



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETSPRESIDENT OF ANGOLA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President João Manuel Lourenço of the Republic of Angola on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Lorenzo and the people of his country. — **ONA**



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ANNOUNCEMENT

His Majesty's Royal Decree promulgates Media Law

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued Royal Decree No. (58/2024) on the promulgation of the Media Law, after presenting the same before the Council of Oman.

Article (1) states that the provisions of the Media Law attached to this decree, shall be enforced.

Article (2) states that the Minister of Information shall issue the regulation of the attached law, as well as necessary decisions to implement its provisions. Till such time, the existing regulations and decisions shall continue to be implemented without prejudice to the provisions of the attached law.

Article (3) cancels Royal Decree No. 49/84 on the Publications and Publishing Law, Royal Decree No. 65/97 on the Law on the Censorship of Artistic Works and Royal Decree No. 95/2004 on the Law of Private Radio and Television Establishments. It also cancels all that contradicts with the law attached to this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing. — **ONA**

Information Ministry affirms Media Law reflects HM commitment

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information has affirmed that Royal Decree (No. 58/2024), which enacts the new Media Law, reflects His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's commitment to empowering Oman's media and journalists to fulfill their essential and constructive role in the Sultanate of Oman.

In a press statement, His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Harrasi, Minister of Information, highlighted that the law aligns with Oman Vision 2040, responding to changes and advancements in media and the impact of modern digital technologies. The law reinforces the mission of Oman's media by upholding principles of objectivity, accuracy, full neutrality, and freedom



DR. ABDULLAH BIN NASSER AL-HARRASI:
Minister of Information

of opinion and expression, in accordance with the country's foundational laws and with a strong emphasis on the values of citizenship and national pride. **>A2**

OMAN'S COMMUTE TIMES SHORTEST IN THE ARAB WORLD



HOW LONG ARE YOU STUCK IN TRAFFIC EVERY DAY?

OMAN.....	19.9 MINUTES
Doha.....	29.2 minutes
Jeddah.....	30.5 minutes
Abu Dhabi.....	32.9 minutes
Riyadh.....	32.5 minutes
Kuwait.....	34.5 minutes
Dubai.....	36.3 minutes
Delhi.....	57.8 minutes
Dhaka.....	61.4 minutes
Colombo.....	59.8 minutes
Los Angeles.....	57.10 minutes
Lagos.....	68.8 minutes

Numbeo's Mid-Year 2024 Traffic Index

On an average, commuters in Oman spend only 19.9 minutes in traffic each day



BRIG-ENG. ALI SULAYEM AL FALAHI, Director General of Traffic at Royal Oman Police

Times News Service

MUSCAT: For anyone in Oman feeling frustrated by a daily commute, a new survey suggests there's actually much to appreciate about the country's traffic conditions as their commute times are among the shortest in the Arab world.

According to Numbeo's Mid-Year 2024 Traffic Index, Oman ranks as the least congested Arab

city and one of the most efficient worldwide in terms of traffic flow.

On average, commuters in Oman spend only 19.9 minutes in traffic each day.

This is a stark contrast to cities like Lagos, Nigeria, where drivers endure an average of 68.8 minutes in traffic daily - the longest in the world. Closer to home,

residents in neighbouring Dubai face 36.3 minutes of traffic each day, nearly double that of Oman's commuters.

The survey ranks Oman 161st globally in terms of traffic congestion, making it the least crowded city traffic-wise in the Arab world.

Following Oman in the Arab region are Doha, where residents spend about 29.2 minutes in traffic, and Jeddah with an average of 30.5 minutes daily.

Other cities include Abu Dhabi at 32.9 minutes, Riyadh at 32.5 minutes, Kuwait at 34.5 minutes, and Dubai at 36.3 minutes.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Brig-Eng. Ali Sulayem Al Falahi, Director General of Traffic at Royal Oman Police, said: "Undoubtedly, the Sultanate's roads are among the best in the world, having achieved advanced positions in their quality over the past twenty years, including the tenth in the world." **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN National Day holidays announced in Oman

1 As per the Royal orders of His Majesty, it has been decided that Wednesday and Thursday 20-21 November 2024 will be official holidays on the occasion of the 54th National Day. **>A4**

OMAN Al Mouj Muscat, Oman Broadband sign pact

2 Al Mouj Muscat signed an agreement with Oman Broadband to enhance the internet cabling infrastructure at the destination. **>A2**

WORLD South Sudan floods affect 1.4mn people

3 Flooding in South Sudan has affected about 1.4mn people and displaced more than 3,00,000, according to the United Nations. **>A7**

GAZA DEATH TOLL as of Nov 10, 2024



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

REDEFINING LEADERSHIP FOR **BUSINESS EXCELLENCE**

OMAN OASIS WINS TIMES COMPANY OF THE YEAR - BOTTLED WATER MANUFACTURING AWARD

Oman Oasis Water Company proudly received the Times Company of the Year – Bottled Water Manufacturing award at the prestigious Times Business Leadership Summit, held at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat. Established in 1994, Oman Oasis has become Oman's leading bottled water brand, backed by 30 years of expertise and a strong commitment to quality and excellence. The company's dedication to high standards in water production and distribution across the Sultanate of Oman has earned it numerous accolades, including the prestigious Certificate of Excellence in Manufacturing from the Asia Bottled Water Association (ABWA) for 11 consecutive years. Additionally, Oman Oasis has been awarded His Majesty's Cup for Best Factories on two occasions, underlying its commitment to quality and innovation. His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, presented the award to a senior representative from Oman Oasis.



ABDULLAH AL SHAKSY NAMED TIMES ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Abdullah Al Shaksy, Co-founder and CEO of Phaze Ventures, Oman's first private venture capital firm, was honoured with the prestigious Times Entrepreneur of the Year award at the recent Times Business Leadership Summit held at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat. Al Shaksy has been instrumental in advancing Oman's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Through strategic early-stage investments and active board leadership, he has supported numerous emerging founders, both within Oman and internationally. Beyond investments, he has enriched the ecosystem by launching and supporting various startup initiatives, scholarship programmes focused on technology and entrepreneurship, and mentoring young innovators as a lecturer in entrepreneurship programmes. The award was presented to Al Shaksy by His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, during a glittering ceremony that celebrated leaders shaping Oman's business landscape.



Al Mouj Muscat signs agreement with Oman Broadband Company

The pact is aimed at enhancing internet infrastructure in the premier destination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's premier hospitality, commercial, and residential waterfront development, has signed an agreement with Oman Broadband to enhance the internet cabling infrastructure at the destination. This strategic partnership aims to boost the competitive edge among local internet operators, ensuring that residents have a variety of high-quality internet service options.

The agreement marks a significant milestone for Al Mouj Muscat as it transitions to a more competitive market framework. Oman Broadband, responsible for providing and maintaining broadband infrastructure for some of the nation's leading service providers, will facilitate this shift by promoting fair competition among internet service providers. Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "This partnership with Oman Broadband will provide our community and customers with resilient and high-speed broadband internet infrastructure. Our customers will have the ability to choose from various services providers and enjoy the best experience based on their unique needs." Eng. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Wahabi, CEO of Oman Broadband

Company, emphasised, "Our partnership with Al Mouj Muscat is a key step in realising our commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible, and competitive fibre optic network to provide ultra high-speed internet services and multiple smart cities solution to every resident across Oman." "We are thrilled to play an integral role in advancing the digital landscape of Al Mouj Muscat, setting a new standard for connectivity and digital growth." This move is expected to benefit Al Mouj Muscat's 19,000+ residents by offering more choices and improved service options, reinforcing AMM's status as a premier living destination. By fostering a competitive environment, Al Mouj Muscat continues to lead in delivering top-tier amenities and services, ensuring a superior living experience for its diverse community.



TWO-DAY MEETING



Meeting to review performance of air navigation in region

MUSCAT: The 20th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional Air Traffic Monitoring Agency (RATMA) for the Middle East kicked off in Muscat on Sunday. The two-day meeting is hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), acting in cooperation with the Regional Office of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the RATMA. The meeting will see the participation of the International Air Transport Association and the Federal Aviation Administration. The meeting will follow up the outcomes of the 19th meeting of RATMA board, the recommendations and decisions made by the



21st meeting of the Middle East Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group. The meeting will also review the performance of air navigation in the Middle East region and study information about a programme to minimise vertical separation between airplanes and monitor safety at the horizontal level of aircraft flight. — ONA

IN RIYADH

Arab-Islamic Summit to discuss Israeli aggression on Palestine and Lebanon

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the preparatory meeting of foreign ministers for the extraordinary joint Arab-Islamic summit scheduled to be held on Monday in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The summit will discuss the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Palestinian territories and Lebanon and the current regional developments. The Sultanate of Oman's delegation was headed by Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League. Al Rahbi told Oman News Agency (ONA) that within the context of the Sultanate of Oman's unwavering policy, which underscores the importance of security and stability in the Middle East, we renew our call to intensify international efforts to stop the cycle of violence and maintain sustainable peace in the region. He added that the Sultanate of Oman is committed to promoting peaceful solutions and finding just settlements to conflicts, most notably the Palestinian cause, based on its belief that a permanent solution will only be achieved through dialogue and respect for international legitimacy resolutions.



He explained that the Sultanate of Oman is keen to protect the rights of peoples and support efforts of development and welfare as the best way to ensure stability. He added that achieving the two-state solution in accordance with United Nations resolutions is a

fundamental pillar for achieving this goal. He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman believes that the international community's support for humanitarian action, especially for the UN organisations that provide relief to millions of

Palestinian refugees, is indispensable to achieve balance, provide elements of a decent life, and restore hope for a just and secure future. Al Rahbi called for the necessity of practical steps that reflect Islamic solidarity and have a tangible impact on the ground and clear positions towards the transition from condemnation to action. He stressed that the Sultanate of Oman will remain committed to the necessity of dialogue and diplomatic work as a basic tool for reaching solutions that guarantee security and stability for all peoples of the region, and avoiding escalation that threatens regional and international peace. — ONA

ROYAL DECREE

Media Law safeguards rights of journalists

<FROM A1 His Excellency also noted that the law safeguards journalists' rights, organises the media profession, sets standards for media activities, and outlines mechanisms for engaging with artistic works and publications. Expressing confidence in the law's impact, His Excellency added that it will propel Omani media to new heights, marking the beginning of a new chapter that will support its national and cultural mission, aligned with Oman's aspirations and vision for a renewed renaissance. — ONA

GREEN BUILD OMAN 2024

Forum opens

MUSCAT: Green Build Oman 2024 forum kicked off here yesterday. The activities of the forum aim to enhance awareness on the importance of green construction. The forum highlights a comprehensive vision for sustainable urban planning and stimulating innovation in the fields of renewable energy and water usage efficiency.

Recall

GL1800/B/BD/D/DA
2018-2021

Recall Date: 11/11/2024

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
GL1800/B/BD/D/DA	2018-2021	Total: 28 units

Recall consequence

Exposed to high stress due to bending moments, the primary drive gear tightening bolt suffers a fatigue failure, causing the pulse rotor to drop off. This leads the ignition signal to fail, resulting in an engine stall.

Recall action

The procedure will be carried out according to the technical instructions received from Honda.

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COMMENTARY

Can we turn our deserts green?



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I was driving between Maabelah and Barka and saw patches of green on the vast and endless desert stretching for miles on the foot of the formidable Hajar mountains. Old craggy and thorny trees are growing in endless profusion, too. I am sure not everyone driving through in our roads ever notice them as we all drive past in a great hurry. I think it is wishful thinking that my thoughts were running towards that direction thinking that the deserts in Oman are turning green.

But on second thought, what about if our deserts were made to turn green? Maybe the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries should work on a project like that. Official statistics show that over 70 percent of Oman is desert but that is not surprising considering the country is in the heart of Arabia. However, imagine that at least a quarter of the desert is cultivated to grow food.

In the mid-1980s, there was a desalination project that was aimed to turn seawater into fresh water irrigation system to cultivate parts of the desert close to the beach. I wonder what happened to that important project? It was meant to turn Oman into self-sufficient to locally grown food, by at least 50 percent of the current capacity. One of the plans was to grow wheat and rice in the deserts that are turned into farms. It was ambitious plan that not only would have proved that Oman would have been near self-sufficient in food productions but reduce our massive imports bill.

It would also have increased wealth into the country and create more farmers, not to mention more young people would have established their own businesses instead of looking for jobs. That would have also increased the Oman's GDP, too. Oman would have exported foods in larger quantities to neighbouring countries as well.

