



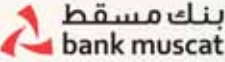
HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF CZECH REPUBLIC

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Petr Pavel of the Czech Republic on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Petr Pavel and the government and people of the Czech Republic. His Majesty also wished the Czech Republic stability, prosperity and further development to bilateral cooperation.— **ONA**



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TELEPHONE CALL

Sayyid Badr holds talks with Iranian counterpart over Israeli airstrikes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister on Sunday made a phone call with Dr. Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the telephonic conversation, the two ministers discussed the latest regional developments and the Israeli attacks on Iranian sites.

Sayyid Badr expressed the Sultanate of Oman's rejection and condemnation of any actions that undermine the sovereignty of states and the rule of international law and threaten security and stability in the region. He underscored the importance of strengthening dialogue and diplomatic cooperation between the countries of the region to maintain regional security and prevent



tension and escalation.

On his turn, the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his appreciation for the position of the Sultanate of Oman, lauding its diplomatic efforts to achieve consensus and peace in the region. He also stressed the need to enhance joint coopera-

tion to prevent the expansion of conflicts and intensify work and cooperation to address their causes.

Earlier, the Sultanate of Oman had condemned the airstrikes launched by Israel on Iranian territory.

The Foreign Ministry described the attack as a "flagrant violation" of Iran's sovereignty and a clear breach of international law. Oman's Foreign Ministry expressed deep concern over the escalation, warning that such actions fuel the cycle of violence and undermine ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions and resolve conflicts through diplomatic means.

"These practices by Israel pose a severe risk, dragging the region towards further instability and unrest," the ministry stated.

—With inputs from **ONA**

OMAN, ALGERIA TO BOOST TIES IN ENERGY AND MINING

The volume of trade between Oman and Algeria amounted to about OMR41 million

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria share stable relations and consensus in visions and stances towards many regional and international issues.

Relations between the two countries are marked by solid cooperation between government and private sectors in many fields, including energy, renewable energy, mining, industry, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical production, transport, logistics, food security and desert farming.

The Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria join hands in developing commercial and economic relations under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who will begin a three-day state visit to Oman tomorrow Monday, 28 October 2024.

It is hoped that the two sides will discuss means to step up cooperation in the fields of investment, energy and mining. **>A4**

Algerian president to visit Oman on Monday



MUSCAT: President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria will pay a three-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman, on Monday.

A statement to this effect was issued by the Diwan of Royal Court. It reads as follows: "In affirmation of the fraternal ties binding the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria will pay a three-day state visit to Oman, starting from Monday, 28 October 2024.

"The visit comes within the context of the joint cooperation to achieve further welfare and growth in a manner that serves the two countries and meets their aspirations.

"During the visit, the two leaderships will discuss all matters that contribute to the joint Arab action. They will also exchange views on a set of regional and international developments. May the Almighty Allah grant the leaderships of the two countries success for the good of their peoples and the Arab and Muslim nations!" — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Sayyid Badr receives copies of credentials

1 Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received the copies of credentials of several ambassadors of Arab and foreign countries appointed to Oman at the general diwan of the Foreign Ministry on Sunday. Sayyid Badr wished the ambassadors success in carrying out their duties. **>A4**

WORLD BRICS calls for action on land degradation

2 BRICS leaders have issued a joint statement calling for increased financial resources and stronger partnerships to address land degradation, desertification and drought ahead of a major United Nations environment conference to be held in Saudi Arabia in December. **>A7**

SPORTS Afghanistan A beat Sri Lanka A, lift title

3 A rampant Afghanistan A claimed the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup title with a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka A in the final at the Oman Cricket Academy ground on Sunday. Having restricted Sri Lanka A to 133/7, Afghanistan team won with 11 balls remaining. **>A8**



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Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:55am

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PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION

Oman, Estonia ink pact on avoiding double taxation

MUSCAT: The governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Estonia signed on Sunday in Muscat an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman by Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority, and on behalf of the Government of Estonia by Ingrid Amer, envoy of Estonia to Oman. The agreement aims to regulate tax im-

WITH NEWS NETWORKS

position mechanisms and provide legal protection for investors from double taxation, thereby promoting investments and trade exchange between the two countries. -ONA

Social protection scheme reviewed

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WITH NEWS NETWORKS

A presentation during the meeting highlighted the Social Protection Fund's role in enhancing social and economic stability of the beneficiaries. - ONA

MUSCAT: The Government Communication Centre organised a media meeting, in cooperation with the Social Protection Fund for active news networks. The meeting reviewed the social protection scheme, its operating mechanisms, details, the mechanism of providing support and services, and its diverse benefits. A presentation held during the meeting highlighted the Social Protection Fund's role in enhancing social and economic stability of the beneficiaries. The presentation also underscored the Fund's role in achieving sustainable development. The meeting comes within the framework of the efforts exerted by the Government Communication Centre to enhance transparency and interaction between government institutions and the media, and achieve greater integration in transferring information and rendering services to the public. -ONA

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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

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

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- Young Business Leader of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
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- IPG of the Year
- Company of the Year

FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS, CONTACT

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TimesBusinessLeadershipSummit

COMMENTARY

As the shadows were growing longer



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I rested on the bench when I was tired of walking. Two dogs walked side by side past me. One of them stopped and came back. It wagged its tail in front me and looked at m. Then walked to my feet and sniffed them. A few seconds later, he lost interest on me and walked away.

Sometimes animals too can be arrogant and fussy. I guess I was not there as a passing curiosity to the dog. I watched the dogs disappeared from sight and concentrated on myself. I was physically exhausted. However, my body urged me to walk for another kilometer. As the sun slowly descended behind the distant mountains, shadows of trees became longer and fainter. The light of the day was fading as the sky painted patches of crimson on the clouds.

The tide of the sea was fast receding and I spotted an old

fisherman desperately trying to mount an outboard engine on his boat. He looked behind him for his young partner for help. The partner was walking away from him. The strong breeze swept away the fisherman's call, bouncing on the waves, wasting away on the choppy waters. He gave up and left the engine on the beach.

I watched him bending and collecting his belongings as his grey beard twisted in the wind. He gave me a disapproving look. As he walked past me, he dropped his wallet on the pavement. I could have had my revenge. But instead, I got up, picked the stuffed wallet and gave him a shout. Embarrassed, he walked back, took it gratefully and gave me a toothless grin.

It was his way of saying thank you. I suppose fishermen don't talk much. They do it through gestures.

I watched him walking out of my line of sight, disappearing in the growing shadows. I went back to my bench and sat there long enough for the streetlights to come on. The same dog returned but walked in the opposite direction. This time, the animal completely ignored me. His attention was on the partner next to him.

I decided to leave, but I could not make up my mind whether to go home or continue with my walk. In the semi-darkness, I saw a cloud of seagulls flew

from the beach, some half a kilometer away, to the sky. They were making their routine flight to the mountains for their night roost.

They made up my mind for me to go back home. As I was crossing the road, a young couple caught my attention. They were strolling hand in hand, giggling.

An amusing thought entered my mind. A stupid dog had found its partner and even seagulls were in a flock, but I was alone in the streets.

It was at that instant, as chance would have it, that my wife called to inquire about my lateness. I assured her I was walking home even as I was talking to her.

It was dark when I was entering the gate of my house. The cat, which fouls up my garden on a regular basis, was sitting in the wheelbarrow, looking at me defiantly. She snarled at me, as if daring me to shoo her away.

My wife opened the door and joined me.

"Oh, leave it alone," she said. "The poor cat is pregnant."

I was about to ask her how on earth she knew that. But I kept my mouth shut. I guess it was because of her maternal instinct. Instead, I said to her, "I wonder who the father is?"

"Who cares?" she said and pulled me inside the house. "You should care who the husband in this house is."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Parking restrictions announced for Sultan Qaboos Street

MUSCAT: Parking restrictions will be in place on Sultan Qaboos Street from Monday, 28 October for a period of three days, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) announced.

In a statement, the ROP said, "Vehicles are prohibited from

parking on both sides of Sultan Qaboos Street from Burj Al Sahwa Roundabout to the Wilayat of Muscat, starting tomorrow, Monday, for a period of three days."

The restrictions will end on Wednesday, 30 October, according to the statement.





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Oman, Algeria share stable relations and same vision

<FROM A1 It is expected to unveil lucrative opportunities, including the prospects of establishing joint projects.

The relations between Oman and Algeria are deep-rooted. The visit made to Algeria by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 1973 contributed to strengthening ties, which were further consolidated through the visit of late Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to Oman in 1990.

As part of mutual respect, Algerian Prime Minister Abdelaziz Ben Djerad visited Oman to offer his condolences on the death of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said in January 2020.

Meanwhile, the joint committee formed by the governments of the two countries (on 23 February 1991) is expected to play a greater role in developing bilateral cooperation, notably in the fields of energy, renewable energy, mining, industry, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical production, transport, logistics, food security, desert farming, food processing industries, fertilizers, information technology and tourism.

During a meeting held in June 2024 in Algeria, the two sides agreed to prepare a joint vision for establishing an investment fund to operate across diverse sectors.

Within the framework of the 8th session of the Joint Committee, a symposium was held for the Omani business people and their Algerian counterparts. The symposium saw the participation of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), a number of CEOs and representatives of "Invest Oman Lounge". The session included B2B meetings during which the two sides explored scopes for establishing joint projects. They also approved a number of recommendations and agreed to follow up their implementation.

