

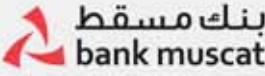


HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM CHINA
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China in reply to His Majesty's cable of greetings to him on the occasion of his country's National Day. In the cable, President Jinping expressed his utmost thanks for His Majesty the Sultan's sincere sentiments, wishing His Majesty good health, wellbeing and success. He also stressed his keenness in promoting the strategic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and China to achieve further progress and serve the interests of the two countries' peoples. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 160 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

[Know More](#)

Start saving with Meethaq account

2465 6666



C.E. No. 1/14373/8

OMAN ENACTS LAW TO SAFEGUARD DEPOSITORS



Royal Decree on protection of bank deposits to help maintain a robust financial sector

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) pointed out that the issuance of Royal decree No. (47/2024) promulgating the Law on Protection of Bank Deposits contributes to maintaining a healthy and robust financial sector. The law is based on protecting deposits in the event of the default of one of the banks or financial institutions licensed by the Central Bank of Oman to receive deposits. The Law is considered an integral part of the financial safety network in the Sultanate of Oman. The Law aims to protect the

HM issues two Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Wednesday issued two Royal decrees reading as follows:
Royal Decree No. 47/2024 promulgates a Law on Protection of Bank Deposits, after presenting the same before the Council of Oman.
Article (1) stipulates that the Law on Protection of Bank Deposits attached to this decree shall be enforced.
Article (2) states that all origins, rights, obligations and assets pertaining to the system of insurance of bank deposits cited in the Law on Bank Deposits Insurance Scheme promulgated by

Royal decree No. (9/95) shall be transferred to the “insurance fund for the protection of deposits in licensed establishments of conventional origin”, cited in the law attached to this decree.
Article (3) instructs the Governor of the Central Bank of Oman to issue the Executive Regulation of the attached law, as well as the decisions necessary for the implementation of its provisions.
Till such time, the existing regulations and decisions shall continue to be implemented without prejudice to the provisions of the law attached to this decree. **>A5**

interests of “small depositors”, who are the most vulnerable in the event of bank failure, by establishing a fast-track and effective compensation system, and boosting confidence in the banking system. The main objectives of protecting bank deposits include: providing a comprehensive protection cover on members' deposits to encourage savings; enhancing confidence in the soundness of the financial position of the banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman and minimising the effects of systemic risks in the banking sector. **>A2**

HM, Iran president exchange views on several matters

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday conducted a phone call with President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran. During the telephonic conversations, His Majesty the Sultan and the Iranian President exchanged views about developments on the regional and international arenas, in addition to methods to achieve peace and stability in the region. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

MARKET

Extension of deadline for TOMI submissions

1 At the behest of marketing teams from companies across the country, the TOMI Awards submission deadline has been extended to October 24, 2024. **>B1**

OMAN

OQEP shares allocation

2 The FSA has approved the allocation ratios of OQEP company's shares. **>A3**

OMAN

Trade balance

3 The trade balance of Oman registered a surplus of OMR4,304 million. **>A5**



Endless Space. Timeless Style.

LUXURIOUS
+900m² VILLAS

EXCLUSIVE
LAKESIDE LIVING

READY TO
MOVE IN 2026



ALAYA GRAND COLLECTION

Reserve your exclusive haven today | almouj.com | 80077776





OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	11:57pm
Asr.....	3:16pm
Maghrib.....	5:44pm
Isha.....	6:55pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:50am

PRESIDENT OF ARMENIA

HM receives thanks cable from Armenia

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Vahagn Khachaturyan of the Republic of Armenia in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable to him on his country's Independence Anniversary.

In the cable, President Khachaturyan expressed his utmost thanks and sincere appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health and wellbeing. He also wished the people of Oman continuous peace and prosperity. **-ONA**

IN BRUSSELS

Sayyid Asa'ad meets EU officials



BRUSSELS: HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan met on Wednesday with Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of Sayyid Asa'ad participation in the first GCC-EU Joint Summit. Sayyid Asa'ad also met, separately, with Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister of the

Kingdom of Belgium and Charles Michel, President of the European Council. These meetings reviewed bilateral relations and means of enhancing cooperation in different fields. The officials also exchanged views on several matters of mutual interest.

The meetings also discussed topics in the agenda of the first GCC-EU Joint summit.

The meetings were attended by several senior officials from each side. **-ONA**



oman
OASIS
sifr
Pure Hydration
Zero Sodium



800 71 222
9275 5522

© Oman Oasis Official f Oman Oasis % Oman Oasis Water
OASIS WATER COMPANY SAOG
IBW®

GCC-EU SUMMIT

GCC-EU foreign ministers discuss military escalation in Middle East

BRUSSELS: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, took part in a business dinner hosted by European Union (EU) countries in honour of foreign ministers of GCC states, ahead of the first GCC-EU Summit, which begins on Wednesday in Brussels, Belgium.

The ministers discussed a number of topics on cooperation between the two groups and exchanged views on current issues, notably the military escalation in



BANK DEPOSITS

Establishment of 2 independent funds

< FROM A1 The Law consists of (31) Articles. Its main provisions are the establishment of two independent funds, namely the Takaful Fund for the Protection of Deposits with Licensed Islamic Institutions, and the Insurance

Fund for the Protection of the Deposits with Licensed Conventional Institutions.

The law also sets the current compensation amount at OMR20,000 as a maximum for eligible deposits whose value exceeds OMR20,000. Meanwhile,

deposits of OMR20,000 or less are fully compensated.

In addition, the Law states that if a depositor has several accounts with the same defaulting bank, the amounts deposited to him/her in all accounts eligible for coverage by the system are collected to calculate the compensation amount.

All deposits eligible for coverage by the system for the same depositor in several banks will be dealt with independently, so that the depositor is entitled to receive a maximum of OMR20,000 from each bank. **-ONA**



ST REGIS

AL MOUJ • MUSCAT
THE RESIDENCES





Your Exquisite Address Awaits

Visit our Open House at
The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort
October 20th to 22nd, 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
*Own your St. Regis Residence in Oman
with our limited-time payment plan*

40%
Down
Payment

60%
Installments
across 3 years

**Payment plan valid until October 31st only*

Oman | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

+968 9571 4640
info@omansothebysrealty.com

Terms and conditions apply



Empower your future today

With BankDhofar Ladies Account

Start Saving with BankDhofar Ladies account!
To know more, visit www.bankdhofar.com

bankdhofar

 2479 1111  www.bankdhofar.com



بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

Sayyid Asa’ad heads Omani delegation at GCC-EU meet

The summit was co-chaired by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and Charles Michel, President of the European Council



BRUSSELS: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Asa’ad bin Tarik Al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan headed the Sultanate of Oman’s delegation in the first GCC-EU Joint Summit in Brussels.

Upon his arrival at the summit’s venue in the EU building,

HH Sayyid Asa’ad was greeted by Charles Michel, President of the European Council and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

HH Sayyid Asa’ad delivered a speech during the opening of the summit reading as follows:

“Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and European Union (EU) countries, esteemed guests, May the Al-

mighty’s peace and mercy be upon you.

“At the outset of this summit, I am pleased to convey to you the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, along with his sincere wishes for the success of this summit.

“No doubt, this first meeting at the level of our countries’ summit ushers in an advanced stage, reflecting the shared GCC-EU

countries’ vision to expand the scopes of strategic partnership and deepen the existing cooperation in various fields, notably in economic spheres, trade, investment, renewable energy and the common keenness to ease the freedom of travel for our countries’ citizens, including business owners, tourists, and students. The summit paves the way for strengthening political and diplomatic cooperation in a manner that contributes to consolidating the pillars of security, stability and peace.

“Cooperation between our countries—in political, economic, cultural and technological areas—constitutes a bridge that will enable us to address common challenges more effectively. We would like to commend the role of the European Union and its openness to cooperation aimed at achieving the positive transition desired by the entire world, and to which the whole world needs to contribute in order to deepen the values of peaceful coexistence and enrich interaction among peoples.

“Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Esteemed Guests: We welcome the positions of countries

that are consistent with the positions of the GCC countries and the international community, notably towards the realization of an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the recognition of the State of Palestine. Such an international recognition reflects the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and affirms the Two-State Solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

“In this regard, we would like to state that the Sultanate of Oman supports the international coalition to implement the Two-State Solution announced by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee and in partnership with the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union.

“The Sultanate of Oman also welcomes the call made by President Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, to stop arms exports to Israel. This call represents an important milestone within the framework of international efforts aimed at realizing a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, protecting innocent civilians from the horrors of this conflict and terminating the Israeli aggression on

Lebanon that constitutes a serious escalation and threatens to expand the scope of the conflict, violence and instability in the region.

“Therefore, we would like to stress that the international community has a duty to take measures to put an end to these repercussions and apply the rules of international law, notably by imposing an immediate ceasefire and establish justice, security, stability and peace for all.

Wishing you all success.”

The summit was co-chaired by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and Charles Michel, President of the European Council.

Further, the summit explored means of enhancing cooperation in tackling main international challenges and augmenting economic cooperation. It also dealt with cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, energy, sustainability and climate. The two sides also reviewed ways to strengthen ties between peoples, in addition to facilitating visas and addressing multiple geopolitical challenges, notably those related to the Middle East region and the war in Ukraine. -OMA

DECISION-MAKING

People invited to select topics for ‘Together We Progress’ forum

MUSCAT: The voting stage for selection of topics to be debated during the 3rd edition of “Together We Progress” Forum began on Wednesday.

The forum is organised by the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers to enhance interaction and communication between the government and society. Voting will continue until 23 October 2024.

Voters can participate in the ‘topic selection process’ through an electronic questionnaire available via the link (<https://2u.pw/QfKI6iDd>).

The questionnaire identifies three themes, each of which comprises different topics.

The first theme titled “Economy and Development” includes the topics of: “Salient features of the 11th Five-Year Plan”, “Economic diversification efforts”, “Entrepreneurship and local content”.

The second theme titled “Private Sector and Investment”,



includes the topics of: “Role of private sector in generating employment opportunities”, “Investment in future technologies and artificial intelligence (AI)” and “Efforts of Oman Investment Authority in developing local and foreign investments”.

The third theme titled “Development of governorates”, covers the topics of: “Local economy”, “Sustainable cities” and “Urban planning”.

The forum seeks to bring members of society closer to decision-makers through direct meetings and open dialogue. It enables members of the public to learn about development policies, programmes and government initiatives, offering them an opportunity to express their opinions, submit their proposals and share their interests and ideas with officials in a participatory environment based on interaction. -OMA

SUBSCRIPTION

FSA approves OQEP company shares’ allocation ratios

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has approved the allocation ratios of OQ Exploration and Production (OQEP) company’s shares after the subscription saw a 2.4 times coverage of the offered shares totalling about OMR1,814 million after the calculation of the share value at 390 baisas.

The Authority pointed out that the volume of shares collected stood at about 4,820 million, out of a total of two billion shares offered for public subscription.

This, the FSA affirmed, reflects the confidence of local and foreign investors in the issuing company and the Omani capital market. It also underlines the attractiveness of the national economy in gen-



eral, it added.

