

**OMAN'S ENVOY CONVEYS
HM THE SULTAN GREETINGS**
MUSCAT: Rua Issa Al Zedjali conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the President of the European Council Charles Michel. This came when the President of the European Council received Rua Issa Al Zedjali who presented her credentials as head of Oman's mission to the European Union (EU). — **ONA** • See also >A5



6 085010 120010

**HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN
GREET'S KING OF CAMBODIA**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Norodom Sihamoni of the Kingdom of Cambodia on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to King Norodom Sihamoni. His Majesty also wished the people of Cambodia further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 • Volume 48 No. 178 | 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](#)



T & C apply.
Apply now

**Discounted
Interest Rate**



4.75%

**Special offer on
Sayyarati Auto Loan
for Ministry of Education
Employees from Bank Muscat**



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

OMAN CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

Foreign Minister holds annual meeting with ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions in the Sultanate of Oman



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, on Wednesday, called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and to allow the flow of humanitarian and relief aid into Palestine.

Sayyid Badr was addressing the ambassadors and heads of diplo-

matic missions and international organisations accredited to the Sultanate of Oman during the fourth annual meeting.

The meeting was aimed at exchanging views on issues related to economic and social development in the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to Oman's foreign policy.

A key issue that was accorded top attention during the meeting was the tragic situation in the Gaza Strip and the severe suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli occupation forces' military operations.

It was observed that those occupation forces exceeded and vio-

lated the rules of the international law and the international humanitarian law.

Sayyid Badr underlined the Sultanate of Oman's firm position in condemning these violations and its strive to exert efforts with Arab and friendly countries, as well as international organisations. >**A6**

Sayyid Badr discusses Gaza crisis with Blinken

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister yesterday received a phone call from Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State.

During the telephonic conversation, the two sides exchanged views on the tragic situation in the Gaza Strip and the danger of the continued Israeli military escalation, as well as the severe humanitarian catastrophe that civilians are experiencing, with thousands of them martyred and wounded, and deceased bodies piling up under the rubble of bombed

buildings and blocks.

Sayyid Badr reiterated the necessity to contain this escalation through ceasefire in a manner that allows opening humanitarian corridors to ensure access to necessary relief aid, saving lives, and releasing hostages.

He also underlined Oman's point of view that calls for addressing the roots of the Palestinian cause politically and through diplomatic negotiations to reach the internationally desired two-state solution with the participation of all warring parties. >**A6**

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

Shura Council session to elect chairman, deputy chairmen today

MUSCAT: The Shura Council will hold an extraordinary session to elect a chairman and two deputy chairmen for the Council's 10th term (2023-2027) on Thursday.

The special session will witness a vote of 90 members, 63 percent of whom are new.

The voting process will be conducted using modern technologies in accordance with the procedures in force for the Shura Council.

The election process will take place by secret ballot via the electronic system as per the instructions that each member will have to follow through his own electronic interface displaying the list of candidates to facilitate the selection process.

Each candidate will be given a space to display his CV, after which the voting process will take place via the system in complete privacy.

Electing the chairmen and his deputies will be conducted elec-



tronically as the oldest member will preside over the session if he is not a candidate wishing to contest the position of chairman or deputy chairman.

The extraordinary session's chairman will be assisted by two younger members. The proceedings of the session will begin with a speech of the Secretary General.

Then, the members will take the oath and proceed with the election process. They will elect

a chairman and two deputy chairmen in two separate ballots.

The tenth term of the Shura Council represents an important event at the national level as it comes amidst many important changes that Oman is witnessing in the framework of implementing its Oman 2040 Vision.

The Council, during its tenth term, will contribute towards achieving the goals of the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan.

— **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN 'Stop the illegal war waged by Israelis'



1 Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education noted in her speech that Oman shares the calls of world countries to stop the illegal and inhuman war waged by the Israelis against Palestine civilians. >**A2**

OMAN Unified Gulf tourist visa project approved

2 The interior ministers approved the unified Gulf tourist visa project to contribute to facilitating movement of residents and tourists between the six GCC countries. >**A4**

WORLD Unprecedented brutality in Gaza

3 Laila Bakr, Regional Director of the UNPF for the Arab States said that the catastrophic situation that Gaza Strip has been going through is 'an unprecedented and unparalleled brutality'. >**A7**

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

**30°
MUSCAT**







**Protect your family
with MYMO EXPRESS**

**Clean, Ozonated Fruits
& Veggies**





Order Now





DOWNLOAD NOW

Get it on Google Play | Download on the App Store

@mymoexpress.om





BUY & WIN



MG RX5

25 Gold Coins



Buy an outer of Snackits / Relish / Maamoul Oman / Cocozoo / SugarFree Digestive & stand a chance to WIN **MG RX5** & Gold Coins

يسري هذا العرض من ٢٠ أكتوبر ٢٠٢٣ إلى ١٥ يناير ٢٠٢٤
Valid from 20th October 2023 to 15th January 2024

 facebook.com/nationalbiscuits  instagram.com/nationalbiscuits

MM/06/1015/2023

احصل على
كوبون
داخل الحزمة



فند coupon
inside the
outer

ابحث عن الرمز
الخاص خلف
كوبون



LOOK FOR YOUR
UNIQUE CODE
ON THE BACK
OF THIS COUPON

ادخل الرمز
عبر الموقع



REGISTER
CODE AT
www.winwithnabil.com

UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE

Stop the illegal war waged by Israeli forces: Dr. Madiha

PARIS: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the plenary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which was held at the organisation's in the French capital, Paris.

The event saw the participation of UNESCO member states and representatives of international organisations and civil society institutions.

Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education and Chairperson of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, noted in her speech during the sessions that Oman shares the calls of world countries to stop the illegal and inhuman war waged by the Israeli occupation against civilians and defenceless innocents in the Gaza Strip.

This war, added the minister, caused the destruction of infrastructure, archaeological sites, museums, mosques and churches.

Dr. Madiha urged the UNESCO to fulfill its moral duty and humanitarian obligation to call for an immediate ceasefire, protect civilians, and enable the entry of urgent humanitarian aid into Gaza.

She also called on the free world to protect schools, universities and places of worship, as well as historical and cultural sites of the Palestinian people.

She said that an urgent plan should be devised so that UNESCO can play a role in helping the Palestinian people, empowering them in sustainable development programmes, combating poverty, and restoring and maintaining heritage, cultural and historical monuments.

She explained that this dangerous escalation requires prioritizing reason and wisdom, giving priority to the humanitarian dimension and promoting a culture of peace and dialogue. It also requires rejecting violence,

REQUEST: Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education and Chairperson of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, urged the UNESCO to fulfill its moral duty and humanitarian obligation for the Palestinians. - ONA

extremism and hate speech, in addition to spreading general understanding about international humanitarian law and the legal obligations that countries bear during wars and armed conflicts, affirmed Dr. Madiha.

She underlined the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to give priority to the policy of tolerance and dialogue, as well as rejecting violence and addressing the causes of the conflict.

She also highlighted Oman's efforts to convey its cultural experience in tolerance, coexistence and understanding, through the "Message of Peace from the Sultanate of Oman" exhibition, which had more than 600 stations around the world, the latest of which was held at the UNESCO's headquarters last July.

At the conclusion of her speech, Dr. Madiha laid emphasis on Oman's commitment to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the fourth goal on education.

The opening programme of the session, which lasts until 22 November 2023, includes a speech by the UNESCO Director-General, a speech by the President of the Executive Council, approving the session's agenda, electing the President of the General Conference, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the Committees, the Vice-Chairmen, and the Rapporteurs.

It also includes a discussion of the Director-General's report on the activities of the Organization during (2018-2021), as well as a report on the activities and programmes of the organization's Executive Council.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation taking part in the event comprises Hamad Saif Al Hamami, Oman's Permanent Representative to the UNESCO, Dr. Jokha Abdullah Al Shukaili, CEO of Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Educational Quality Assurance and Amna Salim Al Balushi, Secretary of Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science.

It also includes representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Environment Authority and Sultan Qaboos University.



Joyful
Cashback
Festival

OMR 5
GIFT VOUCHER

ON PURCHASE OF
GOLD JEWELLERY WORTH
OMR 250

From 2nd Nov to 12th Nov 2023

OMR 20
GIFT VOUCHER

ON PURCHASE OF DIAMOND,
POLKI & PEARL JEWELLERY
WORTH OMR 250

From 20th Oct to 12th Nov 2023

PAY 10%

IN ADVANCE AND GET
GUARANTEED
GOLD RATE PROTECTION

From 1st Nov to 12th Nov 2023

GET 100%

VALUE ON DIAMOND &
GOLD EXCHANGE

0%
MAKING
CHARGES ON
8GM GOLD COINS

SCAN HERE
TO VIEW
OUR EXCLUSIVE
JEWELLERY
COLLECTION



Offers valid till 12th November 2023

 www.joyalukkas.com

Joyalukkas

World's favourite jeweller

OMAN • UAE • QATAR • BAHRAIN • KUWAIT • KSA • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA • UK • USA • INDIA

CR NO - 1622358



Closer than you think

Over 100 branches, and more than 300 ATMs/CDMs/FFMs/MFKs to serve you

bankdhofar www.bankdhofar.com



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

IMF team holds talks on boosting SMEs in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy received on Wednesday the mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV consultation which is hosted by the Sultanate of Oman till 15 November 2023.

The meeting discussed several topics, including the progress made in the national programme for economic diversification "Tanweea", the labour market, recruitment and initiatives to enhance the work environment.

It also touched on programmes related to boosting the role of small and medium enterprises in



the economy.

Moreover, the meeting was attended by Dr. Nasser Rashid Al

Maawali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy.

-ONA

OMAN POST

Commemorative postal collection sheds light on coin minting history

MUSCAT: Oman Post, an affiliate of Asyad Group, announced the launch of a commemorative postal collection titled "1/4 Anna in the Reign of Sultans of Oman".

The collection sheds light on the history of coin minting in the Sultanate of Oman and reflects Oman Post's efforts to document the history of the country through commemorative stamps and unique postal products.

The distinctive collection will be available for public purchase at Oman Post's Stamps and Collectibles shop at the Opera Galleria, along with numerous other collectibles.

Oman Post has announced two editions of this collection. The first edition is a regular release that includes an envelope and a souvenir sheet, along with a sheet of stamps featuring a circular stamp in copper colour, replicating the design of the 1/4 Anna coin.

The second edition is a special release designed exclusively



for historic memorabilia enthusiasts, containing an exclusive cover that includes the original 1/4 Anna coin.

Additionally, it consists of an informative card detailing the history of coin minting during the reign of the Sultans, a souvenir sheet, and a sheet of stamps.

Sheikh Ibrahim Sultan Al Hosni, Acting CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express, stated: "This stamp symbolising the 1/4 Anna coin sheds light on the history of coin minting in Oman and signifies an important part of the political and economic history of the Sultanate of Oman during the reign of the Sultans."

The 1/4 Anna coin held immense significance in Oman's political and financial history.

The history of this coin dates to the year (1315 Hijri / 1898); more than 130 years ago. It was minted in Muscat, in the reign of Sultan/ Faisal bin Turki, Sultan of Muscat and Oman during the period (1305 - 1331 Hijri / 1888 - 1913).

Known as the "Baisa" by Omanis then, the coin continued to be used throughout the reigns of Sultan/ Taimur bin Faisal and Sultan/ Said bin Taimur.

The "1/4 Anna in the Reign of the Sultans of Oman" stamp collection is one of the significant documentary postal works consistently released by Oman Post.

These initiatives aim to showcase the glorious history of Oman, activate the postal service's role in promoting national culture, and offer a diverse range of postal products that attract new enthusiasts to stamp collecting.

-ONA

OHRC

Meeting discusses role of rights body in addressing torture



REHABILITATING VICTIMS: The conference was themed "Torture and Other Ill-treatment: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)". - ONA

COPENHAGEN: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC), took part in the 14th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The conference was themed "Torture and Other Ill-treatment: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)".

Further, the conference discussed the critical role of independent and effective NHRIs

in addressing torture and other ill-treatment, as well as mechanisms followed in rehabilitating victims of torture and awareness programmes regarding such issues.

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of participating in the conference, the Omani delegation met with Ulf Melgaard, Director of International Law and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, as well as officials from the Danish Institute for Human Rights. -ONA

KALYAN JEWELLERS

FREE GOLD COINS TO BRIGHTEN YOUR CELEBRATION

GET FREE GOLD COINS WITH EVERY PURCHASE

GET 1/4 6M GOLD COIN ON PURCHASE OF GOLD JEWELLERY BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 599
GET 1/2 6M GOLD COIN ON PURCHASE OF UNCUT / PRECIOUS / PLATINUM JEWELLERY BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 599 OR ON PURCHASE OF GOLD JEWELLERY WORTH EVERY OMR 600
GET 1 6M GOLD COIN ON PURCHASE OF UNCUT / PRECIOUS / PLATINUM JEWELLERY WORTH EVERY OMR 600
OR ON PURCHASE OF DIAMOND JEWELLERY BETWEEN OMR 350 - OMR 599
GET 2 6M GOLD COIN ON PURCHASE OF DIAMOND JEWELLERY WORTH EVERY OMR 600

OFFER VALID UNTIL 24TH DECEMBER 2023

GOLD COIN VALUE IS OFFERED IN THE FORM OF VOUCHERS THAT CAN BE REDEEMED INSTANTLY | WWW.KALYANJEWELLERS.NET | FOLLOW US ON @KALYANJEWELLERSOMANLEAST @KALYANJEWELLERS

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY TOO!

