

**ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER
RECEIVES AMBASSADORS**

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Tuesday Dr. Mohammed Ali Boughazi, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**



**KUWAIT'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR ARRIVES**

Sheikh Talal Khalid Al Ahmad Al Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Kuwait arrived in Oman to take part in the GCC Interior Ministers' 40th meeting, due to be held on Wednesday in Muscat. He was received upon his arrival by Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior. **>A4**



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OMAN PLANS TO INVEST OVER OMR30 BILLION IN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

As part of the efforts to cut carbon emission, Oman has been laying emphasis on the use of clean energy to produce electricity

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With an investment of more than \$30 billion, the Sultanate of Oman is accelerating the pace of hydrogen production in the country.

Oman has been laying emphasis on the sustainability of natural resources and utilising clean energy such as wind and solar power to produce electricity.

Dr. Ghazi Ali Al Rowas, Dean of Research at Sultan Qaboos University and member of the Steering Committee for Climate Change in Oman, explained that the policies pursued by Oman to reach zero carbon neutrality by 2050 ensure the preservation of the environment and the reduction of gaseous emissions.

He affirmed that the national efforts in using clean energy and the huge investments in green hydrogen complement the global endeavours to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that lead to major changes in the climate.

He said that Oman's participation in the UN Climate Summit "COP28", which will be held in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, will highlight the national efforts to reduce climate change, noting that the participation comes under the slogan "Oman is a Sustainable Future".

In his turn, Dr. Said Mohammed Al Sarimi, Climate Affairs Expert at the Environment Authority, member of the Steering Committee for Climate Change in the Sultanate of Oman, pointed

ed out that the past decade witnessed several climate changes, including the increase in tropical cyclones and their effects on Oman.

He added that temperatures also rose around the world and fluctuations occurred in rainfall amounts.

Therefore, a clear national plan has been devised for either mitigation or adaptation in order to reduce the damage from climate change, noted Dr. Said.

He affirmed that the upcoming climate summit will be a decisive event for a global review of all efforts made to achieve the Paris climate change goals.

It is worth noting that the Sultanate of Oman will participate during 30 November to 12 December in the World Climate Summit and the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. During its participation, Oman will have a pavilion set in the exhibition accompanying the summit. **With ONA inputs**

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Dust, temperature affect solar photovoltaics

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Using renewable energy to generate electricity reduces pollution in residential areas, says an expert.

Prof. Dr. Jabbar H. Yousif, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology at Sohar University, said: "Using renewable energy to generate electricity helps secure energy sources, reduces pollution in residential areas, and generates clean energy at low cost. Many environmental factors, such as dust and temperature, affect the performance of solar photovoltaics (PV)."

He said that three photovoltaic technologies were studied and experimentally analysed (mono, poly, and flexible monocrystalline) to determine the influence of dust and thermal energy on photovoltaic behaviour in this research project.

"Furthermore, a benchmark neural network was designed to test the effects of dust and temperature on the PV power produc-



PROF. DR. JABBAR H. YOUSIF, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology at Sohar University

tion of six PV modules installed at Sohar University in Oman," he said.

A hybrid Artificial Neural Networks models for analysing the impact of weather conditions and air pollutant deposition on solar energy system efficiency in Oman was studied by Prof. Dr. Jabbar.

The innovative research pro-

jects funded by the Block Funding Programme of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

Prof. Jabbar elaborated that this project used three pairs of PV modules (one was cleaned daily, and the other was kept dusty for 30 days). The photovoltaic energy production performance of the three Photovoltaic modules was evaluated and examined, which showed 30.24%, 28.94%, and 36.21%, efficiency respectively.

"It was noted that dust reduces solar radiation reaching the photovoltaic unit, which reduces the efficiency of energy production and temperature," he said.

Prof. Jabbar mentioned that the research project explained that dust reduces energy production performance of photovoltaic units by about 1%.

The project proposed mathematical models to predict the future production of energy cells using neural networks and evaluated their performance compared to practical models using various indicators. **>A3**

IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE, NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS TO BE LIMITED

The Secretariat General for National Celebrations announced that, in solidarity with the Palestinian people, the programme of the Sultanate of Oman's 53rd National Day will be limited to a military parade under the royal patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, and raising of the flags of Oman. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman with Palestinians

1 Oman has always utilised its diplomatic role and expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people through diplomatic channels. **>A2**

WORLD

Call for ceasefire

2 The United Nations reiterated its demand for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza amid the war with Israel. **>A6**

MARKET

Tethys oil output

3 Tethys share of oil production, before government take, from Blocks 3&4, in October rose to 256,954 barrels. **>B1**



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Dhuhr.....11:56pm

Asr.....3:07pm

Maghrib.....5:30pm

Isha.....6:42pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:00am

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REVIEWE AREAS OF COOPERATION

Royal Office Minister meets envoys of Algeria, Austria

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received here on Tuesday Dr. Mohammed Ali Boughazi, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Sultanate of Oman.

Algeria's ambassador expressed his delight in being appointed as his country's ambassador to Oman.

He underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation and achieving joint interests.

During the meeting, the two



sides reviewed several matters of mutual interest.

Meanwhile, Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office also received Christophe Ceska, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Sultanate of Oman.

During this meeting, Al Nu'amani highlighted the march of bilateral relations.

The two sides reviewed areas of joint cooperation. They also discussed several matters of mutual interest. -ONA

Arab summits call for solutions to Gaza crisis

Oman has urged the international community to conduct an independent investigation into the Israeli aggression and prosecute Israel for its deliberate targeting of civilians in the Gaza Strip



DENOUNCED ATTACK: Oman has always utilised its diplomatic role and expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people through various diplomatic and humanitarian channels. -ONA

MUSCAT: In the backdrops of mounting tensions and the persistent humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories in general and in Gaza Strip in particular, Arab and Islamic countries are preparing to hold two emergency summits. The two summits hope to leverage political weight and launch urgent humanitarian initiatives to rescue the population in Gaza.

The two summits seek to rally efforts to address the critical humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and forge a unified response to the crisis, including calls for an immediate ceasefire and the opening up of safe corridors for humanitarian aid.

The Sultanate of Oman has demonstrated its strong commitment towards tackling the situa-

tion in the Gaza Strip, voicing its constant support for the Palestinian people.

From the vantage point of its calm, balanced foreign policy, Oman has always utilised its diplomatic role and expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people through various diplomatic and humanitarian channels.

Oman also called on the international community to conduct an independent investigation into the Israeli aggression and prosecute Israel for its deliberate targeting of civilians in the Gaza Strip.

It also denounced the occupation forces' targeting infrastructure facilities, depriving Palestinians of access to humanitarian aid to meet their living needs, starving them and subjecting them to

siege and collective punishment.

Since the 7th of October, the situation in Gaza brought about grave humanitarian and security consequences to the region and unfolded an unparalleled humanitarian crisis due to Israel's indiscriminate bombing, demolition of Palestinian residences, killing and displacement of civilians, coupled with a stifling siege on Gaza that has exceeded the limits of humanity and violated the international humanitarian law.

At the request of the State of Palestine and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which chairs the current session of the thirty-second Arab Summit, the Arab League decided to hold an emergency Arab Summit on 11 November 2023 in Riyadh. The summit

will discuss the situations in the Gaza Strip, the escalation of Israeli military operations in the Strip, steps to be taken towards the Palestinian cause in general and the Arab action at the international level to put an end to Israel's seizure of Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Emergency summit

Also, at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, acting in its capacity as chair of the current summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the latter announced that an emergency summit will be held on Sunday, 12 November 2023 in Riyadh to discuss the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, for 32 days in a row, so far. -ONA

MOU



Oman, Saudi Arabia explore cooperation for drug supplies

MUSCAT: Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health and Dr. Hisham Saad Aljadhey, CEO of Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) reviewed, over a telephone call, areas of joint cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health and

SFDA in the field of assuring the safety, reliability and efficiency of the performance of medical devices and supplies. The meeting was attended by Dr. Said Harib Al Lamki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Health Affairs and Dr. Mohammed Hamdan Al Rubaiee, Director General of Pharmaceutical Affairs and drug control. -ONA

RAINFALL IN RUSTAQ, NAKHAL

The wilayats of Rustaq and Nakhal in the South Al Batinah Governorate witnessed rainfall that ranged between heavy and moderate as a result of air depression affecting Oman. -ONA

10TH REGIONAL MEETING

Oman takes part in UNESCO national panels meeting



PARIS: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education, is taking part in the 10th regional meeting of national committees of members states in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The regional meeting was held on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference, in Paris.

Oman was represented during the meeting by Amna Salim Al Balushi, Secretary General of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science. Oman was chosen as deputy chair during this meeting. The meeting discussed a spectrum of topics related to UNESCO action, especially the organisation's efforts in dealing with accelerating developments in the 21st century.

Moreover, the meeting highlighted best practices of national UNESCO committees, as well as related tangible initiatives. -ONA



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NEW CAMPAIGN

SalamAir launches ‘Capture the Beauty of Oman’ campaign

MUSCAT: SalamAir has launched a campaign themed “Capture the Beauty of Oman”.

The new campaign is being launched across its network of over 43 destinations to showcase the wonders Oman has to offer, which is said to capture the hearts of all adventure seekers looking to explore a destination with much to offer.

The campaign focuses on engaging the citizens and residents of Oman with talent in capturing the many gems that the country has to offer through their lenses that are worthy of sharing with the world.

The participants can submit high-quality photos of beautiful scenes in Oman on SalamAir’s social media outlets, Instagram and Twitter, using #CaptureOman.

Cultural heritage

The ads will also include details

about where the photo was taken, capturing the essence of Oman’s stunning landscapes and cultural heritage.

The carefully selected images will be featured in a global ad campaign, showcasing the exquisite nature of Oman, crediting and tagging the talented photographers in the country, capturing the wanderlust hearts of travellers and prompting them to explore their next travel to the Sultanate of Oman.

With its expanding fleet of aircraft, its growing network of destinations and its steady raise in passenger numbers, SalamAir has been in continuous strides in bolstering Oman as an aviation and travel hub in the region and delivering its promise of promoting tourism of its hub.

