

OMAN TO TAKE PART IN COP28 IN DUBAI

The Sultanate of Oman will take part in tasks of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), due to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) during 30 November till 12 December, 2023. **>B1**



6 085010 120010

HM RECEIVES CABLE FROM EMIR OF KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable on the 3rd anniversary of his accession to power. In the cable, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his utmost thanks and appreciation for His Majesty's congratulations and best wishes. He lauded the deep-rooted historic and fraternal relations binding the two countries and their people, wishing His Majesty good health and well-being. Sheikh Nawaf also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 173 | 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](#)

Update your personal details "KYC" wherever you are

Through mBanking and Internet Banking

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

ROYAL DECREES

His Majesty appoints members to State Council

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued two Royal decrees.

Royal Decree No. (75/2023) appointing members to the State Council.

Article (1) appoints the following names as members at the State Council.

- 1 - Ahmed Saif Musallam Al Rawahi.
- 2 - Eng. Ahmed Saleh Ali Al Jahdhami.
- 3 - Is'haq Yaaqoub Ahmed Al Sawafi.
- 4 - Dr. Bukhait Salim Bukhait Bait Fadhil.
- 5 - Dr. Juma Khalifa Mansoor Al Busaidi.
- 6 - Dr. Hussain Sulaiman Mohammed Al Salmi.
- 7 - Hamad Khamis Abdullah Al Amri.
- 8 - Dr. Hamad Salim Rashid Al Rawahi.
- 9 - Hamad Nasser Abdullah Al Nabhani.
- 10 - Dr. Hamad Hilal Hamoud Al Yahmadi.
- 11 - Sheikh Hamad Hilal Ali Al Maamari.

- 12 - Dr. Hamoud Darwish Salim Al Hassani.
- 13 - Dr. Hamoudah Mohammed Khalfan Al Harsoosi.
- 14 - Dr. Hanifa Ahmed Ali Al Qasmi.
- 15 - Dr. Khalaf Salim Abdullah Al Is'haqi.
- 16 - Dr. Khamis Saud Said Al Toobi.
- 17 - Eng. Khamis Mohammed Muhanna Al Saadi.
- 18 - Dr. Rashid Salim Hamad Al Masroori.
- 19 - Dr. Rashid Saif Musabab Al Meherzi.
- 20 - Dr. Rashid Mohammed Juma Al Ghailani.
- 21 - Sayyeda Rawan Ahmed Thabit Al Busaidi.
- 22 - Dr. Rouhiyah Rashid Mohammed Al Khayfi.
- 23 - Sayyid Zaki Hilal Saud Al Busaidi.
- 24 - Dr. Zuwana Saleh Issa Al Maskari.
- 25 - Dr. Salim Sultan Salim Al Ruzaqi.
- 26 - Dr. Salim Salayum Saleh Al Junaibi.
- 27 - Salim Musallam Ali Qatan.
- 28 - Sareyah Khalfan Amer Al Hadi.

- 29 - Dr. Suaad Mubarak Said Al Fouri.
- 30 - Sheikh Sultan Mohammed Salim Al Mad'hani.
- 31 - Sheikh Sultan Mohammed Sultan Al Mahrouqi.
- 32 - Sheikh Sultan Mattar Salim Al Azizi.
- 33 - Dr. Saleem Salim Khalfan Al Rushaidi.
- 34 - Dr. Sanaa Sabil Sulaiman Al Balushi.
- 35 - Sanaa Abdulrahman Issa Al Khanjari.
- 36 - Eng. Saif Hamad Saif Al Salmani.
- 37 - Sheikh Dr. Saif Muhanna Saif Al Hina.
- 38 - Dr. Shamsa Masoud Nasser Al Shaibani.
- 39 - Dr. Saleh Mohammed Saif Al Fahdi.
- 40 - Dr. Sabah Mohammed Amer Al Maawali.
- 41 - Sheikh Dr. Talib Hilal Sultan Al Hosani.
- 42 - Dr. Dhafir Awadh Badr Mur'ee Al Shanfari.
- 43 - Dr. Aisha Hamad Sa'ayed Al Darmaki.
- 44 - Dr. Aisha Said Mohammed Al Ghabshi.
- 45 - Sayyid Adil Al Murdas Ahmed Al Busaidi.

- 46 - Dr. Amer Nasser Amer Al Mataeni.
- 47 - Abbas Ali Mahmoud Al Humaid.
- 48 - Dr. Abdulkarim Ali Jawad Al Lawati.
- 49 - Dr. Abdullah Hamad Marzouq Al Badi.
- 50 - Dr. Abdullah Kahmis Juma Al Kindi.
- 51 - Dr. Abdullah Saif Salim Al Ghafri.
- 52 - Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Amer Al Sarmi.
- 53 - Sheikh Abdullah Nassir Humaid Al Nadabi.
- 54 - Eng. Azza Sulaiman Said Al Ismaili.
- 55 - Sheikh Ali Ahmed Mishari Al Shamsi.
- 56 - Dr. Ali Hamdan Yousef Al Shirawi.
- 57 - Dr. Ali Saud Ali Al Bimani.
- 58 - Ali Mubarak Marhoon Al Amri.
- 59 - Eng. Omar Khalfan Nassir Al Wahibi.
- 60 - Dr. Ohood Said Rashid Al Balushi.
- 61 - Awadh Said Ali Baqweer.
- 62 - Dr. Issa Sulaiman Said Al Amri. **>A2**



SAYYID FAHD VISITS STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION

HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, yesterday visited the State Audit Institution (SAI). He was accompanied by Sheikh Al Fadhl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers. The visit underscores the attention that the government accords to institutional action for the realisation of efficiency in implementing specialisations and raising the standards of performance. HH Sayyid Fahd was received upon his arrival by Sheikh Ghosn bin Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the SAI, among other officials of the institution. — **ONA** • **Full story on A2**

MEETING

Sayyid Theyazin holds meeting with Sheikh Theyab Al Nahyan of UAE

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth received in his office yesterday Sheikh Theyab bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Office of Development and Martyrs Families Affairs at the Presidential Court of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Bilateral relations

During the meeting, cordial conversations were exchanged. The meeting also reviewed the advanced, bilateral relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in various spheres.

The meeting was attended from the Omani side by Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture,



Sports and Youth for Culture and Bassil bin Ahmed Al Rowas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports. The meeting was attend-

ed from the UAE side by Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Mohammed Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to Oman and UAE officials. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

RGD marks annual day

1 The Royal Guard of Oman (RGD) celebrated its annual day on Wednesday. **>A2**

OMAN

Over 400 EVs in Oman

2 The number of electric cars in the Sultanate of Oman is over 400. **>A2**

WORLD

Envoys recalled

3 Chile and Colombia have recalled their envoys to Israel. **>A7**



TIME TO TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS TO STOP WAR IN GAZA: SAYYID BADR

Sayyid Badr discussed Gaza situation with China and UK foreign ministers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister on Wednesday discussed concrete measures to stop Israel's war on Gaza over phone call with Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and with James Cleverly, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

The Gaza Health Ministry said that the death toll among Palestinians crossed 8,700, mostly women and minors, ever since the war broke out.

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi stressed the importance of taking urgent, concrete measures to stop Israel's war on Gaza and to focus on opening humanitarian corri-



dors to address the life-threatening catastrophe experienced by civilians in Gaza.

In the phone call with Wang Yi, the Foreign Minister discussed the danger of continued military escalation, as well as the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and its surroundings.

The two ministers also discussed the menace of the continued Israeli aggressive military operations against unarmed civilians.

They underscored the importance of the international community assuming its responsibilities



SAYYID BADR HAMAD AL BUSAIDI, Foreign Minister



in this regard in implementation of the international law and international humanitarian law.

The two ministers also reiterated the justice of the Palestinian cause and the necessity of lifting the unjust Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip, as well as establishing a humanitarian truce to provide the relief needs for residents of the Gaza Strip.

They stressed the significance of realising a two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which was also confirmed by the will of the international community based on the international law.

FM talks with UK Official

During a phone call with James Cleverly, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi on Wednesday stressed the importance of taking urgent, concrete measures to stop Israel's war on Gaza and to focus on opening humanitarian corridors to address the life-threatening catastrophe experienced by civilians in Gaza.

The two ministers exchanged views about the ongoing Israeli military escalation in Gaza Strip, leading to more civilian casualties. **>A5**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr 11:55pm
Asr 3:09pm
Maghrib 5:33pm
Isha 6:45pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:57am

CEREMONY

ROYAL DECREE

RGO marks annual day

State Council appointments

MUSCAT: The Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) celebrated on Wednesday its annual day, which falls on 1 November every year, under the patronage of Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior.

The ceremony, which was held at the parade field of the RGO Command, included the passing out of new recruits.

The ceremony also included diverse programmes that depict the development and modernization enjoy by the RGO under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

During the ceremony, Sayyid Hamoud presented the top graduates with certificates of excellence.



After that, the graduates chanted the RGO anthem accompanied with a parachute performance by the RGO free jumping team and proclaimed thrice Long Live His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

The event was attended by some members of the Royal Family, ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces and other military and security units, as well as senior military and civil officials. -ONA

< FROM 63-Sheikh Dr. Ghazi Said Abdullah Al Bahar Al Rowas.

64-Lamees Abbas Asad Allah Al Bahrani.

65-Sheikh Majid Khalifa Ali Al Harthy.

66-Majid Abdullah Mubarak Al Alawi.

67-Mohsen Ghuloom Haji Mohammed Al Ajmi.

68-Mohammed Abu Bakar Salim Al Ghassani.

69-Mohammed Ahmed Said Al Amri.

70-Mohammed Hassan Ali Al Shihi.

71-Dr. Mohammed Humaid Nassir Al Wardi.

72-Mohammed Salim Hamoud Al Harthy.

73-Dr. Mohammed Said Amir Al Hajri.

74-Sheikh Mohammed Said Ali Al Qatabi.

75-Dr. Mohammed Sulaiman Abdullah Al Rashdi.

76-Mohammed Ali Saleh Al Marjani.

77-Dr. Mohammed Awadh Salim Al Rowas.

78-Dr. Mohammed Nassir Ali Al Saqri.

79-Dr. Maryam Abdullah Rajab Al Awadi.

80-Maha Sulaiman Barakat Al Lamki.

81-Nassir Saif Yahya Al Haddabi.

82-Eng. Nassir Mohammed Nassir Al Hajeri.

83-Eng. Nahla Abdulwahab Al Hamdi.

84-Sheikh Hilal Hamad Saif Al Kalbani.

85-Sheikh Dr. Hilal Ali Zaher Al Hina.

86-Dr. Yahya Mansour Nassir Al Wahibi.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (76/2023) appointing members of Oman Human Rights Commission.

Article (1) appoints the following names as members of Oman Human Rights Commission:

1-Ahmed Abdullah Ali Al Owaisi.

2-Dr. Rashid Hamad Humaid Al Balushi.

3-Saud Saleh Ahmed Al Maawali.

4-Dr. Saleh Hamad Mohammed Al Barashdi.

5-Aida Shamis Zayed Al Hashmi.

6-Mohammed Ali Khamis Al Marzouqi.

7-Maimoona Said Rashid Al Sulaimani.

8-Dr. Yahya Mohammed Zaher Al Hina.

9-Aqeel Alawi Saleh Ba'Omar, Representative of the Foreign Ministry.

10-Jamal Salim Saif Al Nabhani, Representative of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs.

11-Sulaiman Saif Sulaiman Al Kindi, Representative of the Ministry of Education.

12-Abdulaziz Abdullah Mohammed Al Saadi, Representative of the Ministry of Labour.

13-Dr. Jamal Eid Nassir Al Khadouri, Representative of the Ministry of Health.

14-Labiba Mohammed Hamad Al Maawali, Representative of the Ministry of Social Development.

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

GROWTH THROUG TOURISM

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tender:

Tender No.	59/2023
Tender Title	Construction of the main bridge across Wadi Miyeh at Yiti
Tender Submission Closing Date	23.11.2023
Tender Process Details	Please visit: www.omran.om/tenders/

omran.om/tenders/

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group)
Tel: +968 24 39 11 11
info@omran.om
@omrangroupom

VISIT

Sayyid Fahd praises SAI role in Oman's development

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, yesterday visited the State Audit Institution (SAI). He was accompanied by Sheikh Al Fadhl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers.

The visit underscores the attention that the government accords to institutional action for the realisation of efficiency in implementing specialisations and raising the standards of performance.

HH Sayyid Fahd was received upon his arrival by Sheikh Ghosn bin Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the SAI, among other officials of the institution.

At the outset of the visit, HH Sayyid Fahd underlined the role of SAI in backing Oman's comprehensive and sustainable development, based on the powers entrusted to the institution and in accordance with the goals set for Oman Vision 2040 and the 10th Five Year Plan.

HH Sayyid Fahd reaffirmed the keenness of the Council of Ministers to cooperate with the SAI in all areas of relevance to its tasks.

For his part, Sheikh Ghosn expressed his thanks and appreciation to HH Sayyid Fahd for accepting the invitation to visit the SAI and meet officials in charge, within the context of a drive to consolidate cooperation and partnership among government institutions.

Sheikh Ghosn valued the sincere support, care and attention accorded to the SAI by His Majesty the Sultan. He affirmed the determination of the SAI to perform its tasks with the highest levels of efficiency.

Acting in partnership with the departments under its supervision, the SAI strives to achieve added value and optimal of resources, with the prime aim of maintaining the steady growth of the Omani economy, he affirmed.

Sheikh Ghosn underlined the positive role of the Council of Ministers in promoting the success of SAI tasks that contribute to enhancing the national action. He expressed his appreciation for the attention that the Council of Ministers accords to SAI annual report, which, he said, is submitted to His Majesty the Sultan and later to the State Council and the Shura Council.

HH Sayyid Fahd listened to a briefing about the strategic plan of the SAI and its cooperation with other departments in implementing the scheduled programmes and activities.

The briefing also touched on the SAI's future plans in grooming national human resources and harnessing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and digital transition initiatives.

Then, HH Sayyid Fahd toured the SAI building and viewed its facilities, capabilities and technologies. He commended the tangible progress made by the SAI over the past period. -ONA



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 ٢٠ يناير ٢٠٢٤
Valid from 20th October 2023 to 15th January 2024

احصل على كوبون داخل العبوة
FIND COUPON INSIDE THE OUTER

ابحث عن الرمز الفريد
LOOK FOR YOUR UNIQUE CODE ON THE BACK OF THIS COUPON

ادخل الموقع عبر الموقع
REGISTER CODE AT www.winwithnabil.com

MM/06/1015/2023

Facebook.com/nationalbiscuits Instagram.com/nationalbiscuits

EVS

Number of electric vehicles in Oman exceeds 400

MUSCAT: Amid ongoing action to enable new dealers to import electric vehicles (EVs) directly from manufacturers, the EVs in the Sultanate of Oman exceeded 400.

Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Transport, outlined initiatives to manufacture EVs at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD).

The number of EV charging stations stands at 100 now and it is hoped that the number will grow to 300 in the next two years serving all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, he added.

Al Shamakhi pointed out that a list of such facilities has been approved by the relevant authorities to help meet the growing demand for EVs which, he said, are being marketed by automobile agents. The high cost of the EVs remains the only pending issue, ongoing attempts are being made to enable new agents to import less expensive, safe and high-quality EVs, he affirmed.

Al Shamakhi explained that the use of EVs fits with the Sultanate of Oman's drive to achieve zero carbon neutrality by 2050, noting that the transport sector is responsible for 18 per cent of Oman's greenhouse gas emissions.

Al Shamakhi stressed that Oman is committed to the Paris Agreement on climate change.



Towards this goal, Oman keeps holding conferences and signing agreements, following its proclamation of zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Oman will also participate in the COP28, scheduled to be held at the United Arab Emirates at the end of November 2023, said Al Shamakhi. He added that the event will provide an opportunity to highlight Oman's efforts and initiatives aimed at cutting down carbon emissions for the realisation of a sustainable future.

Oman is considering a green transit corridor initiative for heavy vehicles, said Al Shamakhi, noting that the corridor is envisaged to link Sohar Port to the oil concession areas.





Closer than
you think

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

bankdhofar www.bankdhofar.com



CRICKET

Oman skipper Maqsood among
world's top-10 ODI all-rounders

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's captain Zeeshan Maqsood, who rose to World No.3 in ICC Men's ODI all-rounders ranking earlier this year, continues to impress with his performances.

According to the latest ICC rankings issued on Wednesday, the Oman all-rounder was ranked sixth in the world with ODI rating of 235 points.

Earlier on June 18, Maqsood rose to his career-best ranking of world No.3 with rating points of 262.

The 36-year-old left-hand batter and left-arm off-spinner also played a key role in Oman's opening match victory against Malaysia in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 Asia Qualifier Final in Nepal.

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan maintains his lead at the top of the ODI all-rounders rankings with 316 points while Afghanistan's Mohammed Nabi is second with 297. Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan are ranked third and fourth while Papua New Guinea's Assad Vala is fifth.

South Africa left-arm-er Marco Jansen is one of the big movers, up two spots to ninth and New Zealand youngster Rachin Ravindra climbing 14 spots to 17th.

Pakistan's Afridi climbs to top

In-form pacer Shaheen Afridi can now lay claim to be the best ODI bowler in the world after the Pakistan spearhead capped off an impressive start to the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup by rising to the No.1 ranking on the latest ODI Bowling Rankings.

The 23-year-old Afridi has been in sensational touch for Pakistan at the Cricket World Cup and is currently the joint leading wicket-taker for the tournament alongside Australia spinner Adam Zampa, with the duo having taken 16 scalps apiece.

Australia's Josh Hazlewood



According to the latest ICC rankings issued on Wednesday, the Oman all-rounder was ranked sixth in the world with ODI rating of 235 points

(second), India's Mohammed Siraj (third) and South Africa's Keshav Maharaj (fourth) all lose one place courtesy of Afridi's nine-spot jump, with spin duo Kuldeep Yadav (seventh) and

Mujeeb Ur Rahman (eighth) both gaining two places inside the top 10.

It is the first time that Afridi has held the No.1 ranking in any format and means Pakistan players simultaneously cling on to the top spot in two ODI categories as skipper Babar Azam maintains his narrow lead at the head of the corresponding batting list.

But Babar's lead at the top of the ODI batter rankings is down to just two rating points, though his closest challenger in India's Shubman Gill has not yet been able to capitalise with just 104 runs from four knocks.

The challengers continue to close in on the top pair, with experienced Australia opener David Warner rising one place to fourth on the back of his 413 runs at the World Cup while India skipper Rohit Sharma improves three spots to fifth following his 398 runs for the tournament.



damas

FREE GOLD COINS
ZERO MAKING CHARGES
RAFFLE DRAW TO WIN A DIAMOND JEWELLERY SET
FREE GIFT VOUCHERS

Valid at all 22k stores across OMAN
For more info Call: 0096899856211

Conditions Apply

MEETING

IMF experts to
discuss financial
issues with Oman



MUSCAT: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday commenced its meetings for the 2023 Article IV consultations, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) till 15 November 2023.

IMF experts are set to conduct a series of meetings with officials and specialists from CBO, MOF and a number of government, civil society and private sector institutions.

The meetings will discuss the recent economic and financial developments, financial sector outlook, development and financing of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), strengthen-

ing general financial frameworks, enhancing financial stability and comprehensive and sustainable development, progress achieved in combating money laundering and terrorism financing, and other topics related to the financial and monetary policies in the Sultanate of Oman.

It is noteworthy that these annual visits, conducted by IMF experts to all 190-member states, are in accordance with Article IV of IMF Articles of Agreement, whereby IMF monitors potential risks threatening the economy and recommends necessary reforms in the monetary and financial policies to enhance financial and economic stability in the member state. -ONA

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



10TH TERM

Shura Council gets Royal orders to hold extraordinary session to elect chairman, two deputy chairmen

MUSCAT: Following the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Shura Council will hold an extraordinary session on Thursday, 9 November 2023 to elect a chairman and two deputy chairmen for the Council's 10th term (2023-2027).
Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council, said that the Secretariat General finalized all steps to hold the extraordinary session. The session will be conducted electronically as per the standards set and implemented in its 9th term, he added.

Al Nadabi pointed out that, according to established procedures, 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, said Al Nadabi, noting that the proceedings of the session will begin with the Secretary's General speech. 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. -ONA



World's top amateur chess players arrive in Oman



More than 400 players, including 73 females, from 64 countries will be in action at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex as the FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships begins on Thursday

MUSCAT: The world's best amateur chess players are among the more than 400 participants who have arrived in Muscat ahead of the start of the FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships for Open and Women 2023.
Players get into action at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex (SQSC) from Thursday and the nine round event will conclude on November 10.
The prestigious world tournament will be formally inaugurated at the SQSC on Thursday. Organised by the Oman Chess Committee under the auspices of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), a total of 427 players from 64 countries will be in action during the tournament where a total of six titles in three categories are at stake.
The opening ceremony on Thursday will be presided over by Said bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth for Culture, in the presence of Asian and International chess federations' representatives
There are a total of 354 male and 73 female participants and among the countries represented are Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bahrain, Belgium, China, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Japan, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Morocco, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Palestine, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Slovakia, Sweden, Syria, Taipei, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Ukraine, the United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and, hosts Oman.

The tournament adopts a Swiss system format, played over nine rounds. Each round provides players with a 90-minute time frame, with an additional 30 seconds allotted for each move. This intense competition will be supervised by 19 international referees, chaired by Malaysian Abdul Hamid bin Abdul Majid. The referees' committee has members hailing from Iran, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, and Oman, contributing a wealth of experience and diverse backgrounds.
The championship isn't solely about chess; it also offers a vibrant cultural and entertainment tapestry. These include immersive excursions, enabling participants to explore the rich cultural heritage of Oman. An international coaching course will also run in parallel with the tournament, aiming to promote and enrich the cultural aspect of the game. Additionally, the committee has arranged daily activities for schools and children in the morning, with the goal of engaging approximately 100 children each day.
Notably, 95 percent of the individuals involved in organising the tournament are Omanis, adding a distinct local touch to the event.
The 2023 FIDE World Amateur Chess Championship shines as one of the year's most prominent sporting events, attracting the presence of distinguished heads of Arab and international chess federations.
The tournament is expected to be graced by the President of the International Chess Federation and the Asian Chess Federation.
The event promises to be a celebration of the global chess community, uniting players and enthusiasts from diverse corners of the world in a celebration of intellect, strategy, and the joy of the game.



The tournament is expected to be graced by the President of the International Chess Federation and the Asian Chess Federation



School Chess Festival to be held along with world championships

MUSCAT: The Oman Chess Committee, in cooperation with the Oman School Sports Association will host the School Chess Festival from Thursday.
The event, coincides with the start of the FIDE World Amateur Chess Championships, is expected to attract more than 1,000 male and female students from first-grade classes, representing nine educational directorates across the governorates.
The School Chess Festival will be held in the educational directorates in the governorates of Al Dakhiliyah, Al Dhahirah, Al Buraimi, Dhofar, Al Sharqiyah South, Al Sharqiyah North, Muscat and Al Batinah North.
The festival is designed with a multifaceted mission, aiming to strengthen national identity and foster a sense of loyalty among participants. Its core objective is to propagate the game of chess and instill it as a valuable pastime. Furthermore, the festival seeks to nurture students' cognitive abilities, stimulate their creative and innovative thinking, and encourage a distinctive approach to the thought process.
In addition to its primary goals, the festival offers a plethora of accompanying activities, ranging from engaging face-painting sessions to captivating artistic and visual performances. The programme also features captivating plays, enthralling student performances, and a diverse array of competitions. These diverse activities are thoughtfully planned to provide participants with a unique and immersive introduction to the game of chess, making it an enjoyable and enlightening experience for all involved.



OMAN VISIT

Sheikh Theyab Mohammed Al Nahyan visits youth centre

MUSCAT: Sheikh Theyab bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Office of Development and Martyrs Families Affairs at the Presidential Court of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), yesterday went on tour of the Youth Centre as part of his current visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the visit, Sheikh Theyab watched a visual presentation about the stages of the centre's establishment, its strategic goals and the most important programmes and plans it undertook over the past period.

Sheikh Theyab toured the centre's facilities and listened to a



briefing about its departments, which include shared work spaces, a 3D printing lab, a drones and virtual reality lab, multi-purpose training halls, a concert hall, a

studio and a business incubator set up in a partnership with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (AS-MED). -ONA

JABALIA CAMP

Stress on peace in Gaza region

<FROM A1 They stressed the need to respect the international law and end the cycle of violence.

The ministers also reiterated the international community's stance on achieving comprehensive peace in accordance with the Two-State Solution.

Sayyid Badr expressed his strong denunciation of the Israeli occupation forces' targeting of Jabalia camp in Gaza Strip, which, he said, led to the death and injury of hundreds of civilians.

He urged the Security Council to put an immediate end to the crisis and Israel's inhumane practices against the Palestinian people. Oman has condemned the targeting by the Israeli occupation forces of the Jabalia camp in the Gaza Strip.

ONA reported that the Sultanate of Oman expresses its condemnation of the targeting by the Israeli occupation forces of the Jabalia camp in the Gaza Strip, which led to the martyrdom and injury of innocent civilians.

40TH MEETING

Oman chairs GCC interior undersecretaries meeting

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman yesterday chaired the meeting of the Undersecretaries of the GCC Ministries of Interior to prepare for the 40th meeting of the Ministers of Interior, which will be held in Muscat.

The meeting's agenda included a number of topics reached by the

relevant security committees and ways to enhance joint cooperation among the security services in the GCC states.

The meeting was chaired by Major General Abdullah Ali Al Harthy, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Customs for Operations. -ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialize companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tender in Dhofar Governorate.

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Dae for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2023/161	SH-LOT 02/2023-PHASE- 01	22/11/2023	30/11/2023	RO. 52.500
DISC/2023/162	UNE-LOT 09 C-2023	22/11/2023	30/11/2023	RO. 105
DISC/2023/163	UNE-LOT 09 E-2023	22/11/2023	30/11/2023	RO. 52.500
DISC/2023/164	UNE-LOT 09 F-2023	22/11/2023	30/11/2023	RO. 52.500
DISC/2023/165	UNE-LOT 09 H-2023	22/11/2023	30/11/2023	RO. 105
DISC/2023/166	UNE-LOT 10 B-2023	22/11/2023	30/11/2023	RO. 105

- To view the tender details, you can visit www.dhofarservices.nama.om / scan the QR code
- The deposit at the last day of purchasing should be before 3.00pm.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using "isupplier portal". No hard copies are accepted.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.
- For any clarifications contact us on:
 - Tel No. 23232563 -email: purchase@dhofarservices.nama.om



Dhofar Integrated Services Company s.a.o.c
CR Number 2185229 ,PO Box 2609
PC 211 ,Salalah - Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number 23232523 ,Fax 23201183
www.dhofarservices.nama.om



Investment Manager Report

On behalf of the Fund Management Board, I am pleased to present the unaudited financial results of ahli Global Equity Fund for the quarter ended 30th of September 2023.

	30-Sep-2023	30-Sep-2022
Number of units	3,409,200	3,258,311
Net asset value (RO)	2,571,394	2,335,561
Net asset value per unit (RO)	0.754	0.717
Dividend Paid Per Unit (RO)	0.020	0
Net profit/(loss)	233,011	55,711

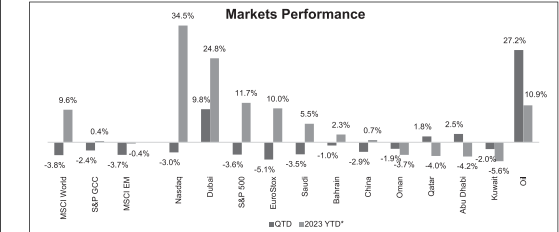
The Fund witnessed a gain of (+9.8% YTD) outperforming the benchmark (an average of S&P GCC and MSCI World) by (+6.5%). Our outperformance, achieved through our strategic overweight allocation from the beginning of the year into Saudi and Dubai has proven valuable as investors place their bets on higher-than-expected GDP growth in MENA. The fund also realized profits during the July rally regionally and globally providing us with an opportunity to rotate across global names in US and China during the recent correction.

Looking ahead, the Ahli Global Equity Fund maintains a cautious yet optimistic stance. While opportunities exist, we are mindful of evolving risk and remain vigilant. Preferred markets remain Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with a selective approach in the U.S. and Europe. Despite evolving market dynamics, the Ahli Global Equity Fund is well positioned to seize opportunities with sufficient cash allocation while effectively managing risks, with a commitment to delivering strong performance and value to investors in the coming months.

Markets Performance
Global Capital Markets initially started of the Quarter with a rally driven by lower benchmark yields in anticipation of a pause. However strong macro data in in August & September led investors to consider the risk of higher rates for longer as a result of which markets came under pressure.

