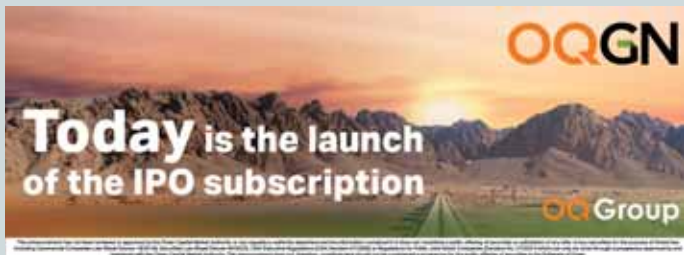


**OMAN CONDEMNS DESECRATION
OF HOLY QURAN COPIES**

The Sultanate of Oman has expressed its strong condemnation of the persistent desecration of copies of the Holy Quran by a group of extremists in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. **>A3**



6 085010 120010



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 147 | 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

Download now

**Paying bills
one by one?**

**Now pay everything in
one go with mBanking App**

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Fitch upgrades Oman's credit rating to BB+, with stable outlook

NEW YORK: Fitch on Monday issued its credit rating report on the Sultanate of Oman, upgrading the country's rating to "BB+", with a stable outlook.

The positive development in the classification reflects the tangible efforts made by the government in maintaining control over public spending, utilising additional oil revenues to cut down the state's public debt and manage the country's lending portfolio.

Fitch pointed out that a key factor in the upgrade was the Omani government's sustained enforcement of measures to keep fiscal conditions under control, in response to the decline of the oil price's \$80-90 break-even point (per barrel)—during the period from 2017 to 2019—to less than \$70 per barrel in 2023.

This significantly contributed to decreasing vulnerability to oil price fluctuations despite con-

tinued risks from oil markets, according to the international agency.

Fitch commended the government's commitment to its measures despite the rise in oil prices. Current spending is set to grow in line with gross domestic product (GDP). Fitch expects GDP to grow from 2.1 percent in 2023 to 2.7 percent in 2024.

Fitch also expects that non-oil sector to grow by about 2.7 percent during 2023. **>A5**

OMAN'S ECONOMY GROWS AT 2.1% IN 1ST HALF OF 2023

The size of public debt decreased to about 37% of the GDP, which was reflected in the improvement of trade balance



MUSCAT: Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy has affirmed the recovery of the Omani economy from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This, said the minister, reflects positive developments in the performance of overall indicators, as the Omani economy witnessed a growth in fixed prices, amounting to 2.1 percent during the first half of 2023.

In his speech during the media

gathering organised by the Ministry of Economy on Monday, the minister explained that this rise was driven by the growth achieved in oil activities by 1.4 percent and in non-oil activities by 2.1 percent.

He said that the GDP at fixed prices witnessed positive growth rates during 2021 and 2022, amounting to 3 percent and 4.3

percent, respectively, in addition to positive developments in the performance of the trade balance and the performance of the financial sector.

Moreover, the size of public debt, added the minister, decreased to about 37 percent of the GDP, which was also reflected in the improvement of the credit rating by many agencies. **>A4**

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

35°
MUSCAT

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Royal Office Minister meets Russian official

1 Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation. **>A2**

MARKET
Subscription of OQGN IPO opens on Tuesday

2 The subscription period for the IPO of OQ Gas Networks (under transformation) will open on Tuesday, September 26. **>B1**

MARKET
Occupational health, safety meet kicks off

3 Deliberations of the Occupational Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Symposium, organised by OQ, the global integrated energy group, began here on Monday under the patronage of Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health. **>B2**

OQGN | OQGroup

**Invest in OQGN IPO
with Bank Muscat**

Issue Open

Apply for the IPO **mBanking App** **Internet Banking** **Branch Network** **Financing available on e-channels**

Issue closes:
5 October 2023 for Individual Applicants
9 October 2023 for Institutional Applicants

Apply Now

Issue Manager | Joint Global Coordinator | Collecting Bank

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

Terms and conditions apply. Investment in securities market is subject to market risks. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.



OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:03pm
Asr.....3:29pm
Maghrib.....6:05pm
Isha.....7:15pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:42am

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND

Childhood conference explores trends in grooming gifted, talented children

MUSCAT: Oman Childhood Conference and Expo, the first-of-its-kind in Oman, kicked off here on Monday.

The three-day conference and expo, held at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), is organised by the Children First Association.

HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, the patron of the event, said in a statement that the conference focuses on gifted children and shedding light on various related elements such as the home, family, school, environment and media. Children should be empowered, he affirmed.

In her turn, HH Dr. Mona Fahd Al Said, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Children First Association, delivered a speech at the opening of the conference, in which she indicated that the idea of the conference is centered on highlighting contemporary trends in grooming gifted and talented children. It is also focused on anticipating the future of gifted children by increasing awareness in school communities and the family.

HH Dr. Mona said that the conference covers several topics, namely the theories of giftedness, excellence, creativity, methods for detecting gifted students, care programmes, and the role of civil, governmental, and private society institutions in caring for gifted students. She pointed out that these topics will be addressed through 49 working papers and 17 training workshops presented by many professors specialised in the field of giftedness and who have a long experience in the field and its various branches.

The first day included 17 working papers and three workshops that addressed several topics, including caring for the gifted



through STEM-oriented programmes and activities and the role of society in caring for the gifted, among other topics.

An exhibition is held on the sidelines of the event. It contains platforms and a theater that offers many training sessions and entertainment activities, such as: Children First Association's platform, the Ministry of Information's platform and an open theatre.

The exhibition also includes a group of exhibitors in the fields of education and health. Presentations will be given within the

framework of awareness programmes. The exhibition also includes platforms for a number of government units to display their services and spread awareness to all segments of society.

The Ministry of Information's platform includes many events and activities that seek to develop the skills of young media professionals. At the exhibition, the Ministry of Information will provide short media training workshops to children. The workshops will be presented by several media professionals. -ONA

Al Nu'amani meets Secretary of Russia's Security Council

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Monday Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting came within the framework of the attention accorded by the Sultanate of Oman to recent regional and international issues.

Gen. Al Nu'amani underscored the depth of bilateral relations and their development in various areas of interest.

For his part, Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia expressed his appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman's stances regarding regional and



international issues, as well as Oman's active roles in tackling these issues.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the march of relations between Oman and Russia in various fields and means of

promoting them to achieve joint interests. They also discussed several matters of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

Meeting reviews risks in health insurance sector



The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance

MUSCAT: Tasks of the 14th Middle East Healthcare Insurance Conference (2023), hosted by the Sultanate of Oman for the fourth time in a row, kicked off in Muscat on Monday.

In the two-day event, held in cooperation with the Middle East Insurance Group, Oman was represented by the Capital Market Authority (CMA).

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

The conference, which saw a large turnout of regional and international participants, is exploring issues pertaining to the management of health insurance risks and controlling cases

of fraud and misuse of health benefits, due to the fact that such acts have a negative impact on the quality and cost of insurance and health services.

The conference is attended by companies operating in the insurance sector and private health institutions.

Three sessions were held on the first day of the conference: The first dealt with Dhamani (my insurance) project, which was discussed by representatives of Oman Medical Association, the CMA, the Ministry of Health, insurance companies and reinsurance firms.

The participants elaborated on the most important challenges and the progress made in the project.

The second session looked into developments in regional markets and visions of parties operating in the field of compulsory health insurance in the region.

Health insurance statistics

The session took note of the latest health insurance statistics in the Middle East region, as well as experiences of establishments espousing compulsory health insurance in the region.

The third session touched on the topic of management of fraud risks, as well as the visions of in-

urance companies, reinsurance companies, hospitals and claims' management establishments.

The session identified the most common methods of fraud and means of addressing them. It also looked into the functions of the most advanced fraud risk management systems.

On 26 September, the conference will discuss a different set of topics. Those include the use of advanced pricing methodologies for underwriting health insurance, exploring previous experiences in risk management, covering medical expenses and promoting comprehensive health coverage by providing sustainable financial resources.

The sessions will also discuss a working paper on the concept of comprehensive social commitment and responsible commercial enterprise in compulsory health insurance.

Other topics on the agenda include issues and challenges of claims' management and cost assessment in private health insurance.

A discussion session will be also held to focus on innovation in health insurance and means of harnessing technology, artificial intelligence and innovation as measures to deal with fraud, abuse and waste of resources. -ONA

Dolphin Village
360°
LIVING LIFE
MADE EASY

AMENITIES:

- 3 Swimming Pools
- 2 Gyms
- Basketball, Tennis & Squash Courts, Table tennis
- Playground & Family Center
- Restaurant

A RESIDENTIAL RESORT COMMUNITY

Bausher

@dolphinvillageoman, @dolphinvillage_club

www.facebook.com/DolphinVillage/

dolphinvillagemuscat.com

9488 6986 / 72744460

SUZUKI

FREE CHECK-UP

STEERING CHECK

SUSPENSION CHECK

UNDER CHASIS CHECK

Applicable on car models 2019 and earlier

MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC

Muscat | Salalah | Sohar | Sur | Ibri | Nizwa

800 76 200

suzuki.moosagroup.com | suzuki.oman

suzukioman | Suzuki Global

MEETING

Commander of Qatari Emiri Guard arrives in Oman



MUSCAT: Lt.Gen Hazza Khalil Al Shahwani, Commander of the Emiri Guard of the State of Qatar and his accompanying delegation arrived here yesterday on an official visit that lasts several days.

Upon his arrival, the Qatari commander was greeted at Muscat International Airport by Maj. Gen Salim Ali Al Hosni, Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) and several RGO senior officers.

He was also received by the ambassador of Qatar to Oman and the Military Attaché the Qatari Embassy in Muscat. -ONA

Save in easy steps to achieve your dreams

Looking to apply for a Recurring Deposit in BankDhofar?
Simply visit your nearest BankDhofar branch! or call us on 2479 1111.

2479 1111 | www.bankdhofar.com | /bankdhofar | @bankdhofar | @bankdhofar



THE NETHERLANDS

Oman condemns desecration of Holy Quran copies



CONDEMNNS: Oman voiced its rejection of such repeated provocations of Muslims’ feelings and sacrilege of their sanctities, noting that such acts constitute an incitement to violence. -ONA

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has expressed its strong condemnation of the persistent desecration of copies of the Holy Quran by a group of extremists in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The desecration of the holy book took place in front of embassies in The Hague.

Oman voiced its rejection of such repeated provocations of Muslims’ feelings and sacrilege of their sanctities, noting that such acts constitute an incitement to violence and hatred.

A statement to this effect was issued on Monday by the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman, which reiterated its plea to the international community to take a more solid stance by criminalising all acts that incite hatred and hostility towards religions and cultures.

Oman stressed that such acts contradict the values of peaceful coexistence and tolerance among communities, posing an obstacle to building a world where peace and mutual respect prevail. -ONA

ARE YOU TAKING LOAN? BUY LIFE INSURANCE TO PROTECT THE MORTGAGE



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

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



Oman United Insurance Co.
SAOG

ESCAPE THE ORDINARY THIS SUMMER



HONGQI
— since 1958 —

7 Free Service*
Years Roadside Assistance
Years Unlimited Kilometer Warranty

- Free Registration
- Free Insurance
- 100 RO Fuel Card

Special Offer for Teachers



Offer valid from 27/08/2023 to 26/10/2023 only for customers buying HONGQI 2023 vehicles from MHD dealership. Free Insurance 1st year (Oman & UAE). Free 1st year Registration. Service - 7 years or 65,000 KM whichever comes earlier, 7 Years Roadside Assistance, 7 Years Unlimited Kilometer Warranty, 100 RO Fuel Card and Special offer for the Teachers. Images are used for illustrative purposes only.



Azaiba | hongqi-oman.com | 80080777 | HongqiOman | Hongqi Oman | hongqi.oman | hongqi.oman | HongqiOman



ROHM: Connecting cultures and people

The 2023-24 season of cultural extravaganza is all set to open on September 29 with the staging of the Gioacchino Rossini's 'The Barber of Seville'

MUSCAT: The artists have started arriving. The rehearsals have begun as the majestic Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) gets ready to host what promises to be a spectacular 2023-24 season, beginning on September 29 to mid of May 2024.