-ONA



RESEARCH

‘Photovoltaic modules need regular cleaning to avoid low power output’

< FROM A1 The results showed that the accuracy of predicting the capacity of the six photovoltaic modules was great, reaching about 97%.

As for the main findings of the study, the research project determined the best weather conditions for implementing the PV systems in hot states in Oman, and produced simulation design tools, methodologies, and Mathematical Prediction Models, which could be used in further related studies.

The research project has also helped the decision-makers calculate the average time of renewable energy production and com-



pare it with the consumption rate required over time, implemented the sensitivity analysis for determining a PV module’s significant factors that increase efficiency

and production, and raised the issues of preserving the country’s renewable energy resources and monitoring some negative impacts on its performance, like humidity,

dust, and temperature.

The project demonstrated mathematically and experimentally that dust accumulation affects monocrystalline panels more than other technologies (polycrystalline modules and flexible PV modules).

Therefore, Prof. Jabar recommended cleaning photovoltaic modules regularly to avoid low power. This study was published in several high-impact factor journals such as Elsevier and MDPI.

The research team consisted of Associate Prof. Dr. Jabar H. Yousif, as the principal investigator, and Prof. Dr. Hussein A. Kazem, as the co-principal investigator.

Visit Oman signs pact for tourism packages

Pact will help

Visit Oman take

advantage of the

network of Prioticket

for connecting major

booking platforms

It takes advantage of the network of Prioticket, the leading global organisation in the tourism industry that provides innovative solutions for connecting major booking platforms, portals, search engines and applications in the world.

Visit Oman offers international travel trade partners access to the local tourism market through its specialised platform that comprises a wide range of products. It acts in collaboration with a group of approved Omani suppliers specialised in the tourism field.

The new partnership will pave the way for realizing global expansion and accelerating the distribution of digital tourism products from markets of origin.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and suppliers in Oman will also benefit from the service emanating from the new partnership, which offers rapid and immediate connectivity with distributors and online service providers. This gives domestic SMEs better outreach to global markets. -ONA

LONDON: On the sidelines of the activities of the World Travel Market London 2023, the national travel operator, “Visit Oman” on Tuesday signed a new partnership agreement with Prioticket, the leading connectivity platform to sell, trade, and manage travel experiences.

Through this strategic partnership, “Visit Oman” seeks to bring about a shift forward in distributing content, products and tourism experiences digitally.



OMANI CULTURE

Sharjah Book Fair 2023 gets a taste of Omani culture



CULTURAL RELATIONS: Oman is represented during the book fair by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Information and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). -ONA

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in activities of Sharjah International Book Fair 2023 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which runs till 11 November.

Oman is represented during the book fair by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Information and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU).

The participation aims to enhance Omani intellectual output and to introduce Omani culture in various fields and specialisations.

It also comes within the framework of boosting bilateral cultural relations and activating Oman’s presence in international

book fairs.

Oman has accorded great significance to participating in Sharjah International Book Fair. All government units that are part of the participation contributed with various publications in various areas of culture, intellect, media, history and religion.

Moreover, besides the official government units, several Omani libraries and publishing houses are taking part in the international book fair, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

Oman’s pavilion is witnessing a great turnout of attendees who come from different cultural and intellectual backgrounds. -ONA

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GCC INTERIOR MINISTERS' 40TH MEETING

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister arrives in Oman

MUSCAT: Sheikh Talal Khalid Al Ahmad Al Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Kuwait arrived in Oman on Tuesday to take part in the GCC Interior Ministers' 40th meeting, due to be held on Wednesday in Muscat.

He was received upon his arrival by Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior.

Alongside Sayyid Hamoud, the Kuwaiti Minister was also received by Eng. Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, MajGen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs, Sayyid Khalifa Al Murtas Al Busaidi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Interior and Dr. Mohammed Nassir Al Hajri, Ambassador of Kuwait to Oman, as well as some officials at the Ministry of Interior and the Royal Oman Police (ROP). -*ONA*



Survey of marine mammals in Wilayat of Khasab begins

KHASAB: The second stage of the project for survey of marine mammals in the Wilayat of Khasab, Musandam Governorate kicked off recently.

The survey is being conducted by the Environment Authority (EA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Environment Society of Oman and the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Musandam Governorate.

The project aims to document the distribution and availability of crustaceans along the coasts of the national park in Musandam Governorate. It also aims to draw the maps for locations of crustaceans to create a database of the same and to register the human activities such as fishing, movement of vessels and other activities that could affect such creatures or their habitats.

A'aida bint Khalaf Al Jaber from the EA and the head of the team of the project, said that the survey is being conducted along the coast of the National Park in Musandam Governorate and continue till 2025 accompanied by parallel field tours for a distance of four kilometres to ensure that the survey is

comprehensive.

She added that the activities of day one of the survey continued from 7am to 4pm and documented sighting of dolphins.

She said that documenting and registration of crustaceans along the coasts of Musandam Governorate is vital for protection of such creatures, mainly the endangered species.

She said that their registration will provide an indication of their presence in seasons. The initial findings of the field survey during the past period showed positive results for different species of crustaceans, she said, adding that the introduction of technology will help in providing measurements of depth, temperatures and electronic registration of the data.

Haitham bin Nasser Al Shuaibi, member of the team of the project, said that the field survey of the second period would continue for two consecutive weeks and include discussions with the fishermen on the significance of such creatures. He also stressed the significance of efforts of the local community and the fishermen for watching these creatures along the coasts of the governorate and to inform the authorities concerned.-*ONA*

“

The survey is being conducted along the coast of the National Park in Musandam Governorate and will continue till 2025 accompanied by parallel field tours for a distance of four kilometres to ensure that the survey is comprehensive

A'aida bint Khalaf Al Jaber
Head of the team of the project, Environment Authority (EA)



JUDGES INDUCTED



JEDDAH: Represented by the Ministry of Social Development, the Sultanate of Oman is taking part in an international conference titled "Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment", held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 6 to 8 November 2023.

The international conference is held under the patronage of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The conference is jointly organised by the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Oman's delegation at the conference is led by Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar,

Minister of Social Development.

The conference seeks to highlight women's success stories and the gains made by Muslim women since the dawn of Islam until the present time, in addition to women's role and contribution to development in OIC-member states.

The conference includes five panel discussions during which officials, scholars and intellectuals will elaborate on women's status and women's rights in Islam.

They conferees will also explore prospects for empowering women in the field of education and at the workplace, in addition to opportunities and challenges related to Muslim women in contemporary societies. -ONA

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MUSCAT: Seven judges on Tuesday took the oath of office before Sayyid Mohammed Sultan Al Bussaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council. The judges were inducted after they passed training at the Higher Judicial Institute and courts. They are joining the administrative judiciary to safeguard the rights of individuals and establish the values of justice.

This step contributed to the Council's efforts to enhance the judicial authority through the ad-

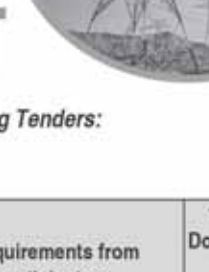
dition of specialised Omani staff to furnish a sound business environment that encourages investment and realizes indirect monitoring of management contracts.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Sayyid Khalifa Said Al Busaidi, Chairman of the Supreme Court, Issa Hamad Al Azri, Secretary General of the Supreme Judicial Council, and Sheikh Al Mukhtar Abdullah Al Harthy, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court. **-ONA**

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2	96/2023	Upgrade and renew of data centre infrastructure monitoring solution (DCIM) with environmental management solution (EMS) with 3 years AMC	22/11/2023	19/12/2023	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid commercial registration.	26/250



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IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

22 UN peacekeepers injured in Mali ambush

KIDAL: A convoy of United Nations peacekeepers was hit by two improvised explosive devices in northern Mali, injuring 22 people, the UN said on Monday.

The MINUSMA peacekeepers were withdrawing from the military base in the rebel stronghold of Kidal over the weekend.

“On Saturday, the convoy encountered two other improvised

explosive devices near the town of Anefis,” Stephane Dujarric, a spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, told reporters on Monday.

He said that “22 peacekeepers had to be evacuated by air to receive immediate treatment in Gao.”

It was the sixth such incident since the peacekeepers began leav-

ing their base in Kidal on October 31, bringing the total number of peacekeepers injured in the convoy to 39.

JNIM, an extremist group with links to al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the two earlier attacks.

The military junta that took power in Mali in 2021 ordered the UN peacekeeping mission to leave the country in June this year.

After this, the UN Security Council terminated the mission’s mandate on June 30 and the UN began what Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called an “unprecedented” six-month exit from Mali by December 31.

An alliance of largely Tuareg rebels in northern Mali recently resumed attacks against the Malian state. -ANI



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‘Enough is enough’: UN calls for ‘immediate ceasefire’ in Gaza

The global watchdog said that the October 7 attack on Israel doesn’t justify the “horrific killings” of even more civilians in Gaza and cutting off 2.2 million Palestinians from amenities

GENEVA: The United Nations on Monday reiterated its demand for an “immediate humanitarian ceasefire” in Gaza amid the war with Israel and said that keeping an entire population besieged, under attack and denied access to amenities is “unacceptable”

The UN Geneva issued a statement by ‘Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory’.

“We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It’s been thirty days. Enough is enough. This must stop now. Heads of 18 UN agencies and NGOs issue a joint statement on #Gaza,” it posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The global watchdog said that the October 7 attack on Israel



doesn’t justify the “horrific killings” of even more civilians in Gaza and cutting off 2.2 million Palestinians from amenities.

It further stated that more aid including food, water, medicines, and fuel needs to enter Gaza and an “immediate humanitarian ceasefire” is needed.

“For almost a month, the world has been watching the unfolding situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in shock and horror at the spiralling numbers of lives lost and torn apart,” the UN statement read.

“Rockets continue to traumatise families. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced. This is horrific,” the statement read.

It added, “However, the horrific killings of even more civilians in Gaza is an outrage, as is cutting off 2.2 million Palestinians from food, water, medicine, electricity and fuel.”

“An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and places of worship. This is unacceptable,” the statement added.

It emphasised that over 100 attacks against health care have been reported. Scores of aid workers have been killed since October 7 including 88 UNRWA colleagues -- the highest number of United Nations fatalities ever recorded in a single conflict.

