



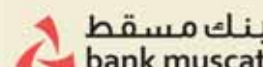
CBO ISSUES TREASURY BILLS WORTH OMR70 MILLION

The total issuance of Government Treasury Bills this week stood at OMR70 million. The value of the allotted Treasury bills stood at OMR30 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.605 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.605 per OMR100. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 247 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)



Open an account

Your child's financial journey starts with Meethaq





PROGRAMMES AND PERFORMANCE BUDGET

77% of govt units have achieved their targets

MUSCAT: Seventy-seven percent of the Programmes and Performance Budget (PP Budget) in government units of the Sultanate of Oman has already been accomplished.

“This constitutes a step forward in developing the performance of public finance,” Dr. Talib bin Ali Al Siyabi, Director of the PP Budget Programmes and Performance Budget Implementation Project, told Oman News Agency (ONA). He was speaking at the Ministry of Finance's annual meeting of teams tasked with implementing the PP Budget in government units on Monday.

The meeting was attended by representatives of more than 60 units of the State's Administrative Apparatus.

The meeting reviewed the progress made in implementing the PP Budget at government units in 2023, as well as the Ministry's follow-up plan of the budget programme in terms of requirements in 2024. It also touched on improvements that could be introduced to the PP Budget's draft document for the year 2025.

Al Siyabi said that the meeting stemmed from a keenness to improve the performance of government units and further streamline the objectives of Oman Vision



2040 and other strategic goals.

“The drive also seeks to link all units with the ‘Detailed Performance Document’, so that overall performance could be measured and connected with general spending,” he further added.

During the meeting, the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah shared its experience in applying the PP Budget. The Governorate also gave a presentation on an indicator set for applying the PP Budget within the context of Ejada, the institutional system overseen by the Ministry of Labour.

Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Finance Ministry, underscored the significance of the annual gathering. **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ‘Al Zeeg’ movie wins award in India

1 The Omani documentary titled ‘Al Zeeg’ won the award for the best social documentary at the Asian Talent International Film Festival, which was held in the Republic of India. **>A2**

WORLD Gaza death toll crosses 29,000

2 Israeli atrocities in Gaza continue as death toll crosses 29,000. The Gaza Health Ministry said 107 bodies were brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours. That brings the total number of deaths to 29,092 since the start of the war. **>A7**

MARKET Pact to establish transformer plant

3 Oman's Voltamp Energy Company and Saudi Arabia's Al-Sharif Holding Group have entered a partnership to build a high-voltage power transformer production plant in KSA. **>B1**



The survey aims to identify the most commonly used app by children, gauge the extent to which families monitor their usage

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An opinion poll aimed at establishing a national framework for addressing social media usage among children has been launched by the National Centre

for Statistics and Information (NCSI) in Oman.

This survey will help in the development of national plans and programmes to regulate children's social media usage, contribute to raising awareness among families about the importance of monitoring their children's online activities, and provide valuable data to policy makers regarding children's online behaviour.

Commonly used applications

Continuing until February 20, the survey aims to identify the most commonly used applications by children, gauge the extent to which families monitor their usage of these platforms, assess their impact on children's behaviour, determine the areas where social media applications are most utilised, and establish

appropriate age guidelines for their usage.

The survey sample consists of about 2,500 male and female citizens aged 18 years and above from various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman of diverse educational backgrounds, enabling the acquisition of estimates for most indicators at the aggregate level.

More than 95 percent of Omani children own electronic devices, according to a study conducted by the Ministry of Social Development (MoD), in 2020.

Human societies have witnessed an increase in the use of social media in recent years, especially the use of it by children, and their influence on the content presented.

The greatest role in the process of socialisation falls on the family and school, especially during the first years of a child's life.

-With ONA inputs

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

UNESCO learning city award to Muscat a great honour

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muscat joining the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities is an international recognition of the city's position to ensure continuity in the learning process, according to a senior official.

Muscat took its place within the global learning network at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute for Lifelong Learning, which included more than 200 cities of the world.

Besides Muscat, Sur and Nizwa wilayats from the Sultanate of Oman achieved this remarkable feat. The announcement of Muscat joining the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities came after it successfully passed all the criteria required for this membership.

Ali bin Muhammed Al-Saidi, Wali of Muscat, said that the cultural and civilisational aspects of Muscat made it worthy of this prestigious membership.

Concept of learning cities

Al-Saidi said that the concept of



learning cities, according to the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, is a city that is keen to effectively mobilise its resources in all sectors to enhance comprehensive learning for all, from the basic education to the higher education stage. “It encourages learning within families and communities, facilitates learning for work and on the job, expands the use of modern learning technologies,” he said.

Additionally, it enhances quality and excellence in the field of learning and it promotes a culture of

lifelong learning.

Muscat wilayat submitted a comprehensive application to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities within a record period and it achieved this global recognition within a short time.

Thus, Muscat officially became one of the learning cities due to its commitment to achieving sustainable development purposes within the governorates' development, which is one of the pillars of ‘Oman Vision 2040’ document to benefit from competitive advantages.

This includes the focus of comprehensive learning based on establishment of a culture of lifelong learning for all people.

An ideal educational city

The Wali of Muscat said that the wilayat has several components that make it an ideal educational city. “The city is famous for its historical monuments and stunning natural landscapes. It is a vibrant centre of scientific, cultural, economic, tourism activities as well as peaceful coexistence. The

wilayat is also domicile to many scientific, cultural and historical institutions such as museums. For example, the National Museum of Oman, Bait Al Zubair Museum, Omani and French Museum, Al Saidia Museum, Muscat Gate Museum,” he said. Castles, mosques and temples are considered as frames for transferring knowledge and contributing to understanding the past, present and future from various dimensions.

Empowerment and education

The Wali of Muscat said that the wilayat seeks to integrate all groups of society to contribute to its prosperity, in addition to its focus on women's rights, preservation and empowering them in the political, social and economic fields, and integrating youth, people with disabilities, and other groups through sports activities, programmes, and events that are organised by wilayat. “This aims to provide them with knowledge, values, and skills, enhance citizenship, and preserve customs and traditions,” he added. **>A2**



Annual day of influential Omani figures listed in Unesco celebrated

The celebration aimed to showcase the Jibreen Fort which is listed in the Unesco programme for the anniversary celebrations of the key historic events

Times News Service

BAHLA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, celebrated on 18 February the Annual Day of Globally Influential Omani Personalities listed in the Unesco, which falls on 10 February every year. The celebration was held at Jibreen Fort in the Wilayat of Bahla, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate under the patronage of Ibrahim bin Said



Al Kharoussi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Heritage. The celebration was organised in cooperation with the government departments and the private sector establishments concerned with preservation of the Omani cultural heritage. The celebration aimed to showcase the globally influential Omani

personalities at the local and international level. It aimed to showcase the Jibreen Fort which is listed in the Unesco programme for the anniversary celebrations of the key historic events and the globally influential personalities. It also aimed to showcase the architecture of the fort and engineering construction method and

its impact in the field of science and education as many students from the Arab countries attended lessons in the various fields of science. Dr. Mahmoud bin Abdullah Al Abri, Assistant Secretary of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, said that in the fields of heritage and culture, Oman had experienced



its distinct presence in the international arena, in general and at the Unesco in particular. Said bin Salim Al Jadidi from the Heritage and Tourism Department in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate delivered a working paper on the stages of maintenance and renovation of Jibreen Fort. During the celebration, students of Imam Bilarab bin Sultan Basic

Education School delivered an operetta titled "Oman; glory and civilisation". It is worth mentioning that Oman has so far managed to enlist seven Omani personalities and one event in the Unesco programme for the 50th or 100th anniversary of the key historic events and the globally influential personalities.

INSURANCE CONFERENCE

Total value of insurance market in Arab countries is more than \$40.9bn

MUSCAT: Activities of the 34th General Arab Insurance Federation Conference kicked off at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on Monday. The event is titled "For a more sustainable and inclusive Arab insurance industry: How Arab companies can join the artificial intelligence revolution". The three-day conference is organised by Oman Insurance Association and the Secretariat General of the Arab Insurance Federation. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil bin Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers. In emerging markets, the real value of insurance premiums between 2010 and 2019 grew by 7.3 percent, compared to 1.8 percent in developed markets, said Ahmed Ali al-Maamari, Vice President for Insurance Sector at the Capital Market Authority (CMA). He added that, in 2022, the sector's growth rate ratio in the two markets was 4.7% to 3%. In his turn, Mustafa Ahmed Salman, member of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of the Chamber's Finance and Insurance Committee, said



that steps are underway to develop laws, decisions and regulations related to the insurance sector, monitor its challenges and submit proposals and visions to address these challenges. He added that, in recent years, the Arab insurance sector saw sound growth that kept pace with the developments taking place in Arab economies. The total value of the insurance market in Arab countries stood at more than \$40.9 billion by the end of 2021, posting a growth of 1.8 percent over the previous year, according to estimates of the Arab Monetary Fund. For his part, Chakib Abuzaid, Secretary General of the Gen-

eral Arab Insurance Federation (GAIF), said that the insurance industry fell below the expectations of the GAIF at a time all insurance premiums did not exceed \$45 billion, constituting just 1.66 percent of the gross Arab national product. The gross Arab national product represents 3.49 percent of the global GDP, said Chakib Abuzaid, noting that "the disasters that struck our Arab region in 2023 proved the weakness of insurance coverage". The conference elaborates on insurance technologies that rely on artificial intelligence and considers the reshaping of the Arab insurance sector, with special

emphasis on sustainability, comprehensiveness and sustainable insurance practices. It studies scopes for developing national and regional solutions for insurance to secure the sector against natural disasters. It also looks into drafting regulatory frameworks for the use of artificial intelligence in the sector and honing the skills of its personnel so that they could keep abreast of technological developments in the region. The opening of the conference was attended by ministers, undersecretaries and representatives of insurance companies from Oman and abroad, a total of more than 2,200 participants. -ONA

OMANI RED SUGAR

'Al Zeeg' movie wins award in India film festival

NEW DELHI: The Omani documentary titled 'Al Zeeg' won the award for the best social documentary at the Asian Talent International Film Festival, which was held in the Aurangabad, the Republic of India. The festival was held during the period from 15 to 18 February 2024. As many as 700 films from all over the world took part in the festival. The documentary "Al Zeeg" is directed by Omani director Salah

Al Hadhrami, and produced by the Oman Film Society. It presents, in a cinematic way, the Omani relationship with the profession of cultivating and manufacturing Omani red sugar. The documentary also addresses the humanitarian, economic and social aspects of this profession. The documentary "Al Zeeg" also won a number of awards in local, Arab and international festivals, reaching 17 awards. -ONA



UNESCO LIST

Muscat encourages physical activity to promote a healthy lifestyle

<FROM Tourism attractions
A1 Muscat has a unique dimension that has contributed to many tourism projects characterised by development, sustainability and coexistence. "The wilayat seeks during the next five years, to establish areas for team and individual sports," Al-Saidi said. The wilayat also encourages physical activity to promote a healthier lifestyle among residents and visitors. He further said: "Muscat integrates aspects of sustainability and health, promotes active transportation options such as walking and cycling to motivate physical activity and improve health results." Al-Saidi also stressed that Muscat continuously seeks to ensure access to lifelong learning opportunities for all people, including people with disabilities and the elderly. "Muscat adopts many initiatives and projects to ensure learning continuance, including the 'Yeti Without Illiteracy' project. It is an innovative programme that aims to overcome



illiteracy and promote comprehensive reading and writing in the alphabetical and cultural dimensions," he said. Additionally, the 'Computer

Literacy Eradication' project in partnership with private sector institutions represented by E.Oman. It aims to pass basic knowledge of reading and writing and



introduce learners to modern technology. Summer centres have been established that seek to use vacation time to develop skills and enhance

knowledge. **Organised efforts** Al-Saidi concluded by clarifying that the Education City project



has received great attention in the Sultanate of Oman. "The Council of Ministers is interested in it and is continuously monitoring its implementation. Muscat joining Unesco Global Learning Cities Network came after a series of concerted efforts done by Muscat Governorate," he said. The Muscat project as a learning city is among the priorities of Muscat Governorate. A main committee formation that is headed by His Excellency Ali bin Muhammad Al-Saidi, Muscat Wali. Then, a technical work team is formed to supervise the education city in the long term. Muscat participated in the Arab Conference on Learning Cities in Saudi Arabia with an aim to gain knowledge and best practices.