Should that important project be revived? I should hope so. Land, in any country is wealth and Oman is the second largest country in the Arabian Peninsula. Thousands of square kilometers in this blessed country are empty and will continue to be empty, and worse, unproductive. Is it a complete waste of resources if this vast land continues to be unused? I leave the answer to this question to the experts who are more knowledgeable than me. Critics would say it is a costly project to make the desert useful or turn it into an economic viability. But I wish that the concerned authorities will get together to revive it. As far as costs are concerned, the government can team up with foreign investors. The project can start by hiring consultants specialising in cultivating the deserts. Oman will not be the first country to turn an arid land into farms. It has been done before and it continues to be done in many countries across the globe. The local economy will receive a huge boost in the long run and the future generations will hugely be grateful. As it is, the population in Oman is increasing by at least 5 percent a year, thanks to a very young population that is producing all the time. So, food independence has to be a top priority. Especially when the world is going through many challenges, including wars.

UPON ROYAL ORDERS OF HM

State Council opens 2nd regular sitting of 8th term



MUSCAT: Based on the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the State Council today opened sessions of its second regular sitting of the Eighth Term (2023-2027), in accordance with the provisions of Article (38) of the Council of Oman Law.

The opening session was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

The Council discussed a number of proposals and studies submitted by the permanent committees for debate during the Eighth Term.

It also reviewed the Council of Ministers' reply about a study on setting standards for regulating e-commerce and arts, including their desired role in supporting the national economy and efficiency of spending in the Sultanate of Oman. — **ONA**

Al Meera launches 'Baisa Bazaar' in Azaiba branch



AL MEERA, one of Oman's leading retail companies, has launched a new initiative, "Baisa Bazaar," at its Al Meera branch in Al Azaiba. This unique market concept offers a wide selection of essential products, all priced at one rial or less, making everyday necessities more accessible to everyone.

Through "Baisa Bazaar," Al Meera aims to provide budget-friendly options that help ease the financial burden on households, making it easier for consumers across Oman to meet their essential needs affordably.

The "Baisa Bazaar" at the Al Meera Al Azaiba branch includes an extensive range of products, from fresh fruits and vegetables to various household essentials.

This new section is designed to be a one-stop destination for families, offering a comprehensive shopping experience on a budget. With a selection that includes not only produce but also essential daily items like pantry staples, dry foods, and household goods, "Baisa Bazaar" is set to meet the needs of families looking for economical shopping options.

This innovative approach represents a first-of-its-kind initiative in Oman's retail market, where Al Meera offers a community-focused shopping experience aimed at accommodating tighter budgets without compromising on quality or variety.

Commenting on the initiative, Saeed bin Saif bin Hashil Al Maskari, Vice Chairman of Al Meera, expressed his enthusiasm about the project, saying, "We are pleased to introduce the 'Baisa Bazaar' in our Al Meera branch in Al Azaiba.

This market combines quality with affordable prices, offering a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as other products to meet the needs of families, all for prices within everyone's reach."

He added, "Launching this market reflects our commitment to supporting the community and addressing their needs with economically friendly shopping solutions. We look forward to expanding the 'Baisa Bazaar' concept to other Al Meera branches soon, reaching more areas and allowing more families to benefit from this budget-friendly option."

Al Maskari emphasised that the "Baisa Bazaar" is part of Al Meera's mission to provide a unique shopping experience tailored to the needs of the local community, particularly during challenging economic times. This initiative aligns with Al Meera's commitment to corporate social responsibility, aiming to enhance the quality of life for individuals by offering economical and practical solutions for daily shopping needs.

In closing, Al Maskari stated, "We hope that Baisa Bazaar meets our customers' expectations and becomes a positive step toward supporting families by providing options that match their financial capacities. At Al Meera, we continuously strive to offer the best for our customers and hope to earn their trust and satisfaction."

With this new initiative, Al Meera reaffirms its dedication to the Omani community by providing innovative solutions that help consumers obtain their daily necessities at affordable prices. This commitment reflects Al Meera's vision for customer service and satisfaction, building a brighter future for all.

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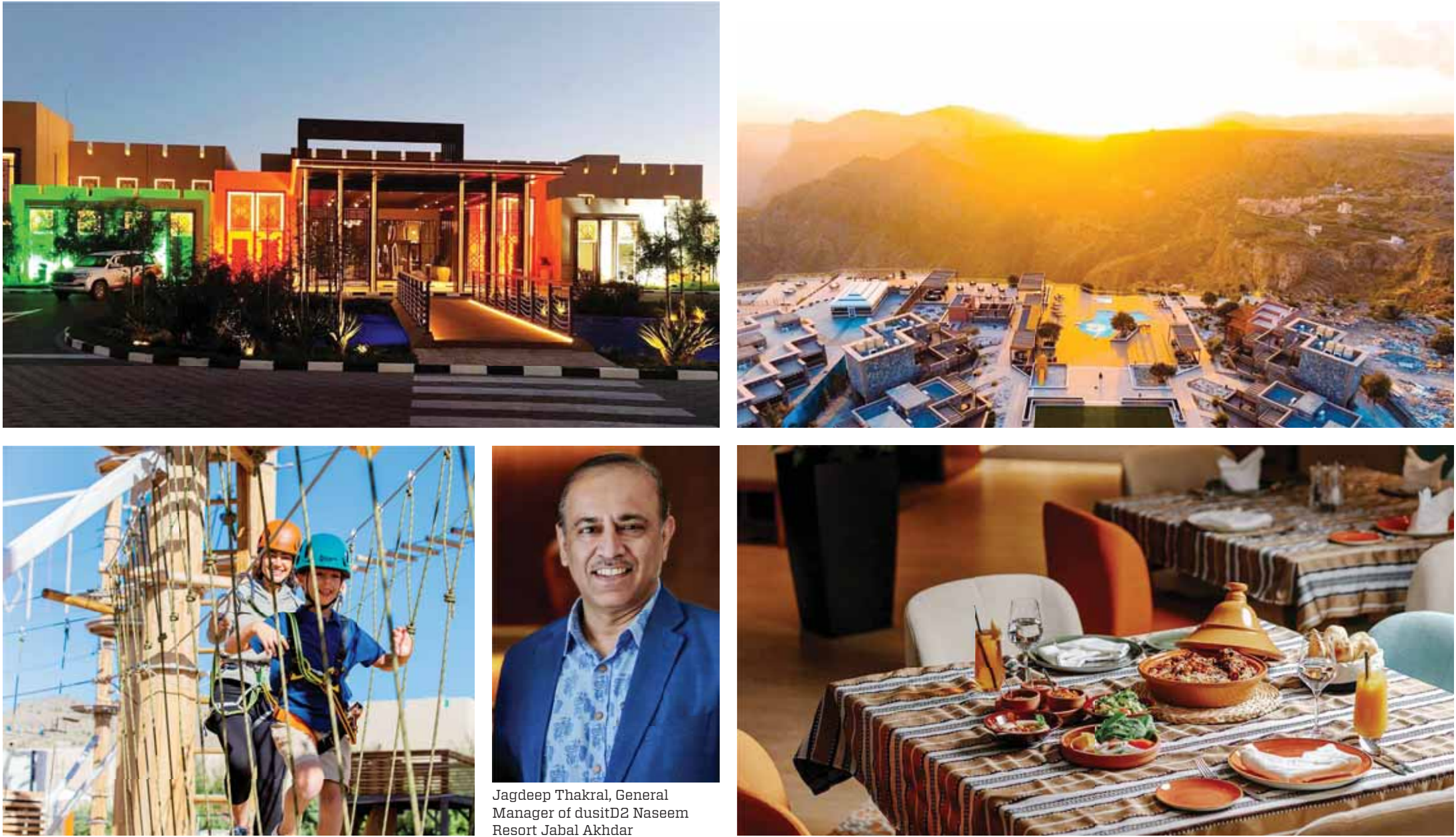
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STAYCATION

National Day holidays: What are your plans?



Times News Service

MUSCAT: With Sunday's announcement of Oman's National Day holidays, which will begin on November 20, citizens and residents are eagerly making travel arrangements, spurring a notable 20 percent increase in bookings since Sunday morning, according to local tour agencies and hotel operators.

Under Royal orders from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Wednesday and Thursday, November 20-21, 2024, have been declared official holidays for public and private sector employees to commemorate the 54th National Day. While some employees may be required to work on these days, they will be duly compensated as per the Ministry of Labour.

Whether opting for domestic getaways or international escapes, citizens and residents are planning for the extended break.

"For the upcoming Oman National holidays, we're celebrating family time with curated experiences for every member," said Jagdeep Thakral, General Manager of dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar.

"Families can enjoy free unlimited access to our adventure park, participate in pool games, and enjoy the mini cinema. In addition, we have Bedouin-style tent dining featuring live Arabic music and fresh Shuwa, all designed to create unforgettable moments together. Book it or miss it!"

Thakral added: "Long weekends bring a fantastic opportunity for us in the hospitality industry."

"We see a surge in bookings, especially for families looking for unique staycations within Oman. This holiday will likely boost domestic tourism as people ex-



plore new parts of the country and enjoy the exceptional weather."

The experienced hotelier said: "Our goal at dusitD2 Naseem Resort is to help guests discover Oman's hidden gems, with experiences that reflect the beauty and culture of this unique country."

Also in Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Sahab Resort and Spa has rolled out special room rates starting from OMR70, inclusive of breakfast and taxes.

Al Nahda Resort & Spa in Barka

is also extending a holiday package starting at OMR45, while Dunes by Al Nahda offers a taste of the Arabian sands with a special price starting from OMR100 for dune-bashing adventures.

Arup Singh Deo, Director of Operations and Projects at Al Nahda Hotels & Resorts, emphasised the benefit of domestic tourism. "Long weekends in Oman are always a blessing for the hotels as they boost family domestic tourism. We have already witnessed a notable 20



Under Royal orders from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Wednesday and Thursday, November 20-21, 2024, have been declared official holidays for public and private sector employees to commemorate the 54th National Day.

percent increase in bookings since Sunday morning," said Deo.

"Our hotels remain fully occupied during all long weekends. Although travel abroad has increased, staycations have also grown because there are still some hassles such as increased airfares and additional documentation requirements when traveling abroad with the family."

Deo emphasised the appeal of local tourism, highlighting Oman's wide-ranging options for visitors. "There are plenty of possibilities for families, groups, and individuals to explore Oman. Driven by good weather and multiple entertainment op-

tions, hotels and resorts offer a wide range of staycations and activities. And that is why Oman remains a top choice for its citizens and residents."

In Oman, the appeal of exploring rich landscapes - from mountains to coasts - is irresistible for holidaymakers, and hospitality providers are eager to showcase the country's offerings.

In addition to these local hotspots, many are choosing trips to nearby destinations like Georgia, Armenia, and the Maldives. These locations offer escapes for families and professionals seeking fresh experiences without extended travel time.

OF 10TH TERM



Upon the Royal orders of HM, Shura Council opens its 2nd annual sitting

MUSCAT: Based on the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Shura Council on Sunday opened the sessions of its Second Annual Sitting (2024-2025) of the Tenth Term (2023-2027), in accordance with the provisions of Article (41) of the Council of Oman Law.

The opening session, chaired by Shura Council Chairman Khalid Hilal Al Maawali, included discussions about a number of draft laws.

The first draft law dealt with an agreement to regulate air services between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the governments of the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

The second draft law dealt with an agreement on regulating air transport services between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti.



BILATERAL RELATIONS

Royal Office Minister receives ambassadors of France, Sudan

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Sunday Salaheldin Elhag M. Elkando, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the Sultanate of Oman.

Crises in Sudan

The discussion addressed developments of the crises in Sudan, as well as the regional and international efforts to resolve it.

The two sides also reviewed a set of regional and international issues.

The meeting underlined the

distinguished relations binding Oman and Sudan.

Meanwhile, Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, also received in his office Nabil Hajlaoui, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Nu'amani wished the ambassador success in his new duties.

In this meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the French Republic and ways to enhance them to achieve the interests of the two countries.



NUMBEO'S TRAFFIC INDEX

Great efforts made by ROP

He also said, "As for traffic congestion, the Sultanate is the least congested in the Gulf countries and among the best Arab countries compared to the capitals of these countries, as the average delay in daily trips does not exceed 20 minutes on average for distances exceeding fifty kilometers, which is considered a good rate in travel time."

He attributed this to the great efforts made by the Royal Oman Police, represented by the General Directorate of Traffic, in coordination with the competent authorities concerned with the roads and transportation sector in the Sultanate of Oman. "Starting from designing and implementing roads, maintaining their maintenance and optimal use, monitoring road users, imposing traffic control, educating and raising awareness of the public about the importance of maintaining the application of the traffic system and rules, monitoring speeds, and monitoring traffic violations that may lead to traffic congestion as a result of the behavior of some drivers."

