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Times OF OMAN

GOLDEN JUBILEE

50 YEARS OF LEGACY

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FACILITATE MOVEMENT

Dibba border checkpoint begins operation: ROP

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) announced the start of operations of Dibba Border Checkpoint in Musandam Governorate on Tuesday.

The checkpoint connects the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The move comes within the framework of the security system plan to manage land, air and sea ports to facilitate movement and transportation. -ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Shura approves three draft laws

1 The Shura Council on Tuesday referred to the State Council the draft law on 'State Dues Collection' and the draft law on 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities'. Both the draft laws were submitted by the government for review. >A2

OMAN

Nama unveils strategic projects

2 Nama Water Services Company signed four agreements to implement strategic projects in the water sector. The projects include design and implementation of water distribution networks. >A3

MARKET

Development Bank loans top OMR18mn

3 The number of education loans in the Development Bank's portfolio until the end of 2024 stood at 509 loans worth OMR18.8 million. The portfolio, aimed to serve all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. >B1

80% OF ESSENTIAL GOVT SERVICES EXPECTED TO BE ONLINE BY 2025

Digital transformation is a cornerstone of national strategies and Oman Vision 2040 for building a competitive economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has decided to accelerate its digital transformation plan this year.

As part of the initiative, almost 80% of essential government services are expected to be available online in 2025. These include launching the first package of priority services through the unified national portal for electronic services and introducing a unified mobile application for government digital services.

The 2024 Annual Digital Transformation Report, issued by the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, revealed that the overall performance of the Government Digital Transformation Programme, Tahawul, reached 73% by the end of November 2024, up from 53% in 2023.

The average performance of government entities in meeting digital transformation requirements stood at 77%, while governorates achieved an average of 71%. These figures reflect the performance of 49 government entities and governorates assessed in the 2024 Government Digital Transformation Excellence Measurement.

A major leap forward

The report highlights a significant advancement in digital transformation in 2024, with four government entities achieving the advanced level for the first time, representing 8% of the assessed entities.

These entities are Muscat Governorate, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, National Centre for Statistics and Information and Oman Investment Authority.

Additionally, 38 entities (78%) attained the above-average level (Green), while six entities (12%) were classified at the average level (Yellow). Only one entity (2%) was rated below average (Red), with no entities classified as low-performing (Black).

The report also identifies the highest-performing service-oriented entities in achieving digital transformation in 2024 - Muscat Governorate, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, and the Royal Oman Police.

Meanwhile, the top-performing non-service entities include the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, the National Centre for Statistics and Information and the Oman Investment Authority. These entities have demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing digital efficiency and advancing government services in line with best practices. >A4

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman and Kazakhstan back efforts to achieve peace and stability

ASTANA: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met on Tuesday with Murat Nurtileu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and means of enhancing cooperation especially in economic, cultural and tourism fields. They also touched on means of boosting diplomatic cooperation between the two countries. Both sides pointed out that they look forward to the upcoming meeting of the joint economic committee between the two countries during this year.

The two ministers discussed several issues and developments on the regional and international arenas. They also reiterated their backing of peaceful efforts that are exerted to achieve peace, stability and justice on the basis of international law.

Furthermore, the two sides signed a roadmap for cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries. This move aims to enhance joint coordination, develop partnerships in various fields of mutual interest and boost diplomatic relations to serve mutual interests. The meeting was attended by Mohammed Abdullah Al Bahrani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Kazakhstan and several officials from both sides. – ONA

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:25pm
Asr	3:45pm
Maghrib	6:13pm
Isha	7:23pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	5:15am

Shura approves three draft laws, refers them to the State Council

Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, congratulated His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Shura Council on Tuesday referred to the State Council the draft law on 'State Dues Collection' and the draft law on 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities'. Both the draft laws were submitted by the government for review.

Additionally, the Shura Council approved the proposal for the draft law on combating tobacco and its derivatives.

The sitting commenced with an opening address by Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, who congratulated His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan.

In his remarks, he wished His Majesty to celebrate many more Ramadans, and showered with abundant blessings, good health, happiness, and a long life, and also conveyed his greetings of prosperity and blessings to the Omani people and the Islamic nation.

In his address, he called upon the honourable Council members to submit views and proposals that align with national objectives, thereby unifying efforts to channel available capabilities towards the public good.

Draft Law on 'State Dues Collection'

Subsequently, Ahmed Saeed Al-Sharqi, Chairman of the Financial and Economic Committee and the session's rapporteur, presented the committee's report on the draft law on State Dues Collection referred to the Council.

In his report, he detailed the committee's efforts in reviewing the draft law and noted that nearly 30 years have elapsed since the implementation of the system for collecting taxes, fees, and other dues owed to state administrative units, as established by Royal Decree (23/49).

The draft law, consisting of 79 articles arranged into five chapters, was studied in depth by the committee, which hosted several specialists from government bodies to obtain a comprehensive perspective.

A joint meeting with the Legislative and Legal Committee was also held, during which a harmonised version of most articles was agreed upon.

Extensive discussions ensued regarding various articles of the draft law. Ahmed Saeed Al-Sharqi addressed several technical interventions raised by the esteemed Council members and provided justifications for the amendments approved by the committee.

Furthermore, Dr. Talal Saeed Al-Muharibi, rapporteur of the Legislative and Legal Committee, responded to members' comments concerning the penalties provision, offering explanations for the proposed modifications.

Thereafter, the draft law was approved and referred to the State Council to complete the legislative cycle, in accordance with Article (49) of the Oman Council Law, which states: "Draft laws are referred from the Council of Ministers to the Shura Council, which must decide on the draft by either approving or amending it within a maximum period of three months from the date of referral; thereafter, it is submitted to the State Council, which must decide on it by approving or amending it within no more than forty-five days from the date of its referral."

Draft Law on 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities'

During the session, Mansoor Zahir Al-Hajri, Chairman of the Health and Social Committee and the session's rapporteur, presented the committee's report on the draft law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In its study, the committee held a series of meetings and consultations with various civil society organisations—including the Omani Down Syndrome Association, the Al-Noor Association for the Blind, the Omani Association for Persons with Disabilities, and the Omani Association for Persons with Hearing Disabilities—to benefit from their insights regarding the draft law.

The committee also met with officials from the Ministry of Social Development to examine the justifications and objectives underlying the proposal.

In addition, Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Saadi, Chairman and rapporteur of the Legislative and Legal Committee for the draft law, presented the committee's views on the penal provisions of the draft law and responded to the observations submitted by the esteemed members.

Following these deliberations, the draft law was approved in its harmonised form and referred to the State Council in line with the legislative cycle provided by the Oman Council Law.

Proposal for the draft law on combating tobacco and its derivatives

The sitting also witnessed the approval of the proposal for the draft law on combating tobacco and its derivatives.

The Health and Social Committee had previously conducted extensive studies on this proposal, hosting several relevant entities, while the Legislative and Legal Committee examined its legal drafting and compatibility with existing laws in the Sultanate of Oman.

Mansoor bin Zahir Al-Hajri, Chairman of the committee and the session's rapporteur for the draft law, presented the committee's report to the esteemed members, detailing the justifications, objectives, and societal impact of the proposal.

He clarified that the proposal is consistent with other applicable regulations in the region governing this sector. The proposal was subsequently approved and referred to the State Council to complete the necessary legislative cycle for its enactment in accordance with the Oman Council Law.

It is noteworthy that this proposal aims to establish regulatory controls to curb the spread of tobacco and its derivatives, thereby protecting the community from the adverse effects of this phenomenon.

The initiative to propose such a draft law is in keeping with the legislative role of the Shura Council, as stipulated in Article (48) of the Oman Council Law, which provides that the Oman Council may propose draft laws and refer them to the government for review, with a return to the Council within a maximum period of one year. Upon approval, the same procedures outlined in Article (47) of the law shall apply.

The decions were taken during the sixth regular session of the second ordinary conjuncture (2024–2025) of the tenth term (2023–2027), chaired by Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, and attended by the members of the Council.

The Council will convene its Seventh Regular Sitting on Wednesday, which will be dedicated to discussing the statement of the Minister of Education.

MEETINGS

Supreme Court Chairman meets Egyptian delegation

MUSCAT: Sayyid Khalifa Said Al Busaidi, Chairman of the Supreme Court yesterday received a delegation comprising members of the Public Prosecution of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The delegation was also received by Dr. Rashid Obaid Al Kaabi, Deputy Public Prosecutor.

During the two meetings, a range of topics of mutual interest were discussed, including means of utilising modern technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) in the work of public prosecutions. -ONA

MARITIME ENVIRONMENT

Egyptian delegation visits MSC

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Military Academy for Postgraduate and Strategic Studies of the Arab Republic of Egypt on Tuesday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

The delegation was greeted upon their arrival at the MSC by the Acting Head of the MSC.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the Omani maritime environment.

They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties. -ONA

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

RAM's Najiz Programme an enriching experience

MUSCAT: Under the auspices of Sayyid Khalifa bin Said Al Busaidi, Chairman of the Supreme Court, fifty-nine heads of primary and appeal courts in the Sultanate of Oman completed the Najiz Programme.

Provided by the Royal Academy of Management (RAM) in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council, the programme was specially designed to strengthen the skills and attributes deemed essential for heads of courts with adaptive leadership responsibilities in an ever-evolving landscape. In turn, the transformative programme is expected to have a long-term impact on the effectiveness of the nation's judiciary system as a whole.

"The Najiz Programme aimed to equip Oman's Court's heads with the tools and skills to enhance institutional performance and support the efficiency of judicial procedures that align with the highest quality and operational excellence standards. The participants also engaged with experts in judicial administration, shared local experiences and gained insights into global practices. All of this, in turn, will enhance judiciary efficiency and strengthen the public confidence in the system," said Dr. Fathiya Abdullah Al Rashdi, Vice Chairman of Programme Affairs at the Royal Academy of Management (RAM).

The three-day Najiz Programme has proven to be an enriching experience for the participants and the leadership community they form. The Court's heads highlighted the programme's role in strengthening their leadership capabilities while expanding their knowledge of modern judicial administration practices. They underlined that the Najiz Programme equipped them with advanced and emerging skills that are directly applicable to their roles, which aligns with the national vision of fostering a more efficient and sustainable judiciary system.

"Our participation in the Najiz programme stems from the Supreme Judicial Council's commitment to develop [further] the skills of its judicial and administrative personnel. This initiative also reflects the ongoing cooperation between the Royal Academy of Management and the Supreme Judicial Council," said Dr. Saif bin Abdullah Al Hosni while explaining his perception of the programme.

Another participant, Dr. Hamad Al Jahwary, added, "It was an honour to take part in the Najiz Programme alongside esteemed Court's heads, and in the presence of highly skilled trainers and distinguished administrative professionals, including former chief executives of leading economic and administrative institutions. The programme was an invaluable opportunity to gain new insights, exchange ideas, and refine judicial and administrative concepts. Key benefits included our ability to refresh our knowledge, broaden our perspectives, and contribute to enhancing judicial procedures. Additionally, we had the opportunity to explore a range of judicial experiences, both locally and internationally."

The Royal Academy of Management remains committed to contributing to, among others, institutional development in the Sultanate of Oman through impactful leadership programmes, research, and trusted leadership dialogues. The RAM provides a learning environment that supports the creation of adaptive and effective leadership communities ready to navigate ever-evolving challenges and that can deliver transformational impact. -ONA

CHILD-FRIENDLY EDUCATION

CFE initiative being evaluated

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ministry of Education in partnership with UNICEF Oman, is conducting the first evaluation of the Child-Friendly Education (CFE) initiative under the current Country Programme Document.

Initially piloted in 2012, the CFE initiative has since been implemented nationwide to foster inclusive, safe, and supportive learning environments.

Assessing progress

The Ministry of Education plays a key role in this evaluation, aimed at assessing progress, identifying improvements, and guiding future interventions. A steering committee involving governorates across Oman, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of health and Oman Vision 2020 follow-up Unit will review findings and shape the way forward, where the first meeting held on the 25th of February. Qualitative data collection is set for April 2025.

Shununa Al-Habsi, Representative of the Sultanate of Oman in the UNICEF Executive Board, Assistant Director General for Special Education and Continuous Education at the Ministry of Education, stated: "Oman's commitment to advancing quality education remains solid. This evaluation will provide valuable insights to further enhance our education system and ensure that every child has access to a safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment."

Dr. Bilal Al-Kiswani, Head of Programme at UNICEF Oman, added: "Child-Friendly Education is a cornerstone of UNICEF's mission to promote inclusive and equitable learning opportunities. We are proud to work alongside the Ministry of Education to assess progress and identify new ways to enhance educational outcomes for all children in Oman presenting Oman as a good practice to the GCC region, regionally and globally."

With 30% of Oman's population aged 0-19, the country has made significant strides in education, achieving universal access with boys and girls parity. Education Law and Oman Vision 2040 prioritise inclusive education, governance, and lifelong learning, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal, and UNICEF's global strategic plan ensuring that quality education and safe school environment is accessible by all the children in the country.

Nama Water Services implementing projects worth over OMR700mn

These projects are aimed to enhance the water and wastewater system in the governorates and wilayats covered by the company's services—from Musandam to Al Wusta, the CEO of company said

MUSCAT: Nama Water Services Company signed four agreements to implement strategic projects in the water sector.

The projects included the design and implementation of water distribution networks in the wilayats of Ibri, Yanqul and Dhank in A'Dhahirah Governorate (Packages 1 and 2), the construction of water networks in the wilayats of Samail and Izki in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate and the construction of wastewater networks in Al Ansab in Muscat Governorate.

This was unveiled at a ceremony organised by the company in Muscat on Tuesday under the auspices of Dr. Saud bin Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

In a speech at the ceremony, Qais bin Saud Al Zakwani, CEO of Nama Water Services Company, said that the company seeks to achieve sustainability and ensure water security in the Sultanate of Oman by implementing a package of current and future strategic projects across different governorates.

Al Zakwani added that the company is currently implementing 27 projects to the tune of more than OMR700 million to enhance the water and wastewater system in the governorates and wilayats covered by the company's services—from Musandam to Al Wusta. He said that the projects contribute OMR193 million to the in-country value (ICV).

Al Zakwani pointed out that these projects enhance water networks in the Sultanate of Oman to cover more than 72.80 percent at a time the number of beneficiaries of the company's services grew to 937,970.

Speaking in detail, he said that the projects include a water transmission project connecting the desalination plant in Sohar to A'Dhahirah Governorate, a water system enhancement project connecting the desalination plants in Barka and Sohar, A'Dakhiliyah Governorate's water transmission enhancement system project and a water transmission system enhancement project between the governorates of South A'Sharqiyah and North A'Sharqiyah.

Al Zakwani said that the Omanisation initiative launched by the company through permanent contracts with companies supporting its work helped generate 885 jobs in the water sector. This, he said, contributed to raising the percentage of Omanisation in these companies to 84 percent.— ONA

SHALEEM AND AL HALANIYAT ISLANDS

Environment Authority releases 12 Arabian gazelles in wild

Times News Service

SHALEEM AND AL HALANIYAT ISLANDS: The Environment Authority, represented by the Directorate General of Environment in Dhofar Governorate, released 12 Arabian gazelles as part of a re-settlement project in the Wilayat of Shaleem and Al Halaniyat Islands.

