



HM CONGRATULATES TUNISIAN PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Kais Saied of the Republic of Tunisia on him being re-elected for a new presidential term. In the cable, His Majesty wished President Saied success to continue achieving further progress and prosperity for the people of Tunisia. His Majesty stressed the constant keenness to consolidate fraternal ties between Oman and Tunisia, as well as promoting the cooperation relations in various spheres to serve the joint interests. — **OMA**



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OCTOBER 15, 2024

Submit your entries for the TOMI Awards now!



MUSCAT: The TOMI Awards are shaping up to be Oman's most exciting celebration of creativity, and marketers across the nation are hyped for this, and are submitting their most innovative campaigns. With the submission deadline on October 15, 2024, and an unforgettable awards ceremony slated for early December, this is your chance to shine on the biggest stage in Oman's marketing and advertising landscape. Many leading marketers have already submitted their entries across various categories, and we encourage you to join them in competing for the top honours. **>A3**



Sayyid Theyazin patronises opening of The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort

A4

OMAN CALLS ITS CITIZENS TO LEAVE CONFLICT ZONES

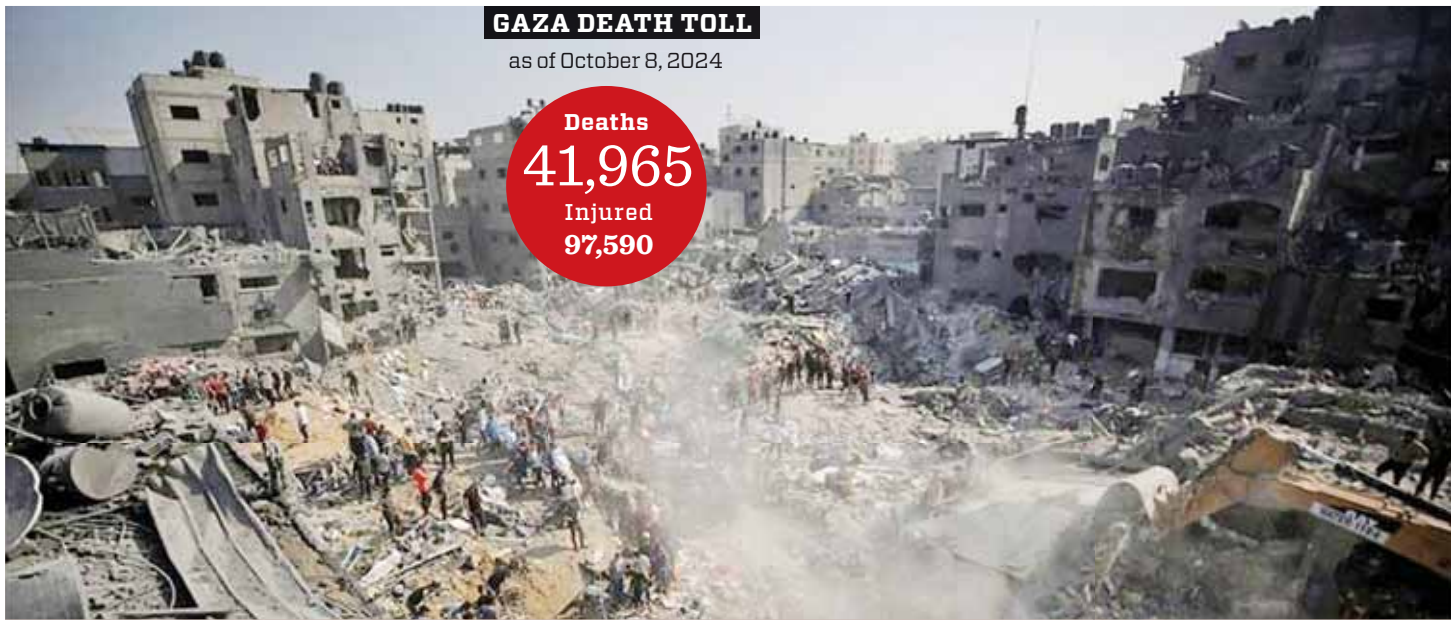
The ministry urged citizens to contact the relevant Omani embassies for any inquiries or support

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Foreign Ministry has issued an urgent advisory, urging Omani citizens to "return home immediately" from tense areas due to ongoing military conflicts.

In a statement, the foreign ministry said: "In light of the current events in some tense areas of the region, the ministry calls on all Omani citizens present in or near these areas and countries to immediately return to the homeland and avoid travelling there during this period."

"The ministry also urges citizens to contact the relevant Omani embassies for any inquiries or to provide the necessary support



GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of October 8, 2024

Deaths
41,965
Injured
97,590

and assistance in the event of any emergency."

"Citizens can visit the ministry's official website or download the mobile application to contact the embassies and obtain the latest information," the statement added.

The security situation along the Lebanon-Israel border remains volatile, with over 200 Lebanese casualties reported amid clashes

between Hezbollah and Israeli forces.

Meanwhile, the Israel-Hamas conflict has escalated, resulting in over 43,000 deaths, including 41,965 Palestinians and 1,706 Israelis.

International community to implement cessation of war
Meanwhile the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on the international community to imple-

ment the cessation of the war of genocide and to achieve peace.

The ministry noted that it continues the political, diplomatic and international legal movement with the aim of translating the international consensus to stop the genocide into binding practical steps that force the occupying state to implement the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, precautionary measures, and the

advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which was endorsed by a resolution of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The ministry added that it is making more efforts to mature the international situation, with the aim of implementing the resolution of UNGA and ending the occupation within 12 months in accordance with the text of the resolution.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN OQEP listing to boost stock's upgrade

1 Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), said that OQ Exploration and Production company's (OQEP) entry into MSX will constitute a major leap in the stock market's upgrade project. **>A3**

WORLD Nobel physics winners announced

2 John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for their research into enabling machine learning with artificial neural networks. **>A6**

SPORTS Pakistan post 556 against England

3 Pakistan resumed the second day at 328/4 against England in Multan, eventually reaching a total of 556 all out in the first Test match. Vice-captain Saud Shakeel scored a gritty 82. **>A8**

ECO-TRIO

Oman-based siblings set Guinness World Record for largest bottle cap sentence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Atharv and Ira Yadav, a brother-sister duo, along with their family team known as the Eco-Trio, have etched their names in history by setting a new Guinness World Record (GWR) for the largest sentence crafted from plastic bottle caps.

Their monumental achievement, completed on June 30, 2024, at the Muscat Grand Mall in Muscat, consisted of an impressive 70,080 bottle caps forming the quote by Benjamin Franklin: "Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

However, the validation of the record officially by Guinness World Record (GWR) was made recently. This endeavour is aimed to raise awareness about the press-

ing issue of plastic waste and the critical importance of recycling.

A six-month commitment to environmental advocacy

The Eco-Trio initiated their project in December 2023, collecting bottle caps in 49 bags from various organisations, including Bank Muscat, Oman Cricket Academy, Funzone Qurum and multiple other sources.

The project took over six months and culminated in a meticulous assembly that took more than 15 hours of continuous work.

The sentence crafted by the Eco-Trio not only set a world record but also highlighted their commitment to sustainability and the innovative spirit of the community.

Broke previous record

The new record surpasses the pre-



vious title held by Japan's SUM-MIT, which involved 60,533 bottle caps arranged in a sentence.

This significant milestone reflects Oman's increasing dedication to environmental initiatives.

In a related effort, the Cheltenham Muscat School and Oman Sail set a Guinness World Record in December 2023 by forming the largest sentence from 32,316 plastic bottles, emphasising the community's focus on reducing plastic



waste. The Eco-Trio's record-setting attempt is pivotal in raising environmental awareness and encouraging the public to adopt sustainable practices.

After achieving their record, the collected bottle caps were handed over for recycling, where they will be transformed into fibers, contributing to the circular economy.

A community-centric approach

The success of the Eco-Trio's initiative was made possible through the support of local businesses and community members.

Atharv and Ira expressed gratitude for the support they received, and said, "We hope this record spreads our initiative to a wider audience in Oman and encourages more people to recycle."

The Eco-Trio's achievement

serves as a powerful call to action for both locals and expatriates in Oman.

By showcasing the potential for creativity and community involvement in tackling environmental issues, they aim to inspire the next generation to engage in similar eco-friendly initiatives. Their project encapsulates the message that meaningful change is possible through collective effort.

The Eco-Trio's Guinness World Record not only marks a remarkable achievement in environmental activism but also emphasises the importance of collective action in addressing plastic waste challenges.

Their dedication and innovation highlight the potential for individuals and communities to drive significant change toward a more sustainable future.



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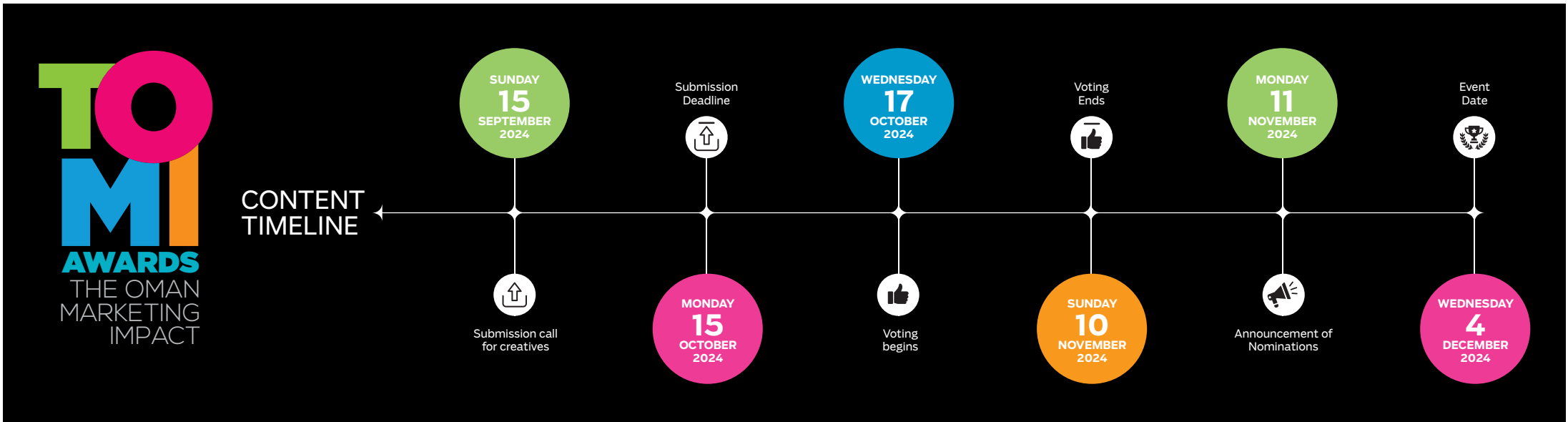
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CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

Marketers, it’s time to showcase your best: Submit your entries for the TOMI Awards now!



