

HOLIDAY NOTICE

There will be no edition of Times of Oman on Thursday due to holiday on account of Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) birth anniversary.



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OMAN CONDEMNS ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA DEFENCE FORCE

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has expressed its condemnation of the attack on the defence force of Bahrain stationed on the southern border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, Oman affirms its solidarity with Bahrain. It also extends its sincere condolences and sympathies to families of the deceased, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. — **OMA**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GIVES AUDIENCE TO RULER OF SHARJAH



HM hosts luncheon in honour of Ruler of Sharjah

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik hosted a luncheon in honour of Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, and the delegation accompanying him.

The luncheon was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court and Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information.

It was attended from the UAE side by Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, Chairman of Sharjah Petroleum Council and Deputy Chairman of Sharjah Executive Council, Mohammed bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to Oman and Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Owais, Chairman of Department of Culture in Sharjah and Member of Sharjah Executive Council.

Later, His Majesty the Sultan bid farewell to Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi and his accompanying delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay in Oman.

In his turn, the Ruler of Sharjah expressed his deep thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him, wishing His Majesty the Sultan good health, happiness and a long life.

He also wished the Omani people more progress under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan. — **OMA**

HM and Sharjah Ruler reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday gave an audience to Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah and his accompanying delegation at Al Barakah Palace on Tuesday.

During the audience, His Majesty the Sultan and Sharjah Ruler exchanged cordial conversations and reviewed march of the bilateral relations between the two countries, based on shared historic bonds. They also discussed other matters of common concern.

The audience was attended by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin

bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court and Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information.

It was attended from the UAE side by Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, Chairman of

Sharjah Petroleum Council and Deputy Chairman of Sharjah Executive Council, Mohammed bin Nakhira Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to Oman and Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Owais, Chairman of Department of Culture in Sharjah and Member of Sharjah Executive Council. — **OMA**

• See also A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Cochlear implants at Al Nahdha Hospital

1 A specialised medical team at Al Nahdha Hospital conducted 4 "cochlear implants under local anaesthesia" for adults, marking the recent launch of this service in Oman. The hospital has performed over 60 cochlear implants. **>A3**

WORLD

Antarctic winter sea ice hits record low

2 The sea ice around Antarctica has likely hit new record low levels this winter, the United States National Snow and Ice Data Centre (NSIDC) said on Monday. **>A7**

MARKET

Bank Muscat issue manager for OQGN IPO

3 Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, announced that it has been appointed as the Issue Manager for the IPO of OQ Gas Networks (OQGN). **>B1**

49ER SAILING EVENT

Sailors Al Hadi and Al Kindi end Oman's 13-year medal drought at Asian Games



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's 13-year medal drought at the Asian Games ended on Tuesday when the pair of Musab Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi finished second after the conclusion of the men's skiff - 49er sailing event at the Ningbo Xiangshan Sailing Centre for a historic silver medal.

Al Hadi, who was at the helm, and with Al Kindi as crew, the pair garnered a net points count of 46 to finish behind the event winners, Zaiding Wen and Tian Liu of China, who collected a net points count of 42 at the end of 14 races held over six days.

Hong Kong's Luke Sakai and Williams Aylsworth completed the podium with a third place finish after a net score of 47 that

edged the Indian pair of KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar.

Musab and Waleed scored a win and had three second-place and an equal number of third-place finishes while the lowest result in the 14 races was a sixth-place among the eight teams.

Oman's last medal was won by an ace sprinter at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou and since then the wait continued. Incidentally, Oman's three of the five medals, including Tuesday's silver, have been achieved in China. The only gold medal for Oman came at the 1990 Beijing Asian Games when Mohammed Amur Al Malki won the 400m title while Barakat won bronze in 100m in Guangzhou and Tuesday's silver coming at Hangzhou. **>A5, See also >A8**

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:03pm

Asr.....3:28pm

Maghrib.....6:04pm

Isha.....7:14pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:42am



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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLIED

MEETINGS

Royal Office Minister meets ambassadors of Qatar, Yemen

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received on Tuesday Sheikh Jassim Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar to Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The ambassador expressed his appreciation for the cooperation extended to him during his tour of duty in Oman.

Al Nu'amani thanked the envoy for his efforts in bolstering relations between the two countries, wishing him continuous success.

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani received Dr. Khalid Saleh Shoteif, Ambassador of Yemen to Oman. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral ties and touched on various matters of mutual interest and means of enhancing them, especially in regards to Oman's efforts in resolving the Yemeni crisis in coordination with related international parties. -ONA

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Enjoy the break! Attractive staycations, dining offers

With residents and citizens chalking out plans on how to spend the three-day break, hotels and restaurants in Oman are eager to welcome them with some attractive offers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: There is an air of excitement as people in Oman gear up for an extended weekend.

With residents and citizens chalking out plans on how to spend the three-day break, hotels and restaurants in Oman are eager to welcome them with some attractive offers.

With the government announcing Thursday as a holiday to mark the Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) birth anniversary, staycations seem to be one of the most popular ways to make the most of the break.

Welcoming the guests for a staycation, Park Inn Muscat is offering a night stay for OMR20 net for two adults.

"The long weekend is calling your name...Plan your staycation @parkinnmuscat. Our offer includes a night stay for only OMR 20 net for 2 adults," said a promotional flyer from the hotel.

The luxurious Hormuz Grand



Muscat, A Radisson Collection Hotel has an irresistible offer of a night stay for OMR 30.

The campaign of the hotel reads: "Plan your perfect long weekend

escape at the luxurious Hormuz Grand Muscat, A Radisson Collection Hotel. Enjoy a relaxing one-night stay for you and your companion, complete with a delectable



breakfast to kick start your day. The best part? Rates for this incredible offer start at just OMR30, making it an unbeatable deal for a memorable getaway."

Crowne Plaza Muscat OCEC's offer for this weekend is also OMR30 for two per night.

The latest hotel property in Muscat, DoubleTree by Hilton in

Muscat, Qurum, is offering a staycation offer starting from OMR35 per night.

For food connoisseurs, the newest brunch in town is there to enjoy with Poalima Brunch at Intercontinental's Trader Vic's Muscat starting from OMR30 from 1 pm to 4pm on Fridays.

Also, from September 29, The Pavilion at Al Bustan Palace - A Ritz-Carlton Hotel is launching live entertainment with kids' activity with lavish brunch starting from OMR 32 net per person.

Kempinski Hotel Muscat is offering Friday Brunch at Kitchen every Friday from OMR22.5 per person.

W Muscat's Siddharta Lounge is offering a Soiree brunch, a fancy evening affair from 5pm to 9pm, every Thursday and discount offers on all sushi items. At the other outlet of the hotel, BA BAN, the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival is being organised from September 28-October 1.

At Aloft Muscat, Layali Com offers a captivating blend of Oriental & Commercial music featuring Stephanie while the Brunch Fiesta on Saturday is filled with delicious delights, live entertainment and exciting kids' activities.

And for those who wish to enjoy a long drive and soak in a pleasant climate of 25-28 degrees up in the mountains, the getaway is dusitD2 Naseem Resort, Al Jabal Al Akhdar. The hotel is launching a new menu on September 28, 2023 with music, food and beverages.

The hotel said: "Join us for a delightful evening, with the culinary artistry of our new chefs and experience a revitalised menu, featuring delectable Lebanese and Middle Eastern-inspired cuisine, which is sure to tantalise your palate."

CHRONIC DISEASES



Specialised medical team at Al Nahdha Hospital conducts four cochlear implants

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team at Al Nahdha Hospital conducted 4 "cochlear implants under local anaesthesia" for adults, marking the recent launch of this service in Oman.

Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Rahbi, ENT Consultant and Surgeon at Al Nahdda Hospital, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the procedure helps cut down operation time and avoid complications associated with general anaesthesia.

The method was particularly useful for those suffering from chronic diseases, he added.

Al Rahbi pointed out that an implant of this type takes 1 to 3

The procedure helps cut down operation time and avoid complications associated with general anaesthesia, Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Rahbi said

hours, depending on a patient's condition.

He explained that a cochlear implant involves fixing a small electronic device that can help provide a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly hard-of-hearing.

"Al Nahdha Hospital performed more than 60 cochlear implants over the past year, and we are working hard to reduce waiting lists for surgeries by conducting more operations of this type in the near future," said Al Rahbi. — ONA



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HM, Sharjah Ruler review relations



CULTURAL LEGACY

Ruler of Sharjah visits Royal Opera House Muscat

MUSCAT: Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, and the delegation accompanying him visited the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM).

Al Qasimi toured ROHM during which he was briefed on the House, its facilities and shows, as well as its year-long programme. He also viewed the ROHM unique architectural designs creatively combining Omani architectural

and cultural legacy with the architectural cultures from different continents of the world.

Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi also visited the House of Musical Arts and viewed a musical show of Omani sung heritage and modern folklore. At the conclusion of his visit to ROHM, Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi, signed the Senior Visitors' Register. In his words, Al Qasimi expressed his happiness at visiting ROHM. He also lauded ROHM's efforts and role in portraying cultural and architectural heritage. -ONA





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Rare weight loss surgery of an eight-year-old child

The surgery was first-of-its-kind in Oman for a child suffering from Prader-Willi

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team at the Royal Hospital succeeded in performing a weight-loss surgery, the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman, for an 8-year-old child who was suffering from Prader-Willi Syndrome. Dr. Mohammed Said Al Abri, Consultant, Obesity and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery at the Royal Hospital, told Oman News



Agency (ONA) that the decision to conduct the operation was taken after several meetings by a multidisciplinary team to reach an optimal path for tackling the child's condition. The team comprised repre-

sentatives from the departments of units of surgery in anaesthesia, endocrinology, endocrinology, respiratory system and child mental health, nutrition and intensive care. Dr. Hussein Murtada Al Lawati

(Consultant in Pediatric Respiratory Diseases at the Royal Hospital), said that Prader-Willi Syndrome is a complex genetic condition that affects many parts of the body at an early stage, causing craving for food, obesity and obstructive central sleep apnea. Al Lawati told ONA that the first step in treating these complications is to use a breathing aid device during a patient's sleep, which often helps reduce the severity of apnea attacks. This is in addition to other weight loss therapies that go hand in hand with the treatment of apnea. Al Lawati added that, due the child's recurrent and severe symptoms, which led to his admission to many intensive care sessions, the team in charge of his condition decided to resort to the surgical option to help the patient lose weight. -ONA

Coronary artery disease



By Dr Mehwar Ali
Senior Consultant
Interventional Cardiology
Aster Royal Al Raffah Hospital

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is a common cardiovascular condition characterized by the narrowing or blockage of the coronary arteries, which supply oxygen and nutrients to the heart muscle. This narrowing is typically caused by the buildup of fatty deposits, known as plaques, on the artery walls, a process called atherosclerosis. As these plaques accumulate, they can restrict blood flow to the heart, leading to chest pain (angina) or, in severe cases, heart attacks. CAD risk factors include smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and a family history of heart disease. Lifestyle changes, medications, and interventions like angioplasty or bypass surgery are used to manage CAD and reduce its impact. Regular check-ups and a healthy lifestyle are crucial for CAD prevention and management.



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Heritage Ministry inaugurates ‘Meteorites in Oman’ exhibition



NIZWA: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Tuesday inaugurated the ‘Meteorites in Oman’ exhibition at Nizwa Gate in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of Al Dakhiliyah. The exhibition, in its 2nd edition, highlights the importance of meteorites and

investing meteorites in a sustainable manner. Holding such an exhibition also contributes to boosting heritage and tourism destinations in various governorates. **Rare selection** The Ministry, through this exhibition, displays a rare selection of meteorites of scientific, global and unique importance. -ONA

NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMPANY

Mwasalat to resume service to UAE from October

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's national transport company, Mwasalat, on Tuesday announced the resumption of its services to the neighbouring country, UAE, with its service from Muscat to Abu Dhabi via Al Ain, from October 1.

Revealing the information on its social media handle, Mwasalat, said that the opening offer for a ticket for a one-way trip will be OMR11.5 with passengers allowed luggage of 23kg along with a hand baggage of 7kg. It may be recalled that Mwasalat had stopped its ser-

vices to UAE during the COVID-19 pandemic and since then the service to Dubai has not been resumed. Though the service to Dubai is yet to begin, Mwasalat announced that a new route to Abu Dhabi via Al Ain will start from October 1 bringing relief and joy to travellers in Oman.



ASIAN GAMES

<FROM A1> Great achievement

The other two medals, Al Malki's bronze in 400m and the 4x100m relay quartet's bronze- were achieved in Seoul (1986) and Jakarta (1998) respectively. Al Hadi and Al Kindi also got the first Asian Games sailing medal for Oman and the sailors are scheduled to be awarded the medals at a ceremony on Wednesday. With the formal award ceremony to be held on Wednesday, the official medals tally of the Hangzhou Asian Games failed to show Oman on the honours list. The pair also secured automatic qualification to the Asian Qualification Regatta in Chon Buri, Thailand, in December where they will look to confirm their place at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Soon after the final race, a delighted Al Hadi said: "We are very happy to represent the Sultanate of Oman in this major continental event and are delighted to win a silver medal for our nation. We dedicate this achievement to our dear homeland, and to all those who supported us on this journey. A special thanks to the tech-

nical team and our colleagues at Oman Sail." Hashim bin Hamad Al Rashidi, Oman Sail's Head Coach Performance, said: "This achievement came as a result of the intense preparation and continuous training that preceded the tournament. The sailors were able to maintain focus and perform strongly throughout the competition. It was a strong test of the players' levels against the top sailors from across the Asian continent." Al Rashidi added: "The next step for these two will be to obtain a seat in the Paris 2024 Olympic qualifiers, which will be held in Thailand in December 2023." An Omani delegation of 75 individuals, including 44 male and female athletes, are participating in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, across seven sports including athletics, weightlifting, swimming, shooting, sailing, beach volleyball, and hockey. While the beach spikers, swimmers and shooters have failed to make any significant progress in their respective events, eyes will be on the athletes when the track and field competition begins.

DISCUSSION

Meeting reviews efforts to combat human trafficking



MUSCAT: The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) on Tuesday held its second meeting of the year (2023) under the auspices of Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, Chairman of the Committee. The meeting reviewed the ef-

forts made by all departments entrusted with combating human trafficking, as well as the progress made in the National Action Plan (2021-2023) on this issue. wThe NCCHT discussed topics of relevance to boosting the Sultanate of Oman's efforts in addressing all aspects of human trafficking. -ONA



**Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health**

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender Ref	Description	Last date for Collection of tenders Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 10:00 am Wednesday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
MOH/DGKH-38 /3612/2023	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION DISHWASH MACHINE AT KHOULA HOSPITAL	12/October/2023	08/November/2023	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in Excellent Grade	R.O 25.000

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

OFFICIAL VISIT



Sharjah Ruler visits Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

MUSCAT: Dr. Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, and the delegation accompanying him on Tuesday visited Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, within the context of his current official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the visit, Dr. Sultan was briefed on the mosque's history, and its Omani and Islamic architectural designs.

He also went on tour of the mosque's facilities, such as Institute of Islamic Sciences, Library and other facilities. — **ONA**



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BILATERAL TIES

Oman and Japan relations hailed

MUSCAT: Sheikh Dr. Al Khatab Ghalib Al Hinai, Deputy Chairman of the State Council, received here on Tuesday Yamada Miki, Japan's Former State Minister of the Environment, Secretary General of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association.

The meeting comes within the framework of the guest's and her accompanying delegation's official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. Al Hinai lauded the advance relations between Oman and Japan.

He also underscored the role of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association in boosting bilateral cooperation, especially in legislative fields. This visit, Al Hinai added, contributes to expanding vistas of cooperation between the two sides.

He also gave a brief introduction on the State Council and its national roles. Yamada Miki, Japan's Former State Minister of the Environment, Secretary General of the Oman-Japan Friendship Association expressed her delight in visiting the Sultanate of Oman. She also said she looks forward to see further development and prosperity in relations between Japan and Oman.

Further, she underlined Oman's leading role in consolidating values of tolerance, respect and co-existence.

At the conclusion of her visit, the guest and her accompanying delegation toured the State Council's building and viewed its various facilities. Further, the meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the State Council and Yamamoto Jota Ambassador of Japan to Oman. — **ONA**

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

Oman hosts meeting

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, chaired the 31st preparatory meeting of the GCC Committee of Agriculture Undersecretaries. The meeting, held at the headquarters of the GCC Supreme Council's Consultative Authority in Muscat, discussed a spectrum of topics dealing with enhancing cooperation between GCC states in the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Agriculture, chairman of the meeting, said that the achievements of the agricultural cooperation committee reflects the GCC leaders' keenness to unify visions that aim at boosting joint action. — **ONA**

Graduation of 40 participants celebrated by the Royal Academy of Management

The programme equips participants with advanced and modern leadership experiences that embrace new developments in business in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Sayyid Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 40 participants graduated from the National Collaborative Leadership Programme.

The programme, which includes leaders from both the government and private sectors, equips participants with advanced and modern leadership experiences that embrace new developments in business in the Sultanate of Oman.

The graduation ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Ali bin Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, as well as a number of Their Highnesses, Excellencies, CEOs, and officials from both sectors.

