



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Said Mohamed Al-Aufi
Chairman



Form No. CBO/MDR/3

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Sohar International continues to lead Oman’s banking sector, solidifying our reputation as the “Best Bank in Oman” through the delivery of exceptional value to stakeholders. By focusing on digital innovation, operational excellence, robust financial and risk management, strong corporate governance, and a people-first culture, we are well positioned as a forward-thinking leader in the industry.

It is with great pride that we achieved a milestone record profit for the year of over RO 100 million in addition to achieving a market capitalisation of USD 2.4 billion, the 3rd highest listed entity on the Muscat Stock Exchange. The Bank’s outstanding financial performance reflects the successful execution of our strategy.

Sohar International is committed to supporting Oman’s economic growth, showcasing Oman’s success story internationally and providing new opportunities to our customer base.

We have expanded our presence beyond Oman, entering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and announced plans to open a Branch in the United Kingdom, reinforcing Sohar International’s role as a key enabler of economic progress.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Profit for the year increased by 42% to a record RO 100.2 million.

Total operating income increased by 50% to RO 244.9 million driven by increases in net interest income, other operating income and reflecting the full year impact of the merger with HSBC Bank Oman. Total operating expenses increased at a lower rate of 28% to RO 98.4 million reflecting the positive synergies of the merger with the expenses/income ratio improving to 40.2% from 47.1% last year.

Net operating income before impairment provisions and before gain on bargain purchase increased 69% to RO 146.5 million.

Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions for the year of RO 37.9 million supported an increase in the Bank’s coverage ratio to 158% compared to 143% last year reflecting the Bank’s prudent and proactive approach to credit risk management.

Total assets increased by 10% to RO 7,361 million mainly driven by a 9% increase in loans and Islamic financings and a 24% increase in investment securities.

Customer deposits increased by 13% to RO 5,777 million with the improved net loans/customer deposit ratio of 74% compared to 77% last year. The Bank’s strong funding and liquidity position will support the Bank’s growth initiatives in Oman as well as the branch operation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The increase in shareholder’s equity of 28% was supported by a RO 130 million rights issue demonstrating the continued support of the Bank’s shareholders.

DIGITAL FIRST

In 2024, Sohar International launched over 30 innovative solutions, reinforcing our ‘Digital First’ strategy positioning us at the forefront of Oman’s digital transformation. Key initiatives include the ‘My Life | My Goals’ platform, which integrates financial and non-financial services into a seamless mobile experience, offering travel bookings, insurance, and more from a single application. This ecosystem simplifies goal achievement by blending lifestyle and banking services.

We have revolutionized corporate banking with our Unified Transaction Banking Platform, offering auto-reconciliation, digital trade finance, and liquidity management. We also introduced Oman’s first corporate mobile banking application and the fully digital E-Mandate – Direct Debit product, streamlining recurring payments.

We enhanced our digital offerings with Oman’s first API Banking Portal, Digital IPO 1:1 loan journey, and expanded cross-border payment capabilities, enabling instant remittances to over 35 countries, while prioritizing top-tier digital security. Complementing these achievements, we developed Oman’s first AI platform, a cutting-edge Digital Contact Centre, advanced facial recognition, and robust data analytics, positioning Sohar International at the forefront of digital excellence.

SERVING CUSTOMERS

Sohar International remains at the forefront of Oman’s financial sector, delivering strategic contributions to landmark transactions and partnerships. As the Issue Manager, Joint Global Coordinator, and Collection Agent for OQEP’s Initial Public Offering (IPO), the largest equity capital market financing in Oman’s history, the Bank has set a new benchmark in financial excellence. We further demonstrated our leadership by becoming the first Bank in Oman to be appointed a sole Lead Manager for another high-profile IPO, reinforcing our position as a regional leader in capital markets.

We have strengthened our presence in the oil and gas sector and become the Bank of choice for multinational corporations seeking comprehensive financial solutions across the value chains supported by our dedicated and agile teams.

As part of our commitment to enhancing premium services, we launched our new Savings Plus and Recurring Deposit Accounts, offering customers flexible savings solutions. The ‘Because You Deserve More’ campaign exemplified this approach, providing tangible benefits such as cashback incentives, fee waivers, competitive loan rates, and exclusive lifestyle offers through the Sohar International Entertainer application.

We also introduced the Visa Airport Companion Application to deliver added convenience for travelling customers. Additionally, seasonal campaigns such as the summer promotion enhanced card-related offerings, providing exclusive rewards and benefits designed to elevate the customer experience.

The introduction of the Platinum Credit Card offers exclusive privileges alongside advanced features such as contactless payment capabilities and compatibility with Apple Pay and Samsung Wallet. Competitive auto finance campaigns and attractive housing profit rates reinforce our commitment to making financial solutions more accessible and affordable.

Further strengthening our position as a leading provider of tailored Sharia-compliant financial solutions we expanded Sohar Islamic’s branch network with nine new locations and expanded its product portfolio to better serve our customers.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, GOVERNANCE (ESG)

At Sohar International we are focused on integrating ESG into our business strategy and responding to the ever-increasing requirements by stakeholders. This includes supporting the Sultanate of Oman’s increasing focus and requirements on economic diversification and transitioning to a low carbon economy.

Our commitment is reflected in the robust ESG Framework in place, focused on key material areas for the Bank, enabling the transition to a sustainable future, embedding responsible business operations, and empowering and developing employees, customers and communities.

In 2024, we moved our focus to implementation of our ESG framework which has included rollout of ESG awareness training to all employees, preparing a detailed environmental footprint for all banking operations; and development of our first ESG Report.

We have continued to play a key role in identifying solutions for Oman through our involvement in events such as Oman Sustainability Week (Sustainable Finance Partner) and developing a partnership with Nafath Renewable Energy to bring solar solutions to market for our retail customers. In addition, we have proudly supported large transactions in relation to green steel; green hydrogen; solar and other energy efficiency projects.

We remain dedicated to supporting inclusive growth through strategic initiatives such as our partnership with Sharakah and youth empowerment programs. Our commitment extends to youth empowerment through sports, exemplified by our role as the Official Bank Sponsor for IRONMAN 70.3 Muscat 2025 and the exclusive banking partner for the Socca World Cup 2024.

SERVING THE NATION

Sohar International plays a pivotal role in driving Oman’s growth through impactful partnerships and initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to social development and sustainability with multiple Memorandums of Understandings (MoU) signed that support key programs across various sectors.

The Down Syndrome Association MoU supported crucial initiatives, including the development of a comprehensive database, water therapy programs, and the provision of assistive technology for children with special needs.

We also partnered with the Al Noor Association for the Blind to train visually impaired Omanis, enhancing their employability and fostering inclusion.

Our collaboration with the Association of Early Intervention introduced Oman’s first Applied Behaviour Analyst Technician (ABAT) training program, equipping professionals with the skills needed to support children with developmental challenges.

In collaboration with Sharakah, we launched a training program to empower Omani female entrepreneurs and foster innovation within the SME sector. Through our partnership with Takaful Sohar, we provided essential household items to low-income families, helping to ease financial burdens.

These initiatives complemented efforts in youth empowerment, education, sponsorship of major sporting events and environmental sustainability, reinforcing the Bank’s role in Oman’s socioeconomic progress and commitment to a sustainable future.

SERVING EMPLOYEES

We prioritized the personal and professional growth of our staff by launching a Digital Academy, an e-learning platform designed to enhance employee skills. In addition, we invested in over 2,500 learning hours and facilitated 1,300 training days through initiatives such as the Leadership Program and a diverse range of professional and job-specific development courses, delivering a total of 110 unique training programs.

To foster collaboration and engagement we introduced new internal communication channels, including an intranet and WhatsApp platform, to enhance connectivity across the organization.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Sohar International continues to set new standards of excellence in Oman’s banking sector, earning over 18 prestigious awards in 2024. These accolades reflect our commitment to business excellence, digital innovation, operational excellence, and transformative contributions to the financial ecosystem.

The Bank earned distinguished awards, including Oman’s Best Bank (Euromoney Awards for Excellence, UK), Best Bank – Large Bank Category (Oman Banking & Finance Awards 2024, Oman), and Bank of the Year – Oman (The Banker, UK). Our commitment to digital innovation was celebrated with titles such as Most Innovative Digital Bank for Ecosystem Services – Oman 2023 (The Annual Global Economics Awards, UK) and Best Mobile App Oman 2024 (World Business Outlook Annual Awards, Singapore).

In corporate and government banking, Sohar International received the Best Corporate Banking Oman 2024 award (Global Business Review Magazine, UAE) and the Best Government & Private Banking Bank in Oman 2024 accolade (International Business Magazine, UAE). Operational excellence was recognized through JP Morgan’s Straight Through Processing Awards (MT202 and MT103) (USA).

The Bank’s leadership in sustainability and branding was reaffirmed with Oman’s Best Bank for ESG award (Euromoney Awards for Excellence, UK) and Top Omani Brand in the Banking Sector Award (Alam Al Iktisaad Magazine, Oman). Furthermore, Sohar International was honoured with the ‘Exemplary CSR Leadership’ award at the Oman CSR Summit and Awards 2024, reinforcing our commitment to CSR and human development. These recognitions demonstrate our unwavering dedication to excellence across all facets of banking and corporate responsibility.

RECOGNITION

It is with great pride that I express on behalf of Sohar International my sincere congratulations to our former CEO, His Excellency Ahmed Al Musalmi, on his appointment by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik as Governor of the Central Bank of Oman. His Excellency’s vision, dedication and passion for excellence has transformed Sohar International to be the leading Bank in Oman.

I congratulate Mr. Abdul Wahid Mohamed Al Murshidi, our Chief Islamic Banking Officer, on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer and look forward to the Bank’s continued success under his leadership.

My profound appreciation to our stakeholders, who have consistently bestowed upon us the highest degree of faith in support of our transformative journey. The continued dedication with which our employees have embraced and aligned themselves with the organisational values has been instrumental to our success.

The strong governance, transparency, and leadership exemplified by the Central Bank of Oman and the Financial Services Authority continue to play a pivotal role in helping us achieve new levels of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our employees, I convey my sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, whose visionary leadership has propelled Oman towards significant socio-economic progress and established a clear path for Oman’s continued prosperity and growth.

Said Mohamed Al-Aufi
Chairman

Form No. CBO/MDR/5

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS IN YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024

RO’000

Assets	Current Year	Previous Year	Liabilities	Current Year	Previous Year
1. Cash	47,537	60,100	1. Deposits (incl. Govt.)		
2. Balances with CBO	154,909	145,062	a) Demand	2,870,629	2,731,468
3. Capital Deposit with CBO	507	507	b) Savings	1,073,847	840,429
4. Government & other Securities	38,281	91,917	c) Time	1,832,564	1,531,148
5. Treasury Bills & Other Bills	-	-	2. Certificate of Deposits	-	-
6. Due from H.O., branches, principal shareholders & affiliates abroad	-	-	3. Due to H.O., branches, principal shareholders & affiliates abroad	-	-
7. Due from banks:			4. Due to Banks:		
i) Placements	561,730	652,004	i) Placements	570,313	668,036
ii) Loans & Advances	-	-	ii) Borrowings	-	8,084
8. Other Money Market Placements	-	-	5. Other Money Market Deposits	-	-
9. Investments	2,080,748	1,619,265	6. Borrowings from CBO	-	-
10. Loans and advances	4,269,808	3,921,192	7. Capital	702,508	561,572
11. Tangible Fixed Assets	77,264	78,471	8. Reserves	67,303	57,421
12. Intangible assets	71,929	66,614			
13. Losses carried forward	-	-	9. Retained Earnings	128,495	83,081
			10. Capital Bonds	-	100,000
14. Other Assets	58,038	53,588	11. Other Liabilities	115,092	107,481
Total Assets	7,360,751	6,688,720	Total Liabilities	7,360,751	6,688,720

Note: All assets (where applicable) are net of ECL

(The complete accounts of Sohar International Bank SAOG will be delivered to any shareholder or any interested parties who request them in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of a written request. Request should be submitted to Sohar International Bank Finance Department)

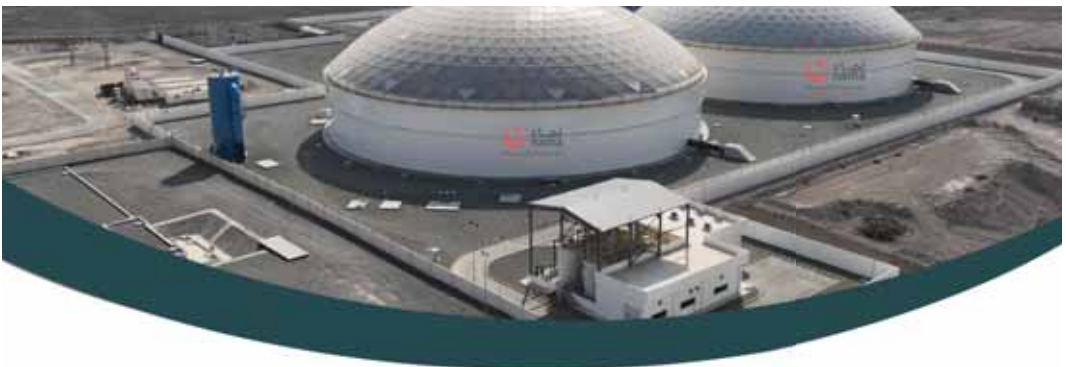


SUSTAINABLE RETURNS

OIA invests in promising firms

<FROM A1 Additionally, in the oil and gas sector, chitosan can be utilised for treating high-salinity water, a significant challenge given that industrial operations in this field produce approximately nine barrels of saline water for every barrel of oil extracted. Its use in agriculture also presents opportunities for seed coating and bio-pesticides, contributing to greater sustainability in the sector.