MUSCAT: The TOMI Awards are shaping up to be Oman’s most exciting celebration of creativity, and marketers across the nation are hyped for this, and are submitting their most innovative campaigns. With the submission deadline on October 15, 2024, and an unforgettable awards ceremony slated for early December, this is your chance to shine on the biggest stage in Oman’s marketing and advertising landscape.

Many leading marketers have already submitted their entries across various categories, and we encourage you to join them in competing for the top honors.

What to Expect

The TOMI Awards promise to be a thrilling event that celebrates creativity and innovation in Oman’s marketing industry. This isn’t just about trophies—it’s about recognition, exposure, and demonstrating the power of great campaigns.

The awards ceremony in December will be an exciting and innovative event, bringing together the brightest minds in marketing, advertising, and PR. Finalists will not only gain the recognition of their peers but also have the opportunity to showcase their campaigns to a wider audience, including potential clients and collaborators.

How to Get Involved

If you haven’t submitted your entry yet, don’t worry—there’s still time – the deadline is on October 15th! It’s absolutely free to enter! Here’s a breakdown of categories you can compete in:

- Best Print Advertising
- Best Video Advertising
- Best Digital Advertising
- Best Out-of-Home Advertising (Static)
- Best Digital Out-of-Home Advertising
- Best Influencer Marketing
- Best Website
- Best Explainer Video
- Best PR Campaign
- Best Event Design
- Best Content Marketing
- Best On-Ground Activation
- Best Brand Identity (Logo)
- Best CSR Campaign

The TOMI Awards offer something for every type of campaign, whether it’s a creative social media strategy, a beautifully designed website, or a community-driven CSR initiative. By submitting, you’ll place your work in front of an audience of industry leaders, with the final winners determined through public voting, peer voting by marketing heads, and an international jury. This fair and transparent process ensures that only the most creative win the awards.

How to Submit Your Entries

Submitting your work is simple. Just visit www.tomiawards.com, where you’ll find all the details needed to complete your submission.

The deadline for all entries is October 15, 2024, so don’t wait! Here’s a quick checklist to get started:

1. Choose Your Categories: Identify the categories that best represent your work. You can submit to multiple categories to increase your chances of being shortlisted.
2. Prepare Your Materials: Ensure that your submission showcases the strongest elements of your campaign—highlight what makes it innovative, unique, and effective.
3. Submit Online: Fill out the entry form at www.tomiawards.com and upload all relevant materials before the deadline.

Tips for Maximising Participation and Increasing Your Chances of Winning

- Be Clear and Concise: Judges appreciate entries that are easy to understand and highlight the campaign’s objectives, strategies, and results.
- Focus on Innovation: The TOMI Awards celebrate creativity, so don’t shy away from showcasing out-of-the-box ideas or bold approaches.
- Enter Multiple Categories: Don’t limit yourself to one category. Entering your campaign in multiple categories that fit its scope and strengths can increase your chances of winning.

Engage Your Audience: Public voting plays a part in the selection process. Promote your campaign to your audience and get them to support you when voting opens.

Get Ready for an Unforgettable Night in December!

The TOMI Awards ceremony in December will bring together the best minds in the industry for a night of inspiration, celebration, and recognition. You don’t want to miss the chance to be part of this exciting event and have your work showcased as the best in Oman.

To attend the event – please send an email to hi@tomiawards.com

For more information and to enter, visit www.tomiawards.com.

OQEP listing on MSX to boost stock’s upgrade

Estimated at 800 million, the “Individuals Category” stands for 40 percent of the overall volume of OQ shares offered for subscription

MUSCAT: The public subscription to OQ Exploration and Production company’s (OQEP) shares for “Individuals” will close on Wednesday 9 October 2024.

Estimated at 800 million, the “Individuals Category” stands for 40 percent of the overall volume of OQ shares offered for subscription (a total of 2 billion shares).

The subscription period for the “Institutions Category” will close on Thursday 10 October 2024. Estimated at 800 million shares, this category accounts for 40 percent of the company’s shares offered for subscription. Parties in the “Major Investors Category” subscribed to 20 percent of the offered shares. This category comprises 400 million shares.

Subscription to OQEP shares (a total of two billion) constitutes the largest of IPO of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman and in the re-



gion this year (2024).

It stands for 25 percent of the capital of the company, which is owned by OQ Group.

Haitham Salim Al Salmi,

CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), said that OQEP’s entry into MSX will constitute a major leap in the stock market’s upgrade project.

He described the company’s listing on the stock exchange as “a historic day” and that it will enhance its position as an attractive investment destination.

Market value

He added in a statement to the Oman News Agency (ONA) that the market value of OQ Exploration and Production Company, after its listing, will amount to more than OMR3 billion, representing about 11.6 percent of the total market value of the companies listed on the stock exchange.

MSX exerted worked hard to get upgraded to the category of

“nascent stock”, according to the classification endorsed by global rating agencies and to the rating of institutions that set precise criteria for classifying stock exchanges like liquidity and trading volumes for listed companies.

Al Salmi stressed that the MSX has been keen to provide an attractive investment environment that would boost its growth in the near future.

The start of 2024 saw the the actual launch of market making activity, said Al Salmi, noting that MSX would officially announce the “Margin Financing Activity” and the “Securities Lending and Borrowing Activity” in cooperation with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCD). -ONA

NAJIH

Omani youth sharpen their digital skills



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Tuesday celebrated the passing out of the last batch of trainees who attended a programme codenamed “Successful” (Najih). The ceremony took place at the premises of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) in Muscat.

The programme benefited 24 trainees, of whom 14 were specialised in “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning”, while 10 trainees were in “Systems Engineering and Development”.

During the ceremony, a presentation was made about the “AI cardiac magnetic resonance imaging project”, which was submitted by the last batch and implemented at the Royal Hospital.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, a workshop was held about the outcomes of the “National Initiative for Digital Skills Qualification” (Makeen).

The workshop included a visual presentation about the initiative, which seeks to familiarise Omani youth about future digital skills that are most in demand in the market.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of



Directors of the OCCI.

Al Rawas said that the initiative (Makeen) would provide departments of the national economy with necessary digital skills to help meet the requirements of comprehensive development in the Sultanate of Oman.

It is worth noting that the training programme was implemented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in cooperation with Aaxed Company for a period of 6 months. It focused on AI, machine learning, engineering and system development.

The closing ceremony was attended by Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications Technology, business owners and representatives of companies. -ONA



Sayyid Theyazin patronises opening of The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort



The function was hosted by Alfardan Group and The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, with the presence of over 200 guests

Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, ushered a new era in luxury hospitality for the region as he marked the grand opening of The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort.

The celebratory evening, proudly hosted by Alfardan Group and The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, welcomed more than 200 distinguished guests, local and regional dignitaries, members of Alfardan and Marriott International, and Bollywood star, Saif Ali Khan to an enchanting evening gala showcasing the resort's avant-garde design and exquisite culinary experiences.

"This project highlights the deep bilateral ties between Qatar and Oman, strengthening our shared vision for achieving economic diversification and developing various industries especially the hospitality sector," stated Omar Hussain Alfardan, President and CEO of Alfardan Group.

"We are honoured to unveil The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, a true symbol of luxury and elegance in Muscat. Our longstanding partnership with the St. Regis reflects



our commitment to excellence, and we are proud to contribute to Oman's tourism sector and economic growth, positioning the Sultanate of Oman as a premier destination on the global stage."

David Marriott, Chairman of the Board of Marriott International, expressed, "Together with the Alfardan Group, we are thrilled to celebrate the opening of The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort. Oman is a thriving leisure destination attracting global travelers to experience the country's natural beauty and rich culture, and the resort perfectly blends Oman's storied heritage with the brand's timeless glamour. The debut of the St. Regis brand in Oman marks a significant milestone as we continue to support the country's growing tourism sector."

Mohamed Sleiman, CEO of Alfardan Properties and Hospitality, added, "The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort is a testament to our commitment to elevating luxury hospitality in Oman, offering an array of worldclass culinary experiences in one destination. At the heart of this project is our investment in Omani youth where local talents are not only empowered but equipped with the skills and opportunities to thrive in key roles, contributing to the ongoing development of Oman's hospitality sector."

Guests were guided into the opulent world of The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort by the legendary St. Regis Butlers and the rhythmic beats of Omani drummers as they entered the main lobby where they were serenaded

with the extraordinary musical stylings of 14-year-old Omani pianist, Hamed Suleiman.

Drawing inspiration from the graceful yacht-like architecture of the hotel and the mesmerizing beauty of oceanic waves, the night was a thoughtful integration of structure and nature, creating an ethereal, dream-like atmosphere.

Industry leaders including, Mohamed Sleiman, CEO of Alfardan Properties and Hospitality, David Marriott, Chairman of the Board, Marriott International and Sandeep Walia, Chief Operating Officer Middle East and Luxury in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Marriott International, highlighted the resort's significant contributions to enhancing Oman's tourism and economic landscape, setting the stage for a night to be remembered.