The curtains will go up with the staging of the famous comical opera, *The Barber of Seville*, which will be performed on two consecutive days (September 29 and 30).

At a press briefing held on Monday, Umberto Fanni, ROHM's director general, detailed the season and the opening opera from famed composer Gioacchino Rossini.

Fanni, who has been with the ROHM since 2014, said: "We are proud to have such a powerful cast for the opening of the season. With powerful Italian tenor Antonino Siragusa and Russian Maria Kataeva as Mezzo Soprano, *The Barber of Seville* promises to offer a new experience for the opera lovers in the Sultanate.

"It is one of the most popular operas in the world and is highly-rated. I think it is rated as one of the top-ten operas. This is the second time it is being staged but the latest presentation is from a different production house."

Fanni, who also serves as the artistic director at ROHM, said: "ROHM is committed to using art as a bridge to connect diverse cultures and traditions.

"We have been working to bring together different cultures through the language of art and the endeavour requires effort and shared expertise. We showcase the potential of art to foster cultural exchange and harmonise traditions from around the world."

"Theatre builds bridges between different cultures and traditions, and offers opportunities for interaction and dialogue among people.

"Our common goal is to be open to the world, believing that music is a universal language that allows different countries with different cultures to understand and enrich each other," added Fanni.

He said that ROHM hopes to serve as a centre of excellence for



(Left to right) Italian tenor Antonino Siragusa, Umberto Fanni, ROHM's director general and Russian Mezzo Soprano Maria Kataeva



cultural engagement by presenting the world's best artistic and cultural partnerships and promoting global dialogue.

Fanni said: "The mission is to enrich lives through diverse artistic, cultural, and educational programmes that embrace diversity and promote timeless values. Through the season, we hope to showcase rich and diverse artistic creations for the nation, the region, and the world.

27 shows this season

The new season is all about stars, legends and dreams. An amazing 27 shows are planned, including four popular operas, eight exhilarating Arab music concerts and shows, four classical concerts, two extraordinary ballets, one jazz evening, two world music stars, and six spectacular shows.

Speaking about the season, Fanni said: "ROHM is proud to present a season that offers a huge variety of musical performances to inspire different gen-

erations and interest from a broad spectrum of audiences. One can choose from classical music, opera, ballet, special acrobatic ballet, jazz, Arabic stars, Arabic music, folk and world music, creative shows, and educational events for children and adults."

The new season will offer work presented by artists from Italy, France, Holland, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Armenia, the UK, China, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, Cuba, Jordan, Paraguay, South Korea, Morocco, Syria, Russia, USA, Canada, India, and Bahrain among others.

The Barber of Seville

The Barber of Seville is the perfect start to this season, offering warmth, wit, and excellence as a standard by which to enjoy the rest of the year. The incredibly popular opera is one of the most frequently performed around the world.

The opera contains possibly the most famous aria in the world

(Largo al factotum), known by its distinctive repetition and long drawn out final 'o' in Figaro, Figaro, Figaro, Figaro, Figaro.

First performed in Rome in 1816, it was the first opera to be performed in Italian in New York, USA.

Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* is a feast of frivolous fun. Figaro, the barber, needs all his wiles to help Conte d'Almaviva (the handsome suitor) out-wit Dr Bartolo (the legal guardian) and ensure he wins Rosina (the beautiful young ward). This he does by means of bribery, deception, and disguise.

The opera is engaging and funny, as the lives of the characters become more tangled in a tale of love, comedy, and intrigue.

Gioacchino Rossini's comic masterpiece fizzles with memorable melodies in an entertaining production. These melodies, delightful arias, and superb musical arrangement have established it as one of the most renowned operas in history.

The artists

The production from Teatro de la Maestranza engages star opera singers from the opera stages of today, providing the passion and energy with world class vocal skills and powerful artistic expression.

The stellar cast includes Antonino Siragusa as Conte d'Almaviva, Carlo Lepore as Dr. Bartolo, Nicola Ulivieri as Don Basilio, Maria Kataeva as Rosina, and Vito Priante as Figaro.

Fanni revealed that one of the characters in the opera is a local artist and it emphasises the local integration.

Besides the artist, a special element of the production in Muscat is the participation of the Oman Opera Choir, a selection of professional singers with broad experience at performing with international opera companies from around the world.

Fanni said that the opera will wow the audience with the creative use of set design, lighting, and

costumes which contribute to creating a magical and visually stunning atmosphere, enhancing the audience's experience.

For Maria Kataeva, this is the maiden visit and the Russian soprano, who is settled in Germany, was all praise for the hospitality and impressed by the landscape.

Antonino Siragusa, the Italian tenor, who was present at the press meet along with Maria, this is the third visit and is looking forward to the performance.

Dynamic pricing

Meanwhile, in an effort to attract more audience, ROHM has announced that the new season will see a dynamic pricing structure. An ROHM official confirmed that an average reduction of approximately 30 percent has been implemented throughout the season across different events. The idea is to provide accessibility to more people, with new prices offering affordability to different generations.

ECONOMY <FROM A1 'Govt polices helped in improving macroeconomic indicators'

Dr. Al Saqri pointed out that the policies espoused by the government contributed to improving macroeconomic indicators, as the government prioritised reducing public debt, enhancing development spending and promoting an attractive investment environment to stimulate the performance of the national economy, in addition to rearranging priorities for sustainability and balance in public finance. These policies, said the minister, made it possible to benefit directly from the improvement in global energy prices.

In his turn, Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, presented the first topic of the media gathering's presentation. He highlighted developments in the global and local economy and reviewed the global economy's future prospects.

The Undersecretary also touched on the burdens of global debt and the concern regarding controlling global inflation, as well as the issue of geo-economic competition and the impacts of climate change on the global economic scene.

Al Ma'awali pointed out that according to July 2023 report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects growth rate to be at 3 percent for 2023 and 2024. Global inflation rate is also expected to decrease to 6.8 percent in 2023 and 5.2 percent in 2024.

He stressed that the macroeconomic indicators of the national economy point out to improved



economic growth paths, which in turn enables the Sultanate of Oman to enhance its competitive capabilities regionally and globally.

The performance of most of the major economic sectors are progressing towards achieving the economic goals of Oman Vision 2040, he affirmed.

Al Ma'awali said that GDP at fixed prices achieved a growth of 2.1 percent during the first half of this year, reaching about OMR17 billion, compared to about OMR16.7 billion during the first half of 2022.

He added that as for the GDP at current prices, it reached about OMR20.4 billion during the first half of this year, compared to the same period in 2022.

The Ministry of Economy's expectations for economic growth rates forecast achieving a growth rate of 2.3 percent in 2023. The Ministry indicates that the inflation rate is expected to reach about 1 percent in 2023, compared to about 1.9 percent according to

the International Monetary Fund data, Al Ma'awali said.

The Undersecretary explained that the actual data indicate that inflation rates in the national economy are still at safe low levels. The inflation rate, as measured by the consumer price index during the first eight months of 2023, reached about 1.2 percent.

The most prominent initiatives aimed at reducing the effects of inflation are fixing fuel prices, expanding the time frame for redirecting subsidies to electricity, expanding the list of goods exempted from value-added tax (VAT) to reach 513. Other initiatives also include supporting the purchase of wheat, the initiative to support farmers, calculating imported inflation and other initiatives.

Meanwhile, Intisar Abdullah Al Wahibi, Director General of Development Planning at the Ministry of Economy, reviewed the executive position on the performance of the tenth five-year development plan 2021-2025 at the level of na-

tional axes and priorities.

She pointed out that there are 337 strategic programmes out of 430 currently being implemented, at a rate of 78 percent.

She said that with regard to the distribution of financial allocations for projects being implemented at the sectors level, as many as 1,915 projects were endorsed from the beginning of the tenth five-year plan until the end of July 2023, noting that the development budget endorsed during the tenth five-year plan amounted to about OMR8 billion.

She pointed out that in terms of the relative distribution of these projects among the main sectors, the infrastructure sector got the largest share with 940 projects or 53 percent, followed by the social structures sector with 524 projects or 26 percent, the service production sector with 258 projects, at a rate of 15 percent, and the commodity production sector with 193 projects, at a rate of 6 percent.

The meeting also reviewed the key projects being implemented during the tenth five-year plan for the period 2021-2023 in various social and economic sectors such as health, education, governorate development, energy, mining, agricultural and fisheries wealth, in addition to reviewing the most prominent projects approved in 2023 that will be implemented during this year and the coming years.

Regarding the performance of the economic diversification sec-

tors compared to the targeted values in 2025, the Director General of Development Planning at the Ministry of Economy explained that the contribution of the converting industries sector to the GDP at fixed prices amounted to about 9.7 percent in the first half of this year compared to the targeted value of about 11.8 percent in 2025, while the contribution of the transportation and logistics sector reached 5.9 percent, compared to the target of 7.3 percent in 2025.

At the level of the food security sector, the contribution of agricultural activity exceeded the target value of 1.2 percent, reaching about 1.5 percent. Meanwhile, the contribution of the fisheries activity reached about 0.8 percent, compared to the target of 1.7 percent. At the level of the mining sector, it exceeded the target value of 0.6 percent, reaching a contribution of 0.7 percent, while the tourism sector's contribution reached about 2.4 percent in 2022 compared to the target values of 3 percent in 2025.

During the gathering, Dr. Salim Al Alsheikh, Director General of Research and Development Studies, reviewed the economic programmes and initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Economy in various fields. He said that the Ministry of Economy is working on a group of projects in the field of behavioral economics, notably developing applied guides on be-

havioural economics and a professional diploma in behavioral economics. The Ministry also provides institutional consultations in this field, in addition to participating in a number of government initiatives and projects.

Dr. Salim said that the "Behavior Change Challenge" initiative will be launched during the coming period with the aim of finding solutions and alternatives to some challenges using behavioral economics tools and methods.

Regarding the most important international indicators monitored by the National Competitiveness Office, he said that the office monitors the Sultanate of Oman's performance in 13 international indicators, including 7 main indicators and 6 secondary ones.

Dr. Salim added that among the indicators in which the Sultanate of Oman has achieved progress are the economic freedom index, in which Oman ranked 95 out of 184 countries in 2023, the soft power index (ranked 46 out of 121 countries), and the food security index (ranked 35 out of 113 nations).

He also highlighted the executive position of the National Initiative towards Empowering an AI-Enhanced Economy, which is a national initiative that aims to enable and encourage investment and integration of artificial intelligence applications and technologies into development projects and programmes in the economic diversification sectors. **-OMA**



امتلئوها بثقة
Reliably Yours

THE BIG COMPRESSOR IS BACK



Follow us on
f t i @hommeroman
MyHommer.com

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES,
PLEASE CONTACT :
24818018 / 24818039,
WHATSAPP ONLY : 99316742

AVAILABLE AT LEADING
DEALER OUTLETS



MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS CO. LLC

 @MustafaSultanElectronics

 @MustafaSultanElectronics

 @mustafa_sultanE

 @mustafa_sultanE

CR No. 1/25249/4

‘Culture among pillars for building a modern state’



MEETING: Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, took part in the 12th conference of ministers of culture in the Islamic World in Doha. - ONA

The conference is being held in the Qatari capital, Doha from 25 to 26 September

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth took part in the 12th conference of ministers of culture in the Islamic World. Themed “Towards Renewing Cultural Action in the Islamic World,” the conference is being held at the Qatari capital, Doha from 25 to 26 September 2023. Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Culture, head of the Sultanate of Oman’s delegation, said in a speech during the conference that Oman accords a great interest in culture as it is among the pillars of building a modern state. Culture consti-

tutes an identity that plays an essential role in shaping awareness, enhancing social development scheme and human development, he added. He said, “The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth is implementing national cultural strategies in parallel with the cultural strategy of the countries of the Islamic world. Through such strategies, the ministry is keen to strengthen cultural communication with different countries and organizations at the local and international levels, according to a comprehensive vision that includes diverse programmes highlighting aspects that would convey this Omani culture to the world, and spreading the message of peace and tolerance among the peoples worldwide; a message that the Sultanate of Oman has carried since ancient times”. In this context, the Undersecretary for Culture added that the Sultanate of Oman hosted the 9th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers as part of the programme celebrating Nizwa as the Capital of Islamic Culture 2015. The conference aimed to enhance dialogue among cultures, renew cultural policies in the Islamic world and harmonise them with

international variables, follow up the implementation of the cultural strategy, develop information and communication technology, and upgrade the role of cultural mediation in Islamic world, he said. He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman sought to strengthen the individual’s belonging to his past and legacy, in addition to paying an interest in his present and future. This is indeed a prominent factor towards the progress and renaissance of society, preserving its gains and adhering to its identity. The Ministry undertakes to consolidate these principles, preserve and develop them in a manner that achieves their continuity, so they are passed on to future generations. The conference, which is organised by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), addresses many current priority cultural issues and enhances joint cultural action in the areas of cultural planning, indicators of development, developing the programme related to Capitals of Culture in the Islamic World, and confronting illicit trafficking of cultural property. -ONA

