



OMAN'S PAVILION OPENS AT 29TH CLIMATE SUMMIT IN AZERBAIJAN

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion was opened at the 29th Climate Summit in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, in the presence of international negotiators. Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Auli, Minister of Energy and Minerals, the event's chief guest, said that the Sultanate of Oman's stance is clear through its full commitment to all the agreed-upon items, whether in previous or in this meeting. **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 180 | 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



Motor Insurance National Day Offer from Bank Muscat



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.
Terms and conditions apply.

BAIT AL FALAJ GARRISON

Sayyid Shihab presides over defence academy board meeting



MUSCAT: The Board of Trustees of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies (ASDS) at Bait Al Falaj Garrison yesterday held its annual meeting under the chairmanship of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Dr. Fahd Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, Sayyid Bad Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Lt. Gen Hassan Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General for Police and Customs, Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Econ-

omy, Maj.Gen Sulaiman Khalid Al Zakwani, Secretary General of Military Affairs at the Royal Office, Maj. Gen Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies, Commodore Khalid Amer Al Salti, Director General of Studies and Academic Affairs at the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies (the meeting's rapporteur).

At the outset of the meeting, HH Sayyid Shihab welcomed the board members, wishing that the meeting comes up with fruitful results that serve the academy's objectives and mission.

During the meeting, the members reviewed a number of topics listed on the agenda. — **ONA**

AGAINST ALL ODDS

PALESTINE'S FOOTBALL WARRIORS SET SIGHTS ON FIFA WORLD CUP

The ongoing Gaza war weighs heavily on the minds of Palestinian footballers as they take on Oman at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium on Thursday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: It has been just over 24 hours since the official X account of the Palestine Football Association (PFA) tweeted the tragic news: Israeli occupation forces had killed two more club football players in Gaza, raising the toll of football martyrs to 344. Among the fallen so far are not only players but also relatives of national team members, with some coming from the same clubs or localities.

Yet, as the saying goes, "the show must go on." The Palestine national football team is in Oman, ready to face the hosts in a crucial AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 2026 on Thursday. The match kicks off at 8 p.m. at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

For the Palestinian players, the stakes of this match extend far beyond the field. Over the last 13 months, it has been fraught with unprecedented challenges. Israel's ongoing offensive, particular-



ly in Gaza, has not only disrupted their daily lives but also cast a long shadow over their football aspirations.

National team players are not just contending with opponents on the pitch, but with the emotional and psychological toll of the conflict, the destruction of their sports infrastructure, and the interruption of their training routines.

In an exclusive conversation with *Times of Oman*, senior PFA spokesperson Dima Said highlighted the gravity of the situation.

"The dreams of every Palestinian are to see our football stars succeed at the highest level," she said.

"We harbour hopes of watching our team play in the World Cup, despite the hardships we face under illegal occupation and the ongoing crimes committed by the Israeli forces."

Dima further elaborated on the dire conditions: "The ongoing attacks have severely

GAZA DEATH TOLL as of Nov. 13, 2024

Deaths
43,712
Injured
103,258



damaged sports infrastructure across the West Bank and Gaza, with some stadiums even targeted during training sessions, putting players and staff at risk. Our local league has been suspended, depriving players of a vital avenue for development and match readiness.

"Movement restrictions, including frequent checkpoints, compli-



The ongoing attacks have severely damaged sports infrastructure across the West Bank and Gaza

Dima Said
PFA spokesperson

cate efforts to hold regular team training. And perhaps most heart-wrenching, being unable to play home matches in Palestine deprives the team of the vital support and morale that comes from playing in front of their own people.

"These disruptions go far beyond logistical challenges; they deeply affect the spirit of the team." **>A7**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Sultan Qaboos Award winners announced

1 The Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science unveiled the names of winners of the 11th edition of the Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature. **>A3**

OMAN

OQEP distributes over OMR57mn dividends

2 The Board of Directors of OQ Exploration and Production has decided to distribute cash dividends totalling to OMR57.675 million for the third quarter of 2024, at a rate of 7.21 baisa per share. **>A3**

OMAN

Al Nu'amani receives Italian military official

3 Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received Lt. Gen Carmine Masiello, Chief of Staff of the Italian Army and his accompanying military delegation yesterday. **>A6**



MOHSIN HAIDER DARWISH LLC JETOUR NAMED TIMES COMPANY OF THE YEAR – AUTOMOTIVE

Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC Jetour was honoured with the prestigious Times Company of the Year – Automotive award at the recently concluded Times Business Leadership Summit, held at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat recently. Launched in 2023, the auto brand has rapidly established itself as a leader in the SUV market by blending luxury, adventure, and affordability. Jetour vehicles are renowned for offering a seamless, premium driving experience, featuring cutting-edge technology, top-tier safety, and unparalleled comfort. Their designs effortlessly align with the demands of modern lifestyles. The award was presented by His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, to a senior representative of the company.



AISHA AL KHARUSI WINS BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR – EDUCATION AWARD

Aisha Al Kharusi received the prestigious Times Business Leader of the Year – Education award at the Times Business Leadership Summit, held at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat recently. As the Deputy Executive Chairperson of Modern College of Business and Science - Oman's first full-fledged private institution dedicated to excellence in business and related fields - Aisha has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a steadfast commitment to talent development. Her dynamic approach to education and leadership has made her a key figure in the industry. Aisha received the award from His Excellency Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, during a special ceremony at the summit.



Terms And Condition Applies



Enjoy priority for transactions

With Al Rifaa Privilege Account

Visit your nearest branch today





barkdhofar

FOR CULTURE, ARTS



Sultan Qaboos award winners announced

MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science yesterday unveiled the names of winners of the 11th edition of the Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature.

This year's prize was made exclusive to Omanis only.

The winners were announced at a press conference held here today by Habib Mohammed Al Riyami, Head of the Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science.

A podcast named "Witness Beyond the Ordinary" hosted by Ahmed Salim Al Kalbani won the

award in the field of radio programmes in the "Arts" category.

In the field of classic Arabic poetry in the "Literature" category, a poetry collection named "Maqamat Zulaykha" by poet Shamsa Abdullah Al Nu'mani won the award.

Meanwhile, the award was withheld in the field of studies in the Omani environment from the "Culture" branch.

The Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Arts and Literature was established as per Royal Decree No. 18/2011.

— ONA

COP29 BAKU

Oman's pavilion opens at 29th Climate Summit in Azerbaijan

BAKU: The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion was opened at the 29th Climate Summit in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, in the presence of international negotiators.

Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, the event's chief guest, said that the Sultanate of Oman's stance is clear through its full commitment to all the agreed-upon items, whether in previous meetings or in this meeting.

He pointed out that the Sultanate of Oman has clarified the practical steps it has taken in the energy transition and capturing carbon emissions.

The minister stated that an important point was raised, that the dialogue cannot be a challenge between oil and gas producers and supporters of the energy transition, as the world needs all types of available energy, with the commitment to utilise clean energy.

He added that the funding file is still pending, and there are always challenges, the biggest of which are funding sources, despite all the commitments announced by many countries.



The Minister of Energy and Minerals said that the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at the 29th Climate Summit reviews the energy transition and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

It also highlights the roles and missions of the Environment Authority and all the environmental indicators achieved in conserving the environment.

The pavilion also showcases climate-related action, and projects in the energy sector, from emission reduction to energy transformation, especially the main sectors represented by industry, electricity generation, oil and gas, and transportation.

Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, described the Sultanate of Oman's participation in the Climate Summit as successful and

effective by highlighting national efforts in the field of environmental conservation, and reviewing the efforts made in carbon emission reduction projects, renewable energy and solar energy projects, as well as green hydrogen projects in the Sultanate of Oman.

He added that the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at the 29th Climate Summit hosted a discussion panel in which the Ministers of Environment and Climate Change from Arab and foreign countries from different continents, and experts from the United Nations and specialized organisations participated.

He stressed that there is broad participation from the Sultanate of Oman, with more than 200 participants from various state institutions, in confirmation of the unified national action to achieve national climate targets, foremost of which is the National Strategy for Zero Neutrality.

The pavilion highlights the Sultanate of Oman's renewable and clean energy projects, and introduces the public to policies and trends to achieve net zero carbon emissions. — ONA

OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

OQEP distributes over OMR57mn dividends for 2024 third quarter

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of OQ Exploration and Production (OQEP) has decided to distribute cash dividends totalling to OMR57.675 million for the third quarter of the current year, 2024, at a rate of 7.21 baisa per share.

This decision was made following the Board's approval of the financial statements at its meeting yesterday.

The Board in their meeting reviewed and approved the unaudited financial statements of the Company for the period ended on 30 September 2024. The Board



proposed payment of cash dividends of 7.21 baisas per share, totalling OMR57.675 million.

The Annual General Meeting

of the Company is scheduled to be held on the first week of December 2024.

— ONA

FIRST HALF OF 2024

Credit Oman's insured local sales surpass OMR77mn

MUSCAT: Credit Oman recorded a 19.6 percent growth in the volume of insured local sales during the first half of 2024 to reach OMR77.19 million compared to OMR64.51 million during the corresponding period in 2023.

Sheikh Khalil Ahmed Al Harthy, CEO of Credit Oman said that most insured sectors witnessed a positive growth. Among those, the sector of foodstuff and consumer

goods topped the list with RO 48,656,000 (up by 17.6%).

The sector of constructions came second with a value of RO 10,365,000, comprising a rise by 6.32%.

Al Harthy pointed out that these positive outcomes underscore the success of Credit Oman's strategy that aims to support various economic sectors in Oman.







Celebrate Oman National Day at Grand Millennium Muscat this November with our exclusive staycation packages.

One night stay

Starting from OMR 54 net per night for two adults with breakfast.

- Save 54% on Taybat and Bahriyat Restaurants
- Save 54% on selected treatments at Zanta Spa

Stay period: 15-30th November 2024
Booking period: until 18th November 2024

For bookings or inquiry, call +968 22302330 or email : reservations.gmm@millenniumhotels.com

Rates quoted in Omani rial | include all applicable taxes | Offer based on Classic room only | subject to availability | Terms and Conditions apply.







Al Hashar Electronics LLC

GET A COUPON FOR EVERY 25 OMR SPENT AT OUR SHOWROOMS

RAFFLE PRIZES - 75" SHARP 4K , GOOGLE SMART TV, ARISTON WASHING MACHINE & MANY MORE

18 LUCKY WINNERS

Draw will be held on 8th February 2025 at Ruwi H.O.



SCAN QR CODE FOR LOCATION

For more details, visit or call: Ruwi HO: 94584337 Sohar: 92228272 +968-94202775

ARISTON SHARP TESLA Rinnai VOLTAS LENNOX DAYTEK

Al Hashar Electronics, bringing the world's best to you.



Brighter Cleaner Fresher



@casabelladistribution



@casabelladistribution



@casabelladistribution



HONGQI

Starting from

HS3 | OMR 12,350

7 YEARS SERVICE | WARRANTY |
ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

T&Cs apply



- Longest, widest, tallest in its class
- High-strength body protection
- Dominant power up to 248 BHP
- Advanced intelligent features
- Modern sport-style seats
- Safety suite with 6 airbags

80080777 Azaiba





WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW.

Plastic takes 1,000 years or more to break down





SCRAP FOR SALE

Muscat Gases Company SAOG announces the sale of scrap in its branch located in Rusayl Industrial Area @ Street No. 16 as follows

- Iron expired cooking gas cylinders are (unusable) set.
- Brass valves for cooking gas cylinders (damaged and unusable) set.
- other scrap.

Those wishing to buy must visit the company's branch and submit bids according to the company's document in a sealed envelope with red wax. The value of the document is 50 OMR.

- Fees to be deposit to company account **OAB : 3117-802000-300**
- Customers can submit their bids to buy all the supplies or individually.
- Bids are deposited in a closed box located at the head office.
- The deadline for receiving bids is on **Nov 21, 2024 at 4 pm.**
- The bids will be sorted on **November 26, 2023.**

For serious buyers, please call 22526900/ 71590684 during official working days from 8 am in until 4 pm.



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information – announces a public auction to sell detained vehicles at 3:30 pm on Monday & Tuesday 25 & 26 November 2024 at Al Dakhiliyah Governorate Police Command.