**Banking for women
worthy of excellence**
Products and services designed exclusively to
suit your needs and lifestyle with ladies banking



Indian students in a fix as NEET drops Oman centre

The NEET centre at the Indian School Muscat was started in 2022 after continuous requests and representations from the parents of Indian School students in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Parents of Indian school students, led by Kairali Oman community, submitted a memorandum to Indian Ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang, complaining about dropping the NEET exam centre in Oman and other GCC countries.

The NEET centre at the Indian School Muscat was started in 2022 after continuous requests and representations from the parents of Indian Schools students in Oman.

Based on the requests from many of the parents in the previous years, Kairali Oman community had given memorandums to the Parliament members in India, made many representations to them and accordingly Rajya Sabha members Elamanam Kareem and John Brittas had raised the issue in the Indian House.

All such collective efforts resulted in the opening of a NEET centre at the Indian School Muscat.

The parents here in Oman are disappointed to see that the centre, which started as a result



IN A DILEMMA: The recent decision to withdraw NEET centre has plunged expatriate community into financial crisis due to various reasons, with airfares also experiencing a significant surge.

of continuous efforts by them with the support of community groups of Indian diaspora across the world, has been discontinued without any reason or discussions.

The recent decision has plunged expatriate parents into financial crisis due to various reasons, with airfares also experiencing a significant surge.

The online registration for NEET has already commenced, and the abrupt discontinuation of examination centres in Gulf countries, including Oman, has instilled a sense of anxiety among students.

A group of parents along with the Kairali Oman community, engaged in discussions with India's Ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang, demanding the withdrawal of the decision, which poses a grave threat to students' future, and the immediate restoration of the NEET exam centre in Oman.

Sudhi Padmanabhan, Shaji Sebastian, Manoj Peringeth, Arun V M, and Mithun Mohan led the discussions from the parents side and the ambassador assured them of addressing their concerns.

He promised to convey the matter to the Union Education Ministry and NEET authorities promptly.

In 2021, India first opened international centres for the NEET-UG exams- a prerequisite for all students to study medicine in India and some international countries.

The move came after thousands of students could not travel to appear in the test during the Covid pandemic. It relieved parents who had been petitioning for centres outside India for years.

However, this year, all international centres have been closed down. On the other hand, the number of centres in India has increased.

Discussion on GCC tourism strategy in Doha



PROMOTING TOURISM: Oman's delegation was led by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism. -ONA



DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, on Monday took part in the 8th meeting of the GCC Tourism Ministers, which was held in the Qatari capital, Doha.

Oman's delegation was led by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism.

The meeting discussed the GCC tourism strategy and means of promoting the GCC joint action in

the tourism and heritage sectors.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, chaired last October the seventh meeting, which was held at the Oman Museum in the Wilayat of Manah, where discussions were held on benefiting from the opportunities and capabilities enjoyed by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to improve the tourism sector and its related fields. -ONA

45 government units submit documents

< FROM Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Finance Ministry, lauded ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and other government units in finalising the requirements needed for applying the PP Budget. He said that 45 government units have submitted the related budget's documents. -ONA



SALES REPRESENTATIVE

REQUIRED FOR A LARGE DIVERSIFIED GROUP IN MUSCAT

FOR OTC & COSMETIC PRODUCTS WITH:

- Appropriate professional qualification
- Minimum of 2 years' experience as a Sales Rep in this specific field
- Proficiency in English and Arabic
- Must possess a valid Oman driving license

Interested candidates, please send your CV, age and a recent photograph to omanjobs968@gmail.com with "Pharma Sales" in the subject line

ENJOY YOUR RIDE; YOU ARE PROTECTED

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com

Oman United Insurance Co.
S.A.O.G.

‘A HOUSE OF WONDERS’ MOVIE PREMIERS AT ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information, represented by Nizwa Magazine, on Monday launched a movie premier ‘A House of Wonders’ at the House of Musical Arts of the Royal Opera House Muscat.

It highlights in three series the Omani presence in Zanzibar and East Africa.

The Ministry also launched a book documenting the Omani civilizational role in the region.

Friedrich Klutsch, Director of the movies pointed out that the history of the Omani presence in

East Africa is a long one that began on the coast of the Indian Ocean and extended for several years.

He said: “The more we dig into this history, the more information we find”.

The House of Wonders is the main theme of the three movies. Each part of these movies lasts 50 minutes and is produced in three languages, namely Arabic, English and Swahili.

These movies lay emphasis on the Omanis’ civilizational contribution in the political, commercial, social and cultural fields. -ONA





Ways to strengthen environmental law in region discussed



The opening ceremony of the conference was held under the patronage of Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour

SOHAR: Activities of the Conference on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development Plan 2030 titled 'Towards Building a Sustainable Economy in the Middle East and North Africa Region', began at Sohar University in North Al Batinah Governorate on Monday.

The conference was held under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and in technical cooperation and partnership with SADER Legal Publishing (MENA) and the UNESCO Chair in Environmental Law at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in the State of Qatar.

The opening ceremony of the conference was held under the patronage of Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour.

Dr. Hamdan Sulaiman Al Fazari, Vice Chancellor of Sohar University, explained that the



conference aims to bring together specialists in the field of environmental education, university lecturers, trainers and practitioners in the field of environmental law to exchange knowledge and experience on how to enhance the education and practice of environmental law in the region.

He added that this conference also aims to exchange information and best practices on the role of environmental law in accelerating progress in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the region.

Public and private institutions, including higher education institutions and universities around the world, are working extensively on various strategic plans to achieve the desired goals in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and national

priorities, Al Fazari said.

The two-day conference will also discuss four main themes. The first theme talks about international environmental law and SDGs. The second theme highlights local and regional approaches, and the multi-stakeholder approach in addressing the latest developments in the field of adopting environmental, social, and governance standards throughout the region. The third theme discusses teaching environmental law to implement SDGs. Finally, the fourth theme deals with practical applications that touch on the current gaps in capacity development and the needs of ministries and institutions related to environmental law in the region and how to meet and implement them appropriately.

The conference also included a number of workshops on a number of legal topics related to the environment, including the rule of international environmental law, the SDGs, the integrated and multi-stakeholder approach to the SDGs, and enhancing environmental legal education on biodiversity and nature conservation.

The conference provides a platform to share and exchange information on the resources, skills and methodologies required to equip environmental officials and students in the region with law and governance skills with the aim of promoting SDGs in their areas of specialisation. — ONA

MEETING

Oman, China discuss ways to boost bilateral relations

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received here on Monday Wang Di, Director General of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries and means of enhancing them in various fields.

They also exchanged views on the latest developments on Israel's war against the Palestinians in Gaza and its regional and international repercussions.



The meeting was attended by Li Lingbing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Sultanate of Oman, Sheikh Abdulaziz Saif Al Hosni, Head of the Asia-Pacific Department and several officials from both sides.

— ONA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR70mn

MUSCAT: CBO raised OMR70 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday. The value of the allotted treasury bills stood at OMR30 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.605 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.605 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.14911 percent and 5.16953 percent, respectively.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR40 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.666 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.665 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.34865 percent and 5.42094 percent, respectively. — ONA



Announcement

Vendor Registration Announcement

Oman Flour Mills Co. invites SMEs holding a Riyada card to join our network of suppliers.

Established in 1977, Oman Flour Mills Co. SAOG began its journey with a wheat milling capacity of 150 metric tons per day, gradually expanding to today's impressive capacity of 800 MT per day.

From a humble milling company, we have evolved into a diversified Group with over 15 entities, operating across various industries.

We believe in empowering SMEs. Together, we can contribute to their growth and foster a resilient business ecosystem.

To be a part of this endeavour, follow the guidelines on our Vendor Registration Page and complete the registration process:
www.omanflourmills.com/VendorRegistration

For any inquiries or more information, you can contact our Vendor Management team at vendor@omanflourmills.com or call us on 24717329

The deadline for submissions is
29th February 2024





الشرقية لتحلية المياه Sharqiyah Desalination

P.O. Box: 685, Jibroo - 114, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel.: +968 24693890, Fax: +968 24693845
<http://sharqiyahdesalination.com>

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Sharqiyah Desalination Company SAOG (the "Company") has the pleasure to invite all of its shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, 6 March 2024, through the electronic platform to hold general meetings hosted by Muscat Clearing and Depository SAOC which can be accessed via: www.mcd.gov.om (the MCD Portal). If the quorum for holding the first Annual General Meeting is not met, a second Annual General Meeting will be held at 3:00 pm on Monday, 11th March 2024, via the MCD Portal to discuss the following agenda:

- To consider and approve the Board of Director's Report on the Company's activities and its financial position for the financial year ended 31 st December 2023 (as per Annexure 1).
- To consider and approve the Company's Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 st December 2023 (as per Annexure 2).
- To consider the Auditor's Report on the Company's audited financial statement for the financial year ended 31 st December 2023 (as per Annexure 3).
- To consider and approve the proposal to distribute cash dividends of 15 baiza per share to the shareholders as the date of the AGM for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 from the current year profit and partially from the retained earnings.
- To ratify the Board of Directors and Committees' sitting fees paid during the preceding year and to determine the Board of Directors and Committees' sitting fees for the upcoming financial year (as per Annexure 4).
- To notify the AGM of the transactions carried out by the Company with related parties during the financial year ended 31st December 2023 (as per Annexure 5).
- To consider and approve the related parties' transactions that the Company will enter into during the financial year ending 31st December 2024 (as per Annexure 6).
- To approve the criteria to evaluate the Board of Directors (as per Annexure 7).
- To appoint an Independent Firm to evaluate the performance of the Board of Directors for the financial year ending 31December 2024 and set their remuneration.
- To appoint the statutory auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2024 and determining their fees.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for Convening General Meetings of Public Joint Stock Companies using modern technology issued by the Capital Market Authority, we would like to draw to your attention the following:

- Juristic persons shall have the right to appoint a proxy to attend the General Meetings and vote on their behalf via electronic means, subject to the proxy holder having an investor number issued by the Muscat Clearing and Depository SAOC.
- Voting on agenda items shall begin three (3) days prior to the date of the General Meetings and shall continue until the end of the voting process on the Meeting Day. In the event of a deviation (either an increase or a decrease) in the shareholders' poll balance, the voting process shall be null, and void and a re-vote shall be counted once again on the day of the Meetings.

For further information please contact the legal advisor Mr. Nasser Saud Al Habsi on telephone number: +968 90888666 or Ms. Dalia Sharabati on telephone number: +968 96573312.

Bank Muscat Oryx Fund

Chairman Statement

Dear Unit-holders,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Management Body, to present the results of the Bank Muscat Oryx Fund for the twelve-month period ended 31st December 2023.

2023 was an eventful year for the global markets with multiple factors driving the market performance during the year to close the year on very strong footing. The year started with concerns on rising inflation levels, interest rates, geopolitical conflicts and expectations of recession in US. However, as the year progressed, the economic data in the US continued to remain strong, inflation came off, thus leading to expectations of reversal in interest rate hike cycle and soft landing. This resulted in rally in the risk assets with MSCI World index and MSCI Emerging Market index gaining 21.8% and 7%, respectively during the year.