Abdullah bin Salim Al Salmi, CEO of the Capital Market Authority, stressed that the Authority was keen, through the allocation methodology it adopted, to take into account all segments of

investors, in a way that contributes to expanding the base of participation in public subscriptions and enhances the role of the capital market sector as one of the effective sources of financing in the national economy. -OMA



KALYAN JEWELLERS

Brighten Your CELEBRATIONS

MAKING CHARGES FROM **2.5%**

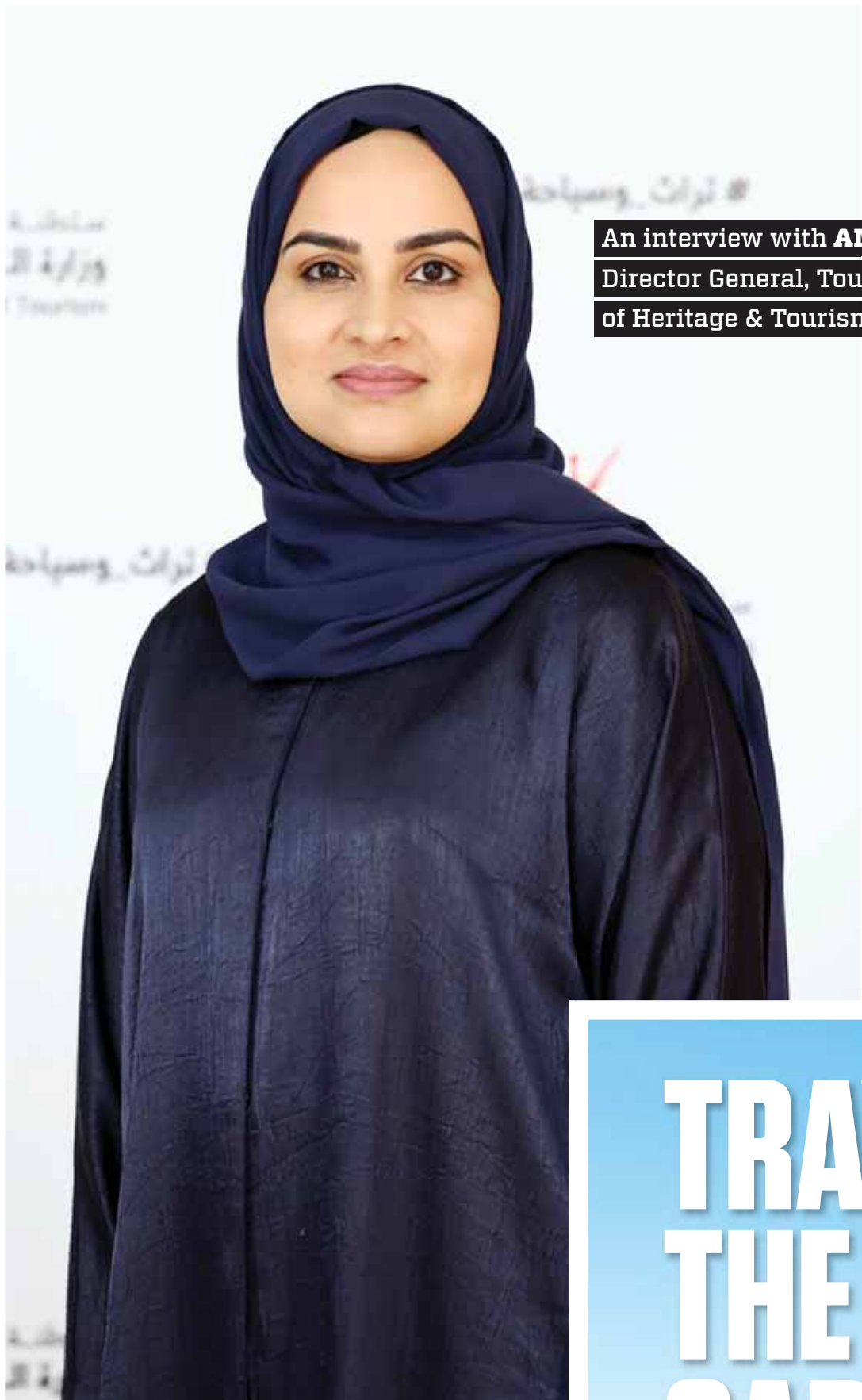
Get **2 gm** GOLD COIN FREE ON PURCHASES WORTH OMR 600*

Get **1 gm** GOLD COIN FREE ON PURCHASES BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 600*

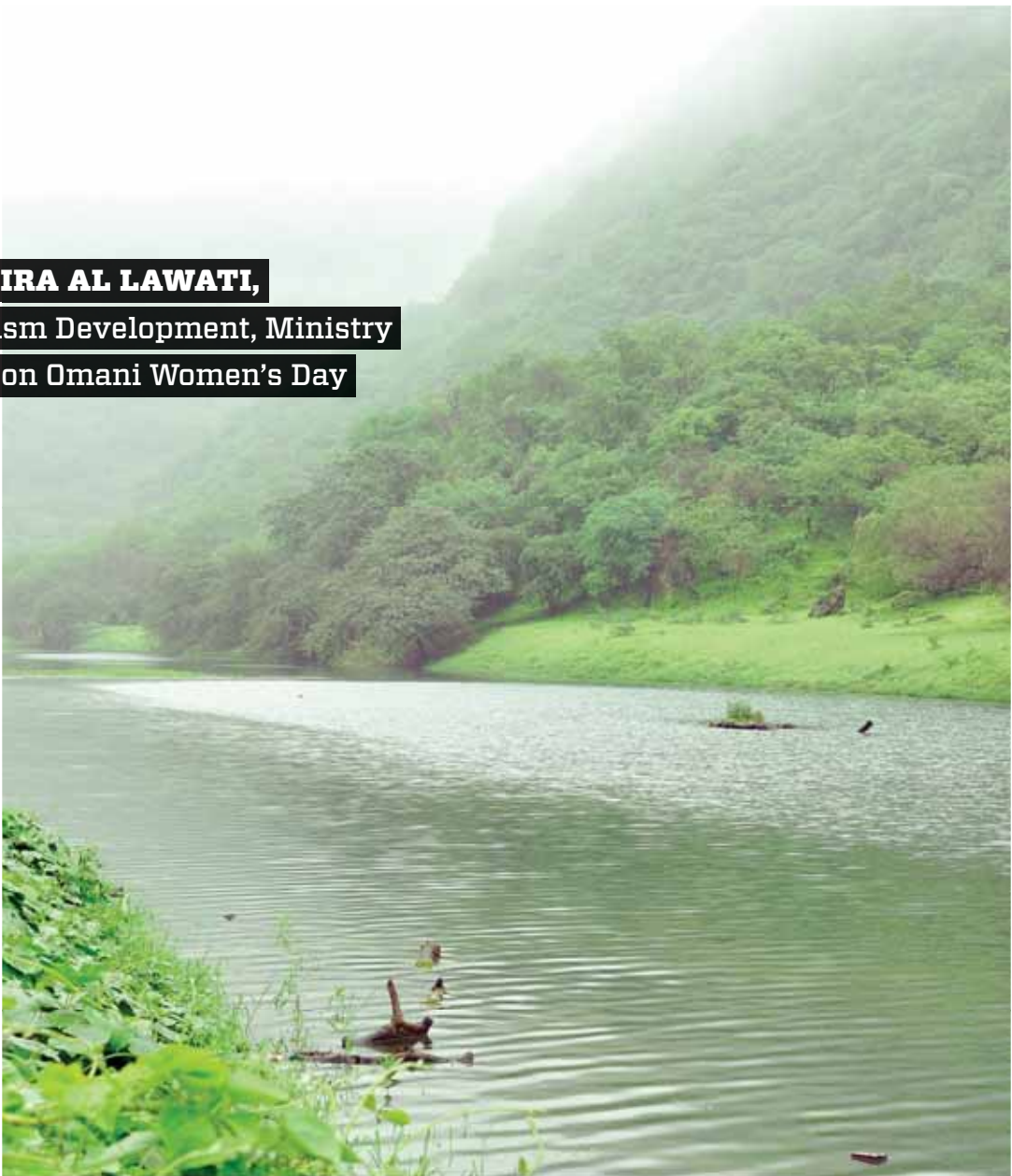
*GET 2 GM GOLD COIN ON THE PURCHASE OF DIAMOND/POLKI JEWELLERY WORTH OMR 600 | **GET 1 GM GOLD COIN ON THE PURCHASE OF UNCUT/PRECIOUS/ PLATINUM JEWELLERY WORTH OMR 600 OR ON THE PURCHASE OF DIAMOND/POLKI JEWELLERY BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 599 | ***GET 1/2 GM GOLD COIN ON THE PURCHASE OF UNCUT/PRECIOUS/ PLATINUM JEWELLERY BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 599 OR ON THE PURCHASE OF GOLD JEWELLERY WORTH OMR 600 | ****GET 1/4 GM GOLD COIN ON THE PURCHASE OF GOLD JEWELLERY BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 599

GOLD COIN VALUE IS OFFERED AS AN INSTANTLY REDEEMABLE VOUCHER / OFFER VALID TILL NOV 10TH, 2024

WWW.KALYANJEWELLERS.NET | FOLLOW US ON: @KALYANJEWELLERS | @KALYANJEWELLERSMIDDLEEAST



An interview with **AMIRA AL LAWATI,**
Director General, Tourism Development, Ministry
of Heritage & Tourism on Omani Women's Day



Can you tell us about your career journey and how you got started in the Tourism sector?

Actually, I didn't start out in the Tourism sector. I graduated with a degree in finance and began my career at a leading oil and gas company. Over time, I found myself increasingly interested in Tourism fuelled by working as a consultant accountant at Al Bustan Palace Hotel. This was a pivotal experience, inspiring me to make a career transition and join the Tourism Department under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry as a researcher. While there, I was fortunate to receive a Chevening scholarship which allowed me to pursue a master's degree in Tourism Planning and Development in the UK. After that, I completed the National Leadership & Competitive Program which the Royal Academy of Management runs in collaboration with the University of Oxford. I have to say it really finetuned my leadership mindset and deepened my understanding of strategic approaches in Tourism.

What are you focused on at the moment?

In my role as Director General of Tourism Development, I focus on implementing initiatives that drive sustainable growth while safeguarding our cultural heritage. My priorities include enhancing the visitor experience, supporting local communities and promoting environmentally sustainable practices – helping create a comprehensive and enriching visitor journey that showcases the unique offerings of Oman and helps us stand out in what is a highly competitive marketplace. Ultimately though, it is about striking a balance between economic development and cultural preservation, ensuring both can thrive together.

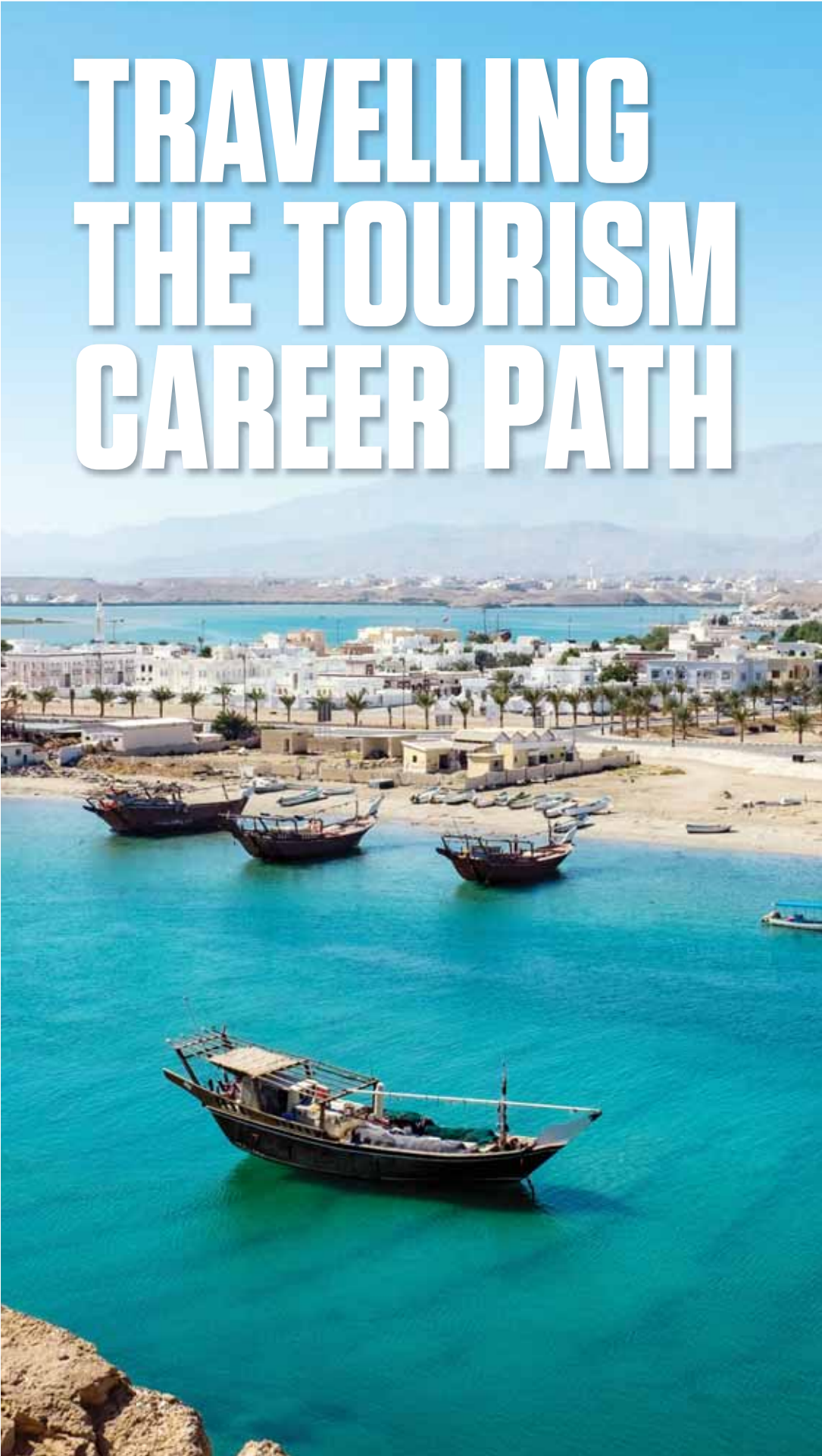
To give a specific idea of what is on my desk at the moment – one thing is Adventure Tourism, a real global growth area. We are working to develop activities that allow visitors to experience Oman's stunning landscapes first hand – whether that is hiking in the Hajar Mountains, exploring our deserts on camelback or diving in our beautiful waters. These experiences not only attract thrill-seekers but also foster a deeper appreciation for our natural environment, giving visitors a real connection with the country that is often described as a 'gift for life'. I am pleased to say this is an area