In response to these evolving economic conditions, the MSCI World index corrected by -3.8% year-to-date as investors rushed to take profits amidst the backdrop of recessionary headlines. MSCI Emerging Markets (EM) followed a similar trajectory, registering a -3.7% year-to-date decline. The Chinese markets, in particular, mirrored the global sentiment by anticipating further rate hikes, while other EM countries expressed concerns about the adverse impact of soaring energy prices on their economic growth.

Energy prices notably climbed by an impressive 27.2% year-to-date. Nevertheless, GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) markets faced a decline of -3.8% year-to-date. The main contributing factor to this downturn was the dwindling levels of liquidity, as benchmark rates pushed GCC overnight lending rates to higher levels. Investors in the GCC region have been apprehensive about the impact of increased interest rate costs on margins, especially in the face of reduced consumer and corporate demand. This has led to a reevaluation of stock multiples as we approach the release of third-quarter earnings.



*As of September 30th 2023

Market Outlook

As we look ahead and in light of heightened geo-political risk, caution remains a key theme in the market despite evident long-term potential. There's ongoing debate among investors about whether the recent Fed commentary will translate into a pause in the November meeting. Nevertheless, markets are currently pricing in another 25 basis points hike in November.

Q3 earnings will be pivotal in the coming months, as investors have already factored in less favorable results due to reduced consumer demand and a tight global credit environment. Positive surprises in earnings, especially if accompanied by stable bond yields, could trigger a year-end rally.

At Ahli Bank AMD, we anticipate continued elevated interest rates for the rest of the year, supported by strong economic data. We expect a 25 basis points hike in November, but we align with the market's view for a pause post-November, as opposed to the Fed's projection of two more rate hikes by mid-2024. This economic slowdown may provide relief to the Fed and the capital markets.

Regarding equities, we hold a cautious short-term outlook but valuations are now more reasonable. Our long-term perspective remains optimistic, driven by robust momentum and the prospect of diminishing inflationary economic data, which we believe will enhance investor sentiment for the future.

In summary, the current market landscape necessitates a prudent approach, though it holds substantial potential for strategic investors. We appreciate your trust and partnership and remain committed to your long-term financial success.



ahliGlobal equityfund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 30 SEP 2023			
	Unaudited Sep 2023	Unaudited Sep 2022	Audited Dec 2022
RO	RO	RO	RO

Assets			
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	2,444,646	1,531,932	1,977,375
Cash and cash equivalents	136,358	882,933	409,711
Dividend Receivable	-	-	209
Amount due from brokers	3,577	-	-
Total assets	2,584,581	2,414,865	2,387,295

Liabilities			
Accruals and other payables	12,676	9,458	7,569
Amount due to unitholders	511	20	145
Amount due to broker	-	69,826	-
Total liabilities	13,187	79,304	7,714

Net assets attributable to the unitholders 2,571,394 2,335,561 2,379,581

Total liabilities and net assets attributable to the unitholders 2,584,581 2,414,865 2,387,295

Net assets per unit attributable to the unitholders 0.754 0.717 0.705

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE 9 MONTH ENDED 30 SEP 2023			
	Unaudited Sep 2023	Unaudited Sep 2022	Audited Dec 2022
RO	RO	RO	RO

Income			
Dividend income	82,556	72,245	77,437
Total income	82,556	72,245	77,437

Net realised gain/(loss) on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss 188,439 116,748 102,972

Net unrealised gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss 18,029 (80,131) (95,271)

Profit/(Loss) per unit 0.066 0.024 0.004

Expenses			
Management fees	(23,322)	(23,187)	(30,734)
Custody fees	(4,144)	(4,488)	(6,000)
General and administrative expenses	(28,547)	(25,476)	(34,234)
Total expenses	(56,013)	(53,151)	(70,968)

Profit and total comprehensive income/ increase in net assets attributable to the unitholders for the quarter ended 30 Sep 2023 233,011 55,711 14,170



DHOFAR TOURISM COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box: 2808, P.C. 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. Tel. 23275500

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UN AUDITED) AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023																																																																																																			
On behalf of myself and the members of the Board of Directors I am pleased to welcome you and so present to you the Board of Directors report for the period ended 30 September 2023 of Dhofar Tourism Company. Performance during the period: Mirbat Resort – Mirbat: We are making all efforts to ensure that the deep impact of Covid 19 on the Company's financial position and the Mirbat Resort is mitigated, and the business goes back to the levels before Covid 19. The available funds have been utilized for the maintenance expenditure of the resort to prepare ourselves to welcome guest at a large number in the tourist season starting in October. The Company after early termination of lease contract with FTI Touristic GmbH has signed the franchise contract with WYNDHAM GARDEN from October 2021. This contract will enable the Company to operate the hotel under the standard operating procedures and service levels of WYNDHAM GARDEN with an aim to establish a well reputed resort of international level resort. All the necessary steps have been successfully taken to ensure that the upcoming period will have high tourism activities for our Resort. Our Organization percentage is currently 30% of total work force. We had to make significant changes in the management group to ensure that internal controls and other operating procedures are working effectively and efficiently. Dhofar Tourism Project Development Project Overview: The master plan of the Project is currently being updated and a new feasibility study is being conducted, the Company appointed F&M Middles East to prepare the masterplan along with the marketing and financial feasibility study. This would ensure that we have a unique Project in Mirbat with the best possible mix of commercial, residential and hospitality facilities, which will attract investors from Oman, the Gulf region and other countries. The objective is to create a unique destination in Mirbat. The Project will be implemented in different phases, F&M Middle East will coordinate with relevant authorities for permits and ensure the Project is a bankable project with sufficient investor interest. Because of the current funding constraint of the Company, arrangements have been made for temporary funding by a related party, which will be at arm's length basis to ensure that while additional funding is being raised by the Company, the Project should not be delayed. The primary objective of Project is to promote tourism and create job opportunities in the Dhofar region. To this end, the Project will cater to a wide range of investors and visitors, including tourists, business travellers, and long-term residents, with mix of affordable and high-end properties. Company's assets: The Company assets have increased due to the revaluation of land owned by the company at Mirbat on December 2022 - independent valuation undertaken by a professional valuer, the market value of the land as on the date of valuation was RO 42 million. Currently the share capital of the Company in the amount of RO 27.95 million is eroded to the extent of 53% because of the accumulated losses in the amount of RO 14.8 million. Consequently, according to Article147 of the Commercial Companies law, we are required to call for a general meeting to decide the course of action to be taken to restore the capital of the Company. We are studying various options and will present the way forward shortly to the Capital Market Authority and the Shareholders. Our Vision: Dhofar Tourism Company's vision is to work along with Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to enhance the tourism sector in Oman in general and Dhofar in particular. We will spare no effort in our Company to contribute to the development of this vital sector by developing and marketing our Master Plan, with full awareness that the benefit will flow to the Dhofar region by engaging the local community in the employment and other economic activities which will be generated by the development. In this regard, we can only ask Almighty Allah for success to enable us to serve our dear country under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik bin Taimur, may Allah protect and preserve him. Fatma Youssef Alawi Al Ibrahim Chairperson	<table><tr><th></th><th>31 Sep 2023 RO</th><th>31 Dec. 2022 RO</th></tr><tr><td>ASSETS</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Non-current assets:</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Property, plant and equipment</td><td>28,207,167</td><td>28,659,527</td></tr><tr><td>Investment properties</td><td>28,180,000</td><td>28,180,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total non-current assets</td><td>56,387,167</td><td>56,839,527</td></tr><tr><td>Current assets:</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Inventories</td><td>26,735</td><td>18,285</td></tr><tr><td>Trade and other receivables</td><td>148,791</td><td>246,197</td></tr><tr><td>Cash and bank balances</td><td>51,741</td><td>66,081</td></tr><tr><td>Total current assets</td><td>227,267</td><td>330,563</td></tr><tr><td>Total assets</td><td>56,614,434</td><td>57,170,090</td></tr><tr><td>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Equity:</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Share capital</td><td>27,950,000</td><td>27,950,000</td></tr><tr><td>Special reserve</td><td>80,848</td><td>80,848</td></tr><tr><td>Legal reserve</td><td>448,607</td><td>448,607</td></tr><tr><td>Revaluation reserve</td><td>33,869,198</td><td>33,869,198</td></tr><tr><td>Accumulated losses</td><td>(14,816,692)</td><td>(13,797,678)</td></tr><tr><td>Total equity</td><td>47,531,961</td><td>48,550,975</td></tr><tr><td>Non-current liabilities:</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Term loans</td><td>1,841,524</td><td>1,469,522</td></tr><tr><td>Staff terminal benefits</td><td>26,471</td><td>19,077</td></tr><tr><td>Deferred tax liabilities - net</td><td>5,895,549</td><td>5,895,549</td></tr><tr><td>Total non-current liabilities</td><td>7,763,544</td><td>7,384,148</td></tr><tr><td>Current liabilities:</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Current portion of term loans</td><td>225,000</td><td>225,000</td></tr><tr><td>Bank overdraft</td><td>465,348</td><td>337,463</td></tr><tr><td>Trade and other payables</td><td>628,581</td><td>672,504</td></tr><tr><td>Total current liabilities</td><td>1,318,929</td><td>1,234,967</td></tr><tr><td>Total liabilities</td><td>9,082,473</td><td>8,619,115</td></tr><tr><td>Total equity and liabilities</td><td>56,614,434</td><td>57,170,090</td></tr><tr><td>Net assets per share</td><td>1.701</td><td>1.737</td></tr></table>		31 Sep 2023 RO	31 Dec. 2022 RO	ASSETS			Non-current assets:			Property, plant and equipment	28,207,167	28,659,527	Investment properties	28,180,000	28,180,000	Total non-current assets	56,387,167	56,839,527	Current assets:			Inventories	26,735	18,285	Trade and other receivables	148,791	246,197	Cash and bank balances	51,741	66,081	Total current assets	227,267	330,563	Total assets	56,614,434	57,170,090	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			Equity:			Share capital	27,950,000	27,950,000	Special reserve	80,848	80,848	Legal reserve	448,607	448,607	Revaluation reserve	33,869,198	33,869,198	Accumulated losses	(14,816,692)	(13,797,678)	Total equity	47,531,961	48,550,975	Non-current liabilities:			Term loans	1,841,524	1,469,522	Staff terminal benefits	26,471	19,077	Deferred tax liabilities - net	5,895,549	5,895,549	Total non-current liabilities	7,763,544	7,384,148	Current liabilities:			Current portion of term loans	225,000	225,000	Bank overdraft	465,348	337,463	Trade and other payables	628,581	672,504	Total current liabilities	1,318,929	1,234,967	Total liabilities	9,082,473	8,619,115	Total equity and liabilities	56,614,434	57,170,090	Net assets per share	1.701	1.737
	31 Sep 2023 RO	31 Dec. 2022 RO																																																																																																		
ASSETS																																																																																																				
Non-current assets:																																																																																																				
Property, plant and equipment	28,207,167	28,659,527																																																																																																		
Investment properties	28,180,000	28,180,000																																																																																																		
Total non-current assets	56,387,167	56,839,527																																																																																																		
Current assets:																																																																																																				
Inventories	26,735	18,285																																																																																																		
Trade and other receivables	148,791	246,197																																																																																																		
Cash and bank balances	51,741	66,081																																																																																																		
Total current assets	227,267	330,563																																																																																																		
Total assets	56,614,434	57,170,090																																																																																																		
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES																																																																																																				
Equity:																																																																																																				
Share capital	27,950,000	27,950,000																																																																																																		
Special reserve	80,848	80,848																																																																																																		
Legal reserve	448,607	448,607																																																																																																		
Revaluation reserve	33,869,198	33,869,198																																																																																																		
Accumulated losses	(14,816,692)	(13,797,678)																																																																																																		
Total equity	47,531,961	48,550,975																																																																																																		
Non-current liabilities:																																																																																																				
Term loans	1,841,524	1,469,522																																																																																																		
Staff terminal benefits	26,471	19,077																																																																																																		
Deferred tax liabilities - net	5,895,549	5,895,549																																																																																																		
Total non-current liabilities	7,763,544	7,384,148																																																																																																		
Current liabilities:																																																																																																				
Current portion of term loans	225,000	225,000																																																																																																		
Bank overdraft	465,348	337,463																																																																																																		
Trade and other payables	628,581	672,504																																																																																																		
Total current liabilities	1,318,929	1,234,967																																																																																																		
Total liabilities	9,082,473	8,619,115																																																																																																		
Total equity and liabilities	56,614,434	57,170,090																																																																																																		
Net assets per share	1.701	1.737																																																																																																		
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UN AUDITED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023																																																																																																				
	<table><tr><th></th><th>Period ended 31 March 2023 RO</th><th>Period ended 31 March 2022 RO</th></tr><tr><td>Revenue</td><td>709,294</td><td>348,080</td></tr><tr><td>Direct costs</td><td>(965,246)</td><td>(773,994)</td></tr><tr><td>Gross profit (loss)</td><td>(255,952)</td><td>(425,914)</td></tr><tr><td>Other income</td><td>37,720</td><td>26,272</td></tr><tr><td>Fair value gain on investment properties</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>General and administrative expenses</td><td>(258,892)</td><td>(125,265)</td></tr><tr><td>Loss from operations</td><td>(477,124)</td><td>(524,907)</td></tr><tr><td>Finance (expenses) / income - net</td><td>(88,726)</td><td>(30,552)</td></tr><tr><td>Loss before depreciation</td><td>(565,850)</td><td>(555,459)</td></tr><tr><td>Depreciation expenses</td><td>(453,164)</td><td>(466,352)</td></tr><tr><td>Loss before income tax</td><td>(1,019,014)</td><td>(1,021,811)</td></tr><tr><td>Income tax</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Loss for the period</td><td>(1,019,014)</td><td>(1,021,811)</td></tr><tr><td>Other comprehensive income for the period</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Total comprehensive loss for the period</td><td>(1,019,014)</td><td>(1,021,811)</td></tr><tr><td>Loss per share - basic and diluted</td><td>(0.036)</td><td>(0.037)</td></tr></table>		Period ended 31 March 2023 RO	Period ended 31 March 2022 RO	Revenue	709,294	348,080	Direct costs	(965,246)	(773,994)	Gross profit (loss)	(255,952)	(425,914)	Other income	37,720	26,272	Fair value gain on investment properties	-	-	General and administrative expenses	(258,892)	(125,265)	Loss from operations	(477,124)	(524,907)	Finance (expenses) / income - net	(88,726)	(30,552)	Loss before depreciation	(565,850)	(555,459)	Depreciation expenses	(453,164)	(466,352)	Loss before income tax	(1,019,014)	(1,021,811)	Income tax	-	-	Loss for the period	(1,019,014)	(1,021,811)	Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-	Total comprehensive loss for the period	(1,019,014)	(1,021,811)	Loss per share - basic and diluted	(0.036)	(0.037)																																																
	Period ended 31 March 2023 RO	Period ended 31 March 2022 RO																																																																																																		
Revenue	709,294	348,080																																																																																																		
Direct costs	(965,246)	(773,994)																																																																																																		
Gross profit (loss)	(255,952)	(425,914)																																																																																																		
Other income	37,720	26,272																																																																																																		
Fair value gain on investment properties	-	-																																																																																																		
General and administrative expenses	(258,892)	(125,265)																																																																																																		
Loss from operations	(477,124)	(524,907)																																																																																																		
Finance (expenses) / income - net	(88,726)	(30,552)																																																																																																		
Loss before depreciation	(565,850)	(555,459)																																																																																																		
Depreciation expenses	(453,164)	(466,352)																																																																																																		
Loss before income tax	(1,019,014)	(1,021,811)																																																																																																		
Income tax	-	-																																																																																																		
Loss for the period	(1,019,014)	(1,021,811)																																																																																																		
Other comprehensive income for the period	-	-																																																																																																		
Total comprehensive loss for the period	(1,019,014)	(1,021,811)																																																																																																		
Loss per share - basic and diluted	(0.036)	(0.037)																																																																																																		

Indian PM, Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurate rail, power sector projects

The inauguration of rail and power sector projects between India and Bangladesh lay focus on strengthened ties and partnership between the two countries



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated three Indian-assisted development projects via video conferencing on Wednesday.