Environment-friendly OIA continues to invest in innovative, environmentally friendly technologies and products through its Future Generations Fund (FGF). By investing internationally, OIA seeks to localise advanced solutions to serve the Omani market. Furthermore, OIA remains committed to investing in economically promising companies to enhance FGF's revenues and ensure sustainable returns for both present and future generations. -**OMA**



Tender Notice

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders:

Tender Notice	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2685053/2025	Construction Of Secondary Water Distribution Network and House Connections In Al Qabil Wilayat	Small and Medium Enterprises (Riada Card Holder) registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	Free	27/3/2025	28/4/2025
T/2690079/2025	Extension of Water Network AL Lhehayban and AL Beseteen in Saham	Small and Medium Enterprises (Riada Card Holder) registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	Free	27/3/2025	28/4/2025
T/2693094/2025	Construction of Water Distribution Network and House Connections in Twi Amer Area in Jalan Bani Bu Hassan	Small and Medium Enterprises (Riada Card Holder) registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	Free	27/3/2025	28/4/2025
T/ 2693093/2025	Construction of Water Distribution Network and House Connections in Ibra Wilayat	Small and Medium Enterprises (Riada Card Holder) registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	Free	27/3/2025	28/4/2025
T/2693089/2025	Consultancy Services for HSE Management for Projects (A) in Muscat and Al Dhahira Governorates	Local Companies Registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies Specialized in the Works Mentioned	R.O. 1,500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	27/3/2025	5/5/2025
T/2693090/2025	Consultancy Services for HSE Management for Projects (B) in Al Dakhiliyah, Al Dhahirah, Al Wusta, North & South Al Batinah, Al Buraimi and Musandam Governorates	Local Companies Registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies Specialized in the Works Mentioned	R.O. 1,500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	27/3/2025	5/5/2025
T/2693091/2025	Consultancy Services for HSE Management for Projects (C) in Muscat, South & North Al Sharqiyah Governorates	Local Companies Registered with Government Tender Board and International Companies Specialized in the Works Mentioned	R.O. 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	27/3/2025	5/5/2025

- The tender documents can be obtained from the e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from this announcement date. The applicants shall pay the tender fee by logging into their (I-supplier Page).
- Applicants who are not registered shall register through the following link: <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/> in order to receive the login credentials of the Supplier portal.
- All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-tendering page (Supplier Login <https://nws.nama.om/en-us/Business-with-Us/Supplierlogin>).
- The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 2:00 pm on the date specified above. For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om & in case of general queries you may contact us through the email ID of tender@owwsc.nama.om



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7 Years / 250,000km Warranty

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Terms and conditions :

Prices displayed are for the starting price of 2025 models. The above offers apply to 2024 models. Insurance is available for customers above 25 years old for private registrations. Offer valid from 15th February to 30th March 2025.

TOLL FREE NUMBER

80076422

Whatsapp

72224791

Over 115,000 products seized for violations

The most prominent of these were expired products, totalling over 41,000 items, with Dhofar Governorate topping the list

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Consumer Protection Authority seized more than 115,000 violating products during 2024, covering various sectors.

The most prominent of these were expired products, totalling over 41,000 items, with Dhofar



Governorate topping the list with 48% compared to other administrations and governorates.

Additionally, the circulation of some products was banned, with over 16,000 items seized, where Dhofar ranked first with 66%.

In terms of chewing and smokeless tobacco of various types, more than 15,000 products were seized, with Muscat Governorate

leading at 43%.

Regarding clothing and products violating public decency, over 10,000 items were seized, with North Al Sharqiyah topping the list at 52%.

Moreover, the circulation of electronic cigarettes and shisha was banned with more than 7,000 products seized, where Muscat Governorate led with 99% com-

pared to other administrations.

The overall index of seized products for 2024 decreased by 18% compared to 2023.

This decline is attributed to reductions in several sectors, most notably the standards and measurements sector, which recorded a 95% decrease, the chewing and smokeless tobacco sector with a 48% decrease, and the counterfeit and imitation sector with a 49% decrease.

This decrease is attributed to the increased awareness and commitment of suppliers to the regulatory laws that safeguard consumer rights and help avoid violations.

The Consumer Protection Authority affirmed that it will spare no effort in strengthening its regulatory and inspection efforts to ensure a safe market for consumers and safeguard their rights as guaranteed by law.

It also urges consumers to report any violations observed in the markets through various communication channels.

Shura Council team discusses problems of startup owners



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Digital Economy File Study Team of the Shura Council met on Monday with several startup owners involved in Oman's digital economy ecosystem.

The meeting aimed to address the foremost challenges facing this vital sector and to explore viable solutions to support the country's digital transformation.

Discussions during the meeting centered on the obstacles that may impede digital transformation, with a particular focus on establishing a robust legislative framework.

This framework is seen as a cornerstone in creating a supportive legal environment that safeguards local investors while enhancing market competitiveness against foreign investments.

The dialogue also highlighted promising investment opportunities within the digital transformation sector, alongside various national programs designed to bol-

ster this initiative.

Participants underscored the critical need for strengthened collaboration between the public and private sectors to foster a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem.

They emphasised facilitating easier access to financing for startups, enabling them to sustain growth and drive innovation.

Furthermore, strategies for expanding into local and regional markets were examined, with entrepreneurs sharing their experiences on market entry and addressing the operational challenges that come with it.

The meeting was conducted as part of the second session of the working group, chaired by Abdullah Al-Waleed Al-Hinai, Head of the Digital Economy File Study Team at the Shura Council, and attended by several esteemed team members.

This initiative underscores the pivotal role of the digital economy as a key driver of economic development in the Sultanate of Oman.

NEW SYSTEM

Calculation of fees done accurately

<FROM A1 He explained that a new system called has been adopted, which is based on unifying lawsuit fees between the two levels of initial litigation and appeal, and is based on determining lawsuit fees on the value of the financial claim in the lawsuit.

When there are multiple requests, the fee is the re-

sult of the total request fees. The new system allows the calculation of fees accurately and transparently and is in line with the new electronic "Qada" portal, as the procedures for calculating the payment of fees are automated electronically based on the requests in the lawsuit.

In addition, the slice system speeds up the litigation process,

as it reduces the burden of estimating lawsuit fees for the judges.

Attract investment

He stressed that the new system has significantly reduced the value of lawsuit fees compared to the previous system, ensuring freedom of litigation for small and medium-sized companies, indicating that the review of the Su-

preme Council's fees comes within the framework of the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to raise the indicators of the Omani judiciary globally, improve the business environment and attract investment in order to achieve continuous growth in the business sector, and the need to provide high-quality judicial services in balance with the value and cost of the service.



>> IFTAR RECIPE

Oneza Tabish

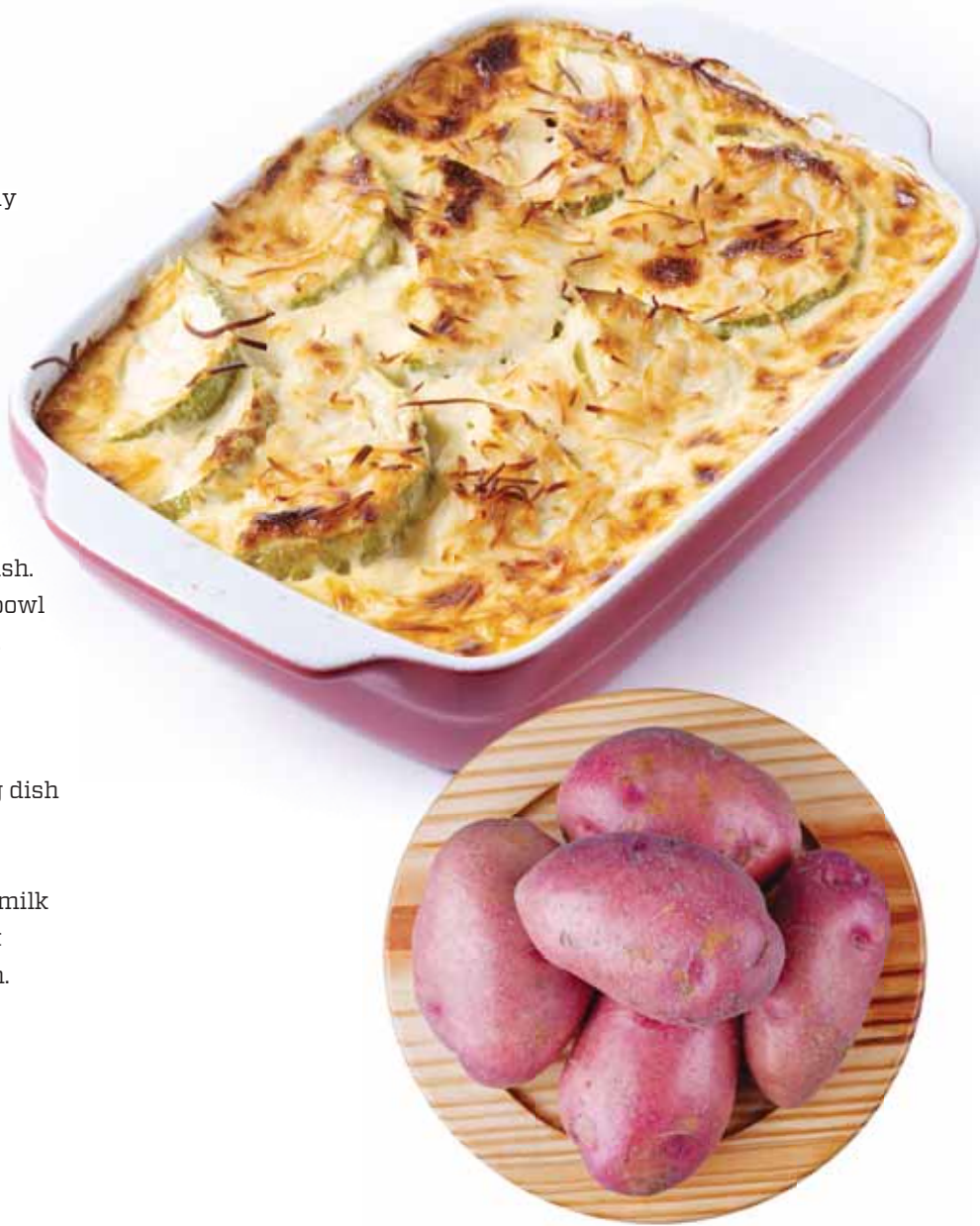
SWEET POTATO GRATIN

INGREDIENTS

- 2 sweet potatoes (sliced in thin rounds)
- 1/4 teaspoon each salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 teaspoon mixed dried herbs
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese (finely grated)
- 2 cups milk

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 C).
2. Butter or lightly oil a baking dish.
3. Place the sliced potatoes in a bowl and season with salt and pepper. Add the mixed herbs and half of the cheese.
4. Mix well.
5. Transfer to the greased baking dish and pour the milk. It should just cover the potatoes.
6. Bake for 45 minutes, until the milk is absorbed, the potatoes are soft and the top and edges are golden.
7. Sprinkle remaining cheese and top with cut tomato rounds and bake till cheese melts for another 5-7 minutes.
8. Serve hot.