The volume of trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria amounted to about OMR41 million by the end of 2023.

This figure reflects a good level of trade cooperation compared to other Arab countries in North Africa. It is also an incentive for further growth and partnership in various economic fields.

The total exports of Oman to Algeria until the end of July 2024 amounted to (OMR37,348,252), while the value of Oman's imports from Algeria during the end of July



2024 amounted to (OMR509,272), and the value of re-exports to Algeria until the end of the same month stood at (OMR375,063).

There are a number of joint ventures that represent the economic cooperation between the two sides, such as the cooperation between Algerian National Hydrocarbons Company "Sonatrach" and Bahwan Group to produce ammonia and urea in the Arzew city in the Oran Province, with total investments amounting to approximately USD 3 billion, as the contribution of Bahwan Group stands at 51 percent.

This project is considered the most important in the economic partnership between Oman and Algeria, and it reflects the commitment of the two countries to upgrade cooperation in the fields of industry and energy.

In addition, "Abraaj" and "OQ"

are striving to set up investment projects in the energy sector in Algeria.

The Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria are keen to boost the trade and economic relations, including exploring investment in areas of energy and mining, as well as pharmaceutical industries, taken into consideration the remarkable development witnessed by the pharmaceutical sector in Algeria.

Previously, Algeria covered only 15 to 20 percent of its pharmaceutical needs, but this figure has now risen to about 80 percent, making it one of the countries exporting advanced medicines such as insulin. This sector represents a promising opportunity for cooperation between Oman and Algeria, as Oman can benefit from Algerian expertise in developing pharmaceutical industries and expanding

export markets.

In the agricultural sector, desert farming in Algeria is one of the sectors with promising growth, as 3 million hectares have been prepared for agriculture in the long term, and the current project aims to cultivate one million hectares.

Agricultural products in the Algerian desert are characterized by high quality. As for fertilizers, which represent a strategic product for the Algerian economy, Algeria exports quantities of them to African countries, in addition to a huge project to produce phosphate, which makes it one of the largest producers of phosphate in the world with an annual production of up to 1.5 million tonnes.

In the field of renewable energy - one of the promising areas of cooperation between the two countries - Algeria has recently begun setting up major projects in this field



in cooperation with the European Union. Therefore, the two countries can exchange expertise and technologies in developing renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind energy, and explore joint investment opportunities in this vital sector, which represents one of the most prominent future solutions to meet sustainable energy needs. On the cultural and scientific side, Algeria offered for the first time this year 10 PhD scholarships and 25 Bachelor's scholarships for Omani students. Meanwhile, the Omani Programme for Cultural and Scientific Cooperation offers 3 study seats for Algerian students. The Omani programme is currently being developed to increase the number of scholarships allocated to Algeria to 10 seats.

The number of Algerian community members in the Sultanate of Oman is estimated at about (2,469) until mid-2024, including about 400 engineers and technicians in the oil and energy sectors.

Saif Nasser Al Badaai, Ambassador of Oman to Algeria said: "The relations between Oman and Algeria are deep-rooted, and the two countries have insightful political visions and coordination on Arab and international issues. Therefore, this visit, the first of its kind, can be described as a "historic visit" and it would strengthen bilateral relations in the future and open up wider horizons, thanks to the directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and their keenness to push the bilateral partnership forward".

He told Oman News Agency (ONA) that this visit will boost the relations between the two countries in a way that serves their peoples.

The Ambassador added that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two

countries in the early 1970s, they have been witnessing a continuous development, as the agreement to establish the joint committee was signed between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

He explained that the committee held 8 sessions, the last of which was in the Algerian capital last June.

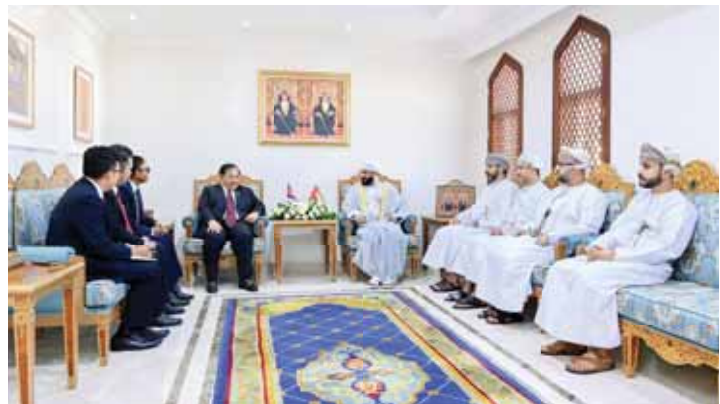
The Ambassador stated that in July 2024, it was announced that negotiations were progressing to establish a Hyundai factory in Algeria. The project aims to establish a line for manufacturing vehicle bodies and a line for painting operations. The project is scheduled to produce, in its first stages, three models of passenger cars, two models of utility vehicles, and one model of electric cars.

The number of companies registered in the Sultanate of Oman with Algerian participation until the end of 2023 amounted to (423), compared to (251) companies in 2022, marking a growth rate of (68.5 percent), he further added.

Saif Nasser Al Badaai, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, concluded his statement saying: "Culture is the essence of the Omani vision, and we are keen to place the presence of Oman in all Algerian cultural institutions and spaces as one of our most important goals. Therefore, we sought to allocate a special corner for it in the library of the Grand Mosque of Algiers, which was opened this year (2024). Oman also recently presented valuable books for the mosque. We were keen to have the Omani Encyclopedia placed on the shelves of the library of the Algerian Supreme Council for the Arabic Language this year as well".

ENHANCING COOPERATION

Oman, Cambodia hold talks on endowments, religious affairs



MUSCAT: Represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, the Sultanate of Oman on Sunday held official talks in Muscat with the Kingdom of Cambodia to discuss means of enhancing cooperation in the fields of endowments and religious affairs.

The two sides expressed their commitment to promote the values of human harmony and peaceful coexistence, notably by consolidating bilateral relations.

The Omani side at the talks was headed by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, while Dr. Osman Hassan, Prime Minister in charge of Islamic Affairs in the Kingdom of Cambodia, headed his country's side.

During the session, the Ministry presented a comprehensive display showcasing Omani experiences in organizing endowments and religious affairs. It also outlined the projects of "Humanitarian Coalition" and "Message of Peace" undertaken by the Sultanate of Oman.

The two projects affirm Oman's dedication to propagating the values of tolerance and mutual respect by organizing dialogue forums and interactive workshops that enhance mutual understanding and contribute to building bridges between societies.

The session of talks was attended by Ok Saron, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Sultanate of Oman, and officials from both countries. -ONA

MEETINGS



Foreign minister receives copies of credentials of several ambassadors

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received copies of credentials of several ambassadors of Arab and foreign countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman at the General Diwan of the Foreign Ministry on Sunday.

The ambassadors were: Abdi Aden Korio, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya, Tharwah Neimat, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Warunee Pan-krajang, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Sayyid Badr wished the ambassadors success in carrying out their duties. He also wished bilateral relations with their respective countries further development and growth.

The meetings were attended by several officials from the Foreign Ministry. -ONA





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SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Results of topics of ‘Together We Progress’ forum announced

MUSCAT: The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers announced the outcome of voting launched to select topics for discussion at the forum titled “Together We Progress”.

The voting process, aimed to activate communication between the government and society, took place between 16 and 23 October 2024.

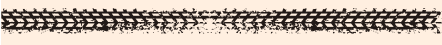
The process saw the participation of 19,360 citizens (male and female) from different governorates of Oman.

The topic of “Economy and Development” gathered the largest number of votes (63%), followed by “Governorates Development” topic (25%) and the topic of “Private Sector and Investment” (12%).

Apart from the topics already set in the questionnaire, the topic of “Social Protection System” topped the topics most requested for discussion by society.

The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers will later announce the start of registration of citizens to attend the forum’s activities via an electronic link. -OMA

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A TIMES OF OMAN PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION

Invitation for Bids to Purchase the Assets of a Public Joint Stock Company

Morison Muscat has been appointed as the official liquidator for Oman Sweets SAOG (under liquidation). Accordingly, we invite interested parties to submit offers to purchase all of the company’s assets (**on an as-is-where-is basis**), which include key properties in the Rusayl Industrial area. These properties are governed by long-term government usufruct agreements and consist of three plots of land, with a total area exceeding 10,000 square meters. Two of these plots house factory buildings equipped with machinery from world-renowned brands, in addition to a number of used vehicles.

Please note that there should be one consolidated bid for all of the assets of the Company and individual piecemeal bids for selected assets will not be entertained.

Interested parties can obtain further details regarding the assets for sale upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee of OMR 50. The deadline for purchasing tender documents is October 31, 2024 (referred to as the closing date). After the closing date, field visits to the assets will be arranged for all parties who have purchased tender documents and expressed their intent to submit purchase offers. Tender documents will be made available electronically via email after payment of the bid fee has been confirmed.

The bid fee must be paid to the bank account listed below, and proof of payment should be attached to your email request for the tender document. Bid documents must be submitted in sealed envelopes to Morison Muscat at the following address within 4 days of the close of the bidding process. The decision of the liquidators in relation to all matters contained herein will be final and binding on all parties.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:
For further information and to obtain the bid document, please contact: **Morison Muscat , 2 nd Floor Ajith Khimji Building, Darsait Area, PO Box 2123, PC 112, Sultanate of Oman, Phone: 22060040, Fax: 22060043, Email: info@morisonmuscat.com**

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UN-AUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

MANAGEMENTS' REPORT FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Company continued its focus on the domestic segment by expanding product range and geographical coverage within Oman and neighbouring countries. This has helped in hedging the risk against volatile export segment. With result-oriented efforts in Industrial apparel (B2B), we have achieved remarkable growth in majority of the markets and have been able to maintain our market share with top customers. With right strategy in place your company is optimistic of realizing stable revenue during the year.