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

OMAN



GCC ministers approve unified Gulf tourist visa project



The launch of the first phase of the project to link traffic violations electronically among the GCC countries approved

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Interior, chaired the 40th meeting of the GCC Ministers of Interior held in Muscat on Wednesday.

Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, stressed in a speech he delivered while chairing the meeting that the security challenges and the accompanying rapid changes in the forms of committing crime and exploiting technical progress require continuing to strengthen coordination and consultation to confront them, developing technical means, creating the necessary legislation, and harnessing the necessary capabilities to combat them and support related efforts.

The GCC Ministers of Interior discussed many important topics in the field of joint security cooperation and the development of electronic projects of interest to citizens and residents in the GCC countries.

The ministers approved the unified Gulf tourist visa project to contribute to facilitating movement of residents and tourists between the six GCC countries. The step will undoubtedly have posi-

tive effects on the economic and tourism sectors.

The ministers also approved the launch of the first phase of the project to link traffic violations electronically among the GCC countries. They also adopted a directive to develop a comprehensive Gulf strategy tailored to combat drugs, which have become a burden for the Gulf and global society at all levels.

The GCC Interior Ministers witnessed the honouring of the winners of Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz Award for Security Research for 2022/2023. The award addresses artificial intelligence (AI) and its applications in the security field in the GCC countries.

In the category of the legal award for institutions, colleges, national government and private institutes, police, and research centres, the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Research and Studies Centre at the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences, bagged the first place.

In the category of natural award for ordinary individuals, scholars and researchers who are GCC working or retired citizens, Dr. Abdulrahman Abdullah Al Tassan from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



came first. Dr. Jamal Saif Al Ali from the United Arab Emirates came second place, while Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Hilal Mohammed Al Alawi from the Sultanate of Oman came third.

GCC Interior Ministers arrive in Oman

Earlier in the day, GCC ministers of interior arrived to the Sultanate of Oman to take part in the 40th meeting of GCC Interior Ministers.

The GCC ministers who arrived to Oman comprise the following: Gen. Sheikh Rashid Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Lt.Gen Sheikh Saif Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates, Prince Abdulaziz Saud Al Saud, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Khalifa Hamad Al Thani, Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar.

Upon their arrival at the Royal Airport, the GCC ministers were received by Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Eng. Khalid Hilal Al Busiadi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Maj. Gen Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations, Sayyid Khalifa Al Mardas Al Busaidi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Interior, ambassadors of GCC countries to Oman and several officials from the Ministry of Interior and the Royal Oman Police (ROP). -ONA



PRESENTED CREDENTIALS

HM’s greetings conveyed to European Council president

MUSCAT: Rua Issa Al Zedjali conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the President of the European Council Charles Michel.

This came when the President of the European Council received Rua Issa Al Zedjali who presented her credentials as head of Oman's mission to the European Union (EU). -ONA



10TH EDITION

Winners of SQU Award for Arts, Culture and Literature announced



MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science on Wednesday announced the names of winners of the 10th edition of Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature.

This year, the award was generally allocated to Arabs, notably in the fields of media and communication studies, the role of film director and novel writers.

Dr. Abdullah Khamis Al Kindi won the award set for media and communication studies (Culture branch), while Algerian novelist



Waciny Laredj won the award set for literature. The award was withheld in the field of film directing (Arts branch).

Habib Mohammed Al Riyami, Head of the Sultan Qaboos Higher Center for Culture and Science, said during a press conference that 171 people contested the award, among them 30 candidates presented their entries in the field of media and communication studies, 25 candidates in the field of film directing and 116 candidates in the field of novels. -ONA

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL

29 public prosecutors take oath of office



MUSCAT: Twenty-nine second-class public prosecutors on Wednesday took the oath of office before Sayyid Mohammed Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council.

The ceremony, held at the Supreme Judicial Council, was attended by Attorney General Nasr Khamis Al Sawa'ee.

Sayyid Mohammed congratulated the prosecutors on their selection as members of the judiciary and urged them to exert

efforts and devote time to serving the process of justice.

In particular, he exhorted the public prosecution agents to fully adhere to judicial instructions regulating the workflow at the public prosecution department and to reflect that dedication to the mission through their professional and personal conduct.

He also advised them to take up lawsuits in a manner that preserves the dignity of litigants and saves their time, while at the

same time harnessing modern technology in their regular tasks.

It is worth noting that the recently appointed second-class public prosecutors obtained the Postgraduate Diploma in Judicial Sciences after a two-year course at the Supreme Judicial Council.

They also completed practical training at public prosecution branches in different geographical areas and at specialised jurisdiction offices. -ONA

7TH MEETING

GCC-Morocco youth working team discusses strategic ties

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, yesterday hosted the 7th meeting of the joint working team between the GCC countries and the Moroccan Kingdom in the field of youth.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Bassil Ahmed Al Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth.



The meeting discussed a set of topics, including the strategic partnership between the two

sides and the implementation of the joint action plan in various areas. -ONA



PO Box 11, PC 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: 22526900 Email: info@muscatgas.com

Muscat Gases Company SAOG

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th September 2023.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 14,431 million OMR compared with 15,911 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 9%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 14,009 million OMR compared with 15,742 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 11%.

At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2023 is OMR 147,759, compared with net loss of 26,745 OMR for the same period of the last year. The group results got affected by the initial investment that has occurred for the Saudi office that will start operation by Q4 2023.

The parent Company's net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 76,603 OMR compared with net loss of 38,801 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

	30th September 2023		30th September 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	14,009,098	14,430,553	15,741,944	15,910,713
Cost of sales	(13,437,137)	(13,840,045)	(15,281,541)	(15,386,341)
Gross Profit	571,961	590,508	460,403	524,372
General and administration expenses	(713,880)	(803,132)	(641,562)	(661,729)
Investment and Other Income	65,316	65,316	142,358	116,270
Profit for the period before tax	(76,603)	(147,308)	(38,801)	(21,087)
Provision for Income tax	-	(451)	-	(5,658)
Net Profit for the period after tax	(76,603)	(147,759)	(38,801)	(26,745)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(76,603)	(147,759)	(38,801)	(26,745)
Earnings per share	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.001)	(0.0009)

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	30 September 2023		30 September 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	3,280,780	3,497,024	2,926,618	3,138,979
Right of use assets	212,958	212,958	189,791	189,791
Investment	2,004,073	-	1,901,475	-
Goodwill	-	996,800		996,800
Trade Receivable	187,434	187,434	312,390	312,390
Total Non-current Assets	5,685,245	4,894,216	5,330,274	4,637,960
Current Assets:				
Inventories	1,473,089	1,599,779	1,092,486	1,163,326
Trade and other receivables	3,889,906	3,980,679	3,743,365	3,468,016
Cash and cash equivalents	1,417,718	1,501,642	2,550,342	2,553,224
Total Current Assets	6,780,713	7,082,100	7,386,193	7,184,566
TOTAL ASSETS	12,465,958	11,976,316	12,716,467	11,822,526
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,012,670	1,000,000	1,009,975
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	753,887	753,887
Retained earnings	(248,712)	(256,314)	26,608	98,105
Total Equity	6,016,021	6,021,089	6,237,562	6,319,034
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	121,044	128,154	76,141	77,118
Non current portion of Term Loan	192,389	192,389	338,031	338,031
Non current portion of lease liabilities	231,848	231,848	201,301	201,301
Deferred tax	147,149	144,695	153,225	154,740
Total Non-current Liabilities	692,430	697,086	768,698	771,190
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	5,247,557	4,747,741	5,079,904	4,096,341
Bank overdraft	447,949	447,949	524,959	524,959
Current portion of Term Loan	33,450	33,450	74,911	74,911
Current portion of lease liabilities	8,333	8,333	10,215	10,215
Income Tax	20,218	20,668	20,218	25,876
Total Current Liabilities	5,757,507	5,258,141	5,710,207	4,732,302
Total Liabilities	6,449,937	5,955,227	6,478,905	5,503,492
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	12,465,958	11,976,316	12,716,467	11,822,526
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.201	0.201	0.208	0.211



MEETING

Calls for immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

<FROM A1 Speaking about foreign policy, Sayyid Badr stressed Oman's permanent positions based on dialogue, its firm commitment to principles of justice and fairness, its respect for the international law and the attention it accords to constructive cooperation with other countries and peoples.

Sayyid Badr underscored the significance of dialogue as a cornerstone in handling all regional and international issues and resolving disputes by peaceful means. He expressed the view that dialogue contributes to achieving reconciliation, harmony and peace among all conflicting parties.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Sayyid Badr thanked the ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the



Sultanate of Oman for their efforts to enhance relations and develop cooperation between their countries and Oman.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, and Khalid

Hashel Al Musalhi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs. -ONA

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

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

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

ROP

Five smugglers held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Five smugglers were arrested for attempting to smuggle more than 140 kilograms of hashish and 50 kilograms of crystal into the Sultanate of Oman. "The General Administra-

tion for Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances arrested five Asians while they were trying to smuggle more than 140 kilograms of hashish and 50 kilograms of crystal. Legal procedures are being completed against them," ROP said.

IN LEBANON

Omani students bag first place in regional packaging contest

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Girl students of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Nizwa branch, won first place in the international packaging competition held in Lebanon.

Girl students of the University

of Technology and Applied Sciences, Nizwa branch, won first place in the competition organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in cooperation with the Lebanese Centre for Packaging (LibanPack) in its third edition, which was held in Lebanon with the participation

of 602 projects from university students in Arab countries.'

Aisha bint Abdullah Al-Abri, supervisor of the competition, said that the University of Technology and Applied Sciences participates annually in this competition starting from 2017 and achieves advanced positions at the level of

Arab countries, obtaining five advanced positions last year.

The winning works and the names of the winning students are displayed on the competition's website. The university's branch in Nizwa is represented in this competition due to its graphic design major and a course spe-

cialising in product box design. The content and conditions of the competition will be presented at the beginning of the semester.

Al Abri added that the competition includes several categories, including visual packaging category, in which students improve the brand identity by proposing a new

visual design or improving the visual design of an existing product without working on the structural aspect, and the structural packaging category.

In food preservation category, new, smart packaging is proposed to improve the food chain for the growing world population.

CIRCULAR NO. 1/2023

Finance ministry circular seeks final accounts for the fiscal year 2023



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 1/2023 on Wednesday for the preparation of closing account of the State's Fiscal Year 2023.

The circular requires all units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, public authorities and public establishments to present their final accounts for fiscal year 2023 by 22 February 2024 at the latest.

The ministry calls upon all units to enclose major results and goals achieved when implementing the endorsed budgets during Fiscal Year 2023.

This includes statements comparing revenues and actual spending of funds as compared to endorsed revenues and spending, in addition to the distribution of the same in line with terms of col-

lection or expenditure.

The fiscal position of ministries and government units has to include a breakup of credits/balances of ministries and government units as indicated in their respective bank accounts and permanent and temporary advances/borrowings and financial rights that other parties owe the government.

This is in addition to the preparation of statements of non-fiscal assets of real estate and land, as well as assets of government stores and movables and libraries affiliated with the units.

The statements should include copies of reports drafted by internal audit units on performance during the last quarter of fiscal year 2023. -ONA

PHONE CALL

Sayyid Badr discusses Gaza crisis with Blinken



<FROM A1 Despite the difference in views between the two sides especially with regard to the classification of resistance movements, the two ministers agreed on according highest priority to the humanitarian aspect at this critical stage and establishing a human-

itarian truce while maintaining consultations and political endeavours to prevent the expansion of the conflict through returning to the path of realising a just and comprehensive peace and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in accordance with the rules of the international law.