Vehicles may be inspected during official working hours during the period from **17 to 19 November 2024.** The successful bidder must abide by the following terms and conditions:

- The buyer must pay the vehicles' value and the auctioneer fees at 3% by e-payment immediately after the auction.
- The buyer must move the vehicle within a period of 3 days from the selling date; otherwise, they shall pay a fine of RO 5/- per each day of delay.



مَسْقَطْ غَازْ

MUSCAT GAS

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

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th September 2024. At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th September 2024 is 13.537 million OMR compared with 14.430 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 6%. The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th September 2024 is 12.900 million OMR compared with 14.009 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 8%. At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2024 is OMR 372,725 compared with net loss of 147,759 OMR for the same period of the last year. The parent Company's net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2024 is 262,884 OMR compared with net loss of 76,603 OMR for the same period of the last year. The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,
Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER, 2024

	30 September 2024		30 September 2023	
	Parent RO	Group	Parent RO	Group
Revenue	12,900,043	13,537,341	14,009,098	14,430,553
Cost of sales	(12,469,890)	(13,013,541)	(13,437,137)	(13,840,045)
Gross Profit	430,153	523,800	571,961	590,508
General and administration expenses	(754,685)	(956,340)	(713,880)	(803,132)
Investment and Other Income	61,649	61,872	65,316	65,316
Profit for the period before tax	(262,884)	(370,669)	(76,603)	(147,308)
Provision for Income tax	-	(2,056)	-	(451)
Net Profit for the period after tax	(262,884)	(372,725)	(76,603)	(147,759)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(262,884)	(372,725)	(76,603)	(147,759)
Earnings per share	(0.009)	(0.012)	(0.003)	(0.005)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER, 2024

	30 September 2024		30 September 2023	
	Parent RO	Group	Parent RO	Group
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	2,754,207	3,081,278	3,280,780	3,497,024
Right of use assets	207,494	207,494	212,958	212,958
Deferred Tax Asset	-	-	-	-
Investment	2,004,118	-	2,004,073	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	-	-	187,434	187,434
Total Non-current Assets	4,965,819	4,285,572	5,685,245	4,894,216
Current Assets:				
Inventories	2,692,686	2,822,276	1,473,089	1,599,779
Trade and other receivables	3,566,578	3,587,508	3,889,906	3,980,679
Cash and cash equivalents	1,336,246	1,479,260	1,417,718	1,501,642
Total Current Assets	7,595,509	7,889,043	6,780,713	7,082,100
TOTAL ASSETS	12,561,328	12,174,615	12,465,958	11,976,316
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,013,094	1,000,000	1,012,670
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666
Retained earnings	(504,126)	(647,778)	(248,712)	(256,314)
Total Equity	5,760,607	5,630,049	6,016,021	6,021,089
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	138,909	150,917	121,044	128,154
Non current portion of Term Loan	-	-	192,389	192,389
Non current portion of lease liabilities	255,747	255,747	231,848	231,848
Deferred tax	133,189	139,690	147,149	144,695
Total Non-current Liabilities	527,845	546,354	692,430	697,086
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	5,958,296	5,681,709	5,247,557	4,747,741
Bank overdraft	255,356	255,356	447,949	447,949
Current portion of Term Loan	32,092	32,092	33,450	33,450
Current portion of lease liabilities	6,914	6,914	8,333	8,333
Income Tax	20,218	22,141	20,218	20,668
Total Current Liabilities	6,272,876	5,998,212	5,757,507	5,258,141
Total Liabilities	6,800,721	6,544,566	6,449,937	5,955,227
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	12,561,328	12,174,615	12,465,958	11,976,316
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.192	0.188	0.201	0.201

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

WORLD



Don't litter a beautiful country like OMAN.

Ensure proper disposal of garbage.



MEETING

Minister of Royal Office receives Italian military official, delegation





MUSCAT GOVERNORATE
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 35/2024

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

Tender Number	Tender Description	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE-24-153 (Re-Call-3)	Maintenance of Pumps Room at Al Qurum Natural Park - (Re-Tender 3)	07/12/2024	23/12/2024
PRE-24-129 (Re-Call)	Design and Build of Al-MABELAH BAZAR (Re-Tender)	07/12/2024	23/12/2024
PRE-24-314	Paving of parking for Orchestra building in Al Seeb	07/12/2024	23/12/2024
PRE-24-316	Application to survey study on the satisfaction of visitors to the Muscat Nights Festival 2024-2025 regarding the events and services at its various locations	24/11/2024	28/11/2024
PRE-24-315	Design and construction of mobile toilets in the Bama area in the Wilayat of Quriyat	04/12/2024	15/12/2024
PRE-24-009	fencing the Vehicles Yard at Wilayat of Quriyat	07/12/2024	23/12/2024

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2. Clarification and Support:

• For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

• For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office yesterday Lt. Gen Carmine Masiello, Chief of Staff of the Italian Army and his accompanying military delegation.

The two sides reviewed the joint cooperation between the two countries. They also exchanged views on several regional and international issues.

The meeting was attended by Maj. Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). It was also attended by the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman. – **ONA**

MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE

Italian Army Chief of Staff visits MSC



MUSCAT: Lt. Gen Carmine Masiello, Chief of Staff of the Italian Army and his accompanying military delegation yesterday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

The delegation was greeted upon their arrival at the MSC by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Buisaidi, Head of the MSC.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the Omani maritime environment. They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties.

– **ONA**

RAO COMMANDER RECEIVES ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICIAL



Maj. Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison today Lt. Gen Carmine Masiello, Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed a set of military topics of mutual concern. They also reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by several RAO officers and the military attaché of the Italian embassy in Muscat. – **ONA**



شركة ريسوت للأسمنت
Raysut Cement Company

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Estimated Shareholders

The Board of Directors of Raysut Cement Company SAOG is pleased to present to you the unaudited Group's financial results for the 3rd Quarters period ended 30th September 2024.

Financial Performance Summary:

3rd Quarter	Parent			Consolidation		
Amount in OMR '000	Sep 2024	Sep 2023	Var %	Sep 2024	Sep 2023	Var%
Revenue	9,468	8,507	11%	17,250	15,799	9%
Gross profit	2,092	2,164	-3%	2,853	2,733	4%
Operating Profit	485	274	77%	436	223	96%
Net loss and comprehensive income	(633)	(993)	36%	(936)	(1,609)	42%

• For the third quarter of 2024, the Parent Company experienced an 11% year-over-year increase in sales revenue, while the Group saw a 9% growth in total sales revenue compared to the same period in 2023.

• Gross profit for the Parent Company showed a modest decline of 3%, whereas the Group's gross profit improved by 4% during the same period.

• Operating profit demonstrated substantial improvement, rising by 77% for the Parent Company and 96% for the Group, reflecting strong operational performance in the third quarter compared to Q3 2023.

• The Parent Company reduced its net loss by 36%, while the Group achieved a 42% reduction in net loss during Q3 2024 compared to Q3 2023.

• Additionally, significant improvements in operating profit and reduced net losses indicate effective cost management and streamlined operations. These achievements reflect the Group's efforts to enhance revenue generation and financial health, positioning it for continued progress in the coming periods.

Nine months	Parent			Consolidation		
Amount in OMR '000	Sep 2024	Sep 2023	Var %	Sep 2024	Sep 2023	Var%
Revenue	26,629	28,744	-7%	48,822	49,300	-1%
Gross profit	4,914	7,683	-36%	5,523	9,066	-39%
Operating Profit	(131)	1,963	-106%	(1,542)	1,495	-203%
Net loss and comprehensive income	(3,113)	(1,564)	-99%	(5,620)	(3,353)	-68%

• For the nine months ended September 2024, revenue for the Parent Company declined by 7%, while the Group experienced a decrease of 1%.

• Gross profit decreased by 36% in the Parent Company and 39% in the Group, primarily due to lower sales realizations in export markets and reduced sales volumes in previous quarters of the current year.

Business Performance:

Sales and Dispatches:

Oman and the UAE constitute the local markets for Raysut Cement Parent and Group Consolidated. During the quarter, the market showed promising growth compared to the same period last year. However, the market is facing challenges due to the overcapacity in neighboring countries, leading to excess supply in the Oman market and pressure on cement prices.

Maldives, Yemen and Eastern-Africa constitutes Export markets of Raysut Cement Group. Current economic slowing down affected cement markets globally due to regional political instability, foreign exchange challenges, logistics and over capacity of other Asian Cement players are giving a tough competition resulting in lower realization of export sales.Overall, the Group's performance is bolstered by significant export and local sales growth, positioning it for further success, while the Parent Company may need to address domestic market challenges to reverse the slight decline in overall sales.

Key Highlights:

- The company has succeeded in achieving the following:
- Plant maintenance and cost optimization Generate cash profits from operations.
- Maintain banking facilities on a regular basis.
- Strengthen relationships with business partners to ensure uninterrupted continuity of operations.
- Maintaining continuity and developing the operations of production facilities. Company is focused on strategic realignment towards sustainable growth which translates in profitability.

Social Responsibility:

The Company places significant emphasis on its social responsibility and environmental protection. It adheres to the principle of maintaining a pollution-free environment in line with international standards and is committed to continuous improvement in this area.

Internal Control:

The company has an in-house internal audit function reporting directly to the Audit Committee and the internal control system is being regularly assessed by the Internal Audit Team as well as by the management.

Outlook

Looking ahead, the company is poised for a period of strategic transformation and growth. With the comprehensive plan currently being implemented, we are confident that the foundation for sustainable success is being laid. Our focus on strengthening organizational structure, improving operational efficiency, and reinforcing corporate governance will drive long-term value creation. We expect to see enhanced financial stability and profitability.

While challenges remain, particularly in overcoming legacy challenges, the company's core competitive advantages and commitment to continuous improvement provide a strong basis for future success. We are optimistic that with the ongoing strategic initiatives, the company will regain its momentum and deliver consistent growth, ensuring value for shareholders and stakeholders alike in the coming years.

Acknowledgments:

In conclusion, and on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and his wise government for their continuous support and guidance. We also express our appreciation to our partners, customers, management team and all our employees for their loyalty, contributions, commitment, and continued support for the overall success of the company.

Shabib Bin Mohamed Al Darmaki
Chairman of the Board of Directors

CONDENSED INTERIM SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Parent		Consolidated	
	30-Sep-2024 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2023 (audited) RO	30-Sep-2024 (unaudited) RO	31-Dec-2023 (audited) RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Goodwill	-	-	3,335,872	3,335,872
Property, plant and equipment	56,839,097	59,494,078	97,365,094	103,263,314
Right-of-use assets	2,155,911	2,324,213	5,736,575	6,067,534
Investment in associates	113,343	-	264,874	-
Investment in subsidiaries	30,025,940	-	30,025,940	-
Differed tax asset	-	225,638	-	242,722
Total non-current assets	89,134,291	91,844,231	106,927,853	112,909,442
Current assets				
Inventories	16,431,617	13,555,010	22,780,180	20,716,057
Trade receivables	1,872,332	2,436,285	4,727,935	6,285,166
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3,111,462	3,185,737	3,111,462	3,185,737
Prepayments, advances and other receivables	2,192,751	1,862,133	1,721,561	1,987,832
Cash and bank balances	855,430	411,727	1,353,338	1,687,943
Total current assets	24,463,592	21,450,892	33,694,476	33,862,735
Total assets	113,597,883	113,295,123	140,622,329	146,772,177
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Share premium	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873
Legal reserve	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667
Asset replacement reserve	3,647,566	3,647,566	3,647,566	3,647,566
Voluntary reserve	6,352,434	6,352,434	6,352,434	6,352,434
Accumulated losses	(49,822,837)	(46,710,309)	(44,558,616)	(39,024,175)
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent	300,703	3,413,231	5,564,924	11,099,365
Non-controlling interest	-	-	354,737	439,961
Total equity	300,703	3,413,231	5,919,661	11,539,326
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	27,329,625	29,289,525	37,438,478	40,310,251
Lease liabilities	2,018,462	2,429,927	5,968,067	6,433,947
Other liabilities	12,996,768	12,996,768	12,996,768	12,996,768
Deferred tax liability	1,513,000	1,513,000	1,513,000	1,513,000
End of service benefits	681,048	710,303	1,202,967	1,293,756
Total non-current liabilities	44,538,903	46,939,523	59,119,280	62,544,722
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	4,283,307	4,071,543	6,005,425	5,965,016
Lease liabilities	328,672	162,727	571,762	403,556
Trade and other payables	45,632,061	40,241,187	48,735,513	45,245,230
Other liabilities	12,322,158	12,322,158	12,322,158	12,322,158
Short term borrowings	6,192,079	6,144,754	7,874,453	8,596,110
Income tax payable	-	-	74,077	153,059
Total current liabilities	68,758,277	62,942,369	75,583,388	72,685,129
Total liabilities	113,297,180	109,881,892	134,702,668	135,232,851
Total equity and liabilities	113,597,883	113,295,123	140,622,329	146,772,177
Net assets per share	0.002	0.017	0.028	0.055