where women are increasingly making their mark, embracing roles as guides, entrepreneurs and facilitators.

Also receiving a considerable portion of my time is Omani culinary arts, a fascinating window on our rich heritage and culture that offers the chance to create the kind of unique experience that is increasingly in demand in luxury Tourism in particular. The Ministry of Heritage & Tourism published 'Omani Cuisine' last year as part of its wider program to develop and promote our culinary arts. The book plays a key role in showcasing Oman's unique flavours, ingredients and the cultural stories that bring our cuisine to life. What we are doing is trying to create immersive gastronomic experiences where visitors can engage in traditional cooking classes, food tours and tastings of local dishes. An added and important benefit of this is the support it gives to local farmers and artisans – something that brings me enormous satisfaction. Omani women have long been guardians of our traditional cuisine and now they are translating this heritage into the professional sphere and making their presence felt as chefs, restaurateurs and food entrepreneurs – Salma's Chocolate, found in many hotels and extremely popular with tourists, immediately springs to mind here as does Dina Maki, influencer and author of UK best-seller Bahari, an award-winning cook book which takes the world on a journey round Omani cuisine. These women and more besides are bringing a modern twist to traditional dishes, promoting local ingredients and contributing to Oman's reputation as a destination for authentic culinary experiences.

What is the Tourism sector like these days compared to when you joined?

Of course, over the last 20 years I have seen substantial changes in Tourism and I am proud to have been part of its evolution, especially the establishment of the Ministry of Tourism in 2004 and then the integration of the Ministry of Heritage & Tourism in 2020. It has been exciting to see how Tourism in Oman has developed and I feel privileged to have played a role in the sector's growth which last year contributed RO2.8 billion to our economy, employed 179,000 people and provided opportunity for over 23,000 SMEs. I am pleased to have witnessed a substantial growth in the number of women in



the industry during my time in the sector and look forward to more joining us. I am especially keen to see more women in senior and managerial roles – like everywhere else in the world, we still need to improve gender ratios here. Happily, it is definitely something the Ministry is working vigorously towards.

In what ways does the Ministry of Heritage & Tourism collaborate with educational institutions to get women into Tourism and Hospitality and on the road to leadership?

First off, let me say that Oman's National Tourism Strategy highlights the importance of education and training in the sector, with specific sections dedicated to building a skilled workforce. With respect to this, the Ministry of Heritage & Tourism works closely with a number of educational institutions to promote the many rewarding career options for young women across Heritage, Tourism and Hospitality. I should add that many of these opportunities are in areas that are not necessarily immediately associated with our sector – finance, tech, AI, cybersecu-

rity, sustainability amongst them. One key partnership we have is with Sultan Qaboos University's Department of Tourism, where the Ministry supports academic programs and research initiatives that align with the fast-evolving needs of the Tourism sector. These efforts ensure students, particularly women, are well-equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed.

At Oman Tourism College, where I serve on the board, there is a strong collaboration with the Ministry to ensure the academic and vocational education provided



adds value to the Tourism industry. In particular, the Ministry works closely with the College to offer specialized training for tour guides to ensure they meet the highest standards of quality and professionalism. My role on the board helps ensure we continuously adapt to industry trends, ensuring students - especially women - are equipped with the skills needed for success.

In addition to these programs, the Ministry provides young women with internships and mentorship, creating clear career paths from education to employment. These initiatives and others like them have had a profound impact, making Tourism and Hospitality more appealing and accessible to young women. By offering structured training and clear career pathways, young women now see these fields as not only viable but also dynamic and rewarding career choices.

What does Omani Women's Day mean to you?

It is incredibly special to me, not just as a celebration but a powerful recognition of the strength, resilience and contributions of Omani women, past and present – it is a testament to the unity and progress of women in Oman and it fills me with both gratitude and hope for the future. Indeed, I feel a profound sense of responsibility to continue pushing boundaries, so that the doors we open today will never be closed.

Importantly too, let me finish by saying the day is an opportunity to reflect on the support women receive from the leadership of the country, particularly from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who has strongly and continually emphasized the importance of women's empowerment.

NCSI

Oman trade balance records over OMR4 billion surplus

MUSCAT: The trade balance of the Sultanate of Oman registered a surplus of OMR4,304 million by the end of July 2024 compared to OMR4,324 million during the corresponding period in 2023, according to the data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The statistics indicate that the total value of merchandise exports by the end of July 2024 reached OMR13,720 million, comprising an increase of 7.6% over the same period in 2023 when the figure stood at OMR12,752 million.

The value of merchandise imports to the Sultanate of Oman amounted to OMR9,416 million, comprising an increase of 11.7% by the end of July 2024 compared to corresponding period in 2023 when it stood at OMR8,428 million.

The increase in the value of exports by the end of June 2024 is mainly attributed to the increase in value of the Sultanate of Oman's



oil and gas exports to OMR8,569 million, up by 8% compared to the end of July 2023 when it stood at OMR7,931 million.

Among oil and gas exports by the end of July 2024, the value of the Sultanate of Oman's crude oil exports amounted to OMR5,962 million, recording an increase of 7.6% over the same period in 2023, and the value of refined oil exports

increased to OMR1,163 million by 30.2%, and the value of the Sultanate of Oman's liquefied natural gas exports decreased to OMR1,444 million by 3.6%, compared to the end of July 2023.

Statistics revealed an increase in the value of non-oil merchandise exports by 5.1% by the end of July 2024, to reach OMR4,152 million, compared to the end of July

2023, when it recorded OMR3,950 million.

Mineral products had the highest value of non-oil merchandise exports, amounting to OMR1,514 million, comprising an increase of 17.4% over the same period in 2023, followed by base metals and related products with OMR767 million, comprising an increase of 2.8%, followed by products of chemicals with an export value of OMR608 million, increasing by 2.9%.

The value of the Sultanate of Oman's exports of plastics and rubber increased to OMR549 million, constituting a rise of 6.3%. Meanwhile, exports of live animals and animal products fell by 17.4%, reaching OMR195 million, and the value of exports of other products amounted to OMR520 million.

The value of re-exports from the Sultanate of Oman increased (14.7%) to OMR999 million by the end of July 2024, compared to the end of July 2023. **-OMA**

MEETING

Oman participates in first ministerial meeting of 'Green Middle East' initiative

JEDDAH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, took part on Wednesday in the first meeting of the ministerial council for the "Middle East Green Initiative", held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

Oman's delegation in the meeting was headed by Dr. Abdullah Ali Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority.

The meeting discusses a spectrum of topics, namely the decisions of the ministers on



the foundational components of the Middle East Green Initiative, among other matters of relevance. **-OMA**

MILITARY TIES

SAF Chief of Staff receives Iranian military official

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison yesterday Brigadier Mohammed Ahadi, Head of the Iranian delegation of the Omani-Iranian Military Friendship Joint Committee.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed several military matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by

Brigadier Hamid Abdullah Al Balushi, SAF Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning, a number of senior COSAF officers and the Military Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Muscat.

Brigadier Mohammed Ahadi, and his accompanying delegation today visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

The delegation was greeted upon their arrival at the MSC by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Bu-

saidi, 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.

The guests also visited the Military Technology College (MTC). **-OMA**

MEETING



Oman, Turkiye to boost ties in sports field

ANKARA: Basil Ahmed Al Rowas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth, met in Ankara yesterday with Prof. Dr. Halis Yunus Ersöz, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkiye.

The meeting explored ways to strengthen cooperation between Oman and Turkiye in the fields of sports and youth development.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture attended several presentations on sports, youth activities, sports tourism, and international organisations and relations.

He also visited various sports facilities, clubs, and youth complexes across Turkiye, gaining insight into the country's experience in sports and youth facilities. **-OMA**

Request for Proposals: ERP Solution Implementation

Industry : Vehicle & Equipment Rental/Contracts/Services (Large Fleet, Operations across Oman)

Tender Number : AWIAMO/IT/002/2024
Release Date : 17th October 2024
Closing date & Query date : 24th October 2024
Submission Deadline : 6th November 2024
Tender Award : 30th November 2024

Vendors are invited to submit proposals for the Commissioning and Implementation of a Complete ERP Solution. **Fee: 40 RO.**

For full RFP details, please contact Nitin at Nitin@amberwi.com

Under the aegis of the Board of Directors
Indian Schools, Sultanate of Oman
INDIAN SCHOOL AL MAABELA

Post Box No: 134, Postal Code 122, Al Maabela, Sultanate of Oman,
GSM: 968- 78904848/24456881
Email: principal@indianschoolmaabela.com

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Indian School Al Maabela under the aegis of the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, invites Tenders for organizing the Career Exhibition scheduled for 22nd & 23 November 2024, as one of its activities of AVENIR 2024, an event to showcase major universities and institutions from India and other nations, offering students unparalleled insights into their potential career paths.

Interested agencies with a proven expertise in organizing similar Exhibitions in Oman may submit their detailed proposal, showcasing their past achievements, methodologies, and a financial quote in a sealed envelope at the office of the **Indian School Al Maabela on or before 20 October 2024 before 12:00 noon.**

The Tender document may be collected from the school office after making a payment of **RO 10 on or before 18 Oct 2024.**

For any further enquiry/details, please write to :
principal@indianschoolmaabela.com.

The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



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



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

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

MEETING

< FROM A1 Mutual visa waiver

Article (4) annuls the aforementioned Law on Bank Deposits Insurance Scheme promulgated by Royal Decree No. 9/95, as well as all that contradicts the attached law or contravenes its provisions. Article (5) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing.

Royal decree No. (48/2024) ratifies an agreement between the Government of the Sultanate

of Oman and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on mutual visa waiver for holders of Diplomatic, Special and Service passports, signed in Muscat on 26 June 2024.

Article (1) ratifies the aforementioned agreement in accordance with the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this Royal decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. **- OMA**



ANNOUNCEMENT

Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public auction to sell used ROP vehicles at the Directorate General of Transport at the Airport Heights, at 4:00 pm on Sunday 27 October 2024.