He also said, "All these efforts combined have led to these successes that are evident to the eye and are of interest to tourists before residents because the tourist compares traffic movement in different countries where he finds that the roads of the Sultanate represent a model among the roads of other countries that these tourists may have visited."

He continued that efforts will continue from various parties to make the roads of the Sultanate of Oman safer for its users and a model to be emulated among countries.

The Numbeo's Mid-Year 2024 Traffic Index report also cited how other global cities are struggling with extreme congestion including Los Angeles, Colombo, Delhi, and Dhaka, each with substantial commute times and inefficiency ratings.

Numbeo's Traffic Index considers multiple factors such as average commute times, overall traffic satisfaction, CO2 emissions, and systemic inefficiencies.

These metrics create a more comprehensive picture of urban traffic experiences, underscoring not only travel delays but also environmental and social impacts of congestion.

The high Traffic Index score of 354.5 in Lagos signifies extreme congestion, while Oman's Index of 111.3 underscores its relatively smooth traffic flow.

Oman's success in maintaining manageable traffic conditions can be attributed to well-maintained infrastructure, a relatively low population density, and strategic urban planning.

The roads in Muscat and across major cities have been designed to facilitate smooth flow, reducing the potential for long delays that are often found in cities with denser populations or sprawling urban landscapes.

Moreover, Oman has invested significantly in recent years in infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity and reducing travel times between key areas. New road networks and bridge constructions have contributed to the ease of travel for residents and commuters.

Such projects, coupled with a focus on sustainable and low-emission transportation initiatives, align with Oman's Vision 2040 strategy, which aims to support quality of life improvements across various sectors, including transportation.

While Oman's relatively smooth flow might surprise some, congestion remains a global challenge, especially in rapidly growing urban areas.

In cities like Los Angeles, Colombo, and Dhaka, the sheer number of cars on the road often outpaces infrastructure growth. This, combined with factors like rapid urbanisation, inadequate public transportation options, and high vehicle ownership, exacerbates congestion issues.

The Traffic Index serves as a valuable tool for city planners and governments worldwide, offering insights into where challenges are most severe and what factors contribute to the best solutions.

Oman's performance in the Index suggests that its current strategies are working and that other cities with high levels of congestion might look to Oman's model as a potential roadmap.

ENDOWMENTS AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Oman, Algeria hold talks

MUSCAT: An official talks session was held here on Sunday between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in the fields of endowments and religious affairs.

During the session, the Omani side was headed by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, while the Algerian side was headed by Mohammed Al Maamoun Al Qasimi Al Hassani, Minister of State and Dean of the Great Mosque of Algiers.

Further, the session focused on exchanging expertise that augment the role of mosques in the community. It also highlighted several Omani experiences in the fields of endowments and religious



affairs.

The two sides underscored the importance of mosques and endowments as means for spreading religious and humanitarian values and consolidating social ties. — ONA



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Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG

Account number: 0423 01086 3070 017

Account Type: OMR

SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

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

Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, Mobile number: +968 97832277

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

For Tender No. 1 (02/2024) Sale of Tower Crane & Gantry Crane the bid bond (300 OMR Receipt deposit).

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



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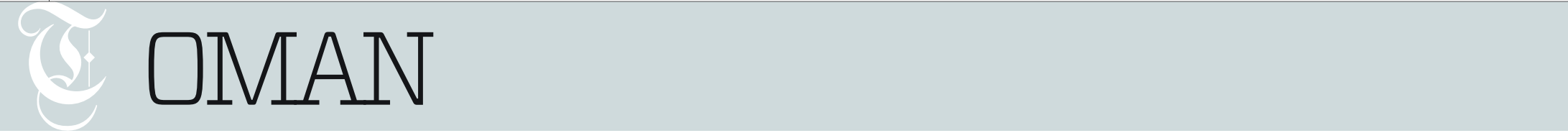
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SERVING ELDERLY PEOPLE

Operations of day-care centres regulated

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development on Sunday issued a ministerial decision to regulate the operations of day-care centres serving the elderly.

The regulatory procedures include licencing requirements, obligations of a day-care centre management, conditions governing the enrolment of the elderly in the day-care centres, cancellation of the licences, fees and administrative penalties.

Assistance

Day-care centres for the elderly provide social, rehabilitation and psychological services, among other types of assistance to the elderly (people aged 60 years or more).

The centres offer a safe environment for the elderly and helps them gain the skills and experiences necessary for utilising their free time.

The centres also encourage community members to volunteer in serving elderly people facing health or psychological challenges and enable them to play an active role in serving the community.

— ONA



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Foundation stone laid for largest copper production project in Oman

The project is set to play a key role in meeting the growing global demand for copper while positioning Oman as a strategic hub for high-quality copper concentrate production

YANQUL: Mazoon Mining, a subsidiary of Minerals Development Oman (MDO), on Sunday marked a significant milestone with the official groundbreaking of the Mazoon Copper Project in the Wilayat of Yanqul, A'Dhahirah Governorate.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Abdul Salam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

The project is set to play a key role in meeting the growing global demand for copper while positioning Oman as a strategic hub for high-quality copper concentrate production.

Mazoon Copper Project is the largest integrated copper concentrate production project in the Sultanate of Oman, covering 20 square kilometres and consisting of five open-pit mines with an estimated 22.9 million tonnes of copper ore reserves.

The project also includes the construction of a state-of-the-art processing plant, spanning 56,000 square metres, with the capacity to

process 2.5 million tonnes of copper ore annually.

It is projected to produce 115,000 tonnes of copper concentrate per year at a 21.5 percent copper grade.

The project underscores a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, integrating advanced technologies in the management of both mining operations and the processing plant to adhere to the highest environmental standards.

Furthermore, it aims to enhance local impact by investing in the social and economic growth of the Yanqul community, reinforcing the company's dedication to fostering sustainable development across economic and social dimensions.

Mazoon Copper Project's journey began with extensive exploration activities, culminating in the signing of a concession agreement in 2022 for Concession Area 12-A1. To ensure the successful del-

ivery of the project, the Canadian firm Lycopodium was appointed to provide engineering, procurement, and construction management services. With the project now in its initial development stages, site preparations are well underway, and tenders are being issued, signaling the next steps for the project.

Construction of the processing plant is planned to begin in the first quarter of 2025, and production of copper concentrate is set to commence in the first quarter of 2027.

This strategic timeline will play a crucial role in ramping up copper production and meeting both local and international market demands.

The Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, stated: "This project marks a transformative step in positioning Oman as a strategic copper hub, contributing to the diversification of our national economy and creating sustainable job opportunities for Omanis. We are confident that the project will have a significant positive impact on the local community, supporting SMEs and driving economic development."

Najib Ali Al Rowas, Governor of A'Dhahirah, praised the collaboration with Mazoon Mining, say-

ing: "We are committed to working hand-in-hand with Minerals Development Oman to establish a strong community partnership that focuses on achieving both social and economic development in Yanqul. By collaborating with various government entities, we aim to strike a balance between the company's business goals and its responsibility toward community growth. This project will significantly bolster economic development in Al Dhahirah and empower SMEs, which are vital to the local economy."

Meanwhile, Dr. Badar Saud Al Kharusi, Chairman of Minerals Development Oman, commented on the progress of the project: "We are proud to witness the Mazoon Copper Project come to fruition after an extensive series of exploration activities. This project marks a milestone for Minerals Development Oman, adding invaluable assets to our portfolio. The company began copper ore extraction from Block 4 in Wilayat of Sohar in 2024 and has continued its exploration efforts across its 23,644 square kilometer concession area. We are excited to see our resource base grow. With the necessary financing secured, the project reflects both our financial

stability and the trust we have garnered locally and globally. We are committed to ensuring that each phase of the project meets the highest environmental and social standards."

Sustainability is a core pillar of the Mazoon Copper Project.

The project has adopted a zero-water discharge system, ensuring that treated water is recycled to minimise water consumption.

Additionally, waste management systems are in place to preserve the surrounding environment, safeguarding air quality, and protecting groundwater.

In addition to the Mazoon Copper Project, MDO continues to advance its exploration campaigns across a diverse range of strategic minerals, including copper, chrome, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, and silica.

The company has also initiated the redevelopment of copper mines in Sohar and Liwa, aiming to produce 800,000 tonnes of copper ore annually, with confirmed reserves of 2.78 million tonnes of copper ore.

These efforts reflect MDO's ongoing commitment to strengthening its market position and driving sustainable economic development across Oman. — ONA

ANNUAL PLAN

Board of Directors of OCCI Social Investment Centre holds meeting

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Social Investment Centre affiliated to Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Sunday held its annual plan for the year 2025 and the proposed budget for enhancing sustainable social investment. The meeting was held under the auspices of HH Sayyida Dr. Mona Fahad Al Said, Chairperson of the Centre's Board of Directors, in the presence of stakeholders.

The meeting stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation and exchanging expertise with similar centres locally and internationally, notably by organizing visits and implementing joint programmes that would con-

The meeting stressed the need to transform social investment programmes, projects and initiatives into sustainable investments capable of achieving long-term impact

tribute to localizing knowledge and endorsing the best practices in this field. It also discussed some draft financial and administrative regulations aimed at ensuring effective governance of the centre.

Long-term impact

The meeting stressed the need to transform social investment programmes, projects and initiatives into sustainable investments capable of achieving long-term impact. It also studied scopes for establishing strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors in a manner that achieves integration towards sustainable social development. — ONA

BOOK FAIR

Muscat International Book Fair from 23 April

MUSCAT: The main committee of "Muscat International Book Fair 2025" on Sunday held its first preparatory meeting under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, Chairman of the Committee.

The committee reviewed the cultural events scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the 29th edition of the book fair, which will take place from 23 April to 3 May 2025.

The panel focused on ensuring the quality and diversity of the events to help meet the aspi-

It laid emphasis on attracting prominent literary scholars, intelligentsia and media celebrities

rations of the book fair visitors. It laid emphasis on attracting prominent literary scholars, intelligentsia and media celebrities from the Arab region and the

world at large.

The committee also discussed mechanisms for highlighting North A'Sharqiyah Governorate (Guest of Honour of the book fair) by showcasing the governorate's historical and cultural features, as well as its investment and tourism resources.

The meeting looked into statistical reports about the previous editions of the book fair, in addition to proposed dates for Muscat International Book Fair for the next five years: 2026-2030 and means of addressing the expected challenges. — ONA

Trump takes a dig at Democrats, calls for GOP ‘unity’ in post-poll support

Trump’s statement extended an unexpected note of support toward the Democrats, urging Republicans to prioritise unity and consider assisting their rivals in this difficult period

WASHINGTON : In a historic and unprecedented political comeback, Donald Trump has won a second



term as President of the United States after a decisive victory in the 2024 presidential election. Securing a crucial 295 electoral votes, Trump surpassed the required 270, outpacing Democratic rival Kamala Harris, who garnered 226 votes. This victory makes Trump the first US president since 1892 to return to office after losing a prior election. Trump followed his victory with a post on X, expressing surprise at the financial challenges reportedly facing the Democratic Party. “I am very surprised that the Democrats, who fought a hard and valiant fight in the 2020 Presidential Election, raising a record amount of money, didn’t have lots of \$’s left over. Now they are being squeezed by vendors and others,” he wrote. “Whatever we can do to help them during this difficult period, I would strongly recommend we, as a Party and for the sake of desperately needed UNITY, do. We have

a lot of money left over in that our biggest asset in the campaign was ‘Earned Media,’ and that doesn’t cost very much,” he added, finishing with his familiar “MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!” This social media post follows Trump’s remarkable election victory, which signifies a major comeback after his loss to President Joe Biden in 2020. With his second term now confirmed, Trump will be sworn in as the 47th president of the United States, a unique position in modern US history. The Republican Party’s strong focus on earned media proved to be a key factor in Trump’s campaign, as he continued to dominate headlines and effectively reach his supporters without excessive spending. Trump’s return to office marks a pivotal moment for American politics, setting a precedent for future elections and reshaping discussions on the durability of political influence in a polarised nation. **-ANI**

PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

‘Not inviting Haley, Mike to join my new government’

WASHINGTON DC: Days after winning the 2024 US presidential elections, President-elect Donald Trump said that former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will not be invited to be part of his administration again. Trump said this on his social media platform Truth Social on Saturday. Haley had previously served as the US ambassador to UN had ran against Trump in the Republican primary earlier this year.

“I will not be inviting former Ambassador Nikki Haley, or former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to join the Trump Administration, which is currently in formation,” Trump wrote in the post. According to Fox News, last week, she wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed in support of his presidential campaign.

“I don’t agree with Mr. Trump 100% of the time,” Haley wrote. “But I do agree with him most of the time, and I disagree with Ms. Harris nearly all the time. That makes this an easy call.”