The three projects are the Akhaura- Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link, Khulna - Mongla Port Rail Line and Unit - II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Rampal, Bangladesh.

The inauguration of rail and power sector projects between India and Bangladesh lay focus on strengthened ties and partnership between the two countries.

"The joint inauguration of these important projects manifests the firm friendship and collaboration between our two friendly countries. I would like to thank PM Modi for the warm hospitality during my visit in September 2023 to attend the G20 Summit," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said

"I express my gratitude for your commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship between our two countries, Sheikh Hasina said.

The Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link project has been executed under a Government of India grant assistance of Rs 392.52 crore extended to Bangladesh. The length of the rail link is 12.24 km with a 6.78 km Dual Gauge rail line in Bangladesh and

5.46 km in Tripura.

The Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line Project has been implemented under the Government of India's concessional Line of Credit with a total project cost of USD 388.92 million. The project entails the construction of approximately 65 km of broad gauge rail route between Mongla Port and the existing rail network in Khulna. With this, Mongla, the second largest port of Bangladesh, gets connected with the broad-gauge railway network.

The Maitree Super Thermal Power Project, under an Indian Concessional Financing Scheme loan of 1.6 billion US dollars, is a 1320 MW Super Thermal Power Plant located in Rampal in Khulna Division of Bangladesh. The project has been implemented by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Limited which is a 50:50 Joint Venture company between India's NTPC Ltd and Bangladesh Power Development Board. These projects will strengthen connectivity and energy security in the region.

During the inauguration ceremony, Sheikh Hasina also extended greetings to Prime Minister Modi and the people of India in advance of Diwali.

"I would conclude her by conveying warm greetings in advance for the upcoming Diwali. I wish Your Excellency PM Modi

and the people of India a very Happy Diwali," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said.

Over the last decade, the Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue has served as a critical platform for strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. The theme of this year's Dialogue is 'Fostering a comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership', BNN News reported.

Earlier this March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline, a cross-border energy pipeline, built at an estimated cost of Rs 377 crore, of which the Bangladesh portion of the pipeline was built at a cost of approx. Rs 285 crore, which has been borne by the Government of India under grant assistance, read Prime Minister's Office press release.

The Pipeline has the capacity to transport 1 Million Metric Ton Per Annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD). It will supply High-Speed Diesel initially to seven districts in northern Bangladesh.

The operation of India- Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will put in place a sustainable, reliable, cost-effective and environment-friendly mode of transporting HSD from India to

Bangladesh.

Moreover, in September, the 15th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) between India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the two nations discussed various bilateral issues, including removal of port restrictions, the groundwork for the commencement of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The meeting was co-chaired by the Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Vipul Bansal and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, Noor Md. Mahbulul Haq.

The Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) Meetings between India and Bangladesh are held annually to discuss key trade-related issues and "explore opportunities for economic and technical collaboration, promotion, facilitation, expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit."

Moreover, these meetings play a crucial role in quickly resolving bilateral issues by removing trade barriers, simplifying customs procedures, improvement of infrastructure, logistics, and transit facilities to facilitate smoother cross-border trade. **-ANI**



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



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

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

NOMINATED

Bangladesh's Saima Wazed to lead World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region



NEW DELHI: Bangladesh's Saima Wazed has been nominated to lead the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region.

Member countries on Wednesday voted to nominate her as the next Regional Director of the United Nation's health body, according to WHO South East Asia Region Office.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea DPRK, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste participated in the voting in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The member states voted to nominate Wazed during a closed meeting on the third day of the 76th session of the WHO Regional

Committee for South-East Asia. Myanmar, the other member, did not attend the meeting.

Wazed is a clinical psychologist and the daughter of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Saima secured eight votes to win the nomination over the other candidate, Dr Shambhu Prasad Acharya, a senior WHO official nominated by Nepal, who received two votes.

The nomination will be submitted to the WHO Executive Board during its 154th session, taking place on January 22-27 next year in Geneva, Switzerland, the WHO SEAR Office said.

After that, Wazed will take office on February 1 for a five-year term and be eligible for reappointment once. **-ANI**

CAPSULE



China: Shenzhou-16 astronauts return to Earth after 5 months

BEIJING: Three Chinese astronauts aboard the Shenzhou-16 spacecraft's return capsule, made it back on Earth on Tuesday after five months in space.

Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu and Gui Haichao touched down at China's Dongfeng landing site at 8:11 am (0011 GMT). Their descent was eased by a large parachute, footage on Chinese state media, CCTV, showed. It also showed their capsule landing in the barren Gobi Desert, kicking up a cloud of orange dust.

"On-site medical supervision and insurance personnel confirmed that the astronauts are in good health," CCTV said.

"The Shenzhou-16 crewed

flight mission was a complete success." The three astronauts had launched into space on May 30 and were in orbit for 154 days.

They conducted scientific experiments and carried out a near eight-hour spacewalk during their time in space. Chinese news reports showed that they had successfully grown tomatoes, lettuce and green onions in space as part of their experiments.

Last week, China launched its Shenzhou-17 mission with three astronauts — reportedly China's youngest crew till date — to replace Jing, Zhu and Gui. This was the second crew change since the station was commissioned earlier this year. **-aw**

TOURISM

Thailand waives visas for Indian tourists

BANGKOK: Indian tourists will be allowed visa-free entry to Thailand for a period of six months starting November 10, local media reported on Tuesday.

The announcement was made following a decision by the Thai Cabinet, which agreed to exempt tourists from India and Taiwan from requiring an entry visa to stay in Thailand for up to 30 days, effective May 10, 2024, according to a report by Thai PBN World.

Thai PBS World is Thailand's public service broadcaster.

Thailand's existing policy allows travellers from 59 countries to enter without an entry visa.

In response to certain challenges, particularly a drop in Chinese tourist arrivals, the Cabinet previously decided to extend similar visa exemptions to tourists from China and Kazakhstan for



a limited period, aiming to boost tourism during the last quarter of the year, the report by Thai PBN World said.

According to the Thai broadcaster, data for the first nine months of this year reflected that around 1.26 million Indians ex-

plored Thailand, and this number is projected to rise to approximately 1.55 million by the year's end. Indian tourists, on average, spend 41,000 baht per person during their 7-8 day stay in Thailand, Thai PBN World reported.

Taiwanese tourists have also

made a noteworthy impact on Thailand's tourism sector. It is estimated that by the end of this year, roughly 700,000 Taiwanese tourists will have visited Thailand, compared to approximately 780,000 arrivals in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Taiwanese tourist contributes an estimated 42,000 baht during their average 8-day stay, generating a revenue of approximately 33.5 billion baht.

Moreover, the year 2023 has seen nearly one million Russian tourists arrive in Thailand, underscoring the country's continued appeal as a prime tourist destination. Sri Lanka announced visa-free entry to visitors from India and six other countries that has begun with immediate effect will continue till March 31, 2024. **-ANI**

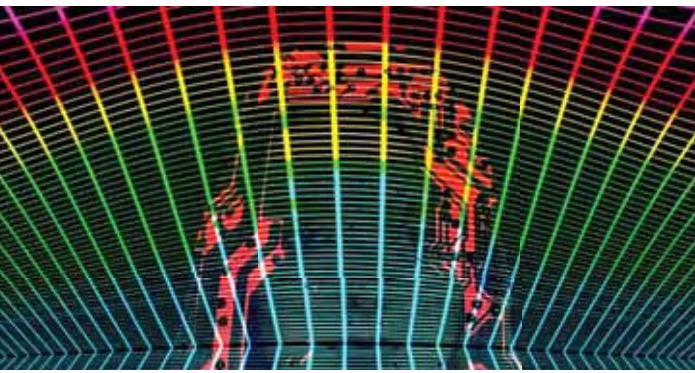
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Collins Dictionary names 'AI' word of the year

NEW YORK: The contraction of artificial intelligence — AI — has been named as Collins' Word of the Year for 2023, the dictionary publisher announced on Tuesday.

"Considered to be the next great technological revolution, AI has seen rapid development and has been much talked about in 2023," a blog post from the publisher said.

The company arrived at the word after analyzing the Collins Corpus, a database that contains over 20 billion words with written material from websites, newspapers, magazines, published across the world. It also factors in spoken language from



television and radio shows.

Managing Director Alex Bee-croft said: "We know that AI has been a big focus this year in the

way that it has developed and has quickly become as ubiquitous and embedded in our lives as email, streaming or any other once futur-

istic, now everyday technology."

'AI' featured at the top of the list of the words shortlisted by Collins' word analyzers. Another word on the list was 'Bazball' — a style of test cricket in which the batting side attempts to gain the initiative by playing in a highly aggressive manner.

Deinfluencing, ultra-processed, debanking, semaglutide and greedflation also featured on the list.

Debanking refers to the act of depriving a person of banking facilities. Meanwhile, semaglutide is a medication used to suppress the appetite and control high blood sugar. **-aw**

Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia flay Israel’s strikes in Jabaliya

Egypt has called the airstrikes “inhumane” and a “blatant violation of international law.” It warned of the consequences of “indiscriminate attacks on civilians in and around hospitals, where they seek refuge”

TEL AVIV : The foreign ministries of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have condemned Israel’s strikes in Jabaliya in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, in which Hamas said some 50 Palestinians were killed.

The statement of three nations comes after the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said that it has killed the commander of Hamas’s Cen-



tral Jabaliya Battalion, Ibrahim Biari, in a strike on the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, CNN reported.

Egypt has called the airstrikes “inhumane” and a “blatant violation of international law.” It warned of the consequences of “in-

discriminate attacks on civilians in and around hospitals, where they seek refuge.” Furthermore, Egypt urged the international community to intervene to stop Israeli attacks and to provide humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza.

Jordan in the “strongest terms,” condemned the Israeli attack. It condemned the ongoing escalation

in the West Bank and settlers’ violence against Palestinians, according to The Times of Israel reported.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia expressed its “complete rejection” of the Israeli Forces’ repeated “targeting of sites crowded with civilians,” according to The Times of Israel report.

ICRC: Supply of essential medical supplies ‘critically short’

International Committee of the Red Cross spokesperson Alyona Synenko told DW that the aid group’s main priority was “delivering humanitarian assistance to hospitals in Gaza” that she said

were running “critically short on the essential medical supplies.”

“What we have seen after we have visited hospitals around Gaza in different areas was horrifying,” Synenko said. “We have seen medical professionals who have now been working for weeks in a row without any pause.”

The ICRC spokesperson added: “Many of them are also in very distressed psychological states, because they don’t know if their own family members are safe, and sometimes they find their own family members among the victims.”

Aid received thus far, Synenko said, was “infinitely small compared to the massive scale of the needs we are seeing.”

On the topic of Wednesday’s communications blackout, Synenko said that until Tuesday there had still been communications with staff, however, as of Wednesday morning she was unable to contact team members.

Gaza’s largest telecommunications provider, Paltel, has reported a “complete disruption” of phone and internet services in the strip.

“We are, of course, extremely worried,” Synenko said, adding that “it’s impossible to put up a large humanitarian response without the functioning telecommunication lines, but also, just for civilians, people need information about how to reach safety.” **ANI/DW**

DISCUSSIONS

Biden speaks on Gaza issue with Jordan King



WASHINGTON, DC : As the Israel-Hamas war enters day 26, US President Joe Biden in a call with King Abdullah II of Jordan, agreed that it is critical to ensure that Palestinians are not forcibly displaced outside of Gaza.

Apart from discussions on the latest developments there, the leaders spoke on the facilitation of the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza.

“President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. spoke with King Abdullah II of Jordan. The leaders discussed the latest developments in Gaza and their shared commitment to facilitating the increased, sustained delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza and the resumption of essential services,” the White House said, quoting the readout of President Biden’s Call with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

Biden emphasised the significance of upholding international humanitarian law and preserv-

ing civilian life. “They also agreed that it is critical to ensure that Palestinians are not forcibly displaced outside of Gaza. The leaders discussed urgent mechanisms to stem violence, calm rhetoric, and reduce regional tensions,” the readout added.

Biden, in his call with the Jordanian King, affirmed the commitment to “work together” for a durable and sustainable peace in the Middle East.

“The President and King Abdullah affirmed their commitment to work together and with other regional partners to set the conditions for a durable and sustainable peace in the Middle East to include the establishment of a Palestinian state,” said the readout.

“The President expressed appreciation to the King for Jordan’s role in promoting regional stability, reaffirmed Jordan as a critical ally, and confirmed unwavering US support for Jordan,” it added. **-ANI**

GAZA STRIP

Chile, Colombia recall envoys in Israel

Bogota: The leftist presidents of Chile and Colombia have both recalled their ambassadors to Israel for consultations, as the pair condemned Israel’s military operations in the Gaza Strip, ongoing since the bloody Hamas attacks of October 7.