>> WORDS OF WISDOM

THE PURPOSEFUL NATURE OF CREATION WITH AN INTENDED DESTINATION

"He created the heavens and earth in truth and formed you and perfected your forms; and to Him is the [final] destination" [Quran 64:3]

By reminding us all that the final destination for everyone on earth is back to Allah, the Quran emphasizes that our entire being and meaning of life revolves around this very fact: Allah has perfected us in our own unique form, and we will ultimately be returned to our Creator. By remembering that our final goal and destination should be about the return to Allah, this verse of the Quran serves as a timely source of inspiration whenever you feel lost in life.

>> FASTING HEALTH TIP

CHECK YOUR DAILY DIET



While fasting use cucumber in your daily diet in different variations. It is one of the best hydrating fruits and helps in digestion while revitalising you. You can add them to your salad, make a refreshing cold soup, or prepare a glass of smoothie.



THE DIFFERENCE...

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4TH EDITION

Private libraries, cultural centres’ excellence contest launched

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth has launched the 4th edition of the 2025 “Excellence Competition for Private Libraries and Cultural Centres”.

The contest is aimed at developing smart private libraries featuring a programme that explores ‘Open knowledge horizons’.

The launch of the 4th edition of the competition coincides with

celebrations marking the Arab Libraries Day, which falls on 10 March every year.

The completion gains significance through its role in activating libraries and civil cultural centres, which are considered major factors in the development of societies.

This year’s competition focuses on the assessment of libraries and civil cultural centres—an assess-

ment that takes shape through in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of libraries and cultural centres, based on the “open knowledge horizons” programme.

The competition aims to support libraries and private cultural centres in the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, and encourage them to develop their services through the ‘Open knowledge horizons’, keep pace

with developments in the field of libraries and information, and activate their cultural role in society through the programmes and services they provide, in addition to spreading the spirit of competition between cultural centres and libraries to provide the best in the cultural and community sector, and intensively activating the cultural movement through them. -OMA



MEETING

Performance indicators of Muscat Governorate reviewed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A meeting was held in the Muscat Governorate on Monday to review its performance during 2024 and to discuss the strategic vision and plan for the current year 2025.

During the meeting, attended by several officials, feedback on the governorate’s performance in 2024 was discussed, focusing on identifying the indicators that recorded excellent performance, and working to strengthen them.

It highlighted observations to improve aspects that require improvement, especially those based on accurate numerical statistics, enabling the governorate to create clearer and more efficient objectives next year.

The results of the key indicators of the governorate’s performance over the past year were reviewed, including the institutional commitment, supervision, and beneficiary satisfaction indicators as well as the indica-



tors of digital transformation, communication, interaction and other development projects implemented in the governorate and the relevance of the policies and programmes offered to meet the citizens needs.

During the meeting, an explanation of the 2025 performance evaluation was presented, highlighting the changes in the evaluation methodology and the weights of the relative indicators compared to previous years.

Furthermore, identifying the main priorities of work during this year, stressing the roles and responsibilities between the various departments in the governorate.

This meeting came within Muscat Governorate’s efforts to promote transparency, ensure the optimal use of public resources, and raise confidence with citizens.



National Center for Statistics and Information

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

National Center for Statistics and Information, its desire to sell a number of used electrical appliances and various purposes electronic auction through the auction website by entering the link (www.mazad.om) start from 18/3/2025 within three-day. Those wishing to participate in this auction should comply with the following steps

1. The bidders must register and sign up on the website (www.mazad.om).
2. The participants shall pay the insurance amount 500 OR electronically through the above website. The amount of the insurance shall be confiscated in case the bidders do not pay the total value of the items purchased by them within the period specified for payment.
3. The bidders shall pay the total value of the items purchased by them by electronic transfer not later than three working days after the end of the auction.
4. The bidders are required to transfer the items purchased by them by paying the full value thereof not later than five working days after the end of the auction failing which the amount of insurance paid by them shall be confiscated and Center will not be responsible for any losses or damages of the items purchased by them.

The items put on auction can be inspected by the interested as follows:

- Ministry of Education store in Ghala on 16/3/2025 from 9 am to 11 am.
- National Center for Statistics and Information store in Al-Rusayl Industrial on 17/3/2025 from 9 am to 11 am.
- National Center for Statistics and Information store in Airport Heights on 18/3/2025 from 9 am to 11 am.

More details and information about inspection of the items, the bidders can communicate through the auction website referred to above. Or through the following numbers.

Said Al-Harthy (92228385) **Mazad Oman (96568396)**



NOTICE FOR ANUUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors SALALAH MILLS CO SAOG invites its respective shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Company (“AGM”) scheduled to be held at **10:00 pm on Wednesday 26 March 2025** through the electronic platform hosting Annual General Meetings which can be accessed through Muscat Clearance and Depository Company’s website (www.mcd.gov.om) in case the number of the attendees does not meet the required quorum the Annual General Meeting will be held Friday 28 March 2025 to discuss the following agenda:

Agenda for Annual Ordinary General Meeting

1. To consider and approve the report the Board of Directors for the Company for financial year ended 31 December 2024.
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for financial year ended 31 December 2024.
3. To consider and approve the Auditors’ report on the Company’s audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
4. To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend to Shareholders as per the date of the meeting in the rate of (20 baizas for each share) for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
5. To approve the sitting fees of the Board meetings paid to the Board of Director’s members for previous financial year ended 31 December 2024 and to determine the sitting fees for the next fiscal year ending on 31December 2025 (As per Attachment).
6. To Consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of R.O (300,000) Three hundred thousand Omani Riyal as remuneration for the Board Directors of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2024.
7. To inform the shareholders about Related-Party transactions entered into by the Company during 2024 as set out in (Annexure).
8. To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the company’s social responsibilities for the year ended 31/12/2024 (as per the Annexure).
9. To discuss and approve the proposed of RO (100,000 Riyal Omani) One hundred thousand Omani riyals cash or sample for social welfare activities during financial year ended 31 December 2025.
10. To appoint the statutory auditors for the financial year ended 31 December 2025 and approve their remuneration.

In accordance with the Company’s Articles of Association and CMA’s regulations on holding annual general meetings using the electronic platform we would like to bring to your attention the following:

a) Any juridical person is entitled to authorise any other natural person to attend the meeting and vote on their behalf through the electronic platform provided that this natural person has an investor number in Muscat Clearing and Depository Company.

b) Voting on any of the agenda items mentioned in the notice commences 3 days before the date of the meeting and until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. In case the shareholder’s balance changes whether with increase or decrease the voting is cancelled and he/she shall vote again on the day the meeting.

For further information please contact Mr. ALI TALIB ALRAWAS on phone No :92037711/22996108 (LAM@SALALAH-MILLS.COM)

Chairman Ahmed Abdullah said Alrawas	Legal Advisor Mohammed Al-Barami, Advocacy & Legal	External auditor BDO
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Ramadan Iftar Program

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

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

You can donate through the following means:

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Bank Muscat
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24297960
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Notice and Invitation to Attend the Annual General Meeting

The Board of Directors of OQ GAS NETWORKS SAOG (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting , which will be held on Wednesday at 07:00 PM on 26/03/2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mod.om) . If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled,a second Annual General Meeting General Meeting shall be held on Thursday at 07:00 PM on 27/03/2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mod.om)to discuss the following agenda:

Annual Ordinary General Meeting Agendas :

1. To consider and approve the Chairman's Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 year (as per attachment).

2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 (as per the attachment).

3. To consider and approve the Auditor's Report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 year (as per the attachment).

4. To consider and approve the proposed cash dividend to the shareholders, as on the date of the meeting, amounting to 4.92 baisa for each share for the second half of the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

5. To inform the shareholders of the outcome of the Board of Directors Evaluation for the year ended on 31 December 2024.

6. To approve the sitting fees of the Board of Directors and sub-committees payable to the Board of Directors for the previous financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the next financial year (as per attachment).

7. To consider and approve the proposal of distributing the total sum of RO 150,000 as remuneration for the Board of Directors of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

8. To inform the shareholders about Related Parties Transactions entered into during the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and the transactions it expects to be entered in the current year that will end on 31 December 2025

9. To inform the shareholders about the Corporate Social Responsibility Expenditure during the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

10. To consider and approve the proposal of allocating RO 200,000 as Corporate Social Responsibility Expenditure for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.

11. To elect one new member of the Board of Directors of OQ Gas Networks SAOG. Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director's Nomination Form and email (legal@oqgn.om). The completed Nomination Form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) business days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Company (no later than the end of business hours on Wednesday, 19 March 2025). Nomination forms received after such date will not be accepted. The candidate must satisfy the company's board membership requirements.

12. To appoint the Auditors for the Company for the year ending 31 December 2025, and approve their fee.

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

1. Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.

2. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 98560941 or email: legal@oqgn.om

CANADA

HM sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Mark Carney on the occasion of him winning the race to be the Prime Minister of Canada. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to the PM in realising aspirations of further prosperity and stability for the people of Canada. His Majesty also wished the bilateral relations of partnership and cooperation further development in various fields. -ONA



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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders: -

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2025/026	Hiring of Water Tankers on Rental Basis for Dhalkout Area Dhofar Region	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	26.250
DISC/2025/027	Hiring of Water Tankers on Rental Basis for Al-Mazouna Area, Dhofar Region	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/028	Hiring of Water Tankers on Rental Basis for Rakhyut Area (Shahb Asaib), Dhofar Region	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/029	Hiring of Water Tankers on Rental Basis for (Kaftatah, Safaq & Hamran) Salalah Area	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/030	Hiring of Water Tankers on Rental Basis for Tawi Ateer Area, Dhofar Region	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/031	Hiring of Water Tankers on Rental Basis for Thumrait &Shaleem and Muqshin Area	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/032	Hiring of Water Tanker on Rental Basis for Mirbat, Taqa and Sadah Area, Dhofar Region	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2025/033	Deployment of Owner's Engineers for Water & Wastewater Planning Activities	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500
DISC/2024/121-2	Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision of Construction of new store	25-Mar-2025	06-Apr-2025	52.500

To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F

Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.

The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 03:00 pm of the last day for submitting Bids.

Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.

The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding "Riyada" card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.

The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.

In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



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Muscat Gases Company SAOG
PO Box 11, PC 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: 22526900, Email: info@muscatgas.com



NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of MUSCAT GASES SAOG (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting , which will be held on **Wednesday at 03:00 PM on 26/03/2025**, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) and will be held in this location (Online) . If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting shall be held on Wednesday at 03:00 PM on 02/04/2025, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) and will be held in this location (Online) to discuss the following agenda.

Annual Ordinary General Meeting Agendas:

1. To consider and approve the Report of the Board of Directors for the financial year ended on 31/12/2024.

2. To consider and approve the board of directors on the company's Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended on 31/12/2024.

3. To consider the auditor's report and approve the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the financial year ended on 31/12/2024.

4. To approve the sitting fees of the Board and Committee meetings paid to the Board Members for the previous financial year and to determine the sitting fees for the upcoming financial year (as per the annexure).

5. To consider the related parties transactions entered by the Company during the financial year ended 31/12/2024 (as per attachment)

6. To consider the amounts allocated and spent for the company's social responsibilities for the year ended on 31/12/2024 (as per the Annexure).

7. To consider and approve the allocation of an amount of OMR 3,000 for the corporate social responsibility program, for the year ending on 31/12/ 2025 .

8. The appointment of the Auditors for the Company for the financial year ending 31/12/ 2025 and approve their fees.

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

1. Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.

2. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on
telephone No 91239958 or email: Salim.d@muscatgas.com

Chairman
Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan

Legal Advisor
Rajab AlKathiri & Associates

External Auditor
BDO



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7

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JAN 2025

Over 1mn passengers travel through airports in Oman



MUSCAT: The total number of passengers travelling through the airports of the Sultanate of Oman by the end of January 2025 reached 1,331,619.

Meanwhile, the total number of flights landing and departing from the airports of Oman by the end of January 2025 reached 8,983 flights, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The number of passengers through Muscat International Airport by the end of January 2025 reached 1,200,339 , comprising a decrease of 7%, of which 1,109,650 were international pas-

sengers and 90,689 were domestic passengers.

The number of flights through Muscat International Airport by the end of January 2025 reached 8,099 flights, of which 7,410 were international flights and 689 were domestic flights.

Indian nationals topped the number of passengers through Muscat International Airport by the end of January 2025, with 90,081 passenger arrivals and 86,762 passenger departures, followed by Omani nationals reaching 62,255 incoming passengers and 74,104 departures, and the Pakistani nationality with 30,355 arriving passengers and 25,377

departures.

The number of passengers through Salalah Airport reached 126,506 passengers, constituting an increase of 5%.