Also the US media outlet said that Pompeo, who served as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency under Trump while not one of Trump’s most vocal supporters, has also expressed support for the president-elect in the past. He had in a open letter with over 400 signatories endorsed Trump for president.

Trump secured a second term in the White House after winning the US presidential election on November 5 against Vice President Kamala Harris, marking a significant comeback following his loss to President Joe Biden in the 2020 election.

Earlier this week, Trump named Susie Wiles to be his White House’s chief of staff. Wiles was the campaign manager in Trump’s 2024 bid to the White House.



In a statement he said that the 2025 presidential inauguration will be co-chaired by real estate investor and campaign donor Steve Witkoff and former Senator Kelly Loeffler.

“On Election Night, we made history and I have the extraordinary honour of having been elected the 47th President of the United States thanks to tens millions of hardworking Americans across the nation who supported our America First agenda,” he said. “The Trump Vance Inaugural Committee will honour this magnificent victory in a celebration of the American People and our nation,” he added.

Trump said the committee would be a kick-off to his administration.

“This will be the kick-off to my administration, which will deliver on bold promises to Make America Great Again. Together, we will celebrate this moment, steeped on history and tradition, and then get to work to achieve the most incredible future for our people, restoring strength, success, and common sense to the Oval Office,” he said.

The inauguration is organised by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) and will include events

such as the swearing-in ceremony, inaugural address, and the pass in review. Inauguration Day occurs every four years on January 20 (or January 21 if January 20 falls on a Sunday) at the US Capitol building in Washington, DC.

Joe Biden to meet Trump

Outgoing United States President Joe Biden and President-elect Donald Trump will meet on Wednesday (November 13), the White House said on Saturday.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that the meeting will take place in the Oval Office at Biden’s invitation.

“At President Biden’s invitation, President Biden and President-elect Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday at 11:00 am. Additional details to follow,” Pierre wrote in a post on X.

During a press briefing on Friday, her first since Tuesday’s election, Jean-Pierre attributed the Democrats’ loss in the Presidential elections to “global headwinds.”

When asked if President Biden felt responsible for Kamla Harris’s decisive loss to President-elect Trump, or if he had regrets about his decision to run for reelection before stepping down in late July, Pierre replied, “Biden takes responsibility for the loss.” **-ANI**

SURGE IN MALARIA

South Sudan floods displace more than 300,000 people

GENEVA: Flooding in South Sudan has affected about 1.4 million people and displaced over 300,000, according to the United Nations. This situation has been worsened by a surge in malaria cases.

In a report, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that the floods have impacted approximately 1.4 million people in 43 counties and the Abyei Administrative Area, a region that is claimed by both South Sudan and Sudan.

The states of Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal have been hardest hit, accounting for over 51 per cent of those affected.

In a report released late Friday, OCHA said, “About 1.4 million people are affected by flooding in 43 counties and the Abyei Administrative Area, with Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states comprising more than 51 per cent of the affected population. Over 379,000 individuals are displaced



in 22 counties and Abyei.”

It added, “This week, joint Government and inter-agency assessments identified an additional 1,720 flood-displaced people in Mangalla, Juba County of Central Equatoria State. A surge in malaria has been reported in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria states - overwhelming the health system and exacerbating the situation and impact in flood-hit areas.”

According to the International Federation of Red Cross, South

Sudan since May 2024 has experienced significant flooding, caused by heavy rainfall and the bursting of the Nile River banks. The floods have caused damage to homes and devastated livestock and crops.

Notably, floods have worsened over the past years as South Sudan is suffering increasingly from the consequences of climate change.

The UNICEF in its report in 2021 said that floods every year affect between 750,000 and more than one million people. **-DW**

VALENCIA

Thousands protest in Spain over response to flood

MADRID: Tens of thousands of people marched on Saturday in the southeastern Spanish city of Valencia over authorities’ handling of devastating floods.

Over 220 people were killed in the flooding, which was the most deadly in Europe in decades.

A small group of protesters clashed with riot police in front of Valencia’s city hall toward the end of the march, and police used batons to beat them back.

According to regional authorities, around 130,000 people attended the protest in Valencia.

Demonstrations were also staged in a number of other Spanish cities.

Protesters called for the resignation of Valencian regional government leader Carlos Mazón, who belongs to the conservative opposition People’s Party, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez of the ruling Socialists.

Some protesters shouted “murderers” and accused the leaders of being responsible for the high death toll.

The protest comes days after Valencia residents chanted “mur-

derer” and hurled mud at Mazón and Spain’s King Felipe VI.

Residents in the affected areas accused Mazón of issuing the alert too late, after the flooding had already begun.

After days of storm warnings from the national weather service starting on October 25, some municipalities and organizations raised the alarm before the regional government did. Valencia University told its staff on October 28 not to come to work, and several town halls in the region told people to go home. **-DW**

RHESUS MONKEYS

Dozens of escaped South Carolina monkeys still on the loose

NEW YORK: One of the 43 monkeys that escaped from a research facility in the US state of South Carolina has been found unharmed, authorities said on Saturday.

The rhesus monkeys escaped on Wednesday after an employee at the Alpha Genesis facility in the small town of Yemassee, where the primates are bred for medical testing and research, failed to fully lock a door while feeding and checking on them, officials said.

Many of the escaped monkeys have remained in the vicinity of the property, jumping over the fence and cooing at those inside, according to the Yemassee police department. The primates’ continued interaction with humans was a positive sign, the police added.

Monkeys pose no public health risk
Greg Westergaard, CEO of Alpha



Genesis, said his team would keep working to recover all the animals and will continue until the job is done.

The escaped rhesus monkeys are all female and weigh about 7 pounds. Alpha Genesis, federal health officials and police all said the monkeys pose no threat to public health.

However, police urged the public to stay away from the area surrounding the facility “to prevent startling the primates.”

“If you spot any of the remaining primates, please report your sighting by calling 911 and avoid approaching or interacting with them,” the statement read.

Why are rhesus monkeys bred?

Alpha Genesis breeds the monkeys to sell to medical and other researchers around the world. The species shares about 93% of its

DNA with humans, even though macaques diverged from the ape family about 25 million years ago.

Rhesus macaques are among the most studied animals on the planet.

Breeding population

The first study of the species was published in 1893. By 1925, the Carnegie Science Institute had established a breeding population of the monkeys to study embryology and fertility in a species similar to humans.

Animal rights groups point out that the species has been used to study vaccines, organ transplants, and the effects of separating infants from their mothers.

One reason for the animal’s popularity was its abundance. These monkeys have the largest natural range of any non-human primate, stretching from Afghanistan and India to Vietnam and China. **-DW**

the origin

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS FORUM



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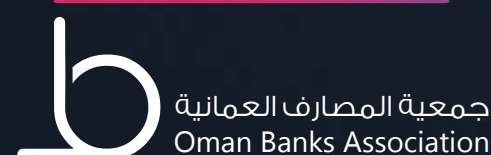
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COP29 BEGINS TODAY

The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP29) will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22. COP29 aims to limit global warming to 1.5°C, emphasising the urgent need for investment in climate action. -WAM

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,714.33 points, up by 0.18% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.85% at 428.92 points. Dhofar Generating, up 3.08%, was the top gainer while Al Maha Ceramics, down 4.05%, was the top loser.



CHAIRMAN'S
STATEMENT
Q3 2024



#25YearsOnMSX

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present the unaudited accounts for the quarter ended September 30, 2024. Progress is consistent with our earlier expectations that the downturn of lower occupancy at RSVD would be compensated by improved performance in other business sectors. In the meantime, we are encouraged by improved outlook for new projects in Duqm, increased activity in the oil and gas fields and a more positive international outlook towards Oman.

RS Consolidated

	RO mn		USD mn	
	Q3 2024	Q3 2023	Q3 2024	Q3 2023
Revenue	77.71	77.89	201.84	202.31
EBITDA	17.61	16.77	45.74	43.56
Operating profit	10.77	10.75	27.97	27.92
Net profit after tax	6.17	7.75	16.03	20.13
Net profit after non-controlling interest	7.47	8.18	19.40	21.25

Financial Performance

While year on year revenue and operating profit remain flat, there is an increase in EBITDA and a decrease in PAT and PATMI.

The Tax Authority had disallowed the loss claim on a major divestment originally submitted for the 2019 tax year, as the formal deregistration certificate from JAFZA was only issued in 2021. Based on advice, we have resubmitted the tax shield claim to apply against taxable profits from 2021 to 2026. In the meantime, tax payments for the 2019 and 2020 periods will be covered by our existing tax provisions.

Occupancy at our flagship accommodation facility, Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD) reflected slower than anticipated growth in the third quarter, though recent reports suggest an upswing in occupancy as planned projects in the area mobilise over the coming quarters. However, other segments of the business delivered solid performances.

As we finalised the demobilisation of the BP Khazzan contract, the collective value of contracts awarded in Q3 is over RO 13mn. The company won a one-year contract providing catering, soft and ancillary services at 11 PDO sites from Lekhwair in the north to Harweel in the south. Renaissance mobilised services and successfully commenced operations within a period of one month, once again proving that our value lies in providing uninterrupted, high quality, safe and compliant services to critical sectors of the economy.

Renaissance was also awarded a contract from Nama Water to provide disconnection and reconnection activities in Muscat (Zones 1 and 3) for a period of two years from October 1, 2024.

Growth remains a core priority, and though the current environment has tempered some expectations, we continue to push forward with strategic opportunities. In terms of the public-private partnership (PPP) tender submissions, our bid in Saudi Arabia remains live. In Oman the PPP tender for 42 schools has been cancelled, but we are closely monitoring others that present long-term opportunities that align with our vision of offering integrated solutions beyond price-based competition. We are also actively exploring opportunities to expand our operations in the waste management and utilities sectors.

Renaissance Village Duqm

Though we are yet to clear the transition period of awaiting mobilisation of major projects in Duqm, efforts to drive down the occupancy breakeven level in RSVD have been effective, ensuring we maintain a sustainable operational base while waiting for the next wave of projects.



Occupancy levels stabilised in Q3 at RSVD

Q3 saw occupancy levels begin to stabilise with the arrival of defence and ports/logistics personnel. With the 900-hectare Duqm Refinery representing one of the largest refining and petrochemical ventures, and Vulcan Green Steel set to begin production by 2027, along with other green steel projects including Mitsui and Vale, demand for worker housing and associated facilities is expected to surge as construction commences during 2025. Announcements of expansion of the QG8 refinery along with decisions on downstream projects are being fast-tracked and expected next year.

As these major projects ramp up construction and workforce requirements, the need for quality accommodation, catering and other support services is already becoming a priority.

In the mid to long term, Duqm's vision includes expanding green hydrogen production, increasing export capacity and positioning it as a centre for renewable energy in the region. And, the foundational

growth in infrastructure will support a sustainable business environment for ongoing and future projects, cementing Duqm's role as a comprehensive industrial and residential hub.

People

Nationalisation remains another priority for the company. Our commitment to developing and upskilling local talent is central to our strategy, reflecting our belief that Omanisation is a competitive advantage in our business, not merely a regulatory requirement.

Omani nationals represent 37.26% of our staff (2,950 as of Q3), up from 35.5% at the beginning of the year, maintaining and exceeding compliance requirements for the sector. As we strengthen our local workforce across all levels, we remain focused on attracting top senior talent. We recently welcomed our first Omani CFO, who brings with him over 25 years of public and private sector financial experience. In addition, he has held board positions across multiple sectors, where he contributed his expertise in audit, risk management and financial strategy.



Our Youth, Our Future: Highlights from the ongoing outdoors campaign on capacity building and ICV

At Renaissance, succession planning and developing high-potential employees are key to our long-term leadership strategy. In 2024, the company introduced a structured programme to assess employees across all levels, creating tailored development plans for successors in critical roles. Identified high-potential employees will transition into functions that enhance their skills in alignment with their planned growth paths. These initiatives are part of a broader effort to ensure we are well-prepared for future leadership transitions while maintaining a robust talent pipeline.

Operational Excellence and Sustainability

Operational excellence is a strategic priority, driving efficiency across all areas of the business. In 2024, the company implemented a series of key initiatives focused on manpower optimisation, utilities management and process enhancements that are starting to yield tangible results. A pilot project to reduce food waste includes the deployment of Leanpath technology, which has contributed to operational efficiencies and sustainability goals.

Energy-efficient technologies such as AC inverters and alternate water sourcing have been successfully deployed at pilot sites to reduce utility costs. Such initiatives have proven critical in maintaining operational integrity amidst revenue challenges.