2023 was another positive year for the GCC markets with S&P GCC Composite index delivering return of 6.2% during the year. The performance of individual markets remained mixed with Saudi Arabia and Dubai market delivering positive returns while other regional markets remained under pressure during the year.

Oryx Fund maintained its track record of consistent outperformance against the benchmark. The Fund NAV gained 29.2% during 2023 as against the gain of 6.2% for the S&P GCC Composite index, thus generating an outstanding outperformance of 23%. The Fund remains best performing Fund in the MENA region over medium to longer term. This is a testament to experience and skillset of the investment team and investment process of the Fund. The Fund's strategy has been proven over various market cycles. The Fund widened its investor reach with presence on the mobile banking and internet banking platform of Bank Muscat. This was widely appreciated by the investors based on the new subscription growth during 2023.

Considering the robust performance of the Fund, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 72 baizas per unit for 2023.

Coming to 2024, we believe the regional markets are poised to benefit from various opportunities in the GCC region amidst conducive global macro environment. The decline in the US inflation levels is leading to expectations that the interest rates may have peaked with consensus now expecting aggressive rate cuts in 2024. This bodes well for equity markets as it may lower the interest costs for companies in growth phase. The corporate performance for the GCC companies during nine months of 2023 has remained robust, driven by local drivers. The valuation of regional markets remains attractive with further support from higher dividend yields. Recently concluded IPOs and impressive listing gains have reinforced supportive liquidity conditions which may provide further impetus to the regional markets. The Fund follows bottom-up stock driven approach to benefit the most from the available market opportunities and will monitor closely for such opportunities to ensure continuation of its superior performance in the medium to longer term.

I would like to thank the Capital Market Authority and the Muscat Stock Exchange for their commitment to development of capital markets in the Sultanate of Oman. Above all, I would like to express our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, whose visionary leadership continues to inspire us all.

Chairman - Management Body

Audited Statement of Comprehensive Income for year ended 31st December 2023		
	31-Dec-23 RO'000	31-Dec-22 RO'000
Income		
Dividends	1,209	1,225
	<u>1,209</u>	<u>1,225</u>
Expenses:		
Management fees	(955)	(878)
General and administrative expenses	(658)	(559)
	<u>(1,613)</u>	<u>(1,437)</u>
	<u>(404)</u>	<u>(212)</u>
Net Investment Income	13,459	727
Fair value Gain or (Loss)	395	1,704
Realised Gain or (Loss) on sale	13,450	2,219
Net Profit for the year	<u>0.723</u>	<u>0.127</u>

Audited Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2023		
	31-Dec-23 RO'000	31-Dec-22 RO'000
Assets		
Investments	58,545	46,553
Bank & Cash	482	599
Other Receivable	26	25
Total Assets	<u>59,053</u>	<u>47,177</u>
Liabilities:		
Creditors and accruals	(120)	(106)
	<u>(120)</u>	<u>(106)</u>
Net Assets	<u>58,933</u>	<u>47,071</u>
Composition of net assets:		
Units issued	18,489	18,557
Retained Earnings	40,444	28,514
	<u>58,933</u>	<u>47,071</u>
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	<u>3.188</u>	<u>2.537</u>

Record date for the dividend of Oryx Fund is 6th March 2024. The book closure will be on 5th March 2024. Any investor wishing to receive the dividend in cash should fax their request to the Fund managers on 24704478 not later than 5th March 2024.

Note: Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request.

Managed by Bank Muscat SAOG, Private Equity & Asset Management Division
PO Box 134, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman. Call +968 24801866 Fax +968 24704478 or email us on fundbackoffice@bankmuscat.com

CFR No. 17/4579/8



SULTANATE OF OMAN

Governorate of Muscat

Wilayat Seeb | Wali Office

FOR RENT

A residential/commercial building located in the commercial market at south Ma'bella, block (NE/46) consisting of:

FIVE SHOPS – SIXTEEN APARTMENTS – GUARD ROOM

Those interested to rent the whole building should contact Khalifa Ahmed Al Mazroui within 30 days, Phone 24420000, 92595901.

The Committee is not bound to accept the biggest of any other tender offer

No international security without the Global South

The so-called Global South, that is from countries in the southern hemisphere that are not Western industrialised nations like Asia, Africa or South America, have guests in almost all panels at Munich Security Conference

MUNICH: New visions and ideas for a global world order: This is one of the slogans of the 60th Munich Security Conference (MSC). The idea is that there shouldn't be winners or losers among the countries of the globe. Instead each state should be able to benefit from international cooperation.

That is why the conference has invited representatives from countries in the so-called Global South, that is from countries in the southern hemisphere that are not Western industrialised nations. Whether from Asia, Africa or South America, there are guests in almost all panels making their perspectives heard. Could this be a first step toward a fairer world?

For former Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, more participation also means more opportunities. "Earlier it used to be 60-to-80-year-old white men talking hardcore security. We're still talking hardcore security but we're doing it in a way which is slightly more diverse," she says.

The perspective from another region is crucial when it comes to formulating alternative strategies, Rabbani Khar argues.

This is also how Kenya's former foreign minister, Raychelle Omamo, sees it. "I think the more voices you have from all over the



world, the more exciting the discussions are and the richer the solutions," she told DW. Omamo is also a member of the Security Conference's Advisory Council, which means she helps determine its direction. "I like the fact that I'm hearing perspectives from one side of the globe to the other," she added.

The focus of the conference is on current conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine but also looks at how many countries in the Global South have turned away from the West. Climate change and migration as a result of environmental destruction are also a global threat. They are among the most pressing issues facing the world's people and are hitting countries in the Global South harder.

Security no longer means the same thing it did before, says Ambika Vishwanath. She is a co-founder and the chair of the Kubernein Initiative, a geopolitical consulting firm based in Mumbai, India. "It's no longer just about defense and military. It's also about water, food, human health, and all of that is interconnected," Vishwanath told DW.

It is not enough that more people from the Global South are represented at international conferences such as the Munich Security Conference though. She argues that other topics also need to be discussed, ones that are closer to ordinary people's everyday lives. That includes things like climate change and water resources.

That's also why Vishwanath rejects the term "Global South" because it suggests that these issues don't affect everyone. "If you just say I'm having the same kind of discussion but [you only] bring in more people, you are not going to have long term change, because what you are talking about hasn't actually changed," she argues. Vishwanath has been coming to the conference for over ten years and she welcomes the fact that the group of participants is increasingly diverse.

In order to accelerate cultural change, you have to create the space for it yourself, argues Düzen Tekkal. She is a journalist and chairwoman of the human rights organisation Hawar.help, which, among other things, runs projects in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is moderating a panel on sexual violence as a weapon of war, a topic that has received little attention at the security conference in the past. "There is nothing negative in seeing the interests of the Global South represented by the Global South itself," Tekkal told DW. "We in the liberal West benefit from these experiences."

But not everyone is welcome. As a matter of principle, the organisers of the conference do not invite representatives of repressive regimes. But this doesn't mean all participants have a clean slate. In addition to Indian and Chinese government members, the controversial prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, who has been

accused of human rights violations, is also attending.

That upsets Saskia Bruysten, who founded the Yunus Social Business in Bangladesh alongside former Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. Yunus was recently sentenced to prison in Bangladesh in what human rights activists say was a politically motivated case.

"I think it's important that representatives from the Global South are represented here, but it's also shocking that someone like Sheikh Hasina is here on stage being applauded while she puts her only Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus, in prison. Dialogue is important here on site, but we also have to address human rights issues and discuss them publicly and not just applaud," says Bruysten, who sees herself representing Yunus in Munich too.

Tekkal argues that this shouldn't just be about representation though. Human rights issues are not sufficiently integrated into the actual debates and the conference is still dominated by the military-industrial complex.

This is where we should start, she says. "Experience has shown that those who supply the weapons come from the Global North, but that those they target are from the Global South. And then there is always that question: Who is responsible for those killed? Those who shoot or those who deliver [the guns]?"

— DW



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

MARCH FOR DEMOCRACY

Thousands protest Mexico's changes to electoral law

MEXICO CITY: Thousands of people marched in Mexico on Sunday to support the country's electoral authority.

Demonstrators at the "March for Democracy" accuse President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, known as AMLO, of trying to weaken the authority ahead of an election in June. Also on Sunday, presidential front-runner Claudia Sheinbaum officially registered as a candidate for the ruling Morena party. She has promised to largely maintain Lopez Obrador's policies.

Sheinbaum leads polls by 64%. Her biggest competitor, Xochitl Galvez, has polled at around 31%.

Organisers said 700,000 people took part in the event. The protests were called for by Mexico's opposition parties.

In Mexico City, thousands of people dressed in pink and white rallied in the city's main square and chanted "get Lopez out."

On Friday, Lopez Obrador criticised the protests.

"They are calling the demon-

stration to defend corruption, they are looking for the return of the corrupt, although they say they care about democracy," he said.

The protests come after Lopez Obrador sent a proposal to reform the National Electoral Institute (INE) to Congress as part of various constitutional reforms.

One reform would shrink the number of counselors heading the body and would require electoral judges be elected by popular vote.

"Authorities are seeking to eliminate (autonomous institutions), to subordinate them or take them over," Lorenzo Cordova, the former head of the INE, said during a rally. "We've seen a ferocious attack against these institutions."

Lopez Obrador alleges the INE helped engineer his electoral defeats in 2006 and 2012. He has also attacked Mexico's judiciary, accusing judges of being part of a conservative conspiracy against his government. — DW



LAKE ERÇEK



Wild geese on rise amid conservation efforts in Türkiye

ISTANBUL: The measures taken on the shores of Lake Erçek in eastern Van, Türkiye which is one of the most important routes in the journey of migratory birds, increased the number of wild geese seen in the region.

Lake Erçek, where most of the hundreds of bird species recorded in Türkiye reside, was registered as a "sensitive area to be strictly protected" in 2020.

Thanks to the measures taken by the relevant institutions and security forces per the decision, the diversity and number of birds increased on the lake shore and surrounding wetlands.

Observations showed that the number of wild geese coming to the region has reached its highest rate in recent years.

Van Yüzüncü Yıl University (YYÜ) Faculty of Science, Biology Department lecturer Özdemir

Adızel, who conducted an inventory study in the region, said that thousands of wild geese have settled in Lake Erçek in recent years and said: "The fact that Lake Erçek has been taken under protection has made wild animals feel safe. Therefore, there has been an increase in wild geese populations. We have known that there are geese here for many years, but we have never seen such a large number. In the last few years, their numbers have increased between 2,000 to 3,000."

Adızel stated that gray and white geese are abundant in the region, and Siberian geese have also been seen recently. He emphasised that the region has become a safe area for geese.

Adızel highlighted ongoing inventory efforts to assess bird habitats and populations within the basin. — ANA

ROUNDTABLE IN NEW DELHI

Experts from EU and India to discuss ways to combat disinformation online

NEW DELHI: New Delhi will host a roundtable to discuss the European Union (EU) and India's collaboration in security and policy aspects of online disinformation and information manipulation on February 21.

Over 35 experts from the EU and India will join forces in New Delhi on Wednesday (February 21). They will further "unpack the security and policy aspects of online disinformation and information manipulation while identifying possible areas of EU-India collaboration," the European External Action Service said in a statement.

The roundtable will take place on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue 2024.

The EU-India track 1.5 event "Combating disinformation online: EU and Indian perspectives" is the 4th roundtable co-organised by the EU-funded project Enhancing Security Cooperation In and With Asia (ESIWA) and the Indian Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in partnership with the EU Delegation to India.