FITCH RATINGS

Investments in renewable sector to spur growth

<FROM A1 It also observed that the construction sector began to recover after COVID-19. The agency said that investments in the sector of renewable energy and hydrogen are expected to spur growth with effect from 2025. Fitch also projected that the state’s general budget will achieve a financial surplus of about 4.1 percent in 2023, 2.4 percent in 2024, and 1 percent in 2025. In its report, the agency indicated that it expects public debt, as a ratio to GDP, to decline to about 36 percent during 2023, and to stabilise at 35 percent during 2024 and 2025, compared to previous forecasts that public debt would reach about 45 percent in 2023. Fitch also lauded the Omani government’s trend in managing public debt and repaying some foreign loans prior to their maturity, taking advantage of additional revenues. - ONA



INDIAN SCHOOL AL SEEB
(Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi, Affiliation No 6130011)
Tel No. 24451424/474. Fax No. 24451353
www.indianschoolseeb.com



JOB VACANCIES - ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024		
No.	Requirement of Teachers	Listed Vacancy
01	Kindergarten Qualification: Bachelors in any field with Montessori training Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in teaching Montessori Curriculum	01
02	English (Middle, Secondary School Level) Qualification: M.A., B.Ed. Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
03	French (Middle School Level) Qualification: Graduate (with Is DELF B2 level-FRENCH) Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
04	Mathematics (Senior, Secondary School Level) Qualification: M.Sc., B.Ed Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
05	Chemistry (Senior, Secondary School Level) Qualification : M.Sc., B.Ed Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
06	Physics (Senior, Secondary School Level) Qualification: M.Sc, B.Ed Minimum experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
07	Biology (Middle, Senior School Level) Qualification: M.Sc., B.Ed Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
08	STEM Instructor Qualification : M.SC-IT / MCA Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01
09	Special Educator Qualification : Graduate with B.Ed. (Special Education) Minimum Experience: 2 yrs in CBSE Curriculum	01

Eligible candidates may email their detailed resume, academic / experience certificates, passport size recent photographs, contact number in India & Oman, to the HR, Indian School Al Seeb' and
Email to info@indianschoolseeb.com



SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS
www.facebook.com/timesofoman

THE BEST TIME TO OWN THE ALL-NEW MITSUBISHI IS NOW!



ASX	MONTERO SPORT	OUTLANDER	L200	MIRAGE
*EMI STARTING FROM RO 105	*EMI STARTING FROM RO 180	*EMI STARTING FROM RO 147	*EMI STARTING FROM RO 147	*EMI STARTING FROM RO 67

CASHBACK UP TO RO 7381*

FREE SERVICE, UPTO 50,000 KM*

FREE insurance on Mirage & Outlander*

FREE Llumar window tints on Outlander & Montero*

FREE registration on all models*

Roadside assistance for 6 years

Warranty for 6 years/unlimited KM

Offer valid from 10th September 2023 to 30th November 2023

*Terms & Conditions Apply



@mitsubishiMotorsOman
mitsubishi-motors.com.om
For more information call 24 500 500
or WhatsApp/SMS 93800925



الشركة العامة للسيارات
General Automotive Company
(A part of The Zohair Automotive Group)
(R. NO: 1001677/2)



MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Drive your Ambition

MUSCAT | MABELLA | SOHAR | NIZWA | IBRI | BARKA | SUR | JALAN BU ALI | SALALAH



MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 30/2023

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 No.	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date	Grade
(PRE/23/204) 2023/MM/HQ-57	Supply of Smart Mosquito Traps	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Specialist
(PRE/23/201) 2023/MM/HQ-58	Maintenance of Expressway Sign Boards	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Specialist
(PRE/23/203) 2023/MM/QS-66	Supply & Installation of Interlock	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Fourth
(PRE/23/071) 2023/MM/HQ-59	Design and Construction of Drainage Solution Works in Madinat Sultan Qaboos, Bawasher	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Excellent
(PRE/23/102) 2023/MM/HQ-60	Design & Construction of Storm Water Channel in Bowsher	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	First
(PRE/23/211) 2023/MM/HQ-61	Supply of Pesticides	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Specialist
(PRE/23/212) 2023/MM/HQ-62	Renewal of Adobe SoftWare	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Excellent
(PRE/23/199) 2023/MM/QS-67	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Solar Bench	15/10/2023	05/11/2023	Specialist

- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.
- 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).

OMAN/WORLD

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR10mn issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR10 million by way of allotting treasury bills.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR10 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR 98.689 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.685 per OMR100.

The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.26041 per cent and 5.33032 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6 percent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 percent.

Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. — **ONA**

Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds.

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates.



THREE-DAY MEETING

Extending insurance benefits for GCC citizens discussed

SALALAH: The GCC Technical Committee for Civil Retirement and Social Insurance held the first sessions of its 56th meeting in Salalah on Monday.

The three-day meeting discusses scopes for extending insurance protection among civil retirement and social insurance departments in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The meeting reviews efforts made by the departments concerned to realise a strategy for extending insurance benefits to GCC citizens in member states other than their own.

It also follows up the implementation of decisions and recommendations issued by the Committee of Heads of GCC Civil Retirement and Social Insurance Departments.



The meeting looks into steps to implement a bilateral electronic linkage, in addition to ways of developing collection mechanisms and presenting statistical indicators for the enforcement of a uniform system to provide insurance protection in member states. — **ONA**

CHIEF PROSECUTOR

Libya orders arrest of 8 officials over flood disaster

DERNA: Libya's chief prosecutor Monday ordered the detention of eight officials pending a probe into the collapse of two dams that sent a wall of water across the city of Derna, killing thousands.

The dam breaches on September 11 outside Derna, a coastal city in eastern Libya, were triggered by a Mediterranean storm.

The death toll ranges between 4,000 and 11,000, according to aid agencies.

Derna Mayor Abdel-Moneim al-Ghaithi, who was sacked after the disaster, was among those questioned, according to a statement by the office of General Prosecutor al-Sidiq al-Sour.

Prosecutors also ordered officials with the Water Resources Authority and the Dams Management Authority jailed pending the completion of the investigation, the statement added. They were questioned over allegations that mismanagement, negligence and mistakes contributed to the disaster. Prosecutors maintain the officials did not provide enough evidence to avoid being charged.

The dams were built by a construction company from former Yugoslavia in the 1970s above Wadi Derna, a river valley which divides the city. The dams were meant to protect the city from flash floods. A Turkish firm was also contracted in 2007 to carry out maintenance on the two dams.

A report by a state-run audit agency in 2021 said the two dams hadn't been maintained despite the allocation of more than \$2 million (€1.88 million) for that purpose in 2012 and 2013. — **BW**



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



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

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

LONDON POLICE

Army on standby as officers hand in their weapons

LONDON: Britain on Sunday put its army on standby after a number of London police officers handed in their weapons in support of a fellow officer who has been charged with murder over the fatal shooting of a young Black man.

The UK's Ministry of Defence confirmed it will now assist the police with specific tasks — a reference to support for counter-terrorism duties for which London's Metropolitan Police has specialist firearms officers.

Police in Britain are not routinely armed and the small proportion (1 in 10 in London) who are authorised to carry guns are highly trained.

According to one media report, around 100 Met police officers have stepped back from firearms duties. The stoppage follows the appearance in court last week of a London firearms officer, named only as NX121, who has been charged over the death of 24-year-old Chris Kaba in September 2022.

Kaba died hours after he was struck by a single gunshot fired into the vehicle he was driving in the Streatham area of south London. He was unarmed at the time of the incident.

The case renewed allegations of institutional racism within the Met.

Kaba's family welcomed the murder charge against the officer, who was granted conditional bail and is expected to stand trial next year.

The unusual protest prompted Home Secretary Suella Braverman to stress that firearms officers have to make "split-second decisions" and "mustn't fear ending up in the dock for carrying out their duties."

A Met Police spokesman said, "a number of officers have taken the decision to step back from armed duties while they consider their position," with the number rising in the past 48 hours.

"Many are worried about how the decision impacts on them, on their colleagues and on their families," the spokesman said.

"They are concerned that it signals a shift in the way the decisions they make in the most challenging circumstances will be judged," he said. — **BW**





AFAGH



circlee

20% OFF
Consultation

Download the App NOW!





France to pull out its envoy, troops from coup-hit Niger

Niger's junta welcomed the announcement and said that it signals a "new step towards the sovereignty" of the country

PARIS: France is to end its military cooperation with Niger and pull its 1,500 troops out of the African country by the end of the year after a military coup there in July, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Sunday.

The move deals a hammer blow to France's counter-terrorism operations in the Sahel and France's influence in the region, but Macron said France would "not be held hostage by the putschists."

"France has decided to recall its ambassador and end its military cooperation with Niger," Macron said in an interview with France's



TF1 and France 2 television stations.

Niger's junta welcomed the announcement and said that it signals a "new step towards the sovereignty" of the country.

Neo-colonialist forces

"Imperialist and neo-colonialist forces are no longer welcome on our national territory. The new era of cooperation, based on mutual respect and sovereignty is

already underway," it said in a statement.

Macron said that French military cooperation was "over" and French troops would withdraw in "the months and weeks to come" with a full pullout "by the end of the year."

"In the weeks and months to come, we will consult with the putschists, because we want this to be done peacefully," he added.

France keeps about 1,500 sol-

diers in Niger as part of an anti-jihadist deployment in the Sahel region. Niger's military leaders told French ambassador Sylvain Itte he had to leave the country after they overthrew President Mohamed Bazoum on July 26.

But a 48-hour ultimatum for him to leave, issued in August, passed with him still in place as the French government refused to comply, or to recognise the military regime as legitimate.

Macron said he still regarded democratically elected Bazoum — currently held prisoner by the coup leaders — as the country's legitimate leader and had informed him of his decision.

"He was targeted by this coup d'etat because he was carrying out courageous reforms and because there was a largely ethnic settling of scores and a lot of political cowardice," he argued.

— DW

Hollywood writers reach tentative deal

WASHINGTON DC: Nearly five months after Hollywood screenwriters went on a strike, a tentative deal has been struck to end the impasse between writers and studios that has impacted the television and movie industry.

The Writers Guild of America (WGA) on Sunday signed a tentative deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), a labour group representing studios and streaming services, Deadline reported.

The writers' strike began on May 2 this year after 11,500 WGA members stopped working when their contract expired. Among the issues they were protesting included increased pay, the use of Artificial Intelligence in the creation of scripts, and the size of diminished writing staffs linked to streaming show performance.

"The WGA and AMPTP have reached a tentative agreement," the two groups said in a joint statement on Sunday evening.

The deal was agreed on after five days of negotiations after a meeting with union officials and four top media CEOs that began on September 20 and stretched into the weekend. Details of the WGA's tentative agreement have not been released but will be revealed by the guild ahead of membership ratification votes. — DW

HIGHER EDUCATION GOALS

US Embassy in India issued record 90,000 student visas this summer

NEW DELHI: The US Embassy in India has issued a record 90,000 student visas this Summer (July-August). With this, almost one in four student visas issued worldwide, was issued in the India.

"The US Mission in India is pleased to announce that we issued a record number – over 90,000 – of student visas this Summer/ in June, July, and Au-

gust. This summer almost one in four student visas worldwide was issued right here in India!" the US Embassy in India wrote on 'X' formerly Twitter on Monday.