In his speech, Dr. Said bin Mohammad Al Saqri, Minister of Economy and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management, congratulated the graduates of the National Collaborative Leadership Programme, which, he said, the government views with great interest as it promotes building partnerships between the government



and private sector in planning and implementation.

This approach aligns with modern global developments that prioritise partnership to achieve sustainability in line with the radical transformations in business economics.

These transformations emphasise the role of data, models, and scenarios to create the desired economic development impact.

To achieve a balanced transformation in both government and private institutions, it is necessary to empower and integrate the capabilities of administrative and executive leadership in both sectors, driven by the needs of economic development and aligned with the new development model.

He added that realising Oman 2040, the national vision, requires an application of the knowledge acquired from the National Collaborative Leadership Programme, working tirelessly, and perceiving challenges as incentives rather than obstacles.

He also stated that, "Momentum of collaboration between government and private sector leaders must be maintained as we are all one team on the same path, work-

ing towards the same goal. Integrating the efforts of both sectors is crucial to improving the business environment and achieving national goals. It is also important to build practical bridges to ensure that development plans reflect the aspirations of the private sector and provide solutions to the challenges it faces."

Dr. Ali bin Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, stated that as global transformations in business become more profound and reliant on technology, data, information, artificial intelligence, and business innovation, it is essential to be guided by real market needs and satisfy beneficiaries.

He also added that the National Collaborative Leadership Programme was implemented in partnership with leading international institutions, including Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford and the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

The Royal Academy of Management is committed to localising and consolidating the latest international experiences to provide participants with the leadership

skills required to advance their professional and personal lives.

The programme consisted of three educational units that were implemented both inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

Education and training methods varied between physical and virtual sessions, as well as a range of educational and practical activities, residency programmes, and guidance and counseling sessions for each participant.

The programme also included field visits to learn about global experiences, tools, and practices in leadership, as well as related scientific fields in accordance with the data of the new economy and the foundations of competitiveness.

Eleanor Murray, Associate Dean for Executive Education at Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford, stated during her speech, "I would like to thank the Royal Academy of Management for its collaboration with Saïd Business School in designing and presenting the National Collaborative Leadership Programme for both government and private sectors. Through this collaboration, both sectors can experience real transformation. The programme

is a true testament to this collaboration on several levels: the collaboration between the University of Oxford and the Royal Academy of Management, between the Saïd Business School and the participants, and between participants from both sectors, who with their diverse knowledge and experience can achieve a positive and bright future."

Dr. Al Fadhil bin Abbas Al Hinai, CEO of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, delivered a speech on behalf of the graduates, stating that the Sultanate of Oman has adopted a unique model in its economic development based on creating a true partnership between the government and private sector. This has enabled the country to face the challenges of global crises.

He emphasised that the National Collaborative Leadership Programme aligns with the development goals of Oman Vision 2040 and the government's five-year plans to move towards a flexible and sustainable economy.

Dr. Al-Fadl Al-Hinai added that from day one, the graduates were determined to acquire the knowledge and leadership skills offered by the programme as well as innovative work tools and inspiring work models.

All of these are based on the principles of collaboration between the government and private sectors, moving towards horizons of innovation based on Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies and seeking to achieve the high-level levels of competitiveness. The ultimate goal is to position the Sultanate of Oman among the developed countries.

At the end of the speech, Dr. Al Fadhil expressed gratitude on behalf of his colleagues to His Majesty the Sultan for establishing the Royal Academy of Management, which is considered to be a pillar for building the future of the Sul-

tanate of Oman.

He also extended thanks to the Academy team, partners, and all those who contributed to the success of the programme.

Aisha Al Saifi, Vice President of the National Investment & Export Development Programme (Nazdaher), shared her success story after graduating from the programme.

She said, "We have completed this journey, with all its ups and downs, not just to celebrate our graduation, but to confirm that the most valuable aspect of this programme are the human experiences that continue to prosper and grow beyond the end of the programme."

She emphasised that the success story is embodied in the human relationships that share the passion and lead the future of investment, institutional work, openness to the world, utilisation of technology, sustainability efforts, and all elements which will lead to the success of Oman Vision 2040. The vision is based on young, passionate leaders and a creative human society.

The National Collaborative Leadership Programme was developed, designed in partnership and collaboration with several leading international institutions. Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, one of the most prestigious and prominent institutions concerned with preparing and empowering leadership skills, played a key role in this programme.

It provides academic and executive education on a global level and blends modernity and tradition in the content provided and the educational methods used.

The programme was conducted in partnership with the International Institute for Management Development, one of the world's leading institutions in business administration, which focuses solely on executive education.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2023 reaching \$92.57, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.62 from the price of Monday, which was \$94.19. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,669.02 points, up by 0.09 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.18 per cent at 463.52 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 9.31 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Generating, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser.



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Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

Bank Muscat appointed issue manager for IPO of OQGN

For this IPO, Bank Muscat is also acting as a Joint Global Coordinator with other regional and international financial institutions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Believing in its extensive experience in investments and money management strategies spanning more than 40 years, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman announced that it has been appointed as the Issue Manager for the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), the exclusive owner and operator of the natural gas transportation network in Oman.

For this IPO, Bank Muscat is also acting as a Joint Global Coordinator with other regional and international financial institutions. OQGN will be offering 49% of its total share capital for public subscription through this IPO. The offering is the first major equity transaction in Oman which is Sharia-compliant. It is part of Oman Investment Authority's privatisation programme aiming to enhance economic growth in addition to creating development and innovation opportunities in the



energy sector in Oman.

The IPO Prospectus has been approved by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) on September 17. The subscription period for the offering commenced on September 26 for both Category I applicants (Institutions) and Category II applicants

(Individuals) with Category I offer closing on October 9 and Category II offer closing on October 5.

Omani and non-Omani investors, encompassing individuals and institutional investors, can participate in the offering. Category I applicants (Institutions) could subscribe to the offer at a subscription price between 131 baisa to 140 baisa per share, with the final price to be determined through a book-building exercise. To encourage individual investors to participate in the offer and promote equity investment amongst individual investors, the maximum subscription price for the Category II applicants (individuals) is set at 126 baisa per share, which is at a discount of 10 percent from the top end of the price range of 140 baisa.

At the top end of the price range, the offer is expected to raise to OMR606 million making this the largest Public Offering witnessed

by the Omani Capital Market in terms of offer size, which will allow Omani, regional and international investors to access the Omani market and own a stake in a critical infrastructure asset for Oman.

On this occasion, Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager, Investment Banking and Capital Markets, Bank Muscat, said: "We are proud to partner with OQ Gas Networks, and we appreciate the Company's trust and confidence in choosing Bank Muscat as Issue Manager for this IPO, which is a landmark transaction for Oman and expected to generate substantial interest at the local, regional and global levels. The bank takes pride in its extensive experience and expertise and proven track record of successfully executing strategic IPOs in Oman for private and government-owned entities. The bank's specialised investment management arm has

a track record offering suite of integrated solutions, specifically tailored to the needs of various customer segments."

Customers who intend to subscribe to the shares of OQGN are required to open an investment account with Muscat Clearing and Depository to obtain an investor number. They can then submit their applications through Bank Muscat's electronic channels, mBanking and Internet Banking, or visit any of the bank's branches across the governorates amounting to 178, to submit the IPO subscription forms during the specified period. Bank Muscat's branch network will be open to complete transactions of individual and corporate investors, including retail and high-noteworthy customers. For more information about OQGN IPO and the subscription process, please visit Bank Muscat's website.

MADAYN

Facility building worth OMR6.5mn inaugurated in Al Rusayl Industrial City

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) celebrated on Tuesday the inauguration of the facility building in Al Rusayl Industrial City, a project valued at OMR6.5 million, under the auspices of Eng. Dawood bin Salim Al Hadabi, CEO of Madayn, with the presence of officials from the public and private sectors, investors and business owners.

This project highlights Madayn's strong commitment to

enhancing Oman's thriving investment landscape in the industrial cities through its investment arm - Shumookh Investment and Services, creating a dynamic live-work-play environment model.

Job creation

Eng. Musallam bin Juma'a Al Hudaifi, CEO of Shumookh Investment and Services - Madayn's investment arm, emphasised the key role played by the industrial sector in driving economic development, and its contribution to job crea-

tion, bolstering national income, and facilitating export growth.

"Al Rusayl Industrial City presents a strategic investment hub in the heart of the capital, Muscat, with its outstanding infrastructure and advanced logistics services. Currently, Shumookh oversees the management and operation of the Facility Building in Al Rusayl Industrial City, which encompasses a total construction area of 19,000 sqm and includes 200 parking spaces within the building, in addition to extra outdoor public

parking," Al Hudaifi pointed out.