The passengers travelled on board 822 flights, rising by 1.6 percent.

The number of international flights through Salalah Airport reached 404 flights, carrying 59,429 passengers, while the number of domestic flights reached 418 flights, with 67,077 passengers on board.

The number of domestic passengers through Duqm Airport reached 4,774 passengers on 52 flights. -ONA



الغاز الوطنية
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NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of National Gas Company SAOG (the “Company”) has the pleased to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on 25th of March 2025 via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. website (www.mcd.om) and will be held in this location (Online). If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting shall be held on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. on 27th of March 2025 via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the Website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.om) and will be held in this location (Online) to discuss the following agenda:

Annual Ordinary General Meeting Agendas:

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors’ Report on the Company’s activities and its financial position for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (as per the attached annexure).
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Reportof the Company for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (as per the attached annexure).
- To consider and approve the auditor’s report on the Company’s audited financial statements for the year ended on 31 December 2024 (as per the attached annexure).
- To ratify the sitting fees paid to the Board of Directors and Board Sub-Committees for the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 and determine their sitting fees for the financial year ending on 31 December 2025 (as per the attached annexure).
- To ratify the general assembly of the related party transactions entered into by the Company during the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (as per the attached annexure).
- To consider and approve the related party transactions which will be entered into by the Company during the financial year ending on 31 December 2025 (as per the attached annexure).
- To notify the general assembly of the contributions made to support community services during the financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (as per the attached annexure).
- To consider and approve the proposal to allocate up to RO 10000 to support community services during the financial year ending on 31 December 2025.
- To consider and approve the evaluation report on performance of the Board of Directors forthe financial year ended on 31 December 2024 (as per the attached annexure).
- To appoint the external auditor for the financial year ending on 31 December 2025 and determine their fees (as per the attached annexure).

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

(1) Legal person, exclusively, hase the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on it’s behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.

(2) Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the general meeting and until the voting process ends on the day of the General meeting. If the shareholder’s shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the general meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 95470157 or email: noor.alhabsi@nationalgasco.net

Abdulla Suleiman Hamed Al Harthy
Chairman

Crowe Mak Ghazali LLC
External Auditors

Said Al-Shahry and Partners-
Advocates & Legal Consultants (Civil Advocacy Company)
Legal Advisors



تاجير للتحويل
Taageer Finance
Co SAOG

Invitation and Agenda to the Annual General Meeting of Taageer Finance Company SAOG

The Board of Directors of Taageer Finance Company SAOG (the “Company”) has the pleasure to invite the Shareholders of the Company to the Annual General Meeting to be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 on the e-portal for convening general meetings which you may access through the Muscat Clearing and Depository SAOC (“MCD”) website (www.mcd.gov.om).

Failing quorum of the AGM, a second AGM shall be convened on Thursday, 27 March 2025, at 7 p.m., on the e-portal for convening general meetings which you may access through the MCD website (www.mcd.gov.om), to discuss and consider the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Directors’ Report for the Company’s activity and its financial position during the financial year ended December 31, 2024.
- To consider and approve the Report on Corporate Governance for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To consider and approve the Auditor’s report and the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To ratify the payment of sitting fees to the Board of Directors and Sub-Committees for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and to determine the sitting fees of the Board of Directors and Sub-Committees for the next financial year 31 December 2025 (Annexure 1).
- To notify the General Assembly with transactions carried out with related parties during financial year 31 December 2024 (Annexure 2).
- To notify the General Assembly of donations disbursed to support community services during the financial year end 31 December 2024 (Annexure 3).
- To consider and approve the allocation of a budget of RO 50,000/- (Omani Rials Fifty thousand only) during the financial year ending 31 December 2025 as corporate social responsibility initiative.
- To consider the proposal to determine and distribute cash dividend of 8 Baisas per share to the Company’s Shareholders on the date of this meeting for the financial year ending 31 December 2024.
- To consider and approve the distribution of free shares to the shareholders as of the date of the general meeting amounting 3% of the company’s capital (3 shares for 100 shares). The distribution of the free shares would increase the company shares form (271,090,499) to (279,223,213)
- To consider and approve the proposal to distribute free shares to the shareholders on the date of the meeting in amount of 3 Baisas per share for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To consider the payment of Directors’ remuneration for an amount of RO 171,000/- (Omani Rials One Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand only) for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.
- To appoint the statutory auditors of the Company for the financial year ending December 31, 2025, and approve their fees.
- To elect one (1) new director of the Company to fill the vacancy in the Board from the shareholders and non-shareholders.

Any person who wishes to be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Company is required to fill in a Director’s Nomination Form. Such a form can be obtained from the Company. The completed Form should be delivered to the Company at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company (by the end of business hours on Thursday, March 20, 2025. The Company will not accept any application received after this date.

According to the Commercial Companies Law and the Rules for Convening General Meetings via Electronic Means issued by CMA, we would like to call your attention to the following:

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

Please log on to the e-portal at least 30 minutes prior to the AGM

For more information, please contact **Mr. Mustafa Al Lawati of Taageer Finance Company. SAOG, on telephone no. (+968-24839810).**

Chairman

Board Secretary



دولة عمان
DHOFAR TOURISM

DHOFAR TOURISM COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box: 2808, P.C. 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. Tel. 23275500

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of myself and the members of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you and present to you the Board of Directors report for Dhofar Tourism Company SAOG (the Company)’s year-end 31 December 2024.

The Company

The Company owns two million square meters of land at Mirbat, with one mile of beautiful beaches for development under the Integrated Tourism Complex license. The land is located close to the historical Mirbat town and harbour. The property features outstanding five-star hotel facilities, comprising 186 rooms and 51 chalets, with additional land available for future development opportunities.

Significant developments are forthcoming as the newly reconstituted Board has assumed leadership between July 2023. The Board is embarking on a strategic initiative to transform the Company into a profitable entity. After encountering considerable financial difficulties from 2015 to 2022, we are committed to emerging more vigorously than ever.

We have implemented decisive actions to restructure our management team, ensuring that our internal controls and operational procedures comply with standards and excel in effectiveness. Our dedicated new management team is highly motivated and prepared to confront future challenges, working diligently to establish a foundation for a robust and successful recovery. We invite stakeholders to stay informed as we prepare to make a significant impact in the coming years.

Our Vision

Dhofar Tourism Company envisions a future where we align our efforts with Vision 2040 and collaborate closely with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to elevate the tourism sector in Oman, particularly in Dhofar. We are fully committed to contributing to the growth of this vital industry through the development and marketing of our Tourism Development Project, “Mirbatour”. This project will create a unique destination and serve as a hospitality hub in Mirbat, enriching the local community by generating employment and stimulating economic activities. The benefits of Mirbatour will resonate throughout the Dhofar region, reflecting our dedication to fostering a thriving tourism landscape.

Wyndham Garden Mirbat Resort

In October 2021, the Company entered into a franchise agreement with Wyndham Garden. This partnership allows the Company to operate the Mirbat Resort per Wyndham Garden’s established standard operating procedures and service levels. This agreement aims to develop a prestigious resort that meets international quality standards in Mirbat.

We are collaborating closely with the Dhofar Governorate and Municipality to promote and enhance tourism activities in the Mirbat region throughout the three tourist seasons: Winter, Khareef, and Sarb.

We are pleased to announce that the resort successfully attracted many guests during the winter tourist season, which commenced in October 2024 and will continue until April 2025. Additionally, the resort experienced a busy Khareef and Sarb season in 2024, with occupancy rates increasing by 75% compared to 40% in the previous year.

Tourism Development Project (Mirbatour)

The master plan for the Mirbatour project is undergoing a significant update, accompanied by a comprehensive new feasibility study. The Company has appointed F&M Middle East as the engineering consultant to redesign the Master Plan and develop a robust marketing and financial feasibility study. We aim to establish a profitable and exceptional project in Mirbat, spanning two million square meters. We will create the optimal mix of commercial, residential, and hospitality facilities to attract investors from Oman, the Gulf region, and beyond. This initiative aims to position Mirbat as a distinctive destination that stands out on the map.

The contract amount for F&M Middle East stands at OMR 262,500. Due to a range of unforeseen circumstances, the completion of the project has faced delays, leading F&M Middle East to suspend work and issue a dispute notice. As a result, we will be appointing a different engineering firm to finalise the remaining tasks. We aim to ensure the detailed master plans for the integrated tourism complex project are completed by the third quarter of 2025.

The Mirbatour project will be executed in a phased manner. In light of the current funding constraints faced by the Company, we have established arrangements for temporary funding from a related party (Dolphin International LLC), ensuring these arrangements are made on an arm’s length basis. This approach will help maintain the project’s momentum while we work diligently to secure additional funding.

We are also planning a rights issue of capital in 2025, intending that the funds raised will be directed towards the development of the Mirbatour. Furthermore, we have appointed a Chief Executive Officer and Vice President oversee the initiatives and ensure successful implementation.

The Mirbatour project aspires to promote tourism and create job opportunities in the stunning Dhofar region, particularly in Mirbat. This initiative attracts a diverse range of investors, visitors, tourists, business travellers, and long-term residents by offering a perfect combination of luxurious yet affordable properties.

Performance during the period

For the year ending 31 December 2024, the income from operations reached OMR 1,673,942, reflecting a 62% increase from OMR 1,034,217 in 2023. However, it is essential to note that the net loss was OMR 632,765, in contrast to OMR 758,747 in the previous year. Additionally, the cash loss before interest costs were recorded at OMR 495,346, compared to OMR 686,206 in 2023. Furthermore, the Company’s net assets experienced a slight decrease, from OMR 473 million in 2023 to OMR 46.8 million as of 31 December 2024.

During the year 2024, we observed an improvement in occupancy rates, achieving an average of 44% compared to 30% in 2023. Of the total 237 rooms and chalets, 162 were occupied by the end of 2024. We are pleased to report that the maintenance of the previously unutilised rooms and chalets has been completed, and now all accommodations are available for our guests.

We are actively taking measures to drive the Company towards profitability and significantly reduce accumulated losses. This will be accomplished by increasing hotel occupancy and generating revenue by implementing the Mirbatour project master plan.

Our Organisation Percentage, at 30% of our workforce, proudly reflects our commitment to empowering local talent.

Internal Control and Corporate Governance

The Board of Directors and management are committed to maintaining a robust internal control system, which is rigorously overseen by the external auditor in full compliance with the regulations the Financial Services Authority set forth. A distinct Corporate Governance Report is included as an integral part of our annual report.

Our Collaborations

Dhofar Tourism Company proudly partners with the UNESCO Chair for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in the Arab World, alongside other leading experts, to champion sustainable tourism in Oman. By leveraging technology and innovation, we are committed to preserving and reinterpreting our rich heritage.

This prestigious event elevates tourism in Mirbat and firmly establishes Dhofar on the global equestrian map. The event’s success received extensive media coverage, further amplifying its impact.

Acknowledgements

The Board would like to take this opportunity to express its heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed Shareholders of Dhofar Tourism Company SAOG for their trust and confidence in the Company and its Board.

We also sincerely thank the Dhofar Governorate, the various Ministries, the Financial Services Authority, and all Government Departments for supporting the Company.