Moreover, the discussion will encourage EU and Indian governmental and non-governmental actors to compare notes about countering disinformation.

"The peer-to-peer discussion will explore trends in the use of disinformation online and encourage EU and Indian governmental and non-governmental actors to compare notes and share best practices for countering disinformation," the statement added.

The high-level meeting will feature speakers from across the EU, including the European External Action Service, German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Embassy in New Delhi



and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additionally, representatives from agencies such as the Indian Prime Minister's Office for Information Security, India's National Cyber Coordination Centre, and the National Security Council Secretariat of India will also participate.

"Experts will deliberate foreign policy responses to disinformation in both regions, highlight developments in the EU's and India's work to disrupt malicious actors, and reflect on the role of civil society in addressing online disinformation and building resilience," the statement read.

Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to India Seppo Nurmi, emphasised that although in the physical world, Europe might seem far away from Asia, but in cyber space, India and the Europe live together.

"In the physical world, Europe might seem far away from Asia but in cyberspace, we live together,

sometimes in a complex, dangerous cyber neighbourhood where our societies depend on resilient trustworthy digital services and where we can all become victims to malicious cyber-attacks. We need to combat such challenges with mutual defence and strong," Nurmi said, who will be delivering the welcome remarks at the roundtable.

Moreover, he highlighted that the track 1.5 dialogue will reflect on the EU's and India's foreign policy responses to online disinformation.

"Participants from both regions will provide insights into their respective approaches to curbing disinformation with a special focus on safeguarding free speech and privacy. The track 1.5 dialogue will reflect on the EU's and India's foreign policy responses to online disinformation while identifying opportunities for EU-India cooperation," Nurmi added.

The EU and India have on multiple occasions reaffirmed their

commitment to an open, free, secure, stable, peaceful and accessible cyberspace that enables economic growth and innovation.

"To promote further cooperation, ESIWA and ORF have jointly hosted a series of track 1.5 dialogues between the EU and India in the format of high-level meetings," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Mindaugas Lasas, Head of Sector - Hybrid Threats at the European External Action Service, said, "Online disinformation and information manipulation is a growing political and security challenge. Given the negative impact it can have on two of the world's largest democracies, this ESIWA-ORF roundtable comes at an opportune moment to build on EU-India collaboration in cyber security."

Notably, the first three meetings were held in April 2022, October 2022, and March 2023 in New Delhi on the sidelines of the CyFy and Raisina dialogues.

— ANI

Palestine accuses Israel of apartheid at ICJ, calls to end occupation of its land

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al Malki told the UN's top court that his people were suffering "colonialism and apartheid" under the Israeli occupation, as judges weighed on the legal consequences of Israeli occupation

THE HAGUE: Palestine has accused Israel of apartheid and demanded an end to its occupation of Palestinian territories in a hearing at the World Court on Monday.

Foreign Minister Riyad Al Malki told the UN's top court that his people were suffering "colonialism and apartheid" under the Israeli occupation, as judges weighed on the legal consequences of the Israeli occupation.

"The Palestinians have endured colonialism and apartheid... There are those who are enraged by these words. They should be enraged by the reality we are suffering," Al Malki said.

The ICJ is holding hearings all week on the legal implications of Israel's occupation since 1967, with an unprecedented 52 countries expected to give evidence.

Nations including the United States, Russia and China will address judges at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In December 2022, the UN General Assembly asked the ICJ for a non-binding "advisory opinion" on the "legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem."

While any ICJ opinion would be non-binding, it comes amid mounting international legal pressure on Israel over the war in Gaza.

The hearings are separate from a high-profile case brought by South Africa alleging that Israel is

committing genocidal acts during the current Gaza offensive.

The ICJ ruled in that case in January that Israel must do everything in its power to prevent genocide and allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, but stopped short of ordering a cease-fire.

On Friday, it rejected South Africa's bid to impose additional measures on Israel but reiterated the need to carry out the ruling in full.

Judges have been asked to review "occupation, settlement and annexation ... including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of related discriminatory legislation and measures." The advisory opinion will not be legally binding.

The UN General Assembly requested the ICJ provide the advisory opinion before the Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7 and the subsequent Israeli offensive in Gaza.

What are the ICJ proceedings on the occupation?

Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in the Six Day War in 1967. It withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, while still controlling the territory's borders. Since 1967, Israel has expanded settlements within the occupied West Bank and annexed East Jerusalem.

The UN General Assembly asked ICJ judges to advise on how



Israel's policies "affect the legal status of the occupation" and what legal consequences arise for all countries from this.

While the opinion would not be legally binding, it would carry "great legal weight and moral authority," according to the court.

Fifty states are due to address judges in the proceedings, including the United States, China, Russia, South Africa and Egypt. Israel

will not participate directly but has sent written observations.

Other proceedings against Israel

This is the second time the UN has asked the ICJ for a non-binding opinion related to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

In July 2004, the ICJ found that Israel's separation wall in the occupied West Bank violated in-

ternational law. Israel has not dismantled the structure.

The hearings this week are separate from a case filed by South Africa at the ICJ against Israel for allegedly violating the 1948 Genocide Convention in its military operations in the Gaza Strip.

The court ruled that Israel must do everything it its power to prevent genocide and allow humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip but did not order a cease-fire. On Friday, it rejected South Africa's appeal to impose additional measures on Israel.

Norway announces deal to avert Palestinian financial collapse

Norway's government has said that it will act as a temporary mediator between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) as part of a scheme to prevent a financial collapse in the Palestinian territories.

Under a 1994 agreement, the PA receives taxes, known as "clearance revenues," that Israel collects on its behalf. The revenues account for around 65% of the PA's income, but Israel has been withholding some of them since the

Hamas attack on October 7 to prevent any payments to the militant group.

The PA has also refused to accept any transfers unless Israel changes its decision, leading to a month-long impasse, until now.

"Together, we have agreed on a temporary solution in which Norway will serve as an intermediary for holding the portions of the clearance revenues tax that Israel has withheld since October 7," the Norwegian government said in a statement.

"The Palestinian Authority is then willing to accept the other funds. The Palestinian Authority has welcomed this arrangement and appreciates the effort to find a temporary solution in this extraordinary situation," the statement said.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store welcomed the agreement, saying, "With our assistance, the Palestinian Authority will be able to pay salaries, thus making it possible to continue to provide essential services to the Palestinian population, keep schools open, and ensure that health workers are paid. — Agencies

ENGA PROVINCE



Tribal violence in Papua New Guinea leaves at least 64 dead

PORT MORESBY: In what has been described as the biggest tribal clashes in recent history, Papua New Guinea's northern highlands witnessed a devastating episode resulting in at least 64 casualties, according to media report.

The violence erupted at dawn on Sunday in the Wapenamanda District of Enga Province, involving the Ambulin and Sikin tribes along with their respective allies. The clashes, marked by the use of high-powered firearms such as AK47 and M4 rifles, left a grim trail of 64 bodies strewn across the roadside, grasslands, and hills of Wapenamanda by Monday morning, Al Jazeera reported citing a report from Post-Courier newspaper.

George Kakas, a senior officer in the country's police force, expressed the unprecedented scale of the bloodshed, saying, "This is by far the largest [killing] I've seen in Enga, maybe in all of Highlands as well, in Papua New Guinea." The intensity of the conflict surpassed previous clashes involving the same tribes, which resulted in 60 deaths in Enga Province the previous year.

The aftermath has left communities devastated and mentally stressed, with Kakas struggling to comprehend the scale of the tragedy. In the capital, Port Moresby, opponents of Prime Min-

ister James Mara's government urgently called for action, including the swift deployment of additional troops to the afflicted area. They implored the government to investigate the sources of firearms and ammunition contributing to the violence.

Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed deep concern over the distressing developments, acknowledging the gravity of the situation. "That is very disturbing news that has come out of Papua New Guinea," he remarked in a radio interview on Monday.

Australia, in support of its neighbouring nation, has been actively involved in providing significant assistance, particularly in training police officers and enhancing security measures in Papua New Guinea. As the nation grapples with the aftermath of this unprecedented violence, international attention and support remain crucial in addressing the root causes and preventing future tragedies, Al Jazeera reported.

"This is by far the largest (killing) I've seen in Enga, maybe in all of Highlands as well, in Papua New Guinea," Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Acting Superintendent George Kakas told the ABC.

Graphic videos and photos have emerged of the bodies of the vic-

tims loaded onto a police truck.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government was ready to assist Papua New Guinea, describing it as "very disturbing news."

"We remain available to provide whatever support we can in a practical way, of course, to help our friends in PNG," he said.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said he had "great concern" about the violence in Enga.

"If there are community disputes, there are ways to deal with the community disputes," Marape said. "Lay down your arms. A lot of disputes will be resolved. One killing or two killings doesn't solve the problem. It contributes towards more problems," he added.

Papua New Guinea is home to hundreds of tribes, many of which still live in inhospitable and remote terrain.

An increasing population has put a strain on land and resources and deepened tribal rivalries.

Police believe many of the victims of Sunday's incident might have been mercenaries, men who roam the countryside offering to help tribes settle scores with their rivals.

An influx of mercenaries and automatic weapons has made clashes more deadly and escalated the cycle of violence. — Agencies



Cooling expert is Gree !



Global No.1
Brand of Air Conditioner



جینتکو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680
MUSCAT
96742452
SALALAH
97924410, 94048494
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

www.genetco.net
@GenetcoOman
@GenetcoOman
Genetco Oman

SPORTS

Jubilation in Team India after 434-run win against England

India pummelled the visitors on a flat surface that finally worked to their advantage as time passed

RAJKOT : Emotions were at an all-time high in the Indian team dressing room after they registered a historic win against England with a winning margin of 434 runs in the third Test of the series on Sunday in Rajkot.

To say England was hammered would be an understatement after losing to India in the third Test. The hosts pummelled the visitors on a flat surface that finally worked to their advantage as time passed. India encountered a snag when star spinner Ravichandran Ashwin had to rush back to Chennai due to a family issue, leaving them with a ten-man squad. However, the Englishmen were unable to capitalise on critical moments that may have changed the team's fortunes.

Despite encountering some difficulties in the third Test match, Team India responded valiantly



and defeated England to register one of their most impressive red-ball victories in Rajkot's Niranjan Shah Stadium.

In a video posted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday, players and staff were seen smiling, hugging each other and celebrating while the head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma were

all praised for India's all-round performance.

The video caught the camaraderie and happiness among players, highlighting the team's togetherness and sportsmanship.

The head coach smiling with pleasure, shared passionate hugs with players and emphasised the importance of the victory.

"Really proud of the team. I

think we really challenged in this game. In the end, it seems like a very easy win. We pushed against the wall and it was nice to see different people stepping up. Look at this whole game and you can see performances from all around the table not only from the senior guys but junior players as well. It really speaks volumes for this team, our ability to bounce back under pressure," Dravid said in a BCCI video.

India captain Rohit also lauded his team's 'superb' effort against England and said, "When you win a Test match like that, it's very hard to single out one particular turning point. I think overall the cricket that we played in these four days I think was superb. Like I said it's very hard to just name a few moments where we went through

the line. But I think it was the overall efforts in the last four days we played that were superb."

India's star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who broke the back of the England batting line up in the second innings with a fiffer that saw the visitors being bundled out for 122 in the 2nd innings of the IND vs ENG 3rd Test, dedicated his Player of the Match award to wife, Rivaba.

"Obviously in second taking a five-fer was a really special feeling. I would like to dedicate this POTM award to my wife. She's working really hard behind me and supported me throughout," he added.

Meanwhile, Sarfaraz Khan, who made his international debut in the third Test against England, it was a dream come true for him to make his debut for India.