Chilean President Gabriel Boric said the summoning was due to the “unacceptable violations of international humanitarian law.” He stressed the country’s condemnation of the Israeli military operations, saying they “entail collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza.”

He cited the Hamas health authorities’ death toll of over 8,000, saying they were mostly women and children.



Colombia’s president, Gustavo Petro, also said he was recalling Bogota’s ambassador to Israel, saying he could not remain in the country “if Israel does not stop the massacre of the Palestinian

people.” On Monday, Bolivia’s leftist government announced the severing ties with Israel over “the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive” in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Bayram, a

spokesperson for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) said that they had managed to get in contact with a few of its colleagues following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza.

“Those who we managed to get in touch with told us that they had absolutely the worst night last night in Khan Younis, which is on the list of Israel’s safe areas,” Bayram said.

The NRC spokesperson added that “this area has seen ground operations from the southeast... and they reported a bomb falling 50 meters away from where they’re staying.” On the question of what the situation at the Jabaliya refugee camp, Bayram said the NRC had received word that the area had been struck again. **-DW**

RAFAH BORDER

Foreign passport holders leave Gaza for Egypt

BERLIN: A first group of foreign nationals entered the Rafah border crossing from Gaza. It is the first group to leave Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war began over three weeks ago.

The AP and AFP news agencies reported seeing people with foreign passports allowed into the crossing between Egypt and Gaza on Wednesday.

Egyptian media reported that ambulances carrying injured people had also been seen crossing the border from Gaza.

Reuters reported that an agreement to allow limited evacuations



from Gaza was brokered between Egypt, Israel and Hamas by Qatar, in coordination with the US. The deal allows foreign passport holders and some critically injured

people to leave, Reuters reported citing a source. It added that there is no timeline for how long the border will remain open for evacuation. AFP reported that hundreds

of wounded Gaza residents and foreign nationals had gathered at the crossing on Wednesday, looking to flee the war-torn enclave.

Internet cut off in Gaza, Palestinian telecommunications agency says

Internet and communication services have been completely cut off in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian telecommunications agency said. “We are sorry to announce that communications and internet services have been completely cut off in Gaza,” the Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel) said on X. **-DW**

FORGIVENESS FOR CRIMES

German president apologises for colonial crimes in Tanzania

Berlin: German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday sought forgiveness for crimes committed during the country’s colonial rule in Tanzania.

“I would like to ask for forgiveness for what Germans did to your ancestors here,” Steinmeier said during a visit to the Maji Maji Museum in the southern Tanzanian city of Songea. Tanzania was part of German East Africa.

“I want to assure you that we Germans will search with you for answers to the unanswered questions that give you no peace,” he added.



What was Steinmeier apologising for?

Experts estimate between 200,000 and 300,000 members of the Indigenous Tanzanian population were murdered during the so-called Maji Maji Rebellion uprisings between 1905 and 1907.

Seen as one of the bloodiest uprisings in colonial history, German troops participated in the systematic destruction of fields and villages.

Speaking of the “shame” felt towards the events, Steinmeier said

Germany was ready to work with Tanzania towards a “communal processing” of the past.

The president promised to share the stories he learned at the Maji Maji Museum back to the people of Germany, adding, “What hap-

pened here is our shared history — the history of your ancestors and the history of our ancestors in Germany.”

On Tuesday, on the second day of Steinmeier’s three-day trip to Tanzania, the German president

said Germany would consider “the repatriation of cultural property and human remains.”

What is Tanzania’s place within African continent?

In 2021, Germany officially acknowledged committing genocide during its colonial occupation of Namibia. It announced financial compensation to make up for the crimes.

Germany held several colonies from 1884 until the end of World War I. These included territories in modern-day Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Namibia, Cameroon, Togo and Ghana.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier stands with cultural leaders looking at a memorial German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier stands with cultural leaders looking at a memorial

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier spent three

days in Tanzania in an attempt to strengthen ties.

Germany and Tanzania are aiming to strengthen their relations, with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan the only female head of state with executive powers on the African continent.

The 63-year-old has reversed many of her predecessor’s policies including bans on demonstrations, restoring newspapers’ licenses and releasing imprisoned opposition leaders.

Amnesty International, however, still notes that there are many human rights deficiencies within the country, including limitations on the press and freedom of assembly.

Tanzania has one of the strongest economies in sub-Saharan Africa and is expected to achieve a 4.9% economic growth rate for the current year, higher than anticipated for Germany. **-DW**



PROTEAS PUMMEL KIWIS TO GO TOP



Quinton de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen slam centuries in South Africa's massive 190-run win over New Zealand in Pune

PUNE: South Africa went to the top of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup points table after a vehement display against New Zealand in Pune on Wednesday. The Proteas registered a 190-run win following a brilliant all-round performance with bat and ball.

It was the third successive defeat for New Zealand while it was South Africa's sixth win from seven games.

Marco Jansen's double strike lifted South Africa in the first powerplay before Gerald Coetzee and Kagiso Rabada followed up with wickets of their own. Keshav Maharaj ensured that the spinners had their say and struck four times to ensure a dominant South Africa win as New Zealand were bowled out for 167 in 35.3 overs.

Earlier, a 200-run second-wicket stand between centurions Quinton de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen set the base for yet another 300-plus total for South Africa. The Proteas were also boosted by a late charge from David Miller as they finished at 357/4.

Left-handed opener De Kock reached his 21st one-day international ton off 103 balls with eight fours and three sixes. He brought up his century with a huge six off Jimmy Neesham.

"I'm feeling really good lately. It's nice that everything is coming together at an important time for us," said De Kock at the innings break.

"I was getting a couple of messages from the bench to bat through. I just want to keep bat-



ting, bat for longer. My career is coming down to a finish, I'm trying to bat as much as I can."

De Kock also made 100 against Sri Lanka, 109 in the game with Australia and 174 in the victory over Bangladesh. He started the day needing just 69 more runs to pass 500 for the tournament when the Proteas were sent in to bat in Pune.

Having completed a 62-ball fifty, including three fours and two

WORLD CUP 2023 GROUP STANDINGS								
TEAM	P	W	L	N/R	T	NRR	PTS	
South Africa	7	6	1	0	0	+2.290	12	
India	6	6	0	0	0	+1.405	12	
Australia	6	4	2	0	0	+0.970	8	
New Zealand	7	4	3	0	0	+0.484	8	
Pakistan	7	3	4	0	0	-0.024	6	
Afghanistan	6	3	3	0	0	-0.718	6	
Sri Lanka	6	2	4	0	0	-0.275	4	
Netherlands	6	2	4	0	0	-1.277	4	
Bangladesh	7	1	6	0	0	-1.446	2	
England	6	1	5	0	0	-1.652	2	



sixes, De Kock broke through the 500-run barrier with a leg-side boundary off recalled paceman Tim Southee.

He was eventually out for 114 caught by Glenn Phillips off South-ee, ending a 200-run partnership for the second wicket.

Van der Dussen kept up the assault as he made 133 off 118 balls with nine fours and five sixes.

It was his second hundred of the tournament after his 108 against Sri Lanka and sixth of his ODI career.

Southee again made the breakthrough, clean bowling Van der Dussen in the 48th over as he tried to launch the ball across the line.

David Miller added a blistering 53 off just 30 balls with four sixes as South Africa ended their innings with Aiden Markram arriving at the wicket for the last ball which he dispatched for six.

New Zealand used seven bowlers after seamer Matt Henry suffered a hamstring injury and was forced off the field midway through his sixth over.

Brief scores: South Africa 357/4 (Quinton de Kock 114, Rassie van der Dussen 133, David Miller 53; Tim Southee 2/77) beat New Zealand 167 in 35.3 overs (Glenn Phillips 60, Will Young 33; Marco Jansen 3/31, Keshav Maharaj 4/46, Gerald Coetzee 2/41). - Agencies

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

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by January 2024 reaching \$86.26, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.02. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,502.24 points, down by 0.95 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.79 per cent at 434.48 points. Oman Cement, up 2.79 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 6.12 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman to take part in UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai

Oman's participation in this conference under the slogan 'Oman is a sustainable future' comes as an extension of its participation with the rest of the world to find practical and sustainable solutions to global environmental problems related to sustainable development



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will take part in tasks of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), due to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) during November 30 till December 12. Oman's participation in this conference under the slogan "Oman is a sustainable future" comes as an extension of its participation with the rest of the world to find practical and sustainable solutions to global environmental problems related to sustainable development. Oman will also review its efforts through the strategies, plans, policies, initiatives

and projects that it implements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect environmental and climate systems. Oman has taken important steps to reach zero carbon neutrality through the Royal directives that set 2050 as the date for this goal, and the establishment of Oman Sustainability Center. COP28 will address a number of issues related to climate change at the global level, most notably the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from various sources such as industry, transportation, agriculture, energy pro-

duction, and waste disposal. It will touch on the financial financing opportunities available to support these efforts and mitigate the effects of climate change in developing countries. Meanwhile, the Sultanate of Oman works to strike a balance between environmental, economic and social requirements. It implements principles of sustainable development, taking into consideration the advancement of economic and social aspects and the importance of preserving environmental and climate systems and preserving its natural resources in

order to achieve the goals of sustainable development in the various development sectors. Oman is also committed to fulfilling its obligations in international environmental agreements related to climate change, such as the United Nations Framework Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Oman has taken a number of important measures, such as devising and implementing policies, strategies, legislation, and regulations for managing and monitoring climate change to achieve its goal of reaching zero carbon neutrality. This is done by utilizing the natural and geographical components that characterise it in the renewable energy and green hydrogen sector, developing the necessary legal frameworks and policies, and allocating sites for hydrogen investment. Dr Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, Chairman of the Steering Committee for Climate Change in the Sultanate of Oman, said that Oman's participation in COP28 comes in light of the developments and risks facing the environmen-

tal, climate and ecological systems and sustainable development globally. It also coincides with Oman's sincere efforts to boost its global and regional role to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming and climate change, added Dr. Abdullah. He pointed out that Oman's efforts in this regard include the transition to renewable energy, increasing green areas, and the continuous search for sustainable solutions from nature. He noted that Oman's participation in COP28 will include a pavilion within the exhibition accompanying the event. On his turn, Dr. Ghazi Ali Al Rawas, Dean of Research at Sultan Qaboos University, Head of the Supervision and Governance Team, explained that this pavilion will be creative and educational as it will showcase the experience of the Sultanate of Oman in the fields of environmental protection, reducing harmful emissions, environmental sustainability, promoting renewable energy and its role in environmental diversity, as well as its promising projects for sustainable cities. - **ONA**

STOCK MARKET



Asian stocks subdued ahead of Fed decision

SINGAPORE: Asian stocks edged higher on Wednesday ahead of a keenly awaited policy decision from the Federal Reserve later in the day, while the yen was stuck near one-year lows against the dollar as Tokyo ramped up intervention warnings. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was 0.14 per cent higher. The index has clocked three straight months of losses. Japan's Nikkei was 2 per cent higher, Reuters reported.

European stocks looked set to open on a surer footing, with the Eurostoxx 50 futures up 0.34 per cent, German DAX futures up 0.37 per cent and FTSE futures 0.27 per cent higher. The spotlight on Wednesday will firmly be on the Federal Reserve's policy decision, with the central bank widely expected to hold rates steady. Comments from Fed Chair Jerome Powell will be scrutinised to gauge where interest rates are headed and how long they will stay higher. - **BNA**

RATE OF INFLATION

Eurozone inflation drops to 2.9% in third quarter of 2023

BRUSSELS: The eurozone's rate of inflation has slid to 2.9 per cent from 4.3 per cent in September — its lowest rate in over two years. While analysts had expected the rate to remain above 3 per cent, instead it is closer to the 2 per cent target of the European Central Bank (ECB). The ECB raised interest rates for an unprecedented 10th consecutive time in September to combat historic surges in prices in the 20-nation single currency bloc. But signs of weakness in the economy as well as ebbing price pressures prompted the ECB to leave interest rates unchanged this month, the first time that rates have held unchanged since July 2022. Eurozone inflation reached its peak of 10.6 per cent in October last year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent en-

ergy prices spiralling. **Germany's weak economy weighs on eurozone** Meanwhile, economic growth in the bloc shrank by 0.1 per cent over the July to September period, having shown a modest 0.2 per cent growth in the second quarter. The ECB's rate-hiking campaign and the poor performance of its biggest economy, Germany, contributed to the contraction. Germany has been hit hard by elevated energy costs, a sluggish manufacturing sector, and high interest rates. France, the EU's second biggest economic center, only grew by 0.1 per cent, and Italy's economy stagnated in the third quarter, the data showed. The Eurostat data showed that Austria recorded the sharpest contraction in the bloc, at 0.6 per cent. - **DW**

IN 2023

French economy grows in April-June quarter



PARIS: Not long ago, France was described as "the sick man of Europe" due to its lack of economic reform and high unemployment. But that title would now seem far-fetched. The French economy grew by 0.1 per cent in the third quarter of 2023, following a 0.6 per cent growth in the April-June quarter. On the other hand, Germany reported a drop in output in the third quarter, raising risks of a prolonged economic recession. Experts are praising France for its swift action over the past few years. "French companies have made several billion euros selling cruise ships and planes this year, which is reflected in our growth figures," says Philippe Crevel, economist and head of Paris-based think tank Cercle de l'Epargne. **Structural difference between France, Germany** Speaking to DW, Crevel noted that the "ad hoc effect" came on top of a structural advantage. "France

has a large service sector, which has achieved good results recently, especially in the area of tourism," he explained, adding that Spain's economy was currently growing for the same reason. The German economy, he explained further, has traditionally relied upon a strong industrial sector and exports and is now feeling "the impact of the stagnating international commerce and a trade row between China, the US and the EU, in which all sides set up trade barriers." Another burden is high energy prices, which have increased production and transport costs for the German industry, he added. Berlin used to rely heavily on Russian pipeline gas that it now no longer imports due to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which started in February 2022. In contrast, France has access to cheap nuclear energy, which represents roughly 70 per cent of its electricity production. Climate policy and its effects on the German auto industry also play

a role. "That sector hasn't adapted to the transition towards electric cars yet — most of their batteries, which are the lion part of electric cars' added value, are produced in China," he said. **France reacted faster to multiple crises** Anne-Sophie Alsif, chief economist at Paris-based auditing consultancy BDO, mentions another factor in France's favor. "The country's economic performance largely relies on household consumption," she told DW. "And although the crises of the past few years have impacted domestic demand, the latter hasn't plummeted." Apart from the Ukraine war, the world has also faced the global COVID-19 pandemic, which started in 2020. Christopher Dembik, an investment advisor at the Paris subsidiary of Swiss-based Pictet Asset Management, said France navigated through these crises comparatively well. - **DW**