DIRECTORS' REPORT	
Dear Shareholders,	
On behalf of National Gas Company SAOG's Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Director's Report for the period ending on 30 September 2023., highlighting the financial performance of our group and parent company.	
At the group level, the total revenue for the period ended 30 Sept 2023 was RO 55.4 million, compared to RO 67.6 million for the same period in the previous year. This decline in consolidated revenues primarily in Malaysia operation due to the lower CP average LPG Price in comparison to the previous year and revenue coming from UAE is no more existing after the divestment. Despite this, we are pleased to report that the group's net loss position improved significantly, with a loss of only RO 112k, compared to a net loss of RO 541k for the same period in 2022.	
Moving on to our parent company, we achieved a total revenue of RO 7.47 million, compared to RO 7.46 million for the same period in the previous year. Although we witnessed higher sales volumes, the overall impact was mitigated due to lower product realization rates. Nonetheless, we are proud of our ongoing efforts to control costs, resulting in a reduction of direct and indirect overheads in line with our expectations.	
The parent company recorded an after-tax loss of RO 169k for the nine months, as compare to loss of RO 617k for the same period last year. It is worth mentioning that during the first nine months of 2023, the company successfully completed the sale of its Madha facility, generating an income of RO 46k. In comparison, during the same period in 2022, we concluded the divestment of our 51% shares in the Unigaz LLC Oman JV Company, which led to a recognized profit of RO 332k and also divested India business and decided to discontinue UAE operations.	
We remain committed to working closely with governmental authorities in Oman to advocate for cylinder pricing and branding rules. Our efforts have not yet yielded positive results, however, as improved engagements with various governmental offices have rekindled our hopes of new rules being announced soon. However, we currently lack specific details regarding these developments.	
In conclusion, while our financial performance faced challenges due to lower LPG prices and product realization rates, we are encouraged by the progress made in reducing losses and implementing cost control measures. We will continue to focus on driving growth and maximizing shareholder value while maintaining fruitful relationships with governmental authorities in pursuit of a favorable regulatory environment.	
We are pleased to provide an update on the company's recent developments and express our gratitude for the support and trust extended by various stakeholders.	
In 2022, the company made the decision to discontinue its operations in the UAE. Consequently, the operations of our UAE subsidiaries ceased in the fourth quarter of the same year. We are pleased to report that the disposal of assets, collection of receivables, and payment of liabilities related to these subsidiaries are progressing as planned. As part of our strategic approach, we intend to retain the registration of one subsidiary under the name NGC Energy LLC. However, the liquidation or transfer of shares in the other subsidiaries will be completed within the next months.	
In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), where our subsidiary primarily focuses on projects, we have made significant strides in strengthening our order book. The successful acquisition of several large projects has reinforced our position as a reliable provider of engineering solutions services. We remain actively engaged in building a healthy pipeline, which includes numerous high-value projects. This continued growth in our project portfolio is expected to further enhance the company's standing in the market.	
In Malaysia, we have begun the year on a positive trajectory with substantial growth and increased volumes. In line with our business expansion strategy, we are evaluating new opportunities, particularly in the renewable energy sector. Our focus includes implementing solar power systems in key operating units, as well as venturing into solar power system marketing and installation projects. This strategic move aligns with our commitment to diversify our offerings and tap into emerging markets.	
In Oman, we recently signed long term lease agreement for 50,000sqm of land in Oman's Khazaen Economic city to develop Truck Rest Area. This project is expected to be developed in next two years and will help the Group in diversifying business as per our long-term strategy.	
We remain steadfast in ensuring the security and consistency of our operations. Our dedicated efforts aim to deliver flawless and timely projects while upholding the highest standards of business conduct and internal procedures, in accordance with international excellence benchmarks.	
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur, various government ministries, the Capital Market Authority, the Muscat Stock Exchange, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and other regulatory bodies for their invaluable guidance and support. We are grateful for their contributions in enabling our operations and fostering a conducive business environment. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our esteemed shareholders, employees, distributors, customers, and vendors. Your unwavering trust and support have been instrumental in our success. We hope to continue earning your faith and encouragement in the upcoming quarters.	
Abdulla Suleiman Hamed Al Harthi Chairman	

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023				
	Parent		Group	
	2023 RO	2022 RO	2023 RO	2022 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	5,705,863	5,116,549	19,711,239	19,825,121
Right-of-use assets	193,071	234,384	2,165,041	2,181,248
Financial assets at fair value through OCI	1,121,106	997,591	1,121,106	997,591
Investment in subsidiaries	9,511,881	8,917,807	-	-
Goodwill	-	-	6,893,187	6,982,564
Trading license	-	-	-	5,053
Amounts due from related parties	620,413	419,396	-	-
Total non-current assets	17,152,334	15,685,727	29,890,573	29,991,577
Current assets:				
Inventories	893,827	865,242	1,962,572	1,608,291
Trade and other receivables	3,350,526	4,096,035	9,951,652	13,715,308
Cash and bank balances	228,601	1,398,401	1,623,207	4,130,959
	4,472,954	6,359,678	13,537,431	19,454,558
Assets of disposal group / non-current assets classified as held-for-sale	52,580	113,632	809,511	-
Total current assets	4,525,534	6,473,310	14,346,942	19,454,558
Total assets	21,677,868	22,159,037	44,237,515	49,446,135
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Capital and reserves:				
Share capital	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000
Share premium	1,787,632	1,787,632	1,787,632	1,787,632
Legal reserve	1,968,170	1,968,170	1,968,170	1,968,170
Other reserves	300,000	300,000	506,719	512,887
Fair value reserve	526,564	403,049	526,564	403,049
Revaluation reserve	3,760,631	3,212,849	4,070,344	3,526,576
Foreign currency translation reserve	-	-	(3,743,044)	(3,344,503)
Retained earnings	45,214	(6,367)	4,715,764	3,840,690
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent Company	16,888,211	16,165,333	18,332,149	17,194,501
Non-controlling interest	-	-	7,420,783	7,511,598
Total equity	16,888,211	16,165,333	25,752,932	24,706,099
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities:				
Lease liabilities	163,278	206,932	1,820,677	1,752,323
Staff terminal benefits	220,479	275,058	248,551	396,185
Deferred tax liability - net	416,244	607,436	2,402,126	2,690,562
Total non-current liabilities	800,001	1,089,426	4,471,354	4,839,070
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accruals	1,341,036	1,075,413	9,117,538	9,836,168
Current portion of lease liabilities	50,790	45,871	232,165	222,694
Bank overdrafts	1,125,400	120,894	1,129,924	137,093
Borrowings	1,468,827	3,658,497	3,510,999	9,698,959
Provision for taxation	3,603	3,603	6,024	6,052
	3,989,656	4,904,278	13,996,650	19,900,966
Liabilities directly associated with disposal group classified as held-for-sale	-	-	16,579	-
Total current liabilities	3,989,656	4,904,278	14,013,229	19,900,966
Total liabilities	4,789,657	5,993,704	18,484,583	24,740,036
Total equity and liabilities	21,677,868	22,159,037	44,237,515	49,446,135
Net assets per share	0.199	0.190	0.216	0.202

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023				
	Parent		Group	
	2023 RO	2022 RO	2023 RO	2022 RO
Revenue	7,472,110	7,466,354	55,386,031	67,578,384
Cost of revenue	(6,850,480)	(6,902,371)	(49,979,389)	(62,000,846)
Gross profit	621,630	563,983	5,406,642	5,577,538
Administrative expenses	(618,930)	(687,965)	(3,464,786)	(3,480,971)
Operating (loss) / profit before depreciation	2,700	(123,982)	1,941,856	2,096,567
Depreciation expenses	(196,830)	(238,985)	(1,840,880)	(2,067,091)
Operating (loss) / profit after depreciation	(194,130)	(362,967)	100,976	29,476
Other income - net	154,665	231,256	356,146	247,765
Finance costs	(129,422)	(344,136)	(443,168)	(586,126)
Sale of Investment in joint venture & subsidiary	-	1,409,375	-	145,903
Impairment loss on subsidiary	-	(1,550,000)	-	-
(Loss) / profit before tax	(168,887)	(616,472)	13,954	(162,982)
Income tax	-	-	(157,142)	(131,228)
(Loss) / profit after tax from continuing operations	(168,887)	(616,472)	(143,188)	(294,210)
Profit / (loss) from discontinued operations	-	-	30,974	(294,210)
(Loss) / profit for the year	(168,887)	(616,472)	(112,214)	(541,105)
Other comprehensive income / (loss)	-	-	-	-
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:				
Changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through OCI	41,073	120,538	41,073	120,538
General Reserve changes on disposal of subsidiary	41,073	120,538	(3,626)	-
			37,447	120,538
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:				
NCI Reversal on sale of subsidiary shares	-	-	-	(2,809,059)
Exchange difference on translation of foreign operations	-	-	(1,199,319)	(1,983,355)
Other comprehensive income / (loss)	41,073	120,538	(1,161,872)	(4,671,876)
Total comprehensive income / (loss)	(127,814)	(495,934)	(1,274,086)	(5,212,981)
(Loss) / profit attributable to:				
Owners of the Parent Company	(168,887)	(616,472)	(211,491)	(620,689)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	99,277	79,584
Total (loss) / profit	(168,887)	(616,472)	(112,214)	(541,105)
Total comprehensive income / (loss) attributable to:				
Owners of the Parent Company	(127,814)	(495,934)	(894,189)	(1,651,439)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	(379,897)	(3,561,542)
Total comprehensive income / (loss)	(127,814)	(495,934)	(1,274,086)	(5,212,981)
Basic and diluted loss per share:				
From continuing operations	(0.002)	(0.007)	(0.003)	(0.004)
From discontinued operations	-	-	0.000	(0.003)
Total (loss) / profit per share	(0.002)	(0.007)	(0.002)	(0.007)

‘Unparalleled brutality in the history of humanity’

2.2 million people, amongst them 50,000 pregnant women, have been besieged for one month

NEW YORK: Laila Bakr, Regional Director of the United Nations Population Fund for the Arab States said that the catastrophic situation that Gaza Strip has been going through is “an unprecedented and unparalleled brutality in the history of humanity in recent times.” She said in an interview with the UN official published on the UN News website that 2.2 million people, amongst them 50,000 pregnant women, were besieged for one month. Bakr expressed concern about targeting hospitals and medical personnel, and said that these actions worsen the situation of pregnant women. She stressed that the most important thing now is a ceasefire,



and allowing not only the entry of aid, but also the rebuilding of Gaza, and helping the people of the Gaza Strip to remain in their homes in safety and without any fear. Bakr pointed out that the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and other humanitarian organisations that are trying to help in this very difficult moment cannot be an alternative to the government or entities working in the health or civil sector or the protection sector. She expressed her happiness that there was action from the heads of the UN agencies, which underscores the importance of the issue and the significance of adhering to international humanitarian law to deliver aid and care for more than 2.2 million people who have been besieged during the past four weeks. It is not only a form of pressure but also an appeal and demand for the right of 2.2 million people not only to live but to live in dignity and security. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General recently called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip for humanitarian reasons. He stressed the need to respect international humanitarian law and

protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, including workers in the humanitarian and medical fields. He underlined the need to allow entry of basic supplies and services, and the unhindered access of humanitarian aid to the Strip in a safe manner and on a scale commensurate with this tragic situation. He also announced that the UN and its partners had launched a humanitarian appeal worth \$1.2 billion to help 2.7 million people, including the entire population of the Gaza Strip and 500,000 people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. -ONA

STRONG TIES



Top Chinese official visits Moscow for expanding relations

MOSCOW: A senior Chinese military official yesterday held talks in Moscow, praising strong ties between the countries during a visit that underlined growing cooperation between them. Gen. Zhang Youxia, China's second-ranking military official and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, said that relations between Russia and China are “at the highest level in the new epoch.” He said they “invariably support each other on issues of fundamental interest and key concerns.” Beijing declared last year that it had a “no-limits” friendship with Russia. China has denounced Western sanctions against Moscow, and accused NATO and the United States of provoking Russia's military action in Ukraine even as it tried to project itself as neutral in the Ukrainian conflict. Russia, in turn, has continuously voiced support for Beijing on issues related to Taiwan. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Moscow in March to further cement ties and Russian President Vladimir Putin traveled to Beijing last month for a summit of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. President Putin is set to meet with Zhang, according to the Kremlin. While speaking with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, Zhang hailed a “model of strategic trust and mutually beneficial cooperation” between Moscow and Beijing, and noted that his visit is intended to help further promote military cooperation. -ONA

BREACH OF PARIS PACT

World on track to produce 110% more fossil fuels by 2030

NEW DELHI: The world is on a path to produce 110 per cent more fossil fuels by 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, according to a report. The fourth edition of ‘The Production Gap Report’ released on Wednesday has revealed that annual oil and gas production is projected to increase by 27 per cent and 25 per cent by 2030 and by 29 percent and 41 per cent by 2050, respectively. The report states that annual global coal production is projected to increase by 10 per cent between 2020 and 2030, with a near-term increase in production led by India, Indonesia, and Russia. This comes despite 151 national governments having pledged to achieve net-zero emissions. In 2015, the countries signed the Paris Agreement and pledged to limit the average temperature rise to below 2 degrees, while actively aiming for 1.5 degrees above industrial levels. However, the latest forecasts suggest global coal,

oil, and gas demand will peak this decade. “Governments are planning on producing around 110 per cent more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and 69 per cent more than would be consistent with limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius,” the report mentions. “The magnitude of the production gap is also projected to grow over time: by 2050, planned fossil fuel production is 350 per cent and 150 per cent above the levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 degree Celsius or 2 degree Celsius, respectively,” the report adds. ‘The Production Gap Report’ brought out by Stockholm Environment Institute, Climate Analytics, E3G, International Institute for Sustainable Development and the UN Environment Programme assesses governments’ planned and projected production of coal, oil, and gas against global levels consistent with the Paris Agreement’s temperature goal. -ANI

CLIMATE AGENCY

2023 likely to be hottest year on record: EU monitor



BERLIN: This October was the hottest on record globally, the European Union's climate agency said on Wednesday, making 2023 “virtually certain” to be the warmest in 125,000 years. Last month was 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the previous record for October in 2019, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said. Parts of the United States and Mexico were left parched by drought during October as other areas on the planet saw wetter than normal conditions often due to storms and cyclones, the C3S said. Sea surface temperatures were also the highest ever recorded for the month — a phenomenon driven by global warming that scientists say is a factor in storms becoming more violent and

2023 is “virtually certain” to be the warmest in 125,000 years, the EU climate monitor said as data showed last month was the world's hottest October

destructive. Continued greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, along with the emergence this year of the El Nino weather pattern, which warms the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, has caused the heat to rise. “October 2023 has seen excep-

tional temperature anomalies, following on from four months of global temperature records being obliterated,” Samantha Burgess, C3S deputy director, said. October was 1.7C warmer than an estimate of the October average for the preindustrial era, Copernicus added. The record-breaking October means 2023 is now “virtually certain” to be the warmest year recorded, C3S said. The previous record was in 2016 — another El Nino year. As world leaders prepare to meet at the UNCOP28 climate conference in Dubai in November, climate experts say that there is an urgent need for action to stop planet-warming emissions. “The sense of urgency for ambitious climate action going into COP28 has never been higher,” Burgess said. -w

HITACHI

Enjoy the taste of fresh

جي نتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680
MUSCAT
96742452
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

SALALAH
97924410, 94048494

www.genetco.net
@GenetcoOman
@GenetcoOman
Genetco Oman

SPORTS

ICC BATTING AND BOWLING RANKINGS

India’s Shubman Gill, Mohammed Siraj go top of ODI rankings

DUBAI: India's Shubman Gill claimed the top spot in the men's ODI batting rankings, going past Babar Azam on the table on Wednesday. Another Indian is at the top among ODI bowlers too, with Mohammed Siraj moving up two spots and displacing Shaheen Shah Afridi from the perch.