The remarkable gastronomical odyssey featured exquisite dishes crafted by the resort's internationally-renowned dining venues, where each plate reflected the artistry and mastery of its chefs. While indulging in these culinary delights, guests reveled in the harmonious sounds of the Al Shumukh trained under the watchful eye of The Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra.

Nestled in the heart of Muscat on the tranquil shores of the Al Mouj Muscat's waterfront, The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort features 250 opulent guestrooms and suites, including one-to-three-bedroom duplexes, each with expansive views of the ocean, golf course, or cityscape.

An impressive art collection featuring works by celebrated Omani artists such as Anwar Sonya, Alia Al Farsi, Hassan Meer, and Sami Al Syabi, alongside regional and international talents like Arne Quinze, Barnaby Barford, Lorenzo Quinn, Fatma Al Shebani, Will Martyr and Zhang Hong Yi, adds a cultural richness to the ambience.

The property also includes the first St. Regis branded residences, offering one-to-four-bedroom-

partments and townhouses. These residences, designed to appeal to local and global luxury connoisseurs, embody the "Live Exquisite" lifestyle, blending Omani tradition with modern elegance.

The resort's exceptional culinary experiences include award-winning and illustrious restaurants including Hakkasan, Em Sherif, Roberto's, COYA, Novikov Café, Zorba and Karibu. The wellness offering is equally unmatched, featuring the first Guerlain Spa in Oman.

Events and gatherings find a magnificent home at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort. Two opulent ballrooms capable of hosting up to 1,000 guests, alongside picturesque settings for intimate celebrations, make it a beloved destination for weddings, meetings, and social events.

Oman's new iconic luxury address serves as a gateway to the country's most captivating cultural landmarks. Guests can explore the grandeur of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the rugged beauty of the Al Hajar Mountains, the natural wonders of Wadi Shab, and the pristine waters of the Daymaniyat Islands. For more information or to book a stay, visit www.marriott.com.

EXCHANGED VIEWS

Defence ministry secretary general meets UK official

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence yesterday received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren, Senior Adviser to the British Ministry of Defence for Middle East Affairs and his accompanying military delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed a number of matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Ahmed Ibrahim Ambu Saidi, Director General of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Defence.

It was also attended by a number of senior SAF officers and the Military Attaché of the British embassy in Muscat.

Meanwhile, Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) also received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison Vice Admiral Edward Ahlgren, Senior Adviser to the British Ministry of Defence for Middle East Affairs and his accompanying military delegation.

During this meeting, the two



sides exchanged discussed several military matters of common interest. \The meeting was attended by Brigadier Hamed Abdullah Al Balushi, SAF Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning, a number of senior COSAF officers and the Military Attaché of the British embassy in Muscat. -ONA

MUSCAT YACHT CLUB

Training courses for flood rescue start in Sur wilayat

Times News Service

SUR: As part of the executive programme for Sur, the Arab Tourism Capital for 2024, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism), in cooperation with Muscat Yacht Club, is organising two training courses in open water and flood rescue in the Wilayat of Sur from October 6 to 10, 2024.

This initiative is part of a capacity-building programme aimed at empowering the local community in the tourism sector and workers in tourism establishments across various fields to enhance and develop the tourism sector.



The two training courses target 20 participants from the local community, with 10 young trainees receiving instruction on rescue skills in Wadi Shab.

The programme aims to equip trainees with the knowledge and skills related to rescue operations to reduce drowning incidents in floodwaters.

The second training course focuses on rescue skills in open water, targeting 10 young Omani trainees to train them on how to deal with open water and water currents, taking place at Khor Al Batah in Sur.

UNICEF

Action plan for child protection

MUSCAT: Oman, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, and the Office of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), discussed areas of cooperation in various aspects related to childhood development services.

This came when Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, received at her office yesterday, Sumaira Chowdhury, Representative of the Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Muscat.

During the meeting, the two



sides discussed the draft country programme document (CPD) between the Sultanate of Oman and the UNICEF and the Plan of Action for Child Protection,

Early Childhood Development, Children with Disabilities and other childhood programmes to be implemented during the next phase. -ONA

URBAN OCTOBER CONFERENCE

6 investment opportunities for residential plans launched

MUSCAT: Activities of "Urban October Conference and Home & Building Expo" continued for the second day at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the event saw the holding of the "Investment Forum in Governorate Development Competition Projects".

The activities were held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The participants reviewed investment opportunities generated by winning projects in the 1st and 2nd editions of the "Governorate Development Competition (2023-2024)" whose total investment value stood at more than OMR82 million.

Six investment opportunities were identified as follows:

1. Al-Razaz Boulevard project in the Wilayat of Salalah in the Governorate of Dhofar (estimated value OMR40 million).
2. The "Ames Bay" development project in the Wilayat of Khasab in the Governorate of Musandam (investment value exceeding OMR7 million).
3. Rimal Park project in Khabat Al-Jaadani area in the Wilayat of Nakhal, Governorate of South Al Batinah (investment value OMR7 million).
4. "Al-Durra" project in the Wilayat of Al-Khabourah in North Al Batinah (investment value OMR9.8 million).
5. Jabal Shams "Grand Canyon" facade project in the Wilayat of Al Hamra (investment value exceeding OMR7.7 million).
6. "Ibri View" project in the Governorate of Al Dhahirah (investment value exceeding OMR10.8 million).



The conference also explores successful experiences in urban renovation projects in the governorates of Al Buraimi, Dhofar and South Al Batinah, as well as civil initiatives in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate.

As part of the activities of Urban October Conference, the "Basamat Competition" was launched within the framework of Sultan Haitham City project.

The contest seeks to engage youth in finding "impacts" in various fields in Sultan Haitham City. They look for architectural, artistic, technical, environmental, cultural and social features that can shape visions to be realised in what could be described as "a city for all".

As part of the conference activities, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning launched an initiative codenamed as "Step Towards Owning Your Home". It envisages the development of integrated residential neighbourhood projects.

The conference saw the launch of 8 investment opportunities for integrated residential plans and neighbourhoods.

During the conference, 77 usufruct agreements were signed for the development of a total area of more than one million square metres, to the tune of more than RO 20 million Omani. The agreements

deal with development projects in various governorates.

The conference also saw the signing of agreements to purchase about 200 housing units that stem from integrated residential neighbourhood projects (for social housing beneficiaries), with a total value of more than OMR8.5 million.

In an effort to enhance youth engagement in urban development and inspire them to come up with innovative ideas, the 4th Urban Planning Hackathon was launched under the theme "City Challenge". It seeks to develop a video game that suits all ages and offers a cultural aspect that allows users to explore future cities in an entertaining and exciting way.

This contest involves the participation of more than 100 young men and women, forming 19 teams from various specializations (including architecture, urban planning, computer science, information systems, entrepreneurship, programming, and game development).

In addition, a "Minecraft challenge" was launched to set up landmarks from Sultan Haitham City on virtual reality. In this challenge, the contestants compete to transfer the specified landmark onto virtual Minecraft spaces according to specific criteria. -ONA



Announcement of Tender

Oman chamber of commerce and industry would like to announce the following public tender:

Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Fees (irrevocable)	Specialized companies	Deadline for Obtaining Documents	Deadline for Tender submission
8/2024	Health, life and work injuries insurance for the year of 2025	100 /-R.O for all companies	Insurance companies	20 October 2024	Before 12 pm 30 October 2024

Companies may obtain the tender documents from the Administration Department at the Second Floor of the chamber's Headquarters in Ruwi , during the official working hours against the payment of tender fees.

Tender Terms:

- Provide valued CR,OCCI membership and taxation certificate .
- Interested companies should enclose their bids a 1% Bank guarantee/ certified cheque of proposal value issued by one of the banks operating in Oman valid for 120 days from the deadline of submitting the bids addressed in the name of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The bids without this temporary guarantee will not be considered.
- Omanization percentage in the company is considered one of the technical evaluation criteria and preference is given to companies that have higher Omanization percentages.
- The bids should be submitted in red waxed envelopes addressed to - Head of main tendering Committee, OCCI, written outside the Number and title of the Tender. No indication about the bidder is allowed on the envelope.
- Offers should be deposited in the tender box kept at the Administration Department in the Second floor of OCCI Head office.
- OCCI is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bids. It has the right to accept or reject any bids without showing reasons.

Interested companies should submit the Tenders on 30 October before12 pm For any inquiries please contact as on : 24763881,mail : Shahla.zadjali@omanchamber.om

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Are you a seasoned Contract Manager with a passion for continues improvement? If so, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity to join our team as a Contract Manager on one of our prestigious contracts.

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- Experience in negotiating and managing contracts.
- Omani's preferred

3. Remuneration

- Competitive as per industry standards

4. Application method

- Please apply with cover letter which includes 1 example from your past experience that is directly applicable for this role and your CV to (Jobs@truckomangroup.com) using Subject: CM-0924-RS.

CONVEYES GREETINGS

Greece President receives credentials of Oman envoy

ATHENS: Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Republic of Greece yesterday received credentials of HH Sayyid Nizar Al Julanda Al Said, the Sultanate of Oman's non-resident Ambassador to Greece.

This took place when the President of Greece received the ambassador in the Presidential palace.

HH Sayyid Nizar conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his best wishes of good health and happiness to President Katerina. He also conveyed His Majesty's wishes of further progress and prosperity to the government and people of Greece.

In her turn, the President of Greece asked the Ambassador to convey her heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health and wellbeing to His Majesty the Sultan.

She also wished the government and people of Oman further progress and prosperity.

President Katerina wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties. She also wished bilateral relations further development and growth.