CONDENSED INTERIM SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE NINE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Parent				Consolidated			
	Nine months period ended		Quarter ended		Nine months period ended		Quarter ended	
	30-Sep-2024 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2023 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2024 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2023 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2024 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2023 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2024 (Unaudited) RO	30-Sep-2023 (Unaudited) RO
Revenue	26,628,812	28,744,066	9,467,842	8,506,951	48,821,533	49,300,183	17,249,834	15,798,870
Cost of sales	(21,714,526)	(21,061,248)	(7,375,415)	(6,342,978)	(43,288,114)	(40,233,997)	(14,397,280)	(13,065,726)
Gross profit	4,914,286	7,682,818	2,092,427	2,163,973	5,533,419	9,066,186	2,852,554	2,733,144
General and administrative expenses	(2,583,080)	(3,120,897)	(806,385)	(1,056,253)	(4,153,164)	(4,541,978)	(1,471,084)	(1,665,193)
Selling and distribution expenses	(2,582,428)	(2,803,568)	(913,757)	(835,037)	(3,050,429)	(3,394,279)	(1,060,872)	(1,022,811)
Other income	120,060	204,939	112,796	1,768	138,167	365,223	115,640	177,414
Operating (loss)/profit	(131,162)	1,963,292	485,081	274,451	(1,542,007)	1,495,152	436,238	222,554
Finance cost - net	(3,109,397)	(3,417,655)	(1,043,432)	(1,205,845)	(4,357,020)	(4,693,742)	(1,462,427)	(1,755,512)
Investment income	202,306	96,014	58,985	-	143,321	96,014	-	-
Share of profit from associate	-	-	-	-	210,316	-	210,316	-
Fair value loss on financial assets at FVTPL	(74,275)	(102,013)	(133,622)	(61,608)	(74,275)	(102,013)	(133,622)	(61,608)
Loss before tax	(3,112,528)	(1,460,362)	(632,988)	(993,002)	(5,619,665)	(3,204,589)	(949,495)	(1,594,566)
Income tax expense	-	(103,932)	-	-	-	(147,976)	13,605	(14,790)
Loss for the period	(3,112,528)	(1,564,294)	(632,988)	(993,002)	(5,619,665)	(3,352,565)	(935,890)	(1,609,356)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the period	(3,112,528)	(1,564,294)	(632,988)	(993,002)	(5,619,665)	(3,352,565)	(935,890)	(1,609,356)
Attributable to:								
Owners of the Parent	(3,112,528)	(1,564,294)	(632,988)	(993,002)	(5,534,441)	(3,374,368)	(918,399)	(1,609,382)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	-	(85,224)	21,803	(17,491)	26
Basic and diluted loss per share	(0.016)	(0.008)	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.028)	(0.017)	(0.005)	(0.008)

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request. Requests to be sent to the following address : Raysut Cement Co.(SAOG), P.O.Box 1020 Salaiah –211, Sultanate of Oman.

OMAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

Copy of credentials of Saudi envoy received

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister on Wednesday received in his office a copy of credentials of Ibrahim Saad Ibrahim Bishan, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr wished the ambassador success in carrying out his duties. He also wished the bilateral relations further development and growth.

Meeting

The meeting was attended by Ahmed Hashel Al Maskari, Head of the GCC Department and Najeeb Yahya Al Balushi, Head of the Protocols Department and several officials from the Foreign Ministry. — **ONA**





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

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

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

Oman chalks out 4 strategies to enhance its tourism sector

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is working on diverse programmes of interest to the SMEs



MUSCAT: Oman has chalked out a four-pronged strategy to improve its tourism sector.

A senior official at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism announced the plans on Wednesday.

The initiatives include supporting the policies and legislation in the tourism sector, the regulatory procedures, standards required for quality and safety, operation, and licenses.

This came after the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) organised the fourth dialogue session entitled “Enhancing Small and Medium Enterprises Investment in the Tourism Sector.”

It also discussed employment contracts and usufruct lands in the sector, in addition to the enabling factors supporting the sector, such as financing and investment programmes, training, incentives and facilities, partnership programmes, incubators and business accelerators.

Azzan bin Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, said that this dialogue session will pave the way for male and female entrepreneurs to learn more about the Ministry’s programmes. He noted that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is working on diverse programmes of interest to SMEs.

He said in a statement to journalists that the Ministry has contracted with one of the expertise houses to implement an integrated management plan for Al Sharqiyah Sands. He explained that the move aims at preserving this unique site as an area targeting a specific segment of tourists.

He added that investment opportunities for complementary projects to the existing projects in Al Sharqiyah Sands will also be updated to raise the competitiveness rate and its ability to attract a larger segment aiming to create a broader economic impact.

Regarding the heritage sector, the Tourism Undersecretary explained that the Ministry has offered a large group of investment opportunities in this sector. The sector provides an opportunity for Omani companies, mostly SMEs, to manage and operate some heritage and historical facilities. Other opportunities will be offered in the upcoming period, Al Busaidi added.

The session comes as a continuation of a series of meetings and dialogues implemented by the Authority. These sessions aim to improve the business environment and its attractiveness to the SMEs, and to contribute to developing supportive policies and encouraging entrepreneurs to present innovative ideas.

The session came out with many recommendations and proposals, the most prominent of which were facilitating tourism legislation by developing flexible laws for obtaining licenses, raising tourism awareness on the importance of tourism and organizing internal and external campaigns, supporting SMEs by obtaining tourism project contracts, reducing taxes and providing incentives. — **ONA**

PALESTINE FOOTBALL TEAM SPOKESPERSON

‘Players are profoundly affected’

< FROM A1 Dima acknowledged, “The players are profoundly affected on multiple levels. Without structured, competitive play, they struggle to maintain the development and motivation needed to succeed at this level. The trauma of the ongoing aggression weighs heavily on them, as many worry constantly about the safety of their families and communities.”

Despite these adversities, the players have displayed remarkable resilience.

Dima continued, “Their commitment is unparalleled, and they find strength in one another and in their mission to represent Palestine on the international stage.”

The emotional toll is particularly intense for certain players who have lost loved ones in the violence.

“For some of our players, this conflict is intensely personal,” said the PFA spokesperson.

“Many have lost relatives and friends to recent violence. These losses serve as painful, ever-present reminders of the stakes beyond the game. Each match becomes not just a competition but an act of dedication and remembrance. The commitment of these players is a testament to their resilience, and their determination to carry on in honour of those they’ve lost.”

The profound sense of duty and solidarity extends beyond the team. Dima stressed the support the team receives from Palestinians worldwide, as well as from international fans who see the players as a symbol of resilience.

“We are proud to say that Palestinians everywhere, alongside international supporters, stand united behind the national team. Their journey is emblematic of the Palestinian spirit. In a time when sports are one of the few platforms where Palestinians can assert their identity, the national football team holds immense significance. Each victory, each goal scored, speaks volumes about the resilience of Palestine.”

Despite the overwhelming challenges, the Palestine Football Association remains unwavering in its dedication to supporting the team’s quest for the World Cup.

“Reaching the World Cup would be a victory far beyond sports. It would resonate throughout the Arab world and stand as a testament to the human spirit. We’re working tirelessly to overcome the barriers our players face, focusing on their development, resilience, and preparation. The World Cup would not just be a platform for Palestine but for the universal values of justice and solidarity. Every match played is one step closer to this powerful dream,” Dima signed off.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders:-

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2024/131	Power Supply Infrastructure Development for Agriculture (Phase-1)	19-Nov-2024	27-Nov-2024	525.000
DISC/2024/132	Power Supply Infrastructure Development for Agriculture (Phase-2)	19-Nov-2024	27-Nov-2024	525.000
DISC/2024/133	Power Supply Infrastructure Development for Agriculture (Phase-3)	19-Nov-2024	27-Nov-2024	105.000

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://supplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be placed in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 10:00 am of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using “**supplier portal**”. No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding “Riyada” card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- 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.



nama
DHOFAR SERVICES

Dhofar Integrated Services Company s.a.o.c.
PO Box 19000, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number: (968302) Fax: (968118)
www.dhofarintegratedservices.com



37TH SESSION

Oman attends meeting of Arab Transport Ministers’ Council

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the 37th session meeting of the Arab Transport Ministers’ Council, the 73rd session meeting of the executive council and the 29th session meeting of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport.

The Sultanate of Oman’s delegation in the meetings of the Arab Transport Ministers’ Council and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport was headed by Abdullah Nasir Al Rahbi, Oman’s Ambassador to Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League. Meanwhile Oman’s delegation at the meeting of the executive council was headed by Advisor Dr. Ahmed Salim Ja’aboub.

The meetings discussed means of supporting the Palestinian economy, implementing the strategic plan for sectoral development in Jerusalem (2018-2022), and enhancing integration among Arab countries in the fields of land, sea, and air transport, with the aim of facilitating the movement of transport and inter-trade.

The meetings addressed means of promoting the transport sector infrastructure to contribute to achieving sustainable development and keeping pace with modern technological developments, as well as cooperation in the areas of security and safety for maritime and air transport, in a bid to enhance passenger safety and reduce risks.

The meeting of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport discussed ways to develop the Academy and raise its level of efficiency in a way that contributes to achieving the goals of the joint Arab action. It also reviewed reports and recommendations of the Academy’s Executive Council for the 47th, extraordinary and 48th sessions, and the establishment of a new branch of the Academy in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, to enhance the role of the Academy and expand the scope of its services.

The meeting underlined the importance of innovation and smart technologies in enhancing the efficiency of the transportation sector and achieving sustainable development goals. — **ONA**



CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Warm-water coral species at risk

BAKU: Almost half of warm-water reef-building coral species are at risk of extinction, conservationists have warned after a global assessment released at the UN climate conference in Baku.

The conservation status for all 892 species was analysed for the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List of threatened species ahead of COP29. The corals are found in shallow, warm-water habitats and form the colourful reefs seen in tropical and sub-tropical ocean areas. Built over tens of thousands of years, coral reefs are the most biodiverse of marine ecosystems.

The IUCN analysis released today showed that 44% are threatened – up from a third in 2008 when reef-building corals were last assessed for the Red List.

It comes as world leaders gathered in Baku for negotiations on cutting emissions and tackling climate change, which remains the top threat to reef-building corals.

In addition to climate change, corals are affected by severe bleaching events, pollution, agricultural runoff, disease and unsustainable fishing. The assessments considered the most recent status update on coral reefs from the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change data for future warming scenarios. Among the species analysed were staghorn coral and elkhorn coral – two “critically endangered” species in the Caribbean that have experienced significant declines due to increased warming, water pollution, hurricanes and the severe impacts of coral diseases.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions is the main solution to saving corals from extinction, accompanied by actions to address other threats to strengthen species’ resilience, the IUCN said.

The assessors also recommended more research into if and how corals can adapt to warmer waters, with evidence of limited adaptation so far. — **ONA**



SPORTS

Mirza's match-winning 62 guides Oman to three-wicket victory

Mendis' men defeat the Netherlands in the first T20I of the three-match series to record their fifth successive win at the Oman Cricket Academy ground

MUSCAT: Oman's excellent run at home continued as Duleep Mendis' men won the first T20I match against the Netherlands by three wickets for their fifth successive win at the Oman Cricket Academy ground on Wednesday.