The top of the bowling table, in fact, has a very Indian look to it, with Kuldeep Yadav now at fourth, and Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are at No.8 and No.10 respectively, while Virat Kohli, after two unbeaten centuries and four half-centuries at the World Cup, has moved up three spots to No. 4 among the batters, just one rating point behind Quinton de Kock, the leading run-scorer at the World Cup right now.

Gill has had a stellar year in ODI cricket, tallying 1449 runs so far from 26 matches, in which he has hit four centuries including a double-century. His average is a stunning 63.00 for the year, as against an overall career average of 61.02. He started slow at the World Cup after being out at the start of the competition following a bout of dengue, but has 219 runs in six innings, including fifties against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Azam hasn't had a bad World Cup himself with four half-centuries in eight innings, but the gap between him and the rising Gill was so slim that he had to do more to hold on to the spot he had owned for more than two years.

From India's point of view, Gill has become the fourth player to be the top ODI batter in the ICC rankings, after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Kohli.

The best individual batting performance of the World Cup so far, meanwhile, came on Tuesday night when Glenn Maxwell put in a superhuman show to single-handedly take Australia past Afghanistan and into the World Cup semi-finals. That unbeaten double-century helped him move up two spots to sixth, while the game's other centurion, Ibrahim Zadran, is up six spots to 12th.

Fakhar Zaman, another batter who has played a big role in his Pakistan's fortunes, is at No. 11, up three spots.

On the whole, the rankings reflect India's dominance at the World Cup so far where they have won eight out of eight league-stage matches so far, all by significant margins. Kohli (No. 2 behind de Kock) and Rohit Sharma (No. 5) have been their most prolific batters so far, but it's their bowling that has been truly blockbuster.

None of them are in the top-three in the wicket-takers' list, but Shami (16 wickets in four games), Bumrah (15 in eight), Ravindra Jadeja (14 in eight), Kuldeep (12 in eight) and Siraj (ten in eight) have performed as a pack.

Afridi, No. 1 the previous week, is now down to fifth, with spinners Keshav Maharaj and Adam Zampa, going up to No.2 and No.3.

STOKES SPECIAL STEERS ENGLAND TO WIN



He combined with Chris Woakes in an England-record stand to rescue his team from 192/6 to 339/9 against the Netherlands



WORLD CUP 2023 GROUP STANDINGS							
TEAM	P	W	L	N/R	T	NRR	PTS
India	8	8	0	0	0	+2.456	16
South Africa	8	6	2	0	0	+1.376	12
Australia	8	6	2	0	0	+0.861	12
New Zealand	8	4	4	0	0	+0.398	8
Pakistan	8	4	4	0	0	+0.036	8
Afghanistan	8	4	4	0	0	-0.338	8
England	8	2	6	0	0	-0.885	4
Bangladesh	8	2	6	0	0	-1.142	4
Sri Lanka	8	2	6	0	0	-1.160	4
Netherlands	8	2	6	0	0	-1.635	4

PUNE: Ben Stokes slammed a superb century as England boosted their beleaguered World Cup campaign with a 160-run win over the Netherlands in Pune on Wednesday.

The defending champions' hopes of progressing were already over but the result does improve their chances of qualifying for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Stokes hit 108 from 84 balls, which included six fours and six sixes, his fifth ODI century but first at a World Cup, to rescue England's batting and drag them to 339-9.

Dawid Malan's 87 gave England a platform at 133/1 before a collapse - Malan, Joe Root, Jos Buttler, Harry Brook and Moeen Ali were all out in quick succession - had them teetering at 192-6 in the 36th over. But Stokes, crucially dropped at fine leg on 42, powered on from a steady start in a partnership of 129 from 81 balls with Chris Woakes, who made 51.

The Netherlands' chase never got going after early blows by Woakes and David Willey. They were dismissed for 179 in 37.2 overs, with Willey taking 2/19, Moeen Ali 3/42 and Adil Rashid 3/54.

England's second win took them to seventh with one match to play - a meeting with Pakistan on Saturday. They must finish in the top eight to make the Champions Trophy and, while win in Kolkata would all but guarantee qualification, they could already have enough if other results go their way.

England had never lost an ODI to the Netherlands but a shock looked not beyond possibility as wickets tumbled. After reaching 50 in 58 balls, Stokes took just 20 balls to get to three figures in another display of power-hitting, as the Test captain targeted the leg side and the Netherlands conceded 21 extras in total.

Stokes took 23 from the 45th over bowled by spinner Aryan Dutt. He was eventually caught trying to hit out in the final over.

Malan started well against the new ball, but fellow opener Jonny Bairstow failed again when he tried to flog off-spinner Dutt and was caught at deep square leg.

Root battled to 28, before he was bowled through his legs to seamer Logan van Beek, who then ran out Malan an over later.

Brook made 11 before he skied a catch to deep mid-wicket, while Buttler's miserable spell continued as he chipped seamer Paul van Meekeren to mid-off for five.

Woakes and Willey found movement under the lights while the Netherlands were tentative in their chase. After opener Max O'Dowd hit Woakes into the hands of Moeen at mid-on and Colin Ackermann was caught behind for a duck off Willey, there was a run of 13 consecutive dot balls. The Dutch managed just 23 runs from the powerplay.

Opener Wesley Barresi took 62 balls to make 37 and Sybrand Engelbrecht 49 for his 33.

Captain Scott Edwards, who made 38, and Teja Nidamanuru, who finished unbeaten on 41, briefly held up England before spinners Moeen and Rashid ran through the rest of the order to complete the win.

Brief scores: England 339/9 (Ben Stokes 108, Dawid Malan 87; Bas de Leede 3-74) beat Netherlands 179 in 37.2 overs (Teja Nidamanuru 41*; Moeen Ali 3-42, Adil Rashid 3-54). - Agencies

Delightful Diwali

ASSURED GOLD COINS ON GOLD & DIAMOND JEWELLERY

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is with you in all your celebrations. This festive season, bring home happiness and prosperity with guaranteed Gold Coins on purchase of our beautifully designed Gold, Diamond and Precious gem jewellery collections.

FREE GOLD COINS

Get a guaranteed gold coin for every OMR 300 worth gold jewellery. Validity: 9th to 11th Nov

FREE 1 GRAM GOLD COIN

On purchase of Diamond & Precious gem jewellery worth OMR 500

FREE 1/2 GRAM GOLD COIN

On purchase of Diamond & Precious gem jewellery worth OMR 300

100% VALUE ON DIAMOND EXCHANGE

No making charges on 8 gram gold coins

Special buy counters with attractive discounts

Offer valid until 12th November

ON THIS AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DHANTERAS (NOV 10), OUR SHOWROOMS WILL OPEN FROM 8.00AM

Shop 24/7 at www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com

Download Our Mobile App

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

OVER 335 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS OMAN, UAE, QATAR, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, USA, UK & INDIA

*Terms & Conditions Apply.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by January 2024 reaching \$82.81, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$2.19 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$85.00. - ONA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,555.08 points, up by 0.16 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06 per cent at 441.07 points. National Aluminium, up 45.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman & Emirates Investment, down 7.41 per cent, was the top loser.

Assets of Islamic banks and windows rise 13% to OMR7bn

Islamic banking institutions also provided financing worth OMR5.8 billion, and their total deposits stood at OMR5.3 billion



MUSCAT: The total assets of Islamic banks and windows stood at OMR7 billion at the end of September 2023, up by 13 percent on an annual basis.

This was stated by Tahir Salim Al Amri, CBO Executive President, while addressing a session of the Omani Islamic banking conference which began on Wednesday. The event was held under the slo-

gan "Islamic Banking and Finance: Augmenting Competitiveness and Generating Investment Opportunities," in cooperation with the Central Bank of Oman (CBO). Al Amri added that Islamic

banking institutions also provided financing worth OMR5.8 billion, and their total deposits stood at OMR5.3 billion. This corresponds to a 17.6 percent market share in terms of total assets and more

than 19 percent of market share in terms of Islamic financing and Islamic deposits. He pointed out that this great progress has been achieved in a relatively short period of time, just

over 10 years. The conference explored innovative methods and emerging trends in Islamic financial products, legal and regulatory frameworks and ways to expand the scope of the Islamic products in the Sultanate of Oman. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs. The conference constitutes an important platform for discussion and consultation about developments taking place in the Islamic banking sector. The conference focused on two main concepts 'Developing an Islamic banking sector that meets future priorities' and 'Challenges and solutions for expanding the scope of Islamic products'. -ONA

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS



CCED participates in Oman Industry AI Forum

Times News Service

MUSCAT: CC Energy Development (CCED) recently took part in panel and roundtable discussions on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the national economy.

The talks took place during the Oman Industry AI Forum 2023 entitled "How will 'AI' Enable Oman's Industry to Empower the National Economy?", while CCED and other stakeholders supported the event. Key speakers included Dr Ali Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology, as well as decision-makers and thought leaders across various industries.

"CCED's believes that a national community of post graduate degree holders can contribute to Oman's transition into a diversified and knowledge-based economy in which AI plays a role.

Our awards celebrate the role that education plays in creating an innovation ecosystem that will support the future success of our organisation, partly through research, education, and the transfer knowledge from higher education to the industry. In the deployment of artificial intelligence context, we need to work with experts in data," said Othman Balushi, Head of Operations at CC Energy Development.

"The oil and gas sector has been leveraging artificial intelligence to innovate the industry. We all need to have a conceptual understanding of how the technology works to understand its true potential, implications, and limitations. In our industry, its potential includes enhancing efficiencies, improving margins, and lowering the carbon footprint, to name a few," said Javed Dalwai, Head of Digitalisation at CC Energy Development.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERALS

Pact inked for blue hydrogen development

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and blue hydrogen development in the Sultanate of Oman.

The MoC was signed with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Oman Shell, OQGN and Oxy.

The MoC aims to form an expertise house that contributes to the development of the regulatory and strategic framework in this field. The MoC comes as part of the government-led initiatives focused on carbon capture technologies and blue hydrogen production to achieve Oman's energy transition strategy for energy transition, and the Sultanate of Oman's announcement of achieving net zero by 2050.

The CCUS technology presents promising solutions to reduce carbon emissions and achieve Net Zero, particularly in the oil and gas production sectors, industries, and fossil fuel-based power plants.

The Sultanate of Oman's National Strategy for an orderly transition to Net Zero has indicated that CCUS will contribute to a significant reduction (approximately 15%) in domestic emissions, thereby facilitating Oman's journey toward Net Zero by 2050.

This MoC represents a continuation of efforts to find practical solutions to reduce carbon emis-



sions and enable pioneering initiatives and future projects related to the field of carbon capture and blue hydrogen production. This objective can be achieved by forming a specialised House of Expertise to conduct a comprehensive techno-economic assessment in the Sultanate of Oman and to contribute to the development of the regulatory framework and strategies necessary for the advancement of this sector.

Workstreams will be established to develop specific technical and organisational aspects throughout the value chain processes, with participation from both the public and private sectors, academic institutions, and experienced investment and research institutions.

Mohsin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals said, "It is important to accelerate efforts in

utilising the elements of a clean economy, by employing functional solutions and collaborating with our partners in the sector to achieve the targeted results within the designated time-frame, through applying best practices and advanced technical solutions in the field of carbon management systematically and sustainably."