The 26-year-old, who was playing his maiden Test for India, had a fantastic debut, as his side won and Sarfaraz produced half-centuries in both innings. Sarfaraz scored 62 off 66 in the first innings and was undefeated on 68 off 72 in the second.

"I am really happy to finally make my debut. I performed really well and we also won. It was really my dream to play for India and win a match with the team," Sarfaraz said in a BCCI video.

With a 2-1 lead in the five-match Test series, India will face England in the fourth game at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi from Friday. **-ANI**

434-RUN DEFEAT

Nasser Hussain laments England's failure to capitalise on in Rajkot Test

RAJKOT : Former England captain Nasser Hussain lamented England's failure to capitalise on vital opportunities in the Rajkot Test against India in which the visitors were pummelled by the hosts to a heavy 434-run defeat.

To say England was hammered would be an understatement after losing to India in the third Test. The hosts pummelled the visitors on a flat surface that finally worked to their advantage as time passed.

India encountered a snag when star spinner Ravichandran Ashwin had to rush back to Chennai due to a family issue, leaving them with a ten-man squad. However, the Englishmen were unable to capitalise on critical moments that may have changed the team's fortunes.

England returned to India following their mid-series break, hoping to turn the Test series in their favour. Despite encountering some difficulties in the third Test match, Team India responded valiantly and defeated England to register one of their most impressive red-ball victories in Rajkot's Niranjan Shah Stadium. The Men in Blue gained much plaudits following their victory, which set several records. On the contrary, England coped with criticism, and Hussain did not back down.

"One thing Joe will look at is the timing of that shot. [Ravichan-



dran] Ashwin wasn't there, India are down a bowler; [Ravindra] Jadeja is playing off the back of an injury; Bumrah is playing three Tests in a row and there is talk of him needing a rest," Nasser Hussain was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

"Bazball is about being attacked but it is also about soaking up pressure. Get Bumrah into his second or third spell, take it deep and then play the shot later in the day," he

added.

Former England captain Sir Alastair Cook reflected on the visitors' defeat and questioned the timing of the shot rather than Root's decision to play it, citing his prior success with it in last summer's Ashes.

England's game plan began to crumble exactly with the removal of their greatest batsman, Joe Root, who was caught at second slip for 18 while attempting to

reverse-scoop Jasprit Bumrah. It sparked a batting collapse of eight wickets for 95 runs, giving India a 126-run lead and a commanding position in the match that they would never lose.

"When he played it to the first ball [on day four of the first Test] at Edgbaston, I didn't mind it at all because it was all about how many runs England were going to score that day to set up a game. It sent a real message to everyone in the changing room that England's best player is going to take on Australia," Cook said.

"Root will be sitting in his room tonight going, 'I think I got that one wrong,'" he added.

Both Hussain and Cook think there is still room for hope as England seeks to turn the series around with victory in the remaining two Tests.

"It has not been great for the last couple of days, but it's been pretty good before that," Hussain added.

"This side is better placed than any other side in England history to park a 434-run loss. In isolation that is an incredible figure but Stokes has this unflappable belief that he can win from anywhere. That belief rubs off on his team," Cook said.

With a 2-1 lead in the five-match Test series, India will face England in the fourth game at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi from Friday. **-ANI**

3-TIME GRAND SLAM FINALIST

Jabeur withdraws from Dubai event due to injury

DUBAI: The World No. 6 Ons Jabeur has withdrawn from this week's Dubai Tennis Championships due to a right knee injury.

Jabeur, a three-time Grand Slam finalist, was seeded fifth in the Dubai main draw. She will be replaced by fortunate loser Cristina Bucsa of Spain, the World No. 67.

In an official statement on the Dubai Tennis Championships website, Jabeur said, "Dear friends and family, I wanted to share with you all that my knee is not holding, it's been unbearable to play with the pain and not being able to give my best on the court is frustrating."

"After consultation of my doctors and team we have decided that I will have to withdraw from Dubai this week and go for more medical treatments. Looking forward to reconnect with all on the courts for the US swing. Thank you for your continuous support. Love you, Ons," she added.

It is the second year in a row that Arab starlet Jabeur has been sidelined by injuries on her Middle Eastern tour. Last year, Jabeur withdrew from all three regional events: Abu Dhabi, Doha and Dubai.

Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine also pulled out of this year's Dubai main draw owing to a viral infection. Kostyuk, who made her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at the 2024 Australian Open, will be replaced in the draw by Italian fortunate loser Lucia Bronzetti



(ranked No. 60).

Kostyuk's fellow Ukrainian, Lesia Tsurenko, also withdrew from the main draw due to a right elbow injury. Tsurenko withdrew from her Round of 16 match against Naomi Osaka in Dubai last week because of elbow issues.

Tsurenko was replaced in the Dubai draw by fortunate loser Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy's World No.58. Cocciaretto defeated Elise Mertens in a three-set tiebreak in the first round on Sunday. **-ANI**

ABN AMRO OPEN

Jannik Sinner emerges victorious in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM: World No. 4 Jannik Sinner continued his red-hot run as he clinched his second tour-level title of the season, defeating Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-4 to win the ABN AMRO Open for the first time.

The 22-year-old used his typical brand of clean-hitting, aggressive tennis to defeat the Australian in Rotterdam. Sinner hit 23 winners and recovered from losing a break advantage in both sets to win his 15th tour-level match in a row after two hours and five minutes. He has a perfect 7-0 record in the pair's ATP Head-2Head competition.

Sinner, who won his first major title at the Australian Open last month, will reach a career-high No. 3 in the ATP Rankings on Monday. No Italian player has



ever been ranked this high.

"My team, we did a really good job a few weeks ago and now we made a very good job here. I am really proud with the level that I played throughout this whole week. We have been in tough situations but we handled it the right way. We will always try to improve, it is the most important," Sinner said as quoted by ATP. **-ANI**

BILATERAL T20I SERIES

Chappell-Hadlee trophy for T20I to be played between NZ and Australia

WELLINGTON : The Chappell-Hadlee trophy which was earlier awarded to the winner of the bilateral ODI series between New Zealand and Australia will now also be played for the T20I series.

The trophy is named after Australia's cricketers Ian, Greg and Trevor Chappell and the New Zealand star Walter Hadlee and sons Barry, Dayle and Sir Richard.

The trans-Tasman rivals will compete in a three-match T20I series which will begin on February 21 at the Sky Stadium in Wellington.

"It's great that the trophy will have more visibility and profile. I like the new conditions too - especially in the event of back-to-back 20-over and 50-over series.



It means all games will continue to be relevant, and that the trophy will remain on the line for a longer period - plenty to play for," Hadlee was quoted as saying on behalf of his family in a release quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

Former Australia star Greg Chappell stated that he was de-

lighted about the decision to include the bilateral T20I series in the trophy.

"I am a great believer in promoting young players through the pathways and national system and it will be particularly pleasing to see some young Australian players competing with their Kiwi coun-

terparts for the trophy in years to come," he said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

Cricket Australia chief Nick Hockley feels that the inclusion of the bilateral T20I series in the Chappell-Hadlee trophy will give it "even greater relevance in years to come".

New Zealand Cricket chief Scott Weenink added, "It's important for the players, the fans and, the next generations coming through, to know where we came from and who we are. I'm delighted we're looking forward to the future but making a point of not forgetting the past."

The Chappell-Hadlee trophy was first played in December 2004. Australia are the reigning champion. **-ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2024 reaching \$82.26, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 16 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$82.10. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,629.68 points, down by 0.15 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.11 per cent at 444.14 points. Al Batinah Power, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Phoenix Power, down 5.00 per cent, was the top loser.

HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER TRANSFORMER

Voltamp signs pact to establish transformer plant in Saudi Arabia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a strategic move set to bolster regional industrial collaboration, Oman's Voltamp Energy Company and Saudi Arabia's Al-Sharif Holding Group have entered a partnership aimed at establishing a high-voltage power transformer production plant in Saudi Arabia.

The agreement, signed under the patronage of Sayyid Faisal bin Turki Al Said, Oman's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, represents a significant \$10 million investment aimed at enhancing the Kingdom's power infrastructure with locally manufactured transformers.

Branded as "Saudi Voltamp," the factory will be strategically located in the Western Region near Jeddah, poised to become a key player in the region's power sector. The first phase, targeted for completion by 2025, will focus on manufacturing 132 kV transformers on a sprawling 27,000 square-meter site. To meet the Kingdom's growing energy demands, the second phase, envisioned for 2027, will see the factory expand to 45,000



square meters, ramping up production to include powerful 380 kV transformers. This landmark partnership aligns seamlessly with both nations' ambitious visions.

It dovetails with Oman's Vision 2040, which prioritises economic diversification and international collaboration. For Saudi Arabia, the project aligns with Vision 2030's goals of fostering domestic industry and building a thriving economy.

"This strategic partnership signifies a pivotal moment in our journey to expand into international markets," expressed Ayman bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Chairman of Voltamp Energy.

"We are confident that our collaboration with Al-Sharif Holding Group will not only benefit both companies but also contribute to the wider objectives of Oman and Saudi Arabia."



Echoing the sentiment, Al-Sharif Nawaf bin Fayeze, CEO of Al-Sharif Holding Group, emphasized, "This joint venture marks a significant step towards achieving our industrial expansion goals and meeting the Kingdom's growing demand for high-voltage transformers. We are proud to partner with Voltamp Energy and contribute to Saudi Arabia's economic diversification and Vision 2030

aspirations." The signing ceremony, held at the Al Faisaliah Hotel in Riyadh, was a testament to the strong ties between Oman and Saudi Arabia."

The event witnessed the participation of dignitaries from both countries, including representatives from the Saudi Ministry of Investment, General Authority for Foreign Trade, Local Content Authority, and Saudi Electricity

Company.

This groundbreaking partnership promises to energise the Saudi power sector with locally-produced transformers while fostering closer economic cooperation between Oman and Saudi Arabia. As the project progresses, it will be closely watched by regional stakeholders eager to witness the transformative impact of this strategic collaboration.

Crude oil prices remain elevated on ME tensions

The gains were mainly led by supply concerns due to the attacks on Red Sea cargo and the retaliation, as well as the war in Gaza



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Crude oil prices regained the \$80 per barrel mark and traded at the highest level this month after seeing consistent gains last week, according to a new report.

"The gains were mainly led by supply concerns due to the tensions in the Middle East, mainly the attacks on Red Sea cargo and the retaliation, as well as the war on Gaza," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest said in its Oil Market Monthly Report February 2024.

"Further support came from estimates that longer routes taken by cargos by avoiding the Red Sea could marginally add to oil demand. Moreover, a forecast that showed slower growth in US crude oil output this year also supported prices," the report further added.

On the other hand, worries that rate cuts in the US would be delayed due to higher-than-expected inflation in January 2024 dented the overall rally in crude oil prices

as slower economic growth could result in lower crude oil demand. Moreover, a fall in manufacturing activity in China continued to affect sentiments in the oil market.

On the regional political front, peace talks on the war in Gaza had little progress despite efforts from various fronts. As a result, the attacks on Red Sea cargoes continued impacting global freight rates, the Kamco Invest report said.

According to a Bloomberg report, shipping rates have surged close to 200 per cent to 300 per cent on some routes this year due to the attacks led by the rising cost of insurance and longer routes. The IMF also warned about the spillover effects of the attack that has affected 40 percent of commercial traffic volume passing through the Suez Canal and its impact on global economic growth.