We have begun rolling out a new CAFM (Computer-Aided Facility Management) solution. This will streamline and integrate all aspects of facilities management, from maintenance scheduling to asset tracking, enhancing efficiency, data visibility and service delivery. Real-time insights will further optimise decision-making and resource allocation across our operations.

ESG

In line with the Renaissance 2.0 vision, we have continued to embed sustainability at the heart of our operations. This year, we formalised the Board's oversight of our ESG agenda through the formation of an ESG Committee. As a sub-committee of the Board, it oversees ESG integration across the business, ensuring accurate and transparent reporting on environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance standards.

In our 13th year of publishing Sustainability Reports with reference to GRI standards, we reaffirmed our commitment to transparency and compliance with the new ESG Guidelines and Disclosures Platform launched by MSX. We were proud to be recognised by MSX for ESG excellence (Q3) for being one of three public companies to disclose their ESG practices on the new platform.

Our commitment to carbon reduction and sustainability has led to the implementation of several impactful initiatives through smart technologies and strengthening recycling programmes across our facilities.

In line with our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) commitments, we are pleased to support the Ministry of Sports' upcoming event focusing on promoting the integration of people with disabilities into society through sports, cultural and educational activities.

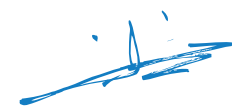
Outlook

The recent upgrade of Oman's credit rating to 'BBB-' by S&P underscores fiscal discipline and reduced public sector debt, positioning Oman as a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment. It signals improved economic resilience, favourable borrowing terms enhancing Oman's capacity to fund key infrastructure and development projects. The stable outlook is expected to support private sector growth in non-oil sectors, aligning with Oman Vision 2040 and reinforcing investor confidence in the country's long-term economic stability and diversification efforts.

While the first three quarters of 2024 have presented undeniable challenges, the continued ramping-up of operations in PACs and the anticipated mobilisation of larger downstream projects will be pivotal in driving growth as we move into 2025. We remain dedicated to delivering shareholder value, and we are confident that Renaissance's commitment to safety, quality, efficiency and competitive pricing will position us strongly in upcoming public and private sector projects.

Tribute

On this 54th National Day, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman. His Majesty's wise leadership continues to drive Oman's progress in economic diversification and sustainable growth. We remain committed to supporting his vision by enhancing ICV and contributing to the nation's development through high-quality, sustainable services across sectors.



Samir J. Fancy
Chairman

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2024		
	Q3 2024 RO '000	Q3 2023 RO '000
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	134,044	138,325
Intangible assets	1,930	1,926
Investments	6,324	6,490
Deferred tax asset	596	-
	<u>142,894</u>	<u>146,741</u>
Current assets	61,511	65,256
Current liabilities	42,662	47,654
Non-current liabilities		
Term loans excl. current maturities	47,527	55,226
Deferred tax liability	428	-
Other non current payables	10,833	10,498
	<u>58,788</u>	<u>65,724</u>
Net assets	102,955	98,619
Equity		
Share capital	23,641	23,641
Treasury shares (subsidiary)	(6,772)	(6,853)
Treasury shares (liquidity provider)	(167)	-
Share premium	26,936	26,936
Legal reserve	9,139	9,012
Other reserves	470	484
Retained earnings	30,182	24,867
	<u>83,429</u>	<u>78,087</u>
Non controlling interest	19,526	20,532
Total equity	102,955	98,619

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024		
	Q3 2024 RO '000	Q3 2023 RO '000
Revenue	77,707	77,893
Operating expenses	(66,941)	(67,148)
Profit from operations	10,766	10,745
Net finance costs	(3,049)	(2,964)
Profit before tax	7,717	7,781
Tax	(1,551)	(29)
Profit for the period	6,166	7,752
Net profit attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Parent Company	7,468	8,181
Non-controlling	(1,302)	(429)
	<u>6,166</u>	<u>7,752</u>
Notes		
1) The complete accounts will be sent by mail to shareholders within 7 days of receipt of request.		
2) The complete set of financial results can be accessed at www.renaissance-services.com		

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Generating, up 3.08%, was the top gainer while Al Maha Ceramics, down 4.05%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,714.33 points, up by 0.18% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.85% at 428.92 points. Dhofar Generating, up 3.08%, was the top gainer while Al Maha Ceramics, down 4.05%, was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1650 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 10.47 million, with more than 31.05 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 7 advanced, 17 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 985K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 566K, followed by foreign investors for RO 419K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,856.19 points, up 0.14%. Prices

of Oman Arab Bank, Sohar International Bank were up by 2.04%, 1.48% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Takaful, Global Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa were down by 2.50%, 1.19%, 0.97% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,348.76 points, down 0.24%. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Construction Materials, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Fisheries, Muscat Thread Mill were down by 4.17%, 4.05%, 3.13%, 0.68% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.01% before closing at 1,791.64 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Renaissance Services, OQ Gas Networks, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were up by 3.08%, 2.12%, 0.74%, 0.35%, 0.10% respectively. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Al Suwadi Power, Phoenix Power, Al Jazeera Services, National Gas were down by 2.87%, 2.41%, 1.72%, 1.58%, 1.37% respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,720.49	4,702.58	4,714.33	4,705.83	8.50	0.18
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,866.33	7,838.47	7,856.19	7,845.14	11.05	0.14
Industry Index	5,352.37	5,348.76	5,348.76	5,361.75	-12.99	-0.24
Services Index	1,797.19	1,788.06	1,791.64	1,791.80	-0.16	-0.01
MSX Shariah Index	432.17	428.92	428.92	432.58	-3.66	-0.85
MSX TR INDEX	6,594.23	6,569.20	6,585.63	6,573.75	11.88	0.18
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,936.96	8,905.30	8,925.44	8,912.88	12.56	0.14
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,175.37	6,171.20	6,171.20	6,186.19	-14.99	-0.24
SERVICES TR IDX	2,114.94	2,104.19	2,108.39	2,108.58	-0.19	-0.01
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,066.89	1,066.89	1,066.89	1,066.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
31,050,314	10,467,210	1,650	27,524,530,371	7	17	19	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUME TURNOVER TRADES OPEN PRICE HIGH LOW CLOSE PR. PREV. CLOSE DIFF (RD) DIFF % LAST PR. LAST BID LAST OFFER PREV. VALUE MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	2,000	772	1	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.378	0.008	2.116	0.386	0.343	0.384	0.100	91,254,260
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	734,162	100,346	16	0.136	0.137	0.136	0.137	0.135	0.002	1,481	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.100	906,562,739
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,354,938	184,961	156	0.136	0.138	0.136	0.137	0.136	0.001	0,735	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.100	583,285,477
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	356,541	101,091	48	0.284	0.284	0.283	0.284	0.283	0.001	0,353	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.100	218,736,800
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	10,803	10,623	9	0.984	0.984	0.982	0.982	0.981	0.001	0.102	0.982	0.970	0.983	0.100	736,500,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	19,353	6,866	9	0.357	0.357	0.353	0.357	0.357	0.000	0.000	0.357	0.355	0.357	0.100	238,606,457
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	31,826	2,228	8	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	23,770	1,353	3	0.057	0.058	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.059	0.100	19,943,129
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	15,000	1,050	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	6,300,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	200,757	51,600	10	0.256	0.258	0.255	0.257	0.257	0.000	0.000	0.257	0.252	0.257	0.100	1,929,144,045
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	3,288	887	5	0.270	0.270	0.268	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.265	0.293	0.100	175,754,942
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	25,100	2,485	3	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	125,000	10,375	6	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.081	0.085	0.100	16,600,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	23,015	1,882	3	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.081	0.085	0.100	54,665,882
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	69,514	5,649	8	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.083	-0.002	-2.410	0.081	0.081	0.082	0.100	57,866,914
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	50,000	3,903	7	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.078	0.080	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	100	71	1	0.710	0.710	0.710	0.710	0.731	-0.021	-2.873	0.710	0.000	0.780	0.100	67,450,000
Total	17	3,045,167	486,142	294												

Parallel Market

OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	35,800	2,399	2	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.002	3.077	0.067	0.065	0.067	0.100	14,890,080
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	40,000	6,000	8	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.147	0.003	2.041	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.100	250,411,500
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	93,431	76,613	1	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.000	0.000	0.820	0.000	0.902	0.100	57,400,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	4,800	336	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.077	0.100	10,888,528
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	397,537	28,669	18	0.073	0.073	0.068	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.072	0.100	35,604,191
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	10,600	1,283	7	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.121	0.118	0.122	0.100	9,138,162
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	4,700	555	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.100	59,956,218
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	22,101	3,007	2	0.136	0.147	0.136	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.147	0.138	0.147	0.100	2,408,934
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	108,722	11,090	4	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.101	0.103	0.100	228,169,209
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	831	82	2	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	2,970,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	169,913	12,238	16	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.072	0.073	-0.001	-1.370	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	6,120,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	26,695,871	9,502,767	1,249	0.358	0.358	0.353	0.354	0.359	-0.005	-1.393	0.354	0.354	0.354	0.100	401,02,832,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	650	163	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.254	-0.004	-1.575	0.250	0.229	0.265	0.100	10,710,748
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	20,000	1,140	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.057	0.063	0.100	83,368,283
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,143	162	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.148	-0.006	-4.054	0.142	0.142	0.148	0.100	7,810,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	5,500	253	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.048	-0.002	-4.167	0.046	0.045	0.050	0.100	2,875,000
Total	16	27,611,599	9,646,796	1,315												

NCSI DATA

Oman's inflation rate increases by 0.4% in September

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 0.4% in September 2024 compared to the same month in 2023 for the base year 2018, according to data from the Consumer Price Index issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). The data indicated an increase in the prices of miscellaneous goods

and services by 4.33%, food and non-alcoholic beverages by 2.81%, health by 2.44%, recreation and culture by 0.71%, restaurants and hotels by 0.4%, clothing and footwear by 0.28%, and tobacco by 0.09%.

The prices of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group, as well as the Communication group remained stable.

On the other hand, the prices declined for transport by 3.41%, furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance by 0.59% and education by 0.41%.

In the food and non-alcoholic beverages group, the prices of vegetables increased by 8.15%, fruit by 6.15%, milk, cheese and eggs by 5.5%, meat by 2.4%, sugar, jam,

honey, and confectionary by 2.25%, other food products by 1.84%, oils and fats by 1.63%, non-alcoholic beverages by 0.98%, bread and cereals by 0.51%, whereas fish and seafood prices decreased by 3.42%.

At the governorates level, Musandam Governorate recorded the highest inflation rate at the end of September 2024. — OMA

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TRADE WAR

Southeast Asia prepares for Donald Trump's tariff threats

BRUSSELS: Southeast Asian leaders joined their counterparts worldwide in congratulating Donald Trump on his US presidential victory, while nervously waiting to see if his promised tariffs and protectionist measures were mere campaign politicking or accurate forecasts of how he intends to govern.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he hoped the “unshakable alliance” between the two Mutual Defense Treaty allies would continue to “be a force for good, blazing a path of prosperity and amity in the region, and both sides of the Pacific.”

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim congratulated Trump on a “remarkable political comeback and victory,” while Hun Manet, the Cambodian premier, said he is “confident that the indispensable US role in promoting stability, security and prosperity will be further strengthened.” Southeast Asia's trade concerns.

During the US election campaign, most Southeast Asians were paying close attention to Trump's campaign promises to impose a blanket 10%-20% tariff on imports from all countries — a daunting proposition for a region heavily reliant on exports to the US.

“Southeast Asia has had prior experience dealing with Trump and his administration, meaning that they are better prepared for the second Trump administration,” Le Hong Hiep, a senior fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute's Vietnam Studies Program in Singapore, told DW.

“While his victory may be disappointing to some countries, it is not a surprise,” Hiep added. “They will quickly adapt to the new reality and protect their interests.”

Bridget Welsh, an honorary research associate at the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute Malaysia, told DW that a second Trump presidency will impact countries differently, with some focused entirely on trade aspects.

For others, like the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam, there will be “heightened security risks,” as US defense ties are central for



their security amid China's growing economic and military power.

Turbulent economic times

Zachary Abuza, a professor at the National War College in Washington, told DW that Trump's victory is “less consequential” for Southeast Asia than for Europe or Northeast Asia, where America's alliances, particularly with Ukraine in its fight against Russia's ongoing invasion, will be under considerable stress.

But Vietnam, in particular, should be very concerned, analysts say. It is the region's largest exporter to the United States and, after Singapore, the country most reliant on trade for economic growth.

During his first term, Trump initially had good relations with Vietnam. However, relations soured in 2019 as Trump became increasingly frustrated at countries that enjoyed large trade surpluses with the US. That year, Trump called Vietnam the world's “worst abuser” of US trade, worse than China, as the country's trade surplus with America stood at around €51 billion (\$54 billion) that year.