Vehicles may be inspected during official working hours during the period- **from 21 to 24 October 2024.**

The successful bidder must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- The buyer must pay the vehicle's value immediately along with the auctioneer fees at 3% by e-payment.
- The buyer must move the vehicle within a period of 3 days from the selling date; otherwise, they shall pay a fine of RO 5/- per each day of delay.
- The buyer must pay the fees of vehicle registration in their name in the traffic system before receiving the vehicle.



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development** hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
322/2024	Buying new washing machines and towels for Dar Al Aman (home for the severely disabled in Al Khoud)	Companies specialized in the field of supplying electrical, mechanical and industrial machinery and equipment and spare parts, registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Tuesday 22-10-2024 02:00 PM	Tuesday 29-10-2024 10:00 PM	10 R.O	25 R.O
432/2024	General maintenance work for the building of Al-Wafa center for the Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in Al-Mudhaibi	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting/interior decoration implementation works and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second or third degree	Monday 04-11-2024 02:00 PM	Sunday 24-11-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>). On Wednesday 16/10/2024

❖ For Inquiry, please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om)
Tel. (24402200)

"The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry"

www.mosd.gov.om

كاسابيللا
casabella

**Buy One Get One
Free**

On Wide Range Of Products

اشتر واحد واحصل على الثاني

مجاناً

على مجموعة واسعة من المنتجات

**Valid from:
Sep 12th to 31st October**

**يسري العرض من :
تاريخ ١٢ سبتمبر وحتى ٣١ أكتوبر**

www.casabellaom.com

 @casabella.oman  @casabella.oman  @casabella_oman

Al Sayal brings heavy rains in Oman

The wilayat of Sur recorded the highest amount of rainfall of 215 mm, followed by Quriyat 170 mm, and Muscat 100 mm from October 14 to 16

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Several governorates in Oman experienced heavy to moderate rains, with South Sharqiyah governorate reporting the maximum amount in the last couple of days.

According to the monitoring stations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the wilayat of Sur recorded the highest amount of 215mm rainfall, followed by Quriyat 170 mm, and the wilayat of Muscat 100 mm, from October 14 to 16.

More than 20 reports were dealt with by the rescue teams of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority ever since the depression Al Sayal lashed Oman.

While the Wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate received 94 mm of rainfall, the Wilayat of Muttrah 68 mm, the Wilayat of Dima Wattayyen in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate 52 mm, the Wilayat of Wadi Bani Khalid in the same governorate 33 mm, the Wilayat of Masirah in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate 31 mm and the Wilayat of Amerat in Muscat Governorate 27 mm.

The Wilayat of Ibra in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate has recorded 22 mm of rainfall, the Wilayat of Bausher in Muscat Governorate 16 mm, the Wilayat of Seeb in same governorate 12 mm, the Wilayat of Al Qabil in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate 11 mm and the Wilayat of Al Kamil and Al Wafi in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate 9 mm.

According to Oman Meteorology, heavy thundershowers are expected to continue due to the advection and formation of clouds associated with the tropical system and the impact will be mainly on the Governorates of North Al



Batinah, Muscat, South Al Batinah, South Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta, Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Sharqiyah and the mountainous areas of Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi governorates with rainfall amounts ranging from 20-50 mm, may lead to downdraft wind, hail and flash floods in the wadis.

It is also expected that Dhofar Governorate may witness isolated rain with amounts ranging from 10-30 mm.

The Civil Aviation Authority advises all to take precautions during thundershowers, and not to cross wadis and avoid low lying areas and not to venture into sea during the alert period.

Meanwhile the National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM) has issued a statement regarding the termination of the activation of the National Emergency Management Centre and the sectors and subcommittees in the governorates affiliated with it.

tees in the governorates affiliated with it.

NCEM said in a statement: "The National Committee for Emergency Management announces the deactivation of the National Emergency Management Centre, as well as the sectors and subcommittees in the governorates. However, the relevant authorities will continue to restore the affected services according to their respective responsibilities."



SCO SUMMIT

India's Jaishankar thanks Pakistan PM for 'hospitality'

ISLAMABAD: Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Wednesday departed from Islamabad to Delhi after attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

Jaishankar thanked Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar for their hospitality.

In a post on X, he said, "Departing from Islamabad. Thank PM Shehbaz Sharif, DPM & FM Ishaq Dar and the Government of Pakistan for the hospitality and courtesies."

Earlier in the day, in his address at the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad, Jaishankar called for introspection if friendship between the two nations has fallen short or good neighbourliness is missing.

Jaishankar said, "If we fast-forward from the inception of the



Charter to the situation today, these goals and these tasks are even more crucial. It is, therefore, essential that we have an honest conversation."

"If trust is lacking or cooperation inadequate, if friendship has fallen short and good neighbourliness is missing somewhere, there are surely reasons to introspect and causes to address. Equally, it

is only when we reaffirm our commitment most sincerely to the Charter that we can fully realise the benefits of cooperation and integration that it envisages," he added.

He termed cross-border terrorism, extremism and separatism as the "three evils" that hinder trade and people-to-people relations between countries. — **ANI**

TRAGEDY

More than 90 people killed in Nigeria's fuel tanker blast

ABUJA: At least 94 people were killed and 50 injured after a fuel tanker exploded, police in Nigeria confirmed on Wednesday.

The incident occurred in northern Jigawa state late on Tuesday. Many of the victims had approached the crashed tanker and were attempting to collect fuel spilled on the road.

Such incidents are relatively common in Nigeria, where fuel prices are extremely high com-

pared to average incomes, particularly in poor rural areas.

Nigeria also lacks a sufficient railway system to transport goods such as oil. Public broadcaster Radio Nigeria quoted Jigawa state police spokesperson Lawan Shi'isu Adam as saying that the "horrific tragedy" had occurred at around 11:30 pm local time.

The driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to tip over on a road en route from Kano state

to Nguru town in Yobe state. Shortly after the accident, there was an explosion causing a massive fire.

He added that locals attempting to scoop up fuel had "overwhelmed" police officers trying to stop them.

Adam said that local officials had organised a mass burial for the victims, and that the local community was gathering together to mourn them. — **DW**



MUSCAT GOVERNORATE
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 32/2024

International Companies specialized in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tender documents for the website through the following link:
(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Tender Description	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE-24-048 (Re-Tender)	Consultancy Services for Carrying out Road Safety Audit on Al-Jabal Street	07/11/2024	26/11/2024
PRE-24-288	Rent and Operation of Buses for Muscat Municipality	07/11/2024	26/11/2024
PRE-24-291	Supply of Beach Motorcycle(Unit Rate)	07/11/2024	26/11/2024
PRE-24-289	Rent of Equipment and Vehicles for Muscat Municipality	07/11/2024	26/11/2024
PRE-24-290	Supply Trolley Supply and Installation of Tow Hitch Hook on (2-Tone) Tripper for Muscat Municipality	07/11/2024	26/11/2024
PRE-24-292	Design and construction of the Embassies Global Villages at Qurum Natural Park	24/10/2024	31/10/2024
PRE-24-278	Marketing and promotion of Muscat Nights Festival 2024-2025 activities	24/10/2024	31/10/2024

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

SPORTS

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIERS



Key mistakes prove costly for Oman against Jordan: Jaber

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's head coach Rashid Jaber reflected on his team's 4-0 loss to Jordan in the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 Group B match at the Amman International Stadium on Tuesday night, citing crucial mistakes that left Red Warriors unable to mount a comeback.

"Congratulations to the Jordanian team for a well-earned victory. They deserved the win," Jaber said during the post-match press conference.

"I sincerely apologise to Omani fans and all football supporters for this disappointing result."

This was first defeat for Jaber in the Asian Qualifiers since replacing Czech coach Jaroslav Silhavy and came following a terrific start to his tenure when Oman trounced Kuwait 4-0 at home last Thursday. "Jordan controlled the match from start to finish," Jaber admitted.

"Our preparations were solid, but several key errors on the field set us back significantly. Except for AbdulRahman Al Mushferi, none of the starting players or substitutes were in top form. This was our poorest performance in the qualifiers."

He also pointed out the mental aspect of the game. "Jordan's mental sharpness was key to their dominant display. They capitalised on every opportunity, and we simply couldn't keep up."

Despite the heavy defeat, Jaber remains hopeful about Oman's qualification chances. "The door isn't closed yet. We need to adjust our mindset and the players must approach the next matches with a more positive attitude," he said.



The loss leaves Oman in fourth place with three points, while South Korea leads the group with 10 points. Jordan and Iraq both have seven points, occupying second and third positions, respectively. Kuwait and Palestine trail in fifth and sixth places.

Oman's next two matches are pivotal. They will face Palestine in Muscat on November 14, followed by another home clash against Iraq on November 19 at Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. The Red Warriors must secure victories in both games to keep their qualifying hopes alive.

On Tuesday night hosts Jordan led 1-0 at halftime. Yazan Al Naimat and Ali Olwan both netted braces as Jordan bounced back from their 2-0 defeat to South Korea.

Jordan settled quickly and broke in the 26th minute after

Al Mardi wriggled free from his markers on the left flank before delivering a well-timed cross for Al Naimat to score with a glancing header past keeper Ibrahim Al Mukhaini.

Oman were left picking up the pieces four minutes into the second half after conceding a penalty following Amjad Al Harthi's foul on Al Naimat, with Olwan sending Al Mukhaini the wrong way.

Al Naimat put the game beyond Oman's reach in the 54th minute, combining well with Olwan following a swift attacking move to strike a low effort which took a deflection before curling past a stunned Al Mukhaini.

Olwan then showed his class in the 87th minute when he skipped past his marker to advance into the box before striking a powerful drive into the roof of the net.

Ilyas to lead Oman in ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup

The eight-nation event, beginning at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat from Friday, features three Associate countries and A teams from five Test-playing Asian nations



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman head coach Duleep Mendis has placed his faith in a core group of experienced players as Oman prepares for the highly anticipated ACC T20 Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup.

The tournament kicks off on Friday, October 18, at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat and features teams from eight nations, including A teams from Asia's five Test-playing nations - Pakistan A, India A, Bangladesh A, Sri Lanka A, and Afghanistan A.

Aqib Ilyas has been named captain of the 15-member squad, which will compete against the strongest cricketing nations in the continent, along with teams from the UAE, Hong Kong, and the host nation Oman, representing the Associate nations.

In preparation for the tournament, Oman faced Afghanistan A in a bilateral series and participated in a tri-series that included Hong Kong.

Despite a mixed performance - drawing the bilateral series and losing both tri-series matches - Mendis remains optimistic.

He emphasised the importance of tough competition for his players' development, and said, "Playing against strong teams is the way forward for my players."

Confident in his squad's ability, Mendis believes Oman will rise to the challenge in the upcoming



tournament. The Omani team will lean heavily on seasoned players, with the return of opener Jatinder Singh and all-rounder Sufyan Mahmood offering a boost to the squad.

The inclusion of 22-year-old all-rounder Muhammad Muzahir Raza, the youngest player in the team, signals the team's commitment to bringing fresh talent into the fold.

Raza has already made a name for himself as a key member of Oman's U19 squad and will look to make a significant impact at this higher level. Oman's batting strength lies with veterans Jatinder Singh, Kashyap Prajapati, and Khalid Kail, while the bowling attack will be spearheaded by Kaleemullah, Siddharth Bukkapatnam, and Shakeel Ahmad.

A host of versatile all-rounders, including captain Aqib Ilyas, Zeeshan Maqsood, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Muzahir Raza, Rafiullah, and Sufyan Mahmood, will offer the team crucial depth and balance.

Pratik Athavale and Hammad

Mirza have been named as the two wicketkeepers in the squad.

Oman faces a stiff challenge in Group B, drawn alongside defending champions Pakistan A, former champions India A, and the UAE.

Group A features Bangladesh A, Sri Lanka A, Afghanistan A, and Hong Kong.

The tournament kicks off on Friday, October 18, with Group A matches. Bangladesh A will take on Hong Kong in the afternoon at 1pm, followed by Sri Lanka A facing Afghanistan A at 5:30pm.

