabling customers to quickly and securely update their personal details, enhancing service personalization while ensuring compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations. Dr. Ali Salim Al Shekaili, Assistant General Manager and Head of Digital Banking & E-Channels at NBO, commented on the recognition: "We are committed to redefining banking by integrating innovative digital solutions that cater to our customers' evolving needs. This award is a testament to our dedication to delivering seamless, secure, and customer-centric services that set new benchmarks in Oman's banking industry. By continuously enhancing our digital platforms and customer touchpoints, including our the NBO app and self-service machines, we strive to provide elevated convenience, accessibility, and security."

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Europcar Oman & Bahrain: Driving health & wellness through CSR



MUSCAT: Europcar Oman & Bahrain continues to champion corporate social responsibility (CSR) by supporting key health initiatives. This year, in collaboration with OABC (Oman American Business Council)the company partnered with the Oman Diabetes Association (ODA) to raise awareness and combat prevalent health challenges. Diabetes, commonly referred to as the "silent killer," is an increasing concern in Oman. Rebecca Olson, CEO of OABC, highlighted this issue and played a key

role in collaborating with ODA to promote early detection, prevention, and management strategies. Europcar Oman & Bahrain aims to host health camps, offer free screenings, and conduct educational sessions, encouraging employees, their families, and partners to take part. Nitin Sapre, CEO of Europcar Oman & Bahrain, stated: "At Europcar, we believe businesses have a responsibility to give back to the community. Supporting ODA aligns with our mission to promote health and well-being.

Through these initiatives, we aim to empower individuals with knowledge and access to essential healthcare resources." Anita Kotian, Finance Manager presented a charitable donation to Dr. Noor (ODA), reaffirming Europcar's commitment to a healthier society. ODA guests were given an exclusive tour of Europcar's impressive headquarters. Join Europcar Oman & Bahrain in advocating for Health Awareness, and Diabetes Prevention. Together, we can build a healthier future for Oman.

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