The US Embassy then congratulated students who have chosen the United States to make their higher education goals a reality.

Recently, United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said

that the wait time for first-time tourist visa interviews has been reduced by more than 50 per cent, adding that goal for 2023 is to process at least one million visas.

Speaking at IIT Delhi, Garcetti highlighted the progress made in visa processing, stating that the US Mission in India is currently processing visas faster than ever before.

Addressing the audience at IIT Delhi, Garcetti said, "We're already doing this. We're currently processing more visas, faster, than the US Mission in India ever has before. We have set a goal for ourselves to process at least a million visas in 2023, and we're already more than halfway towards reaching that goal."

India and the US have taken

several initiatives to make the visa process smooth. Earlier, during his visit to the United State, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that Indian professionals will no longer need to leave America for the renewal of their H-1B visas.

The United States authorities announced that they will introduce 'in-country' renewable H-1B

visas as part of the people-to-people initiative to smoothen the process of H-1B visa renewal.

PM Modi had also announced that the US will open new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. Meanwhile, India is going to open a new consulate in Seattle this year. Apart from this, Indian Consulates will be opened in 2 more cities in America. — ANI

OSIRIS-REX AND BENNU

A space mission for return of samples

FLORIDA: NASA's OSIRIS-REx is a robotic spacecraft that has been on a seven-year mission that collected and returned samples from an asteroid called Bennu — billions of kilometres from Earth.

It took more than two years to reach Bennu after OSIRIS-REx launched in 2016. It then spent almost as much time mapping the asteroid, finding a site to scrape and collecting about 250 grams (8.8 ounces) of the rock. Then it began its journey back toward Earth.



How will the OSIRIS-REx samples return to Earth?

At an altitude of about 250 kilometres (155 miles) from the surface of Earth, OSIRIS-REx released a capsule carrying the samples over the Great Salt Lake Desert in Utah, US — come "rain or shine," said NASA.

Scientists have been training to recover the capsule and securely transfer the samples to NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas.

But that's not the end of OSIRIS-REx. Having released its capsule, it will travel on toward a new destination: Apophis, an asteroid once thought to pose a hazardous impact threat to Earth — but not anymore, at least not for the next 100 years.



Who will analyse the samples from Bennu?

NASA has said its samples from the asteroid Bennu "will give generations of scientists a window into the time when the sun and planets were forming about 4.5 billion years ago" — and the beginnings of life as we know it today. Bennu is thought to be rich in carbon, a chemical that is essential to life.

While NASA plans to keep 25% of the samples for its own research, it has said it will distribute the rest among 200 mission members at 35 institutions around the world. That includes 4% of the samples going to the Canadian Space Agency, because it provided an instrument — a laser altimeter — for the OSIRIS-REx mission.

And 0.5% of the samples will go to the Japanese space agency, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) as part of a partnership. It's not exactly quid pro quo, however: JAXA has previously shared 10% of its asteroid samples with NASA.

How often have samples been collected from asteroids?

More often than you may think. Aside from the Apollo era moon landings, during which NASA collected about 382 kilograms (842 pounds) of rock and moon soil, Soviet-era Russia conducted three successful robotic missions between 1969 and 1976 to procure about 326 grams of samples (11 ounces).

More recently, JAXA's Hayabusa mission from 2003 to 2010 was the first time humans had brought back samples from a near-Earth object: the asteroid Itokawa. Japan followed that with Hayabusa2, which returned samples from an asteroid called Ryugu in 2020.

And, also in 2020, China's Chang'e 5 mission returned samples from the moon.

Are any sample return missions planned for the future?

Japan's Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) aims to be the first sample return mission to bring back rocks from the Mars region.

Scheduled to launch in 2024, MMX aims to investigate the moons of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, and gather information on how they formed. It's hoped that this will help scientists better understand how the solar system formed. MMX also aims to collect samples from Phobos, the larger of the two moons, and then return to Earth in 2029. — DW

HITACHI

Enjoy the taste of fresh

جینتکو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1007680
MUSCAT
96742452

SALALAH
97924110, 94048494

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

www.genetco.net
@GenetcoOman
@GenetcoOman
Genetco Oman



OQ Gas Networks SAOG
(under transformation)

Subscription
opens **today**

**Initial Public Offering of
2,122,005,720 Offer Shares**

**Category I Offer
(Institutional Category)
Subscription Price Range:**
Bzs 131 to Bzs 140 per Offer Share

**Category II Offer
(Individuals' Category)
Subscription Price:**
Discounted Maximum Price of
Bzs 126 per Offer Share, calculated as
the Maximum Price of Bzs 140 less
a discount of 10 per cent.

Category I Offer Period:
26 September 2023 to 9 October 2023

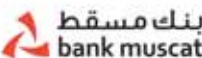
Category II Offer Period:
26 September 2023 to 5 October 2023



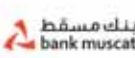
oqgn.om | @weareoqgn



Issue Manager



Joint Global Coordinators



Collection Agents



This announcement has not been reviewed or approved by the Oman Capital Market Authority or any regulatory authority elsewhere and the information contained in it does not constitute a public offering of securities or solicitation of any offer to buy securities for the purpose of Omani law, including Commercial Companies Law (Royal Decree 18/2019), Securities Law (Royal Decree 46/2022), CMA Executive Regulations (CMA Decision 01/2009) or Regulations for Public Joint Stock Companies (Decision No. 27/2021) which can only be done through a prospectus approved by and registered with the Oman Capital Market Authority. This announcement does not, therefore, constitute (and should not be considered) a prospectus for the public offering of securities in the Sultanate of Oman.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2023 reaching \$94.19, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 9 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$94.28. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,664.68 points, down by 0.31 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.39 per cent at 462.69 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Fisheries, down 5.66 per cent, was the top loser.

OQGN IPO subscription period commences today

The offer is expected to raise to OMR297 million (equivalent to \$771 million) at the top of the price range, valuing OQGN at up to OMR606 million

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The subscription period for the initial public offering (IPO) of OQ Gas Networks (under transformation) (OQGN or the Company) will open today, Tuesday, September 26.

The offering comprises the sale of a total of 2,122,005,720 existing shares by OQ S.A.O.C. ("OQ") directly and indirectly through Oman Energy Trading Company Limited ("OETCL") and Oman Oil Services Limited ("OOSL" together with OQ and OETCL, the



"Selling Shareholders"), representing 49 per cent of OQGN's total issued share capital. The offer is expected to raise to OMR 297 million (equivalent to \$771 million) at the top of the price range, valuing OQGN at up to OMR606 million (equivalent to \$1,574 million).

Three Anchor Investors - Saudi Omani Investment Company, a wholly owned entity of the Public Investment Fund, Falcon Investments, a subsidiary of Qatar Investment Authority, and Fluxys International SA/NV - have irrevocably committed to subscribe to the Offering at Bzs 140 per share, subject to the terms contained in their respective anchor investment agreements.

The shares will be offered in

parallel, across two categories:

The Category I subscription period, for non-individual investors, will run from 26 September to 9 October 2023. Category I is open to institutional investors, representing 40% of the total Offer size. The subscription price range will be Bzs 131 to Bzs 140 per share.

The Category II subscription period, for individual investors, will run from September 26 to October 5. Category II is exclusively open and reserved for individual investors and represents 30% of the total Offer size. Category II shares will be offered at a discounted maximum price of Bzs 126 per Offer Share, providing a 10% discount on the maximum price of Bzs 140 per share. Exclusively

reserving 30 per cent of the total Offer size for individual investors and offering shares at a discounted price aim to provide greater access to potential individual investors in the IPO.

The IPO will allow OQGN, the exclusive operator of the natural gas transportation network in Oman, to move the Company into the next chapter of growth. It is part of a broader divestment programme envisioned by the government and being implemented by the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) - the sovereign wealth fund of the Sultanate of Oman. It offers an opportunity for Omani and international investors to participate in Oman's Vision 2040, the long-term national development plan that aims to make Oman a prosperous, competitive and sustainable nation and to rapidly diversify its economy.

In January 2024, OQGN intends to pay a dividend of OMR33,000,000 for the first 9 months of 2023 and expects to pay a second dividend distribution of around OMR 11,000,000 for the last three months of 2023, around April 2024. OQGN shares are expected to commence trading on the MSX on or about October 24.

Staris Latkas appointed as new GM of W Muscat

MUSCAT: Bringing with him more than 35 years of expertise in the international luxury hotel sphere, W Muscat's new General Manager, Staris Latkas, is set to bring a fresh perspective to Muscat's ever-growing hospitality scene when he joins the W Muscat team on October 1.

During his 7 years in Doha as a Marriott Multi-property Director of Operations and Innovation and Deputy General Manager, he oversaw and implemented many exciting projects and transformed these properties into local hotspots, especially during the time of the World Cup.

With a passion for luxury lifestyle, innovation and wellness, Staris encapsulates the essence of the W Hotels brand.

As the new General Manager of the W Muscat, he has already become the driving force behind several of the hottest events in town such as the Yum Chab brunch at Ba Ban, the Le Soiree dinner brunch at Siddharta Lounge by Buddha Bar and the launch of the Char Sports and Cigar Lounge, already solidifying the hotel as a local trendsetter.

Commenting on this he said, "I want people to see that W Muscat is the most vibrant, energetic and entertaining hotel on the market.



Whether it's through the many gastronomic activations, the captivating design of the hotel or just the overall experience, I'm excited to be on board and lead our vibrant team of young and enthusiastic talent."

The W Muscat is an urban seafront property located in the heart of Muscat that features 200 rooms and premium suites. The hotel boasts 6 B&F venues including the critically acclaimed Chinese eatery, Ba Ban, the gastronomic grill and steakhouse Char and the buzzing rooftop bar Siddharta Lounge by Buddha Bar.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Duqm Economic Forum attracts international participants



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Duqm Economic Forum, organised by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) from October 16 - 17 in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), has attracted several countries around the world represented by leading companies, commercial institutions, investors, businesspersons and decision-makers, which affirmed its participation in the forum.

Among the countries that have

confirmed their participation are the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of India, the Republic of Brazil, Japan, China and other countries. A group of companies will take part in the forum, some of which are setting up investment projects in Sezad while others are working to get business opportunities or form partnerships related to green industries.

There are other companies, specialised in industrial production, that have been invited to urge it to invest in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

In this regard, Saleh bin Hamoud Al Hassani, Advisor to the Chairman of Opaz pointed out that Duqm Economic Forum aims to shed light on the investment opportunities available in the Sezad, which is witnessing rapid economic growth, in addition to being a destination attracting international corporates and strategic projects in the fields of green industries, renewable energy projects and petrochemicals. Sezad has witnessed great interest from international companies to establish their projects in the zone, according to studies conducted by these companies.

Al Hassani confirmed, "Organising the Forum reflects the government's plan and its constant efforts aimed at bringing foreign direct investments to the Sultanate of Oman in general and the Special Economic Zone at Duqm in particular. The Zone has recently been placed on the global map for renewable energy, hydrogen and green iron projects by attracting a number of key projects in these sectors from India, Japan and Brazil."

Being the first economic event of its kind, hosted by the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, the forum will bring together business owners, investors, decision-makers, businesspersons and other academics and those interested in economy and innovation.

The forum marks a platform presenting an opportunity to exchange knowledge, visions, expertise and insights, as well as showcasing local and international projects and experiences during the forum's discussion sessions over the two days.

YOUNIS AL AMRI ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS

Law firm offers pro-bono legal services to the needy

In an age where legal services often come with hefty price tags, Younis Al Amri Advocates and Solicitors (YLAW), based in Muscat, is setting a remarkable example by demonstrating that the legal profession can be a powerful force for good in society. This law firm has consistently gone above and beyond in its commitment to serving and improving the lives of its residents.

YLAW a leading full-service law firm based in Muscat, has incorporated partners Younis Ali Al Amri, a lawyer an Alumnus of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Muscat and Partner Taher Noor Sayed a seasoned lawyer and corporate professional from ICSI, New Delhi.

In a heartwarming gesture, the prestigious law firm has reaffirmed its commitment to making a positive impact on the community by offering pro-bono legal services to those in need. This initiative aims to provide access to legal assistance for individuals and organisations who may otherwise struggle to afford legal representation.