Featuring 10 floors (one-level basement, ground floor and eight additional floors) with a rental area of 8,500 sqm, the facility building offers a range of facilities to the visitors and employees based at Al Rusayl Industrial City and the neighbouring areas, such as banking services, money exchange offices, travel agency, clinic, labour checkup centre, cafes, restaurants and grocery, in addition to office spaces for government and private bodies.



HOUSING CRISIS



Germany to scrap plan for tougher building rules

BRUSSELS: Germany's government on Monday agreed to a 14-point plan to address a growing housing crisis in the country.

It comes on the day of a crucial meeting of building industry and government leaders, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the face of a depressed construction and housing industry.

"More affordable housing must be built in Germany. That means we must greatly expand our activities in the building sector," said Scholz in Berlin after his crisis meeting with representatives from the German construction industry.

Scholz, who spoke alongside Housing Minister Klara Geywitz, said his administration will put plans to mandate stricter building insulation standards on indefinite

hold. This means a waiver of the EH40 energy-saving standard.

The governing coalition of the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), environmentalist Greens and neoliberal Free Democrats (FDP) had agreed on EH40 becoming a standard by 2025.

EH40 is a measure of energy efficiency, requiring a building use only 40% of the energy of a comparable new building.

"In view of the current difficult conditions in the construction and housing industry due to high interest rates and construction costs, the anchoring of EH40 as a mandatory legal standard for new buildings is no longer necessary in this legislative period and will be suspended," read the coalition's new policy paper. -**bw**

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MARKET

MSX index ends higher

A'Saffa Foods, up 9.31 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Generating, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,669.02 points, up by 0.09 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.18 per cent at 463.52 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 9.31 per cent, was the top gainer while Dhofar Generating, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 542 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.38 million, with more than 10.59 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 21 advanced, 15 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR22,000 while GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR21,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR1,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,628.42 points, up 0.85 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman Arab Bank, Muscat Finance, United Finance, Al Sharqia Investment were up by

6.67 per cent, 6.52 per cent, 1.92 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.49 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Bank Muscat were up by 1.09 per cent, 0.36 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,636.29 points, up 0.18 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy, Jazeera Steel Products, Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 9.31 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.22 per cent, 0.90 per cent respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement, Oman Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 2.56 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 1.47 per cent, 0.54 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.52 per cent before closing at 1,617.27 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Al Batinah Power, OIFC, Muscat Desalination, National Gas were up by 7.84 per cent, 5.00 per cent, 1.33 per cent, 1.22 per cent, 1.15 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Barka Water & Power Company, Phoenix Power, Oman National Engineering, Barka Desalination were up by 4.76 per cent, 2.70 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 0.95 per cent, 0.79 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,669.492	4,662.709	4,669.020	4,664.680	4,340	0.09
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,628.421	7,567.729	7,628.421	7,564.185	64,236	0.85
Industry Index	5,636.286	5,596.281	5,636.286	5,626.368	9,918	0.18
Services Index	1,620.847	1,608.339	1,617.266	1,608.885	8,381	0.52
MSX Shariah Index	463.778	461.891	463.522	462.693	829	0.18
MSX TR INDEX	6,147.948	6,139.016	6,147.322	6,141.612	5,714	0.09
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,324.009	8,257.783	8,324.009	8,253.916	70,093	0.85
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,020.956	5,978.221	6,020.956	6,010.361	10,595	0.18
SERVICES TR IDX	1,790.140	1,776.326	1,786.185	1,776.928	9,257	0.52

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,595,723	2,380,245	542	23,488,526,331	21	15	14	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST BID	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR. VALUE	SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	10,000	2,732	3	0.274	0.274	0.272	0.272	0.275	-0.003	-1.091	0.272	0.273	0.272	0.100	OUIK	27,200,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	32,000	3,330	5	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.104	0.100	0.100	ONES	15,600,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	61,245	18,496	17	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.302	0.272	0.100	NBOB	491,035,799
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	199,200	78,635	9	0.394	0.396	0.394	0.396	0.394	0.002	0.508	0.396	0.393	0.396	0.100	OMVS	264,672,709
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	125,000	7,750	9	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	OEIO	7,565,250
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	6,377	2,136	1	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.335	0.340	-0.005	-1.471	0.335	0.335	0.338	0.100	OCOI	110,842,358
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	200,000	37,200	3	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.187	-0.001	-0.535	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.100	AACT	40,920,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	865	215	1	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.246	0.003	1.220	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.100	ATMI	31,090,592
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	5,000	1,060	1	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.212	0.211	0.001	0.474	0.212	0.212	0.216	0.100	AJSS	12,975,306
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	109,463	6,238	8	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	UFPI	20,299,256
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	55,000	3,740	4	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.001	1.483	0.068	0.067	0.070	0.100	SIBC	6,120,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,723,709	482,897	49	0.281	0.281	0.280	0.280	0.281	-0.001	-0.356	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	BKMB	2,101,791,177
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	724,910	724,211	35	0.999	1.000	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.000	0.000	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.100	OTEL	749,250,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	29,196	1,664	6	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.056	0.062	0.100	GFIC	11,400,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	42,729	17,356	34	0.404	0.410	0.404	0.406	0.405	0.001	0.247	0.406	0.406	0.385	0.100	RNSS	95,982,460
OM0000003388	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,658,683	170,844	28	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	RKBS	563,192,516
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	149,807	56,852	20	0.380	0.380	0.374	0.379	0.380	-0.001	-0.263	0.379	0.379	0.342	0.100	ORDS	246,707,863
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	1,090	71	2	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	SNMP	12,976,314
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	39,452	3,318	9	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	AMAT	14,700,000
Total		19	5,173,766	1,618,656	234												
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	2,100	10,510	10	5.000	5.100	5.000	5.100	5.100	0.000	0.000	5.100	4.850	5.100	1.000	OCCI	15,300,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	168,842	14,838	19	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.149	0.088	0.088	0.085	0.100	NGCI	7,480,000
OM0000001418	RAISUT CEMENT	955,990	114,769	47	0.121	0.122	0.118	0.118	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.118	0.118	0.119	0.100	RCOI	23,600,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	30,000	1,590	2	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.052	0.001	1.953	0.053	0.052	0.055	0.100	MFPI	16,273,735
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	760	1,444	2	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.950	1.950	0.000	0.000	1.900	1.900	1.950	0.100	OCAI	174,915,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	260,868	18,826	15	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.100	AAIC	15,656,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	100	3	1	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	AMHI	2,720,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BAHY	28,500	4,674	2	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.164	0.170	0.100	ABOB	385,343,254
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	161,992	36,288	3	0.224	0.225	0.224	0.224	0.222	0.002	0.901	0.224	0.221	0.224	0.100	GMPI	10,251,539
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	382	363	1	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.955	-0.005	-0.524	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.100	OOMS	58,211,259
OM0000002604	ASAFFA FOODS	151,456	44,445	16	0.290	0.317	0.290	0.317	0.290	0.027	9.310	0.300	0.300	0.315	0.100	SPPI	38,040,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	40,000	1,470	2	0.037	0.037	0.036	0.036	0.037	-0.001	-2.703	0.036	0.035	0.037	0.100	BWPC	5,760,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	150,000	22,705	13	0.155	0.155	0.150	0.152	0.156	-0.004	-2.564	0.152	0.149	0.152	0.100	GECS	30,853,940
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	523	60	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.112	0.002	1.786	0.114	0.114	0.122	0.100	VOES	9,279,914
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	763,256	74,025	19	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.001	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.098	0.100	BNZN	216,984,444
OM0000004669	SHARGIYAH DESALINATION	53,390	6,826	4	0.125	0.128	0.125	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.125	0.128	0.100	SHRQ	12,518,676
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	1,206,570	127,971	19	0.100	0.110	0.100	0.110	0.102	0.008	7.843	0.110	0.101	0.110	0.100	SSPW	105,002,915
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	59,493	1,249	1	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.020	0.001	5.000	0.021	0.020	0.021	0.100	BATP	14,172,636
OM0000004893	AL SUWADI POWER	58,740	1,175	5	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.021	-0.001	-4.782	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.100	SUNP	14,288,137
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	10,000	1,470	1	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.138	0.009	6.522	0.147	0.000	0.147	0.100	OAB	245,403,270
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	10,400	563	3	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.056	-0.001	-1.786	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.100	PHPC	80,443,080
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	4,856	403	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	MCDE	12,910,683
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	6,800	272	1	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.042	-0.002	-4.782	0.040	0.040	0.043	0.100	IGEN	8,889,600
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	16,150	1,599	2	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.000	0.099	0.100	AMAN	19,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN RET FUND	84,523	7,015	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.085	-0.002	-2.353	0.083	0.082	0.085	0.100	OMRF	39,108,470
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	15,000	1,890	4	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.001	0.787	0.128	0.126	0.126	0.100	BRDE	9,515,772
OM0000008934	ASRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	562,181	164,529	67	0.291	0.294	0.291	0.293	0.292	0.001	0.342	0.293	0.293	0.294	0.100	ABRJ	225,668,600
Total		27	4,802,872	662,011	284												

FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSULTANCY

Innovative integrated trade-flow platform launched

DUBAI: IBMC, the UAE-based financial services consultancy and eMarket Place Trade Flow Service Providers has launched an innovative Integrated International Trade-Flow System, an innovative platform connecting 100+ countries and 30+ sectors to empower economies, industries and corporates supporting their projects and trades. The project was launched as part of IBMC Vision 2025 at a glittering ceremony at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, in the presence of ministers, diplomats, senior representatives of MNCs, large corporate entities, and guests from industries. The system will enable Gulf countries to boost growth in the non-oil sector and empower SMEs, large



The second Olives Harvest Festival, organised by Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, provided guests a unique experience with the taste of the fresh olive oil certain to last for a long time

Times News Service

MUSCAT: For the past many decades, a visit to Al Jabal Al Akhdar, not many would have returned from the Green Mountains without bringing along the juicy pomegranates during the season in August and September. Visitors would often find local people sitting by the roadside selling apricots, figs and bottles of honey and rose water. Al Jabal Al Akhdar has been known for such produce besides the rose season in March.