Further, HH Sayyid Nizar expressed the keenness of His Majesty's government in boosting co-operation in all fields to serve joint interests. -**ONA**



John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton win Nobel physics award

The committee, noted that machine learning “has long been important for research, including the sorting and analysis of vast amounts of data”

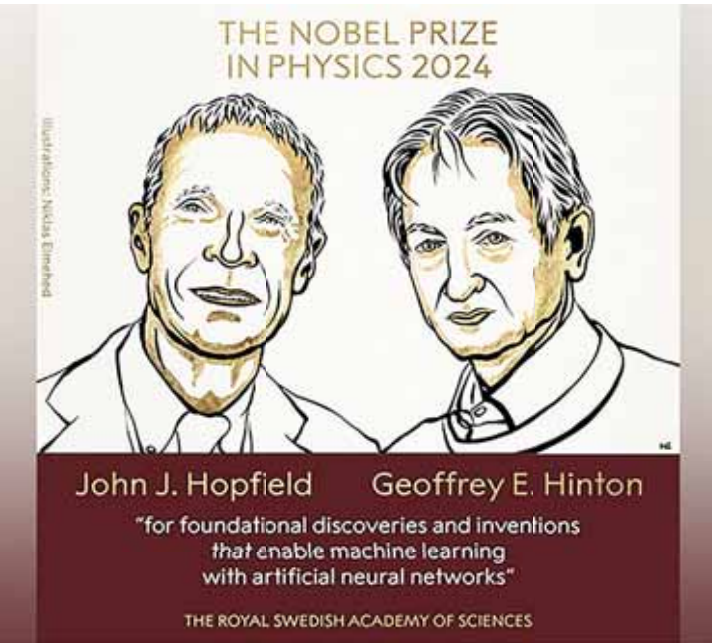
STOCKHOLM: John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for their research into enabling machine learning with artificial neural networks.

It follows Monday's awarding of the Nobel Prize in Physiology to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun. The award for chemistry will be announced on Wednesday.

The Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded 118 times to 227 recipients from 1901 to 2024. John Bardeen is the only person to win it twice (in 1956 and 1972), so 226 individuals have received the prize.

The committee, led by noted that machine learning “has long been important for research, including the sorting and analysis of vast amounts of data.”

In announcing the award, the



committee led by Hans Ellengren, noted that machine learning “has long been important for research, including the sorting and analysis of vast amounts of data.”

Hinton: 'Machine Learning will exceed people in intellectual abilities'

British-Canadian Nobel Laureate, computer scientist and cognitive psychologist, Geoffrey Hinton spoke to the press shortly after the winners were announced.

Nobel laureate

“I am flabbergasted, I had no idea this would happen, I am very surprised,” Hinton said, when asked how he felt about being a Nobel laureate. He assures that advance-

ments in neural networks will have a huge influence.

“This will be comparable with the industrial revolution. Machine Learning will exceed people in intellectual abilities,” he added.

While he listed the numerous applications, such as in health-care, AI assistants and increase in work productivity, he also pointed out that Machine Learning poses a threat that things could get out of control.

Hinton admitted to using Chat GPT 4 a lot. “I don't totally trust it, as sometimes it can hallucinate,” he added.

“I am in a cheap hotel in California without very good internet or phone connection,” he said, as

to where he was when he received the news.

AI, machine learning and deep learning - simply explained

Terms like machine learning, Artificial Intelligence and deep learning were used heavily at the Nobel Prize announcements. Advancements in computer science has led to extensive research in these fields, Hans Ellengren, the Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

The tech-company IBM describes AI as the umbrella term for machines that mimic human intelligence. Meanwhile Machine Learning (ML) is a subset of AI. It focuses on improving AI systems by teaching them to learn from data and make better predictions.

Machine learning

Deep Learning, which is the focus of Hopfield's and Hinton's research, is a more powerful version of machine learning. Deep learning uses deeper layers of neural networks.

Neural Networks are the building blocks of deep learning models, just like neurons are the building blocks in the human nervous system.

Neural Networks form the core of deep learning. These are made up of layers of nodes like neurons in the brain. A simple neural network has only a few layers, but a deep learning model must have more than three layers, which gives it the power to solve more complex problems. -**ow**

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MILESTONE YEAR



United Securities marks beginning of 30th Anniversary

MUSCAT: United Securities, one of the Sultanate's leading financial services firms in Brokerage, Asset Management, Corporate Finance, and Advisory, is proud to announce the commencement of its 30th anniversary. As the company enters this milestone year, it continues to build on its legacy of excellence, recently adding several prestigious awards to its portfolio.

United Securities has been recognized at the Alam Al Ikhtisaad Awards 2024 for “Investment Company of the Year,” underscoring its commitment to innovation in the financial services industry. Further accolades include being named “Leading Digital Revolution in Securities, Research and Brokerage in Oman” at the recent OER DX Awards and “Leaders in Investment Strategy and Brokerage Services” recognition at the New Age Banking Summit. Regionally, the company was honored as the “Best Equity Broker in Oman” by the Arab Federation of Capital Markets in Qatar this year.

In celebration of the company's three decades of service, Mr. Mustafa Ahmed Salman, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of United Securities, remarked: “Our 30th anniversary is not only a time to reflect on our journey but also to look ahead to a future of continued innovation and leadership. These awards are a

testament to our dedication to delivering outstanding service and cutting-edge solutions to our clients. As we align with Oman's Vision 2040, we are committed to playing a key role in advancing the nation's economic goals, fostering sustainable growth, and positioning Oman as a financial hub in the region.”

Mr. Hassan Ali Jawad, Managing Director, added: “As we enter this new chapter, we remain as committed as ever to helping our clients succeed. Our focus on combining local market insight with global expertise will continue to drive us forward, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of Oman's financial services sector. By embracing digital transformation we are well-positioned to contribute to the Sultanate's economic growth and diversification, offering innovative solutions that enable our clients to navigate evolving global markets with confidence.”

With a proven track record of outperforming industry benchmarks, United Securities remains one of the top equity brokers on the Muscat Stock Exchange and was the first to introduce an online trading platform in the Sultanate. This platform has since become the most utilized in the country, further solidifying United Securities' role as a market leader in digital financial services.

INCREASING CONCERN

Can hydropower hold its own against weather extremes?

GENEVA: Reliable, cheap and low-carbon — since coming into use over a 100 years ago, hydropower has become a vital clean energy source, today providing more electricity than all other renewables combined.

But recent power shortages in Ecuador and Colombia have highlighted its vulnerability in the face of climate change.

A drought fueled by the El Nino weather phenomenon has reduced reservoir water levels in hydropower plants, which both countries rely on for most of their electricity. This led Ecuador to declare a state of emergency earlier in the year and to institute power cuts. In neighbouring Colombia, rainfall levels are 80% below seasonal averages, with the country halting electricity exports to Ecuador. Amazon River levels in Colombia have also dropped by as much as 90%.

Climate change: an increasing concern for the industry

Hydropower functions by harnessing the movement of water flowing through a turbine, which generates electricity as it spins.

“Hydropower is dependent on water so clearly if there is no water at all then hydropower cannot be used, disrupting energy production and stressing energy systems,” said Matthew McCartney, an expert on sustainable water infrastructure with the International Water Management Institute, based in Sri Lanka.



Droughts — and sudden floods which can also damage dams — made more frequent and severe by climate change, are therefore an “increasing concern” for hydropower, McCartney added.

Hydropower plants are built to respond to changes in the weather — storing water in the rainy season to use when it becomes dry, explained Luz Adriana Cuartas, a hydrologist at the Brazilian Center for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disaster.

But Colombia and Ecuador saw surging temperatures and low rainfall last year, said Cuartas. “And this is why regulation [of hydropower] is becoming more challenging.” The problem in the region has been exacerbated by a

simultaneous increased demand for energy and water as people turn on air conditioners and taps, she added.

2023 saw historic drop in hydropower

Ecuador and Colombia are not isolated cases. While hydropower remains the world's largest renewable source of electricity and had been increasing by 70% over the past two decades, in the first half of 2023 its global output saw a historic drop, according to Ember, a UK-based energy think tank.

Their findings say drought — likely exacerbated by climate change — drove an 8.5% drop in hydroelectricity around the world during this period.

China, the world's largest hydroelectricity generator, accounted for three quarters of the global decline. In 2022 and 2023 droughts led to Chinese rivers and reservoirs running dry, causing power shortages and forcing the country to ration electricity.

Just over a quarter of all hydropower dams are in regions that are projected to have medium to extreme risk for water scarcity in 2050, according to one 2022 study.

Over-reliance increases climate vulnerability

Countries with a high dependence on hydropower are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, says Giacomo Falchetta, researcher at the International Institute for

Applied Systems Analysis.

In Africa, where his research has focused, hydropower accounts for over 80% of electricity generation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia — many of which are also struggling with severe droughts.

“On top of that [high dependence], they have limited installed capacity for alternative power generation and limited transmission infrastructure to import power,” said Falchetta.

The solution for these countries is to diversify their power sources by incorporating other renewable technologies — such as wind and solar — into their energy mix, said Falchetta. He highlighted Ghana and Kenya as two countries that are successfully moving from high reliance on hydropower towards a more “robust portfolio of technologies”.

Innovations around placing floating solar panels on the water's surface in hydropower plants — as countries such as China and Brazil are exploring — have significant potential, says McCartney. “In some cases, you only need to cover like 15-20% of the reservoir and you can generate as much electricity alone as you do from the hydropower.”

Countries like Colombia, Ecuador and others with high hydropower reliance need to work towards an optimum mix of renewables, said Lei Xie, energy policy manager at the International

Hydropower Association (IHA). “We say that water, wind and sun get the job done.”

The road to net-zero

Despite the climate-risks associated with the technology, it is still considered by many to have a continued role in decarbonizing the global economy.

“I would say that hydropower is a technology that will definitely still be expanded because it allows to provide cheap power at large scale,” said Falchetta.

Building more medium scale plants, rather than the mega dams of the past, would help mitigate the climate-risks associated with overdependence on one big piece of infrastructure, he explained.