Fatma Youssef Alawi Al Ibrahim
Chairperson,
Dhofar Tourism Co. (SAOG)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 RO	2023 RO
ASSETS		
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	27,843,693	28,273,804
Investment property	28,700,000	28,700,000
	56,543,693	56,973,804
Current assets		
Inventories	33,284	19,852
Trade and other receivables	384,152	221,714
Amount due from related party	153,888	
Cash and bank balances	53,031	79,272
	624,355	320,838
Total assets	57,168,048	57,294,642
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	14,160,000	27,950,000
Legal reserve	448,607	448,607
Special reserve	80,848	80,848
Revaluation reserve	34,013,698	34,013,698
Accumulated losses	(1,982,314)	(14,515,545)
Total equity	46,720,839	47,977,608
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Non-current portion of term loans	1,473,123	1,473,821
Deferred tax liabilities	5,828,037	5,794,454
Employees’ end of service benefits	66,959	60,469
	7,368,119	7,318,744
Current liabilities		
Current portion of term loans	652,688	651,990
Bank overdraft	404,921	257,700
Trade and other payables	912,110	575,320
Due to related parties	62,253	1,162
Loan from a related party	1,047,118	512,118
	3,079,090	1,998,290
Total liabilities	10,447,209	9,317,034
Total equity and liabilities	57,168,048	57,294,642
Net assets per share	3.299	3.388

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 RO	2023 RO
Income from operations	1,673,941	1,034,217
Direct costs	(1,541,447)	(1,355,454)
Gross profit / (loss)	132,494	(321,237)
Other income	10,864	48,391
Fair value gain on investment properties	-	520,000
Business promotion expenses	(228,494)	-
General and administrative expenses	(370,344)	(364,969)
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	(590,416)	(605,714)
Finance costs	(177,290)	(120,933)
Loss before income tax	(1,223,186)	(844,462)
Deferred income tax	(33,583)	126,595
Net loss for the year	(1,256,769)	(717,867)
Other comprehensive income		
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment	-	170,000
Deferred tax on revaluation surplus	-	(25,500)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(1,256,769)	(573,367)
Loss per share - basic and diluted	(0.089)	(0.051)

SPORTS

India set for global dominance over next eight years: Kohli



The star batter believes the team is poised to remain at the top for years to come, with a new generation leading the charge in ICC tournaments

DUBAI: After securing a hard-fought victory in the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday, Virat Kohli expressed immense confidence in India's future, stating that the team is "ready to take on the world" for the next eight years. Speaking candidly during the celebrations, Kohli reflected on India's triumph and the team's promising trajectory, saying, "When you leave, you want to

leave the team in a better place, and I feel we've got a squad that's ready to take on the world for the next eight years." Kohli, widely regarded as one of the finest batters in the world, highlighted the impressive performances from the younger players in the team. "Shubman [Gill] has been outstanding, Shreyas [Iyer] has been beautiful, KL [Rahul] has finished games, and Hardik [Pandya] has been superb with the bat," he added, singling out these key players for their contributions. The veteran cricketer's confidence is rooted in the fact that India's next generation has already made their mark in major tournaments, setting the stage for sustained success on the global stage. While celebrating India's Champions Trophy win, Kohli also took a moment to reflect on India's earlier disappointment during their Test series loss in Australia. "It's been amazing," Kohli said. "We wanted to bounce back after a tough Australian tour, and we wanted to win a big tournament. We ended up doing that, so it's an amazing feeling."

Standing alongside Shubman Gill during the post-match celebrations, Kohli was asked about his legacy and the team's future once he eventually moves on. With a smile, he responded, "There's so much talent in the dressing room. They're trying to take their game further, and we [seniors] are just happy to be of help, sharing our experience. That's what makes this Indian team so strong." For Kohli, it's not just about individual accolades but about the collective strength of the squad. "These are the things you want to play for - titles, playing under pressure, and putting your hand up when it matters," he said. "The whole team, everyone has put their hands up at some point during the tournament. Everyone has made impactful performances, and we've been part of an amazing team. The amount of work we've put in during practice sessions has been immense, and it feels great to see that pay off." Despite India's victory, Kohli had words of appreciation for New Zealand, acknowledging their incredible consistency and dedication. "We've always been in awe of what they can do with the limited

number of players they have, and how they maximise their talent," Kohli said. "Every time we've played against them in big games, we knew they would come with a set plan. No team in world cricket executes plans as well as they do." Kohli also praised New Zealand's exceptional fielding, calling them "easily the best fielding side in the world." "Credit to them for being the most consistent team in the last few tournaments. The reason for that is the immense belief they have in their skills. They utilise the talent they have to the maximum." He also had a heartfelt message for his good friend, Kane Williamson, saying, "It's sad to see a very good friend on the losing side, but I've been on the losing side a couple of times when he has been on the winning side, so only love between us." As Kohli eyes the future, his belief in India's ability to dominate world cricket for the next eight years signals a new era for Indian cricket, one led by a talented group of players ready to continue the team's legacy on the international stage. - Agencies

Skipper Rohit quashes ODI retirement rumours



DUBAI: Skipper Rohit Sharma has firmly dismissed any retirement speculation, reaffirming his commitment to one-day international cricket after guiding India to their third Champions Trophy title on Sunday. "I'm not going to retire from this format (ODI), just to make sure that no rumours are spread going forward," Rohit declared in the post-match press conference after India secured win over New Zealand. Reflecting on his journey, Rohit said, "There's no future plan; what is happening will keep happening in ODI cricket. We are just focused on the here and now, and this victory is a result of everything falling into place." Rohit also took the opportunity to praise his teammates for their collective effort in the tournament. "It's a great team achievement to win two ICC trophies and go undefeated. I've seen very few teams that have managed to do that. The most important thing was that we came prepared, used the conditions well, and played the opposition effectively," he explained. A standout performance came from KL Rahul, who

kept his composure during a tense chase, remaining unbeaten on 34 off 33 balls. Rohit lauded Rahul's ability to remain calm under pressure: "Again, a very solid mind. He never gets overawed by pressure around him, which is why we wanted him in the middle phase to finish off games. His class brings calmness to the team." Rohit's own contribution was pivotal in India's chase of 252. His quick-fire 49 off 40 balls set the tone, adding 105 runs with Shubman Gill for the first wicket before he was dismissed for 76 off 83 balls. He attributed his aggressive approach to India's strong batting depth: "It gives you freedom. With players like Jadeja at No. 8, you can afford to attack from the outset." Rohit also acknowledged the role of India's spinners in the team's success. Varun Chakravarthy, a late inclusion in the squad, was instrumental, finishing as the second-highest wicket-taker with nine wickets at an average of 15.11. "Varun has something different about him. His ability to adapt to challenging conditions made him a key asset for us," said Rohit. - Agencies



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by May 2025 reaching \$71.37, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 61 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$70.76. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,406.16 points, down by 0.32% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09% at 402.40 points. Muscat Insurance, up 9.66%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.83%, was the top loser.

Omantel Group reports strong financial growth

Omantel's revenues grew by 2.7% to reach OMR622.6 million, compared to OMR606.5 million reported in the same period of 2023

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Telecommunications Company Group (MSX: OTEL) reported remarkable growth following the announcement of 2024 financial results, with the group's revenue (including Zain Group's operations) rising by 3% from OMR2942.7 million at the end of year 2023 to OMR3,030.1 million in 2024.



Despite the marginal decline in the group's net profit of 2.8% from OMR315.5 million in 2023 to OMR306.8 in 2024, Omantel Group's net profit attributable to the shareholders of the company (after excluding the non-controlling interest) grew by 4.4% to OMR78.1 million in 2024 compared to OMR74.8 million in 2023.

Omantel's performance:
At the level of domestic opera-

tions, Omantel's revenues grew by 2.7% to reach OMR622.6 million, compared to OMR606.5 million reported in the same period of 2023. This growth was driven by mobile postpaid segment revenue growth, which increased by 6%, and fixed broadband revenues, which increased by 7% YoY. The Net Profit of the domestic operations for 2024 stands at OMR69.4 million compared to OMR68.1 million in the previ-

ous period, a growth of 1.9%. This growth was driven by positive impact of the settlement of a financial claim related to services provided by Omantel prior to 2020.

Zain Group performance
Zain Group's revenues for the year ended 31st December 2024 reached OMR2,466.9 million compared to OMR2,361.4 million in the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of 4.47%. EBITDA stands at OMR861.4 mn, compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of OMR871.2 million. Net profit stands at OMR313.9 million compared to OMR359.7 million of the previous period. Omantel Board of Directors recommended to the Company's Annual General Meeting that will be held on 27 March to distribute a cash dividend of 55 Baiza per share for the year ended 31 December 2024 (subject to shareholders' approval), in addition to allocating OMR750,000 for community service during the year 2025.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Opaz floats tender for integrated cold chain logistics project in Duqm

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) has invited specialised and experienced companies to participate in the consultancy services tender for the Integrated Economic Cluster for Cold Chain Logistics, which the authority plans to establish in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad).

Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akkaak, CEO of Sezad, stated that the new project aims to develop an integrated infrastructure for cold chain logistics, improve the efficiency of the cold chain, enhance the competitiveness of Omani exports, and support economic diversification.

He affirmed that the Integrated Cold Chain Hub aims to enhance the capabilities of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm in storing and distributing perishable goods, such as food products and pharmaceuticals, with high efficiency. This will help reduce waste and improve product quality.

He explained that the project focuses on boosting the competitiveness of Omani exports by providing an integrated infrastructure that enables Omani products to meet international standards in this field, thereby facilitating their entry into global markets. Additionally, the project aims to support economic diversification and stimulate the logistics services sector within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm features a comprehensive infrastructure that supports the success of the new project, including the Fisheries Port, Duqm Port, and Duqm Airport, as well as an advanced network of dual and single-carriageway roads covering various investment areas, residential communities,



and tourist sites in the region. Furthermore, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones offers incentives to investors.

He highlighted the numerous economic benefits of the project, in addition to its crucial role in attracting foreign investments and creating more job opportunities for Omani youth. He added that the Special Economic Zone at Duqm is strategically located on the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, near major international shipping routes, making it an ideal location for the Integrated Cold Chain Hub.

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones has set 18 March as the deadline for purchasing the tender documents, which have been made available through the 'Esnad' electronic procurement platform under the General Secretariat of the Tender Board. The deadline for submitting proposals has been set for 17 April.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR37.60mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR37.60 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR5.4 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.708 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at RO 99.705 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 3.80208% and 3.81322%, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR 32.2 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.974



for every OMR 100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR 98.970 per OMR 100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.11438% and 4.15702%, respectively.

Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The

Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 5.00% while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 5.50%.

Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

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Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579846/47; Al Mawelah: 93204360; Barka: 93201347; Nizwa: 99874368; Sohar: 92837722; Sur: 25546190/93204360; Rustaq: 92869449; Salalah: 23211460/99884217. Saturday Showroom Timing: Muscat, Al Mawelah, Barka, Sohar & Salalah from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Muscat Insurance, up 9.66%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.83%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,406.16 points, down by 0.32% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09% at 402.40 points. Muscat Insurance, up 9.66%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.83%, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 738 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO1.94 million, with more than 9.22 million shares changing hands. Out of 54 traded securities, 11 advanced, 22 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 554K while domestic investors were net sellers for RO 447K, followed by foreign investors for RO 106K worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,688.21 points, down 0.42%. Prices of Muscat Insurance were up by 9.66% respectively. Prices

of Financial Corporation, Oman & Emirates Investment, Muscat Finance, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful were down by 6.98%, 3.13%, 2.08%, 1.41%, 1.18% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,756.69 points, down 0.63%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy were up by 2.50%, 1.04%, 0.87% respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Oman Cement, Oman Cables Industry, Jazeera Steel Products were down by 4.55%, 3.61%, 1.25%, 0.50% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.43% before closing at 1,612.53 points. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination, Al Batinah Power, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were up by 2.27%, 1.54%, 0.81%, 0.61% respectively. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, SMN Power Holding, Ooredoo, Al Maha Markting, Oman National Engineering were down by 9.83%, 2.94%, 2.04%, 0.97%, 0.82% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,420.89	4,405.36	4,406.16	4,420.35	-14.20	-0.32
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,730.82	7,683.58	7,688.21	7,720.39	-32.18	-0.42
Industry Index	5,800.22	5,720.61	5,756.69	5,793.33	-36.64	-0.63
Services Index	1,620.54	1,610.55	1,612.53	1,619.42	-6.89	-0.43
MSX Shariah Index	404.06	400.31	402.40	402.05	0.35	0.09
MSX TR INDEX	6,193.61	6,171.86	6,172.97	6,192.86	-19.89	-0.32
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,783.00	8,729.34	8,734.60	8,771.16	-36.56	-0.42
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,692.08	6,600.22	6,641.85	6,684.12	-42.28	-0.63
SERVICES TR IDX	1,943.46	1,931.48	1,933.86	1,942.12	-8.27	-0.43
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,223,307	1,941,949	738	27,191,255,925	11	22	21	54