Forget the pomegranates, apricots and figs. There is a new crop that is making waves in recent times. Olive farming and olives are known to grow in Mediterranean countries but Al Jabal Al Akhdar has gradually emerged as an ideal place for olive farming. Tonnes of olive oils have been produced in recent years from the plantations in Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

Realising the need to promote olive farming and put spotlight on Omani olives, Anantara Al Jabal Akhdar Resort, one of the top luxury properties in Oman, came up with a pioneering initiative: the Olive Harvest Festival 2023 from September 21-23.

The three-day event was the second edition, with the inaugural festival held last September.

Buoyed by the success of last year, Anantara held the second edition, which turned out to be a grand success with the participation of dozens of hotel guests culminating in harvesting of olives.

From Thursday to Friday [September 21-23] it was a pleasing sight to watch guests and hotel staff plucking olives from the groves inside and around the resort as much as they could.

It was an entertaining and exciting way to involve the guests in the activity with the person who collects the maximum olives awarded a prize as a weighing scale measured the fruit of labour of the participants.

Holding hand-woven baskets in the morning, men, women and children all joined hands as the olive enthusiasts rejoiced after plucking a few kilograms following an hour-long event.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Maren Kuehl, General Manager of Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, said: "Following the success of the inaugural event in 2022, we wanted to continue with the initiative that highlights the potential of olive farming in Al Jabal Al Akhdar. It also allows us to provide our guests a unique experience of not only being part of the festival but also enjoying the culinary delights made out of olive oils."

The festival is a celebration of



Throughout the month of September, which is officially olives harvest season, we will feature special dishes showcasing the local olives and olive oil at Bella Vista, our contemporary Mediterranean restaurant located on the canyon edge with spectacular views. The menu will include delicacies such as seared cod with olive tapenade and ricotta-stuffed olives.



the region's bounty, in partnership with local olive farmers and olive oil producers. Al Jabal Al Akhdar, also called the Green Mountain, is known as one of the most fertile areas of Oman for olive farming.

The mountain town already boasts of ancient falaj irrigation system, picturesque farms that have helped roses bloom and the growth of pomegranates and apricots for several years.

Around 2012, seeking to reap the benefits of olive farming, local farmers decided to plant olive trees as they believed that it would give them good returns.

Since then, olive harvest has given good yields and is now one of the most grown crops by the locals in the mountain town.

The Olive Harvest Festival saw guests enjoying a daily schedule of events for three days.

Maren Kuehl said: "From cook-

ing demonstrations to storytelling by a local olive expert, guests of all ages can enjoy a full programme. The olive harvesting is a great way to work up an appetite before sampling the best olives in a variety of dishes made by the team of chefs at the resort.

"The guests were also taken to the local olive oil factory where fresh olives plucked were pressed and oil extracted. It was a great way for guests to watch the fruit [read oil] of their own efforts."

The resort's top boss added: "Throughout the month of September, which is officially olives harvest season, we will feature special dishes showcasing the local olives and olive oil at Bella Vista, our contemporary Mediterranean restaurant located on the canyon edge with spectacular views. The menu will include delicacies such as seared cod with

olive tapenade and ricotta-stuffed olives."

She added: "Guests can also enjoy treatment at Anantara Spa, which will also incorporate the super ingredient in a selection of its pampering therapies."

"At Anantara, we understand that our guests like to connect with the destination through immersive experiences. It is our pleasure to partner with local individuals and companies to highlight the wonders of Al Jabal Al Akhdar," said Maren Kuehl.

"With the second edition of the festival we were delighted to offer our guests an opportunity to learn more about the region, its unique features and produce."

She also informed that during the festival, they harvested nearly 3,000kgs of olives and the oil extracted is used by the hotel chefs for cooking.

Shanaka to lead Sri Lanka at the ODI Cricket World Cup

Injured Chameera and Hasaranga miss out, Theekshana, Madushanka and Kumara return from injuries

COLOMBO: It's official - Sri Lanka will be without Dushmantha Chameera and Wanindu Hasaranga at the ODI World Cup, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on Tuesday.

Dasun Shanaka, whose role as captain had been under much speculation over the past few weeks, will lead the side in India through October and November.

The rest of the 15-member squad has formed up as expected, with the only changes from the side that reached the final of the Asia Cup being the inclusion of Dilshan Madushanka and Lahiru Kumara. Making way are quick bowlers Pramod Madushan and Binura Fernando. Chamika Karunaratne has been named as a travelling reserve, *ESPNcricinfo* reported.

Of those who have missed out, Chameera's absence will likely be felt the most. Chameera, the 31-year-old quick, last played for Sri Lanka in June against Afghanistan and in the warm-ups of the World Cup qualifier. After that, he was initially out with a torn pectoral muscle, which he suffered ahead of the World Cup qualifier in Zimbabwe. And, after recovering from that, he injured himself again in the Lanka Premier League in August. He had also missed the T20 World Cup in Australia last year with an ankle injury.

There had been some degree of optimism that he would be fit for at least a part of this World Cup, but despite having started bowling in the nets, he has not been able to do so consistently without discomfort.



Dasun Shanaka will skipper Sri Lanka at the forthcoming ODI Cricket World Cup in India



Injured Chameera (left) and Hasaranga to miss the event

As for Hasaranga, the SLC had been less optimistic. But there had been murmurs that he might have been included with the hope

that he would be fit to play during the latter stages of the tournament - such is the importance of his all-round talents to team balance.

"Wanindu Hasaranga has not been included in the 15-member squad as the player is still in the process of recovering from an injury," an SLC statement said. "His recovery will be monitored, and if he is declared fit to play, he will be considered as a replacement in the event of an injury to a squad member during the tournament."

Injury concerns are a theme right through Sri Lanka's bowling unit at present, with the inclusion of no less than three frontline bowlers who are just returning from injury. Spinner Maheesh Theekshana is returning from a hamstring injury he suffered at the Asia Cup, while Madushanka is just back from a torn oblique muscle. Kumara, meanwhile, missed the entire Asia Cup with a side strain. He also has a worrying his-

tory of being ruled out mid-game with the same recurring injury.

This means there might be game time not only for the other quicks in the squad - Matheesha Pathirana and Kasun Rajitha - but also the travelling reserve, seam-bowling allrounder Karunaratne.

Fortunately for Sri Lanka, their batters are in fairly rude health by comparison, though their form and consistency are causes for concern, especially following their dismal performance in the Asia Cup final, where India shot them out for 50. It's likely that Kusal Perera will keep Dimuth Karunaratne out of the starting XI, and open alongside Pathum Nissanka. Perera is one of three wicketkeeping options in the squad alongside Sadeera Samarawickrama and Kusal Mendis - who kept

for the entirety of the Asia Cup - with all three expected to start.

Sri Lanka's middle order, too, picks itself with Samarawickrama coming in at four, followed by Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya de Silva at five and six respectively.

This leaves Shanaka to occupy the No. 7 position. Head coach Chris Silverwood had given Shanaka unequivocal backing in the immediate aftermath of the Asia Cup final, in the hope that one good innings would be enough to get him out of his rut.

Sri Lanka's selectors, too, opted to take a more holistic view of Shanaka's performance as captain. A special meeting held after the Asia Cup involving the top brass of SLC as well as Silverwood, consultant coach Mahela Jayawardene, team manager Mahinda Halangoda, and members of the selection committee including chief selector Pramodya Wickramasinghe, gave the present make-up of the team their vote of confidence.