While the International Energy Agency predicts hydropower will eventually be overtaken by wind and solar, they state it will remain the world's largest source of renewable electricity generation into the 2030s. Yet the agency anticipates a significant slowdown in industry growth this decade could jeopardise net-zero ambitions.

Hydropower capacity needs to double by 2050 if the world is to stay on track for limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

The IHA estimates this would require a significant increase in investment — approximately \$130 billion annually from now to 2050. -**ow**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by December 2024 reaching \$78.96, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 80 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$78.16. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) gained 5.8 points, comprising a rise by 0.12% to close at 4686.77 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4680.98 points.

Sezad issues
247 licences
for economic
activities

During the first half of this year, there was growth in several investment indicators related to the services provided by the zone to investors



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) issued 247 licences for economic activities in the first half of this year, in parallel with the economic activity and increasing interest in investment in the region.
During the first half of this year, there was growth in several investment indicators related to the services provided by the zone to investors. A total of 355 licences were issued in the field of public services, along with 68 commercial registrations, 55 building permits, 87 environmental licences, and over 900 work and investor permits.
Khalid Al Khusaibi, Head of the Registration and Licencing Department at the One-Stop Shop, stated that the Sezad is working to facilitate investment procedures

and assist investors in starting their investment activities, overcoming the challenges they face. He explained that the adoption of electronic transformation in various services provided by the Zone to investors has contributed to an increase in investment volume and facilitated the conduct of economic activities.
He added that we pay great attention to investors, and we have a specialised team that follows the investor's journey and provides the necessary support at any stage of the process. He pointed out that investing in the Sezad has now become easier than ever through the electronic services portal and OMAP platform, which allows investors to specify their economic activity, select the land they wish to invest in, and pay the required fees electronically.
He clarified that small and medium-sized (SMEs) enterprises holding a Riyada card receive a 50 per cent discount on the service fees provided by the management of the Zone to encourage them to invest. He pointed out that the

relative and competitive advantages enjoyed by the Sezad have encouraged investors from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad to invest in it. In this regard, he noted that the strategic location of the Zone on the Arabian Sea, overlooking the Indian Ocean, gives it an additional advantage due to its proximity to international shipping lanes and the availability of the necessary infrastructure for investment growth, such as Port of Duqm, the multi-purpose fishing port, Duqm Airport and many other facilities.
The Sezad is one of the main investment areas overseen by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz), and it is characterised by the diversity of economic activities available for investment, ranging from light industrial projects and services provided by SMEs to medium-sized industries, tourism investment, real estate development and finally to renewable energy projects, green industries and green hydrogen production.

TWO-DAY EVENT
Oman Fire, Safety & Security event kicks off



MUSCAT: The 8th edition of the Oman Fire, Safety & Security event (OFSEC) kicked off yesterday at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The two-day event is organised by Muscat Expo.
The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Dr. Ali Masoud Al Sunaidi, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz).
The Chairman of Opaz under-

scored the importance of this event which is concerned with various aspects related to the security and safety of estates and individuals.
He also underlined the importance of grooming and training human cadres in a bid to utilise modern technologies in the field of security and safety.
As many as 80 companies from 20 countries are participating in this year's event. - **ONA**

OMAN'S LARGEST HISTORICAL IPO

OQEP

DIVIDEND CHAMPION

OQEP 230.7 MN

2024

TOTAL DIVIDEND OF TOP 5 COMPANIES ON MSX30

2023

SOURCE: MSX.OM

INSPIRING LUXURY.
ELEVATING EXPERIENCE.

LX

The Lexus LX is engineered to elevate driving experiences to all new levels. Equipped with a range of inspiring technology and flagship luxury, the LX rewards the senses with exceptional feelings unlike any other. Discover the LX at any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom today.

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MARKET

MSX index
ends higher

Barka Water & Power Company, up 8.98%, was the top gainer while Al Jazeera Services, down 4.10%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,686.77 points, up by 0.12% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.32% at 432.33 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 8.98%, was the top gainer while Al Jazeera Services, down 4.10%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 403 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.4 million, with more than 18.51 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 15 advanced, 9 declined, and 24 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 211K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 178K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 33K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at

7,739.03 points, up 0.41%. Prices of United Finance, Taageer Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa were up by 3.57%, 1.85%, 1.39%, 1.33%, 0.95% respectively. Prices of were down by respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,581.86 points, down 0.29%. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, A'Saffa Foods were up by 8.77%, 1.33% respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy, Oman Cement were down by 3.17%, 1.96%, 1.04% respectively. Services Index was up by 0.23% before closing at 1,810.47 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Majan College, National Gas were up by 8.98%, 1.82%, 1.21% respectively. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Dhofar Generating, Al Batinah Power, Renaissance Services, Oman Telecom were down by 4.10%, 1.39%, 1.32%, 0.51%, 0.10% respectively. – United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,701.54	4,679.65	4,686.77	4,680.98	5.80	0.12
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,757.06	7,707.79	7,739.03	7,707.79	31.24	0.41
Industry Index	5,607.11	5,576.25	5,581.86	5,597.90	-16.04	-0.29
Services Index	1,816.08	1,803.47	1,810.47	1,806.31	4.16	0.23
MSX Shariah Index	433.10	430.97	432.33	430.97	1.36	0.32
MSX TR INDEX	6,534.40	6,503.97	6,513.87	6,505.82	8.06	0.12
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,812.81	8,756.84	8,792.33	8,756.84	35.49	0.41
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	4,469.27	4,433.67	4,440.14	4,458.65	-18.51	-0.29
SERVICES TR IDX	2,113.29	2,098.62	2,106.76	2,101.93	4.84	0.23
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.59	1,069.59	1,069.59	1,069.59	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
18,512,891	3,401,150	403	24,477,223,421	15	9	24	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PR.PREV. CLOSEDIFF (RD)DIFF %LAST PR.LAST BIDLAST OFFERPREV. VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	17,178	996	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.056	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	20,655,383	
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	5,000	365	1	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.100	6,570,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	1,515	574	2	0.374	0.380	0.374	0.380	0.375	0.005	1.333	0.380	0.375	0.380	0.100	45,600,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	12,400,976	1,722,704	21	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.139	0.138	0.001	0.725	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.100	775,237,232
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	7,000	798	2	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.114	0.118	0.100	17,100,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	163,632	53,254	5	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.295	0.100	471,524,443
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	246,163	85,409	51	0.345	0.350	0.344	0.345	0.345	0.000	0.000	0.345	0.350	0.351	0.100	230,588,072
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	24,115	1,736	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.002	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.077	0.100	8,775,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	412,390	105,637	23	0.259	0.260	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.265	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	261,255	19,916	19	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.078	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000003968	COHEDOO	107,086	28,696	8	0.276	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.279	0.100	179,008,663
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,118,246	329,773	16	0.294	0.295	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.291	0.295	0.100	226,438,800
OM0000009072	QO GAS NETWORKS	1,836,713	263,458	101	0.144	0.144	0.142	0.143	0.143	0.000	0.000	0.143	0.143	0.147	0.100	619,279,221
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	185,000	181,959	23	0.984	0.985	0.983	0.983	0.984	-0.001	-0.102	0.983	0.983	0.983	0.100	737,250,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	67,894	26,176	26	0.390	0.390	0.385	0.390	0.392	-0.002	-0.510	0.390	0.385	0.390	0.100	92,199,900
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	3,000	1,149	7	0.384	0.384	0.380	0.380	0.384	-0.004	-1.042	0.380	0.380	0.390	0.100	125,731,630
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	20,000	1,500	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.078	0.100	50,616,557
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	220,200	34,017	25	0.157	0.157	0.153	0.153	0.158	-0.005	-3.165	0.153	0.153	0.157	0.100	33,660,000
Total	18	17,117,373	2,859,119	334												

Parallel Market

OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	9,800	2,621	3	0.268	0.268	0.267	0.267	0.245	0.022	8.980	0.267	0.225	0.267	0.100	42,720,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	12,656	785	2	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.057	0.005	8.772	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	12,255,969
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	35,015	3,842	3	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.832	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.100	28,819,855
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	5,900	661	3	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.002	1.818	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	10,080,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	5,500	660	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.118	0.002	1.695	0.120	0.110	0.120	0.100	60,972,426
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,421	182	2	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	16,125,680
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	400	34	1	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.001	1.205	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	7,140,000
OM0000004420	BANK NUZWA	563,874	59,541	12	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	0.001	0.952	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.100	237,119,021
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	600	89	2	0.148	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.148	0.001	0.676	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.100	249,742,090
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	5,000	225	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	2,812,500
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	2,000	970	1	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.000	0.000	0.485	0.485	0.000	0.100	76,387,500
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTERNATIONAL DEV. & INV. HO.	21,000	4,555	2	0.216	0.235	0.216	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.216	0.235	0.100	96,172,884
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	200	9	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.045	0.100	13,514,438
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	759	2,000	1	2.635	2.635	2.635	2.635	2.635	0.000	0.000	2.635	2.510	2.698	0.100	236,359,500
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	134,526	21,121	1	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.000	0.157	0.100	470,427,175
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	13,000	4,144	3	0.310	0.323	0.310	0.323	0.323	0.000	0.000	0.323	0.310	0.322	0.100	64,482,299
OM0000006006	ALMAHA CERAMICS	81,743	12,732	5	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.100	5,580,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	26,353	1,507	2	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	84,830,685
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	10,400	666	3	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.064	0.065	0.100	32,552,403
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,000	125	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.125	0.127	0.100	9,440,250
OM0000008569	JABAL REIF	5,000	505	1	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.104	0.100	17,574,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	3,300	234	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.068	0.078	0.100	15,779,040
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	147	51	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.357	-0.007	-1.961	0.350	0.350	0.357	0.100	28,490,963
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	3,230	604	1	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.187	0.195	-0.008	-4.103	0.187	0.189	0.195	0.100	11,445,199
Total	24	943,824	117,882	55												

REPORT

Rising demand for premium credit
cards in India reflects economic growth

NEW DELHI: India's robust economic growth is driving a surge in demand for premium credit cards, especially among High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs). As the country's GDP climbs to \$3.5 trillion and personal fortunes

expand, affluent Indians are seeking exclusive services, including credit cards that cater to their sophisticated needs. The Reserve Bank of India has reported a 16.4 per cent year-on-year increase in credit card issu-

ance, reaching 105.4 million cards as of August 2024. Along with this, transaction volumes and average ticket sizes have grown due to increased spending on travel and leisure. Puneet Bhatia, Vice President of

Acquisition and Product Management at American Express Banking Corp. India said, "For over four decades, the Platinum Card has been a symbol of distinction and excellence in the premium card membership category." -ANI

EXPERTS IN

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LIFESTYLE

Bone marrow cancer drug shows success in treatment of blood disorder, finds study

When researchers discovered enough proof that a medication used to treat bone marrow cancer and Kaposi sarcoma is safe and effective in treating hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), a rare bleeding disorder that affects 1 in 5,000 people worldwide, they decided to terminate an early clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The New England Journal of Medicine published the trial results, which show that patients with HHT who were administered the medication, pomalidomide, had a significant decrease in the intensity of nosebleeds, required fewer blood transfusions and iron infusions than HHT frequently requires, and had a better quality of life.