“We renew our plea for the parties to respect all their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law,” the UN stated.

It added, “We renew our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all civilians held

hostage”.

The global agency stated that civilians and the infrastructure they rely on, including hospitals, shelters and schools, must be protected.

“More aid including food, water, medicine and of course fuel -- must enter Gaza safely, swiftly and at the scale needed, and must reach people in need, especially women and children, wherever they are,” the UN statement read.

It added, “We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It’s been 30 days. Enough is enough.

This must stop now”.

Meanwhile, in a tragic development, the death toll in Gaza crossed 10,000 since hostilities began on October 7, CNN reported on Monday.

The Hamas-controlled Ministry of Health in Gaza said on Monday that the number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since the outbreak of hostilities with Israel on October 7 has now exceeded 10,000.

According to Ashraf Al Qudra, the Gaza ministry’s spokesperson, this figure includes 4,104 children, 2,641 women, and 611 elderly individuals among the casualties, implying that roughly three-quarters of the victims belong to vulnerable populations. The ministry also noted an additional 25,408 people who have been injured in the conflict.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has also expressed concerns over the situation in Middle East over the “clear violations of international humanitarian law”.

“I am deeply concerned about clear violations of international humanitarian law that we are witnessing in the Middle East. The protection of civilians must be paramount,” Guterres posted on X.

Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza would be a topic for discussion for ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrialised democracies meeting in Tokyo.

Japan is hosting the two-day meeting where ministers will speak with one voice on the unfolding Middle East crisis, despite their apparent differences. -Agencies

INTO EGYPT

Many pass through Rafah evacuation corridor

GAZA BORDER: Thousands of civilians crossed the Rafah border crossing, which reopened on Tuesday to facilitate the passage of foreign nationals and wounded Palestinians from Gaza into Egypt, Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (CO-GAT) said on Tuesday.

In a video posted by the COGAT on X, thousands of civilians were seen crossing the border to save their lives amid Israel Hamas war in the region.

It shared the video saying, “Happening now: Thousands pass through the evacuation corridor the @IDF opened for civilians in northern Gaza to move southwards.”

A total of 114 foreign nationals have been evacuated from Gaza to Egypt through the Rafah border crossing so far on Tuesday, CNN reported quoting an Egyptian border official.



In addition, four wounded Palestinians arrived in Egypt for treatment through the crossing, the official added.

According to CNN, this brings the total number of wounded Palestinians with severe injuries sustained from Israeli airstrikes in Gaza who have been transferred to Egypt to 105.

At least 30 more wounded patients are expected to arrive in the country on Tuesday, the official said.

Earlier yesterday, many people crossed the border after it was opened. The crossing had been closed over the weekend following an Israeli airstrike on a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance.

The Rafah border crossing is the only access point in and out of Gaza that is not controlled by Israel.

Last week, an agreement was reached to allow foreign passport holders and critically injured civilians to depart through Rafah.

The Egyptian border official overseeing the reopening reported that nine severely injured Palestinians, who had sustained injuries from Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, were allowed to cross into Egypt for medical treatment on Monday.

This group was accompanied by five individuals, bringing the total number of Palestinians transferred to Egypt for treatment to 93, based on a CNN tally.

Ambulances from the Egyptian Red Crescent were on standby near the border, ready to transport wounded Palestinians to hospitals. -ANI

BILATERAL COOPERATION

India, Bhutan agree to boost relations



NEW DELHI: India and Bhutan agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in multiple areas, with a special focus on cross-border connectivity, and also agreed on the final location survey of the first cross-border rail link between the two countries.

This comes after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk on Monday.

“Pleasure to welcome His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk to India. We had very warm and positive discussions on various facets of the unique and exemplary India-Bhutan relationship. Deeply value His Majesty’s vision for the development and well-being of the friendly people of Bhutan,” PM Modi posted on X (formerly Twitter).

According to the joint state-

ment of India and Bhutan, the two sides agreed to further expand bilateral cooperation on trade, technology, cross-border connectivity, mutual investments, education and people-to-people connections, following was agreed upon:

The two sides agreed to undertake the Final Location Survey (FLS), in consultation with the Bhutanese side, of the proposed cross-border rail link connecting Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in Bhutan through the support of Indian government.

The two sides noted successful completion of the Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic (PET) survey of the rail-link by Indian Railways. The two sides also agreed to consider establishing rail-link between Banarhat (West Bengal) and Samtse (Bhutan), the statement added.

BANGLADESH

Concerns over Time cover story on Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA: A cover story on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a recent edition of the *Time* magazine, titled ‘Hard Power: Sheikh Hasina and the Fate of Democracy in Bangladesh’, has drawn frowns from many back home.

The cover feature, authored by Charlie Campbell, wasn’t received too well by netizens, leaders of the ruling Awami League and activists, and those who hold Prime Minister Hasina in high regard.

However, it appears that many readers may not have delved deeply into the content of the article, which presents a multifaceted view of Sheikh Hasina’s tenure, according to the Bangladesh-based



Daily Asian Age.

Throughout her tenure in office since 2009, Hasina has faced numerous challenges, including the BDR mutiny, the economic

recovery post-Covid, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

While not highlighting her achievements as the country’s premier, the cover feature in *Time* magazine raised concerns over the elections of 2014 and 2018.

“Bangladesh has taken an authoritarian turn under Hasina’s Awami League party. The last two elections were condemned by the US, EU and others for significant irregularities, including stuffed ballot boxes and thousands of phantom voters. She won 84% and 82% of the vote, respectively,” the cover story read.

“Time magazine has conveyed

a message to the world that raises diplomatic questions about Sheikh Hasina’s leadership”, stated Asian Age in its take on the cover feature.

“This message touches on the global financial crisis and Bangladesh’s reliance on loans, which reached 96.2 US billion dollars by December 2022. Bangladesh’s key development partners include the United States, the European Union, India, the World Bank, and the IMF,” the Bangladesh-based daily stated.

However, the daily also noted that *Time* magazine undermined Prime Minister Hasina’s achievement in eradicating poverty in Bangladesh. -ANI

FRAUD CASE

This is ‘a courtroom, not a political rally’: Judge tells Donald Trump

NEW YORK: Donald Trump, the former president of the United States, appeared in a New York courthouse on Monday, where he took the witness stand in a massive fraud case against him, his sons and their family business.

The case, brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, accuses the Trumps of having manipulated the value of their real estate properties by millions of dollars to suit their needs – inflating values when it came to securing loans, and deflating them when it came to paying taxes.

Trump, who is currently devastating his competitors in the race to become the 2024 Republican presidential nominee, spoke to reporters upon arrival on Monday, decrying the New York fraud case as “election interference.”

Inside the courtroom, Trump faced questioning from Judge Arthur Engoron about business practices for which Engoron has already found him guilty.

Engoron upbraided Trump several times throughout his appearance, telling him: “We don’t have time to waste. We have one day to do this,” and calling his answers, “non-responsive” and “repetitive.”

Trump, who attacked the judge before his testimony – saying, “It’s all political warfare as you would call it, or political warfare” – continued to do so on the witness stand, staring at Engoron and saying “he always rules against me.”

The judge replied, “You can attack me whichever way you want but please answer the question.”

At one point, Engeron – who has twice fined the politician for making defamatory remarks about court staff – appealed to Trump’s lawyers, asking: “can you control your client? This is not a political rally, this is a courtroom.”

The fraud trial threatens to be costly for Trump – a \$250 million (€233 million) fine looms – and could bar him from doing business in New York, but unlike the



four criminal cases he currently faces, there is no threat of a prison sentence.

Though Trump has not been required to appear in court until now, he has done so consistently since the trial began in early October.

He has used the media attention on him and his legal troubles as an avenue to vent grievances and malign the US legal system.

All the while, the presidential candidate is raking in cash by using his legal woes as a vehicle for soliciting campaign donations under the motto of fighting for his supporters’ right to free speech.

Trump has used his default “greatest witch hunt of all time” defense in the court of public opinion and called New York Attorney General James, a Black woman, “out of control.”

James appeared unimpressed by Trump’s distracting antics Monday, saying: “At the end of the day, the only thing that matters are the facts and the numbers. And the numbers, my friends, don’t lie.”

Though Trump has claimed no one was injured as a result of his business practices, New York attorneys claim his falsified records likely earned him as much as \$100

million dollars and inflated his personal wealth by \$2 billion.

Michael Cohen, a former lawyer and so-called “fixer” for Trump, testified in late October that Trump would usually provide the number he wanted to use in a given situation and that it was up to everyone else to “reverse engineer” accounts to ensure they came out to that number.

Cohen himself served time for violating campaign finance laws by making secret payments to hide news of an extramarital affair that threatened Trump’s 2016 presidential candidacy.

Trump’s sons each denied responsibility for any wrongdoing when testifying on the decades long accounting scheme last week, saying the company’s accountants were to blame.

Donald Trump himself said: “All I did was authorise and tell people to give whatever is necessary for the accountants to do the statements. I would look at them, I would see them, and maybe on some occasions, I would have some suggestions.”

Trump also insisted he bears no responsibility to banks because his financial statements all carried a disclaimer that said they were worthless and should not be trusted. **-ANI**



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NOTICE FOR THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF DHOFAR UNIVERSITY S.A.O.C

The Board of Directors of Dhofar University (S.A.O.C) is pleased to invite the company’s shareholders to attend the nineteenth Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the company (AGM) which will take place on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held through the AGM’s electronic platform which can be accessed from the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository (S.A.O.C) (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not secured to convene the AGM, a second meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 01:00 p.m. The agenda of the valid meeting will be as follows:

AGM Agenda

- 1) To consider and approve the board of directors’ report on the activities of the company and its financial status during the financial year ended on 31 August 2023.
- 2) To consider and approve the board of directors’ report on the organization and management of the company, during the financial year ended on 31 August 2023.
- 3) To consider and approve the auditor’s report on the financial statements of the company for the financial year ended on 31 August 2023.
- 4) To inform about the transactions entered into by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended on 31 August 2023.
- 5) To appoint the External Auditor for the new financial year ending 31st August 2024 and determine his fees.