Hosts Oman, who recently concluded the Cricket World Cup League 2 tri-series with an all-win record (four wins in a row) against the UAE and the Netherlands, won the first of the three-match T20I series against the Dutch side.

In a thrilling low-scoring match, Oman chased down a target of 139 with five balls to spare, Hammad Mirza's composed knock of 62 not out and a disciplined performance from the host bowlers played key roles in the victory, as Oman withstood early setbacks to get over the line.



Oman got off to a rocky start in the chase. Captain and opener Jatinder Singh was dismissed early for 12 off 7 balls by Timm van der Gugten, and Aamir Kaleem followed shortly after, caught behind off Aryan Dutt for just 2 runs. To make matters worse, Wasim Ali was dismissed for 5, leaving Oman struggling at 16-3 after just three overs. The Netherlands' bowlers, particularly van der Gugten and Dutt, kept the pressure on, and Oman appeared to be in danger of falling well

short of the target.

However, the arrival of Mirza brought the innings back on track. Mirza, who has been in fine form, played a responsible innings, not only anchoring the chase but also striking some lofty blows with an unbeaten 62 from 42 balls, which included five boundaries and three sixes.

He found valuable support from Ashish Odedara (14) and Sufyan Mehmood (37), who put together a crucial 76-run stand for the fifth wicket. Mehmood's knock



featured three sixes and helped steady the chase after Oman had slipped to 40-4.

As the target neared, the wickets continued to fall around Mirza. Odedara was dismissed for 14, and Mehmood was dismissed for 37 in the 17th over, leaving Oman needing 23 from 18 balls. However, with the steady hand of Mirza guiding the chase, Oman managed to cross the line. Despite losing Mehran Khan (4) and Siddharth Bukkapattam (0) in the final overs, Oman finished on 139/7 in 19.1 overs,

with Mirza remaining not out at the end.

Earlier in the day, the Netherlands were put on the back foot by some sharp bowling from Oman. The Dutch openers were dismissed cheaply, and the top order collapsed under pressure. Teja Nidamanuru was dismissed for 9 off 7 balls by Muzahir Raza in the opening over, and Vikramjit Singh fell for just 6, bowled by Raza, leaving the Netherlands at 19-2 after 3 overs.

Scott Edwards, the Netherlands'

captain, was trapped lbw for 6 by Raza in the fourth over, further deepening the visitors' woes. Max O'Dowd and Colin Ackermann attempted a rebuild, with O'Dowd contributing 14 runs before falling to Aamir Kaleem. Ackermann, however, fought valiantly and scored 34 off 31 balls, helping his side reach 50 by the 7th over. His dismissal to Kaleem in the 17th over, at 107/6, left the Dutch with little room to recover.

Bas de Leede was caught by Mehmood off Mehran Khan for 16, and the lower order could not offer much resistance. Timm van der Gugten contributed 14 runs, while Roelof van der Merwe was dismissed for just 1. The Netherlands finished their innings on 138/7 after 20 overs, with Noah Croes remaining unbeaten on 33 off 20 balls, providing the only late flourish for the visitors.

Raza was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3-42, while Kaleem supported well with 2-28. Mehran Khan (1-15) and Shakeel Ahmed (1-24) also played crucial roles in keeping the Netherlands' total in check. Samay Shrivastav (0-18) contributed in the middle overs, maintaining pressure and keeping the scoring rate under control.

Brief scores: Netherlands 138/7 in 20 overs: (Noah Croes 33*, Colin Ackermann 34; Muzahir Raza 3-42, Aamir Kaleem 2-28) lost to Oman 139/7 in 19.1 overs: (Hamad Mirza 62*, Sufyan Mehmood 37; Roelof van der Merwe 3-15, Timm van der Gugten 2-33).

AFC ASIAN QUALIFIER

Must-win match for Oman against Palestine in World Cup Qualifier

MUSCAT: Oman face a must-win situation as they host Palestine at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex (SQSC) on Thursday, knowing a loss would virtually end their hopes of qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The match kicks off at 8pm.

With just one win and three defeats so far in the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 2026, Oman currently sit in fourth place in Group B with three points. South Korea lead the table with 10 points from four games while Jordan are second with seven, the same as Iraq but with better goal difference. Oman are fourth with Kuwait having the same number of points but inferior goal difference. Palestine remain at the bottom with two points

A defeat to Palestine on Thursday would significantly damage Oman's chances, as they would need a series of favourable results to stay in the race for third place - a position that could potentially lead to the inter-confederation play-offs

In contrast, a win for the hosts, coached by Rashid Jaber, would revive their campaign, keeping their hopes of advancing to the top two spots, which guarantee direct qualification, or at least securing third place with a chance to progress via the playoff system

Jaber is aware of the high stakes and is determined to lead his squad to a vital victory. At a pre-match press conference on Wednesday, he said: "It is a crucial match, and we will enter with a



winning mentality. The opponent is in a similar situation, and if we want to keep our chances alive, we have to secure the three points." Jaber also emphasised the importance of fan support in helping the

team capitalise on their opportunities. "The home fans will be there to support us and we hope to make them happy with a victory, which is crucial to our progress in the qualifiers," he added.

Despite missing midfielder Yazeed Al Mashani, defender Ali Al Busaidi and striker Salah Al Yahyaie due to injuries, Oman will look to striker Mohsin Al Ghassani and Abdul Rahman Al Mushaifri to spearhead the attack. Al Mushaifri, who netted twice in Oman's 4-0 victory over Kuwait on Matchday Three, will play a pivotal role in the squad's offensive strategy.

Palestine also go into the match under immense pressure, sitting at the bottom of the group with just two draws and two losses.

Their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup hang by a thread, and head coach Makram Daboub knows the importance of the upcoming clash. "Oman is technically organised, and despite their losses, they have played strong matches and are a formidable side at home. Our goal is to win and climb up in the standings," Daboub said.

The Palestinian coach is relying on his squad's resilience, which was evident in their hard-fought 2-2 draw against Kuwait on Matchday Four

For both teams, Thursday's match is more than just another qualifier - it's a crucial turning point in their campaigns. With a shared need for points, the game promises to be an intense battle as both sides seek to keep their World Cup dreams alive. Fans can expect a thrilling encounter as Oman aim to take full advantage of their home advantage, while Palestine pushes for the victory that could propel them back into contention.

Joseph back from suspension to rejoin West Indies squad

ST LUCIA: Alzarri Joseph has returned from suspension to rejoin the West Indies squad for the final three matches of their T20I series against England, but star all-rounder Andre Russell has been ruled out of the series with a left ankle sprain.

The pair are part of two changes to the hosts, who are 2-0 down heading into the final leg of the series in St Lucia. Joseph will replace his replacement Shamar Joseph, with seam bowling all-rounder Shamar Springer coming in for Russell. West Indies need to win in the third T20I on Thursday to keep the series alive.

Alzarri was handed a two-match ban by Cricket West Indies after leaving the field without permission during the third ODI against England, leaving West Indies a man short in the field. Having apologised publicly for the incident, and privately to one-day captain Shai Hope, his return was expected and necessary given the scoreline.

Rovman Powell has struggled to keep a lid on Jos Buttler's charges, who have chased down targets of 159 and 183 with ease, losing just five wickets across both fixtures in Barbados. Though West Indies have fallen foul of the toss on both occasions, there has been a distinct lack of cutting edge with the ball.

The inclusion of Springer also gives Powell options to work with, having yet to strike the right bal-



ance with the make-up of his bowlers. Springer made his T20I debut against Sri Lanka last month, taking 1 for 25 and 1 for 24 in his two caps so far.

The loss of Russell during the first T20I was put into context by the performance of Terrance Hinds in the second. The 32-year-old suffered an ignominious debut on Sunday, scoring five at No.11 and seeing his two overs concede 24 runs without a dismissal.

West Indies T20I squad: Rovman Powell (capt), Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Terrance Hinds, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd, Shamar Springer. - Agencies

ICC RANKINGS

Afridi back as No. 1 ODI bowler, Hasaranga ranked second in T20Is

DUBAI: Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi is back as the No.1 ODI bowler in the latest ICC rankings, making it a double for Pakistan cricketers at the summit with Babar Azam extending his lead as the top batter in the format.

Afridi's eight wickets at an average of 12.62 in three outings against Australia took him past Kuldeep Yadav, Rashid Khan and Keshav Maharaj to the top.

Rashid remained at No.2, while Maharaj slipped from first to third and Kuldeep one place down to fourth.

This is the second time Afridi has reached top position in ODI rankings after a brief stay there

during the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Afridi's seam-bowling partner Harris Rauf moved up 14 places to 13th after bagging 10 wickets in the ODIs against Australia, that had earned him the Player-of-the-Series award. Naseem Shah also climbed 14 spots to a career-best 55th.

Babar's scores of 37, 15* and 28* increased his lead among ODI batters. He stays well ahead of the Indian trio of Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli who remain in second, third and fourth respectively.

There were big gainers among all-rounders after the ODI series between Afghanistan and Bang-



ladesh in the UAE. Player of the Series Mohammad Nabi remained as the No.1 ODI all-rounder and Rashid went up a place to third, and Azmatullah Omarzai's strong

showing pushed him two places up to No.9, making it three Afghan players in the top 10. Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who took three wickets in the series and

scored 66 in the third ODI, jumped four places to No.4.

In T20Is, Wanindu Hasaranga's series haul of 6 for 37 against New Zealand - despite limping through the second fixture where he claimed 4 for 17 - took him four places up to second spot among the bowlers, only behind England's Adil Rashid.

Akeal Hosein's economical performance against England lifted him to third place while Ravi Bishnoi's four scalps in two games against South Africa took him one spot up to No.7.

Among batters, the England pair of Phil Salt (second) and Jos Buttler (sixth), alongside West Indies'

Nicholas Pooran (10th) all moved one place up each in the batting rankings after two games in the five-match series in the Caribbean.

From the ongoing South Africa vs India T20I series, Sanju Samson continued his rise in the batting ranks. A second successive T20I century for the India opener, this time a 50-ball 107 in the first game, saw him leapfrog 27 positions to 39th. The South African duo of Reeza Hendricks (up two places to 12th) and Tristan Stubbs (up 12 spots to 26th) also made headway on the T20I batting charts that is still led by Travis Head. Salt and Suryakumar Yadav round off the top three. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by January 2025 reaching \$71.17, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 12 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$71.05. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,654.76 points, down by 0.37% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.23% at 423.84 points. Oman Flour Mills, up 2.27%, was the top gainer while Oman United Insurance, down 3.36%, was the top lose.

Pact signed to advance smart and sustainable power grid solutions

The partnership marks a significant milestone in Oman Aluminium Processing Industries’ journey to meet the growing global demand for sustainable power grids that support the global transition to cleaner energy sources and Net Zero targets

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Aluminium Processing Industries SPC (OAPIL), a subsidiary of Oman Cables Industry, has signed strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement with Epsilon Composite from France to initiate the production of High Voltage Composite Reinforced Conductors (HVCRC)

category of advanced High Temperature Low Sag (HTLS) conductors at its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Sohar, Oman. This partnership marks a significant milestone in OAPIL’s journey to meet the growing global demand for modern, resilient, and sustainable power grids that support the global transition to cleaner energy sources and Net Zero targets.