The Arabian gazelle domestication project comes within the authority's environmental initiatives and programmes that contribute to protecting the environment, preserving its natural resources and domesticating wild creatures in their primary habitats, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

The head of the Arabian Gazelle Domestication Team in the Wilayat of Al Halaniyat Islands, said: "The Directorate conducted a survey in the Wilayat of Al Halaniyat Islands of the plant species and water sources in the area before the release process. After that, the gazelles were transferred from the Arabian Oryx Reserve in the Al Wusta Governorate to the Wildlife Breeding Centre in the Wilayat of Mirbat to ensure that they adapt to the nature and climate of the area and to take care of them in the enclosures for a period of 3 months.

He said that the gazelles were transported by the specialists from the EA in boxes designated for wild animals, and then shipped via the National Ferries Company until they were unloaded in the pens on the Al Halaniyat Islands.

He explained that the process of them into the wild is accompanied by the encirclement and tracking of a number of the herd using devices equipped with GPS and satellite technology, in addition to installing a number of trap cameras in some locations to monitor the movement of the herd and ensure that it remains safe.

OMAN

EXHIBITION

Oman Climate Week showcases youth initiatives for environment protection

MUSCAT: An exhibition, held on the sidelines of Oman Climate Week, is showcasing the latest innovations and technologies in the field of climate change and environment conservation. The event is taking place at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

As part of its commitment to enhance regional efforts to address climate change and achieve sustainable development, a Qatar Foundation-affiliated centre named "Earthna" presents its vision and prominent research findings on environmental and sustainability issues.

Qatar Foundation and the Environment Authority seek to consolidate strategic partnerships and exchange expertise with the aim of developing policies and programmes that contribute to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) at the regional level, notably in the fields of environment conservation.

Mohammed Alaa El-Din Mohammed, Sustainable Development Principal Expert at Earthna centre, said, "Participating in Oman Climate Week provides an important step towards enhancing joint GCC cooperation in addressing climate change. This initiative reflects the growing interest in sustainable solutions and underlines the importance of enhancing regional action and cooperation among leading GCC institutions to achieve a tangible and sustainable impact."

He explained that Earthna centre enlightens participants in the activities of Oman Climate Week about the White Papers Initiative 2024, which was launched and prepared in accordance with the outcomes of Qatar National Dialogue on Climate Change 2024.

The annual event, he explained, was organised by Earthna centre in cooperation with partners with the aim of addressing the challenges of climate change and promoting sustainable development through rapprochement among government officials, leaders from the industrial sector, environmental experts and representatives of civil society.

He added that the White Papers initiative includes recommendations and policies aimed at boosting efforts towards the realisation of a low-carbon economy in Qatar and the GCC region.

Mohammed Alaa El-Din Mohammed pointed out that Oman Climate Week constitutes a vital platform for presenting these papers to decision-makers and experts and providing new opportunities for dialogue and cooperation on how to implement these recommendations.

He stated that the missions, programmes and initiatives of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development evolve around education, research, innovation and community development and that such efforts are integrated to develop communities in Qatar and the world.

The exhibition, held on the sidelines of Oman Climate Week, featured youth initiatives in the field of the environment conservation, including one themed "Our Footprint is Different"—a non-profit youth project that deals with ways of achieving environmental sustainability and spreading environmental awareness in society.

The initiative seeks to bring about positive and sustainable change through a range of pioneering environmental programmes and activities with the aim of promoting ecotourism, bringing about a sustainable culture and enabling individuals to actively participate in protecting the environment. It also seeks to implement activities and programmes that provide innovative solutions aimed at improving the local environment, including programmes titled "Let's Plant", "Sustainability Ambassadors", "Women Environmental Leaders", "Green School", "Green View" and "Capture Nature".

The Climate Ambassadors Initiative, which specializes in issues of climate change and sustainability, focuses on raising environmental awareness and building capacities among individuals and communities across the Sultanate of Oman. The initiative seeks to enhance deep understanding of climate change, biodiversity and natural resources management, in addition to encouraging the endorsement of sustainable practices that contribute to diminishing impacts on the environment.

The Environment Conservation Initiative specialises in the areas of environment, education, awareness and the media. The programme provides knowledge through podcasts to raise public awareness and encourage positive behaviour towards the environment. Its key programmes include dialogues, audio programmes using podcast technology and digital knowledge content. Oman Water Society reviews environmental challenges (in the contest of change to the climate, water and air) and it considers ways to produce sustainable crops using green energy.

Eng. Zahir bin Sulaiman Al Salmani, Chairman of the Oman Water Society, explained that the Society specializes in water issues in the Sultanate of Oman, researching water issues and finding appropriate solutions for related challenges. He pointed out that Oman Water Society aims to encourage research, studies, training programmes and capacity development, in addition to efforts to enhance cooperation among institutions, establishments and individuals.

Madad Development Foundation, an establishment specialised in empowering youth that is taking part in Oman Climate Week, focuses on issues of climate change, environment conservation and sustainability.

Alia Bilarab Al Batashi, a representative of Madad Development Foundation, said that the exhibition provides an opportunity to build partnerships with government and private establishments, investors and those interested in environment conservation.

The exhibition, she added, contributes to the realization of a real societal impact by supporting environmental solutions and encouraging the endorsement of more sustainable practices within society. -ONA

VIRTUOSO VIOLINIST

ROHM launches project 'Paganini for Everyone'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Premio Paganini, the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) launched the international project 'Paganini for Everyone' to honour the legacy of Niccolò Paganini, the virtuoso violinist, composer, and innovator who profoundly influenced the world of classical music. This project also paid tribute to the prestigious international competition named after him, dedicated to young violin talents from around the world. The initiative was part of ROHM's Emerging Talents programme, designed to build meaningful connections between international artists and Oman, inspire audiences of all generations to discover new talent, and promote cultural and creative enrichment.

The collaboration between ROHM and the Premio Paganini successfully combined history, culture, and music, with a special focus on future generations of Omani musicians.

The Project

Among the key events was the concert by Simon Zhu, the 2023 Premio Paganini winner, who had previously performed an extraordinary concert in the presence of His Majesty King Charles III in London. During that performance, he played the legendary Cannone, Niccolò Paganini's violin crafted by Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù in 1743, alongside the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano.

His performance in Muscat took place on February 24, 2025, accompanied by pianist Gile Bae. The concert, open to the public, featured a programme curated by Artistic Director Nicola Bruzzo, including works by Brahms, Paganini, and Szymanowski.

Paganini for Everyone was a successful project, with activities at the opera house beginning in December and building up to the culmination of a concert on February 24.

The project commenced with a well-attended talk in early December, Who is Paganini? The Works and Legacy of the Great Violinist, with Giovanni Panebianco, President of the Premio Paganini, and art historian Emmanuel Ducamp. On January 14, audiences enjoyed a combined talk, workshop, and musical interlude in the music library. The event, Paganini's Violins and Italian Violin Making, featured a dual session with Enrico De Barbieri, member of the Premio Paganini Committee, and Nicola Bruzzo, Artistic Director of the Prize, and included a special workshop for Omani violin students with Alberto Giordano, conservator of the 1743 Guarneri del Gesù Cannone.

Investment Manager Report

Ahli Islamic Money Market Fund

On behalf of the Fund Management Board, I am pleased to present the audited financial results of ahli Islamic Money Market Fund for the year ended 31 Dec 2024:

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st Dec 2024	30/12/2024
Number of units	30,980,827
Net asset value (RO)	32,299,473
Net asset value per unit (RO)	1.043
Dividend Paid Per Unit (RO)	-
Net profit/(loss)	**861,417**

**As of Dec 31st 2024*

Market Outlook

In December, financial markets reacted to the Federal Reserve's third 25-basis-point rate cut of the year, lowering the federal funds rate to 4.25%-4.5%. This move reflects efforts to manage persistent inflation above the 2% target and support economic growth. The Fed signaled a cautious approach for 2025, with fewer rate cuts anticipated due to inflationary concerns impacting the financial markets.

Long-term Treasury yields rose, with the 10-year yield reaching 4.572%, reflecting expectations of sustained higher interest rates for the investors in the near term. Other key figures included the 1-month T- Bills: 4.2790%,12 month: 4.148%, 2-year yield 4.2360%

GCC central banks maintained their policy rates in line with the Fed, ensuring liquidity and supporting economic activity. The region remains poised to adapt to evolving global monetary conditions, balancing reduced borrowing costs with inflationary pressures.

The Ahli Islamic Money Market Fund remains resilient, with expected returns of 4.50 - 4.75% in the short to medium term, providing stability, liquidity, and attractive returns for short-term cash management.

ahli islamic money market fund

Financial statements
for the period ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	31 December 2024 RO
ASSETS	
Investments at amortised cost	22,277,140
Cash and cash equivalents	9,701,961
Accrued profit on investments	413,389
Total assets	32,392,490
LIABILITIES	
Accruals and other payables	93,017
Total liabilities	93,017
Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	32,299,473
Net asset value per unit	1.043

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period from 03 March 2024 (Date of start operation) to 31 December 2024

	31 December 2024 RO (10 months) RO
INCOME	
Profit on investments	975,740
Expenses	
Management fees	86,036
Custodian service fees	13,792
Foreign exchange loss	2,822
Fund Management Board fee	1,500
General and administration	10,173
	114,323
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	861,417
Net profit per unit	0.043

الأهلي الإسلامي
ahli islamic

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE

< FROM A1

'Tahawul' programme aligns with the vision to enhance efficiency

Engineer Saeed bin Hamoud Al-Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, stated that the Government Digital Transformation Programme, 'Tahawul' (2021-2025), aligns with the government's vision to enhance the efficiency of the organisational and administrative structure, develop business models based on integration and transparency, improve processes, and support data-driven decision-making.

He emphasised that digital transformation is a cornerstone of national strategies and Oman Vision 2040, which focuses on fostering a society of creative individuals, building a competitive economy, ensuring a responsible government, and promoting a sustainable environment. He highlighted that 'Tahawul' enhances government performance efficiency, streamlines procedures, improves user experience, fosters government innovation, and delivers advanced digital services.

The programme also supports planning and data-driven decision-making, predictive analytics, supply chain and value-added management, and enhances government spending efficiency.

Additionally, it contributes to economic growth and investment, reinforcing GDP. He commended government entities for their efforts in strengthening the digital infrastructure, which underpins digital transformation, and for developing policies and regulations that create an environment conducive to innovation.

These efforts aim to build an advanced digital society that aligns with evolving aspirations.

Simplification and digitalisation of services

Streamlining procedures and digitising government services are key components of the government's digital transformation efforts, aimed at enhancing service efficiency for citizens and residents. According to the report, 2,680 services were simplified between 2021 and 2024, achieving 93% of the total target of 2,869 services set for simplification by the end of 2025.

Among these, 481 services were simplified in 2024 alone. Regarding digitalisation, the report stated that 1,700 services were digitised between 2021 and 2024, including automated permit activities, out of a total target of 2,523 services set for digitalisation by the end of 2025. This represents 67% progress in the digitalisation of priority services, with 355 services digitised in 2024.

Digital platforms

Digital platforms are a crucial part of the digital infrastructure, enhancing service accessibility and improving the operational efficiency of government entities.

Government entities in the Sultanate of Oman are actively developing digital applications and platforms to deliver more efficient services to citizens and residents, offering innovative solutions that enhance user experience and streamline processes.

In 2024, a total of 11 government mobile applications were launched and developed.

The report highlighted several government digital platforms introduced to enhance service delivery. The Taheel platform by the Ministry of Social Development and the "Tatwir", "Amlak platforms, launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, streamlines real estate services, while the Supreme Judicial Council's E-Judiciary Services Portal improves access to legal services.

The Environment Authority introduced the National Air Quality Index Platform (Naqi) to provide real-time environmental data and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals launched the Taqa platform to support energy sector management.

Additionally, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion developed the Hazm and Ma'roof Oman platforms to facilitate business and investment services.

Furthermore, electronic portals have been launched for Al Buraimi, Al Wusta and South Al Batinah governorates.

These digital platforms play a vital role in advancing government digital transformation efforts, reinforcing Oman's commitment to delivering innovative and sustainable services that align with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

Digital projects

The report highlighted key achievements in implementing digital projects and centralised or shared solutions, which are integral to Oman's digital transformation efforts.

One of the key initiatives is the Government Unified Portal for E-Government Services, designed to serve as a centralised digital platform for all government services. The portal's overall performance has reached 73%, with the first phase of development and user experience enhancements completed. Additionally, the design phase for the unified mobile application for digital services has been finalised. The technical integration reference guide has been launched, and the strategy for digital content development for government services and the portal has been approved and implemented.

The portal is set to be officially launched by the end of February 2025, with 10 government entities integrated into the first phase.

The report also reviewed the National Open Data Platform, which aims to consolidate open data from various sectors into a single platform. The project has reached 63% completion, with efficiency testing, quality assurance, and linguistic content auditing currently in progress. The first phase focuses on integrating data from 20 government entities.

To enhance system integration, the report highlighted that the total number of data exchanges via the National Digital Integration Platform exceeded 471 million transactions by January-November 2024.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/xxxxxx

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Kazakhstan president meets Sayyid Badr

ASTANA: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan received at the Presidential Palace in the capital, Astana on Tuesday Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and best wishes of good health and wellbeing to the President of Kazakhstan, further progress and prosperity for the people of his country and further development and growth for the bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his turn, the President of Kazakhstan asked the minister to convey his greetings and best wishes of permanent success and happiness to His Majesty the Sultan, further welfare for the Omani people and further progress and prosperity for the relations between the two countries. -ONA

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OMAN CLIMATE WEEK

Oman, Qatar sign MoU to upgrade ties

MUSCAT: Oman and Qatar on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) as part of a 5-year executive programme in the field of environment conservation (2025-2029).

The MoU was signed on behalf of the Sultanate of Oman by Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, and Abdulaziz Ahmad Al Mahmoud, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of the State of Qatar.

The MoU was inked on the sidelines of Oman Climate Week currently being held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

According to the MoU, the two countries will establish joint cooperation projects, seek ways to finance the projects, cooperate in the field of related studies and research, organise visits to habitats of endangered wild animals and cooperate in combating invasive species. The MoU also provides for the exchange of expertise in addressing land degradation and upgrading the restoration of vegetation. The two sides will conduct a joint study on successful models on the implementation of sustainable management plans for nature reserves, as well as proposals on twinning projects among wildlife reserves. — ONA

شركة إسمنت عمان ش.م.ع.ع
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)
P.O. BOX 560, RUWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
[Factory Al Misfah West, Bausher, Tel. # 00968 24437078 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777]

TENDERS

The company invites offers for the following tender:

Sl.	Tender ID	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1	1530000084 -25	Modernization of silo-8 cement loading system	OMR. 52.500	20th March 2025 2359 Hours	25th March 2025 2359 Hours
2	RE- Tender 02-2025	Sale of scrap equipment tower crane, gantry crane & porta cabins	RO. 52.500	20th March 2025 2359 Hours	25th March 2025 2359 Hours

Tender documents can be obtained by paying the below amount online to the Company's account detailed below: Account name: Oman Cement Company SAOG

Bank Name: Bank Muscat SAOG
Account number: 0423 01086 3070 017
Account Type: OMR
SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

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

Contact details: Office number: +968 22705601, Mobile number: +968 97932277

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

• Note For Tender Sr. 2 (Tender 02-2025) Tender Bond guarantee is OMR 300/- deposit to OCC account.