As per the Articles of Association of the company, the MOC’s guidelines of holding AGMs for SAOC companies via electronic means and the other relevant rules, please note the following:

- a. A legal person only has the right to appoint a natural person to attend the AGM and vote on decisions taken on his behalf via electronic means. This natural person must have an ID issued by Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.
- b. Shareholders have the right to vote on any of the agenda items starting no earlier than three days from the date of holding the AGM. In case the shares owned by a shareholder changed (increased/decreased), the vote shall be void and a new vote needs to be made on the day of the AGM.

In case of any queries, please do not hesitate to contact
the Legal Advisor: Mohammed Abbas, Tel. No.: 23237108, GSM: 94043168

Chairman
Tariq Salim Mustahil Al Mashani

Legal Advisor
Mohammed Abbas

External Auditor
Deloitte & Touche (M.E.) & Co. LLC



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

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th September 2023.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 14.431 million OMR compared with 15.911 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 9%.

The parent Company’s total turnover for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 14.009 million OMR compared with 15.742 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 11%.

At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2023 is OMR 147,759, compared with net loss of 26,745 OMR for the same period of the last year. The group results got affected by the initial investment that has occurred for the Saudi office that will start operation by Q4 2023.

The parent Company’s net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 76,603 OMR compared with net loss of 38,801 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

	30th September 2023		30th September 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	14,009,098	14,430,553	15,741,944	15,910,713
Cost of sales	(13,437,137)	(13,840,045)	(15,281,541)	(15,386,341)
Gross Profit	571,961	590,508	460,403	524,372
General and administration expenses	(713,880)	(803,132)	(641,562)	(661,729)
Investment and Other Income	65,316	65,316	142,358	116,270
Profit for the period before tax	(76,603)	(147,308)	(38,801)	(21,087)
Provision for Income tax	-	(451)	-	(5,658)
Net Profit for the period after tax	(76,603)	(147,759)	(38,801)	(26,745)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(76,603)	(147,759)	(38,801)	(26,745)
Earnings per share	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.001)	(0.0009)

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

Muscat Gases Company SAOG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	30 September 2023		30 September 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	3,280,780	3,497,024	2,926,618	3,138,979
Right of use assets	212,958	212,958	189,791	189,791
Investment	2,004,073	-	1,901,475	-
Goodwill	-	996,800		996,800
Trade Receivable	187,434	187,434	312,390	312,390
Total Non-current Assets	5,685,245	4,894,216	5,330,274	4,637,960
Current Assets:				
Inventories	1,473,089	1,599,779	1,092,486	1,163,326
Trade and other receivables	3,889,906	3,980,679	3,743,365	3,468,016
Cash and cash equivalents	1,417,718	1,501,642	2,550,342	2,553,224
Total Current Assets	6,780,713	7,082,100	7,386,193	7,184,566
TOTAL ASSETS	12,465,958	11,976,316	12,716,467	11,822,526
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,012,670	1,000,000	1,009,975
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	753,887	753,887
Retained earnings	(248,712)	(256,314)	26,608	98,105
Total Equity	6,016,021	6,021,089	6,237,562	6,319,034
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	121,044	128,154	76,141	77,118
Non current portion of Term Loan	192,389	192,389	338,031	338,031
Non current portion of lease liabilities	231,848	231,848	201,301	201,301
Deferred tax	147,149	144,695	153,225	154,740
Total Non-current Liabilities	692,430	697,086	768,698	771,190
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	5,247,557	4,747,741	5,079,904	4,096,341
Bank overdraft	447,949	447,949	524,959	524,959
Current portion of Term Loan	33,450	33,450	74,911	74,911
Current portion of lease liabilities	8,333	8,333	10,215	10,215
Income Tax	20,218	20,668	20,218	25,876
Total Current Liabilities	5,757,507	5,258,141	5,710,207	4,732,302
Total Liabilities	6,449,937	5,955,227	6,478,905	5,503,492
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	12,465,958	11,976,316	12,716,467	11,822,526
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.201	0.201	0.208	0.211

SPORTS



RUNS

201*

BALLS

128

FOUR

21

SIX

10

S.RATE

157.03

MAXWELL'S

MARVEL:

A KNOCK FOR THE AGES

The all-rounder's unbeaten double ton leads Australia into semi-finals



MUMBAI: Glenn Maxwell took charge after Australia were seven down and led them to an all-time great win at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Maxwell's amazing performance will be penned down into cricketing folklore and will be rejoiced and relived for ages to come after an astonishing double century (201*) helped Australia qualify for the semi-finals.

Maxwell battled cramps in the latter stages of his innings and fought his way through to stay at the crease. He found good support in his skipper, Pat Cummins. This was the highest individual score in an ODI World Cup chase and Maxwell shared an unbroken stand of 202 with Cummins (12*) as Australia won with 19 balls to spare.

In the first innings, a splendid century for Ibrahim Zadran (129*), sturdy knocks from the middle-order batters, and a hefty charge by the lower-order helped Afghanistan get to their highest World Cup score.

Maxwell had already hit the fastest World Cup century earlier in the event against the Netherlands and returned to the side for this game after missing Saturday's win over England because of a concussion sustained after falling off the back of a golf buggy.

It was a truly breathtaking innings, with remarkable reverse sweeps for six, flicks and whips over the leg side on one leg, which will also be remembered as an incredible show of grit and determination.

He is the first Australian to hit a double century in an ODI and was mobbed by his ecstatic teammates, who could barely believe what they had seen.

The win sees Australia join India and South Africa in the final four. One of New Zealand, Pakistan and Afghanistan will claim the final knockout spot - all three sides are currently on eight points - with the group stage finishing on Sunday.

Afghanistan's Naveen-ul-Haq struck in his very first over, getting Travis Head to nick one behind the wicket. Mitchell Marsh attacked to pick up the scoring rate, but was eventually undone as he was leg before to a superb Naveen delivery. Azmatullah



Omarzai's double strike soon reduced Australia from 49/2 to 49/4 in the ninth over.

Australia's effort now heavily depended on Marnus Labuschagne and Maxwell. The duo added 20 runs for the fifth wicket, before Labuschagne was run out by Rahmat Shah's brilliance.

Rashid Khan arrived in the 15th over, and took no time to grab crucial wickets.

The bowler whose seven wickets before this game had come at an average above 40, was at his very best from the very start. His two wickets supplemented the early damage and saw to it that Australia's innings sunk even further. Maxwell and Cummins managed to hold on over the next few overs, even as Afghanistan spinners continued to dominate.

Maxwell then lifted the pace of the innings, with a set of attacking shots. Taking on the Afghanistan

WORLD CUP 2023 GROUP STANDINGS							
TEAM	P	W	L	N/R	T	NRR	PTS
India	8	8	0	0	0	+2.456	16
South Africa	8	6	2	0	0	+1.376	12
Australia	8	6	2	0	0	+0.861	12
New Zealand	8	4	4	0	0	+0.398	8
Pakistan	8	4	4	0	0	+0.036	8
Afghanistan	8	4	4	0	0	-0.338	8
Bangladesh	8	2	6	0	0	-1.142	4
Sri Lanka	8	2	6	0	0	-1.160	4
Netherlands	7	2	5	0	0	-1.398	4
England	7	1	6	0	0	-1.504	2

courtesy of Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

Australia found the breakthrough when Gurbaz played an unusually aggressive shot off Josh Hazlewood and gifted a catch to Mitchell Starc.

The third-wicket stand between Zadran and Rahmat kept the runs flowing. While Zadran took on the loose deliveries offered to him, Rahmat got his eye in before picking up the pace.

However, one aggressive shot too many, got the better of Rahmat. The batter played an inside out shot off Maxwell but didn't make the best of connections. He ended up holing out to Hazlewood in the deep.

Afghanistan played safe after the middle over mark, adding runs at a rate of 4.3 between 26-35. Mitchell Starc brought forth the next big act in the game, shattering the stumps of Shahidi.

Omarzai's arrival at the crease gave the Asian side a must needed boost, as the youngster unleashed a number of attractive shots.

His big hitting eventually became his undoing as the batter was caught at long-off off the bowling of Adam Zampa in the 43rd over. Ibrahim eventually reached his hundred in the 44th over, a first for Afghanistan in a Cricket World Cup. He picked up his pace thereafter.

Cameos from Mohammed Nabi (12 from 10) and Rashid Khan (35* from 18) helped Afghanistan finish strong.

Brief scores: Afghanistan 291/5 (Ibrahim Zadran 129*, Rahmant Shah 30, Rashid Khan 35*; Josh Hazlewood 2/39) lost to Australia 293/7 in 46.5 overs (Glenn Maxwell 201*, Pat Cummins 12*; Naveen-ul-Haq 2/47, Azmatullah Omarzai 2/52, Rashid Khan 2/44). - (cricketworldcup.com)

WORLD CUP DEBACLE

Court prevents Ranatunga-led interim panel from taking over Sri Lanka Cricket

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) troubles seem far from over and on Tuesday the country's court of appeal issued a 14-day stay order preventing the government Gazette that appointed an "interim committee" from taking effect, *ESPNcricinfo* reported on Tuesday.

The move had been spearheaded by the country's sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe, but had been appealed against by SLC president Shammi Silva.

It, however, appears to be no longer a purely sporting issue as prior to the court's judgement it had already been escalated to the highest levels of Sri Lankan governance - the office of the Sri Lanka president Ranil Wickremesinghe. The matter was eventually discussed by the cabinet of ministers on Monday and even debated in Tuesday's parliamentary session.

According to widespread reports, President Wickremesinghe had only learnt of the move to appoint an interim committee through the media. Ranasinghe for his part has argued that the decision was vested solely with the sports minister and did not require the approval of the cabinet



or the president.

Nevertheless, following the matter being tabled at the cabinet meeting, where Ranasinghe was also present, it was decided that a four-member sub-committee, headed by foreign minister Ali Sabry, would be appointed to investigate SLC.

"The cabinet has resolved to appoint a special sub-committee with the mandate to examine the current situation and work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including input from esteemed former cricketers," a statement from the president's media office said. "The primary objective of this sub-committee is to recommend immediate, viable measures to resolve the outstanding issues in Sri Lanka Cricket."