In its final months, the first Trump administration started formal proceedings to sanction Vietnam for alleged currency manipulation, although the Biden administration abandoned this.

Hanoi has waited nervously for the US elections, knowing that its trade surplus with the US spiked to €96 billion last year.

But almost every other Southeast

Asian country is also a net exporter to the US, so they will also face the consequences if Trump goes ahead with his threat to impose a 10%-20% tariff on imports of all goods from all countries, on top of his 60% tariff on all Chinese imports.

US-China relations

All Southeast Asian countries, except Laos, count the United States among their top three export markets. Oxford Economics, an advisory firm, recently estimated that Trump's proposed tariffs could lead to a 3% fall in exports from “non-China Asia,” although poorer economies in Southeast Asia could experience steeper declines.

These trade impacts could be equalized if Trump engages in an even tougher trade war against China the second time around.

“Southeast Asia will suffer in terms of GDP and trade as a share of GDP if Trump makes good on his tariff obsession,” Frederick Kleim, a research fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, told DW.

“But perhaps less so than in other parts of the world, and Southeast Asia could also see some potential upsides.”

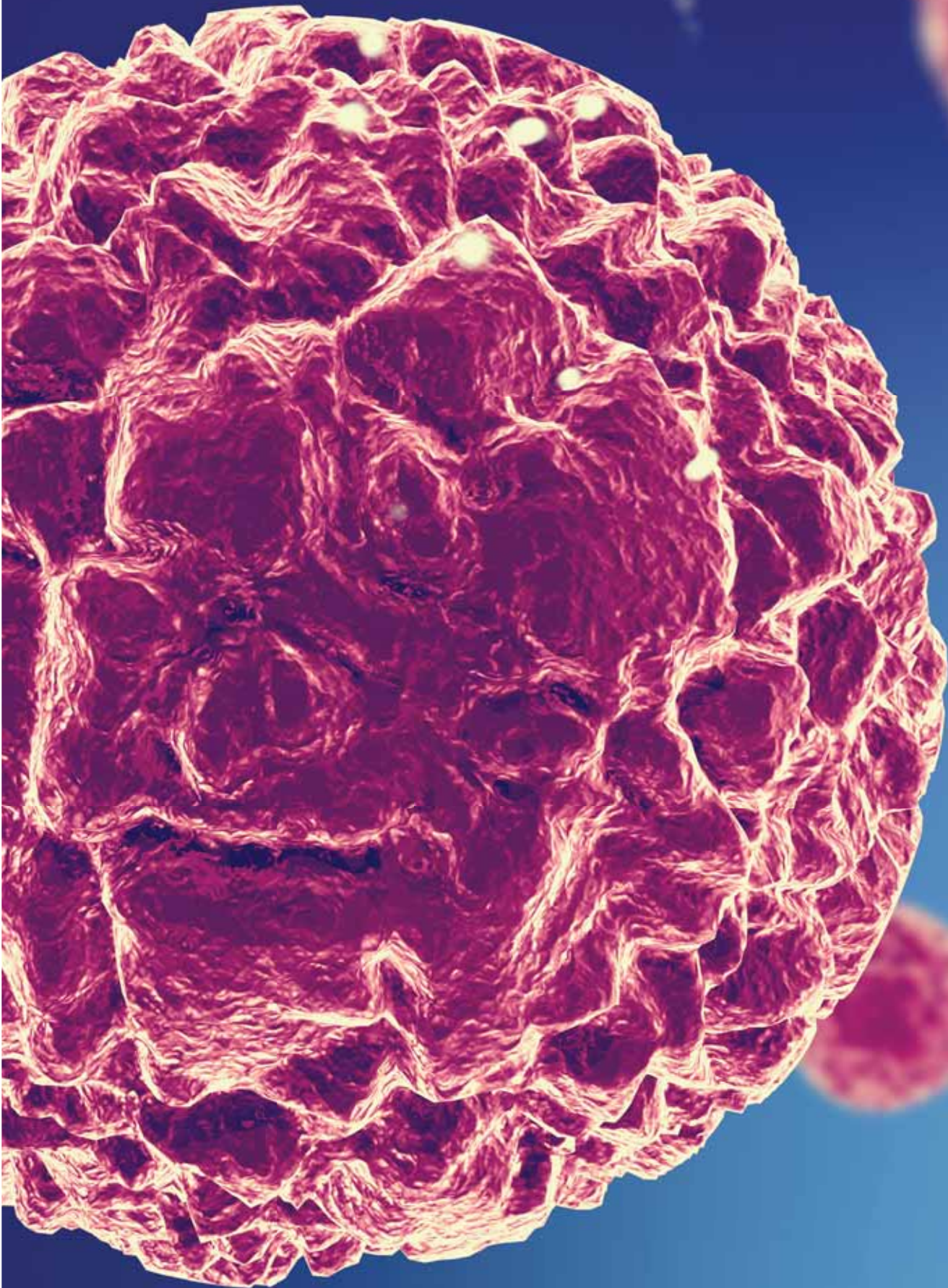
Some pundits reckon that Trump's threatened 60% tariffs on Chinese imports could spark another surge of divestment of global companies from China, similar to the flight of capital out of China experienced after the first Trump administration began imposing tariffs on Chinese goods in 2018. — DW



LIFESTYLE

IMMUNE CELL DISCOVERY PROVIDES NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

The study reveals that these stem-like CD4 T cells reside in the lymph nodes near tumours.



While capable of driving a powerful anti-tumour response, these cells often remain inactive, limiting the immune system's response to the tumour

Researchers at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute discovered a new form of immune cell known as the stem-like CD4 T cell, which plays an important role in anti-tumor immunity. The pre-clinical findings, published in Nature, indicate the potential for activating these cells to combat tumours more effectively, providing new hope for broader treatment success, particularly in patients with cancer that are unresponsive to conventional immunotherapies.

Led by Haydn T. Kissick, PhD, a researcher in the Cancer Immunology Research Program at Winship Cancer Institute and assistant professor in the Department of Urology at Emory University School of Medicine, the study reveals that these stem-like CD4 T cells reside in the lymph nodes near tumours.

While capable of driving a powerful anti-tumour response, these cells often remain inactive, limiting the immune system's response to the tumour.

The stem-like CD4 T cells can renew themselves and transform into different immune cell types. These cells are marked by two specific proteins, PD1 and TCF1, which help determine their behaviour, including self-renewal and regulation. In lab models, activating these cells made a common immunotherapy treatment called PD1 blockade more effective against cancer.

"In around 10 per cent of patients where the stem-like CD4 cell is active, there is a far more vigorous immune response to the cancer," says Kissick. "These patients survive longer after surgery and are much more likely to respond to checkpoint immunotherapy. However, the challenge we identified is that in most patients, this cell remains in a suppressive state, which essentially tells the immune system to remain idle and ignore the tumour."

First author Maria Cardenas emphasizes the significance of overcoming this suppression: "Most importantly while finding the immune system of patients with cancer in this idle state is common, we discovered that the stem-like CD4 T cell is capable of switching to an active state. It can restart a powerful anti-tumor immune response and enhance responsiveness to PD1 blockade in animal models."

The findings suggest that almost all patients have this stem-like CD4 T cell in the lymph nodes surrounding their tumours. "Understanding how to teach these cells to switch between the active and idle states could identify new ways to treat many more patients with immunotherapy," Kissick explains.

Future exploration of this discovery is needed to determine how to turn the cells' immune response on and keep it on. Researchers aim to use mRNA and lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology to re-program these stem-like CD4 T cells, effectively removing the brakes on the immune response to cancer.

"We still have many questions to answer and challenges to overcome," said Kissick. "I feel confident that Winship of Emory is the place for these discoveries and advancements to be made and to determine how to leverage these mechanisms to target the cells and direct them to do what we need them to do to turn on the immune response. We have all the pieces of the puzzle here, it's just a matter of putting them together. Our Phase I Clinical Trials Unit is robust, and we have the contributions of physicians and patients here too." - ANI

SPORTS

Pakistan win historic ODI series in Australia

Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Haris Rauf restricted hosts to 140 before Pakistan completed smooth chase in the decider in Perth

PERTH: In a stunning series revival, Pakistan captured a rare ODI series 2-1 victory in Australia with a commanding eight-wicket win at Perth's Optus Stadium, marking their first series win on Australian soil since 2002 on Sunday.

The team delivered back-to-back clinical performances in Adelaide and Perth, bouncing back from a heartbreaking loss in the first ODI in Melbourne. Pakistan's fast bowlers, led by Afridi, Naseem, and Rauf, dismantled a weakened Australian side in just 31.5 overs, restricting them to a modest 140.

While the pace trio orchestrated Pakistan's dominance, it was interim captain Mohammad Rizwan's steady hand that guided the side to a smooth victory.

Pakistan bowlers relentlessly exploited the lively pitch, shaking an Australian lineup missing several Test stars, including Pat Cummins, Steven Smith, and Mitchell



Starc, who were rested ahead of the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025.

Australia's innings unraveled quickly, with Jake Fraser-McGurk caught at second slip off Naseem after a brief aggressive start.

Afridi then dismissed local favourite Aaron Hardie, who, edged to second slip in an uneasy display.

Captain Josh Inglis was also unable to steady the ship, falling to a short delivery from Naseem, while Glenn Maxwell perished for

a duck, succumbing to Rauf's fiery pace.

With Australia reeling at the prospect of being bowled out for under 100, Sean Abbott offered brief resistance, top-scoring with 30.

Afridi, who sustained a thumb injury but returned to the field unfazed, ended Abbott's stand and sealed the innings by dismissing Lance Morris, sending the crowd of Pakistani supporters into celebrations.

In reply, Pakistan's openers

Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique were aided by Australian fielding lapses, including a dropped catch by Adam Zampa. Though Morris claimed both openers in a spirited over, Rizwan and Babar Azam confidently guided Pakistan to victory in the 27th over, concluding the game two hours ahead of schedule.

Brief scores: Australia 140 in 31.4 overs (Abbott 30, Afridi 3-32, Naseem 3-54, Rauf 2-24) lost to Pakistan 143 for 2 in 26.5 overs (Ayub 42, Shafique 37, Morris 2-24) by eight wickets. - Agencies

Sri Lanka trounce NZ in T20I opener



DAMBULLA: On a turning Dambulla track, Sri Lanka's spinners turned on the pressure, combining for six wickets and stifling New Zealand's scoring to bowl them out for 135 on Saturday. Captain Charith Asalanka then played a composed innings, anchoring the chase with an unbeaten 35 off 28 balls to secure a four-wicket victory with six balls to spare, giving Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the T20I series.

The first six overs set the tone for Sri Lanka's dominance. Maheesh Theekshana's spin baffled the New Zealand batsmen, and although he claimed his sole wicket by dismissing Will Young lbw on the final ball of the innings, it was the collective effort from Sri Lanka's bowlers that dismantled New Zealand's lineup. Dunith Wellalage was lethal, removing Tim Robinson with an arm ball, while Nuwan Thushara dismissed Mark Chapman.

New Zealand's top order struggled, with the scoreboard at 31 for 3 after the powerplay. The middle overs didn't offer any respite, as they could only muster 66 runs in the next ten overs while losing five additional wickets.

Sri Lanka's response was

steady, if not without challenges. Kusal Perera made a quick-fire 22 off 15 balls during the powerplay, helping his team maintain momentum, despite the early losses of Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis. Kamindu Mendis contributed a brisk 23 off 16 after the powerplay, bolstering the chase further.

New Zealand's bowling, however, kept them in contention, spearheaded by Zakary Foulkes, a young all-rounder playing only his third international match. Foulkes added valuable late runs with a rapid 27 not out off 16 balls, lifting New Zealand to a semi-competitive total. With the ball, he troubled Sri Lanka, taking 3 for 20, including the dismissals of Nissanka and Wanindu Hasaranga.

Asalanka, undeterred by the wickets falling around him, ensured there was no late drama. Starting his innings aggressively with two sixes off his first 11 balls, he later settled into a steady rhythm to see Sri Lanka home.

Brief scores: New Zealand 135 in 19.3 overs (Foulkes 27; Wellalage 3-20, Thushara 2-14) lost to Sri Lanka 140/6 in 19 overs (Asalanka 35*, Foulkes 3-20). - Agencies

MLS CUP PLAYOFFS

Messi scores but Miami falls to Atlanta



MIAMI: Lionel Messi scored, but Inter Miami suffered a shock first-round exit in the MLS Cup playoffs, losing 3-2 to Atlanta United in the deciding game of a best-of-three series in Fort Lauderdale on Saturday.