OAPIL’s venture into composite core reinforced conductor manufacturing is a direct response to the rising electricity demand in rapidly urbanising regions and the need for smarter power grid solutions, enhancing its capacity, its reliability and resilience. Advanced HTLS conductors are a key enabler for Electrical Utilities that are looking

to increase power transmission capacity with a minimal total cost of ownership. The advantage of these conductors lies in their ability to offer double the current carrying capacity and operate in higher temperatures than conventional overhead transmission lines. Moreover, such advanced conductors play a vital role in environ-

mental sustainability by reducing energy losses and greenhouse gas emissions. This technology directly aligns with global efforts to combat climate change, making it an essential asset for utilities striving to meet their sustainability goals. Commenting on the agreement, Jehan Alagappan, Chief Strategy Officer at OAPIL, stated, “We are excited to collaborate with Epsilon Composite on this milestone project, as it strengthens our position as a pioneer in the development of innovative and sustainable conductor technologies. The introduction of HVCRC conductors will empower utilities to address the challenges of increasing electricity demand with minimal total cost of ownership, while promoting energy efficiency and sustainability. This investment and collaboration in added value and advanced products contribute to enhancing power grid capacity, its reliability and resilience”. Epsilon Composite also high-

lighted the significance of this partnership in advancing HVCRC technology in multiple markets. “This strategic partnership with OAPIL will help meet the demand from utilities for advanced conductors, supporting both electrification and the energy transition. With its integrated production capabilities, OAPIL is ideally positioned to become one of the top players for HTLS conductors in the Middle East region and beyond. Epsilon and OAPIL’s teams have joined forces to design, manufacture, and install HVCRC conductors, with highly promising momentum underway to qualify HVCRC conductors in Oman and other targeted countries,” stated Alexandre LULL, General Manager at Epsilon Composite. The collaboration marks a new chapter for OAPIL as it continues to support Oman’s sustainable Energy growth and the global energy transition towards cleaner and more efficient technologies.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Oman Oil’s first ESG report highlights its role in contributing to national goals



MUSCAT: Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) has announced the release of its first Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) sustainability report, aimed at enhancing transparency and showcasing the company’s commitment to sustainable and responsible practices. The report highlights OOMCO’s role in contributing to the national and developmental goals of Oman.

The report features key initiatives launched by the company, including energy transition efforts, community development, employee welfare, and environmental protection. It also underscores OOMCO’s role in supporting Oman Vision 2040, alongside ongoing efforts to achieve net-zero emissions goals, aligning with the company’s commitment to long-term sustainability. The statistics showed a significant

progress made by OOMCO in reducing carbon emissions over the reporting period, highlights its efforts in renewable energy production and consumption, and demonstrates its dedication to empowering national talent, with OOMCO’s Omanization rate reaching 92%. Additionally, the report outlines the company’s community projects across various regions in Oman, including training programs for job seekers and support for the

entrepreneurship sector. In 2023, more than 39% of the company’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) budget has been allocated to talent development initiatives, and 34% to supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Tarik bin Mohammed Al Junaidi, CEO of Oman Oil Marketing Company, said: “This report serves as a comprehensive document highlighting the company’s

progress and achievements in the fields of environment, society, and governance, reflecting our deep commitment to creating a lasting positive impact on the community. Our commitment to social responsibility has always been at the heart of what we do. We have over the years reduced and continue to reduce our carbon emissions through various initiatives such as Vapour recovery systems and solar powered stations.”



12TH MIDDLE EAST
STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
CONFERENCE 2024



ADVANCING COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES IN MIDDLE EAST

A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE TO CONNECT COMMUNICATION INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS
TO LEARN AND IMPLEMENT BEST MEDIA PRACTICES

📅 26 – 27 November, 2024 | 📍 Inter City Hotel, Muscat

Event Hosted by

Event Managed by

Licensed by







Gulf center for
Strategic Communication

For enquiries / registration, please contact ☎ 99440826 | ✉ media@nexusnovel.com

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Flour Mills, up 2.27%, was the top gainer while Oman United Insurance, down 3.36%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,654.76 points, down by 0.37% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.23% at 423.84 points. Oman Flour Mills, up 2.27%, was the top gainer while Oman United Insurance, down 3.36%, was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1252 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 9.23 million, with more than 48.51 million shares changing hands. Out of 54 traded securities, 6 advanced, 23 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 2083K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 1227K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 856K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,762.06 points, down 0.42%.

Prices of Al Sharqia Investment were up by 1.45% respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, OMINVEST, Al Anwar Investment, Global Financial Investments, Taageer Finance were down by 3.36%, 2.29%, 1.43%, 1.21%, 0.94% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,305.49 points, down 0.04%. Prices of Oman Flour Mills were up by 2.27% respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cement, Al Maha Ceramics were down by 1.84%, 1.06%, 0.71% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.22% before closing at 1,788.05 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were up by 1.75%, 1.24%, 0.36%, 0.10% respectively. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Dhofar Generating, Barka Desalination, SMN Power Holding, Sharqiyah Desalination were down by 6.86%, 3.13%, 2.42%, 2.02%, 1.40% respectively

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,672.02	4,625.59	4,654.76	4,672.02	-17.26	-0.37
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,794.57	7,712.32	7,762.06	7,794.57	-32.50	-0.42
Industry Index	5,319.48	5,285.78	5,305.49	5,307.84	-2.35	-0.04
Services Index	1,795.10	1,785.26	1,788.05	1,791.93	-3.89	-0.22
MSX Shariah Index	425.38	423.43	423.84	424.83	-0.99	-0.23
MSX TR INDEX	6,526.51	6,461.65	6,502.40	6,526.51	-24.11	-0.37
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,855.43	8,761.98	8,818.50	8,855.43	-36.93	-0.42
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,137.41	6,098.53	6,121.27	6,123.99	-2.71	-0.04
SERVICES TR IDX	2,112.47	2,100.89	2,104.17	2,108.74	-4.57	-0.22
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,066.89	1,066.89	1,066.89	1,066.89	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
48,511,449	9,229,245	1,252	27,439,366,226	6	23	25	54

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF BD.	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.	PERIOD	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	10,000	700	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.068	0.071	0.100	6,300,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	111,797	9,156	12	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.082	0.081	0.089	0.100	58,81,320
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	269,692	76,351	19	0.284	0.285	0.283	0.283	0.282	0.001	0.355	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.100	8,960,630
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	204,134	199,669	7	0.978	0.980	0.978	0.979	0.978	0.001	0.102	0.979	0.979	0.979	0.100	734,500,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	8,100	996	1	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.000	0.000	0.123	0.114	0.122	0.100	18,450,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	128,830	37,169	11	0.280	0.290	0.280	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.299	0.100	47,524,443
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	35,130	2,449	5	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.100	8,449,375
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,094	126	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.113	0.118	0.100	25,300,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOORP SALALAH	34,126	3,345	5	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000004788	MADINA TAFARUL	165,100	12,880	25	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.081	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	585,787	148,196	21	0.254	0.255	0.250	0.255	0.256	-0.001	-0.391	0.255	0.253	0.258	0.100	1,914,131,251
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	4,361,507	596,469	284	0.136	0.137	0.135	0.136	0.137	-0.001	-0.730	0.136	0.136	0.137	0.100	388,964,853
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	814,983	108,676	22	0.134	0.135	0.132	0.134	0.135	-0.001	-0.741	0.134	0.132	0.134	0.100	886,711,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	153,686	57,839	19	0.380	0.381	0.372	0.377	0.380	-0.003	-0.789	0.377	0.373	0.377	0.100	89,126,570
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,882	715	3	0.375	0.382	0.375	0.375	0.379	-0.004	-1.055	0.375	0.375	0.382	0.100	124,124,266
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	2,113	541	3	0.258	0.258	0.255	0.255	0.258	-0.003	-1.163	0.255	0.253	0.258	0.100	165,990,779
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	125,000	10,250	3	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.080	0.082	0.100	400,000,000
OM0000004825	ALBATAH POWER	328,470	26,685	17	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.081	0.082	0.100	54,665,882
OM0000002804	ASAPTA FOODS	36,423	13,586	4	0.373	0.373	0.373	0.373	0.380	-0.007	-1.842	0.373	0.351	0.373	0.100	44,760,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	55,665	19,123	12	0.348	0.348	0.340	0.342	0.350	-0.008	-2.286	0.342	0.330	0.342	0.100	228,580,976
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	52,000	11,824	14	0.238	0.238	0.220	0.230	0.238	-0.008	-3.361	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.100	23,000,000
Total	21	7,485,499	1,336,745	489												
Parallel Market																
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	53	24	1	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.440	0.010	2.273	0.450	0.402	0.449	0.100	70,875,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	436,000	25,288	14	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	142,920	10,732	13	0.075	0.077	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	6,390,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	6,594	409	4	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.100	12,122,400
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	8,400	2,296	2	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	352,448,620
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	1,314,121	232,599	7	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.000	0.000	0.177	0.000	0.177	0.100	530,534,204
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	289,502	28,950	26	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	20,298,645
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	3,097	1,206	4	0.384	0.400	0.384	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.385	0.400	0.100	32,561,100
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	84,1862	84,198	22	0.099	0.101	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	223,695,300
OM0000005290	OMAN ARAB BANK	50,000	7,500	3	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	250,411,500
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	20,000	1,380	4	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.067	0.070	0.100	35,095,558
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	100	12	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.116	0.119	0.100	60,972,426
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	19,000	2,660	2	0.141	0.141	0.140	0.140	0.141	-0.001	-0.709	0.140	0.140	0.145	0.100	7,700,000
OM0000009759	OQ EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	19,504,225	6,846,591	555	0.354	0.354	0.348	0.351	0.354	-0.003	-0.847	0.351	0.351	0.354	0.100	80,900,000,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	23,562	2,473	3	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.102	0.108	0.100	28,464,502
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,626	146	3	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000004699	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	4,000	566	2	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.143	-0.002	-1.399	0.141	0.135	0.142	0.100	13,790,105
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	12,064	14,672	14	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	14,640,420
OM000000569	JABAL REIF	3,899,200	384,757	3	0.106	0.106	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.104	0.106	0.100	18,096,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	360,758	125,466	25	0.348	0.349	0.340	0.340	0.347	-0.007	-2.017	0.340	0.343	0.344	0.100	67,876,104
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,380	169	3	0.123	0.123	0.121	0.121	0.124	-0.003	-2.419	0.121	0.121	0.123	0.100	9,138,162
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	65,454	4,135	8	0.064	0.064	0.062	0.062	0.064	-0.002	-3.125	0.062	0.062	0.066	0.100	13,778,880
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,500	347	1	0.231	0.231	0.231	0.231	0.248	-0.017	-6.855	0.231	0.231	0.246	0.100	9,996,731
Total	23	27,045,408	7,781,542	718												

Tax Authority expands educational initiatives to promote tax awareness



Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of the Tax Authority's continuous efforts to spread tax culture, it expanded its partnerships with higher educational institutions by organizing a series of educational workshops at Al-Bayan College and Saham Vocational College.

These workshops covered various aspects of the tax system, such as introducing the different types of taxes and their calculation mechanisms. Besides, it explained the tax registration procedures and how can taxpayers benefit from the electronic services provided by the Tax Authority. They also highlighted the importance of

tax compliance and its role in supporting the national economy.

'Tax Fact' campaign
These workshops are part of 'Tax Fact' campaign which aims to build an aware generation of the importance of taxes and able to contribute effectively in achieving a sustainable economic environment.

EXPERTS IN

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

Contact:
93387263,
92839679

البعء الرابع الجديد ش.م.م

THE NEW 4th DIMENSION LLC

Email: newfourthdimension@gmail.com

Opaz showcases its innovative experience in quality standards and process improvement



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) showcased several innovative experiences in operational processes and services offered within the zones under its supervision.

This was part of an event organised by the authority, in collaboration with the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit, as part of the celebration of World Quality Week. This year's theme is "Quality from Compliance to Outstanding Performance."

The event was attended by Eng. Ahmed bin Hassan Al Dheeb, Deputy Chairman of Opaz, along with several officials and employees from the Authority, government entities, private sector companies and individuals interested in quality and innovation.

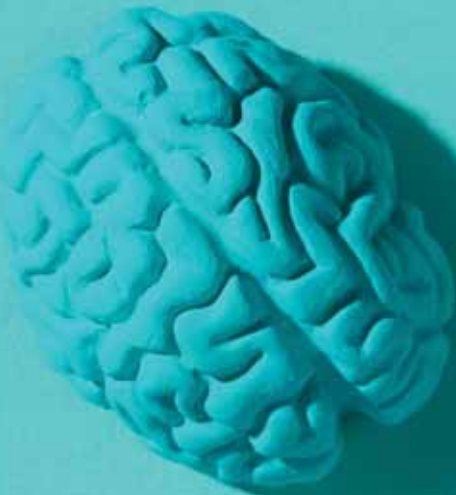
The event emphasised, through visual presentations, the importance of quality and performance improvement across various sectors, encouraging continuous enhancement in operational processes and services, as well as promoting innovation and process improvements to achieve beneficiary satisfaction.