YLAW, known for its stellar reputation and dedication to providing legal services to leading commercial organisation and companies in Oman. The firm has established a unique practice of utilising part of the professional fees from services rendered to companies from commercial matters in using it in providing legal services to vulnerable individuals not accustomed to the legal system or having financial difficulties who could not afford lawyer services. The Law Firm in the last 3 years has assisted individuals in getting justice through this initiative.

YLAW gives back to society in a greater way and has created a history of supporting less privileged individuals. Their latest endeavour



“YLAW a leading full-service law firm based in Muscat, has incorporated partners Younis Ali Al Amri, a lawyer an Alumnus of Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat and Partner Taher Noor Sayed a seasoned lawyer and corporate professional from ICSI, New Delhi.

is to continue rendering unlimited pro-bono legal services to distressed foreign workers and Omani citizens in need is yet another testament to their commitment to giving back to the community.

Pro-bono services are a cornerstone of the legal profession's social responsibility, and the Law Firm has embraced this responsibility with enthusiasm. They have assembled a team of highly skilled



and experienced attorneys who are ready to assist individuals facing legal challenges in various areas of the law, including manpower related issues, criminal and civil matters.

Partner Taher Noor Sayed, speaking about this initiative, expressed the firm's dedication to ensuring that justice is accessible to all members of the community. "We firmly believe in the importance of access to lawyers' representation, for all." "Through our efforts, we aim to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most."

The firm's pro-bono programme is open to individuals and non-profit organisations who meet certain eligibility criteria.

YLAW's commitment to pro-bono legal services is a shining example of how legal profession-

als and law firms can use their expertise to make a lasting impact beyond the courtroom. As they continue to offer their support to those in need, their actions serve as an inspiration for others in the legal industry to join the cause and work towards a more just and compassionate society.

Younis Al Amri Law Firm is a researched-based law firm having hands-on experience in complicated commercial litigation, arbitration and capital market legal works. The firm has also excelled in criminal matters. The success rate of the firm is 100%, due to the commitment and extensive dedication of their team.

Younis Al Amri Advocates and Solicitors is also rendering legal services through their newly incorporated Legal Consultancy in the United Arab Emirates. They are

among the first Omani Law firm to have a direct presence in the UAE.

Testimonials from community leaders highlight the positive impact that the firm has had on the lives of individuals and families in the community.

Convener of Odia wing of Indian Social Club Badri Narayan Subudhi said, "Younis Al Amri Advocates and specifically their managing partner Mr Taher Noor Sayed's unwavering dedication, efforts in providing legal services to our community has made an immense positive impact on the lives of many individuals and their families. They have helped our community's distressed workers settle their wages by instituting claims in competent courts and fighting for their rights. They have also facilitated on many occasions to liaise with the employers of the distressed workers for a safer exit to their home country."

Highlighting the invaluable contribution of lawyer Taher Noor, Suhail Khan member of Indian Social Club said, "Lawyer Taher Noor Sayed selflessly dedicated his time and expertise for the community to ensure that those who are financially weak or cannot afford legal representation can get legal aid through their team of lawyers."

According to the convener of the Urdu Wing of the Indian Social Club Tufail Ahmed, "Lawyer Taher Noor reminds us that there are still individuals who are willing to stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for the marginalised, and ensure that the principles of fairness and equality are upheld."

For more information about the law firm and its pro-bono legal services and eligibility criteria, you can visit [https://anlawoman.com/home] or contact their office at [+968-24473212].

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Fisheries, down 5.66 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,664.68 points, down by 0.31 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.39 per cent at 462.69 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Fisheries, down 5.66 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Omaniya Financial Services were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 572 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.21 million, with more than 10.46 million shares changing hands. Out of 56 traded securities, 10 advanced, 22 declined, and 24 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR208,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR199,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for

OMR9,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,564.19 points, down 0.33 per cent. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Oman Arab Bank were up by 1.79 per cent, 0.73 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman were up by 1.59 per cent, 1.47 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 1.02 per cent, 0.98 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,626.37 points, down 0.77 per cent. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 0.91 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, A'Saffa Foods, Voltamp Energy, Oman Cables Industry, Galfar Engineering were up by 5.66 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.61 per cent, 2.50 per cent, 1.89 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.6 per cent before closing at 1,608.89 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,681.111	4,662.448	4,664.680	4,679.017	-14.337	-0.31	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,587.500	7,558.350	7,564.185	7,588.969	-24.784	-0.33	
Industry Index	5,670.081	5,626.368	5,626.368	5,670.081	-43.713	-0.77	
Services Index	1,611.589	1,590.383	1,608.885	1,599.349	9.536	0.60	
MSX Shariah Index	464.524	462.300	462.693	464.524	-1.831	-0.39	
MSX TR INDEX	6,163.245	6,138.673	6,141.612	6,160.488	-18.876	-0.31	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,279.356	8,247.549	8,253.916	8,280.959	-27.043	-0.33	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,057.057	6,010.361	6,010.361	6,057.057	-46.696	-0.77	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,779.915	1,756.494	1,776.928	1,766.397	10.531	0.60	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,466,550	2,206,247	572	23,472,741,860	10	22	24	56

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BDP	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE. VALUE	SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	20,000	2,100	1	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	ONES	15,750,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	173,114	52,280	3	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.305	-0.003	-0.984	0.302	0.302	0.310	0.100	NBDB	491,035,799
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	354,660	139,828	9	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.395	-0.001	-0.253	0.394	0.393	0.394	0.100	OMVS	263,335,978
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	62,227	3,864	4	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.587	0.062	0.062	0.063	0.100	OEO	7,556,259
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	204,572	38,366	7	0.190	0.190	0.187	0.187	0.190	-0.003	-1.579	0.187	0.186	0.187	0.100	AACT	41,140,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	4,100	865	1	0.211	0.211	0.211	0.211	0.210	0.001	0.476	0.211	0.211	0.216	0.100	AJSS	12,914,102
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	145,827	8,161	10	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	UFPI	19,943,129
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	69,000	4,623	9	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.068	-0.001	-1.471	0.067	0.066	0.068	0.100	SHIC	6,030,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	4,109	697	4	0.170	0.170	0.169	0.170	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.170	0.165	0.170	0.100	SKDB	508,379,744
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	965,495	159,353	55	0.282	0.282	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.000	0.000	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.100	BKMB	2,108,297,574
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	18,771	18,771	5	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.100	MHAS	69,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	488,590	488,555	31	1.000	1.003	0.998	0.999	1.001	-0.002	-0.200	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.100	OTCI	749,250,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	9,941	515	3	0.055	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.055	0.057	0.100	GFIC	11,400,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	157,148	63,471	5	0.402	0.405	0.402	0.405	0.404	0.001	0.248	0.405	0.404	0.405	0.100	RNSS	95,740,050
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	831,120	85,799	22	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.103	0.097	0.100	BKBS	563,192,516
OM0000003985	QOREDOO	623,805	313,046	21	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.375	0.380	0.100	QRDS	247,358,907
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	207,000	15,533	14	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.065	0.068	-0.003	-4.412	0.065	0.065	0.068	0.100	SMNP	12,976,314
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	46,318	3,884	5	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.084	0.085	0.100	AMAT	14,525,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	1,572	370	4	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	AMCI	14,850,000
Total		19	4,186,389	1,398,082	213												
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	2,848	14,515	3	5.050	5.100	5.050	5.100	5.100	0.000	0.000	5.100	4.800	5.100	1.000	OCCT	15,300,000
OM0000001095	DHOFA INSURANCE	73,195	13,541	5	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.182	0.203	0.100	DIGS	20,195,500
OM0000001190	NATIONAL GAS	94,039	7,291	9	0.087	0.088	0.086	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.100	NGCI	7,395,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,280,155	153,613	73	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.100	RCCT	24,000,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	15,000	24,375	1	1.625	1.625	1.625	1.625	1.625	0.000	0.000	1.625	1.625	0.000	0.100	ORCI	81,280,000
OM0000001580	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,296	67	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.100	MFCI	15,971,609
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	1,568	299	1	0.191	0.191	0.191	0.191	0.191	0.000	0.000	0.191	0.191	0.000	0.100	OPCI	6,195,249
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	50	98	1	1.950	1.950	1.950	1.950	2.000	-0.050	-2.500	1.950	1.950	1.980	0.100	OCAT	174,815,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	113,172	8,563	5	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	AAIC	11,450,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	1,474,815	220,646	24	0.149	0.150	0.146	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	AOFS	46,151,161
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	58,858	8,653	7	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.163	0.164	0.100	ABOB	385,343,824
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	130,000	29,860	2	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.002	0.900	0.222	0.222	0.227	0.100	OMPT	40,943,927
OM0000002375	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	410	367	1	0.885	0.885	0.885	0.885	0.900	-0.005	-0.556	0.885	0.880	0.885	0.100	SOMS	85,025,000
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	20	49	1	0.955	0.955	0.955	0.955	0.960	-0.005	-0.521	0.955	0.950	0.955	0.100	OOMS	58,517,625
OM0000002904	A'SAFFA FOODS	16,000	4,640	3	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.300	-0.010	-3.333	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.100	SFTI	24,800,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	11,900	435	2	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.035	0.038	0.100	BWPC	5,920,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	58,010	5,626	2	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.093	0.097	0.100	TFCI	25,591,998
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	20,702	3,155	8	0.147	0.156	0.147	0.156	0.159	-0.003	-1.987	0.156	0.152	0.156	0.100	GECS	31,665,886
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	8,921	1,002	8	0.114	0.114	0.112	0.112	0.115	-0.003	-2.609	0.112	0.112	0.114	0.100	VOES	9,117,108
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	501,168	48,714	25	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.097	0.098	-0.001	-1.020	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	BKNZ	216,984,444
OM0000004609	SEBMOCP DESALINATION	19,469	2,432	2	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.128	0.125	0.128	0.100	SHZK	12,518,678
OM0000004735	SEBMOCP SALALAH	1,229,889	119,234	34	0.088	0.102	0.088	0.102	0.093	0.009	9.677	0.102	0.090	0.102	0.100	SSFW	97,366,339
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	24,970	499	1	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.019	0.020	0.100	BATP	13,497,749
OM0000004932	AL SUWAYH POWER	20,050	417	4	0.020	0.021	0.020	0.021	0.020	0.001	5.000	0.021	0.020	0.021	0.100	SUVP	12,753,125
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	9,500	1,311	1	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.137	0.001	0.730	0.138	0.138	0.140	0.100	OAB	230,375,580
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	118,817	6,592	9	0.052	0.057	0.052	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.053	0.056	0.100	PHPC	81,905,682
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	23,962	1,899	8	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.002	2.500	0.082	0.080	0.083	0.100	MCDE	40,050,841
OM0000007407	DHOFA GENERATING	100,000	4,150	2	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.001	2.439	0.042	0.041	0.043	0.100	DGEN	5,334,080
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	27,500	2,723	4	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	AMAN	19,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	31,585	2679	5	0.082	0.085	0.082	0.085	0.082	0.003	3.659	0.085	0.085	0.082	0.100	AMNP	40,050,841
OM0000008477	THE IRB REAL ESTATE	49,507	422,250	21	0.817	0.817	0.817	0.817	0.817	0.000	0.000	0.817	0.817	0.817	0.100	IRBI	2,000,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	168,217	49,124	68	0.281	0.283	0.281	0.282	0.283	-0.001	-0.341	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.100	ABJM	224,898,400
Total		32	6,046,960	785,965	347												

Was desperate to make a strong comeback, says Shreyas Iyer

Indian batter slams match-winning knock of 105 against Australia in the second ODI in Indore

INDORE: India middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer slammed a match-winning 105 against Australia in the team's win in the second ODI in Indore on Sunday and later said that he was keen to make a strong comeback.

Speaking after his 105 off 90 balls helped India win by 99 runs to win the match and clinch the three-match series, Iyer said: "I was desperate to come back and come back strong. I was waiting to convert the starts which I got in the previous games. Today I got the opportunity, I am grateful."