On the demand front, the IEA said that demand growth is ex-

pected to be significantly weaker than last year, impacted by slow growth in China and the demand for electric vehicles (EVs). The agency expects oil demand growth of around 1.2 million barrels per day (mb/d) to 1.3 barrels per day this year. Meanwhile, the CEO of Saudi Aramco projected a slightly better picture for oil demand with an expected demand growth of 1.5 barrels per day. The Secretary-General of Opec also stated robust demand expectations and was relatively more positive on continued demand from China further supported by strong growth in demand from India. On the supply front, the latest forecast in the short-term energy outlook report from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed a sharp fall in expected growth in oil production in the US. The agency expects US oil output to grow by 170,000 barrels per day this year as

compared to its previous growth projection of 290,000 barrels per day. The sharp decline in expected production reflects several factors including the cold weather that has limited production to 12.6 mb/d in January-2023, higher global crude oil inventories as well as limited capital investment expected from oil drillers in the US with a focus on shareholder returns as seen from recent comments from some oil drillers.

Nevertheless, North America is expected to lead crude oil production growth this year. Meanwhile, Opec oil production showed a decline during January-2024 as new production cuts were implemented as a short-term measure by the Opec+ producers.

Oil prices

The Kamco Invest report further said that crude oil futures witnessed the longest-running positive streak in five months during the second week of February 2024 with prices breaching the \$80 per barrel mark after briefly trading below this level during the first week of the month.

The 6.3 percent gain last week was mainly led by expectations of a tight market this year as well as fears of a supply disruption led by the conflict in the Middle East region. News that the US would not continue the pace of output growth as expected previously also supported prices. The oil rig count data from Baker Hughes showed a flat-tish trend over the last few weeks as the count stayed at 499 over the last three weeks until the week ended 9-February-2024. Analysts have also projected maturing shale production as one of the key reasons for the slow output growth this year.

STRENGTHENS FINANCIAL SECTOR



Sohar International joins national programme Estidamah in establishing Omani Business Growth Fund

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a testament to its dedication to driving Oman's economic growth and aligning with the nation's diversification agenda as per Oman Vision 2040, Sohar International, Oman's fastest-growing bank, has collaborated with the National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development (Estidamah) and the Embassy of the United Kingdom to launch the Omani Business Growth Fund.

The collaboration aims to strengthen the financial sector, enhance competitiveness, and expand access to tailored financing options in line with global best practices. The overarching goal of this initiative is to stimulate market growth and foster economic diversification, supporting Oman's long-term vision for sustainable development and economic prosperity.

The official signing ceremony, held within the framework of the 10th meeting of the Omani-British Strategic Group, symbolizes the unwavering commitment of both local and international stakeholders towards the prosperity of Oman. Nasser bin Khamis Al Jashmi, President of the Tax Authority, led the Omani delegation, while Lord Gerry Grimstone headed the British delegation. Furthermore, the presence of Dr Khamees bin Saif Al Jabri, President of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-Up Unit, underscores the importance of this initiative in advancing the nation's long-term strategic objectives. Mahmood bin Abdullah bin Ahmed Al-Owaini, Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance, alongside Dr Liane Saunders, the designated Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman, and Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Government and Private Banking Officer, have officially endorsed

the letter of intent for the establishment of the Omani Business Growth Fund.

Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Government & Private Banking Officer at Sohar International, emphasized, "This represents a significant milestone for Sohar International, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to driving Oman's economic development forward. These strategic alliances underscore our steadfast pledge to support local businesses and entrepreneurs, enabling Omani enterprises to flourish in both domestic and international markets, thus paving the way for boundless opportunities. Together, we aim to ignite unprecedented growth and cultivate lasting economic prosperity in the Sultanate."

The meeting encompassed discussions on diverse topics, including updates on national initiatives and projects, with a focus on sustainable green financing. Participants explored financial sector development, strategies to improve Oman's business environment for foreign investment, and decentralized provincial administration best practices. This meeting marks a significant milestone in strengthening Omani-British relations, fostering knowledge exchange, and addressing key strategic issues essential for achieving the joint economic and investment goals of both countries.

Sohar International's active involvement in establishing the Omani Business Growth Fund, alongside key national and international partners, exemplifies our steadfast dedication to supporting projects that contribute to the socio-economic development envisioned by the Oman Vision 2040. As the fastest-growing bank in Oman, Sohar International is committed to catalyzing growth not only through this initiative but also by actively engaging in various mega projects that align with the nation's developmental goals.

PREMIER FOOD AND HOSPITALITY EXPO

Oman begins participation in Gulfood 2024

Time News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), has begun its participation in Gulfood 2024 - one of the globe's premier food and hospitality expos.

Held from February 19 to 23 at Dubai World Trade Centre in the United Arab Emirates, Gulfood 2024 features an impressive lineup of over 5,500 exhibitors eyeing lucrative business opportunities, with deals expected to surpass \$12 billion.

"The Sultanate of Oman, represented by Madayn, is participating at Gulfood for the twelfth consecutive year to promote Omani products, explore new markets, and expand outreach. The event provides an excellent opportunity for Omani industries to showcase and promote their top-quality products to Gulfood attendees from



across the globe," said Hamood Al Balushi, Assistant Director General at Madayn.

Al Balushi added, "Through its presence at Gulfood 2024, Madayn also aims to align with the objectives of the national 'Made in Oman' Campaign by introducing Omani products to international markets, establishing new distribution channels, and tapping into diverse consumer segments on

both regional and global fronts."

Oman's pavilion at Gulfood features Madayn, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, Oman Foodstuff Factory (Al Mudhish), Food World for Industry, Omani Euro Food Industries, Omani Gulf Food Company, A'Saffa Foods, Unique Food Solutions

(Zaheb), Luban Foods (Delicio), and Ataya Trading and Industrial Company (Yamama).

Al Balushi noted that the participating companies will have the opportunity to display their products and the latest production technologies to visitors, as well as gain valuable insights into the products and services of their counterparts in the food and hospitality sector, including advancements in production and packaging technologies. He also emphasised that the companies will actively seek out new agents, contracts, and deals to further expand their businesses internationally.

Gulfood sheds light on innovations in agri-tech, the increasing use of AI in food production, reducing food loss and waste, public-private partnerships, and investment in alternative proteins, which can all help reduce food deprivation and feed the world through to 2050 and beyond.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Batinah Power, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Phoenix Power, down 5.00 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,629.68 points, down by 0.15 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.11 per cent at 444.14 points. Al Batinah Power, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Phoenix Power, down 5.00 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Phoenix Power were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Sembcorp Salalah were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 812 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.22 million, with more than 28.53 million shares changing hands.

Out of 46 traded securities, 12 advanced, 16 declined, and 18 remained unchanged.

At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR90,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR81,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR10,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,304.14 points, down 0.07 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Al Batinah Develop-

ment Company, Bank Nizwa were up by 2.23 per cent, 1.10 per cent, 1.05 per cent respectively. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Bank Muscat were down by 0.90 per cent, 0.74 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,495.87 points, down 0.12 per cent. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Muscat Thread Mill, Al Maha Ceramics were up by 9.64 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 0.59 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Salalah Mills were down by 3.26 per cent, 1.94 per cent, 0.56 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.39 per cent before closing at 1,699.16 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, National Gas, Al Maha Marketing, Shell Oman Marketing were up by 10.00 per cent, 10.00 per cent, 3.95 per cent, 3.77 per cent, 0.37 per cent respectively.

Prices of Phoenix Power, Dhofar Generating, Barka Water & Power Company, Sembcorp Salalah, Muscat Gases were down by 5.00 per cent, 4.08 per cent, 4.08 per cent, 1.98 per cent, 1.96 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,644.86	4,629.64	4,629.68	4,636.78	-7.10	-0.15
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,313.23	7,299.24	7,304.14	7,309.58	-5.44	-0.07
Industry Index	5,508.79	5,485.56	5,495.87	5,502.35	-6.49	-0.12
Services Index	1,709.43	1,694.24	1,699.16	1,692.57	6.59	0.39
MSX Shariah Index	444.31	442.31	444.14	443.67	0.47	0.11
MSX TR INDEX	6,125.00	6,104.93	6,104.99	6,114.34	-9.36	-0.15
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,980.07	7,964.81	7,970.15	7,976.09	-5.94	-0.07
SERVICES TR IDX	1,907.22	1,890.27	1,895.77	1,888.41	7.35	0.39
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,884.76	5,859.94	5,870.95	5,877.88	-6.93	-0.12
FIXED INCOME INDEX	992.89	992.89	992.89	992.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
28,537,069	3,222,593	812	23,863,531,097	12	16	18	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PAN VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	38,278	42,721	18	1.120	1.120	1.100	1.100	1.060	0.040	3.774	1.100	1.100	1.100	0.100	75,900,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	91,421	25,159	8	0.275	0.277	0.275	0.275	0.269	0.006	2.230	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	28,380	4,857	8	0.175	0.175	0.170	0.171	0.170	0.001	0.588	0.171	0.160	0.171	0.100	9,405,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	53,700	6,394	5	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.100	17,850,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	11,948	3,642	2	0.304	0.305	0.304	0.305	0.305	0.000	0.000	0.305	0.304	0.319	0.100	100,916,177
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	90,012	5,131	5	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.062	0.100	20,239,256
OM0000002440	AL SHARQYA INVESTMENT HO.	10,450	742	3	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	8,390,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	12,500	1,875	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.137	0.150	0.100	449,452,715
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	130,541	7,832	4	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.061	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	138,750	47,869	14	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.000	0.000	0.345	0.330	0.345	0.100	224,575,759
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	28,588	2,518	9	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.089	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	151,490	163,612	40	1.084	1.084	1.080	1.080	1.082	-0.002	-0.185	1.080	1.079	1.084	0.100	810,000,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	18,450	4,152	4	0.230	0.230	0.223	0.229	0.230	-0.001	-0.435	0.229	0.225	0.229	0.100	14,015,779
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	417,609	113,132	23	0.272	0.272	0.270	0.270	0.272	-0.002	-0.735	0.270	0.269	0.272	0.100	2,026,727,207
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,097,600	121,011	57	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.111	-0.001	-0.901	0.110	0.110	0.111	0.100	601,467,735
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	30,000	2,610	3	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.084	0.088	0.100	17,368,297
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	928,666	166,986	88	0.185	0.185	0.178	0.178	0.184	-0.006	-3.261	0.178	0.176	0.178	0.100	39,160,000
Total	17	3,278,353	720,242	292												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	17,100	941	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.050	0.005	10.000	0.055	0.055	0.050	0.100	37,118,809
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	203,256	11,179	8	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.050	0.005	10.000	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	39,292,349
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	34,452	6,112	11	0.170	0.182	0.170	0.182	0.166	0.016	9.639	0.182	0.170	0.182	0.100	14,815,301
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	66,473	5,236	8	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.076	0.003	3.947	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.100	6,715,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	23,250	1,638	2	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.072	0.072	0.073	0.100	1,157,231
OM0000002386	AL BATINAH DEVELOPMENT & INV. HO.	24,240	2,230	2	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.091	0.001	1.099	0.092	0.092	0.098	0.100	2,760,400
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	290,289	27,689	14	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	14,000	11,270	4	0.805	0.805	0.805	0.805	0.802	0.003	0.374	0.805	0.805	0.800	0.100	76,475,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	8,180	1,006	2	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.123	0.129	0.100	24,620,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,125,090	222,116	46	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	14,620,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,000	470	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.100	3,995,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	70,077	5,186	4	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.070	0.081	0.100	11,510,730
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	10,370	1,244	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	9,062,640
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	12,101	1,465	3	0.121	0.122	0.121	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.121	0.120	0.100	61,988,633
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	333,770	106,835	27	0.321	0.323	0.317	0.317	0.317	0.000	0.000	0.317	0.317	0.321	0.100	24,153,400
OM0000009072	QO GAS NETWORKS	3,373,742	491,977	185	0.146	0.147	0.145	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	632,271,092
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	201	107	1	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.533	-0.003	-0.563	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.100	26,480,424
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,401,656	406,490	4	0.292	0.292	0.290	0.290	0.295	-0.005	-1.695	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.100	20,413,100
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	10,000	1,530	1	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.155	-0.003	-1.935	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	39,833,940
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	15,900	1,590	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.102	-0.002	-1.961	0.100	0.095	0.099	0.100	3,900,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	6,274,290	628,071	26	0.101	0.101	0.096	0.099	0.101	-0.002	-1.980	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	861,487	40,791	36	0.050	0.050	0.045	0.047	0.049	-0.002	-4.082	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.100	7,520,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	506,421	23,502	29	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.049	-0.002	-4.082	0.047	0.045	0.050	0.100	10,445,280
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	8,488,269	484,822	86	0.059	0.059	0.057	0.057	0.060	-0.003	-5.000	0.057	0.056	0.059	0.100	83,368,283
Total	24	25,173,894	2,483,416	505												

STOCKS

Asian shares sputter as China returns with low energy

SYDNEY: Asian shares struggled to make much ground on Monday as fading chances for early rate cuts globally soured the mood and Chinese markets returned from the holiday with only muted gains.