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

TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) announces the following tenders:

Sr. No	Tender No.	Tender name	Floating date	Last date for obtaining the documents	Bid Submission Date	Requirements from participators	Tender Document's Fees (Including VAT) (RO)
1	**16/2025**	Comprehensive Maintenance Services for Elevators at Muscat Governorate Grid Stations for Three Years.	26/02/2025	12/03/2025	08/04/2025	Local companies with experience in same field, have a valid commercial registration.	**26/250**
2	**17/2025**	Maintenance and Repairing Services of SF6 Machines (Make: DILO) at Muscat Governorate Grid Stations.	26/02/2025	12/03/2025	08/04/2025	Local companies with experience in same field, have a valid commercial registration.	**26/250**
3	**18/2025 (Int'l)**	Construction of Surab 400/33kV Grid Station along with Associated 400 kV LILO from Duqm Grid Station to Mahout Grid Station.	26/02/2025	12/03/2025	08/04/2025	Local & international companies with experience in same field, have a valid commercial registration	**2625/-**
4	**19/2025 (Int'l)**	Construction of Al Jazzier 400/33kV Grid Station along with Associated 400kV LILO from Ras Madraka Wind Farm Grid Station to Shaleem Grid Station.	26/02/2025	12/03/2025	08/04/2025	Local & international companies with experience in same field, have a valid commercial registration	**2625/-**

Participation	Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity Apply on E-tendering.
Buying the Tender	By E-Tendering System.
Fees	Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document. (Payment Through Bank Transfer) , SMEs are exempted from tender's fees.
The deadline for clarification	Before (21) Days from bid submission date.
Submission	The submission of hard copy will be only for Bid Bond & other documents by E-Tendering
Terms and conditions	• Specifying the name of the Company or whatever refers to in the Bid Guarantee Envelope. • The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from bid submission date. • The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from bid submission date, ad dressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC). Small & Medium Enterprises are exempted from the submission of 1% of the bid bond. • Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted. • OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.
Offer	The bid bond should be submitted in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.
Company Address	Muscat - Al Mawaleh Road No: 2153 – Building No. 423 0 Block No: 321 Contact Details: 91491551 - 93515198 – 92217856 - 92128683
Email Website	tenders@omangrid.com www.omangrid.com / link of E-Tendering System https://www.omangrid.com/en/Pages/Services.aspx

OETCOMAN

GULF HOTELS (OMAN) COMPANY LIMITED SAOG
P O Box: 1455, P C 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman C.R. No. 1059459

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

We welcome you to the annual general meeting of Gulf Hotels (Oman) Company Limited SAOG to present to you a report on the company's activities, the annual financial statements, a report on corporate governance and the auditor's report for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.

Financial Results for the year
The company recorded total revenue of RO 7.618 Million (2023: RO 7.448 Million) and net profit after tax of RO 0.872 Million for the year 2024 (2023: RO 0.668 Million).

For the financial year 2024, the hotel witnessed an increase of 2.28% in total revenue and 30.54% in net profit after tax compared to last year mainly due to better control on operating expenses, lower depreciation and lower finance costs.

Future outlook
The room rates of hotels in Muscat are under pressure due to market competition from newly opened hotel properties. The food & beverage outlets of the hotel are witnessing competition due to opening of many new branded restaurants in Muscat.

The company is in the process of shortlisting contractors for room renovation project of Hotel Crowne Plaza - Muscat. The project for renovation of guest rooms, corridor areas and related MEP works will be carried out during summer months of 2025. The cost of the project will be funded through a term loan from bank and from company's internal accruals. The hotel will be closed for operation during renovation for approximately three months. We believe once completed this will enhance our customer experience, add value to the hotel property and withstand competition from new hotel properties.

Dividend
Considering the results of the financial year 2024 the Board of Directors are pleased to recommend a cash dividend of 10% on paid up equity capital (100 Baizas per share) subject to its due approval by the shareholders.

This is based on the policy of the company to recommend dividend taking into consideration the prescribed legal limits, funds available at the disposal of the company and estimated future cash flow.

Environmental, Social and Governance
In compliance with regulatory requirements and ESG guidelines developed by Muscat Stock Exchange, your company has prepared a report on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance for the financial year ended 31st December 2024. As a responsible business entity, the company is committed to sustainability, social responsibility, environmental protection and strong governance.

Omanization
The company values its employees as one of the important stakeholders in its business. The hotel has been pursuing omanization plan to recruit, train and develop local Omani talent in hospitality sector. Going forward, the hotel would continue its efforts and focus in recruitment and nurturing of young Omani people and help them in their career advancement.

A Note of thanks
We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said for His Majesty's inspiring leadership and vision. We pray to Almighty Allah to shower his everlasting blessings on His Majesty and give His Majesty the strength to lead our nation to further growth and prosperity. We thank the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for implementing right policies to encourage growth in tourism sector. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the hotel staff, management of Intercontinental Hotels Group, customers, suppliers, bankers and the shareholders for their continued support.

Ali Ahmed Abdullah Al Najjar
Chairman

NOTE:
1. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder or other interested party who requests them, either in Arabic or English, within 7 days from the receipt of the request at company's address: Gulf Hotels (Oman) Co. Ltd. SAOG, P O Box: 1455, P C 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.
2.The above Directors' report and Audited annual financial statements would be presented for the approval of the shareholders at their forthcoming Annual General Meeting proposed to be held on 24th March 2025.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

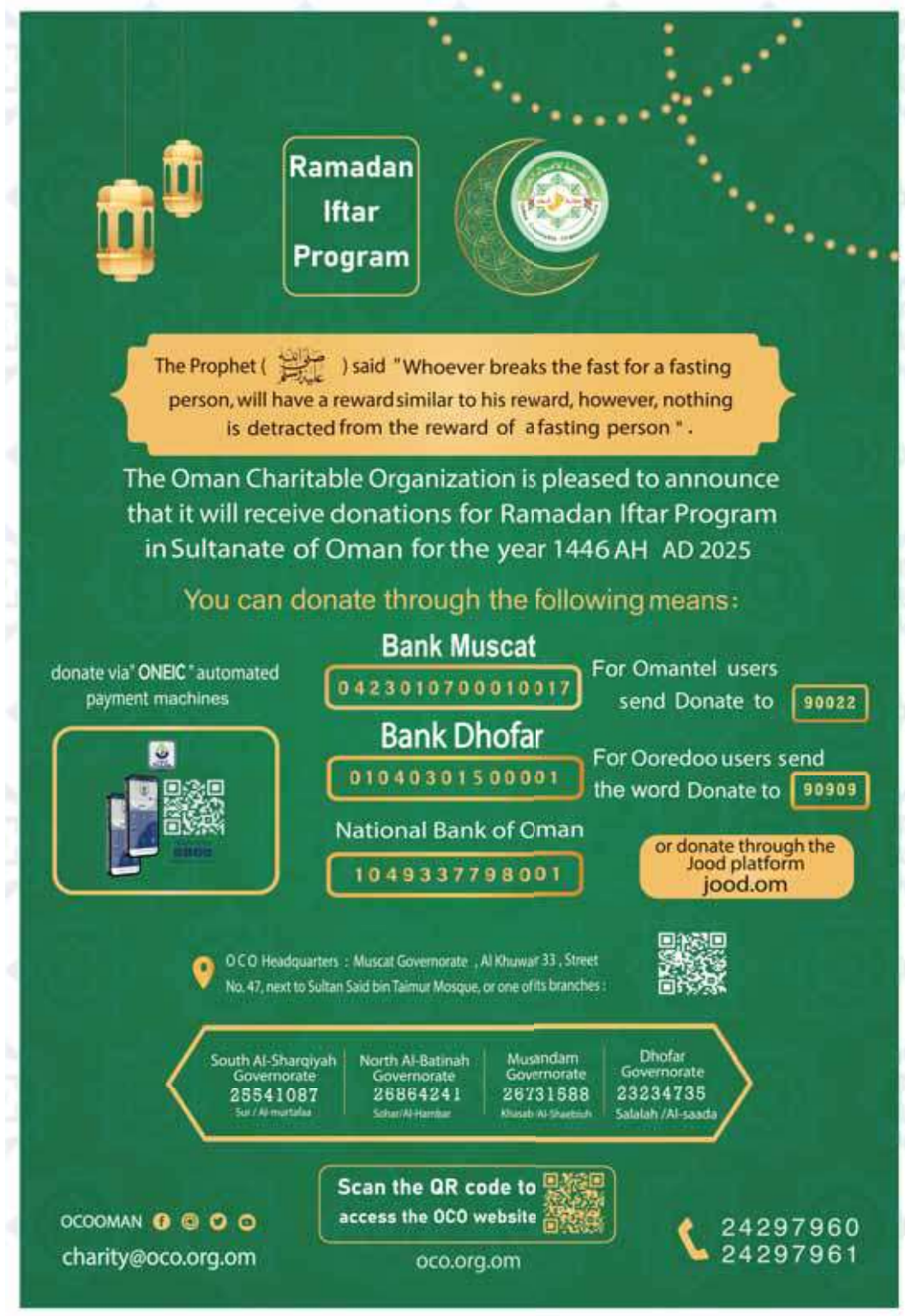
	2024 RO	2023 RO
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	28,349,409	28,508,490
Current assets		
Inventories	77,443	59,757
Trade and other receivables	559,600	566,038
Term deposit	500,000	--
Bank balances and cash	1,303,743	1,282,259
Total current assets	2,440,786	1,908,054
Total assets	**30,790,195**	**30,416,544**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	3,428,322	3,428,322
Share premium	58,574	58,574
Legal reserve	1,142,774	1,142,774
Revaluation reserve	18,619,520	18,619,520
Retained earnings	1,879,375	1,349,724
Total equity	25,128,565	24,598,914
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Employees' end of service benefits	418,075	412,376
Deferred tax liability	3,691,849	3,554,042
Total non-current liabilities	4,109,924	3,966,418
Current liabilities		
Bank borrowings	46,332	3,051
Term loan	--	399,389
Trade and other payables	1,486,017	1,448,772
Taxation	19,357	--
Total current liabilities	1,551,706	1,851,212
Total liabilities	5,661,630	5,817,630
Total equity and liabilities	**30,790,195**	**30,416,544**
Net assets per share	**7.330**	**7.175**

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 RO	2023 RO
INCOME		
Revenue from contracts with customers	7,547,576	7,387,935
Other income	70,691	60,377
	7,618,267	7,448,312
EXPENSES		
Hotel operating costs	2,653,278	2,628,597
Salaries and employee related costs	2,458,738	2,479,625
Other operating costs	1,070,242	997,673
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	428,019	565,414
	6,610,277	6,671,309
Profit from operations	**1,007,990**	**777,003**
Finance income on term and call deposits	31,812	12,147
Finance charges on term loan	(10,155)	(47,756)
Profit for the year before taxation	**1,029,647**	**741,394**
Taxation	(157,164)	(72,930)
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	**872,483**	**668,464**
Basic earnings per share	**0.254**	**0.195**

NOTE: The company has no items of other comprehensive income

OMAN



ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Two arrested

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested two Arab nationals for a series of thefts from stores in Muscat and South Al Batinah Governorates.

"The Muscat Governorate Police Command arrested two individuals of Arab nationality for stealing from several stores in Muscat and South Al Batinah Governorates," ROP said.

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SHARE OFFERING

Asyad Shipping hosts its final IPO roadshow at MSX

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Shipping (Under Transformation), one of the world's leading companies in providing diverse maritime transport solutions, the maritime arm of Asyad Group, held a series of initial public offering (IPO) roadshows across seven governorates, including Rustaq, Sohar, Buraimi, Salalah, and Nizwa, culminating in the final event held on Tuesday at the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) headquarters in the capital, Muscat. The roadshows took place from February 20 to 25, 2025.

The IPO roadshows highlighted key details of Asyad Shipping's share offering and showcased the promising investment opportunities the company provides. The sessions focused on raising awareness of the company's pivotal role in supporting Oman Vision 2040 by contributing to economic diversification, enhancing operational efficiency, and promoting transparency and inclusivity in offering investment opportunities to all target groups. The roadshows also aimed to boost investment opportunities during the subscription period from February 20 to 27.

During the Muscat roadshow, the leadership team of Asyad Shipping, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the strategic significance of the IPO, emphasizing how this transformative step aligns with Oman Vision 2040 by driving economic diversification, enhancing operational efficiency, and creating a robust platform to attract both local and international investments.

The strong support provided by Oman Investment Authority has reinforced Asyad Shipping's position as the preferred maritime transport partner for the authority's subsidiaries. Additionally, being a key pillar of Asyad Group's integrated logistics ecosystem has enabled the company to leverage the group's capabilities and operational efficiencies at its ports.

Moreover, Asyad Shipping's astute commercial strategy has secured future revenues of up to USD 1.9 billion as of September 2024, enhancing operational efficiency and driving record profitability. The company achieved EBITDA margins of approximately 68%, outperforming the global average in the maritime transport sector.

These combined factors have significantly increased the attractiveness of the offering and boosted demand for the shares on offer.

The strong interest from key local and regional investors was instrumental in driving the increasing demand for Asyad Shipping's public offering. Both Al Mareekh Development and Investment LLC and Falcon Investments LLC, a subsidiary of the Qatar Investment Authority, expressed significant confidence in the company's competitive strengths. This confidence was grounded in Asyad Shipping's outstanding financial performance in 2023, with total revenues reaching $945 million.

This trust was further bolstered by the robust support the company receives from the Oman Investment Authority, coupled with the extensive expertise of its management team. Additionally, Asyad Shipping's impressive profitability, with EBITDA margins reaching approximately 68% in 2024, contributed to enhancing the offering's appeal and increasing investor demand for the offered shares.

A'SAFFA FOODS S.A.O.G الصفاء للأغذية

A'Saffa Foods S.A.O.G

P.O.Box : 3436, PC: 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 22360250, Email: contact@asaffa.com

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to the 23rd Annual General Meeting of your company and present the Director's Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Business Performance 2024

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that your company has consistently demonstrated growth across all of its business activities. In 2024, sales reached RO 63.951 million, up from RO 53.851 million in the year 2023, reflecting a strong increase of 18.75%. Furthermore, the company achieved a consolidated net profit of RO 5.90 million in 2024, compared to RO 2.59 million in the previous year, representing a remarkable 128% growth in profitability.

This impressive improvement is a direct result of the company's continued focus on dynamic sales strategies, production optimization, quality control, customer service excellence, cost management, and efficient fixed cost utilization, all while capitalizing on a diversified product portfolio.

Financial Performance Review 2024

The summary of the financial results achieved during 2024 are as follows :

	Parent Company			Group		
	2024	2023	%	2024	2023	%
Revenue	64,966,142	54,697,765	19%	63,951,877	53,851,659	19%
Gross Profit	16,726,174	13,851,404	21%	17,809,997	14,627,339	22%
Profit Before Tax	6,577,841	3,033,724	117%	6,833,430	3,321,734	106%
Net Profit	5,722,337	2,488,270	130%	5,901,738	2,589,992	128%

Subsidiaries

A'Saffa Food Processing SPC

A'Saffa Food Processing SPC achieved the sales of RO 5,687,461/- during the year 2024 as compared to RO 4,946,383/- in the year 2023 and net profit of RO 772,030/- during the year 2024 as compared to RO 607,857/- in the year 2023.

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

A'Saffa proudly celebrated a significant milestone on July 24, 2024 - its 20th Anniversary since the inception of production operations. From humble beginnings, the company has grown into a household name, recognized for its quality products and commitment to excellence. Over the past two decades, A'Saffa has expanded its product offerings and solidified its market presence, driven by an unwavering dedication to customer satisfaction, innovation, and sustainability.