Dr Firas Ali Al Abduwani, Director-General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen at the Ministry pointed out that, "The study to be carried out by the House of Expert in the field of carbon capture and production of blue hydrogen will contribute to complementing the ongoing efforts by the public and private sectors to reduce carbon emissions. This will involve conducting a comprehensive techno-economic and legislative assessment to shape the future legal framework and establish appro-

prate regulations to facilitate investments in this field, consistent with Oman's ambitions to achieve Net zero."

Meanwhile, Occidental Oman and OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly study potential carbon capture, utilisation, and sequestration (CCUS) projects in Oman.

The MoU outlines the companies' mutual collaboration to study the development and deployment of CCUS in conjunction with enhanced oil recovery (EOR) projects at Oxy's production assets in Oman.

Under the terms of the MoU, Oxy Oman and OQGN intend to exchange knowledge and technical expertise to develop strategies enabling the deployment of CCUS projects in Oman in line with the national strategic direction, including carbon capture, transport of carbon dioxide to Oxy's production assets for EOR, and supporting the development of relevant policies and procedures with the appropriate government bodies.

The strategic collaboration between Oxy Oman and OQGN demonstrates the two companies' commitment to innovation and advancement of CCUS and future EOR projects in Oman. The MoU also underpins both companies' dedication to enabling Oman's long-term Net Zero strategy and global climate objectives.

VIBRANT PARTICIPATION

Omran signs two strategic deals at World Travel Market London



Times News Service

LONDON: Omran Group, the leading tourism development company in the Sultanate of Oman, had a vibrant participation at the World Travel Market (WTM) 2023 in London, United Kingdom, as part of the Sultanate of Oman's delegation represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

On the sidelines of the event, Omran Group signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), one with Barceló Hotel Group to establish a real estate fund, and another with Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) to enhance joint promotional efforts for tourist destinations.

The first agreement with Barceló Hotel Group, a renowned Spanish hotel management company, aims to establish a collaborative framework for a real estate development

fund that will attract foreign direct investments to finance tourism and hospitality projects in Oman. The agreement was signed by Dr Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group, and Raúl González, CEO of Barceló Hotel Group, in the presence of Azzan bin Qassim Al Busaidi, Chairman of Omran Group and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism.

Furthermore, Omran signed a MoU with Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) to enhance strategic cooperation in promoting and jointly marketing tourist destinations. This partnership aims to boost promotional efforts for the Governorate of Musandam in the Sultanate of Oman and the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates, highlighting them as premier tourist destinations that attract visitors from around the world.



The agreement was signed by Raki Phillips, CEO of RAKTDA and Dr Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group.

Commenting on these strategic partnerships, Dr Hashil Al Mahrouqi said, "We are pleased to embark on these partnerships that align with Omran Group's goals to become the partner of choice in the tourism sector by collaborating with investors, partners, and industry leaders. This direction reflects our commitment to intensifying efforts to develop the tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman by establishing and operating leading tourist destinations in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the National Tourism Strategy."

Raúl González remarked, "Our strategic partnership with Omran Group mirrors Barceló's desire to contribute to enhancing the tourism and hospitality industry in Oman. There is no doubt that our

joint efforts will enhance direct foreign investment and promote the country's growth as a prime destination for international travellers."

In the same context, Raki Phillips stated, "This significant agreement between the authority and Omran Group amplifies our joint efforts and cooperation in promoting and marketing tourist destinations in both Ras Al Khaimah and the Governorate of Musandam. Through this collaboration, we aim to jointly promote the abundant touristic destinations on both sides, highlighting the unique touristic features and diverse experiences they are renowned for, positively impacting the tourism sector."

In a recent development, Omran Group's prestigious Alila Hinu Bay Resort in Mirbat, Salalah, proudly announced its partnership with the esteemed Extra Divers, a global leader in water and beach activ-



ity management, at WTM London 2023. This strategic alliance is set to enhance the resort's aquatic facilities, introducing an array of new programmes and activities including diving, dolphin and whale watching, and a variety of other water sports. The collaboration promises to enrich the experience, offering unparalleled engagement with the marine splendour of the region.

In a significant stride toward enhancing Oman's global tourism footprint, Visit Oman has secured pivotal MoUs with leading e-tourism platforms and experiential providers. These agreements are a testament to the company's dedication to positioning Oman as a distinguished destination on the world stage. The Visit Oman platform stands as a vital conduit, connecting Omani travel offerings with the global audience, while simultaneously elevating the quality of tourism and increasing visitor spending.

Omran Group, in a synergistic collaboration with its subsidiary 'Visit Oman,' captivated attendees with a joint exhibition at the Sultanate of Oman pavilion, orchestrated by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. This strategic presence underscored Oman's allure as a premium travel destination and highlighted the nation's inviting investment climate to key players in the tourism sector, such as travel agents and tour operators. Visitors to the exhibition were treated to a preview of Oman's rich array of tourist attractions, a testament to the country's diverse landscapes.

Drawing in over 4,000 exhibitors from across the globe, including both governmental and private sectors, the annual World Travel Market serves as an invaluable nexus for tourism professionals to forge connections, share insights, and foster partnerships that shape the industry's future.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

National Aluminium, up 45.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 741 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,555.08 points, up by 0.16 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.06 per cent at 441.07 points. National Aluminium, up 45.00 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman & Emirates Investment, down 741 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 993 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR5.17 million, with more than 11.95 million shares changing hands. Out of 37 traded securities, 12 advanced, 15 declined, and 10 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR194,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR163,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR32,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,401.96 points, up 0.55 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, and Ominvest were up by 5.59 per cent, and 2.24 per cent respectively.

Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Oman United Insur-

ance, Al Anwar Investment, and Sohar International Bank were down by 741 per cent, 1.89 per cent, 1.39 per cent, and 1.00 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,355.52 points, down 1.51 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, National Detergent, Raysut Cement, and Oman Cement were up by 45.00 per cent, 7.35 per cent, 1.59 per cent, and 1.01 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Al Anwar Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products, and Galfar Engineering were down by 4.95 per cent, 3.98 per cent, 3.61 per cent, and 3.07 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.69 per cent before closing at 1,549.28 points. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Al Suwadi Power, National Gas, Oman Telecom, and OQ Gas Networks were up by 9.47 per cent, 4.35 per cent, 1.16 per cent, 0.98 per cent, and 0.67 per cent respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Ooredoo, Phoenix Power, Oman National Engineering, and Renaissance Services were down by 5.26 per cent, 2.86 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.84 per cent, and 1.55 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,577.049	4,542.840	4,555.081	4,547.836	7.245	0.16
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,431.595	7,357.478	7,401.960	7,361.400	40.560	0.55
Industry Index	5,430.295	5,355.521	5,355.521	5,437.523	-82.002	-1.51
Services Index	1,560.970	1,545.248	1,549.282	1,560.053	-10.771	-0.69
MSX Shariah Index	443.420	439.019	441.072	440.807	0.265	0.06
MSX TR INDEX	6,033.100	5,988.009	6,004.143	5,994.594	9.549	0.16
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,109.235	8,028.360	8,076.898	8,032.640	44.258	0.55
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,800.907	5,721.029	5,721.029	5,808.627	-87.598	-1.51
SERVICES TR IDX	1,736.565	1,719.075	1,723.562	1,735.545	-11.983	-0.69

Trading Summary

Volume	.....	Turnover	.....	Trades	.....	Market Cap	.....	Up	.....	Down	.....	Equal	.....	Sec. Traded
11,951,870	.....	5,166,504	.....	993	.....	23,650,873,546	.....	12	.....	15	.....	10	.....	37

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RM)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST DD	LAST OFFER_PAN VALUE	SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	38,000	9,992	5	0.265	0.265	0.260	0.260	0.265	-0.005	-1.887	0.260	0.260	0.270.....0100.....	OUIK	26,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	46,660	4,993	8	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.109	-0.002	-1.835	0.107	0.106	0.108.....0100.....	ONES	16,050,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	94,512	38,739	9	0.395	0.410	0.395	0.410	0.401	0.009	2.244	0.410	0.400	0.410.....0100.....	OMVS	274,029,825
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	14,000	716	3	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.050	0.054	-0.004	-7.407	0.050	0.051	0.052.....0100.....	OEIO	6,093,750
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	430	129	3	0.299	0.300	0.299	0.300	0.297	0.003	1.010	0.300	0.301	0.300.....0100.....	OCCI	99,261,613
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	251,000	43,177	13	0.178	0.178	0.169	0.169	0.176	-0.007	-3.977	0.169	0.169	0.190.....0100.....	AACT	37,180,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	5,200	1,248	4	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.249	-0.009	-3.614	0.240	0.230	0.240.....0100.....	ATMI	29,975,510
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	400	83	1	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.190	0.018	9.474	0.208	0.205	0.000.....0100.....	AJSS	12,730,489
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	300	20	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.065	0.068.....0100.....	SIHC	5,940,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,153,383	292,613	54	0.254	0.254	0.253	0.253	0.253	0.000	0.000	0.253	0.250	0.253.....0100.....	BKMB	1,899,118,457
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	3,736,098	3,837,925	92	1.020	1.030	1.020	1.030	1.020	0.010	0.980	1.030	1.030	1.030.....0100.....	OTEL	772,500,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	316,000	120,092	6	0.380	0.382	0.380	0.380	0.386	-0.006	-1.554	0.380	0.378	0.380.....0100.....	RNSS	89,835,800
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,576,381	256,564	53	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.100.....0100.....	BKSB	541,320,962
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,870	636	3	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.350	-0.010	-2.857	0.340	0.321	0.340.....0100.....	ORDS	221,321,038
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	44,116	3,744	8	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.083	0.085.....0100.....	AMAT	14,875,000
Total	15	8,278,350	4,610,670	263												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	194,000	36,340	11	0.200	0.200	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.180	0.200.....0100.....	DICS	20,195,500
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	6,000	522	2	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.083	0.087.....0100.....	NGCI	7,395,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	28,740	3,805	13	0.127	0.130	0.125	0.128	0.126	0.002	1.587	0.128	0.123	0.130.....0100.....	RCCI	25,600,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	7,500	11,250	1	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000	1.500	1.500	1.500.....0100.....	ORCI	75,000,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	3,748	7,121	4	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.999	-0.099	-4.952	1.900	1.850	1.900.....0100.....	OCAI	170,430,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	85,240	6,095	11	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.001	1.389	0.071	0.070	0.079.....0100.....	AAIC	14,626,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	76,508	12,766	17	0.161	0.170	0.160	0.170	0.161	0.009	5.590	0.170	0.170	0.177.....0100.....	ABOB	399,441,769
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	100	87	1	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.880	-0.010	-1.136	0.870	0.860	0.870.....0100.....	OOMS	53,309,250
OM0000003265	NATIONAL DETERGENT	370	211	1	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.531	0.039	7.345	0.570	0.580	0.570.....0100.....	NDTI	11,400,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	153,700	24,568	23	0.159	0.162	0.158	0.158	0.163	-0.005	-3.067	0.158	0.158	0.179.....0100.....	GECS	33,071,858
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	47,020	4,539	11	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.097.....0100.....	BKNZ	214,747,491
OM0000004735	SEBMOCP SALALAH	82,321	7,414	13	0.091	0.091	0.090	0.090	0.095	-0.005	-5.263	0.090	0.090	0.090.....0100.....	SSFW	85,911,476
OM0000004925	ALBATHNAH POWER	30,700	702	2	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.021	0.023.....0100.....	SWTP	15,522,411
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	16,922	389	5	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	0.023	0.001	4.348	0.024	0.023	0.024.....0100.....	BAUP	17,145,752
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	28,994	1,538	4	0.054	0.054	0.053	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.053	0.053.....0100.....	PHPC	77,517,877
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	100	10	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.000	0.098.....0100.....	AMAN	19,600,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	66,727	19,756	20	0.296	0.297	0.295	0.297	0.297	0.000	0.000	0.297	0.297	0.305.....0100.....	ABRJ	228,749,400
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	2,388,865	354,830	565	0.149	0.149	0.150	0.148	0.150	0.001	0.671	0.150	0.148	0.150.....0100.....	OQGN	649,593,588
Total	18	3,218,555	491,943	705												

IAPH'S WORLD PORTS CONFERENCE

Asyad promotes Oman's prominent capabilities in connecting shipping lines with global markets

Times News Service

ABU DHABI: Asyad Group, Oman's global integrated logistics provider, participated in the World Ports Conference 2023, organised by the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) and held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from October 31 to November 2, bringing together major actors in the global maritime and shipping industry.

During the conference, Asyad Group promoted the competitive advantages of the Omani main ports of Salalah, Sohar, and Duqm, as well as medium and small ports, and Oman's prominent capabilities in connecting shipping lines with global markets.

Asyad Group, represented by Sohar Port and Freezone, showcased its expertise in maintaining seamless maritime operations amid a digital transformation and strong cybersecurity measures through the "Cyber Threats to



Ports" panel discussion. Bader Al Ghaithi, Sohar Port IT Manager, shed light on best practices and approaches to deal with cyber security threats and the importance of establishing an agile operational model to ensure business continuity. Al Ghaithi also highlighted key security measures, from advanced technologies to robust policies and procedures, aimed at enhancing the resilience and sustainability of

the ports and freezones.