"Finding a therapeutic agent that works in a rare disorder is highly uncommon, so this is a real success story," said Andrei Kindzelski, M.D., Ph.D., of NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. "Before our trial, there was no reliable therapeutic to treat people with HHT. This discovery will give people who suffer with this disease a positive outlook

and better quality of life."

HHT, also known as Osler-Weber-Rendu Syndrome, is characterized by serious defects in the way the body's blood vessels form. Instead of growing linearly, they become unusually tangled and twisted. The disordered blood vessels are fragile and prone to leaking, which causes excessive nosebleeds or bleeding along the gastrointestinal tract and other mucosal surfaces. These bleeding episodes, which worsen with age, can result in anemia and reduced quality of life. In severe cases, they can be life-threatening.

Current options to treat HHT involve closing off the malformed blood vessels in the nose and gastrointestinal tract or prescribing off-label medications that temporarily stabilize blood clotting at sites of bleeding vessels, which in turn reduces bleeding. There are currently no Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for long-term management of HHT.

Researchers speculated that pomalidomide worked by blocking the growth of abnormal blood vessels. It may cause the blood vessels to have a more normal

structure or thicker walls so they are less fragile. However, the research team, led by Keith McCrae, M.D., professor of molecular medicine at the Cleveland Clinic, says further study will be needed.

Researchers enrolled 144 adults with HHT at 11 U.S. medical centers between Nov. 5, 2019, and June 27, 2023. All participants had moderate to severe nosebleeds requiring iron infusions or blood transfusions. Researchers gave 95 of the participants 4 mg of pomalidomide daily, though the dosage was reduced to 3 mg or 2 mg daily in patients with adverse reactions - mostly constipation, rashes, and lower than average white blood cell counts. The remaining 49 patients received a daily sugar pill designed to look exactly like the pomalidomide pill, in addition to their usual care.

At the start of the trial, researchers used a validated HHT-specific bleeding assessment tool to score each patient's nose bleed severity. To establish a baseline in other areas, participants self-reported other data throughout the trial, particularly the severity of their nosebleeds and the effect of their HHT

symptoms on everyday activities using a special scoring system. The number of units of red blood cells transfused or iron infused was also recorded.

In June 2023, 43 months into the scheduled four-year trial, an interim analysis found pomalidomide had met a prespecified threshold for efficacy, and the trial was closed to further enrollment.

"These findings have broader implications for people with more severe forms of HHT," said Kindzelski. "In those cases, malformed blood vessels can develop in organs such as the lung, liver, and brain, which can lead to hemorrhagic stroke, bleeding in the lungs, or heart failure. A treatment like this could be lifesaving for such patients."

Though researchers did not follow participants after the trial ended, McCrae noted that some of his patients from the study have gone four to six months without a recurrence of nosebleeds, even though they had stopped the medication. This suggests that the drug may have promise as a long-term or intermittent treatment. - ANI

Trial results showed that patients with HHT who were administered the medication, pomalidomide, had a significant decrease in the intensity of nosebleeds, required fewer blood transfusions and iron infusions than HHT frequently requires, and had a better quality of life.

SPORTS

Omani sailors clinch 4 gold in impressive 10-medal haul



Al Farsi, Al Jabri, Al Qasmi and pair of Al Athbi and Al Shikili emerged winners in respective classes as 13th Mussanah Race Week came to a close

MUSCAT: Oman sailors delivered a standout performance at the 13th edition of Oman Sail's Mussanah Race Week, bringing home an impressive total of 10 medals across five competitive events.

The local contingent claimed four golds, two silvers, and four bronzes, with the Optimist team earning a collective bronze, underscoring the depth of talent emerging from Oman Sail's Sailing Schools. The competition concluded with a grand prize ceremony attended by guest of honour, Eng. Masoud bin Said Al Hashimi, Governor of South Al Batinah.

Gold and glory for Oman

Among the top performers, Al Moatsem Al Farsi showcased exceptional skill in the ILCA 6 category, securing the gold medal. Fellow Omani, Hatem Al Araimi, also earned a place on the podium with a bronze, while Othman Al Ham-madi from the UAE claimed silver.

In the women's division, Ibtisam Al Salmi of Oman finished third, following UAE's Camelia Al Qubaisi and India's Maanya Reddy. Oman also dominated the ILCA 7 competition, with Husain Al Jabri leading from start to finish to win the gold. Teammate Abdulmalik Al Hinaï demonstrated impressive resilience, moving from third to second place by the final day, securing the silver behind Al Jabri. UAE's Hamza Al Ali rounded out the podium with bronze.

The ILCA 4 event witnessed another Omani victory, with Abdulatif Al Qasmi clinching gold after a stunning series of races that saw him rise from fourth place on the first day to the top by the end of the competition.

India's Shashank Batham took silver, and his compatriot Akshat Kumar Dohare secured bronze.

In the RS Venture Connect category, the all-Omani fleet saw close competition, with Zahir Al Athbi and Ahmed Al Shikili ultimately



reclaiming the top spot to take the gold medal. Sultan Al Wahabi and Adil Al Siyabi secured silver, while Ghaliya Al Jabri and Malik Al Qar-tobi earned bronze, completing a full podium sweep for Oman.

The Optimist class, a crucial stepping stone for young sailors, saw UAE's Abdulla Yahya take gold, Thailand's Adison Ein win silver, and UAE's Khalifa Al Ro-maithi secure bronze.

In the girls' category, India's Shreya Krishna Lakshminarayan won gold, followed by teammate Kommaravelly Lahari with silver, and Thailand's Tong Xuan Ya with bronze. The under-12 division was topped by Khalifa Al Ro-maithi of the UAE, edging out Thai sailors Chanyacart Ittivorakul and Prin Kantharak.

In the team competition, Thailand claimed gold thanks to strong individual performances, with

UAE taking silver and Oman rounding off the podium with bronze.

Platform for emerging talent

Eng. Masoud bin Said Al Hashimi commended the broad international participation and success of the event, noting how Mussanah Race Week highlights Oman's natural assets and its growing reputation as a top destination for sailing events.

Dr. Khamis Salem Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, expressed his satisfaction with the outcome, noting the event's record participation of 104 sailors from various countries. "This event combines theory and practice to refine skills and prepare emerging sailors for future success," said Al Jabri.

He also highlighted the alignment of Oman Sail's activities with the broader goals of Oman Vision 2040, which includes boosting sports tourism and supporting the national economy.

The CEO also praised the selection of Mussanah Sailing School as a Category A Asian High-Performance Training Centre, marking it as a premier destination for year-round sailing training camps.

Oman Sail's commitment to environmental sustainability through the 'Clean Regatta' initiative was another point of pride.



BANGLADESH GREAT

Mahmudullah to quit T20Is after India series



NEW DELHI: Mahmudullah will retire from T20Is at the end of Bangladesh's ongoing bilateral series in India. He made the announcement on Tuesday, at a press conference on the eve of the second game in Delhi.

Mahmudullah, 38, said that he had informed Bangladesh cricket officials about his decision, and will continue playing ODIs.

"I am retiring from T20I cricket after the last game of this series. I was pre-decided before coming here," Mahmudullah said. "I had a chat with my family. I spoke to the coach [Chandika Hathurusinghe], captain [Najmul Hossain Shanto], chief selector [Gazi Ashraf Hossain] and the board president [Faruque Ahmed] as

well. I think it is the right time to move on from this format for me and the team. Especially with the World Cup coming up in less than two years. I will concentrate on the one-day game."

Three years ago, Mahmudullah had retired from Tests during a game against Zimbabwe, was dropped for two years from the T20I side, missing 27 matches between 2022 and 2023. He returned in T20Is with a 54 against Sri Lanka earlier this year. A former captain in the format, Mahmudullah will retire as the joint third-most-capped T20I player in history. He has played 139 matches. He is also Bangladesh's second-highest run-scorer in the format, only behind Shakib Al Hasan.

WORLD CUP WINNER

Spain and Barca great Iniesta retires, aged 40

BARCELONA: Spain World Cup winner Andres Iniesta on Monday announced his retirement from playing at the age of 40.

Iniesta is widely regarded as one of the greatest players in history, thanks in part to the midfield partnerships he formed with Xavi Hernandez and Sergio Busquets for Spain and Barcelona.

He earned 131 caps for his country, scoring the winning goal in the 2010 FIFA World Cup final and winning the European Championship in 2008 and 2012.

"I never thought this day would come. I never imagined it," he said.

"Yes, all these tears we have shed these days are tears of emotion, of pride. They are not tears of sadness. They are tears of that boy from a small town like Fuentalbilla, who had the dream of being a footballer and we achieved it after a lot of hard work, sacrifice, of never giving up, essential values in my life."