There are notable concerns, however, regarding how the ICC would respond to such a move, something the president is said to be cognisant of. Under Sri Lanka's sports law, the government has

the power to dissolve the governing body of any sport - a power it has used several times on SLC in the last 20 years. But during the time of the most recent interim committee, which presided for roughly a year between 2014 and 2015, the ICC had refused to disburse payments owed to SLC, and held those funds in escrow until a fresh board was elected. SLC was also demoted to observer status at ICC board meetings in that period. - Agencies

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FRACTURED FINGER

Bangladesh's Shakib ruled out of World Cup

PUNE: Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan has been ruled out of his side's last World Cup 2023 match, against Australia in Pune on November 11, with a fractured left index finger. He will fly back to Dhaka today, while the rest of the squad heads to Pune from Delhi.

Anamul Haque Bijoy was approved by the ICC as a replacement for Shakib Al Hasan in the squad.

The injury happened during his innings of 82 against Sri Lanka in Delhi on Monday. According to physio Bayjedul Islam Khan, Shakib suffered the injury in the early part of his batting stint.

"Shakib was struck on his left index finger early in his innings but continued to bat with supportive taping and painkillers," Bayjedul said. "He underwent an emergency X-ray in Delhi after the game, which confirmed the fracture on the left PIP joint. Recovery is estimated at three to four weeks. He will leave for Bangladesh today to begin his rehab."

Shakib's injury caps a dramatic 24 hours for him. During Bangladesh's three-wicket win



over Sri Lanka on Monday, he had initiated the appeal which resulted in Angelo Mathews becoming the first batter to be dismissed timed out in international cricket. After the game, Shakib said that he had felt like he was at a war out on the field.

Bangladesh have lost six of their eight games so far in this World Cup, putting them out of contention for the semis. But they still have hopes of qualifying for the Champions Trophy 2025; a top-eight finish on the table would seal that. Shakib himself had a lean run, scoring in single digits in three of the six innings before his Player-of-the-Match 82 against Sri Lanka.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by January 2024 reaching \$85.00, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.78 from the price of Monday, which was \$86.78. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,547.84 points, down by 0.29 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01 per cent at 440.81 points. Galifar Engineering, up 6.54 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Desalination, down 2.50 per cent, was the top loser.

Sohar net zero alliance to accelerate Oman's carbon neutrality efforts

This collaborative effort between Sohar Port and Freezone and various industrial tenants demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The formation of the Sohar Net Zero Alliance (SNZA) is a significant step toward accelerating Oman's transition to carbon neutrality by 2050.

This collaborative effort between Sohar Port and Freezone and various industrial tenants demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The alliance aims to achieve the goals of the Government of Oman's '2050 Net Zero Commitment' by focusing on key areas such as securing alternative energy sources,



green power, green hydrogen, and establishing a third-party Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) facility and services at the Sohar Port and Freezone.

By bringing together major stakeholders such as OQ, Vale Oman Pelletizing Company, So-

har Aluminium Company, Jindal Shadeed Iron & Steel, Al Tamman Indsil Ferrochrome (FZC), Shinas Generating Company, Sohar International Urea & Chemical Industries, Al Batinah Power, and Air Liquide Sohar Industrial Gases, the alliance aims to pro-

mote partnership, transparency, commitment, and inclusiveness. These principles will guide their collaborative efforts and ensure a unified approach to achieving carbon neutrality.

Emile Hoogsteden, CEO of Sohar Port, expressed the signifi-

cance of this alliance, "Sohar Net Zero Alliance signifies our steadfast commitment to spearheading Oman's journey toward carbon neutrality. Together, we are setting a bold course towards a sustainable and carbon-free future, leaving no stone unturned."

The alliance will also promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise to ensure a unified voice in discussions with the government. Together, they will implement a shared plan to advance the transition to a sustainable and carbon-neutral future.

BLOCKS 3&4



Tethys October oil production in Oman reaches 256,954 barrels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of the production, before government take, from Blocks 3&4 onshore the Sultanate of Oman, in October 2023 amounted to 256,954 barrels of oil, corresponding to 8,289 barrels of oil per day.

The Official Selling Price (OSP) for Oman Export Blend Crude Oil for the month of October 2023 was \$86.57 per barrel. The OSP, as published by the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals, is the benchmark price for Tethys Oil's monthly oil sales excluding trading and quality adjustments.

Tethys Oil AB, through its wholly owned subsidiary Teth-

ys Oil Block 3 & 4 Ltd, has a 30 percent interest in Blocks 3&4. Partners are Mitsui E&P Middle East BV with 20 percent and the operator CC Energy Development (Oman branch) holding the remaining 50 percent.

Tethys Oil is an oil exploration and production company with focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries. The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58. Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P reserves of 23.9 mmbbl and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 14.6 mmbbl and had an average oil production of 9,940 barrels per day during 2022.

JADARAH RESOURCING PLATFORM

OIA's digital platform aims to streamline recruitment and training processes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with its national commitment and the government's digital transformation plans, Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and its companies, have announced the launch of Jadarah, a new innovative digital platform to facilitate the recruitment, training and development of Omanis.

Jadarah serves as a unified digital recruitment hub, connecting OIA and its companies with the public. The platform offers a full range of opportunities for employment, training and secondment at OIA and its companies, and leverages artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to expedite and refine recruitment processes while providing real-time reports and data.

Through its intelligent features, Jadarah streamlines the recruitment process, ensuring accuracy and efficiency.

Jadarah is a comprehensive platform that serves as a unified digital recruitment hub, specifically designed to display all employment and training opportunities. It seamlessly connects OIA and its companies with the public,



providing a centralized platform for individuals seeking job opportunities or exploring secondment and training programmes.

By leveraging advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, Jadarah optimizes the recruitment process, expediting and refining it. Jadarah's intelligent features ensure a streamlined recruitment experience, enhancing accuracy and efficiency. Additionally, it generates real-time reports and data, which enhances the recruitment process.

Commenting on the importance of the platform, Saud Al-Yahmadi,

Assistant Deputy President of People & Change at Oman Investment Authority, emphasised OIA's commitment to attracting talented, knowledgeable, and experienced individuals based on merit. The platform underscores OIA's dedication to supporting national competencies through various strategies and initiatives, including employment opportunities, development programs, and training for Omani citizens.

Sultan Al-Alawi, Senior Manager of Resourcing & Talent Management at OIA, highlighted the importance of Jadarah in enhancing

the existing governance systems. By providing a digital one-stop-shop for recruitment, the platform ensures transparency and equal employment opportunities for all applicants, fostering a transparent recruitment process.

Al Alawi also noted that Jadarah optimises user experience, simplifies procedures, and automates recruitment, saving time and effort for job seekers. With easy-to-use interfaces, candidates can search and apply for various vacancies that match their skills. The platform offers Oman Investment Authority and its companies a good opportunity to efficiently manage and evaluate candidates in a centralised manner.

The platform's mobile-friendly design expands the reach of job opportunities, enabling a wider audience access. Additionally, the platform has been developed by an Omani company, demonstrating OIA's support for SMEs.

The launch of Jadarah was held under the auspicious of Dr Mahad Said Baowain, Minister of Labour, along with Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, President of the Oman Investment Authority, and senior officials from OIA and its companies.

REPORT

Six IPOs in region raised \$523 million in 2023 third quarter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Middle East and North Africa (Mena) markets saw six initial public offerings (IPOs) during the third quarter (Q3) of 2023, raising \$523 million, according to the EY Mena IPO Eye Q3 2023 report.

This represented a 14 percent decrease in the number of IPOs and a 66 percent drop in proceeds when compared to the third quarter of 2022. First-day returns were positive, with all six listings registering a gain.

At the end of Q3 2023, there were a total of 29 IPOs year-to-date (YTD) in Mena with total proceeds of \$5.8 billion, marking a 6 percent reduction in volume and a 61 percent decline in funds raised year on year (y-o-y). All YTD listing activity took place in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

Despite the lower levels of proceeds from Mena listings, the IPO

pipeline for Q4 2023 and into 2024 remains promising, particularly driven by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), where 27 companies have announced their intention to list on the Tadawul.

Brad Watson, EY Mena Strategy and Transactions Leader, said: "Investor confidence in the region continues, with 21 out of the 29 year-to-date IPOs ending Q3 2023 with a gain in share price since listing. IPOs remain driven by the dominant economies of the KSA and the UAE, which are pursuing their strategic agenda of increasing capital market activity on the local exchanges and stepping up efforts to attract foreign investment."

Saudi Arabia accounts for majority of listings

Once again, KSA reaffirmed its dominance in terms of IPO activity in the region with five of the six listings in Q3 2023, raising \$330m in total. Lumi Rental Co, which



listed on the Tadawul Main Market, raised the highest proceeds at \$291m. The remaining four IPOs raising a combined total of \$39m took place on the Nomu - Parallel Market. Nomu also witnessed two direct listings - Paper Home Co. and Al Rashid Industrial Co. In addition, Sumou Real Estate Co., which had been listed on Nomu

in Q1 2020, moved to the Tadawul Main Market in September 2023.

As part of Vision 2030, KSA continues its economic diversification drive by reducing its focus on oil-related activities, with three of the IPOs from the transportation sector contributing \$302m of the total proceeds. Munawla Cargo Co. reported the highest first-day

gain at 69 percent.

The fourth quarter of 2023 kicked off with three Saudi listings in October - ADES Holding Company on the Tadawul Main Market, and Atlas Elevators General Trading & Contracting Co. and Intelligent Oud Co for Trading on the Nomu.

Gregory Hughes, EY MENA IPO and Transaction Diligence Leader, said: "Despite a slow Q3 2023, we are still optimistic that the remainder of 2023 and 2024 will show a healthy number of IPOs on the Mena markets based on current pipelines. The fourth quarter of 2023 is already off to a strong start with three IPOs successfully completed in KSA, and we are expecting additional IPOs toward the end of 2023 in the UAE. However, we are facing a risk that the ongoing geopolitical challenges in the region will adversely impact investor sentiment."

Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) saw the second-largest MENA

IPO of the quarter with MEEZA QSTP-LLC raising \$193m.