Miami, who won a record 74 points in the regular season to claim the Supporters' Shield, initially took the lead through Matias Rojas after Brad Guzan denied Messi. However, two quick goals from Jamal Thiare put Atlanta ahead. Messi equalised with a header, but Bartosz Slisz's late strike sealed the win for Atlanta, despite Miami's appeals for a stoppage due to an injury.

Miami was recently named one of the 32 teams in next year's expanded FIFA Club World Cup, and in December signed Uruguay striker Luis Suárez, reuniting him with Messi, Sergio Busquets, and Jordi Alba.

Atlanta, who barely made the playoffs, will face Orlando City in the semi-finals, with the Eastern Conference final set for December 7.

A dejected Miami manager Gerardo Martino said, "The players are sad, as they should be when expectations aren't met." - Agencies

FIRST T20I

Salt's ton powers England to eight-wicket victory

BARBADOS: Phil Salt powered a superb century to take England to a commanding eight-wicket victory over West Indies in the first T20I in Barbados on Saturday.

After a disappointing defeat in the one-day international series, Salt struck an unbeaten 103 off 54 balls on the island he used to call home as England cruised to a pursuit of 183.

It was the opener's third T20 hundred for England - all three

of which have come against West Indies in the past 12 months.

He crashed his first 50 runs in just 25 balls as England took 73 from the first six overs for the loss of only Will Jacks for 17.

Captain Jos Buttler was sensationally caught for a golden duck on his return to the side after four months out injured but Salt continued, dropping down the gears with the required run-rate under control, as England pulled off the highest T20 chase at the



Kensington Oval with 19 balls to spare.

Jacob Bethell, another with Bajan roots, finished unbeaten on 58 from 36 balls alongside Salt, in the process becoming the youngest man to hit a T20 fifty for England, aged 21.

Earlier, West Indies made their imposing total in remarkable fashion, reaching 183-9 despite falling to 18-3 and 117-8.

They managed a further 65 runs in the last 5.2 overs after the

eighth wicket fell, with number 10 Gukadesh Motie, who later produced the stunning catch to dismiss Buttler, flogging 33 from 14 balls.

That came as England lost their grip despite a strong start to the innings, with Saqib Mahmood taking 4-34 and Adil Rashid 3-32.

Brief scores: West Indies 182-9 (Pooran 38, Shepherd 35*; Mahmood 4-34) lost to England 183-2 in 16.5 overs (Salt 103*, Bethell 58*). - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool on top after beating Villa; City shocked

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool took full advantage of Manchester City's shocking 2-1 defeat to Brighton, securing a 2-0 win over Aston Villa to move five points clear at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Darwin Nunez opened the scoring in the 20th minute, capitalising on a loose ball after Mohamed Salah's challenge with Leon Bailey.

Salah sealed the win in the 84th minute, scoring for the fourth consecutive league game.

Villa had their chances but were thwarted by Liverpool's goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher, who made key saves to deny Amadou Onana and Diego Carlos. Despite missing several opportunities, including one from Nunez, Liverpool stayed composed and took control of the game, extending their strong run under manager Arne Slot.

The win was Liverpool's ninth in 11 Premier League games - 15th in 17 overall since Arne Slot took charge in the summer - while



Aston Villa are eighth.

In a stunning result at the Amex Stadium, Manchester City's struggles continued as they were beaten 2-1 by Brighton.

City looked set for a recovery when Erling Haaland scored in the 23rd minute, but Brighton responded with a strong second half. Joao Pedro equalized in the 78th minute, and Matt O'Riley scored the winner five minutes later.

It is the first time since 2006 that City have lost four in a row.

Guardiola has once before lost four games in a row, as Bayern Munich boss in 2014-15 - albeit one of those losses was only after a penalty shootout.

Other results: Brentford 3 Bournemouth 2, Crystal Palace 0 Fulham 2, West Ham United 0 Everton 0, Wolverhampton Wanderers 2 Southampton 0. - Agencies

After six titles, maybe another team deserves one: Guardiola

LONDON: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has suggested that after his side's dominance, it might be time for another team to win the Premier League.

City has claimed six of the last seven titles, including four in a row, but following Saturday's loss to Brighton, they sit five points behind leaders Liverpool. The defeat marks Guardiola's first four-game losing streak in 17 years as a manager.

"We have to try and win

games again," Guardiola said. "Four defeats in a row... we need to change things quickly."

Reflecting on his team's success, he added: "After winning six Premier Leagues in seven years, maybe it's time for another team to deserve it."

"Football isn't always easy," Guardiola remarked. "People always talk about the end of an era."

"It's inevitable - we won't win every Premier League. That's impossible." - Agencies

FINAL OF WTA FINALS

Gauff clinches top honours in epic battle against Zheng in Riyadh

RIYADH: Coco Gauff demonstrated remarkable resilience to come from behind and defeat Zheng Qinwen in a thrilling WTA Finals final on Saturday, securing her first title at the season-ending event.

In a match that lasted just over three hours, the 20-year-old American triumphed 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This victory makes her the youngest player to win the WTA Finals since Maria Sharapova in 2004, and the youngest American to win the title since Serena Williams in 2001.

"I'm really proud of this," said

Gauff, the third seed. "This is the first professional women's tennis event here in Saudi Arabia, and I'll forever be a part of its history." Her victory also earned her a record-breaking \$4.8 million prize, the largest ever in women's tennis.

Earlier, Gauff reflected on the match, telling Sky Sports: "I just tried my best to stay in the moment and never gave up."

In reaching the final, Gauff became the youngest player to compete for the WTA Finals title since Caroline Wozniacki in 2010. Along the way, she defeated both world number one Aryna Sabalenka and



number two Iga Świątek, adding extra weight to her title charge.

Zheng, who had already made history in 2024 by winning China's

first Olympic singles tennis gold medal, was a tough opponent. The 22-year-old showed her mettle by fighting off multiple break points

early in the match, but Gauff's determined comeback in the second set set the stage for the gripping decider.

Despite a mid-match wobble, Gauff broke Zheng's serve to force a third set and dug deep to save three break points in the final set. Zheng, who had been in control for much of the decider, faltered when serving for the match. Gauff capitalized, pulling off a run of three consecutive games, before dominating the tiebreak to seal victory.

For Zheng, who also claimed titles this year in Palermo and Tokyo, the loss marked a tough end

to a breakthrough season that saw her reach her first Grand Slam final in Melbourne and solidify her place among the top players. "It's painful to lose, but I'll move on and focus on the next steps," she said.

As the youngest player to reach the WTA Finals final on debut since Petra Kvitová in 2011, Zheng will begin 2025 as a top-five player. Meanwhile, Gauff's victory marks a milestone in a year where she was consistently competitive but fell short of a Grand Slam title, having reached the semifinals at both the Australian Open and Roland Garros. - Agencies

BankDhofar expands its network in Muscat with three new branches

These strategic expansions mark a significant step in the bank’s mission to provide accessible and convenient banking services to more communities across the Sultanate of Oman

MUSCAT: BankDhofar, a leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the opening of three new branches in key locations in Muscat Governorate; The Village branch in Al Hail North, Al Ansab branch in Lulu Hypermarket and Al Bahja Complex branch.

These strategic expansions mark a significant step in the bank's mission to provide accessible and convenient banking services to more communities across the Sultanate of Oman.

The opening ceremonies were held in the presence of a number of prominent members of the community and BankDhofar’s execu-



tive management team. The official opening of the Village branch was held under the patronage of Al Sayyed Khalid Mahfouz Al Busaidi, Head of the Office of the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning. The opening of Al Ansab branch was inaugurated under the

patronage of Ali Khalfan Al Hasani, Member of Al Shura Council. The official opening of Al Bahja Complex was under the patronage of Mohsin Talal Al Bahrani, Director at Mohsin Haider Darwish - Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial and Consumer Solutions.

The branches will serve as financial hubs for residents and businesses in each area. They offer a wide range of banking services, including personal and business accounts and investment solutions. They are designed to meet the banking needs of the region’s

growing community. Customers can expect a welcoming environment and expert assistance with their financial goals.

The bank is committed to expanding its footprint to better serve its customers in all regions in opening those three branches in key locations; as we bring our trusted and innovative banking services closer to all residents as well. These expansions underscore BankDhofar’s dedication to supporting local communities and businesses.

These new branches feature modern and customer-friendly design elements, ensuring that customers enjoy a comfortable and efficient banking experience. Additionally, BankDhofar continues to prioritize digital banking solutions, complementing the physical branch network to provide a seamless banking journey for customers.

BankDhofar is the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman

in terms of number of branches as its national wide network currently consists of 129 branches including Dhofar Islamic. The network also includes more than 360 (ATMs – CDMs – FFMs – MFKs) for BankDhofar and Dhofar Islamic.

BankDhofar invites the community to visit these new branches and explore the wide range of financial products and services available. The bank aims to becoming a trusted partner in the financial journey of the residents and businesses in Al Hail North, Al Mawalih North and Al Ansab.

The bank is also constantly seeking to use the latest technology in its operations to provide convenient banking services to its customers. It recently launched the “Dhofar Pay”, “Samsung Pay” and “Apple Pay” services, which are innovative services based on the swipe of a the mobile phone at POS terminals.

ATHLETIC SPIRIT SOARS



ISD hosts Annual Athletic Meet

MUSCAT: Indian School Darsait held its 32nd Annual Athletic Meet on Thursday, 7 November 2024, at the Royal Oman Police Stadium, Wattayah. The event was a showcase of sportsmanship and community spirit, bringing together students, staff, parents, and dignitaries for a memorable day.

The presence of the Chief Guest, Ali bin Khalfan bin Saeed Al Hasani, Member of the Majlis A'Shura, lent significance to the occasion. Accompanying him were the Guests of Honour, Dr. Eng. Nasser bin Salim bin Mohamed Al Saadi, Director General of Muscat Municipality in Bausher, and Eng. Taher bin Shaikh bin Mohamed Al Dahab, Deputy Director General of Muscat Municipality in Bausher. Younis Sakhi Mahmood Al Balushi, Member of the Advisory Committee, Oman Cricket, attended as the Special Guest, emphasizing the support for youth sports and community engagement. The occasion was also attended by Vijaya Saravanan Sankaran, President, School Management Committee and Vinoba M.P., Senior Principal and Educational Advisor to the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman.

The event commenced with the Royal Anthem of Oman and the National Anthem of India, setting a solemn tone for the day's proceedings. The Head Boy, AadhilShaham Arshad, extended a warm welcome in his opening address, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, members of the SMC and all present for their encouragement and support. The inaugural ceremony featured a spirited march past led by students of the four houses: Bapu, C.V. Raman, Tagore, and Vivekananda, demonstrating impeccable coordination and discipline. This was followed by the Torch Relay, the Oath of Sportsmanship, and the formal declaration of the meet open by the chief guest, igniting a sense of excitement among all present.

A key highlight was the felicitation ceremony, recognising participants of the CBSE National Sports Meet, acknowl-

edging their dedication and achievements. Felicitations were also extended to the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, and Special Guest in appreciation of their support for the school and the development of sports. The School Sports Day featured three impressive mass drills highlighting themes of togetherness and fitness. Students from Classes I and II performed a synchronized pompom drill themed “Unity,” followed by Classes III to V with an energetic display of Lezim and aerobics. Classes VI to VIII concluded with an inspiring aerobics routine, emphasizing teamwork. The track events included sprints and relays in various categories. Prizes were awarded to celebrate the achievements of the winners.

Another exciting event was the Inter-School Invitation Relay, where the spirit of friendly competition was at its peak. The event also featured a special segment for parents, engaging them in friendly competitions that included sprints for both men and women, and tug of war.

The closing ceremony featured remarks from Shaji Kaniyarattil, Head-Sports Committee, School Management Committee, who praised the students for their sportsmanship and resilience. The Head Girl, Aysha Zalka Zacharia, delivered the vote of thanks.

The championship results were announced by the Chief Guest and the other dignitaries. C. V. Raman House claimed the prestigious Championship trophy for its stellar all-round performance, while Bapu House secured the Runner-Up trophy. Bapu House also won the trophy for the best display of marchpast, with C. V. Raman House as the runner-up in this event. The Annual Athletic Meet was declared close by the Head of Sports Subcommittee, ShajiKaniyarattil.

The 32nd Annual Athletic Meet of Indian School Darsait ended on a high note, leaving participants and spectators inspired, and underscoring the school's commitment to holistic education, sports, and youth development.

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXHIBITION

ARA Petroleum participates in ADIPEC

MUSCAT: ARA Petroleum (ARA), the oil & gas exploration and production arm of The Zubair Corporation, announced its participation in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2024.