LIFESTYLE



LIVER-BRAIN COMMUNICATION



KEY TO MANAGING

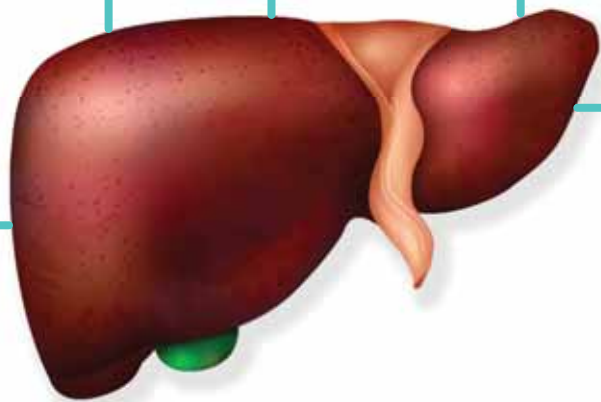


CIRCADIAN



EATING AND OBESITY

Circadian rhythms, which regulate biological processes like eating, are usually synchronised with external cues like light



A recent study published in Science revealed that the hepatic vagal afferent nerve (HVAN) plays a crucial role in regulating circadian eating patterns, offering potential insights for anti-obesity treatments. The research found that communication between the liver and brain via the HVAN influences food intake rhythms, with disruptions leading to weight gain, particularly under high-fat diets. In mice, removal of HVAN corrected disrupted eating patterns and reduced weight gain, suggesting it could be a target for managing obesity. Circadian rhythms, which regulate biological processes like eating, are usually synchronised with external cues like light. However, desynchronisation of these rhythms, such as through altered eating patterns, can contribute to metabolic disorders like obesity. The study specifically targeted REV-ERB α/β nuclear receptors, disrupting liver-brain communication without affecting other organ systems. The results showed that severing the HVAN reversed disrupted eating behaviors, resulting in weight loss. This research highlights the critical role of liver-brain communication in maintaining metabolic balance, emphasising the hepatic vagus nerve as a key regulator of food intake and circadian rhythms. - **ONA**

SPORTS

Sinner defeats Fritz to move closer to semi-final berth

World No.1 overcame a stubborn resistance for his second win in front of a home crowd at the ATP Tour Finals

TURIN: Italian top seed Jannik Sinner defeated American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 to move closer to the last four of the ATP Tour Finals on Tuesday. The 23-year-old world No.1 fought off stubborn resistance for his second win in front of a home crowd in Turin.

Sinner, who beat Fritz in September's US Open final, hit 22 winners to Fritz's 19 as he edged a compelling encounter.

Earlier, a rejuvenated Daniil Medvedev defeated Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-4 in the Ilie Nastase Group. Fourth seed Medvedev was irate during his opening defeat by Fritz on Sunday but was far more settled in Tuesday's victory.

Sinner, who also took the 2024 Australian Open, tops the group table with one round to go as he



seeks another big tournament triumph in a year where he has also been embroiled in an ongoing doping controversy.

The winner of seven tour titles in 2024, he was claiming his 67th win from 73 matches - cheered on by a capacity crowd of 12,000 which included Italian football great Andrea Pirlo.

"It was a very tough match - we got to know each other very well in a Grand Slam final," said Sinner.

"The crowd is helping me a lot, and it's a big occasion for me."

Fritz had earned the match's

first break point in the seventh game but could not make it count.

The American fifth seed fought back from 0-40 behind in the next to level at 4-4 before succumbing on his following service game as Sinner piled on the pressure to clinch the first set.

A similarly tight second set followed and again Sinner stepped up to shatter his opponent's resolve, as typified by a breathtaking backhand down-the-line winner en route to going 4-3 ahead on serve.

He went on to gain the crucial break, courtesy of a Fritz double

fault, for a hard-fought victory.

'I blocked the noise'

Russian Medvedev, who had been booed for his antics against Fritz, put his fingers in his ears after sealing victory against De Minaur.

He lost only nine points on his serve as he wrapped up the win in an hour and 18 minutes.

"I went into this match blocking the noise, even from myself," said 2020 champion Medvedev, 28.

"I really didn't care what was happening on the court, I just tried to play, and it was a good feeling."



Medvedev's temperament was under scrutiny after his surly behaviour 48 hours earlier but he struck the ball superbly and broke in the third game with a cross-court winner.

He gained a double break when De Minaur double-faulted, and went on to take the first set in 40 minutes.

De Minaur, 25, battled in a pulsating second set but Medvedev's stunning backhand put him 5-4 ahead and he held serve to win.

Alcaraz abandons practice

French Open and Wimbledon

champion Carlos Alcaraz's prospects in the event are uncertain after he pulled out of practice.

His coach Juan Carlos Ferrero told Spanish media the 21-year-old cut short his session after just five minutes as a chest complaint was making breathing difficult.

"I don't think it will get to the point of not playing, but it will be difficult for him to be at 100% tomorrow," said Ferrero.

Alcaraz was out of sorts when losing his first match to Norwegian Casper Ruud, who next faces German Alexander Zverev. - Agencies

COOTE VIDEO RAMIFICATIONS

'Crisis for referees and fuel for toxic fan conspiracies'

LONDON: The video of Premier League referee David Coote's alleged expletive-laden insults about Liverpool and their former manager Jurgen Klopp carries ramifications far wider than abusive words used on shaky mobile phone footage, according to a *BBC Sport* report on Wednesday.

Coote has been suspended by refereeing body Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) with immediate effect pending a full investigation, while the Football Association has launched its own investigation.

The video has been widely shared around social media. It has not been verified by the BBC, but a source has said the PGMOL investigation is treating it as genuine. There has been no denial nor apology yet from Coote.

If this proves to be legitimate, the fall-out will land on every official throughout football's pyramid. In the current climate of social media debate, 24/7 punditry and tribal fandom, it will provide fuel for the conspiracy theorists who believe that any decision made against their team is provoked by a grudge, personal bias or dislike of their particular club.

The notion is misguided as any mistakes made by those who take charge of games, as with players,



are because of honest human error, not ill-feeling towards - or bias against - a particular manager, player or club.

The problem for the head of PGMOL, Howard Webb, is that Coote's words, should they be confirmed as genuine, will fly in the face of that belief to many, going to the heart of what should be every official's personal code.

Referees will inevitably have clashes with teams and individuals given the high-stakes nature of professional football, but there must be a belief that any lingering antipathy is put aside the moment they take charge of their next game.

The rise in dissent towards officials was reflected in the £1m of fines for surrounding referees and mass confrontations in 2022-23.

That resulted in a clampdown on player and manager behaviour at the start of 2023-24 and by Christmas 2023, bookings for dissent had doubled to 1,813 from 966 at the same stage the season before.

The figure trebled in the Premier League from 24 to 80, with referees' chief Webb saying the "culture change" to try to "reset behaviours" towards officials was "early days" but "moving in the right direction". - Agencies

VAR misread West Ham penalty against Man United, says referees' chief Webb

LONDON: Referees' chief Howard Webb says West Ham should not have been awarded a penalty during Erik ten Hag's final game in charge of Manchester United on 27 October.

The Hammers were given the decision on the recommendation of video assistant referee Michael Oliver following Matthijs de Ligt's challenge on Danny Ings.

David Coote, the on-field referee, had waved play on following the incident but awarded a penalty after reviewing the incident on the pitch-side monitor.

Jarrod Bowen scored the penalty, sealing a 2-1 win for West Ham. Ten Hag was sacked less than 24 hours later.

"I thought it was a misread by the VAR," Webb told Sky Sports' Mic'd Up programme.

"A VAR that's normally really talented and reliable, but gets uber-focused in this situation on De Ligt's leg. His leg coming through on to Danny Ings, not making any contact with the ball. The ball's already past De Ligt as



he as he makes contact with Danny Ings.

"And the VAR sees that as a clear foul. I think he was too focused on that aspect. I don't think he should have got involved.

"I think this is a situation where we'd leave the on-field decision as it is, probably whichever way it's called. On balance, I don't think it's a

penalty kick."

On-field referees are not required to follow the recommendations of the VAR official.

"They are told that they are absolutely within their rights to keep their decision when they go to the screen," said Webb.

Webb, who is chief of refereeing body PGMOL, was speaking publicly for the first time since Coote was suspended with immediate effect after he appeared to make derogatory comments about Liverpool and their former manager Jurgen Klopp in a video that circulated online.

"We became aware of a video that was being circulated on social media that we are taking very seriously," said Webb.

"We've instigated a full investigation. One of our referees, David Coote, has been suspended with immediate effect pending the outcome of that investigation.

"There's not much more I can say at this stage until we've worked through that investigation." - Agencies

FRAUD CHARGES

SAFA president Jordaan arrested

JOHANNESBURG: South African Football Association (SAFA) president Danny Jordaan has been arrested amid allegations he used the organisation's funds for personal gain on Wednesday.

The country's organised crime investigation unit, Hawks, has been looking into claims of fraud and theft at SAFA between 2014 and 2018 amounting to 1.3m rand (\$72,000, £57,000).

In March, Hawks raided SAFA offices in Johannesburg, confiscating a laptop, USBs, external hard drives and documents.

Jordaan is alleged to have hired a private security company for his personal protection and a public relations company without authorisation from the SAFA board. The 73-year-old, who was a key figure in bringing the 2010 FIFA World Cup to South Africa and has been SAFA president since 2013, is awaiting the outcome of an appearance at the Palm Ridge Magistrates court in Johannesburg on Wednesday.



SAFA's chief financial officer Gronie Hluyo and businessman Trevor Neethling appeared alongside Jordaan, having also been arrested in connection with the case. Jordaan reportedly filed a court application on Tuesday, with an affidavit denying any wrongdoing, in an attempt to block his arrest by Hawks.

A SAFA official told *BBC Sport Africa* he did not have further details about the case. Jordaan has faced growing scrutiny amid ongoing allegations of mismanagement and corruption within South African football. - Agencies

GERMAN REPLACED BY RUI MARQUES

Wittich 'steps down' as Formula One race director

LONDON: Niels Wittich has left his role as Formula 1's race director with immediate effect on Wednesday.

The German, a replacement for Michael Masi in 2022, "has stepped down from his position to pursue new opportunities," the FIA said in a statement.

He will be replaced from the next race in Las Vegas by Rui Marques, most recently the race director for Formula 2 and 3. The surprise move happened quickly. FIA staff were told earlier on Tuesday, *BBC Sport* has been told.

An FIA spokesperson said: "Niels has fulfilled his numerous responsibilities as race director with professionalism and dedication. We thank him for his commitment and we wish him the best for the future."

"Rui brings a wealth of experience having previously served as track marshal, scrutineer, national and international steward, deputy race director and race director in various championships."

Germany's motorsport magazine.com quoted Wittich saying: "I have not resigned." Its F1 reporter



Christian Menath said on X that Wittich had told him he was fired.

The FIA said it could not provide any information beyond its official statement.

It is highly unusual for an F1 race director to be changed during a season, especially given there are just three races remaining and both the drivers' and constructors' championships remain undecided.

The decision was not widely expected within F1, although some insiders had heard Wittich would be replaced at the end of the season. A senior source said that Wittich had left earlier than expected as a result of his rela-

tionship with FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem.

Wittich is the latest in a series of senior people to leave the FIA in the past year.

Sporting director Steve Nielsen quit the organisation in December 2023 after less than a year in his role. His departure followed that of Deborah Mayer, the head of the FIA commission for women.

In January, leading engineer Tim Goss left his role as single-seater technical director. He is now at Red Bull's RB team. And in May Natalie Robyn left her role as chief executive officer, external after just 18 months in the position.

Wittich's departure comes after a controversy concerning the FIA's racing guidelines broke out within F1 last month, following a battle between title contenders Max Verstappen and Lando Norris during the US Grand Prix.

At the subsequent race in Mexico, the FIA agreed with the drivers that it would revise the guidelines with the aim of preventing a form of defence that has been perfected by Verstappen and is permitted by the current rules.