However, the spotlight will shift to Saturday's (October 19) blockbuster Group B clash between arch-rivals India A and Pakistan A at 5:30pm. Earlier in the day, Oman will open their campaign against the UAE at 1pm.

Oman squad: Aqib Ilyas (captain), Shakeel Ahmed, Pratik Athavale (wk), Siddharth Bukkapatnam, Khalid Kail, Kaleemullah, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Zeeshan Maqsood, Sufyan Mehmood, Hammad Mirza (wk), Kashyap Prajapati, Rafiullah, Muhammad Muzahir Raza, Jatinder Singh.



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Times of Oman 'Business Leadership Summit 2024' will explore the innovative leadership practices driving business success and sustainability. The premier event will bring together senior government officials, international experts, top business owners, leading CEOs, SMEs and industry leaders. Attendees can look forward to thought-provoking discussions, invaluable networking opportunities and the celebration of outstanding leadership achievements.



GUEST OF HONOUR & KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
His Excellency Qais Al Yousef
Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion

STRATEGIC PARTNER:



SUPPORTED BY:



ORGANIZED BY:



EVENT MANAGEMENT:



MEDIA PARTNERS



LET'S REDEFINE LEADERSHIP FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

OCT 30 2024 | St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort

Discussion Topics:

- Navigating economic uncertainty
- Enhancing organizational agility
- Embracing digital transformation
- Cultivating talent and leadership development
- Fostering innovation and creativity
- Integrating ESG principles in business planning
- Building sustainable business models
- Expanding global market reach

Co-located: Times of Oman 'Business Leadership Awards'

The Times of Oman Business Leadership Awards will celebrate exceptional achievers in Oman's business landscape, honouring outstanding companies, visionary business owners, exemplary CEOs and innovative SMEs. Recognizing leadership excellence across industries, these awards will highlight achievements that drive economic growth, foster innovation and inspire others in the pursuit of business excellence.

Key Award Categories

- Business Leader of the Year
- SME of the Year
- Young Business Leader of the Year
- IPO of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Company of the Year

FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS, CONTACT

Anand Iyer
anand@mmg.om
+968 99219268

Kalpesh Adhia
kalpesh@mmg.om
+968 95511335

Muna Al Zadjali
muna@mmg.om
+968 9399 3334

bls.timesofoman.com

 TimesBusinessLeadershipSummit



OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by December 2024 reaching \$74.01, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 32 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$74.33. - **OMA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,813.05 points, up by 0.22% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.25% at 438.80 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.93%, was the top gainer while Galfar Engineering, down 9.24%, was the top loser.

Bank Muscat reports 7.5% growth in nine-month profit for 2024

The bank posted a net profit of OMR170.79 million in the first 9 months compared to OMR158.88 million reported during the same period in 2023

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, announced its preliminary unaudited results for the nine months ended 30 September 2024.

The bank posted a net profit of OMR170.79 million for the period compared to OMR158.88 million reported during the same period in 2023, an increase of 7.5 per cent.



The key highlights of the results for the period are as follows:

1) Net Interest Income from Conventional Banking and Net Income from Islamic Financing stood at OMR 293.91 million for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024 compared to OMR 280.98 million for the same period in 2023, an increase of 4.6 per cent.

2) Non-interest income was OMR 110.33 million for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024 as compared to OMR 100.23 million for the same period in 2023, an increase of 10.1 per cent. This increase was due to overall improvement in various business lines.

3) Operating expenses for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024 as compared to OMR 100.23 million for the same period in 2023, an increase of 10.1 per cent.

4) Net Impairment for credit losses for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024 was OMR 44.95 million as against OMR 49.25 million for the same period in 2023.

5) Net Loans and advances including Islamic financing receivables increased by 4.1 per cent to OMR 10,269 million as against OMR 9,865 million as at 30 September 2023.

6) Customer deposits including Islamic Customer deposits increased by 6.6 per cent to OMR10,110 million as against OMR 9,485 million as at 30 September 2023. Key highlights of preliminary unaudited results

Key highlights of preliminary unaudited results

Particulars (OMR millions)	30 Sep 2024	30 Sep 2023	Change (%)
For the period ended			
Net interest income & Islamic financing income	293.91	280.98	4.6%
Other operating income	110.33	100.23	10.1%
Operating expenses	154.64	146.48	5.6%
Operating profit	249.60	234.73	6.3%
Net profit	170.79	158.88	7.5%
Particulars (OMR millions)	30 Sep 2024	30 Sep 2023	Change (%)
As at period ended			
Total Assets	14,057	13,515	4.0%
Net loans and Islamic financing	10,269	9,865	4.1%
- Conventional loans and advances	8,686	8,329	4.3%
- Islamic financing receivables	1,583	1,536	3.1%
Customer deposits and Islamic deposits	10,110	9,485	6.6%
- Conventional customer deposits	8,569	8,128	5.4%
- Islamic customer deposits	1,541	1,357	13.6%
Total Equity*	2,406	2,306	4.3%

*Total Equity includes Perpetual Tier I capital of OMR505 million (2023: OMR505 million).

The full results for the nine months period ended 30 September 2024 along with the complete set of unaudited financial statements will be released following the approval of the Board of Directors of the Bank at its meeting scheduled later during October 2024.

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS



Middle East recorded \$16.7 billion in sustainable bond issuances in Jan-Sept 2024

ABU DHABI: Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings has reported that sustainable bond issuances in the Middle East reached approximately US\$16.7 billion in the first nine months of 2024.

According to its latest report titled "Sustainability Insights: Middle East Sustainable Bond Issuance Trends" published today, there was an 18 percent decline in sustainable bond issuance over the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year.

S&P attributes this reduction to the need for accelerated implementation of net-zero policies, which could stimulate further issuance despite existing government initiatives and an increasing alignment with sustainability regulations.

The report anticipates that the UAE and Saudi Arabia will continue to lead the sustainable bond market in the region, even as other Middle Eastern nations show increased activity in this sector. -**WAM**

CAREER GROWTH

Sohar Aluminium announces 2024 batch for Further Education Support Programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar Aluminium (SA) announced the new batch of its employees selected for the Further Education Support Programme (FES) for 2024.

Through this programme, SA supports its employees to pursue their undergraduate or postgraduate studies in different colleges and universities in the Sultanate of Oman. The programme is one of the many initiatives which reflect the company's continuous efforts to support its employees' personal development and career growth.

The Further Education Support Programme, introduced in 2012, showcases SA's strategic vision of retaining employees, fostering their development, and making targeted investments in their future. By prioritising continuous learning and development, the company builds a highly skilled and engaged workforce capable of driving its success in a dynamic global market.

Commenting on the FES Programme, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Kharusi, GM of HR and Corporate Affairs at Sohar Aluminium, pointed out, "Since its inception, the number of employees supported is increasing every year and until now we have awarded 109 scholarships comprising of 28 Postgraduate and 81 Undergraduate courses, among of which are 86% are male while 14% are female employees."



The scholarships granted by the Further Education Support Programme cover different disciplines including engineering, health and safety and business management. It is worth noting that around 24 employees have been promoted to higher positions within the organisation post obtaining academic qualifications under this program.

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Final extension of deadline for TOMI submissions – October 24th!

MUSCAT: At the behest of marketing teams from companies across the country, the TOMI Awards submission deadline has been extended to October 24th, 2024.

How to Submit Your Entries
Submitting your work is simple. Just visit www.tomiawards.com, where you'll find all the details needed to complete your submission. The deadline for all entries is now October 24, 2024, so don't wait!

Here's a quick checklist to get started:

- If you don't have credentials, request them at anna.popova@tomiawards.com
- Choose Your Categories: Identify the categories that best represent your work. You can submit to multiple categories to increase your chances of being shortlisted.

- Prepare Your Materials: Ensure that your submission showcases the strongest elements of your campaign—highlight what makes it innovative, unique, and effective.
- Submit Online: Fill out the entry form at www.tomiawards.com and upload all relevant materials before the deadline.

Many leading marketers have already submitted their entries across various categories, and we encourage you to join them in competing for the top honors.

What to Expect
The TOMI Awards promise to be a thrilling event that celebrates creativity and innovation in Oman's marketing industry. This isn't just about trophies—it's about recognition, exposure, and demonstrating the power of great campaigns.

The awards ceremony in December will be an exciting and innovative event, bringing together



the brightest minds in marketing, advertising, and PR. Finalists will not only gain the recognition of their peers but also have the

opportunity to showcase their campaigns to a wider audience, including potential clients and collaborators.

How to Get Involved
If you It's absolutely free to enter! Here's a breakdown of categories you can compete in:

- Best Print Advertising
- Best Video Advertising
- Best Digital Advertising
- Best Out-of-Home Advertising (Static)
- Best Digital Out-of-Home Advertising
- Best Influencer Marketing
- Best Website
- Best Explainer Video
- Best PR Campaign
- Best Event Design
- Best Content Marketing
- Best On-Ground Activation
- Best Brand Identity (Logo)
- Best CSR Campaign

The TOMI Awards offer something for every type of campaign,

whether it's a creative social media strategy, a beautifully designed website, or a community-driven CSR initiative.

By submitting, you'll place your work in front of an audience of industry leaders, with the final winners determined through public voting, peer voting by marketing heads, and an international jury. This fair and transparent process ensures that only the most creative win the awards.

Tips for Maximizing Participation and Increasing Your Chances of Winning

- Be Clear and Concise: Judges appreciate entries that are easy to understand and highlight the campaign's objectives, strategies, and results.
- Focus on Innovation: The TOMI Awards celebrate creativity, so don't shy away from showcasing out-of-the-box ideas or bold approaches.
- Enter Multiple Categories:

Don't limit yourself to one category. Entering your campaign in multiple categories that fit its scope and strengths can increase your chances of winning.

- Engage Your Audience: Public voting plays a part in the selection process. Promote your campaign to your audience and get them to support you when voting opens.

Get Ready for an Unforgettable Night in December!
The TOMI Awards ceremony in December will bring together the best minds in the industry for a night of inspiration, celebration, and recognition. You don't want to miss the chance to be part of this exciting event and have your work showcased as the best in Oman.

To attend the event – please send an email to hi@tomiawards.com

For more information and to enter, visit www.tomiawards.com.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Oman Education & Training, up 9.93%, was the top gainer while Galfar Engineering, down 9.24%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,813.05 points, up by 0.22% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.25% at 438.80 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.93%, was the top gainer while Galfar Engineering, down 9.24%, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 754 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 3.44 million, with more than 16.15 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 14 advanced, 11 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 360K while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 306K, followed by foreign investors for RO 54K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,955.83 points, up 0.29%. Prices of Muscat Finance, Bank Muscat, Global Financial Investments,

Sohar International Bank, Om-invest were up by 2.27%, 1.89%, 1.24%, 0.69%, 0.57% respectively. Prices of DIDIC, Al Anwar Investment, United Finance were down by 4.76 per cent, 2.67%, 1.72% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,620.85 points, down 1.22%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy were up by 1.05%, 1.00% respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Gulf International Chemicals, Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 9.24%, 4.17%, 3.33%, 2.60%, 0.44% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.12% before closing at 1,838.42 points. Prices of Oman Education & Training, Barka Desalination, Oman National Engineering, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Batinah Power were up by 9.93 per cent, 4.17%, 3.45%, 2.80%, 1.27% respectively. Prices of National Gas, Renaissance Services were down by 4.76 per cent, 2.50 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,817.74	4,793.76	4,813.05	4,802.43	10.62	0.22
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,967.53	7,931.87	7,955.83	7,932.63	23.21	0.29
Industry Index	5,709.13	5,614.69	5,620.85	5,690.43	-69.58	-1.22
Services Index	1,840.02	1,829.69	1,838.42	1,836.17	2.25	0.12
MSX Shariah Index	439.91	438.63	438.80	439.91	-1.10	-0.25
MSX TR INDEX	6,695.90	6,662.56	6,689.38	6,674.62	14.76	0.22
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,051.94	9,011.42	9,038.64	9,012.28	26.37	0.29
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,586.98	6,478.02	6,485.13	6,565.41	-80.28	-1.22
SERVICES TR IDX	2,141.14	2,129.13	2,139.29	2,136.67	2.62	0.12
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,066.88	1,066.88	1,066.88	1,066.88	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
16,154,779	3,442,963	754	24,763,555,823	14	11	20	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