Financial Results:

Revenue for the current period grew by thirty-four percent to OMR 3,262,587 as against the revenue of OMR 2,431,645 achieved during the same period of last year. The nine months period, ended with a net profit of OMR 331,167 after taxes, as against a net profit of OMR 50,310 achieved during the similar period of last year.

Shareholders' fund:

Shareholders' fund as of 30 September 2024 was at OMR 2,200,910 as against OMR 1,880,685 as of 30 September 2023.

Operations:

During the nine months of the current year, the company produced 1,017 metric tons of sewing thread as against 737 metric tons of sewing thread produced during same period of the last year, growth of thirty-eight percent. Export sales accounted for about eighty-five percent of total revenue (last year eighty-five percent).

Omanization & training:

Company is committed towards employment of Omani youths and awarding suitable training for their overall growth.

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of the company, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Taik for his wise leadership and generous support to the private sector.

On behalf of all the employees and Management, I also express our sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support to the Management.

I would also like to place on record our gratitude to all employees for their dedication and hard work. We also thank the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment promotion, other government authorities/ ministries, the Financial Services Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange, Muscat Clearing & Depository Co., and our bankers for their support.

Mithilesh Kumar Singh
Chief Executive Officer

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT

	30 Sep 2024	30 Sep 2023	31 Dec 2023
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	723,118	580,912	607,695
ROU assets	158,958	154,679	166,936
Deferred tax assets	55,909	59,199	55,559
Total non-current assets	937,985	794,790	830,190
Current assets			
Inventories	1,320,143	900,182	1,256,571
Trade & other receivables	1,111,998	984,801	861,936
Bank and cash	152,390	128,480	211,051
Total current assets	2,584,531	2,013,463	2,329,558
Total assets	3,522,516	2,808,253	3,159,748
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	1,639,411	1,607,265	1,607,265
Legal reserve	222,316	210,343	222,316
Reserve for bad and doubtful debts	16,400	-	-
Retained Earning	322,783	63,077	120,525
Total shareholders' equity	2,200,910	1,880,685	1,950,106
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Employees' end of service benefits	160,527	130,700	143,109
Non-current portion of lease liability ROU Assets	184,463	165,456	187,382
Total non-current liabilities	344,990	296,156	330,491
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	753,710	450,571	628,257
Bank borrowings	121,059	122,155	188,047
Current maturities of term loans	-	31,423	21,823
Current maturities lease liability ROU Assets	4,868	-	4,646
Income Tax payable	96,979	27,263	36,378
Total current liabilities	976,616	631,412	879,151
Total liabilities	1,321,606	927,568	1,209,642
Total equity and liabilities	3,522,516	2,808,253	3,159,748
Net assets per share	0.134	0.117	0.121

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED

	30 Sep 2024	30 Sep 2023
Turnover/Revenue	3,262,587	2,431,645
Cost of Sale	(2,252,435)	(1,826,184)
Gross profit	1,010,152	605,461
Other Income	4,836	1,387
Distribution expenses	(417,190)	(301,489)
Administration & general expenses	(160,991)	(143,731)
Provision for slow moving inventories	(27,415)	3,178
Allowances for credit losses	10,701	(26,426)
Profit from operations	420,093	138,380
Finance expenses	(28,672)	(32,150)
Profit/(loss) for the period before income tax	391,421	106,230
Taxation	(60,254)	(55,920)
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period	331,167	50,310
Earning per share	0.020	0.003

Note: The company does not have any items under other comprehensive income.

Note: The complete accounts are available on MSX website. If required, the same can also be provided by email or post in Arabic or English, in seven days, on receipt of written request from the shareholder.

INVEST IN OMAN'S FUTURE

FIXED AND ATTRACTIVE RETURN

Auction of RO 75 Million (with Greenshoe Option) 5 Years at 4.75% p.a.



Government Development Bonds

On behalf of the Government of Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Oman announces the 72nd issue of Government Development Bonds (GDBs) to be auctioned. The 72nd issue of GDBs will be issued on Tuesday, 5th of November 2024, carrying a coupon rate of 4.75% per annum for a maturity period of 5 years (maturing on 5th of November 2029). These Bonds will be auctioned and priced on Sunday, 3rd of November 2024. Investors may apply for these Bonds through licensed commercial banks by completing the application form.

Security of Capital

The GDBs are direct and unconditional obligations of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

Fixed Returns

Interest shall accrue from the date of issue, and will be paid semi-annually on the 5th of May and 5th of November of every year until maturity. The first payment will be made on 5th May 2025. Interest payments will cease once the Bond matures.

Liquidity

The bonds will be listed and can be traded before maturity in the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) at the prevailing market price.

Collateral Advantage

The Bonds can be used as a collateral security to obtain loans from any licensed commercial bank.

Who Can Invest?

The 72nd issue of GDBs is offered to all categories of investors, residents and non-residents.

How to buy the bonds?

Investors may obtain bonds through any licensed commercial bank operating in the Sultanate of Oman, upon the submission of an eligible application form. Investors must provide their MCD Investor Code in the application form.

Bank Account Details

The investor must provide the same Bank Account details registered with Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. S.A.O.C. (MCD).

MCD Investor Code

Anyone without an MCD Investor Code can obtain it from MCD's website (www.mcd.gov.om) or via the Oman Stocks app at least one day before applying through the commercial bank.

For any enquires:
Tel: +968 24822222
E-mail: mcd.support@mcd.om

Subscription & Auction Period

Open: Sunday, October 27th, 2024
Close: Thursday, October 31st, 2024
Auction: Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

The minimum subscription amount is RO 100

To view the prospectus of the 72nd issue of GDBs, please visit the following websites:
Ministry of Finance | www.mof.gov.om
Central Bank of Oman | www.cbo.gov.om

For further details, contact the Market Operations Department at CBO or any licensed commercial bank in the Sultanate of Oman.

Tel: +968 24777145 / 24777635/ 24777832
P.O Box 1161, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman

E-mail: mod@cbo.gov.om

OMAN/REGION



Madayn floats tender to set up Al Mudhaibi Industrial City

The bidders are invited to participate in the tender through an Omani-Saudi coalition for implementing the city’s infrastructure (first phase) in North A’Sharqiyah Governorate

AL MUDHAIBI: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) on Sunday floated a tender for a project to establish “Al Mudhaibi Industrial City” in North A’Sharqiyah Governorate. The tender targets specialised companies in the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The bidders are invited to participate in the tender through an Omani-Saudi coalition for implementing the city’s infrastructure (first phase). The tender provides for the development of approximately 2.5 million square metres of land. The process covers basic services

like road networks, water, sewage, lighting, security fences and the installation of surveillance devices. The complex will also include administrative offices, private parking lots, truck entrance and exit tracks. It also includes a service building that will house offices of the industrial city’s management teams. Another unit, “Masar Service Centre”, will serve as a one-stop shop for investors. Mahmoud Yahya Al Dhuhli, Governor of North Al Sharqiyah, said that Al Mudhaibi Industrial City would be an integrated environment for the industrial sector in the governorate. The facility comprises all necessary units to serve the sectors of mining, food, tourism and other sectors whose raw materials are available near the governorate, he added. Sheikh Saud Mohammed Al Hinai, Wali of Al Mudhaibi, said that the city covers an area of about 9 million square metres, of which 3 million square metres will be allocated to commercial and industrial sectors during the first phase. He pointed out that the city seeks to enhance industrial development in the governorate, serving as a motivator for investment and quality projects. Al Hinai stressed that the industrial city offers many investment incentives, including tax exemptions, 100% free ownership of projects by non-Omanis and renewable lease contracts extending to 30 years. — ONA

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OF OMAN

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UAE
First direct flights from Sharjah to Maldives launched

SHARJAH: Sharjah Airport and Air Arabia celebrated the launch of the first direct flight from Sharjah to the Maldives on 27th October 2024, marking a new milestone for Sharjah’s position in the international travel and tourism sectors. The inaugural ceremony for the flight was attended by Hasaan Waheed, Deputy Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the UAE, alongside officials and directors from Sharjah Airport Authority (SAA) and Air Arabia. Air Arabia will operate daily flights between Sharjah Airport and Velana International Airport in Malé, Maldives, using Airbus A320 aircraft. Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah Airport Authority, stated, “Sharjah Airport continues to expand its presence on the international travel map, and we are committed to adding new direct destinations for airlines operating through the airport. The launch of the first direct flights from Sharjah to the Maldives is another milestone added to the previous destinations announced by Air Arabia this year. This reaffirms our deep commitment to expanding our international network and providing passengers with a unique travel experience and outstanding services.” Al Midfa added that the Maldives is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations globally, motivating Sharjah Airport to intensify efforts to offer the best services for passengers travelling on direct flights to these islands. He noted that this new route also highlights Sharjah Airport’s role in strengthening the aviation sector in the region, while enhancing economic and tourism ties between the UAE and the Maldives and opening new horizons for economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, commented, “The inaugural flight to the Maldives represents an exciting new chapter in our network expansion. We are excited to offer our customers direct access to this tropical paradise. With the addition of this new route, we reaffirm our commitment to provide affordable and value-driven air travel while offering more options to explore new destinations around the world.” Sharjah Airport Authority’s strategic plan aims to increase the airport’s capacity to 25 million passengers by attracting international airlines, increasing international flights, and expanding the network of destinations. — WAM