Ben Sulayem's stewardship of the FIA has been marked by a series of controversies, the latest of which was a letter published last week by the Grand Prix Drivers' Association in which they asked to be treated like adults in the wake of Verstappen and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc being punished for swearing.

They also asked Ben Sulayem to mind his "tone and language" when addressing the topic, after he was criticised by Lewis Hamilton for using "stereotypical" language with a "racial element".

It is not clear whether Wittich's departure is related to either scenario. - Agencies

POWER-PACKED EXPERIENCE



Make a mark in Lexus IS

MUSCAT: Designed to deliver a pulsating performance, the Lexus IS delivers a dynamic and power-packed experience.

Cruise the roads with confidence as the IS pierces through winds with its aggressive looks supplemented with unprecedented luxury innovations. Meticulously crafted to make every moment memorable, take control of your journey by owning the luxury compact-size sedan.

Built to appeal to the younger and more energetic crowd, the attractively stylish drive is an inspiring blend of luxury and utility that takes the whole experience up a notch. The exterior boasts an illuminated scuff plate, a chrome metallic finish with bold character lines, the Lexus signature gloss black grille, LED headlights, and LED turning signals. The IS designs represents Lexus’ vision of pioneering luxury and providing a seamless driving experience.

Available in three trims, the Lexus IS300, IS 350 ELITE and IS350 F Sport is a driver’s dream. In the IS300, experience

an exhilarating response with a turbocharged 2.0L 4-cylinder, delivering 241 HP at 5,800 rpm. Unbeatable in its league, offers comfort and agility with its smooth leather-wrapped steering wheel, ventilated seats, electrochromic inside rear view mirror with tilt in reverse mode, a remote engine starter, and a smart key for ease of access. Feel connected and indulge in the drive with IS’s built-in 10.3” navigation system and 17-speaker Mark Levinson Premium Surround System.

Advanced safety features include a tire pressure monitoring system, a speed-sensing door lock function, ISOFIX child seat restraint anchors on the rear, cruise control, front and rear parking sensors, side and knee airbags for the front and rear, and an electric parking brake, among others. Centred on Lexus brand philosophy and its uncompromising attitude toward luxury, all Lexus vehicles are a powerhouse of innovation. Discover Lexus and enhance your lifestyle in all phases of life.

ENRICH ENGAGEMENT WITH CUSTOMERS



Bank Muscat organises special event for government banking customers in Duqm

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, organised an event for its government banking customers in the Wilayat of Duqm. The event was attended by a number of The Bank officials and was part of a broader series of initiatives organised by the bank to enrich engagement with customers.

The event was aimed at enhancing partnership with government institutions by offering a platform to discuss new developments in corporate banking, and introducing various services and facilities designed to meet their needs and help them to complete their transactions in a convenient manner, ultimately working hand in hand towards achieving Oman Vision 2040 and supporting sustainable development plans.

Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, General Manager - Corporate Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “The Bank is committed to developing the services provided to promote financial inclusion. Investment in modern technology is one of the key pillars the Bank focuses on as financial technology has contributed to helping customers’ access services faster and more conveniently. To achieve this goal, the Bank developed its digital platforms including the Internet Banking Platform, the B2B platform, the Integrated Transaction Banking Platform and the Digital Portal for trade services, all of which offer a diverse range of services to help government institutions facilitate their transactions from anywhere and at any time.”

PERUVIAN CUISINE

COYA Muscat unveils exciting weekend dining experiences

MUSCAT: COYA Muscat, the premier destination for exquisite Peruvian cuisine, announced the launch of its new Friday Brunch and Saturday Lunch offerings, commencing November.

With perfect weather on the horizon, COYA Muscat is poised to elevate weekend dining experiences for both foodies and outdoor enthusiasts. Located within The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, the restaurant promises a culinary escape that combines delectable cuisine with a celebratory atmosphere, making it an ideal destination for outdoor dining and relaxation.

Every detail at COYA Muscat is designed to enhance the experience: from the appetising sharing plates to the stunning outdoor seating that invites guests to connect with nature while enjoying their meal.

As the brunch unfolds from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., a live DJ sets the tone, infusing the air with infectious beats that elevate the celebratory vibe. This is designed to enhance the vibrant atmosphere, encouraging guests to relax, socialise, and immerse themselves in the experience. It is an invitation



for guests to enjoy the refreshing breeze, soak up the sun, and let the rhythm of the live DJ set the mood.

Renowned as a novel extension of the global COYA brand, COYA Music brings its signature blend of dynamic and eclectic sounds to the brunch. Its carefully curated beats create the perfect backdrop for guests to unwind and savor the experience, making the afternoon both a culinary and musical journey. With COYA Music’s innovative soundscapes, the brunch is not just a meal but a celebration of culture, rhythm, and flavor.

For those looking to extend their brunch experience, the pool area provides a perfect retreat. Guests can opt to transition from the lively brunch to a tranquil afternoon by the water with the ‘After Brunch’

package, making the weekend feel like a true escape.

Expressing his excitement about the new offerings, Mohammed Bennani, Restaurant General Manager, stated: “We are thrilled to expand our dining experiences at COYA Muscat. Our Friday Brunch and Saturday Lunch will provide our guests with a unique opportunity to explore the rich flavours of Peruvian cuisine in a vibrant setting. While the lunch features our regular menu, the brunch is all about generous sharing portions. We invite gastronomes to enjoy this scrumptious affair.”

The weekend schedule at COYA includes the vibrant Friday brunch from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—featuring a delightful 4-course sharing menu, a live DJ set from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the option of an ‘After Brunch’ package at the pool lounge from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. A special kids’ menu is also available on request (6-12 years).

On Saturdays, the culinary journey continues with an à la carte lunch menu available from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., featuring signature offerings such as Guacamole, Ceviches, and Arroz Nikkei.

Vodafone Oman signs pact with Elevatus

To enhance its recruitment processes and reduce the manual workload involved in screening thousands of resumes, Vodafone Oman adopted Elevatus’ solutions to centralize and streamline its recruitment efforts in one cohesive platform

MUSCAT: Elevatus, a global leader in AI-driven recruitment solutions, and the strategic partner of OSHRM, announced signing a new partnership with Vodafone Oman to redefine talent acquisition in Oman’s telecom industry.

This forward-thinking collaboration embraces cutting-edge technology and supports Oman’s Vision 2040, which aims to spearhead digital transformation and innovation across telecommunications and human capital sectors. Vodafone Oman, which has achieved 95% Omanisation, is committed to creating Oman’s happiest workplace by fostering an inclusive culture that promotes well-being and career development. As the telecom sector navigates rapid

technological advancements, increasing demand for high-speed services, and the need to attract top talent, Vodafone recognized the need for a recruitment strategy that would drive its ongoing growth.

To enhance its recruitment processes and reduce the manual workload involved in screening thousands of resumes, Vodafone Oman adopted Elevatus’ solutions to centralize and streamline its recruitment efforts in one cohesive platform. This will empower the digital operator to leverage AI-powered features to filter through thousands of candidates instantly, create a branded career page without any coding requirements and assess a mass number of applicants within minutes through



one-way video assessments. By partnering with Elevatus, Vodafone aims to significantly reduce recruitment costs, accelerate the recruitment process and enhance the overall candidate experience—from acquisition to onboarding.

The partnership will enable Vodafone Oman to reduce recruitment costs by 96 per cent, cut hiring time by 90%, and save over 40 hours per hire.

Yara Burgan, CEO and Co-Founder of Elevatus, emphasized the importance of this partnership, stating, “Elevatus in partnership with OSHRM, is committed to advancing the Sultanate’s goals by providing AI-driven technology that streamlines recruitment and drives digital transformation within the telecom sector. Our solutions not only transform hiring practices but also empower companies like Vodafone Oman to lead in their industries. This collaboration is a

significant step toward fostering innovation and growth in Oman’s telecom industry while aligning with the objectives of Vision 2040.”

Fahad Al Busaidi, Chief Corporate Affairs at Vodafone Oman, shared, “As a digital-first operator, innovation is at the core of everything we do. Our partnership with Elevatus allows us to further enhance our recruitment processes by integrating AI-powered solutions that not only improve efficiency but also align with our mission to drive digital transformation across all aspects of our business. By streamlining how we attract and onboard talent, this collaboration strengthens our ability to maintain our competitive edge in the telecom industry. Moreover, it reflects our commitment to contribute to Oman’s Vision 2040 by fostering a future-ready workforce that will lead the nation’s continued growth and development.”

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

MCBS participates in QS Higher Ed Summit



MUSCAT: The Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) participated in the prestigious QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific 2024, taking place from November 5-8 in Macao SAR, China.

Representing the college is a distinguished delegation consisting of Aisha Al Kharusi, Deputy Executive Chairperson; Prof Rami Oweis, Vice Chairman for Institutional Excellence and Advancement; Dr Ahmed Al Mataani, Associate Dean for General Education and General Foundation (CEAP); and Arwa Alhinai, Deputy Head of the Department of General Education and Director of Communication.

The QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific 2024 marked its 20th anniversary, reinforcing its reputation as the leading platform for innovation and collaboration in higher

education in the region. Over the past two decades, the summit brought together thousands of university leaders and government representatives from across Asia Pacific, promoting thought leadership and driving meaningful change. This year’s event, which attracted over 2,000 attendees, featured a dynamic program focused on “Shifting Landscapes, Collaborative Solutions: Pioneering Innovation in Asia Pacific Higher Education.” Participants had the opportunity to engage in industry-leading panel discussions, establish valuable partnerships, and delve into the potential of AI, while also building lifelong learning ecosystems and navigating the ever-changing landscape of higher education.

Among the key highlights of MCBS’s involvement at the sum-



mit was Aisha Al Kharusi’s role as the moderator in a key panel titled “The Virtual Exchange: Collaborative Research Without Borders.” The session brought together experts and thought leaders from various esteemed institutions to discuss how virtual exchange platforms can revolutionize collaborative research in higher education. The panellists explored the growing potential of these borderless exchange platforms to encourage international partnerships, overcome geographical barriers, and transform academic research practices in the Asia Pacific region. Their discussions emphasized that such platforms lead to richer research experiences and more impactful outcomes for the academic community.

Aisha Al Kharusi said, “The QS Higher Ed Summit provides the

Modern College of Business and Science with a unique platform to connect with global thought leaders, showcase its innovative educational approaches, and reaffirm its commitment to shaping the future of higher education. Moderating this panel was a valuable opportunity to highlight MCBS’s dedication to leveraging virtual collaboration as a means to expand access to education and foster international partnerships.”

Al Mataani commented, “Participation in the QS Higher Ed Summit is recognized as a significant milestone in the pursuit of shifting landscapes and collaborative solutions in Asia Pacific, and global higher education. This platform allows for essential exchanges on collaborative research, driving innovation and fostering a culture of learning that transcends borders.”

SIGNS MOU TO SPONSOR 2ND COHORT

Sohar International supports young Omani designers through Fashion Future Programme

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to fostering creativity and empowering Omani talent, Sohar International, Oman’s best bank, sponsored the graduation ceremony for the first cohort of the Fashion Future Program.

Organized by Dar Al Aseel and led by renowned designer Amal Al Raisi, this innovative eight-month program offered aspiring female designers invaluable exposure and guidance in the fashion industry. Representing Sohar International, Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer, attended the event, held under the patronage of Her Highness Sayyida Meyyan bint Shihab Al Said, Chairperson of the Oman Design Association. The ceremony also featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the programme’s second edition, with Sohar International reaffirming its commitment as the Gold Sponsor, continuing its support from the program’s inaugural cohort.

Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer of Sohar International, said, “Empowering Omani women is central to our social responsibility initiatives, and the Fashion Future



Program exemplifies our commitment to advancing their role in Oman’s socio-economic landscape. By equipping Omani women with critical industry skills and real-world experience, this program enables them to make meaningful contributions to the growth of the fashion sector—a sector with immense potential for economic diversification. At Sohar International, we focus on strategic community investments that extend beyond traditional philanthropy, aiming to create sustainable pathways that empower Omani women to realize both their creative and economic aspirations.”