ISIN

SECURITY NAME

VOLUME

TURNOVER

TRADES

OPEN PRICE

HIGH

LOW

CLOSE PR

PREV. CLOSE

DIFF BD

DIFF %

LAST PR

LAST BD

LAST OFFER

PREV. VALUE

MARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	217,038	25,962	22	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.116	0.004	3.448	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	100,000	10,851	5	0.107	0.110	0.107	0.110	0.107	0.003	2.804	0.110	0.108	0.112	0.100	105,002,915
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	5,338,380	1,434,346	122	0.265	0.272	0.265	0.270	0.265	0.005	1.887	0.270	0.291	0.270	0.100	2,026,727,207
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	254,040	20,305	12	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	53,990,994
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	1,431,408	118,836	106	0.082	0.085	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	34,512	13,645	7	0.400	0.400	0.384	0.384	0.380	0.004	1.053	0.384	0.384	0.399	0.100	46,480,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,181,453	172,742	30	0.146	0.147	0.146	0.146	0.145	0.001	0.690	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.100	814,277,955
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	557,998	197,186	31	0.352	0.355	0.351	0.355	0.353	0.002	0.367	0.355	0.354	0.355	0.100	227,268,726
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	129,545	128,521	14	0.982	0.984	0.982	0.982	0.980	0.002	0.202	0.982	0.992	0.983	0.100	744,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	241,665	17,742	27	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	9,018,750
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	50,000	3,600	6	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.071	0.073	0.100	6,480,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	21,300	5,865	6	0.275	0.276	0.275	0.276	0.276	0.000	0.000	0.276	0.278	0.280	0.100	179,660,607
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	25,000	2,000	2	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	240,737	19,211	13	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.077	0.080	0.100	57,152,507
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	616,180	181,157	19	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.293	0.300	0.100	226,438,800
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,085,689	158,489	111	0.145	0.146	0.145	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.146	0.147	0.100	632,271,092
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	174,535	9,948	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.058	-0.001	-1.724	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.100	20,299,255
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	372,500	145,894	16	0.392	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.400	-0.010	-2.500	0.390	0.390	0.394	0.100	92,199,900
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	37,142	5,410	7	0.147	0.147	0.145	0.145	0.150	-0.005	-3.333	0.145	0.145	0.147	0.100	31,900,000
Total		19	12,109,122	2,671,689	548											

Parallel Market

OM0000002680	OMAN EDU & TRAINING INVESTMENTS	156,388	94,716	1	0.598	0.598	0.598	0.598	0.544	0.054	9.926	0.598	0.000	0.598	0.100	41,860,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	4,790	599	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.120	0.005	4.167	0.125	0.125	0.131	0.100	9,440,250
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	132,263	5,932	11	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.045	0.040	0.048	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	948,762	386,723	18	0.410	0.415	0.400	0.405	0.401	0.004	0.998	0.405	0.400	0.405	0.100	32,968,114
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	7,414	19,499	2	2.630	2.630	2.630	2.630	2.630	0.000	0.000	2.630	2.500	2.630	0.100	235,911,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	11,391	1,636	3	0.150	0.150	0.143	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.143	0.148	0.100	2,393,539
OM0000002077	AL OMANYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	12,504	2,038	1	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.000	0.163	0.100	51,412,971
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,440	216	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.100	352,448,620
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	750	51	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.100	241,590,927
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	9,900	946	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	11,000,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	7,096	497	2	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	10,888,528
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	503,700	36,122	31	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.077	0.100	15,556,800
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,200	493	1	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.225	-0.001	-0.444	0.224	0.220	0.246	0.100	10,251,539
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	242,812	15,783	17	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.064	0.068	0.100	33,061,034
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	10,000	1,500	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.154	-0.004	-2.597	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	8,250,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	148,001	10,865	16	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.667	0.073	0.073	0.076	0.100	15,489,140
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	10,000	690	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.072	-0.003	-4.167	0.069	0.069	0.072	0.100	1,449,000
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	68,000	5,470	7	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.084	-0.004	-4.762	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	5,800,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV HO	3,888	836	4	0.210	0.220	0.208	0.220	0.231	-0.011	-4.762	0.220	0.208	0.220	0.100	90,034,190
OM0000003521	GALFAREENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,674,231	180,817	69	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.119	-0.011	-9.244	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.100	21,922,536
Total		20	3,957,540	764,948	191											

ASIAN EQUITIES

Chip stocks drag Asian markets lower; China shares volatile



SINGAPORE: Asian equities declined on Wednesday, driven by lower chip stock performance following a disappointing outlook from tech firm ASML. The dollar strengthened, supported by expectations that the Federal Reserve would pursue a modest rate cut path.

A fall in quarterly sales for luxury firm LVMH, reflecting weaker

demand in China for luxury goods, also weighed on market sentiment, Reuters reported.

Stocks in Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea dropped by 1.7%, 1.2%, and 0.6%, respectively, while the MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan decreased by 0.31%.

European stock markets were

set for a weaker start, with Eurostoxx 50 futures down 0.62%, German DAX futures declining by 0.2%, and FTSE futures down 0.12%. In China, stocks fluctuated as investors awaited further stimulus details. The blue-chip CSI300 index was last down 0.24%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index gained 0.88%. -BNA

EXPERTS IN

All Kinds of home automation/Integration like Audiovisual, Lighting Control System, CCTV/ Access Control along with product consultation & expert advise on the above being taken care. Also all kinds of Electrical installation & maintenance taken care with at most professionalism.

Contact: 93387263, 92839679

THE NEW 4th DIMENSION LLC

البعء الرابع الجديد ش.م.م

Email: newfourthdimension@gmail.com

NEW FORECAST

What is behind Vietnam's economic success story?

HANOI: According to a new forecast from the World Bank, economic growth in Vietnam is expected to reach 6.1% by the end of 2024 and 6.5% in 2025.

Both forecasts are higher than what was estimated in April, with the increase in growth attributed to a rebound in manufacturing exports, tourism and investment, according to the report.

This shows that Vietnam could have bigger growth in 2025 than other emerging economies such as Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"Vietnam certainly faces some serious challenges, not least the ailing domestic sector and over-reliance on the [foreign direct investment] sector, but, compared to other Southeast Asian countries, its economic prospects remain bright," Nguyen Khac Giang, researcher and visiting fellow at the ISEAS Institute, told DW.

What is driving growth?

Vietnam, like other Southeast Asian countries, relies heavily on foreign direct investment.

Between 2021 and 2023, FDI inflows into Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines averaged about \$236 billion a year, according to the ASEAN Investment Report 2024.

As Western investors try to diversify away from China amid geopolitical tensions between the Washington and Beijing, Southeast Asian countries are becoming a top choice for foreign investment from the US, Japan and the EU.

Nguyen said Vietnam was taking advantage of those tensions.

"I think Vietnam can maintain its growth momentum due to its domestic advantage of a 100 million population with a rising middle class, while also optimizing the benefits of its geopolitical position in the



LIFESTYLE

ROHIT GHAI'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH OMAN: A DIWALI FEAST AT AANGAN

For Michelin-starred Ghai, Oman is not just a place to showcase his culinary artistry; it's a second home filled with warm-hearted people, diverse landscapes, and a culinary heritage that inspires him daily

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As Diwali approaches, renowned Michelin-starred chef Rohit Ghai prepares to celebrate this vibrant Indian festival, known for its joyful gatherings illuminated by lights and delectable food, at the luxurious Shangri-La Al Husn's Aangan.

The festival of lights will be celebrated this year on October 31-November 1 and at Aangan, it is set to shine even brighter, with Ghai introducing a specially curated menu that perfectly captures the essence of the festival. The Diwali feast will be organised at the popular Indian restaurant from October 28-November 3.

This menu, designed with Ghai's signature flair, celebrates traditional Indian flavours while incorporating local Omani ingredients, reflecting the deep connection Ghai has developed with Oman over the past two years.

Aangan has become a staple of the fine-dining scene in Oman, and with this Diwali menu, Ghai is looking to deepen his connection with the country that he now considers his second home.

'Oman feels like home'

In an exclusive chat with Times of Oman, Ghai said: "I've always felt a deep connection to Oman," his eyes lighting up with enthusiasm.

"From the moment I first arrived, I felt embraced by the warmth and hospitality of the Omani people. There's a certain serenity in Oman that I find inspiring - not just for my culinary work but personally as well. The people here are incredibly friendly, and they remind me so much of my own upbringing in India. It's this spirit of generosity and kindness that makes Oman feel like a second home to me."

This heartfelt attachment has translated into his work at Aangan, where he has created a unique space that celebrates the rich flavours of India while pay-



ing homage to Omani culture. His passion for both nations is evident in his Diwali menu, which blends traditional Indian recipes with local ingredients and culinary sensibilities.

The Diwali menu at Aangan is a true celebration of Indian flavours, offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. Each course is thoughtfully crafted to evoke the festive spirit, with bold spices and traditional ingredients reimagined for the modern palate.

Diwali menu

For vegetarians, the feast begins with a Chaat Platter featuring Golgappa, Dahivada, and Aloo Tikki - classic street food delicacies with a twist.

This is followed by Rajma Galauti, a melt-in-the-mouth kidney bean patty with mint and fried onions, and a Subz Seekh Kebab made from seasonal greens.

The main course offers a choice between the rich Paneer Butter Masala, with its cottage cheese in a tangy tomato-fenugreek sauce, or the flavourful Baingan ka Salan, a dish of baby eggplant paired with sesame and peanut.

Accompanying the main dishes are black lentils, rice, and a variety of breads. To end the meal, guests can indulge in either a decadent Malpua Pistachio, a saffron-infused pancake with reduced milk, or the fragrant Kulfi Berries, a rose-saffron dessert with blackberries.

The vegetarian menu is priced



at OMR30, with an optional drinks pairing available for an additional OMR30.

The non-vegetarian Diwali feast offers equally tantalising options, beginning with his signature Prawn Masala, made with pink prawns, coconut, and sesame, followed by a Salmon Mooli, featuring fish tikka paired with radish and raita.

Tandoori Chicken, with its charred breast and mint chutney, adds a familiar yet refined touch, while diners can choose between the slow-cooked Lamb Jungle Maa, seasoned with Mathania chili and coriander, and the aromatic Sea Bass Moilee, cooked in coconut milk with curry leaves. Black lentils, rice, and breads



round out the meal, while dessert options mirror the vegetarian menu: Malpua Pistachio or Kulfi Berries.

The non-vegetarian menu is priced at OMR35 OMR, with an



ground and has such rich, deep flavours. It's that connection to tradition and family, which I've always valued in my own cooking, that resonates with me."

He added, "Oman is a land of contrasts - rugged mountains, golden deserts, and stunning coastlines. It's that diversity which inspires me in the kitchen. I love working with local ingredients like seafood, which are so fresh. And the dates! Omani dates are unlike any I've tasted before - they're so sweet and rich. I've started incorporating them into my dishes, and it's been exciting to blend these Omani flavours with Indian spices."

For Ghai, Oman is more than just a place of work - it's a place of

year's Diwali feast, Ghai's affection for Oman shines through in every dish.

"This menu is a reflection of my love for both India and Oman," Ghai said with a smile. "It's about celebrating Diwali, a time of joy and light, and sharing that experience with the wonderful people of Oman. It's a time for family, for friends, and for good food. I wanted to create a menu that reflects that spirit of togetherness."

The Diwali feast at Aangan is a testament to Ghai's love affair with the country. It is a celebration of flavours, culture, and the joy of bringing people together around a beautifully curated meal, which Ghai hopes will deepen his bond with Oman.