JOINT PARTNERSHIP
Vale and Jinnan Iron & Steel Group announce investing more than \$600mn in Oman’s first iron ore concentration plant

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Vale, a global leader in iron ore production, and Jinnan Iron & Steel Group, a renowned Chinese steel-maker in advanced separation technologies, announced a joint partnership to establish Oman’s first iron ore concentration plant in SOHAR Port and Freezone. With an initial investment exceeding \$600 million, the state-of-the-art facility is expected to support the development of Oman’s iron and steel industry, positioning the country as a key player in the global supply chain for Direct Reduction (DR) grade iron ore. The Concentration Plant, scheduled to commence operations by mid 2027, will process 18 million tons of iron ore annually, producing 12.6 million tonnes of high-grade concentrate. Vale will invest \$227 million to connect the plant to its agglomerate facilities in the region while Jinnan will invest approximately \$400 million to build, own and operate the plant. At the heart of this collaboration is a commitment to innovation; iron ore shipped from Brazil will be upgraded into a higher-grade concentrate to produce high-quality agglomerates with reduced environmental impact. With its strategic location, the new plant will therefore strengthen the Sultanate’s role as a key supplier to regional and international steel markets. Gustavo Pimenta, President of Vale emphasised the significance of this investment saying, “The Concentration Plant represents a key investment for Vale as we further build our presence in the Middle East. The Sultanate’s strategic location, coupled with its stable political and economic climate and commitment to industrial development, makes it an ideal partner for our growth. This facility will enhance our ability to meet the increasing global demand for high-



grade iron ore, while also advancing our sustainability goals. We are confident that this partnership not only strengthens our operations in the region but also creates long-term value for the country and the global steel industry.”

The joint partnership between Vale and Jinnan represents a significant milestone for both companies and the Sultanate of Oman. As Jinnan’s first project in the country, this collaboration highlights Oman’s appeal as a destination for

high-value industrial investments. Jinnan, with its leading edge in magnetic separation technology, brings a wealth of experience that will integrate seamlessly with Vale’s expertise, creating a world-class production process in Sohar. Zhang Tianfu, CEO of Jinnan Iron & Steel Group said, “This partnership is a unique opportunity to blend Jinnan’s rich experiences in modern low-carbon steelmaking with Vale’s proven expertise in iron ore production. By working together in SOHAR, we aim to redefine steelmaking in the Middle East, bringing efficiency and quality to the forefront. We are proud to play a role in supporting



Oman’s industrial ambitions and look forward to the long-term impact of this project.” Emile Hoogsteden, SOHAR Port CEO commented, “SOHAR stands as a destination connecting businesses to the world. This investment is a key step in our long-term strategy to attract high-value projects to Oman and fostering a business-friendly environment. Through our fully integrated industrial and logistics ecosystem, we are driving sustainable growth and solidifying Oman as a key player in the global steel industry, enhancing trade efficiency and boosting economic development.” The Concentration Plant is ex-

pected to create economic benefits beyond the steel industry. By generating direct and indirect employment, driving technological advancement, and increasing export capacity, the plant will boost Oman’s export capabilities and further integrate the Sultanate into global steel trade route, supporting efforts to diversify the industrial base. With an emphasis on sustainability, the facility will utilise advanced technologies to minimise its environmental footprint, ensuring efficient resource use, in line with Oman’s commitment to responsible and sustainable industrial growth.

UAE'S ECONOMY TO GROW

Michael Bolliger, Chief Investment Officer of Emerging Markets at UBS Global Wealth Management, stated that the UAE's GDP growth is expected to surpass 5 percent in 2025.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,810.96 points, down by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.47% at 434.41 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 3.70%, was the top gainer while, Financial Corporation, down 8.33%, was the top loser.

Opaz delegation invites Brazilian companies to invest in Oman

The delegation held meetings with the CEOs and board of directors of Brazilian companies with expertise in the food, pharmaceutical, medical, and chemical sectors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) invited Brazilian companies to invest in the Sultanate of Oman through a series of meetings held by Opaz delegation during their visit to Brazil.

The visit organised in collaboration with Oman Embassy in Brazil and the Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce. The incentives provided by the economic zones, free zones and various industrial zones were showcased.

Al Sunaidy met with Brazilian Vice President and Minister



of Development, Industry, Trade and Services Geraldo Alckmin, Secretary- General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maria Laura da Rocha, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Ports and Airports Mariana Pescatori, in the presence of Talal bin Habib Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brazil.

Al Sunaidy and the delegation also held meetings with Osmar Chohfi, President of the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce and members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, president of the Industry Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro, president of CNi and a number of its Board mem-

bers and President of FIESP.

Besides, the delegation held meetings with the CEOs and board of directors of Brazilian companies with expertise in the food, pharmaceutical, medical, and chemical sectors.

The talks focused on potential investments in the meat, grain processing and storage, animal feed, and vegetable oil industries. Opportunities for collaboration in the medical industries sector have been looked into along with the future of the chemical industries and the competitive advantages that the Sultanate of Oman offers to manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

These meetings also covered a number of key topics, such as facilitating procedures.

The Sultanate of Oman's flexible procedures, which include logistical facilities, tax and customs exemptions, and the ease of setting up businesses in industrial cities, free zones, and special economic zones, were discussed as ways to support the expansion of Brazilian companies. Supply chain integration was also covered, including ways to connect Brazilian and Omani industries to boost food and industrial supply chain integration, particularly in the areas of product storage and reexporting. Modern technologies were also



covered, along with prospects for exchanging cutting-edge Brazilian technologies in the domains of industry and clean energy, as well as strategies to incorporate them into the investment environment in the Sultanate of Oman.

A field trip to Industrial Port of

Isao in Rio de Janeiro and the Port of Santos in São Paulo was also part of the delegation's visit. They discussed strategies to foster collaboration in the development of infrastructure of Omani ports and ports located near economic zones with their Brazilian counterparts.

EASE OF SUBSCRIPTION PROCESS



BankDhofar mobile app enabled fast and convenient OQEP IPO subscription

MUSCAT: The OQEP offering is the largest IPO in the history of the Sultanate of Oman, with approximately two billion shares offered, representing 25% of the company's total issued share capital.

BankDhofar's customers confirmed the ease of the subscription process via the mobile banking application, saving them time and effort without having to visit any of the various branches spread across the Sultanate of Oman.

The customers mentioned that this subscription is an opportunity to grow their money and diversify their investment portfolios. This subscription is also important for the Muscat Stock Exchange and the injection of liquidity into it, and for the revival of the national economy in general.

0% subscription financing

Abdul Aziz Al Jahouri considered the subscription in OQEP a real opportunity to grow his long-saved money, stressing that the share price was convenient for him.

"I subscribed for myself and my family through BankDhofar's mobile application, and the process was very quick and took only few seconds." He said. He noted that technology has helped reduce the time and effort for individuals, as he no longer had to visit the branch to complete the subscription process,

as the application allowed him to do it from his office.

Al Jahouri decided to establish a close relationship with the bank recently in September, when he saw the bank's announcement regarding 0% interest financing for the IPO. Although he did not need financing for the IPO, the facilities offered by BankDhofar to individuals and investors prompted him to open a new bank account.

Al Jahouri said: The IPO contributes to attracting foreign investors to the Muscat Stock Exchange, which will lead to the recovery of the national economy in general. He is optimistic that the share price will be between 420 and 440 baisas when it is listed on the MSX.

App saved time

Samra Sulaiman Al Harthi praised the speed of the subscription process through BankDhofar's mobile application: "Subscribing through the app saved time and effort from visiting branches," she said, emphasizing that she will continue to use the application for future subscriptions.

Al Harthi expects the share price to be more than 400baisas when it is listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange, stressing that the factor that prompted her to subscribe is the performance of the company,

which is the most important company in the OQ Group, so the IPO was an opportunity for her to grow her funds and diversify her investment portfolio.

Al Harthi confirmed that this IPO contributes to the revival of the stock market and enhances liquidity, which reflects positively on the national economy.

Al Harthi has been a customer of BankDhofar for 15 years and has not thought of moving to another bank as she is satisfied with the services provided by the bank.

IPO will revive economy

Hawa Mohammed Al Balushi did not hesitate to participate in OQEP's IPO because she saw it as another opportunity to invest her money and earn an additional income on top of her main income from her full-time job.

She says: I have had a good relationship with BankDhofar for six years, and that is why I chose to subscribe through the bank's mobile application, stressing that the subscription process was quick and easy and did not take much time.

She adds: Such IPOs certainly contribute to the development of the MSX and turn it into an emerging stock exchange in the future, as well as boosting the country's economy in general.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MUSCAT UNIVERSITY

Zubair Corporation launches collaborative internship programme to foster local talent

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation announced the launch of a collaborative internship programme in partnership with Muscat University, as part of the corporation's commitment to fostering local talent.