BRIEFS

Tesla aims to make 200,000 electric pickup trucks a year



NEW YORK: Tesla is aiming to make 200,000 units of its electric pickup truck, Cybertruck, per year, Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk said. The company had earlier said that Tesla had the capacity to make more than 125,000 Cybertrucks annually, with Musk adding there was potential to lift it to 250,000 in 2025. The deliveries of the pickup truck will begin on November 30, nearly four years after it was unveiled by Musk at an event in Los Angeles, where his head of design cracked the vehicle's "armour glass" window with a metal ball while demonstrating a series of tests to the audience. - **BNA**

Asian trade NEW DELHI: Oil prices edged up in early Asian trade on Wednesday ahead of key global central bank meetings this week including the US Federal Reserve. Brent January crude futures rose 0.3 per cent, or 28 cents, to \$85.30 a barrel by 0330 GMT, after falling more than 1 per cent on Tuesday. Brent December futures settled 4 cents lower at \$87.41 a barrel at the contract's expiry on Tuesday. - **BNA**

2023 GLOBAL RISK REPORT

AI set to replace 85mn jobs worldwide

MUMBAI : The World Economic Forum's 2023 Global Risk Report predicts that AI is set to replace 85 million jobs worldwide. As the digital revolution rapidly reshapes the tech talent landscape with ever-evolving AI tools, companies are strategically adapting to meet future workforce demands. Generative AI has emerged as a driving force across diverse sectors, from manufacturing and finance to healthcare and automobiles, streamlining manual processes and sparking innovation. Generative AI's constant evolution is reshaping skill requirements, urging the adoption of new abilities. In 2026, this evolution

will create fresh opportunities in India, with a demand for over 1 million AI/ML/Big Data analytics professionals. To address this shift, upskilling is crucial. It equips employees to navigate generative AI's impact and overcome skill gaps. **New skills** Surprisingly, despite the pressing need for new skills, 78% of Indian workers lack these critical capabilities, despite 90% of Indian leaders recognising the need for new skills in preparation for AI-driven growth. By providing opportunities for employees to enhance their skills,

organisations can not only boost productivity but also drive innovation with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). In order to navigate the ever-changing job market, it is essential for employees to actively seek career guidance and regularly assess their skills. By understanding their current skill set and identifying any gaps, employees can take proactive measures to bridge those gaps and ensure they remain competitive and adaptable in their respective fields. **AI's capabilities** Creativity in training AI involves thinking outside the box and lever-

aging AI's capabilities to enhance our own, rather than viewing it as a threat. By fostering a collaborative environment, we can guide AI to work in harmony with us, thereby unlocking new possibilities and driving innovation. By fostering collaboration between industries, we can share best practices and strategies for integrating AI. This not only helps in preserving existing jobs but also paves the way for creating new ones. It encourages a collective growth mindset, where industries learn from each other's successes and mistakes, leading to more effective AI integration strategies that benefit everyone. - **ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Cement, up 2.79 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 6.12 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,502.24 points, down by 0.95 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.79 per cent at 434.48 points. Oman Cement, up 2.79 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 6.12 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 2025 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR6.33 million, with more than 35.13 million shares changing hands. Out of 34 traded securities, 2 advanced, 16 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR2001,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR1918,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR84,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,367.84 points, down 0.59%. Prices of United Finance were up by 1.85 per cent respectively. Prices of Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman, Bank Muscat, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank were down by 2.11 per cent, 1.65 per cent, 1.55 per cent, 1.47 per cent, 0.98 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,355.75 points, down 1.49 per cent. Prices of Oman Cement were up by 2.79 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products, Al Maha Ceramics were down by 9.04 per cent, 6.12 per cent, 5.66 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.71 per cent before closing at 1,579.63 points. Prices of Ooredoo, Muscat Desalination, National Gas, Oman Oil Marketing, Oman Telecom were down by 1.25 per cent, 1.22 per cent, 1.18 per cent, 1.11 per cent, 0.97 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,552.663	4,502.242	4,502.242	4,545.460	-43.218	-0.95
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,438.603	7,363.590	7,367.843	7,411.369	-43.526	-0.59
Industry Index	5,439.613	5,342.248	5,355.753	5,436.886	-81.133	-1.49
Services Index	1,590.895	1,579.625	1,579.625	1,590.895	-11.270	-0.71
MSX Shariah Index	437.942	434.481	434.481	437.942	-3.461	-0.79
MSX TR INDEX	5,994.128	5,927.743	5,927.743	5,984.645	-56.902	-0.95
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,116.882	8,035.029	8,039.670	8,087.165	-47.495	-0.59
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,810.860	5,706.850	5,721.276	5,807.947	-86.671	-1.49
SERVICES TR IDX	1,757.059	1,744.612	1,744.612	1,757.059	-12.447	-0.71

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
35,134,078	6,332,111	2,025	23,648,283,630	2	16	16	34

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

ISN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAN VALUE	SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	144,549	43,236	6	0.299	0.315	0.299	0.299	0.304	-0.005	-1.645	0.299	0.282	0.300	0.100	NBOB	486,157,960
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	241,115	96,450	5	0.400	0.410	0.400	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.408	0.410	0.408	0.100	OMVS	274,028,825
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	10,000	520	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.051	0.057	0.100	OEOI	6,337,500
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	3,030	894	2	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.287	0.008	2.787	0.295	0.295	0.315	0.100	OCOI	97,607,449
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,200	193	1	0.161	0.161	0.161	0.161	0.177	-0.016	-9.040	0.161	0.161	0.177	0.100	AACI	35,420,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	160	39	2	0.230	0.249	0.230	0.230	0.245	-0.015	-6.122	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.100	ATMI	28,726,531
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	107,410	5,908	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.001	1.852	0.055	0.055	0.056	0.100	UFIC	19,587,001
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	4,300	288	1	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.068	-0.001	-1.471	0.067	0.067	0.074	0.100	SIHC	6,030,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	8,152,597	2,049,824	104	0.256	0.256	0.250	0.254	0.258	-0.004	-1.550	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.100	BKMB	1,906,624,854
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	7,500	7640	5	1.010	1.020	1.010	1.020	1.030	-0.010	-0.971	1.020	1.006	1.100	0.100	OTEL	765,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,000,500	101,051	21	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.102	-0.001	-0.980	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	RKSB	552,256,739
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	206,559	66,096	15	0.320	0.320	0.316	0.316	0.320	-0.004	-1.250	0.316	0.313	0.320	0.100	ORDS	205,698,377
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	517	44	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.082	0.086	0.100	AMAT	14,875,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	311	62	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.212	-0.012	-5.660	0.200	0.200	0.232	0.100	AMCI	11,000,000
Total	14	9,879,748	2,372,245	167													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	5,000	420	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.083	0.085	0.100	NGCI	7,140,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	10,000	500	2	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.048	0.050	0.100	MFIC	15,357,316
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	972	1,993	3	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	2.050	0.000	0.000	2.050	1.900	2.250	0.100	OCAI	183,885,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	20,000	1,460	2	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.070	0.076	0.100	AAIC	15,038,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	9,200	2,042	3	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.000	0.000	0.222	0.220	0.226	0.100	GMPI	10,160,007
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	320	274	3	0.870	0.870	0.850	0.850	0.880	-0.030	-3.409	0.850	0.850	0.870	0.100	SOMS	80,750,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	750	668	2	0.890	0.890	0.890	0.890	0.900	-0.010	-1.111	0.890	0.000	0.900	0.100	OOMS	54,534,750
OM0000003141	BANKA WATER AND POWER	188,605	6,978	7	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.036	0.040	0.100	BWPC	5,920,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	3,200	499	1	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.000	0.000	0.156	0.148	0.155	0.100	GECS	31,665,886
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	2,291	265	8	0.117	0.117	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.117	0.100	VOES	9,361,316
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,781,596	167,411	64	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	BKNZ	208,036,632
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	8,860	1,162	2	0.124	0.132	0.124	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.132	0.136	0.100	SHRQ	12,909,685
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	3,151	70	2	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.022	0.021	0.022	0.100	SUWP	15,716,939
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	65,193	5,343	4	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.081	0.082	0.100	MCDE	12,599,582
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	598,860	177,267	19	0.300	0.300	0.296	0.296	0.297	-0.001	-0.337	0.296	0.296	0.296	0.100	ABRJ	227,979,200
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	22,028,282	3,286,422	1,725	0.150	0.150	0.149	0.149	0.150	-0.001	-0.667	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	OQGN	645,262,964
Total	16	24,726,280	3,652,774	1,849													

Improved supply-demand balance to boost margins for APAC steel producers

Chinese steel consumption has remained steady, with a flat year-on-year performance in 9M23. This stability is attributed to robust investments in the infrastructure

NEW DELHI: Asia-Pacific (APAC) steel producers are poised for positive developments as an improving supply-demand balance promises to widen industry margins, aided by declining costs for essential raw materials, According to a report by Fitch Ratings.

Chinese steel consumption has remained steady, with a flat year-on-year performance in 9M23. This stability is attributed to robust investments in the infrastructure and manufacturing sectors, compensating for a weaker property sector.

The production of crude steel has experienced a 1.7 per cent uptick, as manufacturers anticipate growing demand in the latter half of 2023.

As the year progresses, we anticipate production cuts in 4Q23 that will likely boost average selling prices and expand the industry margin. An additional factor driving changes within the industry

is the focus on carbon emission reduction. This endeavour necessitates substantial investments in research and development, and it is expected to lead to industry consolidation.

Simultaneously, the current low-margin environment is predicted to phase out smaller, high-cost producers. The consolidation process is likely to be spearheaded by state-owned entities, as smaller private producers may face challenges in terms of financial capability and support from financial institutions.

In India, major steel players are planning to increase domestic production capacity due to robust demand. This expansion is in response to the nation's economic growth and the rising per capita use of steel. Notably, favourable cost positions are expected to enable increased exports, mitigating any potential domestic growth weaknesses.

It is vital to recognise that the steel industry contributes sig-

nificantly to carbon emissions. In China, it accounts for more than 15 per cent of the nation's carbon emissions, while in India, it makes up 12 per cent.

Chinese industry leaders have announced plans to reduce emissions to align with the government's dual-carbon policy, aiming to peak emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Similarly, Indian counterparts have adopted decarbonisation strategies encompassing a mix of initiatives.

The pursuit of carbon neutrality will necessitate substantial spending on new technologies and facility upgrades. However, these investments may place a strain on the financial performance of steel manufacturers, particularly if operational cash flow is insufficient.

The industry will navigate these challenges as it balances sustainability goals with financial sustainability. —ANI

Free home delivery & timely service

oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Oasis Water Co. SAOG,
PO Box 87, Rustaq 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. 1/2004/2

be'ah wins Communication Award at ISWA World Congress for 'Be Mindful - Ramadan Campaign'



MUSCAT: Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (be'ah), a leading force in the nation's environmental management landscape, secured a momentous win at the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) 2023 World Congress, hosted for the first time in the Middle East at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Muscat.

be'ah was recognised with the highly prestigious ISWA 2023 Communication Award for its impactful campaign, "Be Mindful - Ramadan Campaign," showcasing its commitment to raising awareness about global food waste, environmental sustainability, and responsible waste management.

Under the 2023 Congress' theme "Global Action Towards a Net Zero Future", ISWA Awards recognizes excellent efforts and creative ideas that increase public awareness and promote sustainable waste management each year.



Each award is chosen by a panel made up of volunteers and leaders within the ISWA community and is honored at the closing ceremony of the ISWA World Congress.

"We are profoundly grateful to have been awarded the ISWA 2023 Communication Award for our 'Be Mindful - Ramadan Campaign'. This recognition underscores be'ah's steadfast dedication to advancing environmental aware-

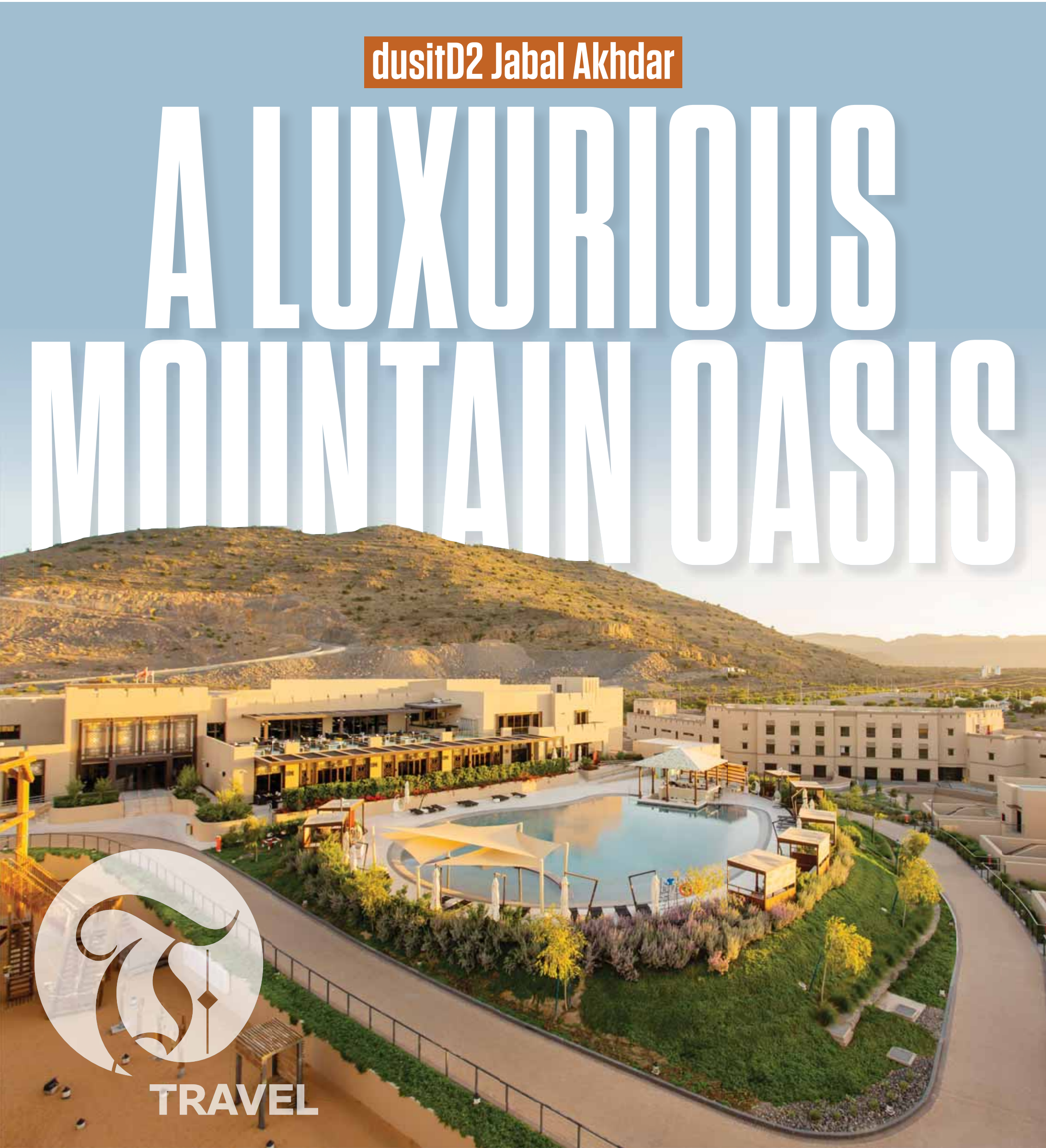
ness and responsible waste management. The campaign's success stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to forging a cleaner, more sustainable future built by mindful communities, in Oman and beyond," stated Essam Yahya Al-Sharji, be'ah's General Manager- Corporate Affairs.