A holiday for US markets also made for thin trading, while the latest surge in tech stocks is set to be tested by results from AI diva Nvidia, on Wednesday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was flat, after bouncing 2% last week, Reuters reported.

Japan's Nikkei dipped 0.1%, having surged more than 4% last week to stop just short of its all-time high.

EUROSTOXX 50 futures also eased 0.3% and FTSE futures lost 0.2%.

Chinese blue chips inched up 0.66% and Shanghai stocks 0.85%. Investors have been hoping they could extend the 6% rally enjoyed before the break.

There was some promising news that tourism revenues during the Lunar New Year holiday surged by 47% on a year earlier as more than 61 million rail trips were taken.

The country's central bank skipped a chance to cut rates again on Sunday, which will likely limit downward pressure on the yuan, but with deflation looming, analysts see plenty of scope for further policy stimulus. The same cannot be said for the United States as high readings on producer and consumer prices saw markets sharply scale back pricing for rate cuts.

Bruce Kasman, global head of economics at JPMorgan, warned the Federal Reserve's favoured measure of core personal consumption inflation could now jump by 0.5% in January. Only a week ago, markets were hoping for a rise of just 0.2%.

"While it is premature to place significant weight on noisy January data, risks have shifted in the direction that core inflation and labour market conditions both surprise the Fed in a hawkish direction in the first half of 2024," Kasman wrote in a note. "This stall has been expected to delay the start of the developed world easing cycle to midyear, and curb enthusiasm about the overall magnitude of the easing cycle ahead."

Futures have sunk to imply just a 28% chance rates will be cut



2024



Director Christopher Nolan’s biopic film ‘Oppenheimer’ dominated the BAFTA Film Awards 2024 with seven wins including Best Director, Best Film and Best Leading Actor awards



The ceremony was held at London’s Royal Festival Hall. Poor Things had a rich showing with five BAFTAs including Leading Actress for Emma Stone as well as Costume, Make Up and Hair, Production Design and Special Visual Effects, as per Deadline, a US-based media outlet.

Entirely shut out were ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ which had nine nominations coming into this evening, Bradley Cooper’s ‘Maestro’ which had seven, and the biggest box office movie of 2023, Greta Gerwig’s ‘Barbie’, reported Deadline. The Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling starrer had five nominations. See the full winner’s list:

- Best film**
Oppenheimer; Christopher Nolan, Charles Roven, Emma Thomas
- Leading actress**
Emma Stone; Poor Things
- Leading actor**
Cillian Murphy; Oppenheimer
- EE rising star award (voted for by the public)**
Mia McKenna-Bruce
- Director**
Christopher Nolan; Oppenheimer
- Make up & hair**
Poor Things; Nadia Stacey, Mark Coulier, Josh Weston
- Costume design**
Poor Things; Holly Waddington
- Outstanding British film**
The Zone of Interest; Jonathan Glazer, James Wilson
- British short animation**
Crab Day; Ross Stringer, Bartosz Stanislawek, Aleksandra Sykulak
- British short film**
Jellyfish and Lobster; Yasmin Afifi, Elizabeth Rufai
- Production design**
Poor Things; Shona Heath, James Price, Zsuzsa Mihalek
- Sound**
The Zone of Interest; Johnnie Burn, Tarn Willers
- Original score**
Oppenheimer; Ludwig Goransson
- Documentary**
20 Days in Mariupol; Mstyslav Chernov, Raney Aronson Rath, Michelle Mizner
- Best supporting actress**
Da’Vine Joy Randolph; The Holdovers
- Best supporting actor**
Robert Downey Jr.; Oppenheimer
- Adapted screenplay**
American Fiction; Cord Jefferson
- Cinematography**
Oppenheimer; Hoyte van Hoytema
- Editing**
Oppenheimer; Jennifer Lame
- Casting**
The Holdovers; Susan Shopmaker
- Film not in the English language**

The Zone of Interest; Jonathan Glazer, James Wilson
outstanding debut by a British writer, director or producer

Earth Mama; Savanah Leaf (Writer, Director, Producer), Shirley O’Connor (Producer), Medb Riordan (Producer)
- Animated film**
The Boy and the Heron; Hayao Miyazaki, Toshio Suzuki
- Special visual effects**
Poor Things; Simon Hughes
Original screenplay
Anatomy of a Fall; Justine Triet, Arthur

SPORTS

Ahmad Al Harthy to join BMW and Team WRT on world stage



The Sultanate’s number one racing driver officially revealed his exciting new global challenge at BMW Oman in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani sports star Ahmad Al Harthy on Sunday officially launched his biggest ever season of racing – a dream, headline-grabbing move to Team WRT and BMW for a dual programme in the FIA World Endurance Championship and GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup.

Marking a huge development in Al Harthy’s glittering motorsport career, the Sultanate’s number one racing driver officially revealed his exciting new global challenge at BMW Oman in Muscat where he was joined by key partners, sponsors, dignitaries, media, family and friends.

For his second season in the globe’s premier endurance racing category, the FIA World Endurance Championship, Al Harthy joined the prestigious new WRT and BMW partnership in the No.46 BMW M4 GT3 car of worldwide sporting icon Valentino Rossi and pro BMW factory driver Maxime Martin.

Italian legend Rossi, of course, needs no introduction as a seven-time MotoGP World Champion and a nine-time World Champion in total – including his 250cc and 125cc crowns. Martin is one of the most respected drivers in modern endurance racing, a former winner of the Le Mans 24 Hours.

As part of the launch, invited guests were able to see the BMW M4 GT3 car Al Harthy race in the Fanatec GT World Challenge Eu-

rope powered by AWS Endurance Cup. Run by Team WRT under the OQ by Oman Racing banner, the Omani will be joined in the No.30 Bronze class entry by Sam De Haan and BMW factory driver Jens Klingmann.

For his packed 2024 motor racing season in FIA WEC and GTWCE, Al Harthy enjoys the support of an incredibly prestigious line-up of key partners – OQ, Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Omantel, Experience Oman and BMW Oman.

Ahmad Al Harthy: “Today has been an extremely proud moment for us, unveiling our collaboration with Team WRT and BMW in both programmes and announcing the incredible portfolio of partners who are making such a dream season possible. It is a huge time in my career, all of the success of previous years has allowed us to be in the position to be part of this unbelievably exciting new partnership.

“To be competing in the new LMGT3 class in FIA WEC with Maxime and the legend that is Valentino Rossi – someone I watched on TV in MotoGP in Oman – is quite incredible, truly a dream come true. Of course, it is a huge bonus to be able to learn from such amazing and talented drivers, continue our learning curve, and the two programmes in WEC and GTWCE will help each other.

“It’s fantastic to be racing with Sam again in GTWCE in our OQ by Oman Racing car and I’m look-



ing forward to working with Jens for the first time as well. None of this would be possible without our incredible partners, and having the Oman Ministry of Culture Sports and Youth on-board with our programme again is wonderful news. We are proud promoters of Oman and it is an honour to have the support of the Ministry once again as we embark on our new challenge with BMW.”

Biggest ever season of racing

The new FIA World Endurance Championship season will be Al Harthy’s second year in the globe’s biggest endurance racing category, comprising eight race meetings – including two in the Middle East. Following the official prologue in Qatar at the end of February, the

first round will take place in Losail on 2 March while the final race of the campaign will be in Bahrain on 2 November including visits to Imola in Italy, Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium, Interlagos in Brazil, the Circuit of the Americas in Texas, USA, and Fuji in Japan, the blue riband race of the WEC season will, of course, be June’s Le Mans 24 Hours in France.

Al Harthy’s GT World Challenge commitments begin with the prologue test in early March at Paul Ricard in France, the venue for round one of the five-event calendar in April. From there, the series will visit Spa in May for official testing ahead of the annual 24 Hours of Spa. Germany’s Nurburgring and Monza in Italy follow, ahead of the season finale in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in November.

JWRC

Al-Rawahi, Al-Hmoud finish gruelling Rally Sweden in first attempt

UMEÅ (SWEDEN): Oman’s Abdullah Al-Rawahi and his Jordanian co-driver Ata Al-Hmoud fulfilled their objective of finishing Rally Sweden and getting their challenge for honours in the FIA Junior World Rally Championship (JWRC) off to a strong start in Umeå on Sunday.

The Oman Rally Team duo overcame a collision with a snowbank and a damaged radiator on Friday afternoon and a second similar stoppage late on Saturday - in what turned out to be unlucky stage 13 - to complete one of the most specialised and difficult rallies in the FIA World Rally Championship calendar at their first attempt.

Bad weather

Heavy snowfall and tricky road conditions made the going even more difficult early in the rally but the defending FIA Middle East rally champions persevered and got to grips with their M-Sport Poland Ford Fiesta Rally3 running on studded tyres to reach the finish in 14th place in the JWRC category.

Al-Hmoud said: “Finally, we made it to the finish. Almost a crash on every stage. It was a really tough one. We had so many mistakes. For sure, the first time doing an event like this in such difficult weather and conditions, but at least we managed to complete the rally and see all the stages. We have good data for our next event or next year, hopefully. It was a dream to participate in it and we have done



it. We learned such a lot and gained good experience from it. Now we can focus on Croatia...”

Victory at the first round of the

JWRC went to local driver Mille Johansson, who finished 48.9 seconds in front of Estonian Romet Jürgenson. Ireland’s Eamonn



Heavy snowfall and tricky road conditions made the going difficult in the rally but the defending FIA Middle East rally got to grips with their M-Sport Poland Ford Fiesta Rally3 running on studded tyres

Kelly was a distant third.

After taking a time penalty and restarting on Saturday morning, following the collision with a snow bank on Friday, Al-Rawahi emerged unscathed from the first pass through the Vännäs, Sarsjöleden and Bygdsiljum specials and reached the service break in Umeå without dramas as he continued to gain winter experience and time behind the wheel of the M-Sport Fiesta Rally3. Johansson, meanwhile, extended his advantage over Estonian Romet Jürgenson to 37.5 seconds.

The three specials were repeated on Saturday afternoon before competitors tackled an additional 10.08km stage at Umeå in the evening that would also act as the Power Stage finale on Sunday.

Al-Rawahi was 11th through

the re-run of Vännäs but hit trouble on the second pass through Sarsjöleden, when he again damaged the front of the car after an impact with a snowbank and incurred additional time penalties for missing the last two stages of the day.

Undeterred, and with the car repaired for the final two pushes through the 25.50km Västervik stage and a second run through the 10.08km Umeå special on Sunday morning, Al-Rawahi got down to the serious business of finishing the event to continue his rapid learning curve.

He set the 12th quickest time on SS16, completed the second run through Västervik safely and the Power Stage to return to Umeå and fulfil his objective of finishing Rally Sweden.