Developing the business model of ports to adapt to changing customer needs and keeping pace with the accelerating energy transition in maritime and the emerging race towards low-carbon energy hubs were all major themes of the World Ports Conference. Asyad Group has been at the forefront of adapting and proactively responding to evolving market needs, constantly adopting

the latest technologies, and leveraging its integrated business model that creates synergies between its diverse assets and allows for seamless customer experiences.

To accommodate the future demand for green fuels in the Middle East, Asyad Group has been leading the way by building key partnerships and launching high-value projects that aim to develop the right clean-energy infrastructure in Oman's main ports. Currently, the group's freezones are hosting several international joint ventures to produce green hydrogen ammonia, such as Salalah that target total production capacities of 430,000 tonnes per annum.

Taking the lead in scaling sustainability and moving toward clean logistics, Asyad Group is on a quest to transform the Sultanate of Oman's ports into global hydrogen hubs that power shipping operations and meet the future needs of energy off-takers across the globe.

ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Zubair EDC participates in Gulf Business Incubators and Accelerators Conference in Bahrain

MUSCAT: For the sixth consecutive year, the Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) actively engaged in the Gulf Business Incubators and Accelerators Conference. The event, titled "The Future of Business Incubators in the Gulf: Sustainability, Development, and Financial Support," took place in Bahrain.

The conference was held under the patronage of Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musalam, Chairman of Bahrain's Council of Representatives, and was attended by various Ministers, ambassadors, government officials and prominent entrepreneurs.

Spanning two consecutive days and jointly organised by the Bahrain Society for Small and Medium Enterprises Development and the Bahraini Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, the conference attracted significant participation from Gulf-based business incubators and accelerators.

Zubair EDC's participation was focused on reinforcing its dedication to fostering sustainable entrepreneurship in the Sultanate. The Centre facilitated participation of several of its members in this event, enabling them to engage in the exchange of experiences and knowledge with peers from other Arab nations. This collaborative effort enhanced their commercial ventures and established enduring partnerships to support the ongoing development and sustainability of projects.



Ali Shaker, who leads the Business Development and Partnerships Sector at the Zubair EDC, represented the Centre at the conference. He was accompanied by three notable entrepreneurs: Abdulaziz Al Maawali, the founder of Smartech Technology Solutions and Artificial Intelligence; Mazen Al Hadrami, the founder of Let's Go; and engineer Farha Al Kindi, who serves as the co-founder and General Manager of Meena Fishery.

Over the course of two days,

Zubair EDC played a significant role in the conference's dialogue sessions. The Centres' active participation was marked by leveraging its accumulated expertise spanning over a decade and exchanging insights with fellow nations.

Ali Shaker presented a discussion paper during a session titled "Sustainable Practices in Business Incubators." The paper explored the vital role of incubators in promoting and reinforcing sus-

tainability within emerging institutions. It delved into how these incubators facilitate the adoption of sustainable projects. Additionally, the paper examined the motivating factors that drive entrepreneurs to align their ventures with sustainable development goals.

Other delegates engaged in diverse discussions. Mazen Al-Hadrami shared insights on how technology supports project sustainability and enhances incubator innovation. Engineer Farha Al Kindi explored challenges and opportunities post-incubation, while Abdulaziz Al Maawali's focus was on "The Liquidity Crisis and its Impact on Incubators: Causes and Solutions."

Ali Shaker conveyed his appreciation to the Bahrain Society for Small and Medium Enterprises Development for extending the invitation to the Zubair EDC to be a part of an event that unites GCC entrepreneurs.

Shaker also highlighted that the event serves a vehicle to enhance the support system for entrepreneurship, ensuring its sustainability, and adapting to evolving needs and demands. Abdulaziz Al Maawali expressed his gratitude to the Zubair EDC for enabling their participation in the yearly conference. He emphasised on the event's significance in skill development and creating investment avenues by connecting peers across the GCC.

Free home delivery & timely service

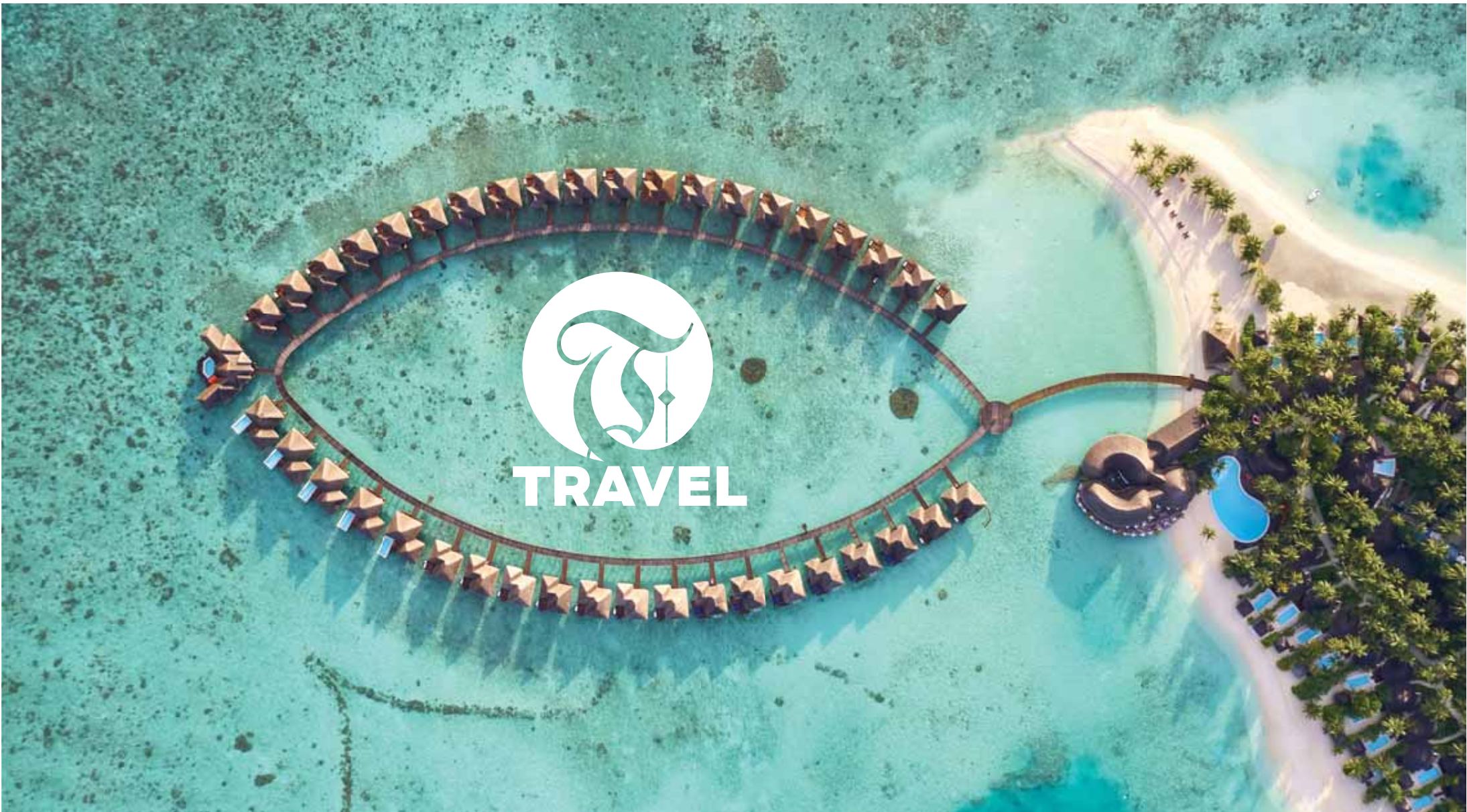
Oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Oasis Water Co. SAOG,
PO Box 87, Rusayl 124,
Sultanate of Oman.
www.omanoasis.com

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
or GSM: 9275 5522

Winner of
His Majesty's Cup Award
in 2012 & 2013
for Best Five Factories

C.R. No.: 1026462



VISIT MALDIVES THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

MUSCAT: Home to gorgeous scenery and pristine beaches, idyllic coastline and stunning sunsets - Maldives has been always a must-visit destination for beach lovers from all around the world, including Oman.

With its stunning white sandy beaches and crystal clear waters, the island offers a perfect getaway for anyone looking to relax and soak up in the sun.

Bathing in the vastness of the Indian Ocean and its turquoise blue waters caressing the aesthetic sand, the sun-kissed remote snow-white beaches of Maldives are studded to perfection.

Undeniably, a paradise to behold!

Ruled by endless seascape and traditional hospitality, each isolated island provides permit on having your senses aligned to the calmness of blue and beyond.

Luxury here is in proximity to nature.

For most of the travellers, Maldives is a dream destination for multi-generational families and groups of friends hoping to make long-lasting memories. They'll find spacious suites and villas that boast multiple bedrooms, and an abundance of activities to suit every age, from exhilarating water sports to relaxing spa treatments.

The island provides secluded and private islands in a tranquil setting, offering water villas and ocean villas. The Maldives hosts some of the most exclusive and opulent resorts in the world, including the best and most luxurious adults-only resorts in the world.

Let's read on to explore some of the resorts that offer extravagantly beautiful and dreamy stay experience:

Siyam World
One of the most energetic resorts catering to group of friends, families and couples looking for an active holiday with multiple dining options, highlighting world sports arena, water park, horses and ponies,

villas with pools as well for multi-gen families. Siyam World has the largest inflatable waterpark in the Maldives. Ride a revolutionary seabreacher, dipping over, under and around the water at speed. Or zoom across the waves on the resort's hydrofoil e-bikes – a radical cycling experience on water, these bikes can race at speeds of 11 knots. Or go below the surface with a thrilling underwater jet pack, the first of its kind.

Sun Siyam Iru Veli
A resort most suitable for couples celebrating something special. For a laid-back luxury in an authentic Maldivian setting, choose an idyllic island retreat perched in a cyan-blue South Nilandhe Atoll. Pump for the resort's Premium all-inclusive signature plan and you can off completely, your every whim catered to from dawn till dusk. The glamorous beach villa or overwater villa each has a private pool. As part of the package, start the day with a stand-up paddle-boarding session in the warm waters that lap the island. Feel the sea breeze on your skin with a complimentary windsurfing lesson or go kayaking through the vibrant blue of the sea. Even jet ski credit is part of your stay. For a gender way to explore the ocean, go snorkeling and discover the kaleidoscopic coral reefs lying beneath the water's surface.

Sun Siyam Olhuveli
Most suited for adventure seekers, divers – couples and families alike looking for affordable luxury. At Sun Siyam Olhuveli, spanning three paradise islands, there is a wealth of activities to enjoy, whenever you decide to visit. In addition to thrilling subaquatic explorations of secret shipwreck and world-class water sports, there are opportunities to do some good with local island cleaning sessions and tree planting. Or dive into the sea for a coral planting session where you can help build an artificial reef.



Donetsk upset Barcelona; Atletico hit Celtic for a six

Spanish giants suffer shock reverse and will have to wait to advance to the UEFA Champions League knockout stages

HAMBURG: Barcelona missed out on becoming the first side to reach the UEFA Champions League knockout stages as they were stunned 1-0 by Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday night.

Danylo Sikan scored the game's only goal, meeting Giorgi Gocholeishvili's cross with a looping header, BBC Sports reported.

Newerton thought he had added a late second, but the teenager's effort was ruled out for offside.

Barcelona needed a point in Hamburg to advance from Group H with two matches to spare, but they were made to wait.

Despite dominating possession, the visitors were unable to break down the Ukrainian champions.

However, Xavi's side remain top of Group H with 10 points and will reach the knockout stages if they avoid defeat to Porto in their next match on 28 November 2023.

Shakhtar, who last beat the five-time Champions League winners Barcelona in 2008, are third in Group H with six points.

Marino Pusic's team are hoping to reach the knockout stages for the first time since the 2017-18 campaign, when they lost in the round of 16 to Roma.

Atletico rout Celtic

Antoine Griezmann and Alvaro Morata both scored twice as 10-



man Celtic suffered a bruising 6-0 loss at Atletico Madrid to remain rooted to the bottom of Champions League Group E on Tuesday.

Daizen Maeda was sent off after a booking was reassessed via the monitor, with the visitors trailing to Griezmann's early deflected strike, BBC sports reported.

Morata added a close-range finish before the interval and thundered in the fifth after great efforts from Griezmann and Samuel Lino,

Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday.

Niclas Fullkrug opened the scoring for the hosts midway through the first half and Julian Brandt added a second from a superb counter-attack late on as the Germans completed a Group F double over their English opponents.

Newcastle's best chance fell to Joelinton just after the break, but the midfielder headed Tino Livramento's cross wide from five yards out.

The Brazil international's effort was a rare clear sight at goal for Newcastle, with Edin Terzic's Dortmund side having controlled much of the first period.

The hosts enjoyed the better opportunities despite a much-improved second-half display from the injury-hit visitors.

Newcastle's return to Europe's elite competition began in fine fashion with a draw away at AC Milan before they thrashed Paris Saint-Germain on Tyneside.