Sustainability initiatives continue to gain prominence in the region, with companies increasingly realizing the importance of environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) to investors. With the UAE gearing up to host the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) this year, MENA stock exchanges are doing their part in supporting ESG reporting and adoption. The Egyptian Exchange (EGX), Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), and the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) have all mandated their listed companies to report on ESG performance. The Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) has encouraged voluntary ESG reporting for 2023 activities and mandatory ESG reporting to start from 2024, while several other exchanges - including the Tadawul - have published guidance on ESG reporting.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower



Galfar Engineering, up 6.54 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Desalination, down 2.50 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,547.84 points, down by 0.29 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01 per cent at 440.81 points. Galfar Engineering, up 6.54 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Desalination, down 2.50 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1321 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR6.44 million, with more than 33.33 million shares changing hands.

Out of 35 traded securities, 11 advanced, 10 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR4.06 million while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR3.80 million, followed by foreign investors for OMR255,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,361.40 points, down 0.55 per cent. There were no gainers from

financial sector stocks. Prices of Ahli Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank, and National Bank Oman were down by 1.83 per cent, 1.37 per cent, 1.03 per cent, 0.99 per cent, 0.67 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,437.52 points, up 0.92 per cent. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cement, and Raysut Cement were up by 6.54 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.25 per cent, 1.71 per cent, 0.80 per cent respectively. There were no shares that closed lower in the industrial sector.

Services Index was up by 0.19 per cent before closing at 1,560.05 points. Prices of Barka Desalination, SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Oman National Engineering, and National Gas were up by 5.09 per cent, 3.03 per cent, 2.15 per cent, 1.87 per cent and 1.18 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat City Desalination, Phoenix Power, and Renaissance Services were down by 2.50 per cent, 1.82 per cent and 0.52 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,566.868	4,541.609	4,547.836	4,560.939	-13.103	-0.29
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,409.729	7,361.400	7,361.400	7,402.002	-40.602	-0.55
Industry Index	5,437.523	5,377.115	5,437.523	5,387.718	49.805	0.92
Services Index	1,562.100	1,550.792	1,560.053	1,557.144	2.909	0.19
MSX Shariah Index	441.317	440.358	440.807	440.838	-0.031	-0.01
MSX TR INDEX	6,019.681	5,986.386	5,994.594	6,011.865	-17.271	-0.29
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,085.376	8,032.640	8,032.640	8,076.943	-44.303	-0.55
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,808.627	5,744.096	5,808.627	5,755.423	53.204	0.92
SERVICES TR IDX	1,737.822	1,725.243	1,735.545	1,732.309	3.236	0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	33,334,863	Turnover	6,443,080	Trades	1,321	Market Cap	23,641,039,405	Up	11	Down	10	Equal	14	Sec. Traded	35
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SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST PD	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	21,421	2,292	8	0.107	0.109	0.107	0.109	0.107	0.002	1.869	0.109	0.107	0.108	0.100	ONES	16,350,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	191,900	56,611	4	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.297	-0.002	-0.673	0.295	0.287	0.295	0.100	NBOB	479,654,175
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	3,000	891	1	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.292	-0.005	-1.712	0.297	0.280	0.319	0.100	OCOI	98,268,195
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,000	176	2	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.176	0.000	0.000	0.176	0.166	0.188	0.100	AACT	38,720,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	13,700	767	3	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.055	0.060	0.100	UFCI	19,943,129
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,579,658	948,542	6	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.100	BKDB	509,379,744
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	13,961,193	3,493,488	84	0.254	0.254	0.250	0.253	0.254	-0.001	-0.394	0.253	0.253	0.254	0.100	BKMB	1,899,118,457
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	33,330	33,862	34	1.020	1.028	1.010	1.020	1.020	0.000	0.000	1.020	1.008	1.020	0.100	OTEL	765,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	30,000	11,580	1	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.388	-0.002	-0.515	0.386	0.350	0.386	0.100	RNSS	91,254,260
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,540,176	154,268	42	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.980	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.100	RKSB	546,788,850
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	5,000	240	2	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.002	3.030	0.068	0.066	0.069	0.100	SMNP	13,575,221
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	60,000	5,100	5	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.093	0.100	AMAT	14,875,000
OM0000005006	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,450	290	3	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.208	0.200	0.100	AMCI	11,000,000
Total	13	21,441,828	4,708,207	195													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	10,000	860	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	NGCI	7,310,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	30,817	3,862	12	0.126	0.126	0.124	0.126	0.125	-0.001	-0.800	0.126	0.126	0.127	0.100	RCCI	25,200,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	500	750	1	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.100	ORCI	75,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	31,500	2,268	8	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.070	0.072	0.100	AAIC	14,832,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	366	40	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.000	0.110	0.100	BACS	9,900,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,000	350	1	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.032	0.035	0.100	AMII	2,975,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	58,645	9,447	3	0.162	0.162	0.161	0.161	0.164	-0.003	-1.829	0.161	0.161	0.162	0.100	ABOB	378,294,852
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	200,000	45,400	6	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.222	-0.005	-2.252	0.227	0.222	0.227	0.100	GMPI	10,388,836
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	160	136	1	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.000	0.000	0.850	0.830	0.880	0.100	SOMS	80,750,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	7,500	270	2	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.036	0.038	0.100	BWPC	5,760,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	536,510	83,286	39	0.150	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.153	0.000	6.536	0.153	0.158	0.158	0.100	GRCS	33,068,791
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	2,914	350	5	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.117	-0.003	-2.564	0.120	0.120	0.128	0.100	VOES	9,788,330
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	721,871	70,715	36	0.098	0.098	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.095	0.098	0.100	BKNZ	214,747,491
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	282,600	25,880	17	0.096	0.096	0.090	0.095	0.093	-0.002	-2.151	0.095	0.090	0.095	0.100	SSWP	90,684,335
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,459	34	2	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.021	0.023	0.100	SUWP	16,431,346
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	1,632	212	2	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	OAAB	217,023,300
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	60,079	3,295	13	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.055	-0.001	-1.818	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.100	PHPC	78,980,479
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	985	77	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.078	0.079	0.100	MCDE	12,132,931
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	350	43	1	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.118	-0.006	-5.085	0.124	0.111	0.124	0.100	BRDE	9,364,728
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	56,551	16,756	29	0.296	0.297	0.295	0.297	0.296	-0.001	-0.338	0.297	0.297	0.297	0.100	ABRJ	228,749,400
OM0000009072	OQAS NETWORKS	9,877,306	1,469,900	941	0.149	0.150	0.148	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.149	0.148	0.149	0.100	OQGN	645,262,964
Total	21	11,891,745	1,733,934	1,123													

PARTNERSHIP

Khazaen and National Gas sign significant logistics agreement

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Khazaen Economic City, under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, has recently entered into an investment agreement with the esteemed National Gas Company to establish an integrated Truck Rest Area within Khazaen.

The proposed project encompasses a comprehensive range of facilities, including designated parking lots specifically tailored for trucks, a purpose-built accommodation for truck drivers, top-notch vehicle maintenance services, a variety of commercial shops, and various amenities that will support the logistics sector, spanning an impressive area of 50,000 square metres, with a substantial investment value of OMR2.7 million.

This agreement represents one of the strategic investments made by the National Gas Company to promote economic diversification



and attract investments in the Sultanate's fastest-growing sectors. Notably, this project stands as the first of its kind in the Sultanate, situated near the first dry port in Oman, the Khazaen Central Fruit and Vegetable Market and Khazaen International Logistics Park.

It is noteworthy that Khazaen Economic City has successfully attracted a significant number of investors across key sectors, including logistics, industrial, food, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy. Over 30 months, a remarkable 110 investment agreements were

signed, amounting to an estimated total value of one billion US dollars. This remarkable achievement underscores the increasing interest and confidence among investors in the city's potential and competitiveness as a prime investment destination for diverse investor segments.

Khazaen's advantageous location is a mere half-hour drive from both Muscat International Airport and Suwaia Port, while Sohar Port can be reached within a comfortable two-hour journey.

Among the array of strategic projects that define Khazaen's prominence, the Khazaen Dry Port and Khazaen Central Fruit & Vegetable Market stand out as noteworthy examples. The Food City encompasses the Khazaen Central Market, a bustling hub for the trade of fresh vegetables and fruits, alongside labour villages, and factories specializing in the pharmaceutical, light, and medium industries.

INDIAN STOCK MARKET

Nifty surges above 19,400 as Indian stock market closes on high note

MUMBAI: In a turnaround from the initial downturn, the stock market managed to end on a positive note on Tuesday.

Out of the Nifty companies, 29 recorded advances, while 21 saw declines. Sun Pharma, BPCL, NTPC, Dr Reddy, and IndusInd Bank emerged as the top gainers, while Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Finance, Divi's Lab,

PROUD OF OUR MEDAL WINNERS: AL ZUBAIR



Oman Olympic Committee chairman Khalid Al Zubair honours Oman's Hangzhou Asian Games and Asian Para Games medallists

MUSCAT: A day of jubilation and immense pride unfolded as the Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) honoured its national heroes who recently achieved outstanding success at the Hangzhou Asian Games and Asian Para Games.

Omani athletes and para athletes delivered an exceptional performance at the continental Games, securing a silver and a bronze medal at the Asian Games (September 23-October 8) and four medals, including two gold medals, at the Asian Paralympic Games (October 22-28).

The sailing duo of Musab Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi etched their names in history by clinching Oman's first-ever Asian Games silver medal in the 49er men's skiff event.

Adding to the glory, Husain Al Farsi won the country's second medal, a bronze, in the 800m race.

It marked a historic occasion as Oman returned from the Asian Games with two medals for the first time since its maiden medal at the Seoul 1986 Asiad.

In Seoul, Mohammed Amur Al Malki claimed bronze in the 400m race, and four years later, Al Malki secured Oman's only gold medal in

the same event at the Beijing 1990 Games. The relay quartet won a bronze at the 1998 Jakarta Games, and Barakat Al Harthy earned a bronze in the 100m event at the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.

The significance of the latest medals haul is underscored by Oman ending a 13-year medal drought, now surpassed with two medals.

At the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, Mohammed Al Mashaykhi and Mohammed Al Qasbi secured two gold and two silver medals, respectively. Al Mashaykhi won gold in men's shot put (F32), with Al Qasbi earning the silver and the pair did an encore as Al Mashaykhi claimed the title in the men's club throw (F32), with Al Qasbi taking the silver.