"To be honest I was not doubting my abilities because I knew I was batting brilliantly in the nets, also the start I got against Pakistan. Just a matter of one innings and I knew it was around the corner, thankfully I was able to execute," he added.

Iyer was fully aware of the competition he was up against but despite being in a helpless situation that saw him miss the majority of the Asia Cup, he managed to stay calm.

"It was definitely a roller coaster ride. I would like to thank myself to be honest. For believing in my abilities and mindset at that point of time.

"I was feeling a bit lonely but thanks to my physios, trainers, and family they backed me, grateful to have them around.

"I keep telling myself competi-



tion is against me. It is about the mindset that I maintain especially when the chips are down. My mind was fluctuating at times but I was trying to stay away from the outside noise. As they say ignorance is bliss so taking one step a time and staying in the present and not thinking about what happened and what will happen in the future."

The injury scares were back when Iyer was nearing his century. This time, it was cramps. It was so bad that he could not even hold the bat properly. But he brought his "beast mode".

The target or Australia was revised through Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method at the Holkar Cricket Stadium on Sunday as rain interrupted the match.

Iyer had made his return during the Asia Cup after battling injury woes since December last year.

Iyer played some ODI and Test cricket early this year but the recurrence of his injury ruled him out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final.

He played the Asia Cup campaign opener against Pakistan but could score just 14 runs. Following that, he did not feature in the tournament due to a back spasm. The form of KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan also raised questions about his spot in the team despite him being there in the ICC Cricket World Cup squad.

On his return to cricket against Australia in the first ODI, he could score just three and was run out.

In the second ODI, Iyer stormed into form and proved his utility in the middle order with his third ODI century, which saw him showcase strike rotation and attacking

intent against spin and pace alike.

Coming to the match, India were put to bat first by Australia.

A 200-run partnership for the second wicket between Shubman Gill (104 in 97 balls, six fours and four sixes) and Iyer (105, 11 fours and three sixes) laid a solid foundation.

Later, half-centuries from skipper KL Rahul (52 in 38 balls, with three fours and three sixes) and Suryakumar Yadav (72* in 37 balls with six fours and six sixes) and a cameo from Ishan Kishan (31 in 18 balls with two fours and two sixes) pushed India to 399/5 in 50 overs.

Cameron Green took two wickets for Australia but gave away 103 runs. Josh Hazlewood, Sean Abbott and Adam Zampa took a wicket each.

Chasing 400 for victory, Australia were reduced to 9/2 and rain interrupted the action. The target

was later revised to 317 in 33 overs.

An 80-run stand between David Warner (53 in 39 balls, seven fours and a six) and Marnus Labuschagne (27) stabilised the innings a bit. But after this, wickets kept falling and the Aussies sunk to 140/8.

A 77-run explosive partnership between Abbott (54 in 36 balls with four boundaries and five sixes) and Josh Hazlewood (23) entertained the audience, but the Aussies were bundled out for 217 in 28.2 overs, losing by 99 runs.

Ravichandran Ashwin was the pick of the bowlers for India with 3/41, with his spin partner Ravindra Jadeja getting 3/42.

Prasidh Krishna got two wickets while Mohammed Shami got one.

Later, Iyer was given the 'Player of the Match' award for his century. - Agencies

World Cups are about peaking at right time: Smith

INDORE: Following his side's 99-run loss to India in the second ODI, Australia skipper Steve Smith said that having lost five matches in a row ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup in October, his side needs to work on a few things.

India outplayed Australia with both bat and ball to clinch the three-match ODI series 2-0 after winning the second match by 99 runs on Sunday.

"When we came here it looked like a good wicket, but it changed a little bit. Credit to India, they batted beautifully...400 was always a big challenge on that. I have seen games here before and it looked good for chasing.

"We were a fair way off. We have lost quite a few in a row now...World Cups are about peaking at the right time, we certainly haven't done that at this stage. A few things to sort out. We know we are a good side. Both teams are working towards the World Cup but still want to win games," said Smith in a post-match presentation. - Agencies

ODI WORLD CUP

Dharmasena, Menon named on-field umpires for opener

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed on Monday that Kumar Dharmasena and Nitin Menon will serve as on-field umpires for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 opener between England and New Zealand, which will take place on October 5 in Ahmedabad.

"Kumar Dharmasena and Nitin Menon will be the on-field umpires for the opening match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 between England and New Zealand," the ICC said on Monday.

The group stage clash, a repeat of the unforgettable final four years ago, will see Dharmasena and Menon joined by TV umpire Paul Wilson, fourth umpire Shahid Saikat and match referee Javagal Srinath.

Dharmasena made history in 2015 as the first person to both play and umpire in an ICC Men's 50-over Cricket World Cup final while Menon will be standing in his first ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match. Shahid will become the first from Bangladesh to umpire in the competition.

They are all among the team of 20 announced by the ICC to oversee the World Cup contests, the



list consisting of 16 umpires and four match referees, including 12 umpires from the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires.

Menon, who hails from host nation India, is the youngest umpire at the tournament at 39, and is joined by Shahid, Ahsan Raza, Adrian Holdstock, Wharf and Chris Brown in making their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup debut.

The four-match referees are all former international players - Jeff Crowe, Andy Pycroft, Richie Richardson and Javagal Srinath. **Umpires:** Chris Brown (New Zealand), Kumar Dharmasena (Sri Lanka), Marais Erasmus (South

Africa), Christopher Gaffaney (New Zealand), Michael Gough (England), Adrian Holdstock (South Africa), Richard Illingworth (England), Richard Kettleborough (England), Nitin Menon (India), Ahsan Raza (Pakistan), Paul Reiffel (Australia), Sharfudoula Ibne Shahid (Bangladesh), Rodney Tucker (Australia), Alex Wharf (England), Joel Wilson (West Indies) and Paul Wilson (Australia).

Match Referees: Jeff Crowe (New Zealand), Andy Pycroft (Zimbabwe), Richie Richardson (West Indies) and Javagal Srinath (India). - ANI

SRI LANKA OFF-SPINNER

Senanayake granted bail

COLOMBO: Sachithra Senanayake, the former Sri Lanka off-spinner, has been granted bail by the Colombo Chief Magistrate's court, the police media division has confirmed. Senanayake had been arrested on September 6 on charges related to match-fixing.

Bail was granted on two sureties of LKR 5,000,000 (US\$ 15,357) each, while the previously court-imposed travel ban is still in effect. He will appear before court again on December 12, 2023.

Senanayake, 38, is alleged to have attempted to convince players to fix in the 2020 Lanka Premier League. Although he was not himself a player in this tournament, and is understood to have been overseas at the time, Senanayake is alleged to have contacted more than one player taking part in the LPL. This information was then allegedly conveyed to the tournament's anti-corruption officers.

Senanayake was a key part of Sri Lanka's triumphant 2014 T20 World Cup campaign, and had also been bought by Kolkata Knight Riders in the 2013 IPL season.

He played the last of his 49 ODIs in December 2015, and the last of his 24 T20Is in 2016. He also played one Test in 2013, but didn't take any wickets. - Agencies

ASIAN GAMES

Indian women defeat Sri Lanka to claim gold



HANGZHOU: A fiery spell by Titus Sandhu and tight spin bowling from Deepti Sharma and Devika Vaidya helped India defend a modest total of 117 runs to secure the gold medal in the women's cricket tournament at the ongoing Hangzhou Asian Games, beating Sri Lanka in the final by 19 runs at Hangzhou on Monday. India restricted Sri Lanka to just 97/8 in 20 overs.

The Indian women's team elected to bat first. Sugandika Kumari gave a big jolt to the Women in Blue, dismissing Shafali Varma for just nine runs.

Opener Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues rebuilt the innings, to end of the powerplay at 35/1.

Inoka Ranaweera gave the much-needed breakthrough, getting rid of Smriti for 46 off 45 balls with four boundaries and a six. India was 89/2 in 14.5 overs and the 73-run stand between Mandhana-Rodrigues was over.

The wicket caused a collapse as except for Rodrigues, who scored 42 in 40 balls with five fours, no other batter could stay long as India ended their innings at 116/7 in 20 overs.

Kumari (2/30), Ranaweera (2/21) and Udeshika Prabodhani (2/16) were among the wicket-takers.

In the chase of 117 runs, Sri Lanka was troubled by medium-pacer Titus Sandhu, who dismissed the top order consisting of skipper Chamari Athapaththu (12), Anushka Sanjeevani (1) and

Vishmi Gunaratne (0), reducing SL to 14/3 in 4.2 overs.

Hasini Perera and Nilakshi de Silva helping the team cross the 50-run mark in 9.3 overs. But Rajeshwari Gayakwad turned the tide in India's favour by removing Hasini for 25 off 22 balls, with four boundaries and a six to leave Sri Lanka at 50/4 in 9.5 overs.

Spinners Deepti Sharma and Devika Vaidya restricted the run flow. But Nilakshi and Oshadi Ranasinghe fought back with some boundaries, leaving them with 43 to get in the final five overs.

But Pooja Vastrakar removed Nilakshi for 23 off 34 balls, ending a fighting 28-run partnership. Sri Lanka were 78/5 in 16.1 overs.

Deepti also removed Ranasinghe, (19 in 26 balls) to leave the team at 86/6 in 17.4 overs.

Kavisha Dilhari was removed by Vaidya for five and Gayakwad removed Sugandika Kumari for 5 as Sri Lanka were restricted to 96/8 in 20 overs.

Titus was the pick of the bowlers with 3/6. Gayakwad took 2/20 and Vastrakar, Deepti and Vaidya got one wicket each.

In another match, Bangladesh chased down a target of 65 runs set by Pakistan to capture the bronze medal.

Brief scores: India: 116/7 (Smriti Mandhana 46, Jemimah Rodrigues 42, Udeshika Prabodhani 2/16) beat Sri Lanka: 97/8 (Hasini Perera 25, Nilakshi de Silva 23, Titus Sandu 3/6, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/20). - ANI

LAVER CUP

Team World retain trophy in Vancouver

VANCOUVER: Team World thrashed Team Europe 13-2 to win the Laver Cup for a second successive year in Vancouver on Sunday.

Americans Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe beat Poland's Hubert Hurkacz and Russia's Andrey Rublev 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-5) in the doubles to triumph.

Team World dominated the tournament and only needed to win the doubles match to secure the trophy.

Norwegian Casper Ruud's win over American Tommy Paul on Saturday sealed Europe's only points.

With the winner being the first team to reach 13 points, Team



World were on track after day one having won all four matches before Americans Taylor Fritz and Tiafoe both won in straight sets on

Saturday and Felix Auger-Aliassime, of Canada, and Shelton added a doubles win to carry a 10-2 lead into the final day.

"We stepped up and I thought all the guys played great," said Team World captain John McEnroe.

"This was a special year for us. I know they're going to come back strong but I'll take two in a row any day. And I'm starting to think it is possible for three in a row!"

Shelton, 20, knocked compatriot Tiafoe out of the US Open earlier this month, reaching the semi-final and rising to 19th in the world rankings, but the pair worked well as a partnership, coming from behind in both tie-

breaks in a dramatic victory.

"It was very special being part of that last year - it was so emotional for being my first time. Now with Ben it's a lot of fun," Tiafoe said.

Shelton said: "It's been crazy for me. I enjoyed being in a team environment, they did a great job cheering me on all week and I hope I did a good job cheering them on as well."

Team Europe won the first four editions of the competition but that run came to an end in London last year when Team World emerged victorious at the tournament that marked the end of Roger Federer's career. - Agencies

Liverpool extend unbeaten run

Salah, Nunez and Jota score as Reds beat West Ham in their Premier League match on Sunday

LONDON: Darwin Nunez scored a fine goal as Liverpool saw off West Ham 3-1 in their Premier League match on Sunday to extend their unbeaten run to 18 games in all competitions.

Mohamed Salah gave Liverpool the lead against the run of play with a penalty after he was brought down by Nayef Aguerd.

Jarrod Bowen levelled for West Ham with an excellent header to meet Vladimir Coufal's cross.

Soon after Curtis Jones had a goal ruled out for Liverpool for offside. Nunez put them ahead with a difficult hooked volley from Alexis Mac Allister's clipped ball over the top. And Diogo Jota sealed the points when he pounced from close range to turn home Virgil van Dijk's header.