"The selectors, during the meeting, explained the intended composition of the World Cup squad and also possible contingency plans in place for replacements if such a measure is needed," he board had said in a media statement at the time. "During the meeting, all in attendance were in agreement that the national team is going in the right direction towards making further progress."

Sri Lanka will begin their World Cup with warm-up games against Bangladesh and Afghanistan on September 29 and October 3 in Guwahati, before their first official match of the tournament against South Africa on October 7 in Delhi.

Sri Lanka squad: Dasun Shanaka (capt), Kusal Mendis (vice capt), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Perera (wk), Dimuth Karunaratne, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Sadeera Samarawickrama (wk), Dushan Hemantha, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Kasun Rajitha, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana, Lahiru Kumara. **Travelling reserve:** Chamika Karunaratne. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Tests reveal Rice's injury not serious

LONDON: Tests have shown Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice did not suffer a serious back injury during Sunday's 2-2 draw with Tottenham.

The England international, who has started every league game this season, was substituted at half-time.

After the game, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said Rice had "discomfort in his back" and hoped it was not long term.

Rice was not expected to be in Arsenal's Carabao Cup squad to face Brentford on Wednesday.

But the 24-year-old could be in contention for their Premier League match against Bournemouth on Saturday. Arsenal are fifth in the Premier League, four points behind leaders Man City.

Barnes could be out for 'months rather than weeks'

Newcastle winger Harvey Barnes has had a scan on a "substantial" foot injury and could



be out for "months rather than weeks", says boss Eddie Howe.

The 25-year-old limped off after 12 minutes of Sunday's 8-0 thrashing of Sheffield United.

Barnes, signed from Leicester in July, has had a scan and is waiting to see if surgery is required.

"It's an injury to a part of the foot just below the toe. I think it's quite a substantial injury," Howe said.

"I won't go too technical because I'm not qualified to do so but yes it's a very unusual injury."

ODI WORLD CUP

Pakistan's warm-up match against NZ to be played behind closed doors

NEW DELHI: The warm-up match between New Zealand and Pakistan in the ODI Cricket World Cup, which is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad on September 29, will now take place behind closed doors.

This step has been taken considering the match in Hyderabad coincides with festivals on the day and large gatherings are expected around the city, a BCCI press release said. The spectators who bought tickets for the game will receive a full refund.

"The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 warm-up match between New Zealand and Pakistan scheduled to take place in Hyderabad on September 29 will now take place behind closed doors as per the advice of the local security agencies. The match in Hyderabad coincides with festivals on the day and large gatherings are expected around the city.



The spectators who bought tickets for the game will receive a full refund," the release added. The Cricket World Cup will begin on October 5.

Pakistan team receives visas 48 hours before flying out

After a prolonged delay and less than 48 hours before the team is scheduled to depart for Hyderabad

through Dubai, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has verified that the Indian government has accepted visas for the Pakistani team flying to the ODI World Cup, *ESPNcricinfo* reported. Several hours after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wrote to the ICC to express its concern with the delay in the issue of the visas, the approval was granted on Monday.

Pakistan's plans to travel to Dubai for a pre-World Cup team bonding trip was cancelled as the team was waiting for their visas to travel to India.

The 'Men in Green' were supposed to fly to the UAE next week and stay there for a couple of days before heading to Hyderabad for their first warm-up game against New Zealand on September 29. Pakistan will open their World Cup campaign against The Netherlands on October 6 in Hyderabad.

Last week, Pakistan named a 15-player squad for the World Cup with Babar Azam leading the squad. But they will be missing the presence of their star pacer Naseem Shah. Hasan Ali has been named in the squad as Naseem's replacement. Pakistan's pace attack will be led by Shaheen Shah Afridi. Backing him will be Haris Rauf, Mohammed Waseem, and Hasan Ali. - **ANI**

RACISM IN CRICKET

ECB unveils new measures to tackle discrimination in wake of ICEC report

LONDON: Richard Gould, the ECB's chief executive, believes English cricket is "on a journey to try and change history", but conceded that funding will be an ongoing issue, following the publication of the governing body's response to this summer's damning report by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC), which found the sport to be institutionally discriminatory on the grounds of race, class and gender.

The ICEC report, "Holding Up A Mirror To Cricket", was published on the eve of the Lord's Test in June, having been commissioned in the midst of the racism crisis that engulfed English cricket following Azeem

Rafiq's revelations at Yorkshire.

The report listed 44 recommendations in the course of its 317 pages, including a recommendation for equal pay across the men's and women's games, and an overhaul of school cricket and talent pathways to "make it more meritocratic, inclusive, accountable, transparent and consistent", *ESPNcricinfo* reported.

Monday's 34-page response from the ECB, "Making Cricket A More Inclusive Sport", comes in the wake of an initial three-month period of consideration, during which time a consultation process was instigated by Clare Connor, the ECB's deputy chief executive, with the support of a subgroup of the ECB board including Baroness



Zahida Manzoor, Pete Ackley, Ebony Rainford-Brent, Sir Ron Kalifa, Richard Thompson and Gould.

While the ECB believes it is on course to fulfil "94%" of the

ICEC's recommendations, it conceded that "further analysis" will be required for the remaining proposals, most specifically the recommendations surrounding the gender pay gap, in which the ICEC

called for equal pay at domestic level by 2029 and international level (including ECB contracts) by 2030.

Although the board announced earlier this month that men's and women's international players would be granted equal match fees, starting from England Women's recently concluded series against Sri Lanka, Gould suggested that the ICEC's recommended time frame was unrealistic given the existing pressures on the board's finances, particularly in light of the growing threat to the men's game from the T20 franchise market.

"We have two priorities at the moment in terms of finances for the game," Gould said. "One is

ICEC, to ensure we can deliver on those [recommendations] and the wider discussion on EDI [equality, diversity and inclusion]. The other is to make sure that we don't lose all of our best players to a variety of different franchise tournaments around the world."

A new regulatory body will also come into being, following the ICEC's criticisms of the ECB's existing disciplinary processes. Although the chair of the new Cricket Discipline Panel will be appointed by the ECB, their roles will be "ring-fenced" to ensure a heightened degree of independence. Issues of misconduct and safeguarding will come under this body's remit.

ROUND-UP

New Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupé: The lifestyle model

Before the GLC Coupé starts its engine, the first impression is elegance, dynamism, and offroad adventure



MUSCAT: Stylish design and dynamic driving pleasure: where the new GLC Coupé comes into its own. As the sporty sibling of the GLC SUV, it rounds off the best-selling Mercedes-Benz series of vehicles.

Before the GLC Coupé starts its engine, the first impression is elegance, dynamism, and offroad adventure. Striking proportions, dramatic surfaces, and precisely moulded edges define an unmistakable look, complemented by a clearly laid-out and high-quality interior.

The GLC Coupé combines sporty performance with high efficiency. All models are equipped with electric drive technology, as a mild hybrid with 48-volt technology and an integrated starter-generator for an extra boost and energy recuperation.

And the new GLC Coupé is at home on almost any terrain. Whether on or off the road, it impresses with its comfort and agility. The sports suspension is standard. Off the road, the Coupé scores with numerous features such as 4MATIC all-wheel drive. The off-road screen and the “transparent bonnet” as an element of the 360° camera enhance the comfort of the driving experience.

The high standards of the new GLC Coupé are evident in every detail. The hardware and software of the latest generation of the MBUX (Mercedes-Benz User Experience) infotainment system offer even better user friendliness. Brilliant driver and central display images make it easy to control vehicle and comfort functions.

The two LCD screens present clear and structured information. The full-screen navigation gives the driver the best possible route guidance. MBUX Augmented Reality for navigation is available as an option.

A camera registers the surroundings in front of the vehicle. The central display shows the moving images and superimposes virtual objects, information and markers. These include traffic signs, directional arrows, lane-change recommendations, and house numbers, making navigation much easier, especially in urban areas. Meanwhile, the ‘Hey

Mercedes’ intuitive voice assistant is increasingly effective in responding to natural language and user preferences.

The defining feature of the new GLC Coupé is its sporty silhouette. It is immediately recognisable as a member of the Mercedes-Benz SUV family. Standard equipment includes the AVANTGARDE exterior with 18 inch light alloy wheels and the chrome package. Accentuating the width of the car is the seamless transition from the headlights to the radiator grille. The Mercedes-Benz pattern is standard on the radiator grille cover.

The dramatic surfaces continue to define the exterior design. It is enhanced with precisely moulded edges that accentuate the proportions and the muscular wheel arches. They also strike a balance between elegance and power. The AMG Line is available with 19-inch or 20-inch mixed-profile tyres and wheel arch liners in the vehicle colour. Also offered as optional extras is a Night package from AMG Line upwards.