Iniesta spent the majority of his 22-year career at Barcelona after graduating from the club's La Masia academy. He made his senior debut in 2002 and went on to win 29 honours, including nine La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues crowns.

In 2018 Iniesta joined Japanese side Vissel Kobe before moving to the United Arab Emirates in 2023



to play for UAE Pro League side Emirates. He was runner-up in the 2010 Ballon d'Or and included in the FIFA FIFpro World 11 for nine successive years between 2009 and 2017.

Iniesta later revealed that he had battled depression shortly before the 2010 World Cup following the death of his friend, Espanyol midfielder Dani Jarque.

In a *BBC Sport* column in 2022, Iniesta said: "There was a time

when the months were dark, after my friend Dani Jarque died in 2009, but it ended with a truly magical moment - me scoring the winner for Spain in the 2010 World Cup final.

"That is what I would tell any people who are struggling now - that the worst moment of your life can be followed by the most important moment in your life."

Argentina great Lionel Messi paid tribute to his former Barce-

lona team-mate on social media. "One of the most magical teammates and one of those who I most enjoyed playing together," the Inter Miami forward said.

"Andres Iniesta, the ball will miss you and so will we. I wish you all the best, you are a phenomenon."

Spanish football journalist Guillem Balague described Iniesta as the "The greatest player in Spanish football". - Agencies

BankDhofar customers highlight strong relationships and exceptional services

Retail and corporate customers enthusiastically express their satisfaction with the high-quality services and the prompt, efficient responses from the dedicated employees at the branches

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, a premier financial institution in Oman, continues to solidify its customer relationships through its focus on innovative banking solutions tailored to meet the diverse needs of individual, corporate, and small business clients.

Over its 34 years of service, the Bank has successfully utilized technology to gather customer feedback, consistently raising the quality of its offerings and striving to achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction.



Many long-standing customers have reaffirmed their loyalty to BankDhofar, citing the superior service, personalised engagements, and commitment to efficiency provided by the bank's staff at branches.

Valuable investment advice and convenience

Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al Siyabi, a customer for over a decade, praised the recent opening of a new branch on 18 November Street in Al Athaiba, conveniently close to his residence. He noted that while digital banking has made most



services available online, personal visits to branches remain a valuable opportunity to receive tailored advice on new investment opportunities and innovative banking products. Ibrahim has also chosen BankDhofar for his children's accounts, a testament to his enduring trust in the institution.

Exclusive Visa Infinite benefits

Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Rawahi, who has been with BankDhofar since its inception in 1990, expressed his unwavering satisfaction with its services. In particular, he highlighted the benefits of the Visa Infinite credit card, which



offers perks such as access to global airport lounges.

Additionally, he commended the Bank's mobile app, which simplifies everyday banking tasks such as bill payments and money transfers, making it an essential tool for his financial management.

Responsive corporate support

Idrees bin Saeed Al Hosni, Head of Back Office Operations at Ubhar Capital, shared his appreciation for the swift support he received when seeking funding for his company's expansion. BankDhofar approved



and disbursed the loan within a week, which left a lasting positive impression. Idrees emphasized the importance of the Bank's quick responses and the close, courteous relationships that have made BankDhofar his trusted partner.

Three decades of services

Dawood bin Mohammed Al Siyabi has a close relationship with BankDhofar since the year 1993, and he never thought of moving his banking relationship to another bank. He highlights the staffs excellent service and their personalized interactions through various

branches in the Muscat Governorate. He is also pleased with the electronic banking services, including mobile and Internet.

He quotes "I visit the Royal Opera branch regularly when I want to inquire about a specific service or product, and I always receive a warm welcome and an excellent treatment from the employees. The team extends exceptional personalized service even though, recently my account status was adjusted from Al Riadah priority banking to Al Rifaa preferred banking."

Support for small businesses

Mazen bin Saeed Al Badi, owner of 'Best Clinic Specialized Medical,' was encouraged by a friend's recommendation to open an account at BankDhofar. His friend praised the personal attention and efficiency of the Bank's services, noting how staff members keep in touch directly via mobile to resolve any pending issues.

Mazen's own experience has mirrored these positive impressions, and he feels reassured knowing that BankDhofar supports not only his immediate financial needs but also his business growth over the long term.

In conclusion, these testimonials underscore BankDhofar's resolute dedication to customer satisfaction through personalized service, innovative products, and efficient digital solutions that cater to every segment of the market.

SUSTAINABLE CSR PROGRAMME



Twenty new local sports teams join Bank Muscat's Green Sports programme

MUSCAT: Green Sports programme from Bank Muscat receives annually excellent participation by local sports teams from across Oman.

This CSR sustainable programme reaffirms the Bank's commitment to providing ample opportunities for young Omanis to develop their talents. It goes a long way in developing the sporting skills and talents of Omani youth, thereby leading to all-round development of the sport.

Building on the success achieved thus far, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the names of the 20 winning teams for this year's 13th edition of Green Sports in a joyous event organised in Bank Muscat Head Office and attended by the former National Team football player Emad Al Hosani, a number of officials and employees from the Bank, and media personnel.

Since its inception in 2012, the programme has so far benefitted 203 teams with over 70,000 members of these teams across the Sultanate of Oman. This year too, the winning teams will benefit from the Bank's support in four areas, including natural as well as artificial turf for football pitches, lighting systems and water desalination equipment.

Twenty winners from different Governorates across the Sultanate will benefit from the Bank's flagship CSR programme this year. First, the winners in the lighting system category include: Al Wusta Cultural Sports Team from Al Suwaiq, Shabab Cultural Sports Team from Sohar, Al Hilal Sports and Cultural Team from Al-Kamil Wal-Wafi, Al Shamal Sports Team from Barka, Saddab Sports Cul-

tural Team from Ibri, Al Sahra Sports and Cultural Team from Bahla, Sanaa Bani Ghafer Sports and Cultural Team from Al Khaboura, Al-Alia Sports and Cultural Team from Al Awabi, Shabab Nakhal Team from Nakhal, Al Shabab sports team from Jalan Bani Bu Hassan, and Falaj Al Sharah Sports and Cultural Team from Al-Rustaq.

Second, the winners in the natural grass category include: Al-Fulaj Sports Team from Jalan Bani Bu Ali, Al-Thabiti Sports and Cultural Team from Ibri, Ahli al Sifah Team from Muscat, Sadi Sports Team from Izki, Al Burj Sports Team from Saham, Bamah Sports Team from Quriyat, and Fasah Sports Team from Al-Rustaq. In addition, Shars Al Sahel Team from Al-Musannah and Sahel Sports and Cultural Team from Shinas have won the support in the water desalination equipment category.

On this occasion, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head - Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said: "We are pleased to see the great turn out the programme witnesses every year by local sports teams across the Sultanate. The Bank is keen to enhance the role of this sustainable CSR programme through extending support to develop local sports fields infrastructure, thereby helping Omani Youth and offering a suitable environment for them to develop their talents. We will continue implementing the Green Sports programme and ensure its long-term impact on the sector."

Talib Al Makhmari further expressed his appreciation for the positive results and great participation witnessed so far. He explained: "Through its sustainable programmes, the Bank contrib-

utes significantly to addressing the needs of youngsters in various fields. The Bank is committed to continue strengthening its strong partnership with Omani youth and help them achieve their aspirations, including those on the sports field. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate this year's winners and wish them the best of luck as they carry out and maintain the development projects for their respective teams."

The local sports teams attract a great number of people of all ages throughout the Sultanate, and everyone is keen to contribute to their development by taking part in various activities and events. Such relevance is evident in developing young talents and serving the surrounding community.

This year, 110 teams have competed, thereby asserting the programme's success and popularity among Omani youth. The Bank ensures to strengthen cooperation and partnership with local sports teams through this leading programme and to work closely with the teams throughout the different stages of the project. It is worth mentioning that the football fields developed as part of the Green Sports programme serve as a gathering venue for social activities for children and youth.

Celebrating its successful journey, Bank Muscat has recently won the North Batinah Award for Social Investment for its "Green Sports" annual programme, which further enhances its pioneering role in CSR. As the leading financial institution in the country, the Bank constantly upholds its dedication to sustainability and community service through the ongoing launch of sustainable programmes and initiatives.

2 RENOVATED SHOWROOMS

Global expansion in full swing at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's 6th largest jewellery retailer with an expansive presence of over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, has further strengthened their retail presence in Kuwait & the UAE with the relaunch of two of their flagship showrooms in the region. The launches are a part of the ambitious expansion plan that the brand has unveiled to launch 20 showrooms globally in October.

In Kuwait, the brand's showroom at Lulu Hypermarket in Al Rai, which has been expanded and renovated to meet the evolving preferences of jewellery lovers in the region, was inaugurated by Bollywood actor and brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Anil Kapoor in the presence of Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group, Afsal K.M-Zonal Head of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Kuwait, other senior management team members, customers and well-wishers.

In the UAE, Malabar Gold & Diamonds renovated and restyled showroom in Dubai Gold Souq, which is also the largest jewellery showroom in the Gold Souq area, was inaugurated by Malabar Group Chairman, M.P Ahamed in the presence of Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group, other senior management team members, customers and well-wishers.

The ambitious global expansion plan that Malabar Gold & Diamonds has charted for the month of October is in full swing, with showrooms in Rohini in Delhi, Sambalpur in Odisha, Boduppal in Telangana, Sangli in Maharashtra, and Sarjapur Road in Karnataka already launched in India last week.

"Our global expansion plan of opening 20 new showrooms in October aligns with Malabar Gold & Diamonds' larger vision of becoming the world's leading jewelry retailer. Over the last 30 years, we have significantly expanded our global presence, driven by our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional quality jewelry in a sustainable and responsible manner. While the expansion plans for this month are undoubtedly ambitious, we are confident in our ability to achieve them. The five new showrooms we've already launched in India, along with the relaunch of our showrooms in Kuwait and the



Gold Souq, stand as a testament to our dedication and progress. Though this is a momentous time for the brand, I am particularly excited about the upcoming openings, especially the launch of our flagship showroom in Los Angeles, USA. As we continue to reach new milestones, I want to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers around the world for their trust and support, which has made all of this possible", commented M.P Ahamed, Chairman of Malabar Group.