West Ham boss David Moyes has now lost 24 Premier League games against Liverpool, a joint record for a manager against one team, level with Harry Redknapp against Manchester United.

Both sides were in Europa League action on Thursday - and Moyes and Jurgen Klopp made nine changes each from those games.

A victory would have seen West Ham equal their best start to a Premier League season, matching their haul of 13 points from six games in 1999-2000.

Salah is the fifth player to either score or assist a goal in each of his team's first six games of a Premier League season, after David Beckham, Thierry Henry, Sergio Agueero and Erling Haaland.

They are second in the table, only behind Manchester City - a situation you wonder if we will get used to as the season goes on.

Watkins winner piles more misery on Blues

Chelsea's stuttering start to the Premier League season took another turn for the worse as Aston Villa piled more misery on the 10-man Blues with 1-0 victory at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.



Ollie Watkins fired home an unerring winner between the legs of Robert Sanchez from an incredibly tight angle as Villa capitalised on Malo Gusto's dismissal for dangerous play.

Mauricio Pochettino's hosts fashioned plenty of chances before Gusto's red card for a poorly-timed tackle that caught Lucas Digne on the ankle but, as so often this season, failed to take any of them.

The Blues have just five points from their opening six games and their woes pre-date Pochettino's appointment, with only two wins and 11 goals in their past 14 home league matches.

But the Argentine remains convinced better times lurk just around the corner if his side can overcome their shyness in front of goal.

"The team never gives up and of course we are going to fight to change as quickly as possible," he said.

"I am seeing the team trying. We created many chances. We cannot criticise or say anything about the capacity to fight, they are fighting and they have the will."

Chelsea's only wins in their seven games under Pochettino have come against Luton and AFC Wimbledon and the injury-hit Blues will be cursing their luck after a second successive home defeat.

Arsenal and Spurs in an entertaining draw

Tottenham came from behind twice to secure a hard-earned

Newcastle hammer Sheffield in record 8-0 victory

LONDON: Newcastle United matched their record Premier League win with a scintillating display as they embarrassed winless Sheffield United at Bramall Lane with a 8-0 victory on Sunday.

Any fears of a European hangover following their Champions League exertions on Tuesday soon vanished as Eddie Howe's side cruised to victory with eight different players getting on the scoresheet.

Sean Longstaff put the visitors in front on 21 minutes as he swept in from Anthony Gordon's cutback with the Blades' appeals for a handball and claims the ball went out of play in the build-up dismissed.

Paul Heckingbottom's hosts had started brightly but found themselves three down before



half-time after a further two goals in four minutes for Newcastle.

Both came from Kieran Trippier set-pieces with Dan Burn stooping to nod in a corner at the back post before Sven Bot-

man scored his first Newcastle goal with a well-directed header from a wide free-kick.

Callum Wilson missed a number of presentable opportunities before the break but

got his goal 10 minutes into the second half, heading in from close range following another pinpoint cross from Trippier.

With Newcastle seemingly able to carve through the Blades at will, it was the irrepressible Gordon who added the fifth.

Miguel Almiron slotted in number six and Bruno Guimaraes made it seven with 17 minutes still remaining against an increasingly despondent home side.

That was plenty of time for substitute Alexander Isak to pounce on another defensive error, turn his man and calmly finish to make it 8-0, the same score by which Newcastle beat Sheffield Wednesday in 1999.

This was the Blades' largest defeat in their league history in their 4,988th game. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Morata sparkles as Atletico down Real in Madrid derby

MADRID: Alvaro Morata scored twice as Atletico Madrid ended Real Madrid's 100 percent start to the La Liga season with a fine 3-1 victory over their city rivals on Sunday.

They led inside four minutes when former Real forward Morata converted Samuel Lino's dangerous cross.

Antoine Griezmann then made it 2-0 with another header, before Toni Kroos' fine low strike halved the deficit.

But Morata sealed Atletico's victory when he rose highest to meet Saul Niguez's ball in after the break.

Victory moved Atletico up to fifth in the table, while Real are third - behind leaders Barcelona and Girona - after dropping points for the first time this season.

Atletico had only won one of their past 14 La Liga Madrid derbies before this match, but stunned their bitter rivals with two goals in



the opening 18 minutes and then defended resolutely thereafter.

England midfielder Jude Bellingham, who has been in inspired form since joining Real in the summer, cut a frustrated figure throughout, culminating in a yellow card for a poor challenge on Angel Correa in stoppage time.

The 20-year-old scored six goals in his first six appearances for the club in all competitions, but this result means he tasted defeat for the first time as a Real Madrid player.

Morata now has five goals in five La Liga games this season for Atletico. - Agencies

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Mbappe injured in PSG's win

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe went off with a suspected ankle injury as Paris Saint-Germain returned to winning ways in Ligue 1 with an easy 4-0 victory over Marseille on Sunday.

PSG's star forward tried to carry on after an early challenge with Leonardo Balerdi but went off before half-time.

Mbappe could be a doubt when the French champions play Newcastle away in the Champions League on 4 October.

PSG cruised past Marseille after goals by Achraf Hakimi, Randal Kolo Muani and two from Goncalo Ramos.

It lifted them into third spot in Ligue 1, two points behind early season leaders Brest.

Luis Enrique's side had lost their previous Ligue 1 game 3-2 at home to Nice on 15 September but they never looked back once Morocco full-back Hakimi scored straight from a free-kick.

Hakimi then provided the cross for Muani to score his first goal since signing from Eintracht Frankfurt.



Substitute Ramos sealed the points with the third and fourth goals after replacing the injured Mbappe.

Marseille, whose manager Marcelino resigned last week,

should have equalised at 1-0 down but Vitorinha headed against the bar. Their first Ligue 1 defeat of the season leaves them seventh in the table, two points behind PSG. - Agencies

2019 BALLON D'OR WINNER

US legend Rapinoe ends her international career



CHICAGO: Megan Rapinoe brought down the curtain on her international career as the USA beat South Africa 2-0 in Chicago on Sunday.

Prior to the 2023 World Cup, the forward said she planned to retire when the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) season ends.

Rapinoe, 38, made her USA debut in 2006 and won 203 caps, scoring 63 goals, and winning the World Cup in 2015 and 2019.

"So overwhelming. It has been amazing," Rapinoe said of the reception she received at Sunday's friendly.

"It has been really wonderful, to hear all the nice things, to have a closure moment, to play in front of a big crowd again.

"I'll miss it forever. I don't think I'll ever be at a moment where it will feel perfect but this is pretty close."

Rapinoe started the game at Sol-

dier Field and received a standing ovation as the game was paused when she was withdrawn after 54 minutes.

The 2019 *Ballon d'Or* winner represented the USA at four World Cups and also helped her country win gold at the 2012 Olympics in London, although she was one of three players to miss a penalty when they exited the 2023 World Cup against Sweden in the last 16.

After Sunday's win, Rapinoe tried to fight back tears as she gave a speech, thanking fans for their support over the past 17 years.

"I feel like I've been able to grow up in front of all of you," Rapinoe said.

"It has been such an honour to be able to wear this shirt and play with all these amazing players and to just live out my childhood dream, casually, just like in front of the world," Rapinoe said.

"We fought so hard off the field to continue to create more space for ourselves to be who we are but hopefully in turn more space for you guys to be who you are.

"I'm not going to go away forever. Don't worry. I'm one of you guys now."

Rapinoe is scheduled to retire from professional football on October 15 when NWSL side OL Reign play their final game of the season at Chicago Red Stars. - Agencies

ROUND-UP



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222
9275 5522

BankDhofar’s 100th branch: A hundred stories of success and progress

The grand inauguration of BankDhofar’s 100th branch is a testament to its unwavering dedication to expand its presence and deliver top-notch financial services throughout the Sultanate of Oman

MUSCAT: Yesterday marked a historic day in the annals of BankDhofar, Oman’s trailblazing financial institution. The bank inaugurated its 100th branch in the heart of the city, carving a spectacular chapter in its illustrious history and reinforcing its pivotal role in



Oman’s economic development. The launch of the 100th branch reaffirms BankDhofar’s commitment to extend financial services and enhance customer accessibility across the Sultanate. It underscores its ‘Closer to You’ concept and its firm intent to narrate a hundred stories of success through the length and breadth of the country. Expressing his delight and pride at the opening of the 100th branch, Mr. Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, CEO of BankDhofar, commented: “We are delighted to celebrate this important milestone of reaching 100 branches. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, as well as

the support of our customers. We are committed to providing our customers with the best possible banking experience and our expanding branch network is a key part of that strategy. We are proud of our journey and our commitment to serving Oman’s various regions and communities, empowering our customers to achieve their financial goals.” As Oman’s dynamic financial powerhouse, BankDhofar is charting a course to newer triumphs as it proudly hoists its 100th branch flag. This remarkable achievement isn’t just a number; it’s a testament to BankDhofar’s relentless commitment to embed prosperity into Oman’s financial horizon,



while empowering communities to reach a brighter financial future. Every single branch has been conceptualized to cater to specific needs of the local community, providing tailored financial solutions that address requirements of its diverse customer base. “We are not just a bank; we are our customers’ financial companion, committed to helping each one of them achieve their financial aspirations. We have equipped our branches with the latest banking technologies to enable customers experience the best banking experience. Our teams of experts are ready to serve and provide expert guidance to ensure that our cus-

tomers receive the best solutions tailored to their unique financial needs,” Al Ojaili added. With ongoing plans to open new branches in various locations across Oman, BankDhofar’s goal is to make banking services more accessible and convenient for everyone through its ‘Closer to you’ commitment. The Bank has drawn up an inspirational strategy to narrate a hundred stories of success, with each branch retelling its journey to empower Omani individuals, families and businesses to achieve their financial goals in tandem with national growth and prosperity. It further underscores the Bank’s deepening local connection and its

deep-rooted relation with communities across the country, ensuring that accessible and personalized banking services are brought closer to the customers’ doorsteps. It is significant to note here that the expansion process reflects the Bank’s commitment to enhance in-country value addition. It has, time and again, affirmed its intent to partner with the government in bringing to fruition the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, while augmenting the Omanisation drive by offering employment opportunities to talented individuals. In an era of digital transformation, BankDhofar isn’t just keeping pace - it is leading the charge. Each new branch is armed with cutting-edge technology and warm, personalised service. From hi-tech ATMs that cater to customers’ every need to friendly advisors ready to guide their financial voyage, the new branch embodies the perfect synergy between technology and human connection. Currently, BankDhofar’s national wide network consists of more than 100 branches including Maisarah and three corporate branches. The network also includes more than 300 ATMs, CDMs, FFM’s and MFK’s.

كاسابيللا casabella

٣٠٪ إلى ٧٠٪
30% TO 70%

تخفيضات
DISCOUNT

على مجموعة واسعة من المنتجات
ON WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS

من ١٦ أغسطس حتى ٨ أكتوبر
AUGUST 16TH TILL OCTOBER 8TH

SHOP NOW



ROUND-UP

Omantel, Outward Bound Oman renews partnership

The goal of the alliance is to train young people and enhance their lifeskills

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication services in the Sultanate of Oman, has reiterated its commitment to enhancing the skills of Omani youth through training programs by renewing its partnership with Outward Bound Oman as part of Omantel's social responsibility programs, which began in 2013.

Outward Bound Oman is a non-profit organisation established by a ministerial decision and is part of the Outward Bound Global Foundation that was launched in 1941.

The renewal agreement was signed between the two parties at Outward Bound Oman Training Centre in Muscat, in the presence of Talal bin Saeed Al Maamari,



CEO of Omantel, and Sulaiman bin Masoud Al Harthy, Chairman of Outward Bound Oman. The Omantel representatives toured the training centre and reviewed the efforts made by the centre in providing training courses to different groups of society.

Talal Al Maamari, CEO of Omantel, said: "Omantel targets the youth to enhance their capabilities in the field of communications, technology and programming by investing in their training across

relevant sectors through partners like Outward Bound Oman. This institution trains young people in innovative ways as reflected in the training camps for job seekers, people with disabilities and school students, benefiting more than 679 Omani youth through 46 courses."