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MARCH 10

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	2,608	311	4	0.117	0.123	0.117	0.123	0.120	0.003	2.500	0.123	0.116	0.132	0.100	27,060,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	166,020	10,957	11	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.100	44,542,570
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	575,408	141,655	72	0.246	0.248	0.245	0.248	0.246	0.002	0.813	0.248	0.246	0.270	0.100	191,009,600
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	316,241	258,150	37	0.815	0.823	0.814	0.820	0.815	0.005	0.613	0.820	0.816	0.820	0.100	615,000,000
OM0000002274	UNITED FINANCE	150,000	9,000	2	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	21,367,638
OM0000003388	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	108,661	13,762	6	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.100	840,390,276
OM0000004735	SEMBOOP SALALAH	26,100	2,349	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	85,911,476
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	247,650	15,838	14	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	45,722,006
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	137,701	45,933	25	0.336	0.336	0.333	0.336	0.336	-0.001	-0.298	0.336	0.334	0.335	0.100	223,902,418
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	3,007	857	1	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.286	0.286	0.001	-0.350	0.285	0.000	0.297	0.100	463,394,711
OM0000001987	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	5,100	1,239	2	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.244	-0.001	-0.410	0.243	0.000	0.243	0.100	24,300,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	1,115	438	2	0.392	0.398	0.392	0.398	0.400	-0.002	-0.500	0.398	0.390	0.398	0.100	49,709,388
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	8,613	2,970	3	0.345	0.345	0.343	0.343	0.345	-0.002	-0.580	0.343	0.343	0.345	0.100	81,088,630
OM0000009072	QOGAS NETWORKS	865,982	111,890	73	0.129	0.130	0.128	0.129	0.129	0.001	-0.775	0.128	0.128	0.129	0.100	554,319,862
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,328,247	585,506	56	0.257	0.258	0.255	0.255	0.257	-0.002	-0.778	0.255	0.257	0.255	0.100	1,914,131,231
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	60,835	7,402	3	0.122	0.122	0.121	0.121	0.122	-0.001	-0.820	0.121	0.121	0.125	0.100	18,150,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	43,726	3,805	7	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.087	0.089	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	254,290	21,395	19	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	150,157	28,910	32	0.196	0.196	0.190	0.192	0.196	-0.004	-2.041	0.192	0.192	0.193	0.100	124,981,292
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	30,731	1,910	4	0.069	0.069	0.062	0.062	0.064	-0.002	-3.125	0.062	0.062	0.070	0.100	7,556,250
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	124,655	59,868	26	0.497	0.498	0.480	0.480	0.498	-0.018	-3.614	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.100	158,815,901
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	20,000	10,732	10	0.540	0.540	0.532	0.532	0.590	-0.058	-9.851	0.532	0.531	0.540	0.100	50,540,000
Total	22	5,624,817	1,344,869	414												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	1,000	352	1	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.352	0.321	0.031	9.657	0.352	0.000	0.352	1.000	3,980,616
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	400	50	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.120	0.005	4.167	0.125	0.116	0.125	0.100	73,929,610
OM0000004689	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	66,113	8,904	9	0.136	0.136	0.133	0.135	0.132	0.003	2.273	0.135	0.134	0.135	0.100	13,203,292
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	17,285	10,025	4	0.575	0.580	0.575	0.580	0.575	0.005	0.870	0.580	0.540	0.615	0.100	47,213,595
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	683,111	218,335	87	0.321	0.321	0.318	0.320	0.319	0.001	0.313	0.320	0.310	0.320	0.100	101,025,600,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	4,354	12,962	9	2.700	3.000	2.700	3.000	3.000	0.000	0.000	3.000	3.000	3.300	1.000	9,900,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	29,018	2,234	6	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.078	0.100	6,545,000
OM0000001902	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	34	76	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.048	0.100	3,740,000
OM0000003028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	16,440	1,214	3	0.078	0.078	0.073	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.073	0.075	0.100	1,575,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	936	168	1	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180	0.000	0.187	0.100	771,738
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	20,000	4,800	2	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.238	0.241	0.100	10,983,792
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	5,290	3,840	1	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.730	0.000	0.000	0.730	0.000	0.729	0.100	44,730,750
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV.	1,160	1,195	1	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.030	1.030	0.000	0.000	1.030	1.030	0.000	0.100	72,100,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	38,801	5,238	4	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.130	0.140	0.100	77,450,078
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	85,300	6,151	10	0.075	0.075	0.070	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.072	0.075	0.100	15,222,983
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	208,000	20,800	6	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	149,000	18,327	1	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.000	0.123	0.100	6,765,000
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	122,386	7,343	4	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.068	0.100	87,756,088
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	24,700	1,828	5	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.070	0.077	0.100	37,638,716
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	1,000	1,020	1	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.020	1.030	-0.010	-0.971	1.020	1.024	0.000	0.100	70,380,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SPT)	994,162	100,235	51	0.101	0.102	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.040	345,949,085
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,628	628	2	2.370	2.420	2.370	2.370	2.400	-0.030	-1.250	2.420	2.420	2.420	0.100	212,580,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	235,506	16,540	14	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	20,237,215
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	177,902	8,191	10	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.048	0.001	-2.083	0.047	0.046	0.048	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000004048	SNM POWER HOLDING	339,581	11,841	55	0.338	0.338	0.327	0.330	0.340	-0.011	-2.941	0.333	0.333	0.333	0.100	45,979,748
OM0000001000	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	6,986	6,986	4	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.000	0.000	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.100	4,484,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	162,500	6,500	2	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.043	-0.003	-6.977	0.040	0.039	0.047	0.100	2,801,198
Total	27	33,936,326	5,755,741	295												



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LIFESTYLE

NEW STUDY DELVES DEEPER TO DECODE COGNITIVE DECLINE IN WOMEN

Alzheimer's disease, the most common type of dementia, currently affects twice as many women as men, with minority populations predicted to witness the most significant increase in cases in the coming years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sleep disturbances are well-known in dementia, although they were previously interpreted as an effect of the disease rather than the cause. However, increasing evidence links sleep disorders to the development of dementia.

In a bid to better understand the relationship between sleep and cognitive outcomes in women, scientists at the Scripps Research Digital Trials Center have launched the Research Framework for Sleep Health - Neurocognitive Outcomes in Women Study. The study aims to assess the impact of sleep duration and sleep irregularity on neurocognition in women who are 55 years of age or older through data collected via activity trackers and a smartphone application.

Led by Stuti Jaiswal, MD, PhD, a physician-scientist specialising in sleep research, REFRESH-NOW will use wrist-worn activity trackers and smartwatches to gather longitudinal sleep data over a three year period.

"Wearables have the potential to revolutionize sleep research. While polysomnography is generally regarded as the gold standard for gathering sleep measurements, it only provides a snapshot of a person's sleep characteristics based on data collected during a night spent in a sleep laboratory," Jaiswal says.

"That tool requires a person be hooked up to many different wires and sensors in a sleep laboratory, which is not a person's natural sleep environment. On the other hand, commercially available activity trackers collect data passively making it very simple for people to participate in sleep research from the comfort of their own home and to share real-world data with researchers over months or even years."

Scientists will also gather information related to sleep habits, sleep apnea risk and decision-making through surveys available via the app. At multiple intervals, participants will be invited to take part in an at-home cognitive battery assessment designed to allow the study team to gain a better understanding of the participant's cognitive state and function.

By identifying sleep-related risk factors for cognitive decline, researchers hope to design interventions to improve cognitive outcomes in women. - **ANI**

The study aims to assess the impact of sleep duration and sleep irregularity on neurocognition in women who are 55 years of age or older through data collected via activity trackers and a smartphone application



SPORTS

Rice strikes late against United, but Arsenal's title hopes fade

Gunners trail table toppers Liverpool by 15 points following the draw

LONDON: Declan Rice salvaged a point for Arsenal with a stunning equaliser at Old Trafford, but the 1-1 draw against Manchester United on Sunday did little to strengthen their fading Premier League title hopes.

Arsenal dominated possession in the opening half but lacked a clinical edge in front of goal, a recurring issue in their campaign. Their profligacy was punished on the stroke of half-time when United captain Bruno Fernandes curled a sublime 25-yard free-kick past a poorly positioned David Raya, giving the hosts an unexpected lead.

Raya, at fault for the goal, redeemed himself with a string of crucial second-half saves, denying Noussair Mazraoui and Joshua Zirkzee as United pressed for a second.

Arsenal, struggling to break down an otherwise lacklustre United side, finally found their breakthrough in the 74th minute. A defensive lapse saw the ball break loose to Rice, who rifled a powerful shot past Andre Onana at the Stretford End.

Despite Arsenal's late equaliser, the result leaves them trailing Liverpool by a daunting 15 points at the top of the table, with the Reds having played a game more. The Gunners now face an uphill battle to keep their slim title chances alive.



Fernandes the difference maker for United

Manchester United's struggles this season have been evident, and their latest performance showcased their inconsistencies. However, while they remain a shadow of their former dominant selves, Fernandes continues to be the club's shining light.

The Portuguese playmaker's exquisite free-kick gave United something to cling to, and he nearly snatched a dramatic winner in the dying moments. In stoppage

time, his close-range effort was brilliantly blocked by Raya, who scrambled to claw the ball away when a goal seemed certain.

Fernandes' leadership and creativity remain crucial for United, with the captain now leading the club's Premier League goal tally with seven and topping their combined goals and assists chart with 14. His contributions will be vital as United, currently languishing in 14th place, attempt to claw their way up the table in the season's final stretch.

Arsenal's inability to convert dominance into goals has been their Achilles' heel in this campaign. With no recognised striker leading the line, Mikel Arteta's side has struggled to break down defensively resolute opponents, and the same pattern played out at Old Trafford.

The Gunners boasted 68.2% possession but failed to apply consistent pressure on a United team lacking confidence and cohesion. Playing midfield man Mikel Merino as an emergency striker highlighted their ongoing search for a reliable goal threat. Despite having 17 shots, Arsenal could only muster six on target, mirroring United's tally.

Their build-up play was patient but ultimately ineffective, with endless passes around the box leading to nothing. Arsenal were left relying on Raya's heroics to secure a point, even after his early mistake.

While the Gunners remain in the top four, their focus will likely shift to ensuring Champions League qualification rather than mounting a serious challenge for Liverpool's crown. - Agencies

Thousands of Man United fans protest against owners



LONDON: Thousands of Manchester United fans staged the biggest protest against the club's ownership in years ahead of Sunday's Premier League clash against Arsenal at Old Trafford.

The demonstration, reminiscent of similar protests in 2022, saw fans march nearly a mile to the stadium, venting their frustrations at co-chairman Joel Glazer and new investor Sir Jim Ratcliffe. A sea of supporters lit flares and chanted against the club's hierarchy, expressing outrage over rising ticket prices, job cuts, and what they see as continued mismanagement.

Ratcliffe, who acquired a 28.94% stake in the club for £1.3 billion last year, has been given control over footballing operations.

However, his tenure has already sparked backlash, particularly following the announcement of a second round of redundancies at the club. Up to 200 employees now face job losses, add-

ing to the 250 who departed last year.

Fans are also furious over the mid-season ticket price hike, which raised match-day tickets to £66 with no concessions - a decision Ratcliffe has defended as necessary to curb financial losses, which surpassed £113 million last year.

Following United's 1-1 draw against Arsenal, manager Ruben Amorim acknowledged the fans' passion. "I think this club will never die - that is clear. You feel it in the streets, not just in the stadium," he said. "Football is a big business, and maybe fans across the league feel it's getting harder to attend games because of rising costs. In the Premier League, we receive a lot of money, and they have to address that."

The latest protests underscore the deepening rift between supporters and the club's leadership, with calls for greater transparency and fan representation growing louder.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea edge Leicester as Spurs hold Bournemouth

LONDON: Chelsea climbed back into the Premier League's top four with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Leicester City at Stamford Bridge, thanks to Marc Cucurella's stunning second-half strike. Meanwhile, Tottenham staged a dramatic comeback to secure a 2-2 draw against Bournemouth in an action-packed Sunday.

Cucurella, netting his fifth goal of the season and second in consecutive league games, broke the deadlock on the hour mark with a powerful left-footed effort from 25 yards, beating Leicester goalkeeper Mads Hermansen.

Chelsea had earlier missed a golden opportunity to take the lead when Cole Palmer saw his 22nd-minute penalty saved by Hermansen, ending his perfect spot-kick record of 12 successful conversions.

Leicester, who nearly scored in bizarre fashion when Tosin Adarabioyo's misdirected header struck his own crossbar, impressed in the first half with an organized defensive display. However, Chelsea gradually took control after the break, domi-



nating possession and creating chances. Cucurella's goal provided the breakthrough they needed to secure all three points.

The win saw Chelsea leapfrog Manchester City into fourth place, strengthening their bid for a Champions League spot. For Leicester, the result was yet another setback in a dreadful run of form - losing 12 of their last 13 league games - leaving them second-bottom on goal difference, six points away from safety.

In North London, Tottenham's

late fightback denied Bournemouth a crucial away win. Marcus Tavernier put the visitors ahead in the 24th minute, converting Milos Kerkez's precise cross, before Evanilson doubled their lead early in the second half with a finish over Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Bournemouth have now won just one of their last five league matches. A victory would have pushed them into sixth place ahead of Brighton, but they remain two points behind the Seagulls in eighth. - Agencies

FA PENALTY

Forest lose appeal over £750,000 fine

LONDON: Nottingham Forest have lost their appeal against a £750,000 fine imposed by the Football Association (FA) for a social media post that questioned the integrity of video assistant referee (VAR) Stuart Attwell.