Throughout the years, we have remained focused on advancing our operations, investing in cutting-edge technology, and adhering to the highest industry standards. Our 20th Anniversary is not only a reflection of the passage of time but also the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and a shared vision that has propelled A'Saffa to new heights.

Broiler Expansion Project

The demand for A'Saffa products is steadily increasing in the market, and the company is currently operating at full capacity. To meet this growing demand, additional production volume is required. In response, the Board of Directors has approved an expansion plan in December 2024 aimed at increasing the annual capacity for broiler chicken production from 48 million birds to 60 million birds.

This strategic expansion is designed to enhance A'Saffa's ability to meet the rising market demand, while simultaneously improving production efficiency and reducing operational costs. The project will involve both expanding and optimizing existing facilities. Ultimately, this growth will not only bolster the company's capacity to serve the market but also contribute to an increased market share and a stronger competitive position within the poultry sector.

Solar Project

It is also a pleasure to inform the Shareholders that the 7-megawatt Solar project commenced operations in July 2024. This initiative aligns with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which emphasizes environmental sustainability and reducing dependence on traditional energy sources. The project aims to achieve these goals by transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and lowering the company's carbon footprint.

This solar project reflects A'Saffa's commitment to the sustainable use of natural resources, investing in innovative solutions, and supporting technologies that help preserve Oman's resources while contributing to a green economy.

Our Commitment to Shareholders

The company maintains the principle of sustainable development, taking into consideration the growing demand for food in the region. The objective of our work is to take business decisions that lend credibility to our social, economic and environmental responsibilities and to realise Oman's vision of food security in the country.

Dividend

Considering the guidelines issued by the Financial Services Authority, the liquidity requirements for the operational needs, the Board proposes distributing a cash dividend to the Shareholders.

Taking into account the financial performance of the Group, the Board recommends to distribute dividend equal to 20 Baiza per share amounting to RO 2,400,000 of the face value of RO 0.100, to the Shareholders registered as on the date of Annual General Meeting.

Directors Remuneration

The Board of Directors recommends to the Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to approve the total Directors' remuneration of RO 250,000 to be paid to the Board of Directors, in recognition and appreciation of their efforts towards their responsibilities and for their continuous inputs, guidance and support to the management.

Outlook

The ongoing geopolitical situation and the continued disruptions in the Red Sea present a global risk to supply chains and trade flows, affecting the availability and transit times of containers, as well as driving price surges in commodities and goods. While Oman and the GCC have not been heavily impacted by this crisis thus far, the full impact on the global economy remains uncertain.

According to the economic outlook, domestic markets are expected to remain stable. A'Saffa will remain vigilant in managing risks through its well-established enterprise risk management function, ensuring that delivering high-quality products at competitive prices remains a top priority.

Human Resources

A'Saffa Foods gives great importance to its human resources and provide the training and skill development programs to enhance their competence. The company recruits suitably qualified personnel and engages them in a motivational working environment, which reflects on the company's performance.

Corporate Governance

The company is committed to adhere to the Corporate Governance rules for Shareholders, employees, consumers and the society as a whole to ensure its sustainable success. A separate report on compliance to the Code of Governance for MSX listed companies is enclosed.

Corporate Social Responsibility

A'Saffa Foods is deeply committed to its social responsibilities and actively supports community-related events and initiatives, recognizing that it is an integral part of society. The company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities are overseen by its dedicated CSR Committee.

In line with its commitment to social responsibility, the Board of Directors approved an allocation of RO 50,000 in the year 2024 to support a variety of humanitarian and charitable causes. This allocation was distributed donating RO 10,000 to assist those affected by the damage caused by Tropical Storm Al Matter in Oman in April 2024; RO 15,000 to the Association for the Welfare of Handicapped Children; RO 15,000 to the Dar Al Ata Association; and RO 10,000 allocated to support other charitable initiatives.

The company previously established a fund in collaboration with the office of the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar. A committee, consisting of government representatives and one A'Saffa delegate, has been formed to oversee the management of the fund.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Shareholders, Financial Institution, Customers, business associates, and the management and staff for their continued support to the company. I would also like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance for their great support to the company.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik bin Taimour Al Said for his wise guidance in achieving sustainable development in the country.

Eng. Ali Hilal Ali Al Kuwari
Chairman

CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT COMPANY'S (SEPARATE) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Parent Company		Group	
	2024 RO	2024 RO	**2024 RO**	2024 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	**55,240,887**	55,954,396	**59,081,531**	59,988,295
Right of use assets	**4,034,564**	1,338,111	**4,347,933**	1,506,946
Intangible assets	**1**	189	**1**	189
Investments in subsidiary	**1,350,000**	1,350,000	**-**	-
Equity-accounted investee	**6,108,998**	5,390,298	**6,108,998**	5,390,298
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**45,795**	46,225	**45,795**	46,225
Total non-current assets	**66,780,245**	64,079,219	**69,584,258**	66,931,953
Current assets				
Inventories	**11,696,241**	13,618,338	**12,767,647**	14,466,406
Biological assets	**3,029,011**	3,154,033	**3,029,011**	3,154,033
Trade and other receivables	**14,009,880**	13,747,723	**14,384,310**	14,109,363
Term deposits	**3,300,000**	3,300,000	**3,300,000**	3,300,000
Cash and cash equivalents	**941,871**	737,550	**1,029,295**	1,056,881
Total current assets	**32,977,003**	34,557,644	**34,510,263**	36,086,683
TOTAL ASSETS	**99,757,248**	98,636,863	**104,094,521**	103,018,636
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	**12,000,000**	12,000,000	**12,000,000**	12,000,000
Legal reserves	**4,000,000**	4,000,000	**4,566,804**	4,558,548
Retained earnings	**27,559,765**	23,037,428	**30,926,415**	26,232,933
Other reserve	**(2,431,642)**	(2,431,642)	**(2,431,642)**	(2,431,642)
TOTAL EQUITY	**41,128,123**	36,605,786	**45,061,577**	40,359,839
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	**31,939,443**	34,596,575	**31,939,443**	34,744,213
Lease liabilities	**3,987,195**	1,199,505	**4,325,987**	1,388,910
End of service benefits	**1,532,169**	1,330,541	**1,649,967**	1,412,763
Deferred tax liabilities	**1,234,116**	825,051	**1,412,231**	1,000,901
Total non-current liabilities	**38,692,923**	37,951,672	**39,327,628**	38,546,787
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	**6,907,379**	14,700,523	**7,027,732**	14,826,919
Lease liabilities	**299,433**	333,102	**307,739**	340,901
Tax payable	**448,198**	78,824	**551,905**	215,655
Trade and other payables	**12,281,192**	8,966,956	**11,817,940**	8,728,535
Total current liabilities	**19,936,202**	24,079,405	**19,705,316**	24,112,010
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**58,629,125**	62,031,077	**59,032,944**	62,658,797
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**99,757,248**	98,636,863	**104,094,521**	103,018,636
Net assets per share	**0.342**	0.305	**0.376**	0.336

CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT COMPANY'S (SEPARATE) STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Parent Company		Group	
	2024 RO	2024 RO	**2024 RO**	2024 RO
Revenue from contracts with customers	**64,966,142**	54,697,765	**63,951,877**	53,851,659
Cost of sales	**(48,239,968)**	(40,846,361)	**(46,141,880)**	(39,224,320)
Gross profit	**16,726,174**	13,851,404	**17,809,997**	14,627,339
Dividend income	**540,000**	540,000	**-**	-
Selling and distribution expenses	**(6,202,833)**	(6,079,767)	**(6,202,833)**	(5,734,770)
Administrative and general expenses	**(2,731,154)**	(2,158,961)	**(2,987,380)**	(2,402,116)
Reversal / (impairment loss) on financial assets	**9,824**	(89,734)	**9,824**	(89,734)
Other income	**10,216**	45,236	**19,006**	47,452
Operating profit	**8,352,227**	6,108,178	**8,648,614**	6,448,171
Finance income	**202,404**	118,975	**202,404**	118,975
Finance costs	**(2,695,060)**	(2,764,876)	**(2,735,858)**	(2,816,859)
Net finance costs	**(2,492,656)**	(2,645,901)	**(2,533,454)**	(2,697,884)
Share of loss on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss	**(430)**	(1,446)	**(430)**	(1,446)
Share of profit / (loss) of equity accounted investee (net of tax)	**718,700**	(427,107)	**718,700**	(427,107)
Profit before income tax	**6,577,841**	3,033,724	**6,833,430**	3,321,734
Income tax expense	**(855,504)**	(545,454)	**(931,692)**	(731,742)
Profit for the year	**5,722,337**	2,488,270	**5,901,738**	2,589,992
Other comprehensive income	**-**	-	**-**	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	**5,722,337**	2,488,270	**5,901,738**	2,589,992
Profit per share:				
Basic and Diluted earnings per share	**0.048**	0.021	**0.049**	0.022

35,000 families in Gaza suffer from severe shortage of basic supplies

Director of Medical Relief in Gaza appealed to international institutions to pressure the occupation to allow the entry of aid as Gaza Strip needs 60,000 caravans and 200,000 tents to provide relief to citizens

GAZA: Director of Medical Relief in Gaza, Mohammed Abu Afash, said that the suffering of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is worsening with the severity of cold waves, heavy rains, and the severe shortage of basic supplies, such as blankets, tents, and heating devices, which has caused the death of children due to the cold.

Abu Afash pointed out, in an interview with the Voice of Palestine Radio, that there are 35,000 families in the Gaza Strip still suffering as a result of the severe shortage in providing basic supplies.

He added that the Gaza Strip needs 60,000 caravans and 200,000 tents to provide relief to citizens, and he appealed to international institutions to pressure the occupation to allow the entry of aid.

Israeli troops have so far destroyed 40 residential buildings in Tulkarm

The head of the Popular Committee for Tulkarm Camp Services, Faisal Salama, said that the occupation forces are still occupying and besieging Tulkarm Camp for the 30th consecutive day, displacing its residents at gunpoint, and wreaking havoc in homes, streets, alleys, and all its facilities.

He added in a press statement today that the occupation forces, during its ongoing aggression, completely destroyed no less than 40 residential buildings, including 100 apartments, burned no less than 10 homes, destroyed no less than 300 shops, and partially destroyed hundreds of homes, and vandalised the belongings of hundreds of others inside the camp.

Salama explained that the occupation forces, in a dangerous precedent, paved a road that penetrated the depth of four neighborhoods in Tulkarm Camp, starting from the Balawneh neighbourhood, passing through Al-Hamam and Al-Sawalma neighborhoods, and reaching the services neighborhood on Dhnaba Street, which led to the demolition of 26 buildings and completely leveling them to the ground, and causing severe damage to all the surrounding buildings and facilities.

He stated that the occupation troops has forced more than 12,000 residents of Tulkarm camp to forcibly move, by threats and intimidation, to the city, suburbs and neighboring villages, while the education is still suspended, and thus 2,000 male and female students studying in the four UNRWA schools in the camp have been deprived of education for more than a month in addition to the suspension of health services for the camp residents.

The ongoing aggression on Tulkarm camp has also led to the complete and unprecedented destruction of the infrastructure, and has affected the electricity, water, sewage, communications and internet networks.

He pointed out that the occupation forces are seeking - as is clear - to achieve political and media goals, far from the security and military goals that it claims, and the most important thing it aims for is to strike the refugee issue and erase it, by killing the symbolism of the camp by re-engineering the architectural and demographic nature of the camp, and emptying it of its residents, or reducing their number to a minimum, by destroying and burning the largest possible number of homes, and eliminating basic services, which makes life inside the camp impossible.

Jenin: Israeli aggression continues for the 36th day in a row

The Israeli occupation continues its aggression on the city of Jenin and its camp for the thirty-sixth consecutive day, which has so far killed leaving 27 Palestinians, dozens of injuries, and detentions, amidst widespread destruction of property and infrastructure.

The occupation forces withdrew this morning from the town of Qabatiya after a 48-hour raid, which left two injuries, one of them serious, and the detention of a number of people, massive destruction of citizens' property and shops, the destruction of water and electricity networks, the bulldozing of infrastructure and the destruction of the main vehicle garage in the town. The occupation also destroyed a bus belonging to the Orphan Care Society in the town, as the raid led to the closure of the vegetable, while the occupation forces raided dozens of homes and turned some of them into military barracks. – WAFA

NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Syrian conference seeks way forward after Assad ouster

DAMASCUS: Around 600 people from different areas of Syria attended a national dialogue conference in the capital, Damascus, on Tuesday, as the new rulers said they wanted an inclusive discourse on the country's future governance after almost 14 years of civil war.

The long-awaited conference came after strongman Bashar Assad was ousted from power in December in a lightning offensive by an alliance of groups led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), whose former leader, Ahmad al-Sharaa, is now interim president.

Syria faces big challenges

The organisers of the conference said all of Syria's communities were invited, but it was not immediately clear to what extent minorities — including Kurds, Christians, Druze and members of Assad's Alawite sect — have been represented.

The aim of the conference was to come up with nonbinding recommendations on the country's interim rules before a new constitution is drafted and a new government is formed. They will be considered by a transitional government that is set to take power on March 1.

The country faces major challenges, including rebuilding an economy and infrastructure that have been heavily damaged by conflict, rewriting a new constitution and putting in place mechanisms for bringing to justice those accused of war crimes.

Syria's interim leader made opening remarks at the national dialogue conference.

"Just as Syria has liberated itself by itself, it is appropriate for it to build itself by itself," Sharaa told the conference.

"What we are experiencing today is an exceptional and rare historical opportunity in which we must use every moment to serve the interests of our people and our nation and honor the sacrifices of its children," he said.

Earlier this month, Sharaa said that it could take four to five years to organise and two to three years to rewrite the constitution.

He also emphasised that the state should have a monopoly on arms going forward.

"The unity of arms and their monopoly by the state is not a luxury but a duty and an obligation," Sharaa said. "Syria is indivisible; it is a complete whole, and its strength lies in its unity."

His remarks come as some armed groups, including the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in power in the northeast, continue to refuse to disarm and disband their military units.

The new rulers have promised an inclusive political transition after seizing power, but several minorities have voiced fears that they will be subject to discrimination and said they were not properly represented at Tuesday's conference.

Particularly parties in the self-governed Kurdish administration of northeast Syria said minorities were insufficiently present.

In a joint statement, the 35 parties said: "Conferences with token representation ... are meaningless, worthless, and will not contribute to finding real solutions to the country's ongoing crisis."

The Kurdish administration and the SDF were not invited because armed groups were not permitted, according to organizers.

The conference will have been watched closely by the international community, with many countries still weighing whether to lift sanctions imposed during Assad's authoritarian rule. – DW

JAZEERA STEEL حديد الجزيرة

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 31 DECEMBER 2024

Dear Shareholders,

By the grace, assistance, and direction of the Almighty God and in a period of renewed renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, it gives me pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG, to invite you all to the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Company and to present the Annual Report for the company, Audited Financial Statement and Auditors Report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Key points of 2024 Operational Performance

The company performed strongly in 2024, with a significant rise in net profits of 93% year on year. Sales for the year have increased by 1% over the previous year. This has been achieved by increased focus on profitability and optimizing sales, inventory management and cost control. The company could capitalize on the rebound in the construction sector along with new project awards notably in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and sustained construction activity in Oman.

The Company focused on the health and safety of its employees as a paramount concern and continues to do everything possible to ensure that employees stay protected, and the plant operations continued uninterruptedly.