"We are pleased to continue this investment by supporting four training programmes targeting different groups, strengthening the efforts of Outward Bound Oman and entering into new train-

ing programmes. The goal is to impart their basic life skills through external courses, boost their self-confidence, enhance their sense of responsibility and build a team," added Al Maamari.

Sulaiman bin Masoud Al Harthy, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Outward Bound Oman, underlined success of the joint efforts of Omantel and Outward Bound Oman in equipping young people with essential life skills and confidence needed to embark on their path to success.

He said: "In addition to youth, we provide training and professional development programs to many leading companies in the Sultanate, as well as conduct specialised training courses in leadership and team development. Outward Bound Oman strategy is aligned to Oman Vision 2040 through a serious commitment to training young people with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to overcome challenges. Moreover, a key component of the vision is attention to the environment and climate change. We work to raise awareness of the challenges, solutions and opportunities related to climate issues at various levels within the Sultanate of Oman."

RECOGNITION

ahlibank receives Leader in Tech-Driven Digital Banking Award

MUSCAT: After several accomplishments and exceptional feats, ahlibank recently received the Leader in Tech-Driven Digital Banking award at the OER Live DX Oman (Digital Transformation Conference) event. The bank was honoured for its contributions and innovation in providing a range of exceptional digital banking products and services.

DX Oman was held under the auspices of chief guests His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Qais Al Said, and Sheikh Salim bin Mustahail Al Mashani. In attendance were also distinguished government officials, business leaders, and key decision makers from the relevant sectors sector. The event aimed to highlight important topics such as emerging technologies, cyber security, as well as AI and Cloud Computing. The conference highlighted the challenges and opportunities in digital transformation.

ahlibank was acknowledged for its efforts and relentless commitment to harnessing cutting-edge technology to provide a seamless and secure banking experience. Setting new standards in the in-



dustry, the bank's goals align with Oman Vision 2040 and due to its notable track-record, have cemented itself as a leader in its field.

ahlibank has been at the forefront of driving the shift towards digitalisation of banking services in the country. As a first in Oman, the bank announced its feature of opening Children's Savings Account via its mobile banking app; along with other services, such as mobile top up. ahlibank also launched its fully digital branch at Mall of Oman, equipped with its Multi-Functional Kiosk that streamlines transactions. Through such digital products and services that are top-tier in the industry, the bank has been able to provide customers with convenient banking solutions that are easily accessible.

PARTICIPATION

Wellness Week at W Muscat

MUSCAT: The W Muscat participated in the Marriott International Wellness Week initiative alongside sister properties Al Bustan Palace Ritz Carlton and Sheraton Oman from September 15.

This Wellness Week truly highlighted W Muscat's mission to promote and encapsulate Physical, Social, Environmental and Emotional Wellbeing within Muscat through the pulse of the hotel. This dedicated week was open and complimentary to both in-house guests and residents of Muscat to enjoy a holistic wellness experience focusing on Mind, Body and Soul.

The Wellness Week kicked off on September 15 with Aqua Aerobics at the picturesque 6th floor Infinity Pool at Siddharta Lounge by Buddha Bar which boasted panoramic sea views, fun music



and a good workout. Following this participants were all treated to healthy detox shots and scrumptious breakfast canapes. The hotel's AWAY Spa then treated us all to a refreshing express facial to refresh and hydrate our skin after working out in the sun!

The next day cranked up the heat as guests and fitness enthusiasts alike participated in a more intense Extreme HIIT workout. After the rigorous workout, every-

one cooled off with some refreshing homemade fruit sorbet on the lawn while one of the guests, who was a personal trainer, was surprised with a personalized gym themed cake for her birthday!

Sunset Yoga was the perfect way to end a Sunday. The instructor led us through a mind, body and soul enhancing practice against the stunning sunset backdrop of Qurum Beach. We finished off the relaxing session with some zen smoothies by the lit up poolside of WET Deck whilst they surprised one of the guests for their birthday.

The final day of W Muscat's Wellness Week culminated in the green initiative of Planting in the Garden. Together, we broke soil and planted lemon tree saplings to symbolise our dedication and promise to sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

be'ahTec programme concludes

MUSCAT: In the context of its ongoing commitment to instilling sustainability concepts and circular economy principles while enhancing the capabilities of Omani youth, the Omani Environmental Services Holding Company "be'ah" has announced the conclusion of its "be'ahTec" programme in collaboration with Engineering Village, which was held at the W Hotel in Muscat.

The "be'ahTec" programme aims to enhance the proficiency of young individuals and develop their skills in finding sustainable solutions to resource management. The programme included a series of interactive workshops designed to stimulate creative thinking and the development of innovative projects among participants.

The programme commenced



with a series of workshops where participants were introduced to the programme's objectives and challenges. These workshops were conducted across 12 pre-selected colleges and universities in various governorates of Oman.

Out of 149 teams who passionately submitted their ideas through the "be'ahTec" website in the initial phase, the programme carefully selected three main teams: "Scanner,"

"Emata," and "Quick."

Abdulrahman Al-Jahadhami, one of the programme's participants, stated, "After spending no less than three months thinking, planning, researching, and participating in training workshops under the supervision and training of specialists in the field, we have come up with a solution to a real-world problem that we will oversee with precision and accuracy."

Drive Your Dream KIA.

Find Your Perfect Match.





Movement that inspires

Service*

up to 5 Years/
50,000 Kms

Insurance*

• 10 Years EMI's # available

Gear up for the good times with Kia's exciting range of SUVs. Impressive yet affordable, they are available with easy financing for 8 to 10 years period. Now boldly take roads less travelled for an exciting feeling unlike any other. To discover your perfect match, visit any Kia showroom today. Scheme Period: 10/09/2023 to 10/01/2024

Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579836, Al Mawaleh: 92858004, Barka: 93201347, Ibra: 99820162, Ibra: 99820162, Nizwa: 99874368, Sohar: 26858600, Sur: 25546190, Suwaiq: 93201347, Rustaq: 92869449, Salalah: 23211460

© 1 Yr. comprehensive Insurance benefit is available on almost all models (Insurance not applicable on Carnival, Sportage, Telluride, Cerato, K5, K8, Carens, Sorento, K4000, 20 MY, 21 MY or 22MY stocks). Insurance benefit has to be availed thru in-house Insurance procedure only. Muscat Insurance Company (MIC) will provide the insurance covers. *Total applicable Service benefits will be 3 Years/30,000Kms to 5 Years/50,000Kms, whichever is earlier. The Service benefit offer is not applicable on K4000G, 20 MY and 21 MY models. On RAC, Taxi and Driving School purchases, Insurance applicable would be given to the extent of a private vehicle. Additional premium as per insurance norm would have to be paid by the buyer, #Subject to credit approval by FCs and Banks. Ministry, Bulk fleet, Corporate, RAC deals are also not eligible.



FREE CHECK-UP



STEERING
CHECK



SUSPENSION
CHECK



UNDER CHASIS
CHECK

Applicable on car models 2019 and earlier



MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC

Muscat | Salalah | Sohar | Sur | Ibri | Nizwa



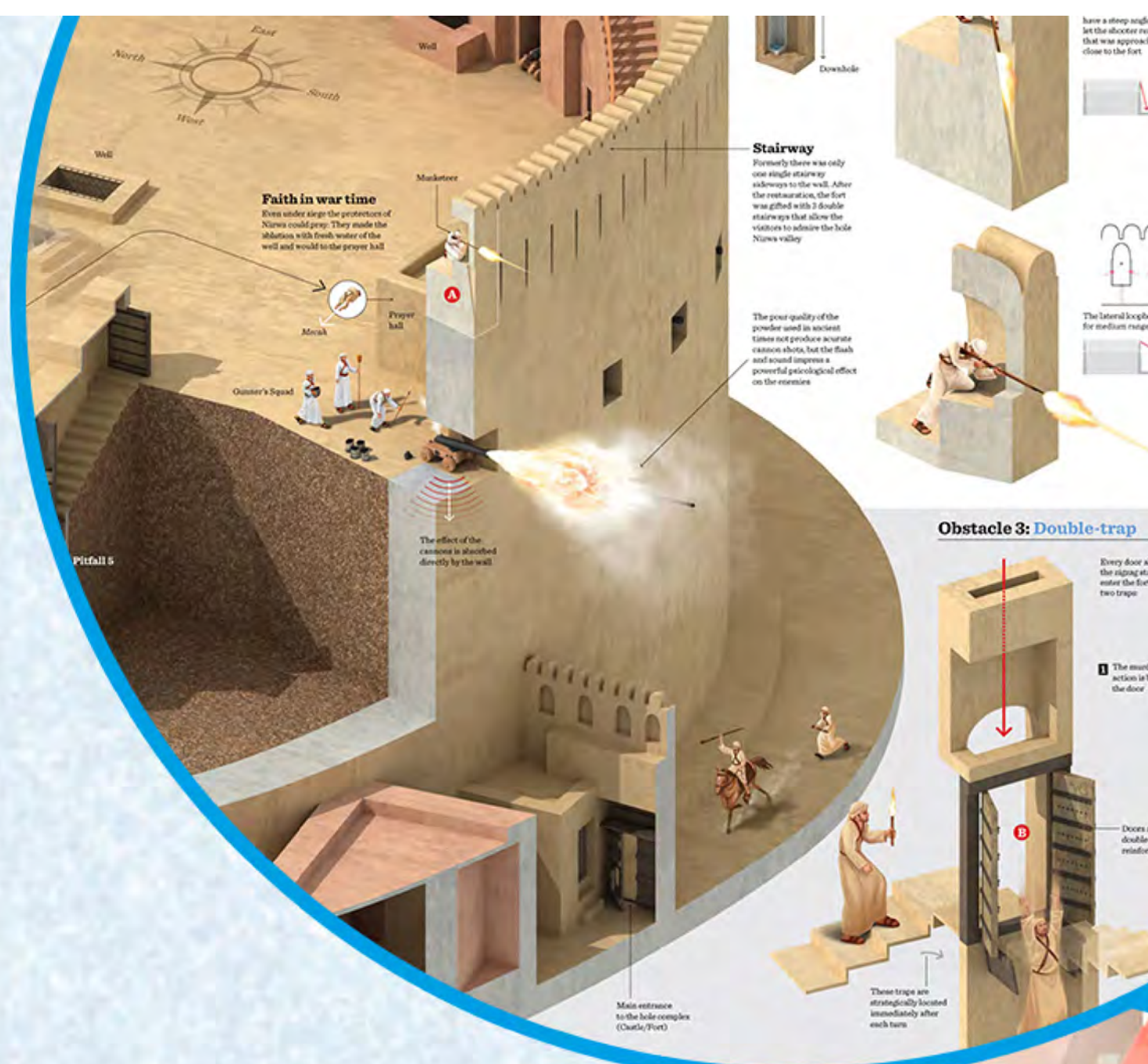
800 76 200



suzuki.moosagroup.com
suzukioman
suzuki.oman
Suzuki Global



novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
90139993

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group



SKYWORTH

Lead the future

Experience Every Moment Vividly



65"

55"

50"

4K 4K UHD

androidtv

HDR10



C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT 96742452

SALALAH 97924410, 94048494

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

 www.genetco.net

 @GenetcoOman

 @GenetcoOman

 Genetco Oman



HONGQI
— since 1958 —

ESCAPE THE ORDINARY THIS SUMMER

7 Free Service*
Years Roadside Assistance
Years Unlimited Kilometer Warranty

Free Registration

Free Insurance

100 RO Fuel Card

Special Offer for Teachers



Offer valid from 27/08/2023 to 26/10/2023 only for customers buying HONGQI 2023 vehicles from MHD dealership. Free Insurance 1st year (Oman & UAE). Free 1st year Registration. Service - 7 years or 65,000 KM whichever comes earlier. 7 Years Roadside Assistance. 7 Years Unlimited Kilometer Warranty. 100 RO Fuel Card and Special offer for the Teachers. Images are used for illustrative purposes only.

CR NO. 1001860

*T&C Apply



[Azaiba](#) | [hongqi-oman.com](#) | [80080777](#) | [HongqiOman](#) | [Hongqi Oman](#) | [hongqi.oman](#) | [hongqi.oman](#) | [HongqiOman](#)