Other features of the sporty, confident appearance are the wide track and flush wheels in 18- to 20-inch sizes. Several of the ex-factory wheels available feature a high-shine finish with bicolour surfaces. Their aerodynamics are also optimised through their special shape. Accentuating the width of the vehicle are the two-part tail lights with black-coloured and dark red connecting elements, closed off below by the simulated chrome under guard.

The interior: Modern and sporty

The interior of the new GLC Coupé is equipped with the modern avantgarde line as standard. The dashboard is clearly structured. The upper section has a wing-like profile with new, flattened vent outlets. The lower section has a generous trim area that flows seamlessly into the curved centre console. The 12.3-inch (31.2 cm) high-resolution LCD screen in front of the driver appears to float freely above the wing profile and trim surface. The 11.9-inch (30.2

cm) central display rises from the centre console and likewise appears to float above the trim surface. Like the dashboard, the screen surface is slightly angled towards the driver.

The modern, scaled-back design of the door panels frames both ends of the dashboard. The door centre panels with integrated armrest transitions from a vertical to a horizontal surface. Reflecting the design of the centre console, the front section takes the form of a metallic high-tech element. It can be used as a grab or closing handle and houses the power window controls. A new feature is the floating control cluster, into which the door opener and seat adjustment controls are integrated.

The seat design plays with layers and contoured surfaces, lending them visual lightness. The head restraints and their connection to the backrest with an enclosed cover have been redesigned. Now offered as a special feature (standard for the AMG Line) is a leather-lined dashboard with nappa-look beltlines. Some trim elements have innovative surfaces. These include interpretations of open-pored wood veneers in brown, anthracite, and black, featuring aluminium inlays.

Dimensional concept and practical details for day-to-day operating convenience

The dimensions underscore the dynamic and muscular look of the new GLC Coupé. With a length of 4,763 mm, it is 31 mm longer and 5 mm higher than its predecessor. The track widths are larger by 6 mm at the front (now 1,627 mm) and 23 mm at the rear (now 1,640 mm). The longer vehicle length benefits the wheelbase and the front and rear overhangs. The width has remained the same at 1,890 mm.

With even more boot volume than before, the GLC Coupé is ready for big road trips across Oman and the region: 545 litres (45 litres more than the preceding model) to 1,490 litres (a plus of 90 litres) in the mild hybrid models. The EASY-PACK tailgate is standard and opens or closes conveniently

at the touch of a button using the ignition key, the switch in the driver’s door, or the unlocking handle on the tailgate.

Significantly improved aerodynamics

In its aerodynamically most favourable configuration, the minimal drag coefficient of the GLC Coupé is as low as Cd = 0.27, which makes it three hundredths better than its predecessor (Cd = 0.30). The developers optimised the vehicle with respect to aerodynamic drag and wind noise with the help of extensive digital flow simulations (CFD – computational fluid dynamics) as well as tests in the aeroacoustic wind tunnel.

The new GLC Coupé is a pleasantly quiet vehicle with a serene sound signature and low rolling and wind noise, achieved through acoustic optimisation of the body-shell and sophisticated sound insulation. An acoustic membrane in the windscreen is standard equipment. The optionally available, acoustically effective thermal insulation glass meets even higher comfort expectations. A new optional extra for the GLC Coupé is a panoramic sunroof. It offers a significantly increased opening area: 6 cm longer than the new GLC SUV. In strong sunshine, the sunroof can be covered with a roller blind (fitted as standard).

Comfort appointments

Energizing is the name of the Mercedes-Benz concept for networked comfort systems. The optional Energizing Plus package brings them to life at the touch of a button or by voice command and bundles them in up to seven comfort programmes. At the same time, the system creates a matching atmosphere in the interior – e.g., invigorating in case of fatigue or relaxing in case of an elevated stress level.

The air-balance package is part of the Energizing Plus package. It offers an individual, subtle fragrance experience in the interior – according to personal preference and mood. At the same time, the outside and inside air is ionised and filtered.

CATALOGUE



Danube Home unveils exciting My Garden Collection for 2024

MUSCAT: Danube Home, the region’s foremost home improvement and furniture retailer, announced the launch of its highly anticipated Garden Collection.

Sayed Habib, Director of Danube Home, shared insights about this year’s theme, stating, “The theme of the Danube Home My Garden 2024 catalogue is ‘Think Outdoor, Think Danube Home.’ The collection comprises of products that can create different outdoor aesthetics like Calm, Modern, Boho, Evergreen, Monochrome and Contemporary. The meticulously designed and curated products are suitable for various outdoor spaces, whether it’s a cozy apartment balcony or an expansive villa backyard. Our designs cater to diverse aesthetic preferences, ensuring that everyone can find something they love to design their dream garden under one roof.”

The remarkable My Garden collection at Danube Home encompasses a wide range of garden products, including gazebos and pergolas, balcony sets, sofa sets, dining sets, swings, parasols, outdoor lighting, and garden accessories. Each item is designed to offer exceptional durability, capable of withstanding outdoor weather conditions.

Habib further highlighted the company’s commitment to sustainability, saying, “Today, our customers are more environmentally conscious than ever before. There’s a growing emphasis on sustainability and ethically sourced, manufactured, and packaged products. That’s why we’ve made sustainability a cornerstone of our collection this year. We’ve incorporated sus-

tainable materials such as olefin fibers in our seating options, and our gazebos and pergolas are crafted from sustainable and recyclable materials like aluminum and steel. Additionally, we’ve prioritized local sourcing to reduce transport emissions and conserve energy.”

Dangati Jayaraj, General Manager- Retail, Danube Home, emphasized the customer-centric approach, stating, “Our My Garden 2024 catalog has been crafted to ignite the imagination of our customers, encouraging them to craft and shape their ideal outdoor oasis. With our exquisite array of offerings, customers have the freedom to blend and match products to manifest their desired aesthetics. With decades of experience, we proudly hold the No.1 position as the premier outdoor solutions provider in the market with majority of the products having warranty of up to 2 years.

“Having already solidified our reputation as the ultimate home destination, offering a diverse array of products across various categories all under one roof, we are now setting our sights on becoming the go-to destination for all things outdoor as well.”

As the region experiences cooler weather, the demand for high-quality outdoor furniture is on the rise. With its latest offering, Danube Home aspires to establish itself as the most trusted outdoor furniture brand in the region. The My Garden 2024 catalogue is user-friendly and accessible on both Android and iOS devices. The new collection is available at all Danube Home showrooms in Oman and can also be explored online.

REWARDING PROGRAMME



Ending soon: Win with Kia’s exclusive referral club programme

MUSCAT: Kia is offering a fantastic opportunity to win OMR35 worth shopping vouchers by referring a Kia. To make the most of this rewarding programme, customers are encouraged to visit the Referral Club section on Kia Oman website and register their details. The campaign will end on September 30 (Conditions apply).

The referral club encourages Kia fans to invite their friends or family to own a Kia and get OMR35 voucher for every successful referral.

The Kia range in Oman has an impressive mix of sedans, MPV and SUVs. They include Rio, Pegas, Cerato, Sonet, Seltos, K5, Tel-

luride, K8, Niro, Carnival, Carens, Sportage and Sorento.

Reliable International Automotive (RIA), the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers. Excellent product attributes and unmatched facilities easily ensure their absolute satisfaction, every mile of the way. No wonder then that Reliable International Automotive has been ranked amongst the top Kia distributors worldwide and has been honoured with prestigious accolades including the ‘Good Partnership award’, ‘Family Like Care’ Service award’, and ‘Kia ‘Distributor of Distinction’ award.

AWARD

Sohar International recognised with ‘Leadership in Sustainable Community Development’ title

MUSCAT: Committed to fostering human development, Sohar International has been recently presented with the ‘Leadership in Sustainable Community Development’ title.

This prestigious award not only adds to the growing roster of achievements garnered by the bank, affirming its preeminent position in the domain of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), but also stands as a testament to the far-reaching impact the institution has on Oman and its people. The bank’s community impact programmes, driven by a clear purpose, are carefully designed to prioritise human development.

Mohamed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Sohar International, emphasised this focus when commenting on the award stating, “At Sohar International, our purpose-driven and strategic CSR initiatives are geared towards advancing human development in alignment with Oman Vision 2040. We are committed to empowering, educating, and elevating the communities and societies we serve. While Sohar International has a strong reputation for advocating ethical business practices, our CSR programmes have consistently generated a positive and enduring impact on Oman’s social fabric.

“Receiving the ‘Leadership in Sustainable Community Development’ award underscores the significant strides that Sohar Inter-



national has taken in advancing this noble endeavour. We remain dedicated to forging a path towards a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous community through our human-centric approach to development.”