However, they now face an uphill challenge to qualify ahead, with Dortmund's double victory

over Howe's men moving them three points clear of Newcastle, who travel to PSG in their penultimate group match.

"The boys staged a good performance. We controlled the proceedings from the kick-off and defended very well. We finally made the most of our chances and added more goals to our lead," Dortmund coach Edin Terzic reflected.

A defeat in Paris would leave Newcastle, now bottom of the group, unable to progress in the tournament after AC Milan's victory over the French champions.

Giroud earns Milan win

Olivier Giroud's thumping header secured AC Milan's first Champions League win of the season as the Italian side beat Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) 2-1 in Group F on Tuesday. The French forward netted the winner from Theo Hernandez's cross five minutes into the second half.

Milan Skriniar had opened the scoring for PSG, heading in at the

back post from a Marquinhos flick on. Rafael Leao swiftly equalised with an overhead kick from close range after Giroud's initial shot was parried.

PSG are now second in the group on six points, one behind leaders Borussia Dortmund who beat Newcastle, while Milan are third with five points - one more than Eddie Howe's side.

Their victory means last season's semi-finalists Milan will remain in contention to reach the knockout stages when they host Dortmund on 28 November 2023.

The evening ended on a sour note for the hosts, with Christian Pulisic withdrawn after injuring his hamstring in the closing stages.

Haaland scores double

Erling Haaland scored twice as Manchester City beat Young Boys 3-0 to qualify for the Champions League knockout stages on Tuesday - along with RB Leipzig - with two games to spare, but it was the unexpected shirt swap that had everyone talking.

With City leading an out-of-their-depth Young Boys 2-0 at half-time, visiting captain Mohamed Ali Camara asked Haaland for his shirt as they left the pitch. The striker duly obliged, although appeared to say "you cannot do this" as he did it.

Haaland fired in a sensational second after the break from 20 yards. He now has 39 goals in 34 Champions League matches.

Still just 23 and in only his fifth season in the competition, the Norway striker is already 20th in the all-time list of scorers. His tally since joining City is just as prolific.

He has scored 67 goals in 70 games since signing from Borussia Dortmund last summer - breaking a host of records along the way.

Other results: Group E: Lazio 1 Feyenoord 0; **Group G:** Red Star Belgrade 1 RB Leipzig 2; **Group H:** FC Porto 2 Royal Antwerp 0. -**ONA**

OMAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

First Oman Hockey5s International Women's Tournament from Nov 24

MUSCAT: Oman Hockey Association (OHA) is gearing up for the big-ticket FIH Hockey 5s World Cup in January next year on all fronts. From building a new Hockey Arena in Al Amerat to preparing the national teams to put up a strong show at the inaugural World Cup, various initiatives are on.

On Wednesday, the OHA announced the hosting of the first Oman Hockey 5s International Women's Tournament, which will be held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex from November 24-26.

A total of eight teams, including three from India and one each from the UAE and Egypt, along with three teams from Oman will compete for the top honours. The tournament will serve as a good warm-up match for the Oman women's side too as they would gain good exposure against much more experienced rivals.

In total, 64 skilled players will participate in the tournament, supported by a dedicated technical and administrative staff of 32 pro-



fessionals, along with a team of 10 referees.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, OHA chairman Dr. Marwan Al Juma said, "Our primary goal with this tournament is to raise the skill set of the Omani women's national hockey team. We aim to provide them with a platform to refine their skills and gain invaluable experience through challenging competition. This tournament serves as a cru-

cial preparation phase for our participation in the Hockey 5s World Cup 2024, a momentous event that Oman will proudly host from January 24-21 in 2024."

Al Juma further added, "The tournament is a testament to the Sultanate's commitment to fostering the growth of women's sports and showcasing the nation's warm hospitality on an international stage. The Oman Hockey Association invites fans, supporters, and

enthusiasts to witness this exciting tournament, where the spirit of competition, unity, and excellence will take centre stage."

The Omani women's team was formed in January 2022. Continuous training and an experimental tournament in 2023 paved the way for the team's preparation for the Hockey 5s World Cup. OHA has also collaborated with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth to establish eight preparation centres for girls to nurture players for future international competitions.

Also present at the press meet was Divya Narang, spouse of Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman. She congratulated Oman Hockey Association for hosting the international women's tournament and wished Oman teams success.

Participating teams: Republicans, Don Bosco Academy, Mumbai, Hustle Hockey Club (all from India), Fap Oman Team, Al Nahla Team, Magzi Team (all from Oman), Dubai Hockey Club, and Egypt Team.

ISC NATIONAL DAY BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Pandian wins two titles at ISC meet



MUSCAT: Jithesh Pandian claimed a grand double at the ISC National Day Open Badminton Tournament 2023, which concluded at the ISC courts recently.

Pandian won the men's singles title and then teamed up with Vedanth Anand to grab the U17 boys' doubles crown.

In the singles final, Pandian defeated Rajesh R 21-14, 19-21, 21-11. The two-day tournament witnessed participation of 150 players including Omani players.

In the Omani national doubles category, Saleh al Mamari and Mehdi al Lawati beat Ali al Manthari and Yousef al Lawati to clinch the title.

In the mixed doubles final, Himesh Haridas and Christine

Danthi edged out Harshpreet Singh and Kamya Sharma 21-19, 17-21, 21-16 while in the men's open doubles, Danish R and Riyas Sadiq beat Vinod Abraham and Alvin Alosky 22-20, 21-17. In the men's veterans' doubles, Vinod Abraham and Mohammed Harroos emerged champions with a 23-21, 21-13 win over Nadeem Dalwai and Jinesh in the final.

Ishrath Habibulla, Managing Director of Majees Technical Services, was the chief guest for the concluding ceremony while Percy Pereira, General Manager of Supa Sportsman, was the guest of honour. They gave away the awards in the presence of ISC members.

OMAN RACKET SPORTS COMMITTEE INITIATIVE



100 students take part in badminton festival

MUSCAT: As many as 100 students, including boys and girls, participated in a two-day badminton festival that concluded recently.

The opening day was organised for girls at Al Amal Club, while the boys' event was held at AMM Arena. The festival was organised by the Oman Racket Sports Committee (ORSC) with the aim of identifying promising junior badminton players to nurture and develop national teams.

The ORSC's board of directors has implemented a strategic approach, focusing on junior age category players and selecting talented individuals to establish a foundation for the future. Moreover,

the ORSC has established clear selection criteria based on various physical and technical skill parameters to ensure the identification of players with the required qualifications for badminton.

The two-day festival featured various activities, with students competing passionately to showcase their unique skills and precision in this fast-paced sport. The committee appointed numerous coaches and trainers to oversee the participants' performances. During the festivals, the players underwent training sessions to evaluate their skills. Additionally, a mini-tournament was organised in a structured manner to enhance the students' experience and el-

evate the level of competition among them.

Ammar al Hammadi, an organising member at the Badminton Players Selection Festival, said that the event provided an ideal platform to unearth young and talented badminton players. He noted that the students exhibited their skills and sporting potential, emphasising how the festival promoted a healthy spirit of competition and interaction among them.

Al Hammadi said the event reinforced ORSC's commitment to supporting young talents and encouraging them to pursue badminton, thereby contributing to the development of the sport in the country.

Al Hammadi expressed hope that the festival could be extended to multiple governorates in the Sultanate of Oman, with the goal of consistently identifying and nurturing young badminton players.

Ruqaya Nasser al Omairi, a board member of ORSC, said the committee is committed to the development of junior students and the enhancement of their technical skills and abilities.

Ruqaya said that they have initially focused on schools in Seeb and Bausher, where a group of promising students has already been selected. The ORSC intends to continue working with them to build a solid foundation of badminton players in Oman.

Maisarah introduces innovative debit card promotion campaign

The campaign is designed to encourage debit cardholders to transit from cash to debit card payments for their day-to-day purchases and is valid till December 31

MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services, BankDhofar's Islamic banking window, has launched a new debit card campaign that gives customers the chance to win OMR100 for every OMR 100 they spend. The campaign is aimed at promoting the use of debit cards at Point of Sale (POS) & online transactions. The campaign is designed to encourage debit cardholders to transit from cash to debit card payments for their day-to-day purchases and is valid till 31 December 2023. To participate in the campaign, customers must accumulate a minimum cumulative value of OMR 100 in local or international



transactions using their Maisarah's debit cards. For every OMR 100 spent, they earn a chance to get OMR 100 cash back through an entry into a raffle draw. The more they spend using their debit cards at POS or online transactions, the greater their chances of winning. The monthly draw for the cash-back prize is scheduled for the 5th of

each month, covering the previous month's successful purchase transactions. The lucky winner, chosen through a random draw, will receive a remarkable 100% cashback, equivalent to the minimum transaction value. There will be 50 winners during the campaign period. This customer centric campaign is aimed to enhance the financial lives of Maisarah's customers by urging them to adopt a debit card-based lifestyle aimed at financial wellness. As a token of appreciation for their trust and loyalty, Maisarah offers them the opportunity to win OMR 100 in cash, credited directly to their account. This will not only encourage the use of debit cards for daily purchases but also reward its cardholders for their loyalty. Maisarah invites the customers to participate in this campaign and embrace the convenience and rewards of debit card usage. By making this shift, customers can transform their financial experience and enjoy the many benefits it brings. Maisarah Islamic Banking Services is committed to providing its customers with innovative and rewarding products and services. The debit card campaign is one way that Maisarah is giving back to its customers and showing appreciation for their loyalty. Maisarah's Islamic Banking Services national wide branch network is growing rapidly.

ISLAMIC BANKING AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Bank Nizwa participates in second edition of Omani Islamic Finance Forum

MUSCAT: As part of its endeavours to cement its position as a leading and most trusted Islamic bank in Oman, Bank Nizwa, the premier Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, recently participated in the second edition of the Omani Islamic Finance Forum. The forum showcased the competitiveness of the country's Islamic finance industry, and highlighted the investment opportunities that are available within Oman and the greater Gulf region. The Omani Islamic Finance Forum was held under the auspices of Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Mamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs. The event witnessed the presence of prominent leaders from the Islamic finance industry in the Sultanate, and was attended by Khalid Al Khalili, Chairman of Bank Nizwa along with Khalid Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa, and several members of Bank Nizwa's executive management.



The bank participated in the forum's sessions and panel discussions, where, in the forum's main presentation, Khalid Al Kayed shared his thoughts on how Islamic finance can contribute towards sustainable economy and infrastructure financing. Additionally, Mohamed Al Hashmi, Head of Compliance, Bank Nizwa, participated in the panel discussion titled "Towards an Islamic Banking Sec-

tor that Meets Future Priorities.' Whilst partaking in the discussions at the event, Khalid Al Kayed said, "We live in a rapidly changing world that requires us to adapt to it concurrently. Islamic banking is no exception, as it is constantly evolving and reaching greater heights. Therefore, it is paramount that we should explore the investment opportunities within the sector. Technology plays a huge

part in Islamic banking, seeing how we are heading towards a paperless and more efficient society. The topics addressed have shed light on the challenges we might face when integrating technology with Islamic banking operations, and I hope we can implement such practices in the coming days. This in-turn will drive us and the Sultanate forward as we navigate our path towards success."

IVECO HEAVY WAY RANGE

IVECO and MOET launch off-road truck IVECO T-Way in Oman

MUSCAT: After the partnership stipulated on December 14, 2022, appointing Muscat Overseas Equipment and Trading Company as official dealer in Oman, IVECO and MOET unveiled, in a dedicated event held on November 7 at the Crowne Plaza Muscat, the new IVECO Heavy Way range presenting the IVECO T-Way, the off road vehicle designed and engineered for the toughest missions in the most extreme conditions. During the event, the morning session was dedicated to truck sector specialised journalists, highlighting the market opportunities MOET and IVECO intend to seize with the new IVECO T-Way. During the evening, instead, focus was entirely on customers and local authorities, as well as the welcome participation of the Italian Ambassador in Oman, Pierluigi D'Elia. More than 200 guests attended the official launch, assisting to corporate and product presentations. Everyone had the possibility to view all the technical features of the new heavy-duty range and appreciating the significant new innovations in the IVECO trucks. During the vehicle walk around, IVECO product experts were at hand to explain the new features and how the IVECO T-Way is best suited and designed for Middle East region market conditions. Shahram Falati, IVECO Middle East & Africa Business Director, said: "With this event we are happy to introduce the new IVECO Heavy Range "Drive the new Way" in the Sultanate of Oman with the support of our new official partner Muscat Overseas Equipment Trading Co. This partnership confirms our aim to consolidate the IVECO presence in Middle East through an excellent after sale services and commercial coverage. The launch of the IVECO T-Way brings into the market a new generation of advanced fuel efficiency, versatility, performance, and livability. This event is another clear sign of IVECO driving the road of change."