Geopolitical events shaped the global economy through the year and will continue to do so in the coming year as well. Chinese growth in domestic consumption remained lower than expected while the positive impact of stimulus injection is expected to be felt soon on the economy. European economies remained stagnant, and the world was speculating on the policies that would be introduced by the new US government and the far-reaching impact that their policies would have on economies around the world.

Despite the economic headwinds faced by developed countries, GCC continued to be a glimmer of hope for steel consumption. We are seeing mega projects taking shape predominantly in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and other GCC economies catching up. 2024's performance has been better than 2023 and has set a record for the value of projects awarded, at 264 Bln USD in the GCC. Saudi Arabia has shown the strongest growth among all GCC countries at 22% yoy at 144.3 Bln USD worth of projects awarded. The United Arab Emirates and Oman remained stable at 81 Bln USD and 11 Bln USD worth of project awards respectively.

2024 has been a game-changer in terms of investments in the GCC. While construction had been the major sector for investments until 2023, 2024 has seen a shift to power, oil and transport, indicating strong focus on the GCC governments in these sectors for the years to come.

The company has upgraded its Tube mills to cater to the Oil and Gas companies especially in Oman and reduce its reliance on the commodity pipe segment. I am glad to mention that the company has successfully got American Petroleum Institute (API) approval for use of its monogram, this will help us address the oil and gas segment in Oman and wider GCC.

The Company has also successfully completed the upgrade of their merchant bar mill and has developed the capability to produce a wider product range and move up towards higher-end products for the construction sector.

The Company continues to invest in human resources and provides training to its employees to develop their skills at various levels. Local employment is encouraged, and we have achieved 43% Omanisation in our workforce. Recently the company successfully completed annual sports events aimed at encouraging teamwork and improving employee motivation.

Despite the multiple challenges faced, the company with its consistent operations, optimizing sales and smarter procurement could end the year with a net profit of RO 7,767 million which represents a 93% jump year on year. This is commendable especially considering numerous unexpected challenges faced by the team.

Particulars	Group			Parent		
	2024	2023	Change %	2024	2023	Change %
Production quantity in MT	452,357	449,061	1%	452,357	449,061	1%
Sales quantity in MT	476,789	476,319	0%	479,500	476,045	1%
Sales Value in RO	146,685,336	142,402,924	3%	145,864,579	140,676,654	4%
Net Profit in RO	7,090,156	4,099,514	73%	7,767,025	4,024,107	93%

Looking Ahead

While it is widely expected that 2025 will see some geopolitical solutions to the raging wars in the region and various parts of the world, there is widespread speculation of new trade wars.

The market continues to look for key clues from the US on the shape of future tariff barriers and their impact. Trade imbalances due to increased imports from China, could be a major challenge. However, we are confident that the company will continue its "close to the customer" approach to mitigate the challenges to a great extent.

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) Global Growth remains Divergent and Uncertain. Global growth is projected at 3.3 percent both in 2025 and 2026.

We remain cautiously optimistic about the future growth of our company and the region with the hope of continuing investments by the governments into the infrastructural sector and continuing international investments players into the residential sector in this region.

Dividends:

The Board of Directors is pleased to recommend a cash dividend of 43 Baiza for the year for every share held. The following table shows the dividend declared during the past years.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cash Dividend (in Baiza)	5	14	44	15	19

Internal Control Systems and their adequacy

The Company has proper and adequate systems of internal controls required to ensure that all assets are safeguarded and protected against unauthorized use or disposition and that all transactions are authorized and reported correctly. The internal control system is supplemented by an extensive program of internal audits, review by management, documented policies, guidance, and procedures. The internal control system is designed to ensure that all data is reliable for preparing and maintaining financial statements.

The Company has an audit committee comprising of non-executive directors to review the audit work which in turn is reviewed by the Board.

The greatest strength of your Company is the quality and spirit of its people. Also, it enjoys a good reputation in the market for its quality and dependability. Both these factors have contributed positively to its growth and development. I would like to record my appreciation and sincere gratitude to all the employees of Jazeera Steel, who toiled under very difficult conditions taking all due precautions to produce positive results.

M/s KPMG the Company's Auditors have audited the accounts up to 31 December 2024 and their report is enclosed.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all our stakeholders consisting of Management, the Union, Bankers, Suppliers, Customers, Muscat Stock Exchange and all our Shareholders for their support and cooperation, which in turn reflects their confidence placed in us.

Above all, we pay tribute to the visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq as he leads Oman into a new era and vow to support all his endeavors to take Oman to greater heights of prosperity and development.

On Behalf of the Board

Amal Suhail Salim Bahwan
Chairperson
9 February 2025

Consolidated and separate statement of financial position as at

(Expressed in Omani Rial)

	Group		Parent Company	
	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	35,188,707	18,561,586	21,509,139	17,061,353
Right-of-use assets	12,129,682	12,429,096	2,780,953	2,923,897
Intangible assets	245,821	320,781	245,821	320,781
Investment in a subsidiary	-	-	6,072,663	1,914,283
Deferred tax assets	223,328	137,800	77,273	68,127
Total non-current assets	47,787,538	31,449,263	30,685,849	22,288,441
Current assets				
Inventories	27,209,359	27,422,174	25,877,812	26,781,209
Trade and other receivables	38,071,198	39,194,446	35,916,061	37,168,132
Prepayments	420,725	225,031	291,821	189,993
Bank Deposits	669,557	654,218	608,495	593,156
Cash and cash equivalents	7,182,785	10,753,793	6,516,915	9,692,215
Total current assets	73,553,624	78,249,662	69,211,104	74,424,705
Total assets	121,341,162	109,698,925	99,896,953	96,713,146
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	12,489,796	12,489,796	12,489,796	12,489,796
Share premium	13,856,484	13,856,484	13,856,484	13,856,484
Legal reserve	4,166,344	4,166,344	4,163,266	4,163,266
Retained earnings	26,191,144	21,513,187	26,139,333	20,826,135
Equity attributable to owners	56,703,768	52,025,811	56,648,879	51,335,681
Non-controlling interest	1,398,306	399,132	-	-
Total Equity	58,102,074	52,424,943	56,648,879	51,335,681
Non-current liabilities				
Bank borrowings	7,543,554	1,319,246	-	-
Employees' end of service benefits	2,759,104	2,044,383	2,672,674	1,997,428
Lease liabilities - non-current portion	13,457,617	13,292,909	3,065,418	3,057,790
Other Long Term Liabilities	60,428	-	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	23,820,703	16,656,538	5,738,092	5,055,218
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	20,595,245	18,749,020	19,173,499	18,481,169
Bank borrowings	16,787,084	21,102,981	16,787,084	21,102,981
Lease liabilities - current portion	687,357	233,560	205,654	223,664
Income tax payable	1,348,699	531,883	1,343,745	514,433
Total current liabilities	39,418,385	40,617,444	37,509,982	40,322,247
Total liabilities	63,239,088	57,273,982	43,248,074	45,377,465
Total equity and liabilities	121,341,162	109,698,925	99,896,953	96,713,146
Net assets per share	0.454	0.417	0.454	0.411

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December

(Expressed in Omani Rial)

	Group		Parent Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenue from contract with customers	146,685,336	142,402,924	145,864,579	140,676,654
Cost of revenue	(123,087,752)	(122,719,155)	(123,288,604)	(122,032,989)
Gross profit	23,597,584	19,683,769	22,575,975	18,643,665
Other income	2,367	4,530	464,085	414,946
	23,599,951	19,688,299	23,040,060	19,058,611
Expenses				
Selling and distribution expenses	(8,193,854)	(8,546,205)	(8,047,677)	(8,434,780)
General and administrative expenses	(5,829,171)	(4,865,260)	(4,771,148)	(4,432,384)
Other operating expenses	(25,102)	(14,957)	(25,102)	(15,582)
Release / (allowance for) of expected credit losses on trade receivables	49,041	(72,179)	56,486	(63,841)
	(13,999,086)	(13,498,601)	(12,787,441)	(12,946,587)
Operating profit for the year	9,600,865	6,189,698	10,252,619	6,112,024
Finance expense	(1,320,871)	(1,528,467)	(1,224,255)	(1,468,650)
Finance income	111,127	101,787	111,127	101,787
Profit before tax for the year	8,391,121	4,763,018	9,139,491	4,745,161
Income tax expense	(1,300,965)	(663,504)	(1,372,466)	(721,054)
Profit for the year	7,090,156	4,099,514	7,767,025	4,024,107
Profit attributable to:	7,131,223	4,114,392	7,767,025	4,024,107
Parent Company	(41,067)	(14,878)	-	-
Non-controlling interest	7,090,156	4,099,514	7,767,025	4,024,107
Basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to shareholders of the Parent Company (RO)	0.057	0.033	0.062	0.032

The Quality standard in Steel

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ذات المواصفات عالمية الجودة

شركة الجزيرة للمنتجات الحديدية ش.م.ع.ع
مدينة صحار الصناعية ، ص.ب: ٤٠، الرمز البريدي: ٣٢٧، صحار، سلطنة عمان
هاتف: ٢٦٧٥١٧٦٣/٤/٥ (٩٦٨)، فاكس: ٢٦٧٥١٧٦٦ (٩٦٨)
بريد إلكتروني: contact@jazeerasteel.com

SPORTS

Al Harthy ready for Qatar 10-hour endurance race

The Omani star will kick-start his 2025 FIA WEC campaign along with motorsport legend Valentino Rossi and Kelvin van der Linte

MUSCAT: Oman's experienced motor racing star Ahmad Al Harthy is set to kick off his 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) campaign with renewed determination as he targets a strong start at the Qatar 10-hour 1,812km race on Friday (Feb. 28).

Competing in the LMGT3 class, Al Harthy returns for his second FIA WEC season alongside global motorsport icon Valentino Rossi in the No.46 BMW M4 LMGT3, prepared by Team WRT.

Joining the duo this year is South African GT ace Kelvin van der Linde, adding further firepower to the team's championship aspirations.

The highly anticipated season opener at Lusail International Circuit in Qatar marks the beginning of a crucial year for Al Harthy, who aims to build on his impressive 2024 campaign, where he secured two podium finishes and a sixth-place championship standing in LMGT3.

Fresh off a successful two-day Prologue test last weekend, the Omani racer is confident in the team's potential. The striking new blue and yellow livery of the No.46 BMW M4 LMGT3 - featuring key partners OQ Group, Sohar International, Omantel, BMW Oman, the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, and Experience Oman - was unveiled in Lusail, setting the stage for an intense battle on the track.

Ahead of the Qatar race, Al Harthy said, "After a long winter, we're back in FIA World Endurance and absolutely ready to challenge as hard as we can in LMGT3."

"The car looks amazing in its new livery, it feels incredible to drive, and with a full season of experience from last year, I'm confident we have a great package to compete against a very strong field."

With the addition of van der Linde, a Platinum-graded driver, alongside Silver-graded Rossi and Bronze-graded Al Harthy, Team WRT boasts a formidable lineup. However, Al Harthy remains realistic about the challenges ahead in what promises to be a competitive LMGT3 field.

"It's going to be fantastic teaming with Vale and Kelvin this year. We're all focused and determined to do our best, and we know we have an incredible team behind us at WRT," Al Harthy added.

"We won't fully know where we stand until qualifying begins, but we are pushing for a strong result to start the season."

Beyond personal ambitions, Al Harthy continues to serve as a proud ambassador for Oman. His outstanding contributions to the sport were recognised last year with the prestigious Sultan's Medal of Appreciation from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

A strong result in Qatar would be a fitting way to start the new season, especially on Middle Eastern soil where Al Harthy always enjoys tremendous support.

"I always enjoy racing close to home in the Middle East, and we're expecting a lot of support from friends and family. Hopefully, we can make the start we all want and proudly fly the flag for Oman here in Qatar."

The action begins with two free practice sessions on Wednesday, followed by a final practice session and qualifying on Thursday at 17:00 local time. The 10-hour Qatar 1,812km endurance race will go green at 14:00 local time on Friday. Fans can follow the excitement at www.fiawec.com.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by April 2025 reaching $76.94, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 35 cents from the price of Monday, which was $76.59. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,410.40 points, down by 0.4% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.41% at 407.20 points. Construction Materials, up 9.33%, was the top gainer while Aman REIT, down 5.50%, was the top loser.

Development Bank funded education loans worth OMR18.8 million in 2024

The portfolio, aimed to serve all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, reflects the bank's efforts to support private sector investments in the field of education

MUSCAT: The number of education loans in the Development Bank's portfolio until the end of 2024 stood at 509 loans worth OMR18.8 million.

The portfolio, aimed to serve all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, reflects the bank's efforts to support private sector investments in educational fields.

As many as 138 loans, worth OMR12.8 million, were approved for the education sector during the year 2024, according to statistics issued by the bank.

Activities-wise, the general secondary education segment was accorded the greatest value of the loans (a total of OMR3.6 million for 13 loans), followed by the university colleges segment (OMR3.5 million for one loan), the training services segment (OMR588,000 for 4 loans) and the kindergartens segment (OMR257,000 for 26 loans).

Region-wise, the Governorate of Muscat occupied 65% of the value of the approved loans (worth OMR 8.3 million), followed by North A'Sharqiyah (18% of the value of loans, worth OMR 2.3 million) and North Al Batinah (9% worth OMR 1.1 million). -ONA

COLLABORATION

OQGN, GUtech partner to drive innovation and sustainability

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To mark a significant beginning of 2025, OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), the exclusive operator of Oman's natural gas transmission network, signed a partnership agreement with GUtech, a leading university in the region, achieving internationally recognized standards in education, research and innovation, aiming at shaping the future of innovation and sustainability.

The collaborative agreement was signed by Honorable Dr. Hussain Al Salmi, Deputy Rector for Administration and Finances at and Eng. Saif Al Hosni, VP Business Development & Commercial at OQGN.

This partnership consolidates the ongoing efforts of both institutions and continued commitment to excellence. It aims at pioneering applied research and development in the construction sector as well as in the energy sector to drive meaningful innovative changes.

This agreement also reinforces both OQGN and GUtech commitment to align with Oman Vision 2040 priorities mainly focusing on Smart and Sustainable Urban Development and Energy Transition, focusing on Renewable Energy. This agreement is also in line with SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure and SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

This first project stemming from this agreement would consist of establishing a new 3D printed house showcasing rapid sustainable construction combining energy-efficient strategies, utilizing sustainable materials, and incorporating environmentally friendly design practices.

On this occasion, Prof.Michael Braun, the Rector of GUtech, stated : "We have not only developed a tailor-made degree program called the "Master of Science in Hydrogen Economy and Technology" but have also significantly expanded our applied research in relevant areas and aspects of hydrogen technology. The new building will be the second 3D printed building on campus, however, powered exclusively by renewable energy sources as well as an integrated hydrogen-based power supply and energy storage system - thus representing the entire H2 value chain itself".

On this occasion, Eng. Saif Al Hosni, OQGN VP Business Development & Commercial, stated: "This partnership with GUtech represents a significant milestone in our shared commitment to advancing innovation and sustainability. By combining our strengths and aligning with Oman Vision 2040, we aim to revolutionize the construction and energy sectors, creating a sustainable future for generations to come. This initiative is not only a step forward in applied research but also a powerful demonstration of how collaboration, technology, and education can drive meaningful change in our communities."

Through this project and by aligning shared values and objectives, GUtech and OQGN aim to lead the way to harnessing the power of science and technology and creating significant educational, societal and economic impact.

This building will function as a living lab, hosting the first and unique hydrogen reactor, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities. Researchers will benefit from favorable and optimal environment and infrastructure to apply their ideas, demonstrate innovative concepts, and showcase their findings.