SPORTS

Pakistan spinners spark England collapse after Duckett's century

Sajid Khan turned the Test the hosts' way to leave the visitors on the ropes at 239 for 6, still trailing by a substantial 127

MULTAN: Pakistan's spinners dramatically turned the second Test on its head during day two, dismantling England's middle order after a strong start from the visitors.

England appeared to be in control, comfortably responding to Pakistan's 366 with Ben Duckett leading the charge, scoring a swashbuckling 114. The tourists had cruised to 211-2, poised to take a crucial lead, when off-spinner Sajid Khan ignited Pakistan's comeback.



On a pitch that had suddenly come alive, Sajid triggered a collapse by bowling Joe Root, enticing Duckett into an edge, and delivering a ripping delivery to dismiss Harry Brook. The flurry continued when Ben Stokes was caught at short leg off Noman Ali,

leaving England stunned after losing four wickets for just 14 runs in 24 deliveries.

By the end of the chaotic evening session, England had slumped to 239-6, still trailing by 127 runs after a day they had mostly dominated.

Earlier, Jack Leach and Brydon Carse led England's efforts with the ball, claiming four and three wickets respectively, as Pakistan were bowled out shortly after lunch. Carse found himself back in the middle before stumps, clinging on alongside Jamie Smith as

England fought for survival.

Pakistan selected seven spinners but only used four on the second day. With a recycled pitch from the first Test, it seemed inevitable that it would play a pivotal role.

When Duckett was cruising, building partnerships of over 50 with Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, and Root, it appeared history might repeat itself. Yet Sajid Khan, one of four changes to Pakistan's XI, proved crucial even as Duckett continued his assault with England scoring at five runs per over.

As the match progressed, the pitch began to favour Pakistan's spinners. Root's sweep may have kept low, Duckett's drive fell victim to the rough, and Brook misjudged an attempted force against the spin. Stokes, playing cautiously after missing four Tests with a hamstring injury, poked defensively and was caught.

In a matter of minutes, England's dreams of a first-innings lead evaporated, turning into a battle for survival. Achieving parity now seems a significant challenge, especially with the ominous

fourth-innings conditions awaiting England.

Duckett was a standout performer for England, his century coming as 23% of his runs were scored from sweep shots. Only Joe Root, in 2018 against Sri Lanka, has scored more of his first 100 runs in a Test innings using the sweep.

England began at a run-a-ball pace, though Crawley struggled for rhythm. After surviving several scares, Crawley edged Noman for 27. Pope looked solid but was bowled through the gate for 29 by Sajid.

Duckett reached his century from 120 balls, bringing up the milestone with yet another sweep this time off Salman Agha's off-spin. It was his fourth Test hundred and his first in 18 innings. His 86-run partnership with Root seemed to have England coasting before Sajid's intervention turned the match on its head.

Brief scores: Pakistan 1st innings 366 (Ghulam 118, Ayub 77; Leach 4-114, Carse 3-50) vs England 1st innings: 239-6 (Duckett 114; Sajid 4-86). - **Agencies**

ICC

Cook, Neetu and de Villiers inducted into Hall of Fame



DUBAI: Alastair Cook, Neetu David and AB de Villiers are the newest inductees into the ICC Hall of Fame. The trio are the 113th, 114th and the 115th members of the club.

David, a former left-arm spinner who played 10 Tests and 97 ODIs, is the second Indian woman after Diana Edulji to be included in the ICC Hall of Fame.

David, currently the chair of selectors for the Indian women's team, was the first Indian woman to pick up 100 ODI wickets. She topped the bowling charts at the 2005 ODI World Cup, taking 20 wickets as India finished runners-up. She ended her career with a bowling average of 16.34, which is the best by any bowler - male or female - to have taken at least 100 ODI wickets. Her figures of 8 for 53 are also the best in an innings in women's Tests, and it was the first eight-wicket haul in the format.

Former opener Cook was, until

recently, the leading run-scorer and century-maker for England in Test cricket. He scored 766 runs in seven innings in England's first Ashes win in Australia for 24 years in 2010-11 and captained England to two successive home Ashes wins in 2013 and 2015. He was at the forefront of England's first Test series win in India for 28 years in 2012.

De Villiers lit up world cricket with his innovative strokeplay and set the record for the fastest 50, 100 and 150 in ODI cricket. He scored over 20,000 runs in international cricket and was part of South Africa's semi-final finishes at the 2007 and 2015 ODI World Cups. His career-best Test score of 278 not out against Pakistan in 2010 was briefly the highest individual score for South Africa. He retired from internationals in 2018 with an average of over 50 in Tests and ODIs. - **Agencies**

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

Rain washes out first day in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: New Zealand have now gone six consecutive days of Test cricket in India without any actual cricket. After the Afghanistan misadventure in Greater Noida, you could hardly blame the ground for this one, though.

The first day of the first Test in Bengaluru on Wednesday remained a non-starter as the rainy week continued.

Bengaluru did wake up to optimistic news as the expected apocalyptic rain had skirted the city.

However, a drizzle of varying intensity - sometimes so fine that it wouldn't result in an interruption if pay was already on - continued until a big shower at 2.30pm (local time) put paid to all hopes of a toss on day one.

Now that this will start as a Test of four days or fewer, a team wanting to enforce a follow-on will need to lead by 150 and not 200.

After the amount of rain the M Chinnaswamy Stadium has taken in the lead-up to the Test, the only reason for hope was the sub-air drainage system at the ground that can drain a claimed 10000 litres of water per minute.

However, there was another obstacle in the course: because of the rain a day before the match, the Hawk-Eye formatting couldn't be done.

This process, too, takes an hour and a half. However, it didn't come down to that as the rain at 2.30pm was heavy. The authorities will hope this formatting can be done before the second day, which by the way is forecast to be impacted by rain again. - **Agencies**

THIRD NON-BRITISH MANAGER

Tuchel 'very proud' to be named England manager

LONDON: Thomas Tuchel has been appointed England manager from January 1, 2025.

The 51-year-old German, who has signed an 18-month contract, becomes the third non-British permanent manager of the men's team after Sven-Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello.

Gareth Southgate resigned in July after England's defeat by Spain in the Euro 2024 final.

Lee Carsley, who has overseen four games since being appointed interim manager in August, will remain in charge for the Nations League matches against Greece and the Republic of Ireland next month. Former Chelsea boss Tuchel, who left Bayern Munich at the end of last season, said: "I am very proud to have been given the honour of leading the England team."

"I have long felt a personal connection to the game in this country, and it has given me some incredible moments already."

"To have the chance to represent England is a huge privilege, and the opportunity to work with this special and talented group of players is very exciting"

Chief executive Mark Bullingham said the Football Association had appointed "one of the best coaches in the world".

He said: "Thomas and the team have a single-minded focus on giving us the best possible chance to win the World Cup in 2026."

England have not won a major trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

They will start their qualification process for the 2026 tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States next year.

The FA approached Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola in the summer to see if had an in-



terest in the role, while Newcastle United boss Eddie Howe and ex-Brighton and Chelsea manager Graham Potter were also linked with the position.

FA said Tuchel was the "preferred candidate" from "several" managers interviewed.

It said the FA board approved the decision last week and Tuchel signed a contract on October 8.

Under Carsley, England lost to Greece on October 10 and beat Finland on October 13.

"The announcement was delayed to minimise distraction around the international camp that has just concluded," an FA statement read.

English coach Anthony Barry, who worked with Tuchel at Chelsea and Bayern, will be his assistant.

Tuchel won the German Cup

with Borussia Dortmund and two Ligue 1 titles at Paris Saint-Germain, including a domestic treble in 2019-20.

He became Chelsea manager in January 2021, winning the Champions League, Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup before being sacked in September 2022.

After Bayern failed to win the Bundesliga title last season for the first time since 2011-12, Tuchel left despite still having a year to run on his contract.

"Exciting times for England, with a generation of talented players and a new manager taking the reins," the Prince of Wales said, external on social media.

"Thomas, wishing you the best of luck, we're all behind you! W"

Carsley will return to manage England Under-21s when Tuchel takes over. - **Agencies**

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

Spain rout Serbia to reach quarters

CORDOBA: European champions Spain cruised past Serbia 3-0 in Cordoba to reach the Nations League quarter-finals on Tuesday.

La Roja's Aymeric Laporte handed the hosts an early lead with a header. Spain dominated possession and produced 30 shots at goal, including Alvaro Morata's missed penalty in the second half.

The forward would make amends soon after, however, as a neat finish doubled his side's advantage in the 65th minute.

Serbia's resistance was ended when Strahinja Pavlovic was sent off for a foul on Mikel Oyarzabal and Alex Baena converted from the resulting free-kick to stretch Spain's unbeaten run to 14 games. Victory for the reigning winners clinched qualification for the



next stage from Group A4 with two games still remaining.

Elsewhere, Denmark twice came from behind to draw 2-2 and claim a valuable point against Switzerland in St. Gallen.

Other results: Group 1: Poland 3 Croatia 3, Scotland 0 Portugal 0; Group 2: Kosovo 3 Cyprus 0, Lithuania 1 Romania 2; Group 3: Belarus 1 Luxembourg 1, Northern Ireland 5 Bulgaria 0. - **Agencies**

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Messi hits hat-trick as Argentina drub Bolivia

BUENOS AIRES: Lionel Messi scored his 10th international hat-trick as Argentina thrashed Bolivia 6-0 in World Cup qualifying on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old Inter Miami forward, who also set up two goals at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, moved level with Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo for the most hat-tricks in men's international football.

Argentina are three points clear of Colombia at the top of the South American qualifying group for the 2026 World Cup, despite losing to Colombia in September and drawing with Venezuela last week.

"It's really nice to come here, to feel the affection of the people. It moves me how they shout my name," Messi said.

"This drives me - enjoying being happy where I am. Despite my age, when I'm here, I feel like a kid because I'm comfortable with this



team. As long as I feel good and can keep performing the way I want, I'll keep enjoying it."

Messi, making only his second appearance for Argentina since suffering an injury at the Copa America in July, capitalised on a defensive error to put them ahead after 19 minutes.

He set up Lautaro Martinez and then Julian Alvarez before substi-

tute Thiago Almada made it 4-0.

Messi struck twice in two minutes late on, beating two defenders to fire in his second and completing his hat-trick by finding the bottom corner.

Messi has scored 112 goals in 189 games for Argentina - second only to Ronaldo, who has 133, in men's internationals.

Raphinha scored twice as strug-

gling Brazil made it back-to-back victories with a 4-0 win over Peru in Brasilia.

Brazil, record five-time World Cup winners, had lost four of their past five qualifiers before defeating Chile on Thursday.

Dorival Junior's side are fourth in the table - six points behind Argentina - after 10 games.

The top six teams qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Raphinha converted a penalty in each half before late goals from Fulham's Andreas Pereira and Luiz Henrique.

In-form Aston Villa striker Jhon Duran scored his seventh goal of the season in all competitions as Colombia beat Chile 4-0.