11/11/2019

Experience the pinnacle of luxury and sophistication with the all-new Hongqi HS3

The advertisement features a central circular frame containing a photograph of various Indian dishes: a bowl of orange soup, a plate of fried items, a salad, and several round fried snacks. In the top right corner, large bold text reads "20% Off On Total Bill", preceded by five vertical dots. The bottom left corner displays the "Razmazaan URBAN INDIAN" logo, which includes a stylized crown icon above the brand name. The bottom center contains the text "Special for Circlee Subscribers", also preceded by five vertical dots. To the right of this text is a black button with a white arrow pointing right and the words "DOWNLOAD NOW". Below this button are three logos for app stores: Google Play, AppGallery, and the Apple App Store.

ROUND-UP

Geely Cars sets new standards in Oman’s automotive market

Whether it's the stylish Emgrand, the luxurious Azkarra, the versatile Okavango, or the compact and sporty Coolray, Geely cars offer something for everyone

MUSCAT: Geely Cars, a leading global automotive brand, is revolutionising the Omani automotive market with its exceptional lineup of models. Whether it's the stylish Emgrand, the luxurious Azkarra, the versatile Okavango, or the compact and sporty Coolray, Geely Cars offer something for everyone.



Emgrand: Style meets performance
The Emgrand sets the standard for elegance and performance. With its sleek design and refined interior, the Emgrand is perfect for those seeking a sophisticated driving experience. Equipped with advanced safety features, cutting-edge technology, and remarkable fuel efficiency, the Emgrand ensures a comfortable and confident

journey on any road.
Azkarra: Unleash luxury
For those who crave luxury on the roads, the Azkarra delivers an unparalleled experience. This premium SUV exudes opulence with its exceptional design, lavish interior, and impressive technology. With its powerful engine options, superior comfort, and state-of-the-art safety features, the Azkarra offers

a seamless blend of style, prestige, and performance.
Okavango: Adventure awaits
Designed for those who value versatility and practicality, the Okavango is a seven-seater SUV that combines spaciousness with modern design. With its intelligent driving features, ample storage capacity, and advanced entertain-

ment system, the Okavango is the perfect companion for both family trips and thrilling adventures. This SUV effortlessly combines comfort and functionality to redefine the concept of a family vehicle.
Coolray: Compact, yet power-packed
Sporty, dynamic, and compact, the Coolray delivers an exhilarating driving experience. Packed with

advanced safety features and cutting-edge technology, this compact SUV is perfect for urban dwellers who desire speed and agility without compromising on comfort. The Coolray offers state-of-the-art driving assistance systems, making it an ideal choice for those seeking a thrilling and safe journey.

Geely Cars: Innovation at its core
Geely Cars takes pride in its commitment to innovation, continuously pushing the boundaries of automotive technology. With its progressive approach, Geely Cars leads the way in introducing groundbreaking features such as intelligent connectivity, advanced driver assistance systems, and eco-friendly solutions across all models. Geely Cars ensures that Omani customers experience the latest automotive advancements with uncompromising quality and unmatched performance. It's time to avail of exciting offers on the Geely range of cars. Geely vehicles are brought to you in Oman by Towell Auto Centre.



Indian School Sur holds valedictory ceremony for Class 12 graduates

MUSCAT: Indian School Sur held its valedictory ceremony on February 15, 2024, bidding farewell to 55 outgoing Class 12th students. The event, which commenced at 7 pm, was attended by esteemed dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Jami Srinivasa Rao, President of the School Management Committee (SMC), Pradeep Kumar A V, Convenor; Adv Saeed T P, Treasurer; Dr. Ramkumar, Member; Shabeeb Mohammed, Member; Nishreen Basheer member SMC, Principal Dr S Srinivasan, along with parents, teachers, and graduating students. In his presidential address, Jami Srinivasa Rao congratulated the students on their successful completion of schooling and encouraged them to utilize their acquired knowledge to overcome life's challenges effectively. He wished them success as they embarked on their journey towards achieving their dreams. Dr. Ramkumar, member of the SMC, emphasized the importance of education and diligent study in shaping a meaningful life. Drawing inspiration from ancient wisdom, he highlighted the duties children owe to their parents as a guiding principle for success. Shabeeb Mohammed, member SMC, stressed the significance of self-belief and the right attitude in achieving success. He expressed gratitude to the teachers for their dedication in shaping the students' academic journey. Nishreen Basheer, representing the SMC, extended heartfelt

congratulations to all graduating students. Dr. S Srinivasan, the Principal of Indian School Sur, delivered an insightful speech, emphasizing the significance of the occasion beyond farewells. He encouraged students to confront future challenges with confidence and dedication, transforming their dreams into actionable visions. Dr. Srinivasan highlighted the three fundamental D's of life: Desire, Decision, and Discipline, as guiding principles for success. He emphasized the importance of good grades in shaping the students' future and urged them to embrace change gracefully. The ceremony featured a floral welcome to the chief guest, followed by prayers and the lighting of the lamp. Citations for outgoing students were read by their class teachers, followed by blessings from educators. Outgoing students, SMC members, the Principal, and the Chief Guest shared their experiences and blessings. Sarala, HOD of Science, motivated the students with her words of encouragement, and mementos were distributed as a token of appreciation and love from Indian School Sur. The vote of thanks was delivered by Aswathy, the physical education teacher. The master ceremony was conducted by Dr. Pradeep RV, HOD of English. The valedictory ceremony served as a memorable event, marking the transition of students to the next phase of their lives with optimism and determination.

FAREWELL

LUXURY AND COMMERCIAL SUV

Technology packed Tiggo 8 Pro Max highlights Chery’s brand characteristics

MUSCAT: Continuing the high-end positioning of the Tiggo 8 family, Tiggo 8 Pro Max is a luxury and commercial SUV with both powerful powertrain and advanced technology launched for the urban new middle-class elites. By virtue of its dynamic and energetic exterior design, “2.0T+7DCT+4WD” superior power, intelligent entertainment cabin and ultimate safety, Tiggo 8 Pro Max has successively received a number of international awards and successfully set a new benchmark for flagship SUVs. Designed by a team of top international designers, Tiggo 8 Pro Max perfectly interprets the design concept of Life in Motion. Particularly, the exclusive diamond front grille design of the PRO family and the unique wrapping parts contribute to the distinctive front end, bringing a strong visual impact and highlighting its standing as a flagship SUV. In terms of the side appearance, Tiggo 8 Pro Max has three waistlines running across the side of the body, which not only conform to the fluid dynamics and can effectively reduce wind resistance, but also extend the overall body contour to bring a smooth and beautiful visual sense, showing its dynamic temperament both internally and externally as a high-end SUV product without compromise. In addition, the 19-inch large-sized wheels and 235mm-wide tires complement the massive body of Tiggo Pro Max, showing off the boldness without sacrificing steadiness. Regarding the interior decoration, Tiggo 8 Pro Max fully showcases the charm of technological luxury, bringing a new driving experience with an intelligent entertainment cabin. Specifically, in terms of the design of central control, Tiggo 8 Pro Max adopts a new horizontal layout style, making it simple, stylish and full of technological attractions. In particular, the 24.6-inch large smart curved screen that first came into view seamlessly integrates the 12.3-inch full LCD instrument panel and the 12.3 inch suspended central control screen. In addition, it also adopts the integrated optical fitting process to



support multi-touch and multi-screen linkage, which combines technology and practicality, thus adding a lot of fun to the journey during driving. Furthermore, Tiggo 8 Pro Max also possesses the offline voice function. You can turn on the air conditioning, open the sunroof and conduct more operations with a single sentence, without using the network or any complicated operation settings, which achieves simpler and more direct interaction, as well as a better experience. Additionally, Tiggo 8 Pro Max also provides a quiet environment like being in a library with its excellent NVH performance. Besides, with the support of these advanced configurations, including the Sony brand audio system, intelligent dual zone and three-row independent air conditioning in the front seats, and the application of the CN95-level air conditioning purification technology, it can bring VIP-level comfort for users with the super large seating space like a first-class cabin. In terms of powertrain, Tiggo 8 Pro Max is equipped with 2.0T GDI

engine, which was once awarded the title of “China Best Ten Engine”. Thanks to advanced technologies, including second generation “i-HEC” combustion system, super transient response powertrain system, new generation intelligent thermal management system, and all dimensional integrated ultra-low friction reduction technology, it can achieve outstanding performances with a maximum power of 145kW, a peak torque of 375Nm, and ultra-low fuel consumption of 7.39L per 100km, as well as the 0-100km acceleration of only 7s. Notably, TIGGO 8 PRO MAX is equipped with the new generation of intelligent 4WD system of electronic control - Chery's All Scene 4WD System of Intelligent Control, which provides 6 driving modes, including economical, ordinary, sports, mud, dessert, and snow, covering various travel scenarios, with which consumers will not be worried about being stuck. As a flagship SUV product, Tiggo 8 Pro Max brings ultimate safety assurance. In addition to adopting the high-strength steel accounting for more than 60%, and the use of Benteler ultra-high

thermo-forming steel with yield strength $\geq 1500\text{Mpa}$ for improving the strength of the vehicle body comprehensively, TIGGO 8 PRO MAX is also equipped with Bosch ESP 9.3 body electronic stability system and pre-tensioned safety belt as standard configurations. Moreover, it is also equipped with ADAS system integrating more than 10 kinds of intelligent driving assistance functions, including adaptive cruise control (ACC), autonomous emergency braking (AEB), and lane keeping assistance (LKA). As a flagship product shouldering the mission of building the brand image of Chery, Tiggo 8 Pro Max has been exported to dozens of countries and has won the trust of global customers. In the future, Chery will also convey its determination and confidence to the global market through Tiggo 8 Pro Max for marching towards the Revolution of Science 2.0 and the era of electrification and intelligence and continue to provide high-quality travel experiences for global customers. In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by Saud Bahwan Group.



mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

✓ Ultra-hydrating

✓ Revitalizing

✓ Energizing

✓ Electrolytes

oman OASIS

800 71 222

9275 5522



TEST DRIVE A MAZDA



& WIN

BOSE
SOUNDLINK FLEX
BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS

1st **5** WINNERS!!



PETROL CARD
WORTH RO 10 EACH



2nd **5** WINNERS!!

EVERYONE IS A WINNER!
SCRATCH AND WIN ASSURED GIFTS



Visit any Mazda showroom and do/book a test drive of your favorite Mazda car

Fill out the raffle coupon and stand a chance to win Bose Speaker & Petrol Cards

Scratch the lucky card on the raffle coupon & win an assured Mazda-branded gift



E max

**MEGA
SALE**

20-50% OFF*

CLICK HERE FOR
AMAZING OFFERS



Buy Now! Pay Later

FINANCE YOUR ELECTRONICS IN 10 MINUTES WITH

آيفن للتمويل الفوري
IFIN INSTANT FINANCING

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



AND



BOUSHER: MALL OF OMAN (LEVEL 3) TEL: +968 24502498 | AL-KHUWAIR: OASIS MALL (LEVEL 1) TEL: +968 22060188 | SEEB: MUSCAT CITY CENTRE (LEVEL 1) TEL: +968 24558062

MABELLA: MALL OF MUSCAT (LEVEL 2) TEL: +968 24454722 | BARKA: BARKA GRAND CENTRE MALL (GROUND FLOOR) TEL: +968 26981873

SUHAR: OASIS MALL (GROUND FLOOR) TEL: +968 22507786 | SALALAH: OASIS MALL (GROUND FLOOR) TEL: +968 94122251 | SALALAH GRAND MALL (GROUND FLOOR) TEL: +968 22826251

20th February to 5th March, 2024

* On selected electronics items