Among the upcoming inaugurations, the most prominent will be Malabar Gold & Diamonds' flagship showroom in Los Angeles, USA. This will be the brand's 5th largest showroom in the USA. Internationally, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will further strengthen its already significant presence in the UAE, Qatar, and KSA with new showrooms set to open in Muweilah, Sharjah; Muaither, Qatar; and Nakheel Mall, Saudi Arabia. The brand is also planning to open its 6th showroom in the USA, located in Atlanta, Georgia. In India, the expansion plan includes the launch of three showrooms in Uttar Pradesh, 2 showrooms in Rajasthan and one showroom each in Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Punjab.

"Our entire operation at Malabar Gold & Diamonds is centered around delivering an unparalleled jewellery shopping experience to our customers, while upholding the highest standards of responsibility and sustainability. To achieve this, we have continually refined our processes to ensure that every piece of jewellery in our showrooms is not only 100% pure in terms of metal quality, but also ethically sourced. The newly revamped showrooms in Kuwait and the UAE, along with the 5 showrooms we have launched in India, exemplify our unwavering commitment to being a responsible jeweller. We are confident that our customers will appreciate and embrace the enhanced experience offered at these world-class showrooms. Moving forward, the

expansion we have charted will also be in line with our ethos of sustainability and responsibility," said Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group.

The newly revamped showroom in Kuwait will showcase an extensive selection of over 20,000 exquisite designs in gold, diamonds, and precious gems curated from 20 countries. Catering to every jewellery lover's taste, the showroom features a vast array of options for daily wear, office wear, special occasions, and bridal collections. In addition to an exclusive 'Zoul-lifestyle jewellery' corner and dedicated Mine area, the showroom proudly showcases Malabar Gold & Diamonds' various exclusive brands such as Era-Uncut diamond jewellery, Viraa-Royal Polkijewellery, Ethnix-handcrafted designer jewellery, Precia-Gem jewellery, Divine-Indian Heritage jewellery and Starlet-Kids jewellery.

"I am extremely excited about the relaunch of our newly revamped showrooms in Kuwait and the UAE, as part of our continuous efforts to strengthen our presence in key markets. Internationally, we are set to open five new showrooms in October, with the most significant being the launch of our 5th and largest showroom in the USA, located in Los Angeles. Additionally, we will be expanding further with new showrooms in the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, along with strengthening our footprint in North America by launching our 6th showroom in the USA, in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Across all of these showrooms, our focus remains on delivering an unparalleled jewelry shopping experience, while championing the 'Make in India: Market to the World' initiative. As we pursue geographical diversification, we are also committed to evolving our product portfolio with the introduction of the Arab Value Chain and Western Value Chain jewelry collections," commented Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

ROUND-UP

Al Mouj Muscat awarded Trio TYHA accreditations elevating its status as global superyacht destination

Al Mouj Marina serves as the gateway to Oman's wonders, offering a range of amenities and seamless services that cater to the highest standards of luxury, convenience, and a deep connection to the nation's beauty



MUSCAT: Oman's premier waterfront lifestyle destination, announced its accreditation by The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA) as a Superyacht Ready Marina, adding to its esteemed 5 Gold Anchor and Clean Marina certifications. This prestigious trio of accolades places Al Mouj Marina among an elite group of marinas globally, recognised for adhering to the highest standards of luxury, sustainability, and service excellence. Al Mouj Marina boasts state-

of-the-art facilities designed to accommodate transient vessels, including 165 modern floating berths, on-water lounge areas, and fuel stations. It offers 24-hour surveillance, comprehensive maintenance, waste removal services, and more. Additionally, facilitating immigration and customs services, ensuring a streamlined process for international visitors. Its strategic location in Muscat combines enhanced security with a unique blend of luxury and convenience, making it the ideal destination to explore Oman's clear blue waters. Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "We are proud of our recent TYHA Superyacht Ready accreditation. This recognition solidifies our position as one of the prime destination for superyachts and stands as a testament to our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences for maritime visitors. Our marina serves as the

gateway to Oman's wonders, offering a range of amenities and seamless services that cater to the highest standards of luxury, convenience, and a deep connection to the nation's beauty. We are dedicated to providing a secure and welcoming environment where visitors can embark on their journey along Oman's breathtaking shores and rich cultural heritage, further cementing our standing as a leading destination in the region's marine tourism sector."

In addition to its TYHA accreditation, Al Mouj Marina is officially recognised as a point of entry, enabling transient vessels to offload passengers directly at Al Mouj Muscat, granting immediate access to world-class amenities, luxury resorts, and Oman's captivating landscapes. Visitors can explore over 85 retail and dining experiences, unwind on a two-kilometer stretch of pristine beach, and enjoy luxurious stays at the Kempinski Muscat or The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort. Beyond the marina, Oman's diverse landscapes beckon, from clear waters and vibrant coral reefs that attract divers and yachting enthusiasts to the excitement of dolphin and whale watching. Visitors can also discover historic forts, traverse vast deserts, and partake in adventurous wadi-hopping, all of which offer a deep connection to Oman's natural beauty and rich history.

SPECIAL OCCASION



MG Motor Oman unveils 100-year anniversary offer with exciting prizes

MUSCAT: Celebrating 100 years of automotive heritage, MG Motor Oman is marking this momentous occasion with exclusive offers and exciting rewards for car buyers. As a tribute to the century-long journey of excellence, customers can now enjoy unmatched prices on MG's popular models, along with a chance to win exciting prizes. This limited-time offer allows customers to drive home MG's popular vehicles with prices starting as low as OMR 7,285. Available models and their celebratory prices include: MG ZS from OMR 7,285, MG RX5 from OMR 7,618, MG RX8 from OMR 8,570, MG HS from OMR 9,523, MG GT from OMR 7,299 & MG T60 from OMR 9,332. In celebration of this historic milestone, MG Motor Oman is also offering customers the chance to win 1 out of 100 fantastic prizes. These include: Fuel cards, Smart-

phones, smartwatches and travel vouchers. Plus, simply test driving an MG vehicle gives you the chance to win a smartphone! Each purchase includes insurance, registration, service, and comprehensive roadside assistance, ensuring a stress-free ownership experience for all the vehicles mentioned above, except the T60, which includes registration only. This special anniversary campaign reflects MG Motor Oman's commitment to delivering more than just great cars, but also exceptional value and peace of mind. Since its inception in 1924, MG has been at the forefront of design, innovation, and performance. This 100-year anniversary represents MG's rich history and its future vision of providing drivers with exciting, high-quality vehicles around the world. MG's journey

from a small British marque to a global automotive leader continues to inspire, with this special campaign highlighting the brand's enduring legacy. Mohsin Hani Bahrani, CEO, MHD ACERE, remarked "As we celebrate MG's 100-year legacy, I'm excited to introduce this special anniversary offer to our customers in Oman. MG's journey from a British marque to a global automotive leader has been built on innovation, quality, and value. This limited-time offer reflects our ongoing commitment to delivering exceptional vehicles and rewarding ownership experiences." Customers are encouraged to visit MG showrooms across Oman to take advantage of these limited-time offers. The expert sales team is ready to help you find the perfect MG model that suits your needs and lifestyle.

DISHDASHA BRAND

Al Obaidani expands its retail footprint with new store in Mabelah

MUSCAT: Al Obaidani, Oman's leading Dishdasha brand, continues to expand its retail presence with the grand opening of its 34th store in Mabelah. Catering to the discerning and quality-conscious men of Mabelah and surrounding areas, the new store offers an extensive selection of premium fabrics. With a legacy of over 60 years, Al Obaidani remains committed to introducing high-quality materials that reflect the character and personality of Omani gentlemen. The inauguration, held on September 22, was attended by Redha Jumah Al Saleh, Board Member and former Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI), as the chief guest. The event marked a significant milestone in the brand's journey, and the company's objective of expanding its retail footprint. Reflecting on the significance of Mabelah store opening, Khalil Al Obaidani, Director of Al Obaidani Stores, expressed his delight, stating, "We are delighted to continue our rapid expansion with the opening of our latest store. As Oman's leading Dishdasha brand, our mission is to extend our reach while providing our customers with the finest quality fabrics. Our partnerships with top-tier fabric suppliers from Asia and Europe ensure a continuous supply of premium materials, meeting the high expectations of our discerning clientele." The company aims to tap into a new customer base with its latest store. The new outlet is strategically positioned to tap into a broader customer base, offering



a curated selection of fabrics to suit varying preferences in quality and price. Among its popular fabric lines are renowned names like Al Hindam, introduced in 2019, and other well-loved collections such as Saktun, Al Hilali, Al Barzah, Bahla, Jabreen, Khalas, Mazaya, Royal, and Wathba. These fabrics are known for their quality, breathability, comfort, and timeless elegance, enhancing the look and feel of the traditional Omani Dishdasha. Upon fabric purchase and measurements, customers can collect their Dishdashas within 14 days from the outlet, experiencing unmatched customer service and professionalism from the dedicated store staff, committed to ensuring customer satisfaction at every visit. Al Obaidani's commitment to excellence is further demonstrated through its research and development efforts, which continually seek to diversify and enhance its fabric offerings. The brand collaborates with esteemed producers from around the world, including Japan, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK, to ensure a steady supply of top-tier materials. Embodying quality, reliability, and innovation, Al Obaidani inspires customers to elevate their style and persona. Since its establishment in 1964, Al Obaidani has been serving as a pride hallmark among Omani Gentleman, who consider wearing Dishdasha as a mark of personality, character and elegance. Al Obaidani always assures its customers the best in quality, comfortability and unmatched service.





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