During the ceremony on Tuesday, Khalid bin Mohammed Al Zubair, the OOC Chairman, expressed his pride, and said, "We are immensely proud of our players' achievements at the 19th Asian Games and the fourth 2022 Asian Para Games. Oman has collected a total of six medals in the Asian Games and Asian Para Games."

He added, "We have gathered today to honour our heroes,

and these awards are a token of appreciation for their exceptional efforts.

"We hope that this recognition will inspire other athletes and national teams to strive for success in various regional, continental, and international events."

Al Zubair underscored the unwavering support that sports and youth receives from His Majesty the Sultan, and he expressed the OOC's commitment to further enhancing its collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, various sports organisations, and private sector institutions.

The following Asian Games athletes and support staff were honoured on Tuesday: the sailing team, including Musab Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi (sailors), and Hashim Al Rashidi and Saif Al Barwani (support staff); the athletics team, represented by Husain Al Farsi (athlete), Fahd bin Aqeel Turki, Krasimir Petrov, and Mohammad Al Balushi (support staff).

For the Asian Para Games, Mohammed Al Mashaykhi and Mohammed Al Qasbi were honoured, along with the support team of Sania Mustafa, Auf Al Maamari, Asaad Al Qarni, and Hani Al Shamakhi.

The ceremony was attended by Taha Al Kishry, OOC secretary-general, members of the OOC board of directors, Salem Al Amri, Oman Athletics Association president, and Saif Al Barwani, Oman Sail's director general of administrative and financial affairs.



SPORTS

Oman's cricket heroes return home to a triumphal welcome



The national cricket team, champions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier Final in Nepal, received an exuberant welcome upon their return to Muscat International Airport on Monday

MUSCAT: Oman's senior cricket team's remarkable achievement in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier Final stirred the enthusiasm of many, drawing fans, families, Oman Cricket board members, and officials from the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth to Muscat International Airport well past midnight on Monday. They were there to greet the champions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier Final.

In a thrilling final match held at the TU ground in Kirtipur on Sunday, Oman triumphed over the host nation, Nepal, in a super over, winning the T20 World Cup 2024 qualifier with a perfect record in front of nearly 35,000 local fans.

The title victory, along with securing qualification for the T20 World Cup for the third time under the leadership of head coach Duleep Mendis, ignited a strong sense of national pride and jubilation. This was evident on Monday night when the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth organised a reception for the national heroes at the VIP lounge, a space typically reserved for foreign dignitaries.

Leading the welcome party at the airport was Hisham Al Sinani, the director-general at the sports ministry, along with Oman Cricket (OC) vice-chairman Paul Sheridan, OC secretary Madhu Jesrani, OC treasurer Alkesh Joshi, OC board members Kiran Asher and Syed Anwar Ahsan, along with numerous fans and family members.

Mendis, the legendary Sri Lankan cricketer, expressed his immense satisfaction and pride upon his arrival at the airport.

He said, "This is a monumental achievement. Qualifying for the T20 World Cup with an undefeated record in such a highly competitive qualifier fills me with joy. The players poured their hearts into the games, and defeating the host nation Nepal, not once but twice, in front of a cheering crowd of nearly 30,000-40,000 locals, underscores the tremendous progress Oman Cricket has made over the years under the adept leadership of H.E. Pankaj Khimji, the Oman Cricket chairman."



Mendis has led Oman to all three T20 World Cups, an achievement that only a few coaches can boast of. He previously steered the Men in Red to their maiden T20 World Cup win in 2016 in India and repeated the feat in 2021 when Oman co-hosted the event with the UAE.

Consistent display: Maqsood Oman's captain, Zeeshan Maqsood, who currently holds the World No.7 spot in the ICC ODI all-rounders list, shared his happiness at their qualification and the remarkable unbeaten journey to claim the trophy. He commended his exceptional team, which secured victories over Nepal, all in front of an appreciative crowd numbering in the thousands.

For Maqsood it will also be the third T20 World Cup, having been part of the national team in the previous T20 World Cup in 2016 and 2021. He said: "Aqib Ilyas was adjudged the Player of the Tournament and Bilal Khan named the best bowler of the Asia Qualifier



Final. Their recognitions were like an icing on the cake. It underlines the consistency in the team and each player owed up their responsibilities and played a role in the success. The title win is a result of all-round work for the past many months of players, coach Mendis, assistant coaches, bowling coach, support staff, and OC board. I also would like to express my deep appreciation to our fans here in Oman and also in Nepal, who cheered us during the matches."

Tribute to patron-in-chief

OC chairman Pankaj Khimji was delighted with the team's success and said: "The team has made the country proud once again. The final was a thriller and the best I've witnessed in a long time. It was truly a deserving final and the large Nepal crowd added a different dimension to the final. Oman are worthy champions and the players and the support staff deserve the credit."

The OC boss, who is also the Asian Cricket Council vice-chairman and

ICC director, added: "His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, has been a tremendous support throughout our Asia Qualifier Final. The title triumph and qualification to the T20 World Cup for the third time is a tribute to the nation and our people. Above all, it is a tribute to our patron-in-chief His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik."

Ilyas' remarkable journey

The success story of Oman's vice-captain and Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Asia Qualifier Final, Aqib Ilyas, reflects resilience and determination. Ilyas, who made a remarkable comeback to competitive cricket after an injury hiatus of nearly one and a half years, expressed his elation at qualifying for the World Cup.

He said: "It is the best feeling to make it to the World Cup. It is a dream to qualify for any player to play in the World Cup. And this time with the ICC expanding the 2024 tournament to 20 teams, we

will play in the main round with the big teams as there will be four groups of five teams each. We have worked hard for the past seven-eight months. I came back after injury and had to get to the level of my team-mates. I also led Oman to the inaugural T20 Gulf Cup win in the absence of regular captain Zeeshan Maqsood. I have been consistently scoring since our ICC ODI Qualifier in Zimbabwe in June where I got three fifties.

"The confidence was growing since then and I also received the backing of my coach Mendis. It is a great feeling to get player of the series in back-to-back tournaments, first Oman D20 and now in Nepal. I know the team relies on me a lot and it gives me great satisfaction when I am able to deliver and produce favourable results. Now we will work hard to make an impact at the 2024 World Cup."

Long-serving OC secretary Madhu Jesrani celebrated the incredible achievement of the team, expressing his pride in their per-

formance. He looked ahead to the team's preparations for the upcoming year, expressing the hope that they would compete with the world's best in the 2024 T20 World Cup in the USA and the West Indies.

OC treasurer Alkesh Joshi attributed the success to the team's collective efforts over the past 14 months. He highlighted the strategic changes that were made to elevate the team's performance and success. Joshi pointed out their remarkable journey, including reaching the Super Six stage at the ICC ODI World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe, winning the Gulf Cup T20 title, and clinching qualification to the 2024 T20 World Cup for the third time. He credited head coach Duleep Mendis, the coaching staff, and the entire OC administration, emphasising that reaching this stage would not have been possible without the relentless support of the sports ministry and the strong backing of H.H. Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said.



BankDhofar launches multi-currency deposits to encourage saving culture

With an impressive interest rate of 5% per annum, customers can enjoy both peace of mind and substantial returns on their investments

MUSCAT: BankDhofar introduced a range of deposit options that will redefine saving experience within customers and provide opportunities to grow their wealth.

Fixed Deposit also called as Term Deposit: For those looking to secure their savings, BankDhofar offers an alluring Fixed Deposit scheme. With an impressive interest rate of 5% per annum, customers can enjoy both peace of mind and substantial returns on their investments. You have the option of getting the interest as an additional income credited to your account or let it get added to the principal and compound your growth.

US Dollar Deposit: In an ever-globalizing world, the bank's US Dollar Deposit option is tailored for those holding USD.

For deposits of USD 50,000 or more, we offer an attractive interest rate of 4.84% per annum. This not only keeps your funds safe but



also helps them grow steadily in this global currency.

Recurring Deposit: BankDhofar recognises the value of commitment, and our Recurring Deposit option is designed to reward customers. With a three-year commitment, customers can enjoy an impressive 5% interest rate. This is a flexible and accessible way to achieve your savings goals while also reaping the benefits of consistent investment and compounding interest.

Children's Recurring Deposit: With the aim of saving for the children's future and education;

BankDhofar is pleased to launch of the Recurring Deposit Account for Children. This initiative encourages parents to save for their children's education journey and get an exceptional up to 5% p.a. interest, as well as flexible tenors ranging from 6 months till the child reaches 18 years.

High Yield Savings Account: For those who prefer liquidity without sacrificing returns, our High Yield Savings Account is the ideal choice. Offering a generous 4% interest per annum for balances, it provides the flexibility to access your funds whenever you need

them, all while enjoying an impressive interest rate.

BankDhofar is focused on its customer's financial wellbeing. Those encouraging interest rates meet the diverse needs of customers who are looking for security, flexibility, or high returns. BankDhofar is dedicated to empower the customers with wealth generation options. You are one step away to take advantage of these attractive options. Walk into any of our 100 plus branches across Oman, where our dedicated staff will be happy to assist you, or please visit www.bankdhofar.com.

ISLAMIC BANKING



Muzn's Bancatakaful products safeguard your needs and lifestyle

MUSCAT: Driven by its customer-centric approach, Muzn, National Bank of Oman's (NBO) Islamic banking window, constantly strives to secure its customers by providing value-added solutions in accordance with Sharia principles. Muzn has introduced a number of Bancatakaful products designed to offer financial protection to its customers and their loved ones.

Through its Bancatakaful products, Muzn offers special insurance products like the Takaful Elite Life Plan, My Health Plus 'Himayati' and Motor Insurance, all designed to follow Sharia principles. These products aim to give customers financial security and peace of mind.

Salima Al Marzouqi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer, said, "At Muzn, we understand our customers' concerns when it comes to protecting themselves, their loved ones and their assets during life's unexpected challenges. Hence, we have introduced an array of Sharia-compliant Bancatakaful products that align with our customers' values. This demonstrates our commitment to providing the best banking experience to our growing customer base without compromising on their values and principles."

One of these offerings is the Takaful Elite Life Plan, a comprehensive life insurance plan designed to safeguard families' financial futures. This plan includes high-value life coverage, annual family travel Takaful and gadget protection, ensuring peace of mind and financial stability during unexpected events.