It will also serve as an ideal platform for GUtech Master's students in the "first" and "unique" Master of Science in Hydrogen Economy and Technology, offering them the opportunity to apply their knowledge and explore their scientific curiosity in this emerging field.

This project will bring together experts, professionals, researchers, industrial partners, students, and stakeholders in an open space for discovery, collaboration, and the development of future solutions. Additionally, it will engage the wider community by raising awareness on sustainability, renewable energy, and other critical topics.

'INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE'

Shell Oman hosts 1st Lubricants Technology Conference in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its commitment to advancing the lubricants technologies, Shell Oman recently convened industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders at the Shell Lubricants Technology Conference, held at the Sheraton Oman Hotel.

The event spotlighted Shell Oman's role in developing cutting-edge lubricants and solutions for the construction, oil and gas and power sectors. These solutions tend to reduce the total cost of ownership, reduce energy consumption and support the transition toward a more sustainable energy future in line with the Oman 2040 vision.

Commenting on the conference, Mohamed El Fatatry – General Manager – Lubricants, Supply Chain & Customer Operations at Shell Oman stated, "Innovation and collaboration are the driving forces behind a successful energy transition, and at Shell Oman, we are dedicated to developing lubricant technologies that enhance industrial performance while advancing sustainability. As Oman strengthens its position as a regional leader in energy transition, we continue to integrate sustainability at every level — ensuring our solutions are both commercially viable and environmentally responsible. This conference serves as a platform to exchange actionable insights on achieving Net Zero by 2050, emphasizing the role of partnerships in shaping a lower-carbon future.

"By continuously refining our innovations, we aim to drive long-term resilience, empower industries to adopt sustainable practices, and contribute meaningfully to Oman's energy ambitions."

Focusing on 'Innovation for a Sustainable Future', Mohamed ElFatatry's keynote address underscored the pivotal role of advanced technologies and strategic foresight in achieving net-zero emissions. In addition to broader discussions on energy efficiency and decarbonization, the conference featured specialized sessions on innovations in oil and gas operations and advanced solutions for the construction industry. These sessions offered in-depth technical insights into modern lubricant technologies, highlighting their role in optimizing heavy machinery, extending asset lifespan, and enhancing operational efficiency in complex industrial settings.

The event not only showcased cutting-edge technologies but also highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration in accelerating Oman's energy transition. Discussions emphasized the role of strong partnerships with OEMs, vendors, and suppliers in setting sustainability benchmarks and driving collective progress toward a greener future. Shell Oman's commitment to capacity building, In-Country Value (ICV) enhancement, and Omanization was also a key focus, reinforcing its efforts to develop local talent while advancing economic and environmental resilience. By investing in innovative technologies and cleaner energy solutions, Shell Oman is enabling businesses to adapt to an evolving energy landscape, linking sustainability with long-term commercial growth and strengthening its market position.

Shell Oman's Lubricant Oil Blending Plant (LOBP) is a hub of innovation, efficiency, and sustainability, adhering to strict quality and HSSE standards. Serving local and regional markets, it exports to 14 countries while being powered by skilled Omani talent and global best practices. The plant reinforces Oman's position as a regional energy leader. Shell Lubricants further drives efficiency with cutting-edge solutions like PurePlus GTL technology, delivering cleaner, high-performance lubricants that enhance durability, reduce costs, and boost sustainability. By integrating innovation with a diverse product portfolio, Shell transforms Oman's business landscape with future-ready solutions.

By hosting this conference, the company reaffirms its commitment to industry leadership and knowledge-sharing. In a rapidly evolving energy landscape, such platforms are essential in providing stakeholders with valuable insights while positioning Shell Oman as a driving force for progress—solidifying its vision for a more efficient, resilient, and greener future.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

'Ruwad Alizz' graduates present impactful projects

MUSCAT: The fourth batch of the renowned 'Ruwad Alizz' leadership programme recently presented their graduation projects. The projects had to showcase added value in process enhancement, applicability, sustainability and the potential to make a significant impact.

An esteemed judging panel lead by the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, Ali Al Mani alongside other members of the executive management team of the bank then evaluated the presentations across 13 competencies to determine the winning project proposal.

Ruwad Alizz is a collaboration with Harvard Manage Mentor, the e-learning platform affiliated with Harvard University, offers a comprehensive training experience. The fourth batch comprises of 40 leaders, 20 from Alizz Islamic Bank and 20 from other esteemed Government & Private Sector institutions. The program entails six consecutive months of dedicated study consisting of online and in-person classroom training.

The learning journey also includes a mentorship programme, thought leadership sessions and industrial visits to leading corporations and meeting inspiring CEOs to gain insights from their leadership experiences, with the first three batches having already developed more than 90 future leaders which contributes to the development of Omani talent to enhance their leadership skills. Alizz Islamic Bank continues to focus on the development of the Omani future generation across various industries to ensure ongoing success and impact.

Participants also undergo various examinations from Harvard University to apply their acquired knowledge in practical scenarios. Furthermore, the program was designed to focus on group projects and foster collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving while preparing the candidates for the realities of the workplace.

Additionally, it enhanced learning outcomes by encouraging active participation, diverse perspective and peer learning.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Construction Materials, up 9.33%, was the top gainer while Aman REIT, down 5.50%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,410.40 points, down by 0.4% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.41% at 407.20 points. Construction Materials, up 9.33%, was the top gainer while Aman REIT, down 5.50%, was the top loser. Shares of Oman & Emirates Investment were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1029 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.47 million, with more than 21.75 million shares changing hands. Out of 57 traded securities, 18 advanced, 19 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 66K while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 58K, followed by foreign investors for RO 8K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,683.54 points, down 0.22%. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Taageer Finance, United Finance, Bank Nizwa, National Finance were up by 2.30%, 1.85%, 1.70%, 1.00%, 0.76% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, National Bank Oman, Takaful Oman, Al Madina Takaful, Oman Arab Bank were down by 4.44%, 3.45%, 2.17%, 1.16%, 0.69% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,841.12 points, up 0.36%. Prices of Construction Materials, Gulf International Chemicals, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy, Oman Flour Mills were up by 9.33%, 4.23%, 3.31%, 2.52%, 2.38% respectively. Prices of Oman Cement, Oman Fisheries, Galfar Engineering, A'Saffa Foods were down by 3.92%, 3.03%, 2.53%, 0.51% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.16% before closing at 1,633.56 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Jazeera Services, Phoenix Power, Muscat Desalination were up by 5.57%, 3.33%, 2.35%, 1.72%, 1.54% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Ooredoo, Renaissance Services, Al Batinah Power, Oman Telecom were down by 3.18%, 2.44%, 1.98%, 1.45%, 1.32% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,443.44	4,410.40	4,410.40	4,428.17	-17.78	-0.40
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,710.16	7,677.30	7,683.54	7,700.58	-17.03	-0.22
Industry Index	5,854.45	5,773.28	5,841.12	5,820.08	21.05	0.36
Services Index	1,646.70	1,632.83	1,633.56	1,631.01	2.55	0.16
MSX Shariah Index	408.36	405.60	407.20	408.87	-1.67	-0.41
MSX TR INDEX	6,225.21	6,178.92	6,178.92	6,203.82	-24.90	-0.40
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,759.53	8,722.20	8,729.29	8,748.64	-19.35	-0.22
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,754.65	6,660.99	6,739.27	6,714.98	24.28	0.36
SERVICES TR IDX	1,974.83	1,958.20	1,959.07	1,956.02	3.06	0.16
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	1,166.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
21,759,177	3,468,843	1,029	27,152,441,465	18	19	20	57

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	58,210	5,401	10	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.090	0.003	3.333	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	88,775,191
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	389,700	47,754	53	0.120	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.121	0.004	3.306	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	407,289	35,959	41	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.087	0.002	2.299	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	42,607	2,556	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.695	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	21,367,638
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,684,344	428,293	49	0.255	0.255	0.253	0.255	0.254	0.001	0.394	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	5,350,940	342,728	14	0.068	0.068	0.064	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.065	0.068	0.100	8,287,500
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	48,850	18,843	16	0.386	0.388	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.000	0.000	0.385	0.382	0.384	0.100	48,085,715
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,777,378	231,604	45	0.131	0.131	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	860,242,015
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	1,029,500	67,981	31	0.066	0.067	0.063	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.065	0.068	0.100	47,150,818
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	2,500	673	2	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.000	0.000	0.269	0.270	0.278	0.100	18,934,910
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,450,925	351,064	178	0.246	0.250	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.000	0.000	0.238	0.238	0.240	0.100	183,307,600
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	844,966	109,404	83	0.130	0.131	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.129	0.133	0.100	558,650,486
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	5,000	1,940	3	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.388	0.390	-0.002	-0.513	0.388	0.380	0.390	0.100	46,560,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	11,348	3,655	3	0.323	0.323	0.321	0.321	0.323	-0.002	-0.619	0.321	0.317	0.321	0.100	214,545,302
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	127,911	10,891	18	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.080	0.086	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	208,632	174,854	26	0.847	0.847	0.824	0.824	0.835	-0.011	-1.317	0.824	0.824	0.829	0.100	618,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	243,390	16,542	13	0.067	0.069	0.067	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.064	0.069	0.100	45,892,345
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	372,070	129,351	26	0.352	0.352	0.346	0.346	0.353	-0.007	-1.983	0.346	0.345	0.349	0.100	81,797,860
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	135,829	27,188	32	0.205	0.205	0.200	0.200	0.205	-0.005	-2.439	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	130,188,846
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	689,836	193,154	19	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.290	-0.010	-3.448	0.280	0.280	0.299	0.100	455,264,979
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	128,051	63,345	36	0.480	0.510	0.480	0.490	0.510	-0.020	-3.922	0.490	0.490	0.500	0.100	162,127,628
Total	21	15,009,276	2,263,180	699												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	88,896	7,152	10	0.075	0.082	0.075	0.082	0.075	0.007	9.333	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	5,125,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	623,800	216,801	26	0.346	0.360	0.346	0.360	0.341	0.019	5.572	0.360	0.359	0.360	0.100	71,868,816
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	177,500	13,134	17	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.071	0.003	4.225	0.074	0.073	0.076	0.100	1,554,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	7,535	900	3	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.116	0.004	3.448	0.120	0.114	0.119	0.100	70,972,426
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	128,145	77,102	22	0.602	0.610	0.590	0.610	0.595	0.015	2.521	0.610	0.605	0.610	0.100	49,655,678
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	25,750	11,073	4	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.420	0.010	2.381	0.430	0.421	0.430	0.100	67,725,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	850	148	1	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.170	0.004	2.353	0.174	0.160	0.174	0.100	7,454,680
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	1,000	110	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.852	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.100	29,819,955
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	474,063	27,628	22	0.058	0.060	0.056	0.059	0.058	0.001	1.724	0.059	0.057	0.060	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	238	16	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.064	0.066	0.100	10,266,326
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	5,050	389	5	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.001	1.316	0.077	0.072	0.078	0.100	39,164,610
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	62,626	6,329	6	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.000	0.101	0.101	0.102	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	47,343	6,292	3	0.133	0.133	0.131	0.133	0.132	0.001	0.758	0.131	0.131	0.133	0.100	76,302,669
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	25,500	1,913	4	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.082	0.100	6,375,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	12,460	586	2	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.100	14,435,877
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	141	23	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.000	0.165	0.100	5,351,917
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	21,997	1,474	3	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.066	0.068	0.100	19,369,906
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	20,500	3,455	3	0.169	0.169	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.000	0.000	0.168	0.160	0.168	0.100	394,742,454
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	800	200	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	44,959,350
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	4,300	540	2	0.125	0.126	0.125	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.123	0.126	0.100	6,930,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,354,724	422,751	89	0.312	0.313	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.000	0.000	0.312	0.312	0.310	0.010	2,496,000,000
OM0000009908	OQ BASE INDUSTRIES (SFZ)	2,099,605	211,777	48	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.040	345,949,085
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	8,558	1,224	1	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.143	0.144	-0.001	-0.694	0.143	0.143	0.145	0.100	238,725,630
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	4,828	217	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.046	-0.001	-2.174	0.045	0.045	0.048	0.100	11,250,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,133,196	88,330	20	0.079	0.079	0.077	0.077	0.079	-0.002	-2.532	0.077	0.077	0.080	0.100	15,629,956
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	80,332	4,930	8	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.061	0.063	-0.002	-3.175	0.061	0.062	0.063	0.100	13,556,640
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	38,510	1,656	1	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.045	-0.002	-4.444	0.043	0.043	0.045	0.100	3,655,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	19,000	1,634	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.091	-0.005	-5.495	0.086	0.086	0.091	0.100	17,200,000
Total	28	6,467,247	1,107,781	306												

MEDIUM-TERM LENDING FACILITY

China conducts $41.83 billion MLF operation

BEIJING: China's central bank conducted a 300-billion-yuan (about $41.83 billion) medium-term lending facility (MLF) operation to maintain ample liquidity in the country's banking system.

The MLF operation features a one-year maturity period and an interest rate of 2%, unchanged from the rate of the previous operation conducted last month, according to a statement on the website of the People's Bank of China.

After the latest operation, the outstanding MLF balance stood at 4.09 trillion yuan.

The operation was a scaled-down rollover, as a total of 500 billion yuan of MLF will mature this month. -**ONA**

SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROJECT

Sohar Aluminium, MoH lay foundation for dialysis unit project in Dhank

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Aluminium (SA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, represented by the General Directorate of Health Services in Al Dhahirah Governorate, celebrated the groundbreaking of the Dialysis Unit project at Dhank Health Centre, as one of the social investment projects that are funded by Sohar Aluminium.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place in the Wilayat of Dhank, under the patronage of Musallam bin Ahmed Al Mashani, Wali of Dhank, and was attended by officials from Sohar Aluminium and the Ministry of Health.

The Dialysis Unit aims to serve the patients who currently have to travel long distances to receive treatment at Ibri or Yanqul hospitals. It also seeks to reduce long waiting times and prevent patients from undergoing treatment at late hours as one of the challenges for which this unit has been established.

Commenting on this project, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Kharusi, General Manager of HR and Corporate Affairs at Sohar Aluminium, stated, "Establishing this project aligns with Sohar Aluminium's commitment towards its social responsibility and a testimony of its belief in the importance of supporting the healthcare sector, as one of the most vital sectors in the Sultanate."

"Sohar Aluminium is committed to funding sustainable social investment projects and therefore, it prioritises financing various strategic sectors, with healthcare being at the forefront. This project is part of the company's collaboration with the Ministry of Health and represents an addition to the previous projects funded by Sohar Aluminium to establish healthcare facilities and equip hospitals and health centres with medical devices," Al Kharusi added.

Dr. Ahmed bin Said bin Khamis AlKalbani, Director General of the General Directorate of Health Services in Al Dhahirah Governorate, commented, "This project, which reflects the Ministry of Health's commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare services under the supervision of a qualified medical team, will help meet the increasing needs for kidney disease patients and elevate the quality of healthcare services provided to them."

"The Dialysis Unit at Dhank Health Centre will be built in accordance with the technical specifications and standards approved by the Ministry of Health, contributing to a remarkable improvement in the medical services offered in the Wilayat of Dhank and the whole Al Dhahirah Governorate," Al Kalbani added.

The Dialysis Unit project will cover a built-up area of 375 sqm and will include several facilities, such as dialysis area, a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant for purifying water for dialysis treatments, in addition to observation rooms equipped with beds, waiting areas, a medical equipment and instruments maintenance workshop, a store,a nurses station, an isolation room, a consultation room, medical instrument rooms, a doctor room, as well as other facilities.