The programme, which will commence in November 2024, will provide 33 students with practical, real-world experience across various companies within the Zubair group companies. The orientation day, held at Bait Al Zubair, saw participation of several companies from multiple sectors of The Zubair Corporation including ARA Petroleum, Business International Group, Oman Oil Industry Services and Supply, Oasis Water, Zubair Automotive, and Federal Transformers and Switchgears. The teams from the companies have developed comprehensive training plans tailored to align with the students' fields of study. Representatives from the HR teams and designated mentors will be present to introduce the program and address any questions, with internship agreements being signed thereafter.

An official signing ceremony was also held during the event, with Sharifa Al Balushi, Group Head of the Human Capital Centre of Excellence at The Zubair Corporation, and Dr. Chiraz Zidi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Research, and Innovation, representing Muscat University.

Sharifa Al Balushi expressed her enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "This internship programme demonstrates The Zubair Corporation's commitment to empowering Omani talent. We believe in giving young professionals the opportunity to develop the skills and experience necessary to thrive in today's competitive job market. By investing in the next generation, we also strengthen the In-Country Value (ICV) framework by cultivating local expertise that will contribute to Oman's long-term economic growth and sustainability."

During the orientation day at Bait Al Zubair, eight companies from various sectors of The Zubair Corporation delivered insightful presentations to the students, high-



lighting their individual operations and key business functions. Companies such as ARA Petroleum, Business International Group, Oman Oil Industry Services and Supply, Zubair Automotive, Oasis Water, and Federal Transformers and Switchgears offered a deep dive into their respective industries. These sessions provided students with a clearer understanding of the diverse sectors within the Corporation and the specific roles they may play during their internships. The presentations emphasised the real-world applications of their studies, offering a preview of the hands-on experience they will gain throughout the programme.

The selected students will gain hands-on experience in key fields such as Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Chemical Engineering, and Energy Engineering. This initiative is designed to enhance their academic knowledge and practical skills while providing valuable support to the participating companies' business functions.

Dr. Chiraz Zidi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,

Research, and Innovation shared his thoughts on the collaboration. "We are delighted to partner with The Zubair Corporation in launching this internship programme, which reflects our shared commitment to fostering the next generation of Omani professionals. This opportunity will provide our students with invaluable hands-on experience, bridging the gap between their academic studies and real-world business environments. We look forward to seeing our students thrive as they apply their knowledge and gain new skills that will prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow's workforce."

The Zubair Corporation remains steadfast in its mission to support Oman's national development goals by creating opportunities for students to bridge the gap between academic theory and professional practice. By offering real-work exposure, the Corporation is actively contributing to the development of a skilled, capable workforce that will benefit both the students and the Omani economy at large.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Barka Water & Power Company, up 3.70%, was the top gainer while Financial Corporation, down 8.33%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,810.96 points, down by 0.3% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.47% at 434.41 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 3.70%, was the top gainer while Financial Corporation, down 8.33%, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 459 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO1.01 million, with more than 5.52 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded securities, 7 advanced, 17 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 249K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 146K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 103K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,984.28 points, down 0.31%.

Prices of Oman United Insurance were up by 2.88% respectively. Prices of Financial Corporation, Al Anwar Investment, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank were down by 8.33%, 2.74%, 1.39%, 1.39%, 1.36% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,543.64 points, down 0.36%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cement were up by 0.27%, 0.26% respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, National Detergent, Galfar Engineering were down by 3.13%, 1.41%, 0.91% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.08% before closing at 1,839.62 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Muscat Desalination, Phoenix Power, Oman Telecom were up by 3.70%, 2.86%, 1.75%, 0.10% respectively.

Prices of Majan College, Ooredoo, National Gas, Al Suwadi Power, OQ Gas Networks were down by 4.35%, 1.79%, 1.25%, 1.22%, 0.71% respectively

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,828.89	4,810.96	4,810.96	4,825.64	-14.68	-0.30
FINANCIAL INDEX	8,009.15	7,984.28	7,984.28	8,009.15	-24.87	-0.31
Industry Index	5,568.16	5,543.64	5,543.64	5,563.43	-19.79	-0.36
Services Index	1,850.09	1,839.37	1,839.62	1,841.17	-1.56	-0.08
MSX Shariah Index	435.92	434.41	434.41	436.45	-2.04	-0.47
MSX TR INDEX	6,737.56	6,712.54	6,712.54	6,733.02	-20.48	-0.30
FINANCIAL TR IDX	9,099.22	9,070.96	9,070.96	9,099.22	-28.26	-0.31
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,424.34	6,396.04	6,396.04	6,418.87	-22.83	-0.36
SERVICES TR IDX	2,161.35	2,148.83	2,149.12	2,150.94	-1.82	-0.08
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,066.88	1,066.88	1,066.88	1,066.88	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume Turnover Trades Market Cap Up Down Equal Sec. Traded

5,523,471 1,007,506 459 27,751,519,012 7 17 17 41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	3,395	849	2	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.243	0.007	2.881	0.250	0.240	0.250	0.100	25,000,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	15,500	5,813	6	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.374	0.001	0.267	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.100	45,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	382	2	0.381	0.382	0.381	0.382	0.381	0.001	0.262	0.382	0.381	0.382	0.100	126,393,375
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	52,944	52,693	16	0.995	0.998	0.993	0.997	0.996	0.001	0.100	0.997	0.997	0.998	0.100	747,750,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	352,710	132,127	22	0.374	0.375	0.373	0.374	0.374	0.000	0.000	0.374	0.374	0.374	0.100	249,968,669
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	8,080	1,083	3	0.133	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.133	0.135	0.100	29,700,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	81,470	6,843	7	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	2,341	913	1	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.390	0.385	0.390	0.100	92,199,900
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	108,949	12,421	41	0.115	0.115	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.100	108,821,202
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	415,370	33,643	14	0.080	0.082	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.083	0.100	54,665,882
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	213,855	63,289	14	0.296	0.296	0.295	0.295	0.296	-0.001	-0.338	0.296	0.286	0.296	0.100	227,209,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,088,136	286,177	19	0.261	0.264	0.261	0.263	0.264	-0.001	-0.379	0.263	0.263	0.263	0.100	1,974,182,427
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,378,785	194,756	153	0.141	0.142	0.140	0.140	0.141	-0.001	-0.709	0.140	0.140	0.141	0.100	606,287,349
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	134,098	10,888	16	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.081	0.083	0.100	57,866,914
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	801,388	116,703	16	0.146	0.147	0.145	0.145	0.147	-0.002	-1.361	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.100	808,700,709
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	2,028	144	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.079	0.100	8,653,125
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	10,000	710	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.100	6,390,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	26,412	7,268	8	0.278	0.278	0.275	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.275	0.277	0.100	179,009,663
Total		18	4,696,461	926,700	342											
Parallel Market																
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	5,827	1,667	3	0.290	0.290	0.280	0.280	0.270	0.010	3.704	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	44,800,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	5,000	360	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.072	0.071	0.074	0.100	11,199,629
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	193,667	11,195	18	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	84,800,885
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	31,875	1,530	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.052	0.100	3,000,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	108	28	1	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.260	0.000	0.000	0.100	46,757,724
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	1,350	1,400	2	1.037	1.037	1.037	1.037	1.037	0.000	0.000	1.037	1.037	1.037	0.000	1,553,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	20,072	8,029	7	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	32,561,100
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	4,922	517	3	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.115	0.100	234,880,068
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	70,500	4,653	5	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	33,569,666
OM0000003821	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	137,000	15,075	23	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.109	0.110	0.100	22,125,523
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	166,430	13,138	16	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	6,715,000
OM0000003285	NATIONAL DETERGENT	8,551	5,963	2	0.690	0.700	0.690	0.700	0.710	-0.010	-1.408	0.700	0.680	0.690	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	23,000	2,674	2	0.119	0.119	0.116	0.116	0.118	-0.002	-1.695	0.116	0.118	0.128	0.100	58,940,011
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	118,858	8,559	17	0.073	0.073	0.071	0.071	0.073	-0.002	-2.740	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	15,964,780
OM0000001409	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	820	381	1	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.465	0.480	-0.015	-3.125	0.465	0.465	0.475	0.100	73,227,500
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	7,470	822	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.115	-0.005	-4.348	0.110	0.110	0.120	0.100	9,900,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	1,320	44	1	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.036	-0.003	-8.333	0.033	0.033	0.039	0.100	2,310,989
Total		17	796,770	76,033	104											



Discover the story behind
Majlis al-Nahaar brunch at
Mövenpick Ghala Muscat

A CULINARY CELEBRATION



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Few things capture the soul of a culture as deeply as its food, and at Mövenpick Hotel & Apartments Ghala Muscat, the Friday Majlis al-Nahaar brunch serves as a tribute to Oman's rich culinary heritage.

This unique dining experience invites guests to taste a slice of Omani life, where traditional family gatherings inspire a vibrant spread of dishes steeped in history.