During the ADIPEC, ARA will deliver a number of technical papers as well as showcase the techniques & technologies it is using to increase production while constantly reducing emissions. ARA is on target to operate at almost net zero by 2030. The event, which attracts industry leaders from around the globe, provides a platform for ARA to strengthen its regional presence and explore potential collaborations within the global energy landscape.

Speaking ahead of the event, Sultan Al Gaiithi, Chief Executive Officer of ARA, highlighted the company's commitment to driving innovation and operational excellence: “Our participation at ADIPEC underscores and publicises ARA's commitment to becoming a leader in low emission production by leveraging cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices. One example of this is our deployment of the world's first



solar water treatment plant that takes oily saline produced water & converts it into fresh water. We have many other examples, so look forward to engaging with industry peers and exploring new ideas that align with our production growth strategy and that are coupled with our sustainability goals. We want to connect with companies & individuals that can help us on this journey.”

Dr Omar Al Jaaidi, Vice President at ARA Petroleum, emphasised the importance of research

and innovation in tackling the energy industry's challenges: “At ARA we fund a number of research projects across a broad spectrum. In a rapidly changing energy landscape, innovation is critical. At ADIPEC, we will showcase how our research and technological advancements have enabled ARA to overcome challenges, optimise production, and reduce our environmental footprint. This event offers a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing and collaboration, these are

all key drivers of the future energy sector.”

As an exhibitor ARA will have a dedicated booth where experts will be on hand to listen & discuss in detail ideas and initiatives that help develop the petroleum industry locally and globally. The event presents a unique and exciting opportunity for ARA to share its experience and expertise in the field across Oman & Tanzania, while connecting and networking with petroleum professionals from throughout the world.

EXPANDING OMAN'S TOURISM

Visit Oman signs strategic partnership with Passporter to boost traveller engagement

LONDON: Visit Oman, the National Travel Operator, proceeds with an impactful strategic partnership with Passporter, a dynamic travel platform known for enabling travellers to explore destinations through interactive itineraries and rich multimedia storytelling.

Announced at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London, this partnership aligns with Visit Oman's ongoing commitment to expanding Oman's tourism appeal globally, utilising digital platforms to offer easy access to Oman's diverse cultural and natural wonders.

By partnering with Passporter, Visit Oman facilitates broader visibility for Omani tourism suppliers and SMEs, reaching a growing audience of digitally engaged travelers across Europe. Passporter's unique platform, designed for creating and sharing personalized travel itineraries, will now feature a curated selection of Omani adventures, allowing international visitors to explore Oman's cultural, natural, and historical landscapes with ease and inspiration.

“Our collaboration with Pass-



porter is part of our ongoing efforts to expand Oman's reach in key international markets,” says Shabib Al Maamari, Managing Director of Visit Oman.

“This strategic alliance is crucial for boosting EU traveller engagement and aligns with Oman Vision

2040, showcasing our nation's unique heritage and natural beauty to a global audience. Through Passporter, travellers now have the tools to immerse themselves in Omani experiences and share their journey with others.”

The Passporter team shares this

enthusiasm: “We are thrilled to partner with Visit Oman and bring the beauty of Oman to the forefront for our community,” states Diego Rodriguez, CEO of Passporter. “Our platform's capabilities in interactive storytelling and itinerary-sharing offer travellers an engaging way to plan and share their trips, allowing them to discover Oman before they arrive and to explore it deeply once there.”

This strategic alliance with Passporter complements Visit Oman's expanding digital ecosystem and follows a series of similar partnerships with other prominent OTAs and travel platforms worldwide. With each collaboration, Visit Oman aims to bring on board partners who share the goal of creating seamless, digitally accessible pathways to Oman's tourism offerings. Through these global partnerships, Visit Oman strives to enhance the discoverability and appeal of Omani experiences, empowering local tourism suppliers, SMEs, and service providers to connect with a worldwide audience.

ROUND-UP

CFI sets new milestone as trading volume surpasses \$1TN in Q3 2024

This outstanding performance underscores CFI’s commitment to innovation and excellence in the ever-evolving online trading landscape

DUBAI: CFI, the region’s leading online trading provider, sustains its remarkable momentum from Q2 2024, achieving unprecedented milestones and setting new records in Q3 2024.

This outstanding performance underscores CFI’s commitment to innovation and excellence in the ever-evolving online trading landscape.

Record-Breaking Performance

In Q3 2024, CFI recorded a milestone trading volume of \$1.03 trillion, marking a remarkable 34.47% growth from Q2 2024 and a 129.4% surge compared to Q3 2023. This unprecedented performance testifies to the company’s strategic initiatives and its capability to meet robust market demand while consistently delivering exceptional

trading solutions for its clients.

The group saw a rapid expansion of its client base with an increase of 45.93% in funded accounts from Q2 2024 and a 128.75% from Q3 2023. Active accounts grew by 28% this quarter and 110% year-over-year, signaling CFI’s relentless focus on both acquisition and retention, strengthened by innovative client engagement initiatives.

Expanding Global Presence Through Strategic Partnerships

In Q3 2024, CFI’s global footprint was further strengthened through strategic partnerships that boosted its leadership and brand visibility:

- Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi Partnership: This collaboration to support events in the Emirate reinforces CFI’s status as a homegrown leader and commitment to local culture.
- USA Games in Abu Dhabi: As part of its extended partnership with DCT Abu Dhabi, CFI was the official partner of the USA Games held in July, enhancing its presence and support for international events in the UAE.
- Lewis Hamilton Joins as Global Brand Ambassador: The announcement of Lewis Hamilton, seven-time Formula 1™ World Champion, as CFI’s Global Brand Ambassador marks a milestone. Aligning with one of motorsport’s icons, CFI strengthens its brand association with excellence, precision, and resilience.
- UFC FIGHT NIGHT Sponsor-



ship: As an extension of the DCT Abu Dhabi partnership, CFI’s involvement in UFC Fight Night in Q3 provided global exposure and reinforced its presence in elite sports.

- Jordan Football Association (JFA) Partnership Extension: CFI’s ongoing sponsorship of the

Jordanian Pro League, now the ‘Jordanian Pro League - CFI’ for the next three seasons, highlights its commitment to regional sports development.

Strategic Market Expansion and Dominance

In Q3, CFI has made bold moves in

expanding its market presence:

- Azerbaijan Acquisition: In a pivotal strategic move, CFI acquired AzFinance İnveŞtisiya Şirkəti (AzFinance Investment Company), making it the first international trading company to establish a local, regulated presence in Azerbaijan. This acquisition underscores CFI’s commitment to serve local markets while expanding its market reach, and providing localized trading services.
- UAE Expansion: CFI expanded its local operations from its Dubai headquarters to Abu Dhabi, further solidifying its position as a leading online trading provider across the Emirates.

Looking Forward

Commenting on the group’s Q3 2024 remarkable achievements, Hisham Mansour, Co-founder and Managing Director of CFI, said “Q3 has showcased our team’s dedication and innovation, pushing us to new heights, strengthening our foundation for future growth. As we look ahead to Q4, we are focused on building on this momentum by further expanding our reach, enhancing our partnerships, and continuously exceeding our clients’ expectations.

Our strategic priorities remain centered on delivering unparalleled value and innovative trading solutions for our clients, and strengthening our position as a trusted online trading partner for traders worldwide.”

As CFI heads into Q4, the focus remains on strategic growth, market penetration, and cutting-edge

trading solutions. With continued investment in technology, expanding partnerships, and a commitment to client success, CFI is set to sustain its upward trajectory and redefine excellence in the trading industry.

About CFI

CFI Financial Group is MENA’s leading online trading broker with over 25 years of experience, boasting the highest number of regulated entities and regional offices, including key locations such as London, Dubai, Larnaca, Beirut, Amman, and Cairo. Specializing in online trading services across equities, currencies, and commodities, CFI offers highly competitive trading conditions, including zero-pip spreads and no commission fees. The company is a pioneer in AI-driven trading tools and applications.

The group supports elite sports through partnerships with organizations like AC Milan and FIBA WASL. It proudly names Seven-Time Formula One™ World Champion Sir Lewis Hamilton as their Global Brand Ambassador, reflecting a shared commitment to excellence and innovation.

The group is also partnered with the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), demonstrating its commitment to promoting local culture and fostering community engagement. The group actively participates in various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the communities where it operates.

IN AL BATINAH



NBO hosts exclusive dinner for Priority Banking customers

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) recently hosted an exclusive dinner for Sadara customers from the Al Batinah region at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sohar.

The event was a gesture of appreciation and an opportunity for NBO to strengthen its connections with top-tier customers, showcasing its commitment to providing personalised and exceptional service.

The evening featured an elegant dinner, creating a welcoming environment where customers could interact directly with NBO representatives, exchange insights, and discuss the bank’s latest initiatives and service enhancements. This gathering is part of NBO’s broader strategy to engage more deeply with customers across Oman.

Ali Mustafa Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager and Head

of Private Banking and Segments at NBO commented, “Our Sadara customers are central to NBO’s commitment to exceptional service. This evening’s gathering reflects our dedication to building strong relationships and recognising our customers’ trust in us. We aim to offer financial solutions specifically designed to meet their needs, and events like these allow us to connect more meaningfully with our customers.”

Through its exclusive Sadara Priority Banking services, NBO provides customers with a range of personalised services, including wealth management advice, bespoke financial solutions, and access to a network of global privileges. NBO remains committed to elevating the banking experience for its Sadara clients, continually expanding offerings to reflect the evolving financial landscape.

LATEST CAMPAIGN

Avail JAC with unbeatable price offer

MUSCAT: As Oman’s automotive market continues to expand, JAC Motors presents a remarkable opportunity for drivers to experience high-quality vehicles at unbeatable prices with its latest campaign, “Drive Away a JAC with an Unbeatable Price.”

This limited-time offer allows Omani motorists to own a stylish, reliable, and feature-packed vehicle at prices that are hard to ignore. Whether you’re in the market for a family-friendly SUV, a sleek sedan, or a rugged pickup truck, JAC Motors offers a wide range of models tailored to meet the diverse driving needs and preferences of Oman’s motorists.

The compact JAC S3, starting from just RO 4,299, offers a seamless blend of economy, practicality, and style. With its efficient fuel consumption and advanced safety features, the S3 is the ideal choice for families looking for a versatile, city-friendly SUV. Its spacious interiors and contemporary design make every journey a comfortable and enjoyable experience.



For those seeking a sportier crossover, the JAC JS4, starting at RO 5,744, provides a winning combination of power and innovation. The JS4 is equipped with a turbocharged engine that delivers a dynamic driving experience while maintaining comfort. Its sleek design and advanced driver-assist technologies offer both performance and peace of mind, whether you’re navigating city streets or exploring off-road paths.

The JAC JS6, starting from RO 6,466, stands out as the biggest SUV from JAC in Oman, that provides a premium driving experience at a competitive price.

With its luxurious interiors, cutting-edge infotainment system, and robust engine performance, the JS6 is perfect for larger families or drivers who demand space and refine-

ment without sacrificing power.

The JAC J7, The fully loaded sedan is now at RO 5,277, is a sleek sedan that emphasizes both style and substance. With its aerodynamic design, powerful engine, and smart technology, the J7 offers an ideal combination of elegance and efficiency. For drivers who prioritize comfort and innovation, the J7 delivers a smooth and sophisticated ride, complete with premium features.

For those who need a robust vehicle for both work and leisure, the JAC T8 pickup, starting from RO 4,999, is built to handle tough tasks and everyday driving with ease. The T8’s powerful engine, durable construction, and modern technology make it the perfect choice for those seeking a vehicle that can

tackle both challenging jobs and weekend adventures.

All JAC models come with the reassurance of a 6-year or 200,000 km manufacturer’s warranty, a testament to the brand’s confidence in the long-term durability and performance of its vehicles. Furthermore, every vehicle comes with 6 years of AAA roadside assistance, ensuring drivers have reliable support whenever needed.

Towell Auto Centre, the official distributor of JAC Motors in Oman, plays a pivotal role in bringing these exceptional offers to customers. With an extensive network of showrooms and service centres across the Sultanate of Oman, Towell Auto Centre ensures that Omani drivers not only gain ac-

cess to JAC’s cutting-edge vehicles but also benefit from top-tier after-sales support and service. Their strong reputation for customer satisfaction adds an extra layer of value to this already unbeatable offer.

Don’t miss out on this exceptional opportunity! Visit your nearest JAC showroom today and drive away with a deal that’s too good to pass up. With limited stock and the campaign running only until November 21st, this is a chance you won’t want to miss. Whether you’re a first-time buyer or looking to upgrade your current vehicle. Explore the wide range of vehicles available, speak to knowledgeable sales representatives, and take advantage of flexible financing options to ensure you drive away with an unbeatable price offer.



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