The club was sanctioned in October after what the FA described as an "unparalleled attack" on a match official. The controversy stemmed from Forest's post on X (formerly Twitter), in which they protested three penalty decisions that went against them during a 2-0 Premier League defeat at Everton on April 21, 2024.

In the post, Forest claimed they had "warned" referees' body Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) about Attwell, who served as VAR for the match, alleging that he was a supporter of their relegation rivals Luton Town. The club further asserted that "they did not change him," adding: "Our patience has been tested multiple times."

Forest initially argued that the fine was "disproportionate," but on Monday, the FA confirmed that an appeal board had upheld the penalty.

SPANISH LA LIGA



Real Madrid move level with Barca

MADRID: Real Madrid secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, closing the gap on La Liga leaders Barcelona.

With the win, Real Madrid moved level on points with their archrivals, though Barcelona still holds the advantage with a game in hand.

The match was decided in a fast-paced first half, where Real Madrid's clinical attacking play put them in control early.

French forward Kylian Mbappé opened the scoring with a brilliant individual effort, cutting inside before calmly slotting the ball into the bottom corner.

Mbappe has scored 18 La Liga goals this season

Just four minutes later, Vinicius Jr. doubled the lead with a near-identical finish, his shot taking a slight deflection off Rayo Vallecano defender Andrei Ratiu before finding the net.

However, Rayo Vallecano showed resilience, pulling one back just before the break. Pedro Diaz unleashed a thunderous strike off the crossbar, marking his first La Liga goal and giving the visitors a glimmer of hope going into halftime.

Despite being the dominant side for much of the match, Real Madrid's attack couldn't extend their lead further, and they were forced to endure a nervy second half.

Jude Bellingham, making his return from a two-game suspension, played a crucial role in midfield, but was withdrawn late on after a concerning fall that left him grimacing in pain.

The win was significant for Real Madrid as it ensured they remained in contention for the title, with Barcelona still holding a slim advantage atop the standings.

The two sides are separated only by goal difference, but the Catalan giants will have the opportunity to extend their lead with a game in hand.

Looking ahead, Carlo Ancelotti's side will now turn their attention to the UEFA Champions League. On Wednesday, they travel across the city to face Atletico Madrid in the second leg of their last-16 tie, with both teams keen to secure a place in the quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid missed a golden opportunity to go top of La Liga earlier in the day, suffering a shock 2-1 loss at Getafe.

Despite taking a 1-0 lead through an Alexander Sorloth penalty, Atleti were reduced to 10 men after Angel Correa was sent off in the 88th minute.

Getafe capitalized on the advantage, with Mauro Arambarri scoring twice in the final two minutes to seal a dramatic turnaround. - Agencies

SERIE A

Lukaku shines as Napoli defeat Fiorentina

NAPOLI: Romelu Lukaku played a starring role as Napoli defeated Fiorentina 2-1 on Sunday, keeping them just a point behind Serie A leaders Inter Milan.

Lukaku's efforts helped the team snap a five-match winless streak as Antonio Conte's side registered a crucial victory.

The Belgian striker opened the scoring in the 26th minute, slotting home a rebound after Scott McTominay's initial strike was blocked.

Lukaku then provided an assist on the hour mark, playing a perfect ball to Giacomo Raspadori, who coolly finished in the bottom corner to double Napoli's lead.

Fiorentina responded with a late goal, as Albert Gudmundsson pulled one back, but it proved



to be a mere consolation. The loss marked Fiorentina's third consecutive defeat on the road, leaving them in eighth place.

Meanwhile, in another thrilling match, Inter Milan came from two goals down to claim a 3-2 win over

Monza at the San Siro.

Monza took a commanding lead thanks to Samuele Birindelli and Keita Balde Diao's goals in the first half. However, Inter responded with a header from Marko Arnautovic just before halftime, and Ha-

kan Kalhanoglu equalized in the 64th minute. A Giorgos Kyriakopoulos own goal handed Inter the dramatic win, maintaining their position at the top of Serie A.

AC Milan also staged a dramatic comeback, overcoming a two-goal deficit to win 3-2 at Lecce.

Nikola Krstovic scored twice for Lecce, but Milan fought back with an Antonino Gallo own goal and two from Christian Pulisic, completing the turnaround.

Elsewhere, Atalanta delivered a resounding 4-0 win over Juventus on Sunday, with goals from Mateo Retegui, Marten de Roon, Davide Zappacosta, and Ademola Lookman. The victory moved Atalanta six points clear in third, while Juventus suffered their heaviest home defeat in Serie A since 1967.

Top UN official says world ‘must not allow hunger to spread again in Gaza’

UN spokesperson added that Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to provide all necessary capabilities to ensure that food and medical supplies reach the population in Gaza, in addition to securing the health system

GAZA: The spokesperson for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Thameen Al-Khaitan said that the Israeli occupation authorities’ prevention of all humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip is inconsistent with their responsibilities under international law, and that the international community must not allow hunger to spread again in Gaza.

He added that Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to provide all necessary capabilities to ensure that food and medical supplies reach the population in Gaza, in addition to securing the health system.



Al-Khaitan stressed that Israel must allow the entry of humanitarian aid and other basic needs, and facilitate their access to the Strip.

Regarding Israel’s decision to completely halt the entry of all aid into Gaza, the UN spokesman described this step as unacceptable and a violation of Israel’s obligations under international law.

He warned of the negative repercussions of the rise in prices of basic foodstuffs, and the spread of concerns about the possibility of accessing basic life-saving needs in Gaza in the future.

Al-Khaitan stressed the need not to allow hunger to spread again in Gaza, calling on the humanitarian community to ensure that vital aid reaches the Strip without hindrance.

Gaza death toll reaches 48,467

The death toll in the Gaza Strip has reached 48,467, the majority of whom were women and children, since the beginning of the Israeli aggression in October 2023. At least 111,913 others have been injured.

Medical sources reported that

nine bodies arrived at hospitals in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, including five recovered bodies, four newly slain Palestinians and 16 injuries.

This toll remains incomplete, as many victims remain trapped under rubble, inaccessible to ambulance and rescue crews.

Occupation continues its aggression on Tulkarem city and its camps

For the 43rd consecutive day, Israeli occupation forces continue their aggression on Tulkarem city and its refugee camp, and for the



30th day on the Nur Shams camp, amid military reinforcements, an ongoing siege and widespread home raids.

Wafa reported that Israeli forces deployed military reinforcements to the city and its camps, spreading infantry units throughout the neighborhoods of the camps and their surroundings, while firing live ammunition and stun grenades to terrorize the citizens.

The occupation forces also maintain their military presence in front of the homes and residential buildings they have seized and turned into military outposts on Nablus Street, which connects the Tulkarem and Nur Shams camps. At the same time, the forces continue to stop and search passing vehicles, checking passengers’ identity cards. The forces briefly detain and interrogate residents, with some, especially young men, subjected to physical assault.

In the Tulkarem camp, the occupation forces intensified their foot patrols in all its neighborhoods and took positions in several areas.

Forces raided homes and commercial shops after breaking down and blowing up their doors, and vandalizing their contents, while firing random live ammunition.

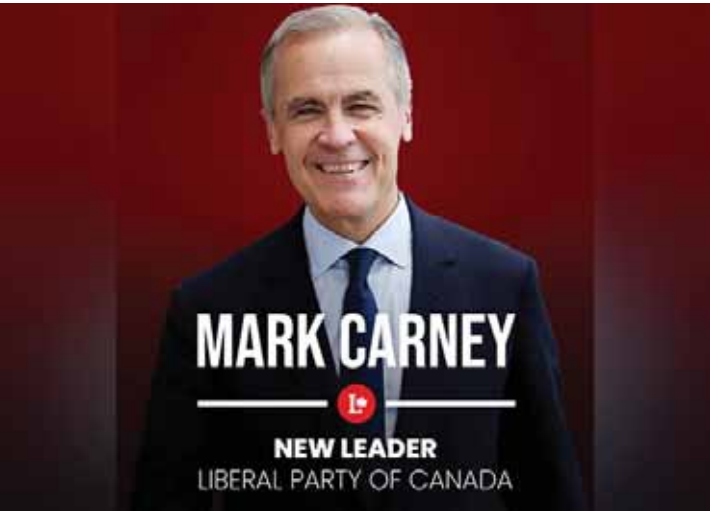
The camp is experiencing widespread destruction to its infrastructure, with homes completely and partially demolished, looted, and burned. The remaining homes have been turned into military outposts.

In Nur Shams camp, the occupation forces continue their strict siege, which has been ongoing for two months as part of their aggression. This is accompanied by raids on homes in the al-Damaj neighborhood, where they vandalized the contents after searching and interrogating the residents, amid gunfire.

This coincided with the destruction of the camp’s infrastructure. Over 28 homes in the al-Manshiyya neighborhood were completely demolished as part of the occupation’s plan to create roads and alter the geographical features of the camp.

— Wafa

NEW LIBERAL PARTY LEADER



Mark Carney wins vote to replace Trudeau as Canada’s Prime Minister

OTTAWA: Canada’s Liberal Party has elected Mark Carney as its leader, and he is set to replace Justin Trudeau as the Prime Minister of Canada, as reported by CTV News.

Carney secured a win in the first ballot in a race that was triggered after Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced his intention to step down in early January after a mounting caucus revolt and the resignation of Chrystia Freeland from the cabinet.

After remaining as the front-runner in the leadership race for the past two months, the former Bank of Canada and Bank of England governor Carney will become Canada’s next PM within days, according to CTV News report.

Carney defeated former cabinet minister Karina Gould, former finance minister and deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland, and Businessman and former Liberal MP Frank Baylis. All four contenders entered the room to much fanfare and addressed the crowd, thanking supporters for injecting energy into the party.

As many as 151,899 party loyalists cast a ballot in this race, and the majority decided—depending on a ranked-ballot system that saw each riding receive equal weighting—that Carney was who they wanted to see become Canada’s PM. He will also carry the party’s banner in the likely imminent federal election, which polls suggest to be an increasingly narrowing race with the Conservatives, according to CTV News report.

Mark Carney has never held elected office and is not a member of Parliament. It is not yet known

in which riding Carney will run. However, he has announced that he will campaign for a seat in the House of Commons in the next election.

Earlier, Justin Trudeau highlighted the ‘achievements’ of the Liberal Party over the past decade while looking towards the future, hours ahead of the announcement of his successor as the leader of his party, as reported by CBC News.

In his speech at the Liberal Leadership Convention, Trudeau said, “I am damn proud of what we’ve done over these past 10 years for the middle class and the people working hard to join it.”

As the Liberal Party enters a new era, Trudeau told the crowd that “there is a responsibility to ensure that Canada stays the best country on Earth! In one of his last speeches as Liberal leader and Canada’s PM, he urged his supporters to keep fighting for Canada as hard as they can.

In one of his last speeches as Canada’s PM and Liberal Party leader, Trudeau said, “Democracy is not a given. Freedom is not a given. Even Canada is not a given.” He said, “None of those happened by accident. None of them will continue without effort.”

He also recalled how Canada’s former PM, Lester B Pearson, 60 years back, raised the Canadian flag on Parliament Hill. He said, “Sixty years later, there are still so many more chapters to write. And I can tell you the world is looking to see what Canadians will do,” CBC News reported.

Trudeau recalled that the Liberal Party was a distant third when he took over as leader in 2013. — ANI

INTERVIEW WITH SUNDAY MORNING FUTURES

Trump warns of nuclear dangers, criticises Ukraine aid and talks tough on Russia

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump has sounded the alarm on nuclear dangers, warning that they pose a far greater existential threat to the world than climate change.

In a recent interview with Sunday Morning Futures anchor Maria Bartiromo, Trump emphasised the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, stating, “The level of destruction is beyond anything you can even imagine. It’s just bad that everybody has to spend all this money on something that, if it’s used, it’s probably the end of the world.”

He criticised the focus on climate change, arguing that it overshadows the more pressing issue of nuclear dangers.

“When I listen to these climate lunatics... and nobody ever talks about nuclear weapons. They say the ocean’s going to rise one-eighth of an inch in the next 300 years. But they don’t talk about the dangers of a nuclear weapon, which could happen tomorrow,” he added.

Trump also addressed the Ukraine crisis, criticising Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for being ungrateful for US aid. He claimed that the US had provided Ukraine with \$350 billion in aid, while European nations contributed only \$100 billion.