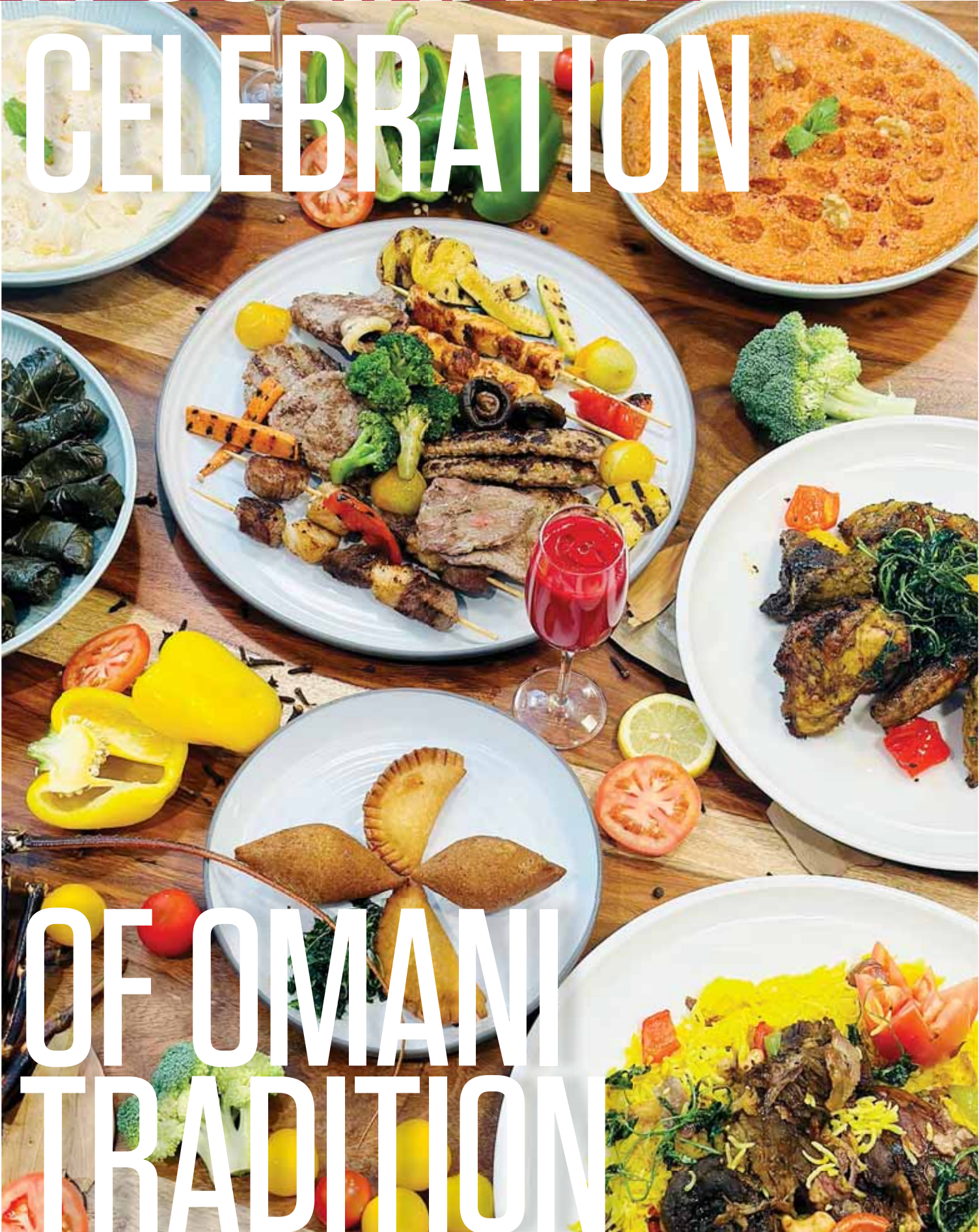
From the irresistible aroma of freshly grilled mishkak to the subtle flavors of ouzi and the unique tang of Omani dried fish salad, each dish is more than a meal - it's a piece of Omani culture and warmth on every plate.

Majlis al-Nahaar brings the cherished Friday gathering to life, offering a homestyle feast that combines authenticity with the luxury of a hotel setting.

Crafted by local chefs, the menu embodies Oman's culinary heritage while honouring the spirit of family traditions that make Fridays special. In an interview with Times of Oman, Frank Wagner, F&B Director at the Mövenpick hotel, said: "We wanted to recreate the joy of a shared family meal allowing families and friends to gather in an atmosphere that celebrates Omani cuisine - without the effort of cooking."



WITH ITS WARM AMBIENCE, RICH FLAVOURS, AND DEDICATION TO CULTURAL AUTHENTICITY, MAJLIS AL-NAHAAR ISN'T JUST A MEAL - IT'S A CELEBRATION OF OMAN'S CULINARY TRADITIONS, MAKING EACH FRIDAY AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT OVER THE UNIVERSAL JOY OF SHARING FOOD



OF OMANI TRADITION

Savouring the flavours of Oman

The menu at Majlis al-Nahaar is a showcase of Omani specialties. Signature dishes include the tender, slow-cooked Ouzi, the char-grilled Mishkak, and the aromatic Mandi, alongside fresh local seafood and the renowned Omani dried fish salad. For those new to Omani cuisine, these dishes offer a flavourful introduction, delivering a rich experience that leaves a lasting impression.

Local sourcing and sustainability

At the nicely decorated restaurant, sustainability and authenticity go hand in hand. Partnering with local farmers, the Mövenpick team sources fresh fruits and vegetables, including dates, pomegranates, and zucchini, to ensure that each dish reflects the flavours of Oman while supporting local agriculture.

Wagner added: "We're committed to showcasing Oman's natural abundance while reducing our carbon footprint."

Catering to every guest's needs

Majlis al-Nahaar embraces diverse dietary preferences, offering plenty of vegetarian, vegan, and customisable options.

"Our chefs are happy to prepare dishes on request to accommodate dietary restrictions, ensuring every guest feels at home," the F&B director added.

Refreshing Omani touch

To complement the brunch, Majlis al-Nahaar provides an array of refreshing drinks, including water, soft drinks, fresh juices, and mocktails. A signature date and pomegranate mocktail has become a favourite, embodying the sweet and tangy essence of Omani flavors.



Crafting an authentic atmosphere

Beyond its culinary offerings, the restaurant creates an immersive cultural experience.

Traditional majlis seating, fragrant bakhoor incense, and live music playing classic Omani melodies fill the air with an authentic touch.

"Our aim is to make every guest feel as though they're dining in an Omani home," Wagner explained, blending the elegance of the hotel setting with the warmth of Omani hospitality.

A taste of home

Majlis al-Nahaar has been met with rave reviews, particularly from Omani guests who find the flavours reminiscent of family meals from childhood.

"It's like a meal prepared by your mother or grandmother," an Omani family at the dining table told Times of Oman, describing the brunch as both nostalgic and heartwarming.

For those planning to attend with larger groups, reservations are recommended. "This ensures we can offer a tailored experience and provide the best service possible," said the senior hotel representative.

Expanding the experience

From January, 2025, Mövenpick Ghala Muscat plans to elevate the Majlis al-Nahaar experience with multiple food outlets and live entertainment, making Fridays even more memorable for families of all ages.

With its warm ambience, rich flavours, and dedication to cultural authenticity, Majlis al-Nahaar isn't just a meal - it's a celebration of Oman's culinary traditions, making each Friday an opportunity to connect over the universal joy of sharing food.



SPORTS

Lewandowski’ double as Barca drub Real Madrid in El Clasico

The victory helped La Liga leaders to go six points clear of their rivals

MADRID: Robert Lewandowski scored twice in three minutes as La Liga leaders Barcelona thrashed Real Madrid 4-0 in El Clasico on Saturday night to move six points clear of their rivals.

Real were looking to extend their run of unbeaten games to 43 in the league, which would have equalled the record set by Barcelona between April 2017 and May 2018.

But their hopes of doing that were quashed by a devastating second-half display by their opponents at the Bernabeu.

“It’s a hard moment, a tough moment when you lose a game, [especially after] so many unbeaten,” said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti.

After a goalless first half, Lewandowski broke the deadlock in the 54th minute with a clinical finish from Marc Casado’s through ball.

The Poland striker then stunned the hosts with a second, heading Alejandro Balde’s cross into the right corner.

Lewandowski had two good chances to complete a hat-trick, hitting the woodwork from the



first before firing over from a good position.

Spanish teenage star Lamine Yamal, 17, got Barcelona’s third when he drove into the top corner from an angle, with his goal making him the youngest-ever scorer in El Clasico.

Raphinha then lobbed a fourth late on for his first goal against Real Madrid.

The result ensured Kylian Mbappe’s first taste of the famous fixture ended in defeat with the France striker having had two goals disallowed for offside and also been denied by Inaki Pena in the Barcelona goal.

Barcelona finished 10 points behind Real Madrid in La Liga last season, and they are putting their faith in mostly young players to bring success this term.

That approach is so far being being rewarded, with Hansi Flick’s team having won 10 and lost just one of their league games so far.

Yamal is arguably their brightest young star but there are others, with Casado and Balde, both 21, getting assists on Saturday evening.

Six players who started the game for Barcelona came through their famed youth academy, but guiding the youngsters from the front is the old-stager Lewandowski.

The Polish striker is 36 but age is not slowing him down, with this

double taking his La Liga tally this season to 14 goals in 11 games.

A confident blend of youth and experience proved too much for Real Madrid, who were blown away by their rivals’ devastating second-half display.

The visitors also played a high defensive line well to frustrate their opponents, who were caught offside numerous times.

“We always play with the back four very high,” Flick said. “It looks dangerous - but it’s not dangerous.”

Mbappe’s frustrating first El Clasico

Mbappe, who joined Real Madrid in the summer, had faced Barce-



lona before while at Paris St-Germain.

He notably hit a hat-trick against them in a 4-1 win at the Nou Camp in the Champions League in February 2021.

But he was unable to replicate that devastating display in this match as he ended up frustrated numerous times when attempting to beat the offside trap.