For individuals prioritising their family's safety and security, 'Himayati' under My Health Plus offers a streamlined solution designed for females. "My Health Plus" is a simple term medical insurance product. It is easy to set up and manage, available to new and existing customers aged 18 to 65 and their spouses, providing seamless coverage.

Moreover, Muzn, in collaboration with Takaful Oman, offers Motor Takaful insurance plan, recognising the importance of vehicle safety. This comprehensive motor insurance plan not only covers the customer's vehicle but also all its passengers, ensuring a worry-free experience and full protection for the car.

As the first licensed Islamic banking window in Oman, Muzn has been committed to safeguarding the interest of its customers through comprehensive portfolio of insurance products.

AWARD

Taageer Finance awarded 'Best Performing Company' in Mid-Cap sector



MUSCAT: Leading finance and leasing company (FLC) - Taageer Finance announced that it has been named 'Best Performing Company' in the Mid-Cap sector at the Alam Al Iktisaad awards.

Beginning the fourth quarter with a string of prestigious industry awards, the company has also been named 'Finance and Leasing Company of the Year' and won the 'Pioneers in Digital Evolution' in the NBFC Sector at the DX Oman Digital Transformation awards. That's not all, the company's CEO Shahin Mohammed Al Balushi has also been named the 'Finance and Leasing CEO of the Year'.

Commenting on the company's success, Shahin Mohammed Al Balushi mentioned: "Taageer Finance remains committed to realising its vision and mission, contributing to the economic growth of our nation, and creating lasting value for our customers and shareholders. This recognition energises us to continue pioneering financial solutions that drive prosperity and empower communities."

He added: "To be the recipient of this award is exceptionally gratifying as we grow and evolve our business to be the nation's FLC partner of choice. A number of important areas of focus are reflected in this success - our commitment to supporting our clients; being an employer of choice; and the way in which we operate, alongside our focus on constantly developing new and innovative solutions. Most significantly, these awards reflect the exceptional talent that we have here at Taageer Finance, across our business."

Witnessing the highest growth in market share among FLCs, Taageer Finance has demonstrated consistent growth across its revenue, portfolio, profitability, and provision coverage; showcasing financial resilience and prudent risk management practices. Playing a pivotal role in SME development, Taageer Finance contributes significantly to job creation and economic empowerment.

With a commitment to fostering local talent, the company actively contributes to the development of a skilled workforce, a crucial element for the nation's progress. The company credits its success to a cadre of experienced and talented top management professionals and teams that bring industry knowledge and strategic acumen to the forefront.

Taageer Finance offers a diverse

range of financial and leasing solutions for businesses and individuals. Headquartered in Al Khuwair in Muscat, the company has an extensive nationwide network, through branches at Wattayah, Sohar, Al Kamil Al Wafi, Barka, Nizwa, Salalah and most recently Seeb. By offering customers a cutting-edge digital platform, upholding the highest corporate governance standards, implementing resilient systems and procedures, and utilizing state-of-the-art technology, Taageer has established itself as a trusted ally for customers. This includes the integration of Point of Sale (POS) machines at all branches to facilitate a streamlined cashless payment process, as well as the efficient processing of customer requests through its mobile application.

POPULAR

Oman Japan Friendship Association's Japanese language course expected to commence shortly

MUSCAT: The Japanese language course specially planned by Oman Japan Friendship Association in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, is expected to commence shortly. The entire course will be taught by a native teacher from Japan. What makes this course special is it well-planned contents focusing on making the entire journey of learning the Japanese language convenient and easy.

Re-introduced after a while, the previous editions of the Japanese language course have been popular with various nationalities interested in learning Japanese, here in Oman. The objective of the soon to be introduced course is to offer students an opportunity to develop basic conversational skills, which could assist them in achieving desired goals.

The course will be held at the Children's Public Library, Qurum. Those interested in knowing more about the course details and its contents, can contact Shuichi Sawada on 91723461 or email: shu-sawada@hotmail.co.jp

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Taageer Finance offers a diverse



ROUND-UP

Xiaomi conducts Xiaomi 13T Series Dealers Event in Salalah

With advanced performance, long-lasting battery life, and a crystal-clear display, the Xiaomi 13T Series promises exceptional smartphone experiences for photography, video watching, and daily use

MUSCAT: Xiaomi unveiled its latest Xiaomi 13T Series smartphones in a global launch in Berlin, Germany, on September 26.

These phones are designed for global customers looking to unleash their visual creativity, featuring professional Leica optical lenses for authentic Leica imagery. With advanced performance, long-lasting battery life, and a crystal-clear display, the Xiaomi 13T Series promises exceptional smartphone experiences for photography, video watching, and daily use.

Xiaomi conducted the 13T Series Dealers Event at the Millennium Resort in Salalah on October 30, with an impressive turnout of over 75 attendees. The event included media personnel, social media influencers, buyers, and retailers who had the opportunity to witness the unveiling of two exciting devices: the Xiaomi 13T Pro and the Xiaomi 13T.

An experience zone allowed guests to explore the impressive features of the new series, test and experience smartphone and AIOT products, Xiaomi Smart Band 8 at RRP OMR18.9, Band 8 Active at RRP 11.9, Watch 3 & which comes at OMR39.5, leaving them thoroughly impressed.

“Eddi Li Xiaomi Country Head, Tayyab Abbas, Xiaomi’s Sales Head for Oman & Jordan, and Faris Al Jumma, CEO of ABT Technology, express their excitement in introducing the Xiaomi 13T Series to our valued customers in Oman and worldwide. This innovative range exemplifies our commitment to pushing the boundaries of technology, offering outstanding performance, captivating design, and an effortless user experience.”

The Xiaomi 13T Series reima-



gines smartphone photography for a new era, featuring Summicron lenses co-engineered with Leica. Both the Xiaomi 13T Pro and Xiaomi 13T are equipped with a triple-camera setup, including a 50MP wide-angle lens for impressive dynamic range, a 50MP telephoto lens for stunning portraits, and a 12MP ultra-wide-angle lens for sweeping panoramic shots. These cameras capture Leica-

quality moments while embracing 100% DCI-P3 brilliance.

The Xiaomi 13T Series introduces two distinct Leica photographic styles: Leica Authentic and Leica Vibrant Look, along with an array of six Leica filters and four innovative Leica watermarks to ignite your creativity.

Refine your photography with Custom photographic styles in Pro mode, ensuring the preserva-

tion of intricate details and vibrant colors. Xiaomi ProFocus technology guarantees sharp action shots and captivating portraits.

Elevate your videography experience with the Xiaomi 13T Pro, which fulfils your video dreams with 10-bit LOG 4:2:0 H.265 video recording, a Rec.709 LUT for precise colour accuracy, and impressive 8K video shooting capabilities. The 50MP wide-angle camera is

equipped with OIS and EIS for stable footage, while the Xiaomi 13T offers 4K video at all focal lengths and a Pro mode for seamless caption and soundtrack editing.

Both the Xiaomi 13T Pro and Xiaomi 13T deliver an awe-inspiring viewing experience thanks to their 6.67” CrystalRes Display, 144Hz refresh rate, and 1.5K resolution. With a peak brightness of 2600nits, they ensure crystal-

clear visuals with vibrant colorus, covering the full DCI-P3 spectrum and supporting an astounding 68 billion colors for HDR10+ visuals. Dual speakers with Dolby Atmos® sound enrich your content immersion. Additionally, you can enjoy 100GB of Google One cloud storage for six months and three months of ad-free YouTube Premium.

Exceptional power efficiency and extended battery life are the Xiaomi 13T Pro and Xiaomi 13T hallmarks. The Xiaomi 13T Pro runs on a MediaTek Dimensity 9200+ chipset, while the Xiaomi 13T is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 8200-Ultra, both featuring a 5000mm(2) VC stainless steel soaking plate for improved thermal dissipation. The Xiaomi 13T Pro supports Xiaomi 120W HyperCharge, enabling a full charge in just 19 minutes, and both models offer fast charging options. Safety features, including ISP, SOA, and DTPT technologies, are integrated to safeguard the 5000mAh (typ) battery.

Xiaomi 13T Pro and Xiaomi 13T come in three elegant colors: Alpine Blue with Xiaomi BioComfort vegan leather, Meadow Green, and Black with a glossy glass back. All are IP68-rated for water and dust resistance, offering style and durability. Xiaomi 13T Pro is priced at OMR259.9, offering versatile storage options. Xiaomi 13T, available in Meadow Green and Black, is priced at OMR194.9.

Xiaomi commits to innovation and quality with four generations of Android OS upgrades and five years of security patches for Xiaomi 13T and Xiaomi 13T Pro.

OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB offers customers 6.1% interest rate on new fixed deposits

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank’s (OAB) savings basket is offering both new and existing customers a market-leading competitive interest rate of 6.1 per cent per annum for all new deposits over OMR 30,000 made by December 31. In addition to guaranteed higher earnings, security and flexibility, customers will have access to useful loan and credit facilities.

Qualifying customers will receive the top-level rate against 90 per cent of their deposit and 1.25 per cent against the remaining 10 per cent. Customers can also apply for an overdraft facility or OAB Credit Card against 10 per cent of the deposit. Up-front interest will

be paid for the first two months, which can be withdrawn, as long as the deposit remains fixed, followed by monthly payments for the remainder of the term.

“We are always looking at ways to deliver better value by understanding customer needs and market dynamics,” said Khalid Al Amri, Acting Head of Retail Banking Division at Oman Arab Bank. “This is a great incentive for customers to save their hard-earned money and save for a better future. The zero-risk, high-reward investment option will help them achieve their financial goals and make their money go further.”

The bank’s latest offer enables

customers to grow their savings with attractive returns on their investment and long-term benefits. Customers can visit their nearest OAB branch to apply for this limited-time scheme or visit the OAB website for more information.

Oman Arab Bank has a rich and proud 50-year history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in Oman and is committed to empowering customers with the tools and resources to improve their quality of life through financial wellness.

The bank offers a myriad of products and services designed to encourage greater savings and investments safely and securely.





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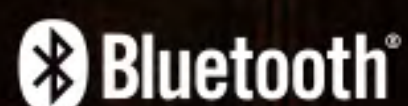
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