The Fashion Future Program is designed to provide young Omani women a platform to refine their skills and gain industry expo-

sure, blending theoretical knowledge with practical experience. Through specialized courses in fashion forecasting and journalism, as well as international opportunities such as an internship at a prominent fashion house in Paris and visits to global sourcing events like Première Vision and Texworld, the program offers participants a comprehensive view of the global fashion landscape, empowering them to make meaningful contributions to the sector’s growth. The graduation ceremony for the first cohort was held at the Mandarin Oriental Muscat, attended by a number of distinguished guests, including several members of the royal family, diplomats, and media representatives, adding prestige to the event.

Amal Al Raisi, founder of Dar Al Aseel and lead designer, remarked, “I am incredibly proud of each graduate for their dedication and creativity throughout this journey. The Fashion Future Program is a testament to the incredible potential of Omani women in the fashion industry, and I am excited to see how these talented individuals will shape the future of Omani fashion.”

ROUND-UP

Mercedes-Benz launches exclusive National Day service package

Customers can visit Mercedes-Benz Service Centres in Muscat, Sohar, or Salalah to take advantage of this limited-time package at a fixed price of OMR54

MUSCAT: In celebration of Oman's 54th National Day, Mercedes-Benz Oman launches a limited-time service package to provide premium care for Mercedes-Benz vehicles. From November 10 to 23, customers can visit Mercedes-Benz Service Centres in Muscat, Sohar, or Salalah to take advantage of this limited-time package at a fixed price of OMR 54.

Available for all Mercedes-Benz models registered before January 1, 2021, this package provides comprehensive services to keep cars in

top condition. It includes a diagnostic computer test, an engine oil and filter change, brake fluid replacement, windscreen washer concentrate renewal and top-up, coolant fluid level check and top-up, and a vehicle wash, vacuum, and tire dressing—all designed to ensure a seamless driving experience for Mercedes-Benz owners. “At Mercedes-Benz Oman, our commitment is to deliver unparalleled standards of service and care,” said Shaun Michael, CEO. “With this exclusive package, we aim to ensure our valued customers experience unmatched vehicle performance and safety, celebrating National Day with the peace of mind that their Mercedes-Benz is in optimal condition.”



COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

BankDhofar partners with Dhofar Insurance

MUSCAT: Commercial banks are considered an important part of the insurance industry and play a vital role in providing individuals with comprehensive and integrated insurance solutions that meet both their personal and financial needs. BankDhofar acts as an intermediary between insurance companies and customers to facilitate the process of obtaining appropriate insurance which in turn contributes to providing convenience and ease to customers by allowing them to manage their bank accounts and insurance services under one roof. BankDhofar, in partnership with Dhofar Insurance, offers various insurance coverage plans, such as comprehensive and third party motor insurance at attractive premiums, as well as health insurance cover for family members and domestic workers. The health insurance plans are customized based on the requirements. Bilal Faiz Al Raiisi, AGM Cards and Bancassurance at BankDhofar, said: “The insurance sector in the Sultanate of Oman plays an important role in the economy and is one of the fastest growing sectors as it contributed 1.23% to the GDP



indicating that individuals of all segments are interested in insuring their property and life, while Oman is experiencing economic stability and good recovery with an improved credit rating as well as attracting foreign investment.” “BankDhofar’s role in facilitating the acquisition of insurance solutions or services is not limited to individuals, but also to companies, as it protects the company’s property, investments, assets from potential losses such as fraud, theft, natural disasters, etc., thus enhancing its stability and ensuring its continuity in providing financial services,” he added. Omar Ahmed Al Shaikh, Deputy CEO of Dhofar Insurance Company said, “We value our relationship with BankDhofar and are partnering with them to bring the benefits of innovative insurance products to BankDhofar’s customers.”

FRENCH BRAND’S SOPHISTICATION

St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort introduces Oman’s first Guerlain Spa

MUSCAT: Ushering in a new era of luxury and wellness in the Sultanate of Oman, the Guerlain Spa is now open at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort as the brand’s debut outpost in Oman. Fringed by the ocean and a pristine golf course, the Guerlain Spa brings the esteemed French brand’s sophistication and innovative therapies, creating a sanctuary of holistic rejuvenation. The first Guerlain Spa in the country will be a place of serenity with eleven treatment rooms including two exclusive couple suites, steam rooms, and saunas. A dedicated relaxation haven will invite tranquility, while the spa’s boutique will present Guerlain’s iconic collections of skincare, fragrances and makeup, alongside a captivating scent bar for sensory exploration. It will also offer bespoke beauty and a wellness menu inspired by Omani philosophy and traditions, promising a journey of unparalleled immersion. Guests can experience a plethora of treatments that meticulously follow Guerlain’s protocols ex-



ecuted with precision and personalized attention from diagnosis to therapy. Signature treatments include the “Imperial Face Sculpt”, a high-tech sculpting facial massage bringing firmness, radiance, and youthfulness to the skin, and the “Ultimate Black Orchid”, a Guerlain masterpiece from the Orchidée Impériale Age Reverse Collection harnessing the power of the Black Orchid. Other treatments

include massages, body sculpting and polishing, youth repairing, hand and nail therapy, and specialised treatments for expectant mothers. Stand-out experiences comprise an Oriental Hammam and a lavish three-hour Rose and Oud sensory escape. Dedicated treatments tailored for men are also available to combat aging, soothe sore muscles, and promote a commitment to self-care.

Additionally, one treatment has been specially designed for the property, honouring the rich traditions of Oman and infusing them with the spirit of Guerlain. Exclusive to The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, “Legend of Incense” invites guests to embark on a sensory journey with the enigmatic fragrance of Oud Nude. A multi sensorial facial and body experience where the gentle brush

dance meets expert gesture to release tensions. Creating a stunning sanctuary, the interiors of the Guerlain Spa at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort are meticulously designed to preserve Muscat’s unique identity. The design features soft, serene colors, enhancing the tranquil ambiance with a play on textures, both raw and smooth. Arches and rounded architectural elements are prevalent throughout, contributing to a gentle and regenerative environment. Lighting is a key focus, crafted by a lighting designer to produce various effects and an overall warm atmosphere. The indirect lighting aims to envelop guests in a soothing glow that complements their spa treatments, making the experience both visually and sensorially enriching. All treatments embody the spirit of the storied French luxury brand, having been explored, innovated, and perfected in fragrance, skincare, makeup, and wellness. Guerlain Spas draw inspiration from nature, art, culture, and beauty, seamlessly blending illustrious

heritage with avant-garde trends to create unparalleled experiences. Furthermore, Guerlain has been dedicated to conserving nature and protecting its beloved bees for over 15 years – an emblem of the brand since 1853. For those seeking a transformative wellness journey, the Guerlain Spa Membership Program presents an unparalleled opportunity to become part of one of the most prestigious spa communities. This meticulously designed tiered membership, featuring the Diamond, Gold, and Silver tiers, offers exclusive access to a myriad of benefits. Members can enjoy a flexible credit system for spa services and retail purchases throughout the year, allowing them to reap significant savings while enhancing their personal wellness experience. Furthermore, members and their guests are invited to exclusive workshops led by expert therapists, covering essential topics such as beauty, massage and wellness, immersing them in a community dedicated to luxury and holistic care.

STAND UP COMEDY

Danube Properties presents THE NRI

MUSCAT: Danube Properties Dubai presents THE NRI - A stand up comedy special by Nitinn R. Miranni in Association with Humor Infection & Alter Ego Entertainment. Having performed a packed audience the last time he was in Muscat, Award Winning comedian Nitinn R Miranni is back with his comedy special that will surely leave you falling off your seats with laughter. Catch The NRI - Nitinn R Miranni Live on 23 November at Hormuz Grand Hotel. Officially the first Indian artist to perform at the Statue Of Liberty, New York, Miranni is widely recognized as “The NRI” comedian, a title he embraces due to his unique upbringing and global comedy presence. Born and raised in Dubai with Indian roots, Nitinn uses his experiences as an NRI to craft humor that resonates with audiences around the world. His identity as “The NRI” reflects his ability to navigate the blend of Eastern and Western cultures, offering comedic insights into the life of an Desi living abroad. He is also bringing his special act Uncle Manmaani who is gained a lot of popularity online due to his sharp wit and completely unscripted performances. The event will be hosted by Oman’s very own com-



edy rockstar Abbas Al Lawathi. “Muscat has always been one of my favourite places to perform at because the audiences are always up for a good laugh and don’t shy away from having a good time. In the past as well I have had an amazing mix of Desi’s as well as

Omani’s in the audience and thats double the fun right there. Muscat is a superb vibe” says Miranni. Here are 5 reasons to Catch the NRI: A comedy special by Miranni Cultural Comedy: Nitinn taps into the challenges and quirks that come with being an NRI, such as

adjusting to different customs, balancing Indian traditions with modern life, and the often humorous misunderstandings that arise from cross-cultural experiences. Global Performances: Nitinn has performed in multiple countries and for diverse audiences, making him a true “global comedian.” His performance at venues like the Burj Khalifa, the Eiffel Tower, and even the Statue of Liberty showcase his wide appeal. Clean, Relatable Humor: His comedy, often centered around everyday situations faced by NRIs, is clean and family-friendly, making it accessible to a wide audience. He jokes about things like accents, Indian family dynamics, and life in foreign lands, which NRIs (and others) can easily relate to. Bridging Cultures: Nitinn uses his platform to bridge the gap between different cultures through humor. His work as “The NRI” often highlights the humor in cultural contrasts, misunderstandings, and the joys of living between two worlds. Impersonations - Whether its Hollywood , Bollywood or Accents his impersonations are absolutely on point every single time Gates open 7:30pm, Show Starts 8pm, Tickets Available on: www.platinumlist.net.





pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222 9275 5522

© OmanOasis

BIG NATIONAL DAY SALE 25% - 60% *OFF** *ON SELECTED STYLES*

max
maxfashion.com

in store | online | mobile
Download the app now.



*CONDITIONS APPLY.



centrepoint

centrepointstores.com

the big
national day
sale

20%
TO

70%
OFF

*On Selected Items



شانغريلا بر الجصة، مسقط
SHANGRI-LA
BARR AL JISSAH
MUSCAT

OMAN NATIONAL DAY

Staycation

WITH **54%** OFF STAYS

Book our best available rate at Al Waha
and enjoy 54% discount on stays, with breakfast.

Available for stays between 20 - 28 November

Offer is exclusive for residents of Oman

☎ 24776262 📞 79269247



the origin

SHE GROWS. SHE LEADS.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS FORUM



GUEST OF HONOR

HER HIGHNESS DR. TAGHREED AL SAID

FOUNDER & CEO, MY BOOK &
ME EDUTAINMENT CENTER
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY - SQU



LAILA AL HADHRAMI

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
C3 CITIES



SIHAM AL HARTHY

CO-FOUNDER,
SIHAM DEVELOPMENT
& INVESTMENT



FATHMA AL NABHANI

GOLD MEDALIST -
PRO TENNIS & PADDLE PLAYER



DR. BUDOOR AL MANSOUR

COO/ CO-FOUNDER,
NOVO GENOMICS



SOFANA DAHLAN

FOUNDER &
MANAGING PARTNER,
SOFANA R DALHAN FIRM



RUMAITHA AL BUSAIDI

VP, ENVIRONMENT
SOCIETY OF OMAN



AREEJ AL SHAIBAN

SENIOR MANAGER
TALENT AND PLANNING,
OMANTEL



ELISE VAN ZEELAND

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HABIB MEDICAL GROUP



RAHMA AL-HASHMI

DEPUTY VP COMMERCIAL,
SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE

WE WELCOME YOU TO THE ORIGIN:

A TRANSFORMATIVE FORUM CELEBRATING WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT ORGANIZED BY GLC (TIMES OF OMAN),
WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON

**2ND DECEMBER 2024 AT THE
CROWNE PLAZA OCEC MUSCAT**



RESERVE YOUR CHAIR AT
WWW.GULFLEADERSCIRCLE.COM

OMR 25

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT US ON HI@GULFLEADERSCIRCLE.COM

SUPPORT PARTNER



KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



STRATEGIC PARTNER



ENDORSEMENT PARTNER



SUSTAINABILITY PARTNER