By his exceptionally high standards, Mbappe has had a slow start to life in Spain, having scored six goals in La Liga so far. He failed to score in his first three league games.

But Mbappe is not alone in struggling for peak form, with this

another game without a goal for Jude Bellingham.

The England international scored 19 league goals in a sensational first La Liga season last term, but he has yet to get off the mark in the current campaign.

“We played a first half with intensity. We could have scored [but] we lacked some accuracy,” added Ancelotti.

“When they scored they hit two goals that took all of our energy away. We took more risks at the back and they found a lot more chances on the counter-attack.

“For 60 minutes we competed very well and we have to forget the last 30.” - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Sainz on Mexico City pole, Verstappen at second spot

MEXICO CITY: Title rivals Max Verstappen and Lando Norris start Sunday’s Mexico City Grand Prix from second and third on the grid behind Ferrari’s Carlos Sainz.

Verstappen heads into the race 57 points clear of Norris, who needs to gain on the Red Bull driver by an average of just under 12 points a race to overtake him in the remaining five grands prix.

Norris qualified his McLaren just 0.089 seconds slower than Verstappen, but Sainz was in a league of his own, on pole by 0.225secs from the Dutchman to underline Ferrari’s surge in form over the last few races.

The second Ferrari of Charles Leclerc, dominant winner of the United States Grand Prix last weekend, starts fourth, ahead of the Mercedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton.

The top four are all focused on the run to the first corner, the longest of the season, on which the powerful slipstream effect can give the advantage to the drivers in second and third on the grid.

The winner of this race has come from third on the grid - Norris’ position - in three of the last four races.

Sainz, who took his first pole since Singapore 2023 and for whom both laps in final qualifying were good enough to start at the front, said: “Probably the biggest difficult thing will be the run down into Turn One and starting on pole with a slipstream, no?”

“I just need to make sure I do a good 0-100km/h, which is the most important thing when you



start on pole, just make sure you do a good jump. And from there obviously do the best I can to defend.

“I have two guys behind fighting for quite important things and the run down into Turn One should be interesting. I have obviously less to lose in that sense.”

To boost his title hopes, Norris needs to win the race and hope the Ferraris finish between him and Verstappen.

But the Briton fears the pace of the Ferraris - Leclerc has taken two wins and a second in the last four races.

Verstappen was pleased to be on the front row after a difficult Friday on which he said he got “basically no data” because of an engine problem that restricted him to six laps. “We were massively on the back foot,” Verstappen said. “After yesterday, I knew it would be a tough weekend, but we kept making little improve-

ments with the car.

Verstappen’s team-mate Sergio Perez had the latest in a long run of difficult qualifying that have put his future in the team in doubt, 0.8secs slower than Verstappen in Q1 and knocked out in 18th place.

Russell was positively surprised to be as high as fifth after crashing in second practice on Friday, the fourth incident for a Mercedes driver in four days of on-track action. That meant he is running an older-specification car while Lewis Hamilton has the upgrade introduced in Austin.

Fernando Alonso qualified 13th for Aston Martin on the weekend on which he is celebrating his 400th grand prix.

The rest of the top10 behind Hamilton was completed by Haas driver Kevin Magnussen, Pierre Gasly’s Alpine, Alex Albon’s Williams and the second Haas of Nico Hulkenberg. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

City edge past Southampton

LONDON: Manchester City edged past struggling Southampton 1-0 in their Premier League game on Saturday as Erling Haaland’s early effort proved enough.

When Haaland shrugged off Jan Bednarek to turn Matheus Nunes’ fifth-minute cross beyond Saints keeper Aaron Ramsdale for his 11th league goal of the season, the visitors seemed set for a heavy defeat. But a combination of their own dogged defending and some poor finishing from City, with Haaland the chief culprit, ensured a few home nerves before the final whistle.

The result extended City’s unbeaten Premier League record to 32 games. They are now only six weeks away from going a full 12 months since their last defeat, by Aston Villa on 6 December.

Although they deserve credit for the way they battled, the result did nothing to help Southampton’s problems towards the foot of the table.

Given City’s lengthy injury list, manager Pep Guardiola will be delighted with a victory that means his side can see how Arsenal go on against Liverpool on Sunday from a position of authority, and to have suffered no more problems.

Haaland, though, will wonder how on earth he only came away with a single goal, which takes his tally to 14 in all competitions this season.

A ripped shirt was the legacy of his physical battle with Bednarek but two head-in-hands moments were the end product of his failure to score more than once.

The Norwegian was only a yard out at the start of the second period when he pounced on Savinho’s far-post cross. Somehow he put



the ball wide. Haaland, like everyone else in the stadium, was left in stunned disbelief at that failure.

Aston Villa held

Bournemouth striker Evanilson scored with the last touch of the game to rescue a point at Aston Villa with a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

The Cherries were given a free-kick six minutes into stoppage time and, with everybody including the goalkeeper forward, Marcus Tavernier found an unmarked Evanilson at the near post and Bournemouth’s record signing flicked a header into the far corner.

Villa had been the better side

and went ahead in the 76th minute when Ross Barkley hooked in Leon Bailey’s header back across goal.

At Goodison Park, substitute Beto netted a dramatic equaliser deep in stoppage time to salvage a 1-1 draw for Everton against Fulham, extending their unbeaten run in the Premier League.

Sean Dyche’s side looked to be heading for defeat following a lacklustre performance, but Portuguese striker Beto turned home Ashley Young’s cutback in the 94th minute to ensure the Toffees stretched their run without defeat to five games.

“It means a lot for me,” Beto told BBC Match of the Day. - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Werder Bremen in a thrilling draw with Bayer Leverkusen



MUNICH: Victor Boniface scored just six days after he was involved in a traffic accident as Bayer Leverkusen played out a thrilling 2-2 draw with Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Werder Bremen went into the match without a home goal this season but started well and spurned three chances in the opening stages.

Striker Marvin Ducksch would have had a hat-trick inside the opening 19 minutes were it not for Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky, who made two close-range stops before tipping a curling effort wide.

After surviving those early scares, the defending Bundesliga champions took the lead when Boniface converted Jeremie Frimpong’s cross from six yards out.

Boniface missed Leverkusen’s 1-1 midweek Champions League draw with Brest after the taxi he was travelling in last Sunday crashed, but he passed a late fitness test and marked his return with his sixth goal of the campaign.

The Nigerian striker drew an excellent save from Bremen goalkeeper Michael Zetterer early in the second period, but Bremen weren’t deterred and continued to play out from the back and

create opportunities.

Hradecky again repelled Ducksch - this time a stinging snap-shot - but he could do nothing to stop the striker’s looping header with 15 minutes to play.

The hosts weren’t level for long though, as three minutes later Felix Agu unwittingly converted Robert Andrich’s cross into his own net to restore Leverkusen’s lead.

Florian Wirtz rattled the post with a viscous late drive, but once again Bremen fought back with Romano Schmid producing a 90th-minute rocket from the edge of the penalty area.

Both sides could have won the match in injury-time but neither could quite find the finishing touch.

Xabi Alonso’s Leverkusen side have failed to keep a clean sheet this term and have already conceded 14 goals, just 10 fewer than in the entirety of their title-winning campaign last season.

The draw takes Leverkusen up to third in the table, five points behind leaders RB Leipzig who beat Freiburg earlier on Saturday.

Werder Bremen are ninth with their winless run against Bayer Leverkusen extended to 15 games. - Agencies

Omantel launches new initiative for 200 media professionals

‘Innovative Media’ initiative focuses on training in AI, technology, and cybersecurity, reflecting Omantel’s commitment to advancing skills in these critical fields

MUSCAT: Omantel has launched the ‘Innovative Media’ initiative, bringing together 200 media professionals from various sectors



to harness the power of artificial intelligence (AI) in media. The initiative aims to elevate content quality, making media production more creative and efficient. The event marked the start of the first in a series of specialised workshops organised by Omantel through Omantel Academy. This initiative focuses on training in AI, technology, and cybersecurity, reflecting Omantel’s commitment to advancing skills in these critical fields.

Innovative Media targets media personnel from all fields — spanning media outlets, public and private media offices, nonprofit organisations, and podcast creators. With a focus on the role and impact of AI in content creation, the initiative will explore how media professionals can adopt AI tools in creative and meaningful ways to stay ahead in a fast-evolving industry. The training will combine hands-on simulations, interactive discussions, and group activities designed to deepen understanding and practical application of the insights shared. To provide an enriching experience for all participants, the program is structured into four groups, with three sessions held over two days each in Muscat and a final session in Dhofar, catering specifically to regional media professionals. Commenting on the initiative, Talal Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, stated, “The launch of this initiative marks a significant step in

empowering media professionals to utilize AI technologies to develop their skills and enrich media content in creative and innovative ways. We believe that investing in local media talent and providing them with the skills needed to adapt to digital transformation is essential for strengthening the role of media in Oman. This approach ensures the delivery of high-quality content that keeps pace with rapid industry changes. Through Omantel Academy, we aim to create a comprehensive training environment that enables media professionals to gain new expertise, supporting the media sector and producing content that meets aspirations and serves the community effectively.” Muna Al Mamari, Manager of Digital Press and Media at Omantel, emphasized the transformative potential of AI in shaping media’s future, “Today, AI technologies are driving a significant evolution in

media, providing advanced tools to gather and analyze data while producing dynamic, diverse content tailored to audience needs. These technologies empower media professionals to create responsive, engaging content that keeps pace with rapid developments.” She added, “Our initiative targets a wide array of media professionals—from journalists, technicians, and columnists to influencers, content creators, and podcast producers across government and nonprofit sectors. Our goal is to equip participants with the digital skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing industry, helping them anticipate future trends and leverage AI to produce impactful, inspiring content. Through this initiative, we are supporting Oman’s digital transformation and advancing the goals of the National Program for Digital Economy, especially in building a highly skilled national workforce.”