Davinson Sanchez, Liverpool's Luis Diaz and Bournemouth's Luis Sinisterra also scored in Barranquilla. - **Agencies**

IN PICTURES



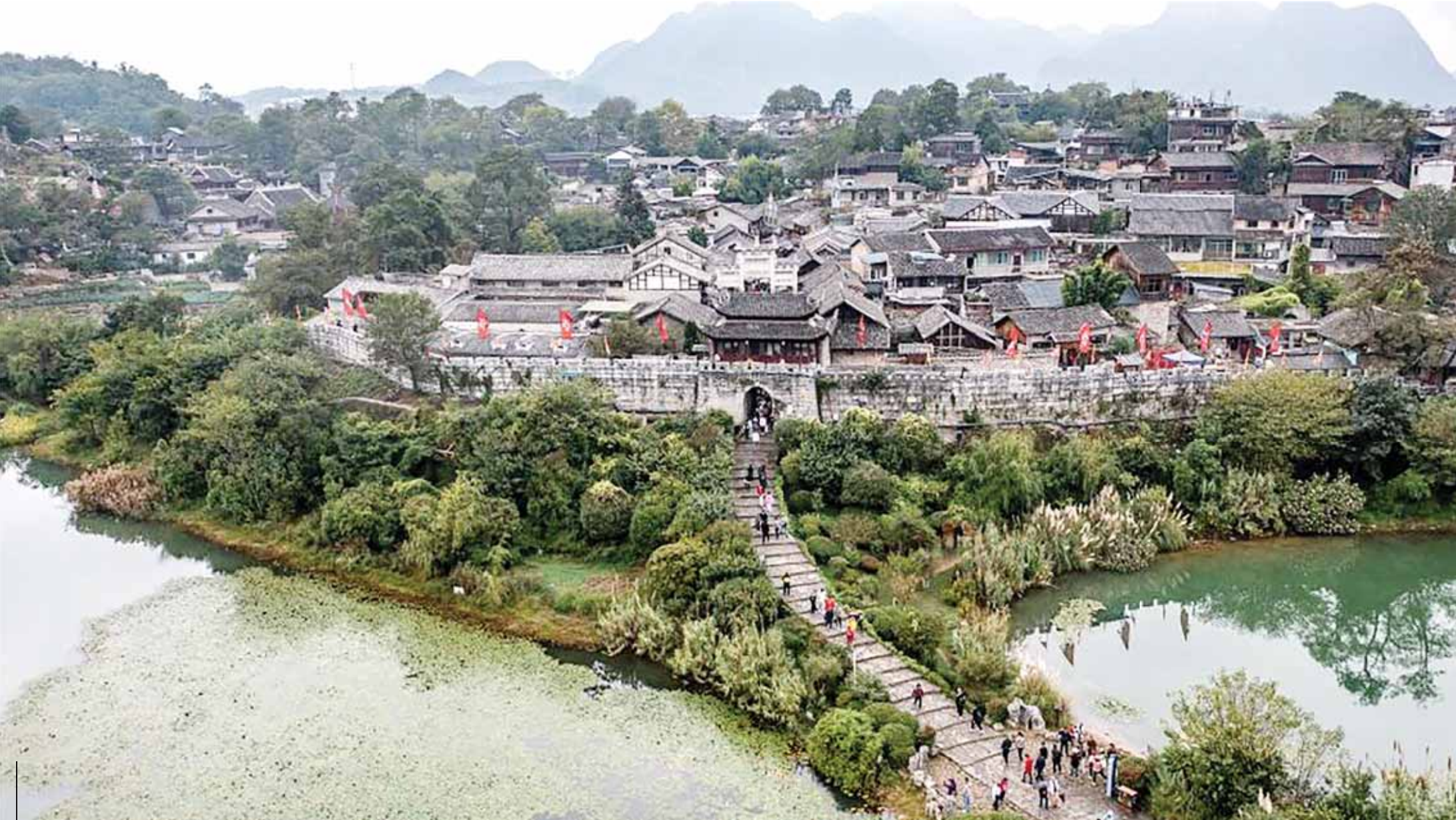
Buffalo race held to celebrate rice harvest in Chonburi, Thailand
A buffalo racer competes during a buffalo race to celebrate the rice harvest in Chonburi, Thailand. — Xinhua



Celebrating Hema Malini: A journey through her iconic films on her birthday
As we celebrate the birthday of one of Indian cinemas most beloved actresses, Hema Malini, it's an opportune moment to reflect on her illustrious career and the unforgettable films that have etched her name in the annals of Indian cinema's history. Fondly known as the "Dream Girl," Hema Malini has not only captivated audiences with her beauty and grace but has also delivered powerful performances that have left an indelible mark on Indian cinema.



Baby show held in Ontario, Canada
Parents show off their babies during a baby show held at the Burford Fall Fair in Burford, Ontario, Canada. — Xinhua



Qingyan ancient town in Guiyang, SW China
An aerial drone picture shows an autumn view of the Qingyan ancient town in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province. — Xinhua

Rashakai SEZ under CPEC begins to contribute to industrial development in Pakistan
A drone picture shows a view of Rashakai Special Economic Zone under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Nowshera, Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. — Xinhua



Inheritor of Gupa tea-making skills in China's Guangxi
Feng Kangchong serves tea in Sigao Village, Miaohuang Township of Xiangzhou County, Laibin City of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua

ROUND-UP

Enticing Akeed benefits on Toyota Fortuner

Toyota's powerful SUV, the Toyota Fortuner, continues to raise the bar, delivering powerful, impressive performance and versatility that thrives both on and off the road



MUSCAT: Own the powerful Toyota Fortuner now and get exclusive Akeed benefits. Get Service from 2 Years / 20,000 kms up to 10 Years / 100,000 kms (whichever is earlier), Insurance 1 Year and chance to win 1 grand raffle – All-new Toyota Prado. The campaign is valid up to 31 October. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Customers can visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom for exact details.)

Toyota's powerful SUV, the Toyota Fortuner, continues to

raise the bar, delivering powerful, impressive performance and versatility that thrives both on and off the road. Engineered to provide an exceptional driving experience, the Fortuner stands as the perfect companion for adventure-seekers and families alike, promising memorable journeys in every terrain.

The Fortuner is available with a choice of two potent petrol engines. For those seeking a balance of power and efficiency, the 2.7-Litre Four Cylinder Engine delivers a robust 164 HP and 25.0 Kg-m of torque. For drivers craving more excitement, the 4.0-Litre V6 En-

gine churns out an exhilarating 235 HP and 38.3 Kg-m of torque, providing heart-racing performance. Both engines are paired with a 6-speed Automatic Transmission, offering seamless acceleration and control in every driving condition.

Just as striking on the inside as it is on the outside, the Fortuner boasts a meticulously designed interior that blends comfort with sophistication. The premium leather seats and leather-wood finished steering wheel with paddle shifts offer a touch of luxury, while features like the cool glove box and cruise

control elevate every journey. The Fortuner's cabin is a sanctuary of convenience and style, equipped with thoughtful touches to ensure a refined driving experience.

For added comfort, the Fortuner features a powerful air conditioner, ensuring the cabin remains cool, no matter the climate. It also comes with a navigation system for stress-free driving and a rear view camera to make reverse parking effortless. Audiophiles will appreciate the 6-speaker Audio System, which creates a harmonious soundscape for every adventure. Additionally, the Power Back Door System adds a level of ease to loading and unloading, enhancing overall convenience.

When it comes to safety, the Toyota Fortuner prioritises the protection of its occupants with a suite of advanced safety technologies. The Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) prevents wheel lock-up during sudden braking, while the SRS Airbag System, which includes driver, passenger, side, curtain and knee airbags, provides comprehensive protection in the event of a collision. The Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) ensures stability in challenging conditions and the Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) keeps the driver informed about tyre health to avoid potential hazards. Additionally, the Fortuner's three-point Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR) seatbelts automatically engage in the event of an impact to keep passengers secure.

OMANI WOMEN'S DAY



National Finance hosts gathering to celebrate women entrepreneurs

MUSCAT: In celebration of Omani Women's Day, National Finance, the Sultanate of Oman's leading finance company, hosted an exclusive gathering honouring Omani women entrepreneurs in the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector.

Held at JW Marriott, the gathering brought together a remarkable group of inspiring female leaders who have made significant contributions to their industries. The event highlighted their journeys, showcasing the resilience and innovation that have driven them to establish homegrown brands, which have profoundly enriched the nation's economic landscape.

Omani Women's Day, observed annually on October 17, honours the spirit of Omani women and their extraordinary contributions to the community and industry. It acknowledges their unwavering determination to overcome challenges and realize their dreams.

National Finance marked this special occasion with fervor, recognizing the dedication and commitment of female entrepreneurs who have established SMEs across diverse sectors.

Commenting on the occasion, Tariq Suleiman Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer of National Finance said, "We take great pride in celebrating Omani Women's Day, a moment that highlights the remarkable achievements of women and their essential role in driving socio-economic progress. At National Finance, we are dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs to fulfill their business aspirations through our tailored SME finance solutions, meticulously designed to support them at every stage of their entrepreneurial journey. Our commitment to bolstering women in business reflects our belief in their potential to drive innovation and create meaningful change in our communities."

SPECIAL OCCASION



Kaldi 850 Coffee celebrates Omani Women's Day

MUSCAT: Kaldi 850 Coffee joins the nation in celebrating Omani Women's Day, a day dedicated to honouring the incredible contributions and achievements of Omani women across all sectors of society. This special occasion recognises the pivotal role Omani women continue to play in shaping the future of the Sultanate, from business and education to science, technology, and the arts.

At Kaldi 850, we believe in the power of diversity and inclusivity, values that Omani women exemplify. Through their unwavering dedication, leadership, and innovation, they inspire us to continually push boundaries and create products that serve and unite our community. We recognize that the journey of every successful woman is fueled by determination and passion, much like the care and precision we pour into every cup of Kaldi 850 coffee.

Kaldi 850 Coffee is committed to empowering women both within our organization and in the wider community. We are proud to work alongside talented Omani women in various capaci-

ties, from management to product development, and we strive to create an inclusive workplace where women can thrive.

In celebration of Omani Women's Day, we will be launching a series of initiatives designed to highlight the achievements of Omani women. Kaldi 850 will collaborate with local women-owned businesses to promote their products and support their growth.

"As we celebrate Omani Women's Day, we reaffirm our commitment to creating opportunities for women to lead, innovate, and succeed," said Paul Biswajit, GM of Kaldi 850 Coffee. "We are inspired by the remarkable contributions Omani women make every day, and we look forward to continuing to support and empower them as they shape the future of Oman."

Kaldi 850 Coffee invites the public to join us in celebrating Omani Women's Day by visiting our stores, where we will be offering special promotions and showcasing the work of local women artisans.

RECOGNITION

BankDhofar wins 'Best Banking Service Provider for Women in Oman' award

MUSCAT: BankDhofar has been awarded the "Best Banking Service Provider for Women in Oman 2024" by the Women's Tabloid awards in recognition of the bank's distinguished efforts in meeting women's banking requirements and aspirations.

BankDhofar, the leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, has shown a clear interest in women as a fundamental pillar in the process of building a modern country with its solid and cohesive pillars.

BankDhofar's specialized banking services meet the needs of working women and female entrepreneurs in light of the fast-paced modern life, enabling them to manage their financial affairs easily and conveniently anytime and anywhere through various channels such as ATMs, online banking services and a mobile application designed to save women time and effort.

The bank also provides women with many banking services such as savings accounts and various products and services to help them



achieve financial independence for themselves and their families.

BankDhofar's Ladies Banking offers a vertical and purple debit card with unique benefits, in addition to a dedicated credit card for their everyday banking needs, which provides a range of services such as no annual fee for the first

year, exclusive rewards points through the Rewards program that can be redeemed via the mobile banking app or the website. Additionally a wide range of benefits, such as access to airport lounges in Muscat and Salalah, and global acceptance of payments around the world.

BankDhofar also offers women a retirement savings plan with competitive interest rates that reach up to 5% starting with a minimum monthly deposit amount as low as OMR 10 per month, in addition to a range of different deposit accounts that ensure a secure financial future for them and their children.

EXPANSION

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils its showroom in USA at Los Angeles

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, has launched its flagship showroom in the USA at Los Angeles. Marking a major milestone in the brand's growth journey in North America, the new showroom will be Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 5th and largest showroom in the USA.

The showroom was inaugurated by Congresswoman for California, Michelle Steel. M.P Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, Ab-



dul Salam K.P, Vice chairman of Malabar Group, Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Joseph Eapen, Regional Head of North America, Malabar Gold &

Diamonds, other senior directors, management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers, media and well-wishers were also present for the occasion. Commenting on the occasion,

Malabar Group Chairman M.P Ahammed said: "Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been making great headway in the international jewellery sector and North American continues to be a key market driving this growth. With the launch of our 5th and largest showroom in the USA at Los Angeles, we are committed to build on our foundation of providing an exceptional jewellery shopping experience to all jewellery lovers in the region in a 100% responsible and sustainable manner."



pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing
- ✓ Electrolytes

oman OASIS

800 71 222 9275 5522

homecentre 

! **GRAND**
SALE

**20%-70%
OFF**

IN-STORE | ONLINE