It is worth noting that the funding of this project by Sohar Aluminium reflects the importance of public-private partnerships in the development of the healthcare sector in Oman.

Additionally, it supports the government's efforts made to improve and boost healthcare services, in particular, while contributing to social services and developmental projects, in general, aiming to generate sustainable benefits for the community across the various governorates.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I , Charutha Toldrin (holder of Indian passport No. P7458818) daughter of Thomas Devasia having permanent residence in Vasishta (H), Thekkemukkiyoor, Kottathara, Palakkad, Kerala, 678581 (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in Nizwa, Firq, PO Box 1222, Postal Code 611, Nizwa, Oman (complete postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from **CHARUTHA TOLDRIN** (old name) to **CHARUTHA VASISHT** (new name) for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India Muscat Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair PO Box 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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Tender Cost: 10.00 OMR

Last date of Tender Collection	06-03-2025
Last date of submission	13-03-2025
Tender documents received from	The Accounts Department/Principal's Office during working hours

CONTACT: Phone: +968 91905641 / +968 96746912
Email: info.bdschool@gmail.com iqbal.dimension@gmail.com

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Indian lawyer with 5 yrs of experience seeking suitable placement.
Contact: 94309279, Email: firozshajahan.law@gmail.com

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Contact: 95759832,
Email: ar.ahmedfaizal@gmail.com

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Email: nivyakraj123@gmail.com

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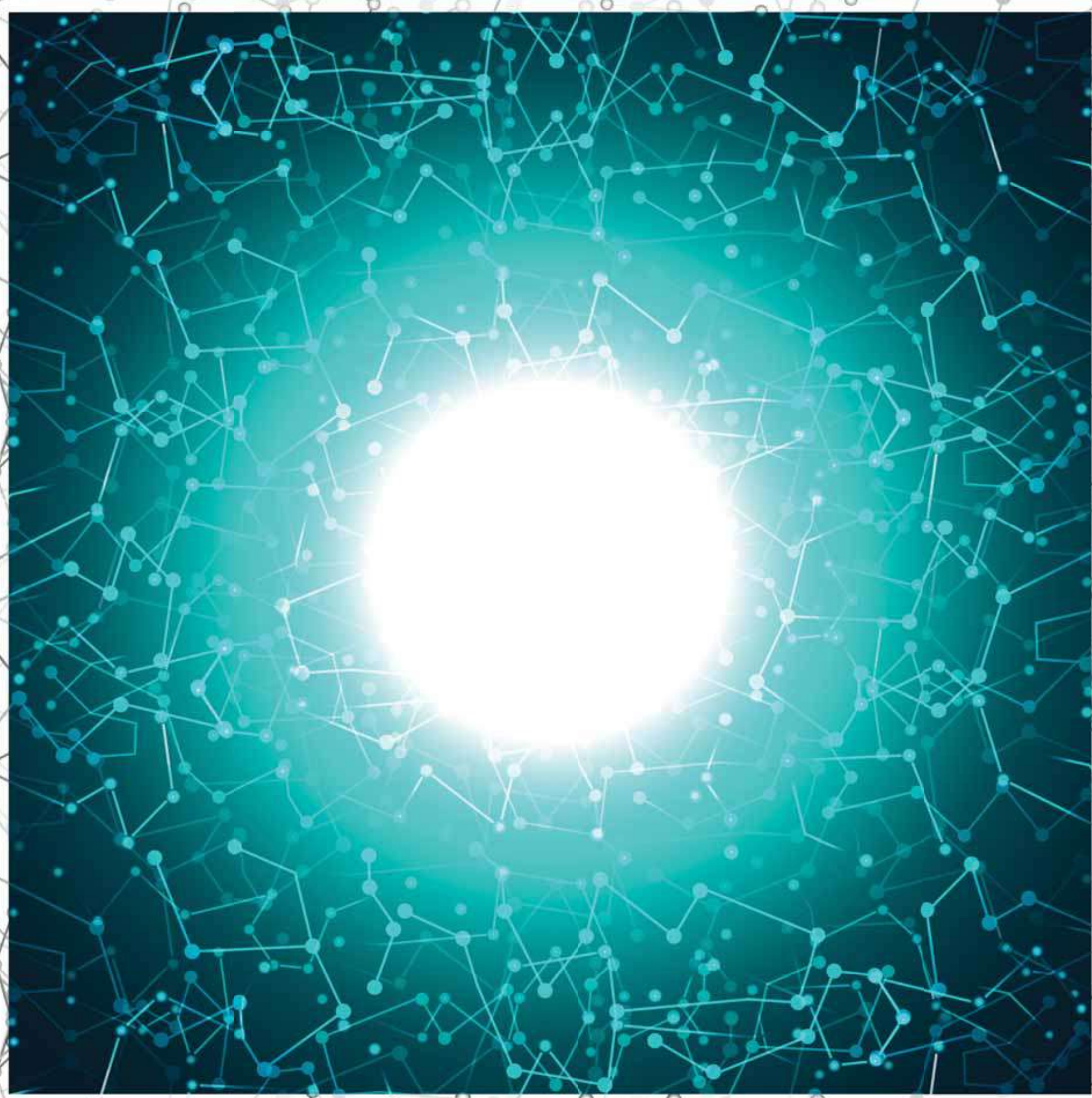
LIFESTYLE

CHINESE RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SYSTEM FOR QUANTUM DIRECT COMMUNICATION



The core challenge in this field is achieving secure and reliable communication using quantum states with extremely low energy

BEIJING: A team of Chinese researchers proposed a theory of one-way quantum direct communication and successfully developed a practical system, advancing quantum direct communication from a concept to the stage of practical application.

According to a study recently published in Science Advances, researchers from the Beijing Academy of Quantum Information Sciences, Tsinghua University, and North China University of Technology set a record in a standard optical fibre communication test with a transmission distance of 104.8 km. They achieved stable transmission at a rate of 2.38 kilobit per second for 168 consecutive hours.

Quantum direct communication was previously proposed by a team led by Long Guilu from Tsinghua University, one of the corresponding authors of the study paper.

It enables secure communication by utilising quantum states and features characteristics, such as eavesdropping detection and prevention, compatibility with existing networks, simplified management processes, and covert transmission.

The core challenge in this field is achieving secure and reliable communication using quantum states with extremely low energy. These states are highly susceptible to interference in quantum channels characterised by high noise, high loss, and the risk of eavesdropping.

Previous research used bidirectional protocols, in which both communicating parties had to transmit quantum states back and forth. This resulted in significant system loss and severely limited communication performance improvement.

"In 2022, we set a world record for quantum direct communication over 100 kilometers, but the rate was only 0.5 bit per second, which allowed transmission of messages with very few characters," Long recalled.

He explained that one-way transmission could halve the distance of quantum state transmission, significantly reducing loss, which is the key to improving the performance of quantum direct communication.

The researchers developed high-noise and high-loss channel coding and other key technologies to propose a theoretical method for one-way quantum direct communication. They resolved the technical challenges and completed the development of the communication terminal.

The new system's communication rate has increased by 4,760 times compared with the one developed in 2022, significantly enhancing the performance of quantum direct communication.

According to Long, quantum direct communication systems are expected to be widely applied in fields with extremely high requirements for information security, such as government affairs and finance.

There are two main types of quantum secure communication. One is quantum key distribution, which uses quantum states to generate keys while transmitting encrypted information through classical communication. Its advantage is the high transmission rate.

The other is quantum direct communication, which directly transmits information using quantum states. In the event of eavesdropping, the quantum states can self-destruct to ensure information security. - ONA

SPORTS

Bracewell, Ravindra reflect on game-changing roles

New Zealand defeat Bangladesh to join India in the ICC Champions Trophy semi-finals

RAWALPINDI: New Zealand's Champions Trophy campaign gained fresh momentum in Rawalpindi on Monday night, as Michael Bracewell's precision with the ball and Rachin Ravindra's controlled century propelled them into the semi-finals.

Put to bat first, Bangladesh were restricted to 236/9 and the Kiwis chased down the target in 46.1 overs, scoring 240/5.

Their five-wicket win over Bangladesh also confirmed India's progression while ending the road for hosts Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The result eliminated both Bangladesh and hosts Pakistan from contention, leaving them to play for pride in their final group-stage clash on February 27.

New Zealand and India, both unbeaten in Group A, will now face off in Dubai on March 2 to determine the group winner. Regardless of the outcome, India is set to play the first semi-final in Dubai on March 4, while New Zealand will contest the second semi-final in Lahore on March 5.

Bracewell was instrumental in New Zealand's comeback with a career-best 4 for 26, stifling Bangladesh's innings after a steady start.

"Bangladesh started really well in the powerplay. I think their openers kept the tempo going. We were under the pump on a good wicket," Bracewell said.

"But I just focused on landing the ball in the right areas, keeping things tight, and letting the pressure build."

Brought on in the ninth over to tackle Bangladesh's left-handers, Bracewell struck almost immediately, dismissing Tanzid Hasan. His next spell tightened New Zealand's grip on the game as he picked three wickets for just five runs in four overs. "The key was consistency," Bracewell added. "They were looking for scoring options, and when we cut those out, the dot balls piled up. That made a huge difference."

From the moment Bracewell helped peg Bangladesh back to 236 for 9, it was over to Ravindra, who ensured New Zealand crossed the line without further drama. His 112 off 105 balls showcased maturity and adaptability, particularly given he wasn't even a guaranteed starter for this game.

"Honestly, I didn't think I'd be playing," Ravindra admitted, having missed the last three ODIs due to a head injury. "It was unfortunate for Daryl (Mitchell) to fall sick, but I was just glad to contribute."

Walking in at 15 for 2, Ravindra was tested early by Taskin Ahmed and Nahid Rana's sharp bowling. A direct hit miss on 25 gave him a lifeline, which he capitalized on by stitching a crucial 129-run stand with Tom Latham.

"It was a little tricky at times," Ravindra said. "The ball held up in the pitch, and they bowled really well in patches. Tommy (Latham) was brilliant - he kept me grounded, and we just focused on small targets, working in five-run blocks."

Bangladesh's spinners, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Rishad Hossain, tried to pull things back, but Ravindra and Latham denied them any sustained pressure. "There were times when I struggled for timing," Ravindra admitted. "They bowled tight lines, didn't give much width. But you have to back your game plan, stay patient, and capitalize when the opportunity comes."

The victory meant New Zealand's strategy of controlling the middle overs - first through Bracewell's spell, then with Ravindra's measured knock - proved decisive. With the semi-finals now set, Ravindra remains focused. "There's still a long way to go. The job isn't done yet."

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner praised Bracewell's impact, emphasising the significance of breakthroughs in the middle overs. "That's probably the hardest thing in one-day cricket - taking wickets in the middle - and I think Bracewell was outstanding," Santner said.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 236/9 (Najmul Hossain Shanto 77, Jaker Ali 45; Bracewell 4/26) lost to New Zealand 240/5 in 46.1 overs (Ravindra 112, Tom Latham 55). - Agencies

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Australia vs SA match abandoned due to rain

RAWALPINDI: The highly anticipated Champions Trophy clash between Australia and South Africa in Rawalpindi on Tuesday was abandoned without a ball being bowled, as relentless rain played spoilsport.

The match was officially called off at 5:10 pm local time, three hours and 10 minutes after the scheduled 2:00 pm start. The decision came two hours and 22 minutes before the cut-off time for a 20-over match at 7:32 pm local time. This would have marked the first-ever meeting between the two teams in the Champions Trophy. With no result, both teams' fate remains tied to their final group-stage matches.

Should Australia and South Africa win their respective games against Afghanistan and England, they will both progress to the semi-finals.

Wednesday's contest between England and Afghanistan is now a knockout match, with the loser guaranteed to exit the tournament. The victor will need another win to secure a spot in the final four.

As a consequence, Friday's match between Australia and Afghanistan, and Saturday's encounter between South Africa and England, could effectively serve as virtual quarter-finals.

Both England and Afghanistan must win both of their remaining matches to keep their semi-final hopes alive.

With no playing XIs announced, South Africa kept their plans close to their chest, particularly regarding Heinrich Klaasen's availability. Klaasen missed the opening match against Afghanistan due to an elbow injury, but he now has three days to recover ahead of the game against England on Saturday.

This was set to be the first showdown between the two sides since the 2023 ODI World Cup semi-final, where Australia emerged victorious. In their nine ICC encounters, Australia has won four, South Africa three, with one tie at the 1999 World Cup and now, their first washout. - Agencies

AL MOUJ MUSCAT

45 young sailors to participate in Renaissance Inter-School Regatta

MUSCAT: A total of 45 young sailors from 15 government schools across Muscat, Sur, and Mussanah will vie for top honours in the Oman Sail-organised Renaissance Inter-School Regatta at Al Mouj Muscat on Wednesday.

The event, featuring racing in Optimist dinghies, marks the culmination of Oman Sail's Community Sailing Programme, sponsored by Renaissance Services, which has introduced 301 boys and girls to the sport and successfully broadened access to sailing for young Omanis.

Abdul Aziz Al Shidi, Acting Director of Sailing at Oman Sail, highlighted the programme's impact. He said, "Oman Sail's Community Sailing Programme, supported by Renaissance Services, has been instrumental in introducing schoolchildren to the sport and inspiring more young Omanis to take up sailing. This initiative provides opportunities for youth to stay active while fostering a passion for the sea. By investing in our communities, we are giving back to the nation and nurturing the next generation of Omani sailors."

Through a coordinated effort at Oman Sail's sailing schools in Al Mouj Muscat, Mussanah, and Sur, the programme aims to train 900 students aged 8-10 each year from government schools in Al Batinah South, Al Sharqiyah South, and Muscat governorates.

Each participant undergoes a five-week sailing course with weekly training sessions in Optimist boats. In addition to honing their sailing skills, students engage in beach clean-ups to promote environmental stewardship and emphasise the importance of keeping the seas clean.

The programme culminates in the Renaissance Services Inter-School Regatta, where top-performing sailors from the three sailing schools compete against their peers in a spirited showcase of their skills and dedication.

This year's regatta will feature participants from the following schools:

Muscat: Al Rawae Basic Education School, Musab bin Al Zubair Basic Education School, Durat Al Ajyal Basic Education School, Al Manhal Basic Education School, Sheikh Salem bin Hamood Al Siyabi Basic Education School.

Mussanah: Sur Basic Education School, Al Shars Basic Education School, Al Raja Basic Education School, Durat Al Ma'arifa Basic Education School, Al Safa Basic Education School, Wadam Al Sahil Basic Education School.

Sur: Al Afiyah Basic Education School, Al Shiraa Basic Education School, Al Birr Basic Education School, Al Bahjah Basic Education School.

OMAN CRICKET

ISWK, MCCC Yellow crowned champs in U11 Schools and Academies League

MUSCAT: ISWK and MCCC Yellow emerged as champions in the Oman Cricket U11 Schools and Academies League 2024-25 respectively recently.

The tournament, a key platform for young cricketers to develop their skills and experience competitive cricket, witnessed outstanding performances and fierce competition.

In the U11 Schools League, ISWK dominated the tournament, winning all six of their matches to claim the championship title. ISMA secured the runners-up position with a record of five wins out of six matches in a field of seven teams.

Meanwhile, in the U11 Academies League, MCCC Yellow remained unbeaten, winning all four of their matches to take home the championship. BSC AEC finished as runners-up, winning three out of their four matches in a competition that featured five teams.