“It was like taking candy from a baby, what he did... He took money out of this country under Biden, like candy from a baby. It was so easy, with that same attitude. Biden should have never put up \$350 billion. He should have equalised with Europe,” Trump said.



Given their geographical proximity to Ukraine, Trump argued that Europe should have shouldered more of the financial burden.

“We have an ocean in between us, right? We’re not in the danger that they are. They are in much greater danger,” he said.

When asked if he expected Zelenskyy to return to the negotiating table for the rare earth minerals deal, Trump responded affirmatively. “Yeah, I think so. I think it’ll happen,” he said.

Bartiromo pressed him on whether Ukraine had the resources being claimed, to which he replied, “Well, I do. I do. I mean, I’ve had it checked.”

Regarding Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Trump asserted that the war would not have happened if he had been in office. He also criticised President Joe Biden’s handling of the situation, arguing

that his policies have emboldened Russia and led to the current crisis.

“Look, if I were President (at the time), that would have never happened. You wouldn’t have had Russia going into Ukraine,” said Trump.

He further argued that the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the withdrawal from Afghanistan were also results of Biden’s policies.

“Iran was broke. They had no money. They weren’t giving it to Hamas or Hezbollah or anybody else. You would have never had the worst evacuation anyone’s ever seen, which is Afghanistan - which was the most embarrassing day in the history of our country.”

On the economic front, Trump criticised Biden’s policies, particularly their impact on inflation and energy prices. He argued that his own administration’s policies

had achieved record-low inflation and energy prices.

“We had record-setting inflation under Biden. It was a killer. And it’s one of the reasons I won the election,” he claimed. While discussing tariffs, he dismissed concerns that they might drive inflation higher, instead pointing to recent reductions in interest rates. Interest rates are down for the last three or four days at good levels... What have I been trying to get down? Energy. Energy is going down. They screwed up my energy. I had the most energy, and they screwed it up,” he said.

When Bartiromo asked whether Ukraine and Israel were being treated similarly by the US, Trump acknowledged differences but maintained that both had received strong support.

“They’re very different places, OK? Very, very different,” he said, emphasising the unique challenges in the Middle East.

When asked about his stance on Russia, Trump resisted criticism that he had sided with Russia in the Ukraine conflict. He argued that he had been tougher on Russia than any other president, citing his sanctions and efforts to halt the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

“Nobody’s ever been... Putin would be the first to say it. Nobody’s been tougher than Trump,” he said, listing his sanctions on Russia and his efforts to halt the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. “I stopped it. Biden got in. On the second day, he approved it. Nobody has been tougher on Russia than Donald Trump. Nobody. And they know that,” Trump said. — ANI

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

GERMANY

Flights cancelled as workers strike at 13 airports

FRANKFURT: Strikes have brought operations to a near halt in airports across Germany, as service workers, ground staff, and aviation security staged a 24-hour walkout.

The trade union Verdi is demanding a collective wage deal for nearly 2.5 million public sector workers. Monday’s strikes come after a second round of pay talks failed.

The federal government and local municipalities have said that

Verdi’s proposals, including an 8% pay hike, higher bonuses, and three additional days off, are not financially viable.

Operations at Germany’s busiest airport, Frankfurt, were disrupted, along with those at Munich, Stuttgart, Cologne/Bonn, Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Hanover, Bremen, Hamburg, Berlin-Brandenburg, and Leipzig-Halle.

At Frankfurt Airport, 1,054 of the day’s 1,116 scheduled takeoffs and landings had been

canceled, German news agency dpa reported, citing airport traffic management.

All of Berlin Airport’s regular departures and arrivals were canceled, while Hamburg Airport said no departures would be possible.

Cologne/Bonn Airport said there was no regular passenger service and Munich Airport advised travelers to expect a “greatly reduced flight schedule.”

— DW



ROUND-UP

All-new Chery Arizzo 5 now in Oman with exclusive benefits

The Arrizo 5 is equipped with a host of advanced features that enhance convenience and driving pleasure

MUSCAT: Chery's latest introduction the all-new Arizzo5 is now available in Oman with exclusive benefits. The benefits include up to 5 years/60,000 km service, 1-year comprehensive insurance, 1-year registration and assured fuel card gifts. This exclusive campaign is valid until April 17, 2025 (Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Chery showroom for exact details.)

The All-New Chery Arizzo 5 is starting from RO 4275. This exclusive campaign is valid until April 17, 2025. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Chery showroom for exact details.)

The Arrizo 5 is equipped with a host of advanced features that enhance convenience and driving pleasure. At the heart of this sedan is a state-of-the-art infotainment



system with a high-resolution touchscreen, ensuring seamless connectivity through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. This allows drivers to stay connected, navigate with ease and enjoy their favourite music effortlessly.

Passenger comfort is taken to the next level with its spacious and ergonomic cabin, featuring high-quality materials, a leather-wrapped steering wheel and customisable ambient lighting. The automatic climate control system ensures a comfortable environment regardless of external conditions, making every drive a pleasurable experience.

Under the hood, the Arrizo 5 is powered by an efficient and responsive 1.5L engine, delivering an

optimal balance of power and fuel economy. The intelligent continuously variable transmission (CVT) ensures smooth acceleration and superior handling, making both city commutes and long drives effortless. Additionally, the advanced suspension system enhances stability and ride comfort, contributing to a superior driving experience.

Chery prioritises safety with a range of cutting-edge features in the Arrizo 5. The vehicle comes equipped with an advanced Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and a comprehensive suite of airbags, ensuring maximum protection for occupants. The 360-degree camera and parking sensors make manoeuvring in tight spaces

easy, while the intelligent driver-assist systems provide an added layer of security on every drive.

Speaking about the all-new Arrizo 5 a representative from New World Autos, the distributor for Chery vehicles in Oman, said, "The all-new Arrizo 5 is a game-changer in its segment, offering customers a perfect blend of style, technology and performance at an exceptional value. Whether it is for daily commuting or weekend getaways, this sedan is built to impress. With its outstanding safety features, advanced infotainment system and fuel-efficient performance, the Arrizo 5 is a vehicle that truly makes a difference in every journey."

In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by New World Autos.

SPORTS



Tely-Mahe Cup Football tournament to be held on March 13 and 14

MUSCAT: The Tely-Mahe Cup Football tournament will take place on March 13 and 14 at the Ashadi Football Field in Mabeala, near the Mall of Muscat. Matches will start at 9 pm and continue until 2 am on both days.

The club's logo and jerseys were launched by respected veterans such as Abdul Rahim, Ashraf, Anwer, Firos, Iqbal, and Shanawas. The goal is to bring all Mahi members together under one platform, offering support for their cultural and sporting activities without any bias.

Before India's independence, Mahi and Thalassery were two distinct colonies—Thalassery under British rule and Mahi, a small town, under French rule. Despite being neighboring towns with different colonial rulers, both shared a deep historical and cultural connection that has only grown stronger over time.

Although these two towns were governed separately, their bond has remained unbreakable. Whether in their cuisine, wedding traditions, or local customs, the similarities between Mahi and Thalassery are remarkable. Over the years, the relationship between old families in both towns has flourished, and the unity between these twin towns continues to thrive. Even today, though the towns belong to different states, their connections are only growing stronger.

Even within the expatriate community in Gulf countries, the ties between these towns remain evident. Numerous clubs have been formed to represent both Mahi and Thalassery, uniting people to celebrate their shared heritage. Among the expats in Oman, some have lived here for over 40 years, and now, the children of these long-time expats are taking steps to form a club called Mahe United, which will represent Mahi at the upcoming Tely-Mahe Cup tournament.

Sports are a powerful tool for unity and teamwork, and they play a vital role in steering young minds away from drugs and other social issues. Promoting sports is a shared responsibility, and the Mahe expatriates are committed to this cause.

3 AWARDS ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY

FUSO Oman triumphs at EliteClass 2024 MEA Awards ceremony

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the exclusive distributor of FUSO Trucks & Buses in Oman and a part of The Zubair Corporation, was recognised once again at the prestigious EliteClass 2024 Awards. This year, GAC secured top honours in Parts Performance, Service Development, and Facility, further solidifying its reputation for excellence in the MEA region.

The EliteClass 2024 Awards Ceremony, held at UAE, Dubai, gathered 40 Daimler Truck Business Partners to celebrate outstanding achievements across the Middle East and Africa. The event recognised top-performing Distributors who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to operational excellence, customer service, and brand development.

Speaking at the ceremony, Michael Dietz, President & CEO of Daimler Truck Middle East & Africa, highlighted the impact of these awards, saying, "EliteClass 2024 is more than just an awards ceremony—it is a testament to the hard work, commitment, and shared vision of our partners. Their achievements continue to drive our brand forward, setting new benchmarks in customer experience and operational excellence across the region."

GAC's continued recognition in the EliteClass Program reflects its unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction, innovation, and operational excellence. Over the years, FUSO Oman has built a formidable reputation in



the commercial vehicle segment, offering a diverse range of light, medium, and heavy-duty trucks and buses that cater to various industries across Oman.

In addition to this year's achievements, FUSO Oman has previously been recognised for its historical sales milestones, tailored driver training programs, and excellence in service customer retention and parts sales marketing.

Daimler Truck's EliteClub Program, launched in 2023, identifies and rewards the highest-performing distributors across its global network. The best-in-class partners are invited to an exclusive gala event, where top executives from Daimler Truck personally present the awards in recognition of their dedication and contributions to the brand's ongoing success.

GAC remains committed to elevating the FUSO brand in Oman through unmatched after-sales support, nationwide service accessibility, and customer-centric solutions.



Sohar International partners with Al Tawasul to train frontline employees in sign language

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to fostering an inclusive and accessible banking experience, Sohar International has successfully concluded a specialized sign language training program for its frontline employees. Conducted in collaboration with Al Tawasul Institute for Training—an esteemed organization dedicated to empowering individuals with hearing impairments across the Arab world—the initiative is a testament to the bank's dedication to serving all segments of society.

Commenting on the initiative, Abdulwahid Al Murshidi, Chief Executive Officer at Sohar International, stated, "Inclusivity is not merely a social responsibility; it is a defining attribute of progressive and forward-thinking organizations. Our partnership with Al Tawasul Institute underscores our commitment to working with industry experts who share our vision of fostering a society that values diversity and empowers every individual. By equipping our employees with sign language communication skills, we aim to eliminate barriers and enhance

service accessibility for all. Beyond training, this initiative represents a broader effort to cultivate a culture of empathy, respect, and understanding—both within our organization and the wider community. Through such endeavors, we aspire to set a benchmark for the industry, encouraging a more mindful and proactive approach to serving individuals with disabilities with dignity and care."

This initiative aligns with Sohar International's broader strategy to enhance customer experience through innovative and inclusive solutions, ensuring banking services remain accessible to all, regardless of communication abilities. The sign language training program was meticulously designed to equip participants with both practical skills and cultural awareness, focusing on two key areas: sign language communication and the etiquette of engaging with individuals with hearing impairments. These modules not only enhance employees' ability to interact effectively but also foster a deeper understanding of the unique challenges faced by this segment of society.

By strengthening communication pathways, promoting cultural sensitivity, and cultivating an environment rooted in inclusivity, Sohar International reaffirms its commitment to nurturing a workforce that prioritizes tailored customer engagement and values diversity in every interaction.

Sohar International remains committed to financial inclusion by ensuring its products and services are accessible to all, including people with disabilities. Aligned with the Financial Consumer Protection Regulatory Framework (FCPRF), the bank continuously enhances its banking environment to meet diverse customer needs. In 2024, Sohar International and Sohar Islamic implemented significant accessibility improvements, including the introduction of NFC-enabled and audio-supported ATMs to assist visually impaired users. These ATMs have been upgraded, with plans to expand this initiative with the addition of seven more units in 2025. Furthermore, three strategically located ATMs now feature ramp access, sliding doors, and in-

tuitive interfaces, further demonstrating the bank's commitment to inclusive banking. Through these enhancements, Sohar International continues to prioritize accessibility, ensuring an improved and seamless customer experience across its network.

Sohar International remains steadfast in its investment in upskilling initiatives that empower its workforce to meet evolving customer needs. From advanced technological training to programs that enhance soft skills, the bank ensures its employees remain agile, customer-centric, and forward-thinking. These efforts not only strengthen operational excellence but also reinforce the bank's commitment to delivering exceptional, inclusive, and personalized banking experiences. Through pioneering initiatives such as this, Sohar International continues to set industry benchmarks, reinforcing its position as a socially responsible leader. The bank remains dedicated to fostering a future where inclusivity, equality, and mutual respect are embedded in every aspect of its operations.

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