Marco Torta, Area Manager for Middle East, commented: "IVECO has a strong presence in the Sultanate. In this market we have successfully sold around 1,000 heavy trucks (Trakker) in the past 10 years and I am confident that the new IVECO T-Way and IVECO S-Way will be appreciated by our old and new customers specially concerning reliability, strength, and the high adaptability to match any mission". Bala T Chatoth, CEO of Muscat Overseas, said, "Starting our journey in 1972 we have successfully demonstrated our commitment in establishing ourselves as an equipment solutions provider with unmatched after sales support and with the new partnership with IVECO we would like to keep our bench mark high in meeting customer expectations providing them the right truck for the right application to achieve the business goals of our stake holders." IVECO T-Way: the most reliable and productive heavy-duty truck to face the toughest challenges The IVECO T-Way builds on the heritage of robustness and reliability of the brand's long lineage of champion off roaders. It introduces state-of-the-art technological solutions to exceed all expectations in productivity, payload capacity, safety and driver comfort. These characteristics of extreme toughness, high performance and reli-

ability are clearly expressed by the theme of the advertising launch campaign: "treat it bad". "T" for tough: designed and engineered for robustness and reliability The IVECO T-Way has been designed to offer best-in-class performance in every off-road mission, robustness and torsional rigidity. It carries over from its predecessors the legendary robustness of the high-resistance steel chassis with a 10mm thick frame, with a Rail Bending Moment at the top of the segment at 177 kNm. The front axle has a maximum capacity of up to 9 tonnes. Hub reduction on the rear axle is standard to maximize strength and performance. The new heavy-duty rear suspension system for Tandem axles optimises vehicle weight and improves off-road performance with greater ground clearance and a better departure angle. The IVECO T-Way delivers all the power needed for traction and PTO with IVECO's reliable and efficient Cursor 13 engine (13 litres) that develops up to 470 horsepower. The engines are coupled with the proven 16-speed HI-TRONIX automated gearbox, which now also features new functions specifically intended for off-road mobility including a Hill Holder function to help departure on steep slopes, Rocking Mode to help recover traction in slippery conditions and Creep Mode for ultra-low speed when idling; for the on-road sections of the mission, the Ecoroll, function that uses the vehicle's inertia when travelling downhill enhances the transmission's efficiency. HI-TRONIX represents the state-of-art in the automated transmission sector and delivers the perfect gearshift strategy for every application. Productivity and efficiency: Carrying over the strong Trakker heritage with even bigger payload The IVECO T-Way has been designed for efficiency and productivity, with a host of features and lower kerb weight. The low kerb weight has been further reduced by 325 kg compared to the Trakker with the new design of the tandem support on the rear axles, which is now a single-piece casting component. Extreme flexibility: the most conversion-friendly off-road truck The IVECO T-Way is set to become a favourite of body builders for its extraordinary flexibility. With both rigid and articulated versions, it has the widest offering of driveline options on the market: Partial Wheel Drive on 6x4 rigid and articulated and 8x4 rigid models; as well as All Wheel Drive on 4x4 and 6x6 rigid and articulated, and on 8x8 rigid versions.

FIRST NGO IN OMAN

Positive Vision announces its foundation to work on awareness, prevention, support for HIV/AIDS and drug use

MUSCAT: The Positive Vision Association announced its foundation and the staging of its first strategic meeting, becoming the first NGO in Oman formed under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Development to work on prevention and awareness on HIV/AIDS and drug use. The association also strives to connect with those most affected and provide support to their families. Positive Vision comprises of members from different segments of society from the private and public sector including people who have worked in the field of HIV/AIDS and drug rehabilitation who are committed to making a positive change in the community. The members are passionate individuals, experts and advocates committed to promoting awareness, prevention and support to nurture a healthier and more resilient nation. Nashia Nasib, President of the Positive Vision Association, said: "Our mission is rooted in compassion, and we are here to embrace those who are most affected. We have an exceptional team of dedicated board members who are ready to make a difference. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Founding Members for being part of our journey."



She added, "Our focus is clear: to provide assistance and support and combat stigma to People Living With HIV/AIDS and People Who Inject Drugs, and to extend our support to their families and the community at large physically, socially, and psychologically." The inaugural strategic meeting focused shaping the association's vision, mission, objectives and workplan for 2023-2024, discussing key strategies and ways to collaborate with stakeholders and partners from both the private and public sector. Positive Vision will work with individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS and drugs to create a supportive and empathetic network, while reducing the associated stigma and discrimination.

WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Toyota Gazoo Racing clinches podium finish at Central European Rally



MUSCAT: Toyota Gazoo Racing (TGR) World Rally Team's (WRT) Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen have secured their second consecutive FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) titles after finishing second in the No. 69 GR Yaris Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle in the penultimate round of the 2023 season, the Central European Rally. After being crowned the youngest-ever World Rally Champion in 2022 while driving the No. 69 GR Yaris Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle, 23-year-old Rovanperä has now become the sixth driver to achieve consecutive titles in the history of the WRC. It's the fifth year in a row that a TGR crew has won the drivers' and co-drivers' championship, and also completed a third straight hat-trick of titles after

Toyota clinched the manufacturers' championship during the previous Rally Chile. Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented, "Kalle, Jonne, congratulations on winning your second consecutive drivers' and co-drivers' championship titles! Kalle steadily accumulated points and started to lead the drivers' standings from the middle of the season, showing us what a strong champion is like. I also would like to thank Elfyn Evans a lot for his aggressive driving and for not giving up until the end. His driving with the strong desire to win was impressive. The 2023 season is not over yet. Elfyn and Scott missed something in Japan last year. I hope they will collect it this year and let me stand on the podium next month in Japan."

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat launches 2nd batch of First Time Managers programme



A total of 32 participants from the bank’s talent pool are taking part in the programme, which combines workshops and online modules from Harvard Business Publishing

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, has launched the second batch of its First Time Managers programme, further demonstrating its commitment to the development of Omani human resources. Recognising that its achievements are powered by proficient employees, the bank aims to enhance the management skills of its staff, enabling them to effectively handle their day-to-day responsibilities and facilitate their transition to higher roles. A total of 32 participants from the bank’s talent pool are taking part in the programme, which combines workshops and online

modules from Harvard Business Publishing. These resources are designed to help participants reinforce their skills. Notably, 44 employees from the first batch successfully completed the program in May 2023. Speaking on the occasion, Said Salim Al Aufi, General Manager - Human Resources & Administration at Bank Muscat, emphasized the bank’s belief in the pivotal role of its employees in maintaining its leading position and sustained growth. Al Aufi expressed hope that these development programs would equip talented employees with the necessary skills to progress in their careers and tackle new challenges.

He also congratulated the employees who had completed the program and wished the new batch success in their journey, while reaffirming the bank’s commitment to providing world-class learning and development opportunities.

Positive contributions
In addition to the First Time Managers programme, Bank Muscat continues to make positive contributions to the development of human resources. Recently, the bank organised a seminar on Intelligent Leadership, which saw the participation of over 120 employees. Furthermore, as part of its High Potential Graduate Development programme, the bank celebrated the enrolment of 57 employees from various business units in two new batches. Bank Muscat’s comprehensive Learning and Development department, known as Jadara Academy, is affiliated with the Global Association of Corporate Universities and Academics. The department focuses on developing skills and capabilities through e-Learning modules, scholarships, professional certifications, and man-

agement and leadership training programs. Human resource development is a priority for the bank, with a substantial budget allocation across all functions. Training and development programmes are conducted through specialised educational courses offered by accredited training centres, as well as through academic partnerships with colleges, universities, and leading training institutes at regional and global levels. These training courses cater to all employees, including new hires who undergo intensive programmes. They cover essential topics such as modern methods of customer service, business ethics, professional communication skills, and the importance of assuming responsibilities while adhering to the highest standards of compliance and integrity. Bank Muscat continues to invest in the development of its Omani workforce across various specialisations, aiming to enhance their careers and future ambitions in the banking field. The bank also strives to provide an optimal working environment that enables employees to fulfil their duties to the fullest.

FESTIVE SEASON

Get guaranteed gold coins on gold jewellery purchase with Malabar Gold & Diamonds

MUSCAT: Indians across the globe are on the last leg of their festive shopping as Diwali day draws near. Ahead of the festival of lights, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 335 showrooms across 11 countries, has ramped up its festive season offers across all of its showrooms globally. Customers will be eligible for free gold coins on the purchase of gold jewellery worth OMR 300 from November 9 to 11. The offer can be availed across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in the GCC, Far East, the USA & the UK. As part of the ongoing offer that

has been running across Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms, customers were eligible for free gold coins on the purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery worth OMR 300 and above. As the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras draws near, the assured gold coin offer that has been extended to cover gold jewellery purchase as well, is sure to be great news for jewellery buyers. **Festive jewellery collection** “We’ve been hearing great reviews about our festive jewellery collection from our customers. Considering the preferences of our multi-

cultural audience, we took special care to ensure that our jewellery collection incorporates designs to suit the cultural nuances of every celebration. “We have a strong customer base who chooses to buy jewellery on Dhanteras day as part of safeguarding their beliefs and with Dhanteras just around the corner, we hope to add more value and joy to their celebrations by introducing the free gold coin offer on gold jewellery purchase as well,” said Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds. On Dhanteras Day (Friday, 10

November), all the outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Oman will be open from 8am, to be able to serve the high customer footfall that is expected at the showrooms. The festive jewellery collection in Gold, Diamonds & Precious gems that the brand has unveiled during the festive season has been a tremendous hit amongst customers, eliciting a warm reception. In light of the fluctuating gold rates, jewellery buyers had taken advantage of Malabar Gold & Diamonds’ Gold Rate protection offer to block the gold rate till Diwali, thereby ensuring the lowest gold rate during purchase.

PRIZED DELICACY



It’s time to truffle at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah

MUSCAT: In recognition of its remarkable support and contribution to the success of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country, National Finance, the Sultanate of Oman’s leading finance company, was conferred with the title of ‘SME Financier of the Year’ at the Muntada Al Mar’a Summit & Awards. The award was presented by Chief Guest Her Highness Sayyida Hujaija Al Said, and accepted by Her Highness Sayyida Wisam Jaifar Al Said on behalf of National Finance. Hosted by ‘Al Mar’a’, the premier woman’s magazine in the nation, the event, now in its 12th edition, convened a gathering of distinguished industry leaders, innovators and achievers to celebrate the accomplishments of women across different sectors. Themed ‘Empowered Women leading towards a brighter future’, the summit saw a convergence of luminaries who shed light on the pivotal role women play in the progress of society. A key highlight of the event, National Finance’s employee Ms. Abila Al Harthy, Unit Head Customer Service Operation, participated in a thought-provoking



panel discussion titled ‘Building Relationships and Partnerships for the Future of Women.’ The session was an insightful exploration of strategies and partnerships geared towards advancing women’s professional growth. Abila eloquently reasserted the importance of fostering an inclusive workplace, using the fine example set by National Finance in nurturing a culture of equal professional advancement. Upon receiving the award, Sayyida Wisam, Assistant General Manager of Marketing, Corporate Communication, Events and ESG at National Finance, com-

mented, “We are immensely proud of this new feather in National Finance’s hat – ‘SME Financier of the Year’. At the heart of our business, we endeavor to be partners for growth, and we are dedicated to developing products and services that allow our customers to bring their entrepreneurial aspirations to life. Through supporting SMEs, we have had the opportunity to be part of the success story of so many homegrown brands that have not only made a mark in their respective industries but have also contributed to the economic progress of the country. This award further fuels our drive to serve our

customers with high-quality, flexible and quick financing solutions.” National Finance has a rich legacy of supporting women-led small and medium enterprises. The array of tailor-made financing solutions available to SME owners underscores the company’s commitment to empowering women in business. By providing comprehensive financial services to SMEs, the company has been instrumental to the establishment of several businesses and the triumphs of numerous women business owners. Furthermore, National Finance remains committed to championing the success of its woman workforce. This is exemplified in its continued investment in training and upskilling its women employees. The company recognises great value in honing the talents of its staff and by conducting workshops and training programs, women staff have been able to unlock their full potentials. National Finance stands as a shining example of progress and opportunity for women in Oman and strives to inspire organisations across the country to follow suit.

MUSCAT: Capri Court, the Italian restaurant at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah takes guests on a truffle month journey until the end of November. Proposing a fragrant black truffle set menu and A la Carte truffle-infused dishes, each course captures the earthy essence and bold flavours of this prized delicacy. From the menu, guests can savour the ‘Il Carpaccio’ featuring beef carpaccio, parmigiano croquette, rocket, and a tantalizing black truffle dressing, the ‘Uovo Al Tegamino’ with a sunny side up Barka egg, ‘Taglioni’ with egg yolk in a butter sauce, and ‘La Tagliata Di Manzo’ with porcini mushrooms and polenta. Diners are invited to round off their meal with the ‘Il Dolce’, a hot chocolate lava cake with truffle. The experience is further elevated with the mixologist’s selections of truffle-infused beverages. Prices start from 8 OMR net per dish and for those seeking a comprehensive truffle experience, the 5-course truffle menu is available at OMR 49 net per person. The truffle experience is available at dinner time only, from 7pm until 11pm.





mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

✓ Ultra-hydrating

✓ Revitalizing

✓ Energizing

✓ Electrolytes

oman OASIS

800 71 222

9275 5522