The award ceremony, which took place on 20 September 2023, at Sheraton Oman Hotel, was graced by the presence of His Highness Sayyid Melek bin Shihab Al Said as the Chief Guest. The illustrious event served as a confluence for key decision-makers who are at the helm of steering the nation’s business and economic trajectory. Apart from felicitating top-performing companies in Oman for their achievements during the last financial year, the

ceremony also presented special awards for exceptional initiatives. In attendance at the event were revered business leaders, top-tier executives, and government representatives spanning a spectrum of industries.

It is important to note that Sohar International’s CSR efforts go beyond philanthropy to promote holistic human development and progress. Guided by this principle, the bank has initiated projects aimed at empowering youth with future-ready skills, promoting inclusivity for individuals with disabilities, and enhancing the local healthcare system.

Sohar International’s outstanding dedication to fostering human development is exempli-

fied through various initiatives, including the Tomohi Training Program and its support for platforms and initiatives that share a common focus, such as Injaz Oman. Moreover, this organisation has played a pivotal role in supporting many charitable associations, aiding them in developing their members, enhancing their capabilities and skills, and preparing them for the workplace.

Acknowledging the pivotal role that businesses hold in society, Sohar International will continue to remain steadfast in championing ethical conduct, sustainability, and corporate responsibility while actively contributing to the socio-economic progress of the country.

ROUND-UP

Changan UNI-V’s performance and style promises exhilarating drive

This exceptional model is loaded with state-of-the-art and opulent features, including a retractable rear spoiler, seamlessly integrated concealed door handles, and sumptuous leather seats, all contributing to its unparalleled allure

MUSCAT: Luxury sedan Changan UNI-V promises an exhilarating driving experience while embodying a perfect blend of sportiness, sophistication, and security.

This exceptional model is loaded with state-of-the-art and opulent features, including a retractable rear spoiler, seamlessly integrated concealed door handles, and sumptuous leather seats, all contributing to its unparalleled allure. Moreover, the Changan UNI-V impresses with its cutting-edge technology, boasting a striking 10” instrument cluster, a 10.25” infotainment screen, and convenient wireless chargers, ensuring you stay connected and charged throughout your journeys.

Safety takes the centre stage in the Changan UNI-V, as it comes



equipped with a comprehensive suite of protective features, such as a 360° HD Camera, automatic emergency braking, forward collision warning, and intelligent adaptive cruise control. With these advanced safety measures, you can enjoy every ride with peace of mind, knowing you are well-protected on the road. In essence, the Changan UNI-V is a masterpiece that elevates your driving experience to new heights, offering both luxury and performance in perfect harmony.

Spokesperson for Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) says, “The premium UNI-V is a visually stunning masterpiece that leaves a lasting impression with its opulent interior, remarkable performance, and an extensive array of cutting-edge safety, security, and driving assistance technologies.”

Under the hood, the Changan UNI-V harnesses the mighty Blue Core 1.5 L turbocharged engine, a true powerhouse that unleashes a remarkable 188 horsepower and

an astonishing 300Nm of torque. Its prowess is seamlessly paired with a seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, ensuring a smooth and efficient distribution of power to the front-wheel drive system.

As a current mainstream standard A-class sedan, the Changan UNI-V boasts ideal dimensions, measuring 4680x1838x1430mm in length, width, and height, while its generous wheelbase spans 2750mm. These well-balanced proportions contribute to the UNI-V’s overall stability and agile handling on the road.

The UNI-V continues its family tradition of a borderless grille and adapts a more agile and accurate design to help the model feel much sportier. It has exterior features that make it unique including 18” Alloy Wheels, Panoramic Sunroof, Split and Auto LED Headlamps, LED DRLs, ORVM – electrically folding, hidden door handles and rear spoiler.

Changan UNI-V’s extraordinary interior looks formidable with its black interior, leather seats and

contrast coloured seat belts which gives the Changan a luxury yet sporty feel. It boasts of ventilated six-way electric adjustable driver seat and four-way electric adjustable passenger seat.

The Changan UNI-V boasts a wide range of safety features, ensuring comprehensive protection for passengers. These include front airbags, side airbags, curtain airbags, BS + EBD + ESP + TSC + HHC + HDC + TPMSauto hold function, front and rear parking sensors, 360° HD Camera, 360° dashcam, adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, automatic emergency brake, and lane departure warning.

Infotainment attributes include 10 instrument cluster, 10.25” infotainment screen, Navigation, Voice Control Function, mirror link with Apple CarPlay, wireless chargers, radio, Bluetooth, USB (front and rear) and eight speakers. It has comfort features such as electronic parking brake, keyless entry with push start button, remote engine start/stop, rear air outlet, paddle shifter, electric tailgate and rear seat centre headrest.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION CONSULTANCY

Code 30 Strategies represents two distinguished medical professionals at Oman Health Expo

MUSCAT: Code 30 Strategies, a digital communication consultancy specialising in healthcare communications in Oman and the UAE, represented two distinguished medical professionals at the recently concluded Oman Health Exhibition and Conferences 2023.

Senior gastroenterologist

Taking the spotlight was Dr Ashik Sainu, a Senior Gastroenterologist, Hepatologist, and Therapeutic Endoscopist at Aster Royal Hospital. Dr Sainu made a presentation and spoke on a contemporary healthcare issue – “The Journey of Obesity: A Gastroenterologist’s Perspective.” His insightful presentation delved into various dimensions of the obesity epidemic, encompassing facets such as childhood obesity. Dr. Sainu also proposed innovative treatment solutions.

Code 30 Strategies also represented Dr. Sarfraz Ahmed, Associate Vice President of Abeer Medical Group. Dr. Ahmed took part in a high-profile panel discussion, along with well-known healthcare professionals in Oman.

Dr Ahmed shared his expertise

on “The Role of Private Sector in Enhancing Healthcare Delivery in Oman.” Key themes included vital topics like innovation, artificial intelligence in healthcare, technological advancements, and public-private partnerships.

Christine Karan, Senior Account Director of Code 30 Strategies said, “We are a young and dynamic agency and have been privileged to work with some of the well-known healthcare brands and individuals in Oman. Representing Dr Ashik Sainu and Dr. Sarfraz Ahmed, both prominent professionals in the healthcare field, at this popular event was another important milestone for Code 30 Strategies.”

Robust presence

Code 30 Strategies, the boutique digital communication consultancy with a robust presence in Oman and the UAE, excels in healthcare communications. The agency has previously and currently represents renowned hospitals in Oman and healthcare companies in the UAE, in addition to clients in other domains such as F&B, technology and energy.

COLLABORATION



Alizz Islamic Bank partners with Engineering Village to raise financial awareness for children

MUSCAT: With a strong belief in supporting Omani SMEs; Alizz Islamic Bank collaborated with Engineering Village to develop a unique journey for the children visiting Alizz Islamic Bank at the Oman Childhood Conference & Expo.

Alizz Islamic Bank’s continuous efforts focuses on raising financial awareness across various initiatives because it is imperative that today’s children and youth have a solid understanding of basic financial concepts and skills to navigate their way through a

successful and sustainable future. The idea of sharing knowledge in a fun and exciting approach was the key element while preparing for the exhibition. The aim of the concept was to empower children and have them experience banking through a well-defined customer experience journey.

Speaking about the partnership Lina Al Abdulsalaam, Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications at Alizz Islamic Bank said, “In the digital era there is no better way for a child to learn than

via interactive methods. We are honoured to have partnered with Engineering Village to give children a fun way to learn about the importance of saving. The child visiting the booth gets to earn digital points, open an account, deposits the points into a programmed ATM that will add the points onto their card and finally the child gets to decide how to spend the points at a store within the booth in order to purchase a savings box along with tips on savings.”

Al Abdulsalaam added, “The

bank takes great pride in working with talented Omani SMEs to achieve unified success and we are open to supporting more innovative initiatives especially from SMEs that meet our strategic goals and objectives. It is important that we all work closely together in order to increase financial literacy because managing finances in the modern world is extremely vital. They must understand the value of savings and how their money decisions today impact their future everyday expenditure.”



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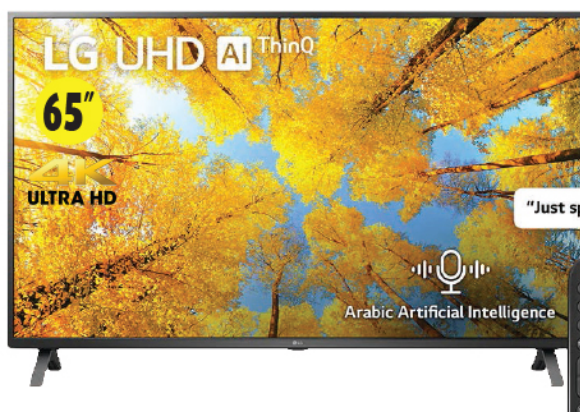
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