Al-Sharji further remarked, "We extend our warmest congratulations to the fellow recipi-

ents of ISWA awards and express our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners, team members, and individuals whose invaluable contributions were instrumental in transforming this campaign from a vision to a reality. It is together that we are driving forward, hand in hand, towards a world that is more considerate and environmentally conscious."

The "Be Mindful - Ramadan Campaign" by be'ah was a transformative initiative designed to elevate mindfulness from a mere concept to a habitual way of life. Recognising that lasting change stems from small actions and a shared vision of a sustainable future, this campaign targeted two critical issues: food waste and plastic pollution.

Employing a multifaceted strategy, the campaign leveraged social media, offline media, and influencer collaborations to maximise its impact.



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nestled in the heart of Oman's Green Mountain, Jabal Akhdar, dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar is a luxurious oasis that offers guests the best of both worlds: modern amenities and traditional Omani hospitality.

Located just 250 km from Muscat, the rich and ripe pomegranate orchards piercing through Jabal Akhdar mark it as a true escape from the daily buzz. From the moment you arrive, you're greeted by stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

The hotel's lobby is modern, with soaring ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows. The rooms and suites are equally impressive, with their spacious layouts and private balconies that offer breathtaking views.

If you're looking for an adrenaline rush, dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar's Adventure Village is the place to go. With its zipline, rope courses, and other activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy. After a long day of exploring, you can relax by the pool or indulge in a massage at the hotel's spa.

dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar's restaurants offer a variety of cuisines, from traditional Omani to Mediterranean and international. The food is always fresh and delicious, and the service is impeccable.

Here are some of the things to do at dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar:

1 Visit the Adventure Village: The Adventure Village is a great place to get your adrenaline pumping. With its zipline, rope courses, and other activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

2 Hike the mountains: Jabal Akhdar is known for its beautiful scenery and many



hiking trails to choose from. You can hike to the top of Jabal Akhdar for stunning views of the surrounding area.

3 Visit the traditional villages: There are several traditional villages in the Jabal Akhdar area where you can learn about the local culture and way of life.

4 Visit the Nizwa Fort: The Nizwa Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Oman. The fort is located about an hour's drive from dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar.

5 Visit the Jabal Akhdar Pottery Museum: The Jabal Akhdar Pottery Museum is a great place to learn about the history of pottery in Oman. The museum has a collection of traditional Omani pottery and pottery from other countries.

6 Visit the Jabal Akhdar Rose Garden: The Jabal Akhdar Rose Garden is a beautiful garden full of roses. The garden is located about an hour's drive from dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar.



Why stay at dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar?

dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar is the perfect place to stay if you're looking for a luxurious and relaxing vacation. The hotel offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, and there are plenty of activities to keep you entertained. The hotel's restaurants offer a variety of cuisines, from traditional Omani to Mediterranean and international. And the service is impeccable.

If you're looking for a unique and unforgettable vacation experience, dusitD2 Jabal Akhdar is the perfect place to stay.

Maxwell ruled out of England match after golf buggy incident

The all-rounder fell off the back of a golf cart after a round on Monday and will be sidelined for at least six days

AHMEDABAD: Australia's all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of the ODI World Cup match on Saturday against England in Ahmedabad after suffering concussion in a golf-related incident on Monday evening, *ESPNcricinfo* reported on Wednesday.

Maxwell was holding onto the back of a golf cart on the way back from the clubhouse to the team bus in the early evening during one of scheduled days off when he lost his grip. It's understood it was a short journey of around 300m and there were not enough carts available for everyone to be seated. He is expected to be under concussion protocols for six to eight days.

"He's been honest with the information he's provided," head coach Andrew McDonald said.

"He's doing fine. He'll start some light exercises today and we feel as though it will be a reasonably straightforward return-to-play protocol. I suppose the fortunate part was there was no other injury sustained which could have been a lot worse than it currently is.

"I think it rattled everyone to be



fair once it came to the conclusion there was a concussion and he was going to miss a game. There was nothing untoward in the behaviour throughout the day: it was a clear-cut accident and unfortunately it compromised what we

are doing as a team."

Last year Maxwell suffered a badly broken leg when he slipped at a friend's birthday party and it ruled him out of action for nearly five months.

"The last 12 months, Glenn's been up and down in terms of his recovery and it was a horrific injury that took place, but he's been really good since he got here," McDonald said. The latest setback means Australia will need to replace one of their key middle-order players for the game against England with either Marcus Stoinis or Cameron Green likely to come in and Marnus Labuschagne now favoured to retain his place in the XI.

Earlier in the tournament, Max-

well hammered a record 40-ball century against Netherlands and has also been a vital second spinner alongside Adam Zampa, bowling 42.3 overs across six matches with an economy rate of just 4.82. Travis Head, who returned from injury against New Zealand, will now take on a supporting role with the ball.

"There'll be a small reshuffle, clearly, around the back end of our batting and no doubt that compromises a bit of our bowling and the way Glenn has performed with the ball," McDonald said.

"There's no doubt it leaves us a fraction exposed at the back end in terms of how Glenn's been performing but Marcus Stoinis does

become available, all things going well at training today."

The entire squad had been given two full days off after their victory against New Zealand in Dharamshala with players free to use that time how they wished. While some stayed in the Himalayas and arrived in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, a number of the players and support staff played in an internal golfing tournament.

Maxwell is the latest player to fall victim to a freak golfing injury. Last year, Jonny Bairstow missed the entire England winter following a broken leg, and Josh Inglis was ruled out of the 2022 T20 World Cup when he suffered a bad-ly cut hand when a club snapped.

However, McDonald stressed his belief that golf should not be banned as it was important to allow players to get away from cricket. "It was a fantastic couple of days," he said. "We feel as though that's important when we're on the road for extended periods of time... it's an unfortunate accident."

McDonald hinted that Labuschagne is likely to retain his spot in Australia's XI as a result of the injury, and could even play a role with the ball: "He will be able to do some spinning duties and he's been working on his off-spin along with his leg-spin... we feel as though we've got enough options to take the pace out of the game, should the surface require that."

Along with David Warner, Labuschagne is one of two players to have featured in all 14 of Australia's ODIs since the start of September - despite having been omitted from their initial World Cup squad in August owing to a lean run in the format. At the World Cup, he has scored 201 runs at 33.50, striking at 77.30, and has found himself batting at Nos. 4, 5 and 7.

"I know if I'm picked, I'm the right person for that role in the middle order," Labuschagne said on Wednesday. "I feel like the situations that I've come across, I've navigated well. Getting 40 of 60 against Sri Lanka, you take that in isolation without the situation of the game and you're like, 'oh, that's really slow.'

"But that was just what we needed to make sure we got ourselves into a good position, and then obviously we got the net run-rate [boost] as well... I feel like I'm batting well. In one-day cricket, especially in the middle order, you're not going to be able to score runs every time."

AT THE END OF ODI WORLD CUP

England's all-rounder Willey to retire from international cricket

NEW DELHI: England all-rounder David Willey on Wednesday announced that he will retire from international cricket at the end of the ODI World Cup.

The 33-year-old made his debut for England in 2015 and since then he has earned 70 ODI caps and 43 in T20Is.

He amassed 627 runs in the 50-over format and scalped 94 wickets at an average of 30.3 and an economy of 5.57. In T20I he struck 226 runs and picked up 51 wickets at an average of 23.1 and an economy of 8.18.

Willey is among the few England players who have enhanced their reputation over the last four weeks in India, taking five wickets at 27.20 and hitting 42 runs from the lower order in his three appearances since he came into the side for their heavy defeat to South Africa in Mumbai.

Even with a T20 World Cup on the horizon next June, he has decided to quit international cricket for good. "I never wanted this day to come," Willey wrote in a post on his Instagram page. "From a young boy, I've only ever dreamed of playing cricket for England. So, with careful thought and consideration, it is with great regret that I feel the time has come for me to retire from all forms of international cricket at



the end of the World Cup.

"I have worn the shirt with immense pride and given my absolute everything to the badge on my chest. I've been very lucky to be a part of such an incredible white ball team with some of the best players in the world. I've made some special memories and great friends along the way and been through some very difficult times.

"To my wife, two children, mum and dad, I wouldn't have been able to follow my dreams without your sacrifice and unwavering support throughout. Thank you for sharing the special memories and picking up the pieces when I've fallen apart - I'm eternally grateful."

Willey said that he will continue to give "my everything and more"

but in a no-result against Ireland in Malahide in May 2015, shortly after their group-stage elimination World Cup, and became a regular member of their white-ball squads as part of their rebuild under Eoin Morgan, Trevor Bayliss and Andrew Strauss. He has so far claimed 94 wickets in 70 ODIs, and a further 51 in 43 T20Is, the last of which came at Canberra in October 2022.

He was part of the side that finished second at the 2016 World T20, taking 3 for 20 in England's last-gasp defeat to West Indies in the final, and was named in their provisional squad for the 2019 World Cup, but was brutally dropped at the last minute to accommodate Jofra Archer's selection.

Willey assumed that marked the end of his international career, but was recalled for an ODI series against Ireland in 2020 and was their second-highest wicket-taker in the format between World Cups. He was also an unused squad member at last year's T20 World Cup.

He was left out at the start of the ongoing World Cup, but has impressed since coming into the side, most recently dismissing Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav while taking 3 for 45 in Sunday's defeat against India. - *Agencies*

ODI WORLD CUP

Injured Hardik set to miss group games against Sri Lanka and SA



MUMBAI: India all-rounder Hardik Pandya is set to miss two more matches at the World Cup, against Sri Lanka and South Africa, as he continues to recover from an ankle injury he suffered against Bangladesh. Pandya has not played a match since October 19, and *ESPNcricinfo* understands that India are unlikely to rush him back till at least the final game of the league stages, against Netherlands on November 12.

He had injured himself while bowling against Bangladesh in Pune, when he appeared to twist his ankle while trying to stop a shot with his right foot during his follow through. He played no further part in that match, and was taken for scans. The injury ruled Pandya out of India's next match, against New Zealand in Dharamshala, and though the all-rounder was expected to join the team directly in Lucknow in time for the October 29 game against England, he was forced to sit that game out as well due to a ligament injury.

Pandya has since been undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, and is expected to take his time with the recovery. To make up for his all-round skills, India played Suryakumar Yadav, and replaced Shardul Thakur with Mohammed Shami against New Zealand. Suryakumar was run-out for 2, but Shami, playing his first

He had injured himself while bowling against Bangladesh in Pune, when he appeared to twist his ankle while trying to stop a shot with his right foot during his follow through

match of this World Cup, picked up a five-for to help India restrict New Zealand to under 300.

India then had little trouble seeing off England as well, eventually cruising to a 100-run win. After the England match, India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey had said that the medical team was in constant touch with Pandya and the NCA, and that they were hoping to get an update on his fitness in the "next couple of days".

India are currently on top of the points table, and the only unbeaten side in the tournament, with six wins from as many matches. They next play Sri Lanka, in Mumbai on November 2, before heading to Kolkata for the game against South Africa. India will then round off the league stages by taking on Netherlands in Bengaluru. - *Agencies*

OMAN CRICKET

Abdul Aziz, Mohammed shine in Dollar Car Rental's win over OCT Al Amerat

MUSCAT: A half-century by Abdul Aziz Al Balushi and a four-wicket haul by Mohammed Al Balushi guided Dollar Car Rental to a 22-run victory over OCT Al Amerat in the Oman Cricket G Division T20 League match at Al Amerat recently.

Abdul Aziz's knock of 73 off 46 balls, which included six boundaries and three sixes, along with Mohammed Al Balushi's 41, helped Dollar Car Rental post 182 in 20 overs.

OCT Al Amerat were then restricted to 160/9 with Rafeek Al Balushi top-scoring with 43. Mohammed Al Balushi bagged



Mohammed Al Balushi and Abdul Aziz Al Balushi



Rooswin Anto and Mohasin Moosa of Weekenders

four for 25 while Hamza Mohammed and Aniket Gaikwad bagged two wickets each.

Elsewhere in an H Division T20 match, Weekenders drubbed Friends XI by seven wickets.

Brief scores: Dollar Car Rental 182/4 (Abdul Aziz Al Balushi 73; Khalid Al Balushi 1/26) beat OCT Al Amerat 160/9 in 20 overs (Rafeek Al Balushi 43; Mohammed Al Balushi 4/25).

H Division: Friends XI 119/9 (Satisha G 33; Pradeep Ravi 2/19, Venu Gopinath 2/28) lost to Weekenders 120/3 in 14 overs (Mohasin Moosa 42, Rooswin Anto 41; Amit Iqbal 1/22).

Maisarah launches enhanced credit card rewards programme

The rewards programme is a seamless and user-friendly experience, making it easy for cardholders to track their points, browse the rewards, and redeem their points through Maisarah’s mobile app or website

MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services, BankDhofar’s leading Islamic banking window, announced the launch of its enhanced credit card rewards programme with a convenient mobile app redemption portal as well as having a chance to get Bonus Points on new cards.

The rewards programme is a seamless and user-friendly experience, making it easy for cardholders to track their points, browse the rewards, and redeem their points through Maisarah’s mobile app or website.