The tournament not only showcased exceptional individual performances but also reinforced the importance of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship, setting a strong foundation for future cricketing talent in Oman.

The prize distribution ceremony was graced by Alkesh Joshi, OC Treasurer, Kiran Asher, OC board member, and Duleep Mendis, OC's Chief Development Officer.

Speaking at the event, Joshi expressed his delight at the young talent on display. He said, "Oman Cricket is proud to witness the dedication and enthusiasm shown by these young players, as well as the unwavering support from schools, academies, and parents.

The U11 Schools & Academies Season 2024-25 is a stepping stone for future cricketing stars, and we look forward to even greater participation in the years ahead."

Oman Cricket reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing young talent by organising structured competitive tournaments that provide an early cricketing experience. The success of the league highlights the growing passion for the sport at the grassroots level and the importance of youth development initiatives in the Sultanate.

The standout players of the tournament were also recognised for their contributions. Schools League. They were: **Best batter and best all-rounder:** Aayansh Mistry, best bowler: Aarav Rahul. **Academies League:** Best batter: Ashbel Wilson Burboz, best bowler: Shubh Seth.

ROUND-UP

Khedmah seminar promotes staff wellbeing and boosts productivity

The seminar offered vital health screenings, including diabetes tests, blood pressure checks, and eye exams, giving employees the opportunity to receive immediate health assessments

MUSCAT: In line with its ongoing commitment to employee well-being, Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC) – Khedmah, a leader in electronic payment and collection services in the Sultanate of Oman, hosted a staff health seminar in collaboration with renowned healthcare provider KIMS.

The seminar provided essential health check-ups and aimed to raise awareness about key health issues. This initiative aligns with the company's vision of creating a healthy work environment that enhances productivity and motivates employees to be more active and successful in their roles.

The seminar offered vital health screenings, including diabetes tests, blood pressure checks, and eye exams, giving employees the opportunity to receive immediate health assessments. It also emphasized the importance of prevention and early detection in maintaining and improving overall health. The session also provided employees with valuable strategies for managing work-related stress in a more positive and effective way.

Commenting on the initiative, Mohammed Saif Al Toqi, Senior Manager of People & Organizational Development at Oman Investment and Finance Company – Khedmah, stated, "This initiative reflects the company's ongoing commitment to fostering a healthy work culture and our continuous efforts to provide the best opportunities and support for our employees, ensuring their health and wellbeing. We remain dedicated to cultivating a work environment that supports a balance between work and personal life."

Oman Investment and Finance Company (Khedmah) believes in the importance of continuously monitoring its employees' health, viewing it as an integral part of the healthy work culture the company aims to promote. Through these seminars and training programs, the company aims to equip its employees with the necessary tools and strategies to promote continuous growth in both their personal and professional lives.

It is also noteworthy that Oman Investment and Finance Company (Khedmah) has been a leader in billing and collection services in the Sultanate of Oman for over 40 years. The company provides a central hub for customers to pay various bills, including electricity, water, communications, traffic fines, vehicle insurance, entertainment channel subscriptions, charity donations, and many other services. These services are available through the company's branch network, covering most regions and states in Oman, as well as its electronic platforms, including the Khedmah app and website.

Continuing its distinguished legacy, Oman Investment and Finance Company (Khedmah) sets new standards, emphasizing the wellbeing of its employees. The company encourages other organizations in Oman to adopt healthy and sustainable work environments that contribute to overall growth and prosperity. This approach not only enhances the company's reputation but also reflects its commitment to fostering productivity while maintaining a balance in its employees' lives.

PROMOTION

Lexus Ramadan campaign offers enticing benefits

MUSCAT: This Ramadan, embrace the spirit of the blessed month with Lexus Oman's incredible offer to own your dream Lexus vehicle.

Experience bespoke journeys with Lexus' premium range of vehicles and enjoy up to 10 years/100,000 km of stress-free service benefits, along with first-year free registration. Those who make a purchase will also be entered into the raffle draw to win the latest iPhone 16 Pro Max.

The Lexus Ramadan campaign runs through April 24. Now is the perfect time to experience true Japanese craftsmanship and drive the innovation that shapes unforgettable journeys. Visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Automotive Showroom and explore its luxurious high-performance sedans, SUVs, and hybrids.

Discover endless possibilities with a brand-new Lexus IS and let your ride take control of your on-roadjourney while you embark on your spiritual one. Designed to appeal to younger demographics, the stunning executive sedan offers unparalleled performance in a luxury setting inspired by the Tazuna Cockpit design concept. Available in two trims—the Lexus IS300 and IS350 F Sport—this sedan is set to transform the way you navigate cityscapes. In the IS300, experience an exhilarating response with a turbocharged 2.0L, 4-cylinder engine, delivering 241 HP at 5,800 rpm. The ISis also available with a powerful 3.5L V6 engine F-Sport trim under its banner.

Make heads turn with a Lexus ES. The premium sedan boasts remarkable efficiency with smooth handling that makes every journey a breeze. Available in three powertrain options—the ES250, ES350, and the hybrid ES300h—the engine power and transmissions vary across trims. The ES250 features a 2.5L engine that produces 204 hp at 6,600 rpm and 24.8 kg•m of torque, while the ES350 boasts a larger 3.5L V6 engine, delivering an exhilarating 298 hp at 6,500–6,600 rpm and 36.3 kg•m of torque. For a more eco-friendly experience, the ES300h comes with auto-charging capabilities and a self-charging electric engine, saving fuel during braking or deceleration. All trims are mated to a Direct Shift 8-speed automatic transmission.

Embrace perfection while off-roading in the Lexus LX that is set to inspire confidence and joy with its four-wheel drive capabilities.Explore the perfect balance between elegance and power with fine interiors and advanced technologies that keep you safe- and ahead of every curve. Available in 5 and 7 seating options, the LX600 comes with a 3.5-liter twin turbocharged engine producing 409 hp and up to 66.28 kg•m of torque. The LX exceeds expectations while making every moment count.

The offer is valid on Lexus' luxury range, which includes the executive sedans IS, ES, and LC, as well as the high-performance SUVs RX, LX, NX, and UX.

LIMITED-TIME

Bank Nizwa announces Ramadan auto finance with competitive profit rates

MUSCAT: In alignment with its unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional, customer-centric, and Sharia-compliant financial solutions, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, recently announced its exclusive Ramadan Auto Finance offer, replete with remarkable benefits.

This limited-time initiative, applicable across auto finance and buyout products, provides highly competitive profit rates starting from 4.5%, along with getting Mastercard Credit Card with zero fees for the first year.

Commenting on the initiative Mohamed AlGhassani, Chief Retail Banking officer at Bank Nizwasaid, "Once again, we present an attractive Ramadan Auto Finance offering that places paramount importance on meeting the diverse needs and preferences of our customers. By offering personalized auto financing options, exclusive buyout rates, and other benefits, our goal is to assist customers in navigating their financial commitments with greater ease during the holy month of Ramadan and beyond. This initiative underscores our dedication to ensuring customer satisfaction throughout the entire financing journey."

As part of Bank Nizwa's exclusive Ramadan offerings, customers can take advantage of highly attractive Auto Finance rates for both new and used vehicles. Those transferring their salaries to Bank Nizwa will enjoy profit rates as low as 4.5% depending on customers preferred tenures. In addition, Auto Finance customers will receive exclusive MasterCard Credit cards, granting access to an extensive array of lifestyle and banking privileges, with the added benefit of no annual fees for the first year.

Tailored to meet the market demand for vehicle financing, Bank Nizwa's Ramadan Auto Finance offering is the ideal solution for anyone looking to acquire a new car during the holy month of Ramadan. As the most trusted Islamic bank in the country's financial landscape, Bank Nizwa cements its commitment to being the preferred banking partner for all through such offerings.

Bank Nizwa is steadfast in its commitment to empowering customers through Sharia-compliant financial solutions that emphasize adaptability, integrity, and responsible banking. By seamlessly integrating Islamic finance principles with customer-focused offerings, the bank consistently sets new benchmarks in the financial sector, addressing the evolving needs of individuals across Oman. With a clear vision to drive financial inclusion and innovation, Bank Nizwa continually enhances its portfolio with tailored solutions that align with modern banking practices, fostering long-term prosperity for its customers.

PRESTIGIOUS GLOBAL ACADEMIC COMPETITION

Digital Private School students compete in World Scholar's Cup 2025 Regional Round

MUSCAT: Digital Private School announced that its students participated in the World Scholar's Cup 2025 Regional Round, which took place at the British School Muscat recently.

This prestigious global academic competition brings together young scholars from various schools in Muscat to engage in debate, collaborative writing, and multidisciplinary challenges. The event fosters critical thinking, teamwork, and a love for learning.

Under the guidance of Zeinab Amin and oses Imo, the 38 participating students have undergone rigorous preparation in areas such as science, history, social studies, literature, and the arts, aligned with this year's competition theme. Through interactive training sessions, mock debates, and research activities, the students honed their analytical and communication skills to compete against some of the brightest young minds in the region.

Speaking about participation, Elisabeth Craig, Principal of DPS, stated, "We are immensely proud of our students for embracing this challenge. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and pursuit of knowledge exemplify the core values of Digital Private School. We look forward to seeing them showcase their talents on an international stage as a few students move on to the global round."

The World Schlar's Cup is more than just a competition; it provides students an opportunity to explore global issues, develop leadership abilities, and connect with an international community of scholars. The top-performing teams from the Muscat regional round will earn a spot in the Global Rounds held later this year, leading up to the Tournament of Champions at Yale University.

ROUND-UP

Embrace spirit of Ramadan with exciting offers from Mitsubishi

This Ramadan, owning a Mitsubishi is more accessible and rewarding than ever, with flexible financing options designed for ultimate ease

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, is celebrating the holy month of Ramadan with exceptional offers, making car ownership easier and more rewarding.

This Ramadan, owning a Mitsubishi is more accessible and rewarding than ever, with flexible financing options designed for ultimate ease. Customers can choose between 0% interest on vehicle finance for up to 24 months, making ownership more affordable, or opt for the "Drive Now, Pay Later" plan with a 3-month EMI holiday, providing financial flexibility during the festive season. Alongside these financing options, customers can enjoyfree service for up to 5 years/100,000 kms, free insurance and registration, Llumar window tint, and a special Ramadan gift. Every purchase is further backed by Mitsubishi's renowned 6-year unlimited kilometre warranty, offering long-term peace of mind.

"With Ramadan being a time of new beginnings, it is the perfect opportunity for customers to bring home a Mitsubishi with greater ease and incredible value," said Manoj Ranade, General Manager of GAC. "Our exclusive offers ensure that owning a Mitsubishi is not only accessible but also rewarding, with flexible financing, premium benefits, and long-term support."

This limited-time offer applies across Mitsubishi's entire range, giving customers the perfect opportunity to drive home a vehicle that suits their needs and aspirations. The Outlander offers refined craftsmanship and advanced technology, making every journey effortless, while the Montero Sport blends power and sophistication for both city drives and off-road adventures. The all-new XForce brings a bold and dynamic presence to the compact SUV segment, offering style, innovation, and agility. Families will find the Xpander an ideal choice with its spacious seven-seater design, while the L200 remains a trusted workhorse for those who demand durability and strength. The Eclipse Cross and ASX offer sporty aesthetics and performance, making them perfect for urban explorers and weekend adventurers alike.

Customers can explore the full range of Mitsubishi vehicles and take advantage of these exclusive Ramadan offers by visiting their nearest Mitsubishi showroom in Athaiba, Mabela, Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Ibri, Sur, Jalan Bani Bu Ali, or Salalah.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY

BankDhofar takes part in Muscat Marathon, promotes engagement and community health

MUSCAT: BankDhofar participated in the highly anticipated Muscat Marathon 2025, reinforcing its commitment to community engagement, health and well-being.

As one of the most prestigious sporting events in the Sultanate, the marathon attracted thousands of participants from Oman and across the world, bringing together professional athletes, fitness enthusiasts, and families in a celebration of endurance and sportsmanship.

BankDhofar's participation in this year was remarkable, with a large number of employees taking part across various race categories. The event feature diverse races suitable for all ages and fitness levels, including the full marathon (42.2 km), half marathon (21.1 km), (10 km) race, (5 km) race, a fun run (2.5 km), and children's races.

Commenting on the participation Dr. Khalid Salim Al Hamadani, Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar, stated: "We are extremely proud of our employees' who participated in the Muscat Marathon 2025. This event goes beyond just running – it is about fostering a culture of health and well-being, not just within our bank, but in the broader community. BankDhofar stressed the importance of an active lifestyle, which provides a significant positive impact on both the physical and mental health of our employees, ultimately improving the overall quality of life".

Al Hamadani added; "BankDhofar's participation in the Muscat Marathon 2025 comes as part of its social responsibility strategy. By engaging in such events, the bank continues its commitment to empowering the community, enhancing team spirit, and encouraging a healthier lifestyle."

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>
> **Dr Khalid Al Hamadani**
> Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar

The Muscat Marathon offered a unique and joyful experience for families and individuals of all abilities, allowing them to enjoy recreational activities amidst the stunning landscapes of Muscat.

BATHROOM AND LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

Soak into the future of luxury bathing with Jaquar's cloud hybrid touch shower

MUSCAT: Imagine a shower that understands your preferences, adjusts at your touch, and transforms your daily routine into a spa-like experience. Jaquar Group, a global leader in complete bathroom and lighting solutions, unveils the Cloud Hybrid Touch Shower, a revolutionary innovation that redefines indulgent bathing.

Blending cutting-edge hybrid touch technology with sustainability, this intelligent shower system allows effortless customization of water flow, temperature, and ambient lighting—ensuring a fully personalized experience. Its eco-friendly design integrates water-saving features without compromising performance, making it the perfect choice for modern, conscious living.

The Cloud Hybrid Touch Shower isn't just a product—it's an experience. Designed to enhance comfort and elevate everyday rituals, it seamlessly integrates innovation with sustainability, "It's like stepping into a spa every day. The combination of advanced technology and design perfection is truly remarkable.

CLOUD
HYBRID TOUCH SHOWER
BY
Jaquar

Partnership showered with trust

Jaquar World in Muscat operates in partnership with Khimji Ramdas Group (KR), a business conglomerate with a legacy of nearly 150 years in the Sultanate of Oman.

Headquartered in Muscat, KR has been a trusted leader across consumer, infrastructure, and industrial sectors, consistently delivering excellence through its diversified businesses across four strategic groups.

SUPPORT

ahlibank leads social responsibility efforts by sponsoring Social Responsibility Pioneers Forum

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing efforts to support the local community, ahlibank announced its role as the main sponsor for the Social Responsibility Pioneers Forum. The forum aims to promote the concepts of community support and achieve a positive impact across various sectors and segments of society.

This step is part of a series of initiatives adopted by ahlibank as part of its commitment to creating a long-lasting positive impact on the community, further enhancing its position as a leading financial institution that prioritizes the local community.

Jumana Al Hashmi, AGM - Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications, stated, "At ahlibank, we take pride in our continuous sponsorship of initiatives and forums aimed at achieving a prosperous societal reality, which aligns with our values and commitment to supporting sustainable development and contributing to the advancement of Omani society. We are working to unite efforts and continue progressing towards achieving Oman Vision 2040."

ahlibank reaffirms its ongoing commitment to supporting the Omani community through initiatives and events that promote the values of social responsibility. The bank continues its journey steadfastly towards realizing its vision of being a "Partner in Excellence", building a prosperous and highly advanced society.

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