Maisarah’s new credit cardhold-



ers will have a chance to be part of the credit card “Bonus Points” promotion campaign. During this campaign for spend of OMR 200, Tita-

nium cardholders can earn 3,000 bonus reward points (equivalent to the card’s annual fee) and for spend of OMR 100, Gold cardholders will

have the opportunity to earn 2,000 bonus points (equivalent to the card’s annual fee). This campaign is valid till November 30.

Along with the Rewards programme, credit cardholders are able to earn and collect points on every purchase, which can eas-

ily redeemed instantly across groceries, essentials, electronics, jewellery, dining categories and many more. Cardholders can even choose to redeem points for flight tickets at over 900 airlines, book a holiday, stay in more than 700,000 hotels or redeem at the bank’s partner outlets in Oman.

All that a cardholder needs to do to earn reward points is use the credit card for every day essentials, both locally and abroad as more points are accrued for purchases made using the card while travelling.

The reward points, posted to the cardholders account within 72 hours, are redeemable via Maisarah’s mobile app and here is the detailed process:

Step 1: Download the mobile app from the App store or Google play store.

Step 2: Log in to the account and navigate to Main Menu and choose Credit Card Rewards.

Step 3: Customers can explore options ranging from Airline tickets, shopping or transfer to friends and family and enjoy the rewards they choose.

This feature is designed to enhance the convenience and flexibility of our credit card rewards program. It empowers our customers to access, choose and redeem the rewards earned by spending using Maisarah’s credit cards.

Maisarah’s Islamic Banking Services national wide branch network is growing rapidly. The network also consists of more than 300 (ATMs – CDMs – FFM – MFKs) including Islamic and conventional devices.

PARTNERSHIP



Zakher Building Solutions announces agency agreement with Kirby Building Systems

MUSCAT: Zakher Building Solutions, a division of INMA, the Real Estate and hospitality arm of the Zubair Corporation, announced a strategic partnership with Kirby Building Systems. The two companies have entered into an agency agreement to enhance their offerings and provide superior construction solutions to customers in the region.

This partnership brings together Zakher Building Solutions’ unmatched reputation for quality and reliability and Kirby Building Systems’ extensive expertise in Pre-engineered steel buildings-PEB product portfolios globally, with applications in major market segments including heavy industry, infrastructure, high-rise buildings, warehouses, factories, oil and gas and leisure structures.

Under the terms of the agreement, Zakher Building Solutions will serve as the exclusive dealership for Kirby Building System products in the Oman market, ensuring customers have access to an even wider range of high-quality construction materials.

“We are thrilled to enter into this agency agreement with Kirby Building Systems,” said Yahya Darwish Al Balushi, Chief Operating Officer, INMA. “Kirby Building Systems has a long-standing legacy of delivering top-notch products, and this collaboration allows us to further expand our product portfolio, offering our customers an unparalleled selection of construction

materials. We believe that this partnership will strengthen our position in the market and enable us to better meet the evolving needs of our customers.”

Zakher Building Solutions is renowned for its commitment to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction. By joining forces with Kirby Building Systems, the company aims to reach a wider customer base and continue its legacy of excellence in the construction industry.

Speaking on the occasion James Minato, Vice President – Middle East & Africa of Kirby Building Systems said, “Our partnership with Zubair Group is a longstanding one that stretches for almost 40 years. Zakher Building Solutions is a company that shares our values of quality and customer focus. This collaboration represents a significant step for us in expanding our presence in the market. We are confident that together, we can provide exceptional products and services to our customers, setting new benchmarks in the construction industry.”

This agency agreement underscores the commitment of both companies to innovation, sustainability, and customer satisfaction. With a shared dedication to excellence and a mutual focus on pushing the boundaries of what’s possible in construction, Zakher Building Solutions and Kirby Building Systems are set to transform the construction landscape in the region.

MASERATI EXCLUSIVITY

Quattroporte turns 60: With six generations of cars, luxury saloon straddles motoring history



MODENA: On 30 October 1963, the Turin Motor Show – then one of the biggest motoring events in the world – opened the doors to its 45th edition. At the Maserati stand, the Quattroporte made its debut. Today marks the 60th anniversary of the luxury saloon destined to trace new pathways for six generations of motorists.

A celebration that recalls some of major milestones of the Modena brand, as Quattroporte is one of the greatest expressions of the House of the Trident. From stylistic leaps to innovations and technical developments, Quattroporte encapsulates a journey into one of the most exclusive parts of motoring. This luxury sports saloon has long served a specific cross-section of society behind the wheel and launched a new automotive segment.

As with so many other iconic cars that have been a sign of their times, ever since its debut in the early 1960s the Quattroporte has garnered acclaim and has inspired successive generations. This is a product that has been able to reinvent itself with no fear of pushing the envelope, one faithful to the pursuit of excellence in design and performance. With over a century of history and more than 75,000 Quattroporte models produced, Maserati has created a car able to

be constantly innovative whilst remaining unchanged over the years.

Brought about as a result of intuition and the audacity of the Italian marque, the first-generation Quattroporte was a pioneer, featuring a roaring 8-cylinder racing-derived engine which was enhanced by a dynamic yet elegant design and a refined interior.

Positioned over the years as a “living room on the move,” or a “limousine with a racing spirit,” the initial version could reach 230 km/h. A majestic car with extremely welcoming spaces and regal allure, Quattroporte has always been accustomed to the limelight and was destined to generate a fortunate lineage of cars that can still surprise to this day.

It is representative of the passion and talent of all those involved in the project over the years – Frua plotted the initial curvature, followed by other masters including Bertone, Giugiaro, Gandini, and Pininfarina, through to the Maserati Centro Stile, home to the latest and current generation of Quattroporte.

An entire family of technicians, mechanics, test drivers, and designers took it from the blueprints to the road. Quattroporte has long been and still remains the jewel in the crown of the Modena company’s intense story and in the professional

lives of so many people.

While the second-generation Quattroporte was a more daring and less memorable attempt, the Quattroporte III – in the hands of De Tomaso – marked a resounding success; followed by a new challenge that was fully overcome toward the end of the intense 1990s; then by a model that severed ties with the past while remaining faithful to its winning formula as did the multi-award-winning 2003 generation, and that – with the sixth-generation – has taken to the stage once again in its most modern version years later. After all the restyling, progress in engineering, changes in corporate structure, and the countless models produced, this saloon has retained its potent approach to exclusivity.

In the garages of the most discerning motorists, of kings and princes, in the background of memorable films (having been featured in more than 60 productions), photographed on red carpets or accompanying the highest-ranking officials at events, and beloved by the most significant VIPs in numerous industries, Quattroporte was a mainstay of the automotive landscape in the 20th century and remains so in the new millennium. Sixty years later and after travelling innumerable

miles, it continues its journey as an undisputed star of its times.

Davide Grasso, Maserati CEO: “Quattroporte is Maserati’s history. A car that tells our story and has prestigiously represented us in the world of saloon cars, for over half a century. Since 1963, it has chronicled the evolution of one of the most beloved and appreciated Maserati models, inaugurating a segment that had previously been uncharted territory. A car that has succeeded in reinventing itself every time without ever losing its identity, in adapting to the passage of time, to changes in society, to advancements in technology and industry, and to trends, it has become the choice of our most select clientele, as well as the world of entertainment and for the international establishment. It’s a source of pride for us and an acknowledgement of the distinctively Italian character that Maserati has always aimed to export around the world with its creations. Now as before, Quattroporte remains our flagship, synonymous with a unique luxury. It’s appreciated for its refinement, attention to detail, superior performance, quality, and enveloping spaciousness – all of this combined with its timeless stylistic touch – has made Quattroporte eternal.”

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat launches 11th edition of Tadhamun programme across Oman

The programme focuses on supporting social welfare and low-income families through distributing household appliances. This year, the bank is supporting about 206 families across Oman

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and community service, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, and the Ministry of Social Development, have launched the Tadhamun programme for the eleventh consecutive year. The programme focuses on supporting social welfare and low-income families through distributing household appliances. This year, the bank is supporting about 206 families across Oman. It is particularly noteworthy that the Tadhamun programme has so far benefited 3223 families since it was first launched in 2013. A joint team has started distributing household appliances to the beneficiaries, including air conditioners and refrigerators and other necessary home appliances. Over 880 appliances will be distributed to families across Oman.



This year's programme is being implemented in cooperation with specialists from the Ministry of Social Development, who received applications and finalised the list of families entitled for the benefits. Speaking on the occasion, Talib Saif Al Makhmari, Head, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, said: "In line with its pioneering role in Corporate Social Responsibility and community service, Bank Muscat is keen to continuously implement its CSR programmes and initiatives to better support the community and leave a long-term positive impact. The bank is working steadfastly to support different sectors including Youth and Sports, Education,

Environment, Social Development and SME. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to officials from the Ministry, volunteers from the bank and other partners for their support and cooperation in continuing this long-running programme successfully." Bank Muscat runs a number of

long-term social responsibility projects including Green Sports, Al Wathbah SME Academy, the Mal-iyat financial literacy programme and Irshad financial coaching, which are all aimed at supporting different segments of Omani society. Recently, the bank extended its support to 20 youth sports teams as part of its flagship Green Sports

programme. The bank has celebrated recently the graduation of 23 entrepreneurs of the Advanced Program. The entrepreneurs had extensive training courses for a period of 6 months where they learnt about management, finance, marketing and other fields, through workshops, lectures, panels and practical training.

OUTDOOR TRAINING COURSE

OQ8, Outward Bound Oman partner to invest in developing Omani youth



MUSCAT: As part of OQ8's social responsibility programme, a group of female college/university students and job seekers from all over Oman departed to the Jabal Akhdar this week on a 4 day outdoor training course with Outward Bound Oman to equip them with a number of essential basic skills and work ethics. The course is part of "Mahara" partnership, between OQ8 and Outward Bound Oman. "Mahara" aims to support Omani youth and develop their capabilities through a unique learning experience outdoors along with a series of lectures and activities which will enhance key skills required by employers in the job market with a focus on core business ethics. Young people from Al Duqum government schools will experience Outward Bound Oman's Skills for Life course, while college/university students and job seekers will experience Outward Bound Oman's

Next Generation course. Jasim bin Hassan al Ajmi, Head of Corporate Identity and Culture at OQ8 commented "We are proud to be joining forces with a prominent experiential learning organisation like OBO; a landmark partnership that reflects our shared commitment to unleashing the boundless potential of Oman's youth. Through a series of outdoor activities and experiences, the course presents a unique opportunity for participants to expand their professional network and develop their personal and professional skillset, equipping them with in-depth, cross-field knowledge that elevates them to the forefront of their respective industries and communities. At OQ8, we are steadfastly forging ahead on our journey of fostering the prosperity of Oman's communities through strategic social investments that enable

the evolution of a generation of future leaders, in line with Oman Vision 2040." Mohammed Al Zadjali, Acting Executive Director of Outward Bound Oman, stated, "We appreciate the continuous support of OQ8, which will enable many Omani youth to participate in our outdoor courses, providing them with valuable life, work, and educational skills. Since starting in 2009, Outward Bound Oman has become a pioneering organisation committed to develop the national talent in the Sultanate of Oman in line with Oman Vision 2040." Since being established in Oman in 2009, Outward Bound Oman is seen as a national asset and investment in the sustainable development of Oman in developing the nation's talent in line with Vision 2040, delivering training for more than 23,000 individuals, with three international standard training centres.

53RD NATIONAL DAY'S CELEBRATIONS

Ominvest Group organises football tournament for public sector

MUSCAT: To coincide with the 53rd National Day's celebrations, and as a part of its believe in the importance of sport in the community development, economic growth, and in maintaining health and fitness, Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest), will organise a football tournament for the public sector, during the period of November 5 -15, under the title of (Ominvest football tournament).

A number of ministries and government entities, will take part in Ominvest football tournament , which embodies the company's efforts in the sustainability and social responsibility, as well as it highlights the contribution of Ominvest Group to enhance the cooperation and interaction between the employees of government entities and private sector companies in transforming business to enrich societies. In a press statement, Waleed Al Yarubi Chief Risk, Strategy and Governance Officer, said: "The interest in sports and physical activities is considered an essential base for the development of societies and enhancing the performance of workers in various units of the state's administrative apparatus and the private sector companies as well." The Ominvest Football Championship reflects the group's vision for developing societies and improving their performance, while the tournament contributes to enhance communication between its participants from various government entities, as it comes in line



with the values of the Ominvest Group in strengthening the culture of joint work and cooperation between the public sector and private sector for the advancement of society. Waleed Al Yarubi added. A number of 10 teams will participate in the tournament, divided into two groups, which are: Muscat Group and Sohar Group. Muscat Group includes, the Environment Authority team, Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs team, Khoula Hospital, Muscat Municipality, and the team of Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones. Sohar Group includes Al Nahda Hospital team, Ministry of Energy and Minerals team, the Cardiac Medicine and Surgery Center, the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn", and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism team. The tournament will be held on base of group system, where the first and second of each group will

qualify for the final match, which will be held on November 15. Ominvest is one of the largest listed investment companies in the region. Founded in 1983, it has been consistently profitable and has an enviable track record of uninterrupted dividend payments to shareholders. Ominvest owns high-quality durable assets in diversified sectors, producing healthy cash flows. As of 2022 year end, the company's total assets stood at OMR 1.29 billion covering diverse sectors, including Banking, Insurance, Finance and Leasing, Financial Investments, Private Equity and Investment Banking. The company's assets cover diversified geographies including the GCC and Asia in addition to significant investments in global capital markets. The company is led by a progressive board and a capable management team - dedicated to enhancing value for all stakeholders.





pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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



800 71 222

9275 5522

CR. No. 1395452



Everyone can live
a healthier life with Beko
#LiveLikeAPro



جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT
96742452

SALALAH

97924410, 94048494

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers



www.genetco.net



@GenetcoOman



@GenetcoOman



Genetco Oman

FULFILL YOUR
EVERY DESIRE
UNLEASH YOUR ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT

GWM TANK
500



A new concept of luxury for SUVs

POER



XXL
Luxury Truck

GWM TANK
300



4X4 Redefined

HAVAL H6



Next Generation SUV

HAVAL DARGO



4X4 Off-Roader

HAVAL JOLION



Feature
Packed SUV

Starting from
OMR 5999



WARRANTY

Upto - 6 years / 200,000 km*



50%

Assured Buy Back
3 years / 75,000kms*



AAA

Road side assistance



SHOWROOMS

Wattayah | Seeb
Sohar | Salalah | Ibra



5

Full Service Centres



10

Quick Service Centres