REWARDING DRIVING EXPERIENCE

Discover power and durability of Foton Tunland G7 Diesel Pickup



MUSCAT: The Foton Tunland G7 Diesel 4WD pickup is built for those who need power, durability, and performance in their vehicle. At the core of this impressive truck is a 2.0-litre turbo-charged diesel engine delivering 163 horsepower and 380 Nm of torque, making it ready to handle any job or adventure. Paired with a smooth six-speed manual transmission, drivers get full control and a rewarding driving experience. The Tunland G7 is a commanding presence on the road, measuring 5340mm long, 1940mm wide, and 1870mm high. Its spacious cargo area, sized at 1520mm x 1580mm x 440mm, offers plenty of room for heavy loads, while its wheelbase of 3110mm ensures stability and a comfortable ride. With a gross weight of 2980kg and a curb weight of 1980kg, it’s

clear that this pickup is designed to carry weight without sacrificing handling or performance. For off-road enthusiasts, the Tunland G7’s four-wheel drive system boosts its ability to conquer tough terrains. The front suspension features a double-wishbone design with spiral springs and a sway bar, while the rear uses a leaf spring setup, ensuring a smooth ride even on rough surfaces. Built with components from top global manufacturers, the Tunland G7 doesn’t just excel in power but also in reliability and fuel efficiency. Whether hauling cargo or navigating rugged paths, this pickup delivers a premium driving experience. A spokesperson from Gulf Great Sands LLC (GGS) commented, “The Foton Tunland G7 Diesel 4WD is designed for drivers who

expect reliability and performance. With its advanced engineering, comfort features, and durability, it’s a standout in its class.” Style and practicality come together in the Tunland G7. It features 18-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, front fog lamps, and heated mirrors, while the cargo area is spray-coated for added durability. Inside, synthetic leather seats, a six-way adjustable driver’s seat, and heated front seats ensure a comfortable ride. Safety is a top priority with features like front collision warnings, lane departure alerts, dual airbags, and electronic stability systems. Technology-wise, the pickup is equipped with a 10.25-inch touchscreen, Bluetooth, USB ports, cruise control, keyless entry, remote window control, and a premium sound system for convenience and entertainment.

CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY



2025 Changan UNI-K SUV: Bold statement in modern SUV design

MUSCAT: The newly arrived 2025-model Changan UNI-K is already turning heads in Oman with its avant-garde design and cutting-edge technology. The SUV perfectly blends sleek, modern style with futuristic touches, making it a great example of how form and function can work together. If one is looking for a driving experience that is as exciting as it is practical, the UNI-K definitely delivers. The exterior design of UNI-K stands out with its dynamic and athletic stance. Sharp lines, a prominent front grille, and sleek LED headlights set the tone for a design that is both powerful and refined. The sculpted bodywork, sloping roofline, and shark-fin stop lamp give it a commanding presence, further enhanced by stylish 21-inch alloy wheels that evoke the premium feel of top European brands. With flush door handles and an aerodynamic profile, the UNI-K is not just about looks—these features contribute to fuel efficiency and enhance overall performance, making it as practical as it is visually appealing. Inside, the UNI-K is all about comfort and sophistication. The spacious cabin is crafted with premium materials, offering ample legroom and headspace for both the driver and passengers. Attention to detail is evident through-

out, from the ergonomically designed seats to the customizable ambient lighting, allowing for a personal touch in creating the ideal interior atmosphere. The centre console, with its sleek design and intuitive layout, adds to the SUV’s luxurious feel. Technology is at the heart of the UNI-K, ensuring it remains at the forefront of modern automotive innovation. A 12.3-inch infotainment system, supporting both Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, provides seamless connectivity, while voice commands and smartphone integration make the driving experience more intuitive and enjoyable. A premium sound system elevates long drives, transforming the cabin into an immersive audio environment. The UNI-K doesn’t just focus on entertainment and comfort—it’s also designed with practicality in mind. The rear seats offer generous legroom, making it ideal for families or long journeys. Additionally, the SUV’s cargo space provides ample room for luggage or gear, ensuring versatility for both daily commuting and weekend adventures. Safety is a top priority in the Changan UNI-K, which boasts a comprehensive suite of advanced safety features. Equipped with sensors, cameras, and radar systems, the SUV offers adaptive cruise con-

trol, lane change assist, automatic emergency braking, and a 360-degree camera system. These features work together to enhance situational awareness, helping drivers navigate Oman’s varied landscapes with ease and confidence. Under the hood, the 2025 UNI-K is powered by a 2.0-litre turbo-charged engine, delivering 233 horsepower and 390 Nm of torque. Paired with an 8-speed automatic gearbox, the SUV offers smooth and responsive performance, whether navigating city streets or heading off on a desert road trip. With multiple driving modes and intelligent all-wheel drive, drivers can tailor the UNI-K dynamics to their preferences, balancing fuel efficiency with a more engaging driving experience. The 2025 Changan UNI-K has it all — from its futuristic design to the advanced technology and robust performance under the hood. With its bold styling, luxurious interior, and top-notch safety features, it is a perfect fit for anyone looking for a premium SUV experience. For drivers in Oman who appreciate both style and substance, the UNI-K checks all boxes, offering a smooth blend of modern-day practicality, and sophistication. It is the kind of SUV that makes every drive feel a little more special.

COMPACT LUXURY SUV

Discover enhanced Jaguar E-PACE: Refined luxury meets advanced efficiency



MUSCAT: MHD ACERE, the official distributor of Jaguar in Oman, proudly presents the Jaguar E-PACE, a compact luxury SUV that combines sophisticated design, innovative technology, and efficient hybrid powertrains. E-PACE delivers a blend of performance and luxury, with EMI starting at just OMR 260 per month, making it an attractive option for those seeking a refined driving experience.

Enhanced interior and exterior The E-PACE features a crafted interior that elevates comfort and convenience. At the heart of the cabin is Jaguar’s intuitive Pivi Pro infotainment system, accessible through a striking 11.4-inch HD curved glass touchscreen. Designed for seamless connectivity, the system incorporates a dual-sim setup, ensuring fast and reli-

able access to entertainment and vehicle functions. With Software Over The Air (SOTA) capability, the latest updates are automatically installed, keeping the vehicle’s systems and features current. Externally, the E-PACE is designed to make a bold impression. Aerodynamically optimized bumpers, revised lower apertures, and state-of-the-art LED headlights are complemented by a new grille design, giving the SUV an assertive and modern look. **Advanced powertrains for maximum efficiency** The Jaguar E-PACE offers a range of efficient powertrain options, and the latest 2.0-litre four-cylinder Ingenium petrol engines—all featuring Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle (MHEV) technology. These powertrains ensure optimal fuel efficiency while maintain-

ing Jaguar’s signature dynamic performance. For those seeking additional power, the range-topping E-PACE 300 SPORT is equipped with Active Driveline AWD and Adaptive Dynamics, accelerating from 0-60 mph in just 6.6 seconds, while maintaining smooth, responsive handling. **Cabin built for wellbeing** Jaguar’s focus on occupant wellbeing is evident in the E-PACE’s advanced cabin air ionization system with PM2.5 filtration. This feature captures ultrafine particles and allergens, ensuring cleaner, healthier air inside the vehicle, enhancing the overall driving experience. **Refined ride and intelligent all-wheel drive** Built on Jaguar’s new Premium Transverse Architecture, the E-

PACE delivers enhanced ride comfort and improved refinement while maintaining its agility. The intelligent all-wheel-drive system, featuring Intelligent Driveline Dynamics and driveline disconnect as standard, ensures superior handling and efficiency. Commenting on the latest updates to the Jaguar E-PACE, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, said: “Jaguar E-PACE embodies the future of luxury SUVs, blending performance with innovative technology and sustainability. At MHD ACERE, we are committed to delivering world-class vehicles that cater to the evolving needs of our customers in Oman. The E-PACE is a perfect reflection of Jaguar’s innovative spirit, and we are proud to bring this exceptional vehicle to the market.” The Jaguar E-Pace is now available for just OMR 260 per month.

ROUND-UP

Lulu furthermore expands its retail presence in Oman and UAE



Yusuff Ali, Lulu Retail Chairman said that more projects are underway, including the launch of the biggest food sourcing and logistics centre in Khazaen, the largest economic development zone in Oman

MUSCAT: Lulu is enhancing its footprint across Oman and UAE, making shopping more accessible for residents in suburban areas. Spearheading the retail presence, Lulu opened a hypermarket at Al Khuwair in Muscat and a new express fresh market store in Al Quaa, approximately 125 kilometres from Al Ain city.

The newly opened stores offer a



global standard shopping experience for the local community.

Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Ahmed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality officially inaugurated the new hypermarket in Al Khuwair in the presence of Yusuff Ali M.A., Lulu Retail Chairman while prominent UAE businessman Hamad Salem Thaaloub Salem Alderei opened fresh market in Al Ain's Al Quaa. Also present on the occasion were Ananth A.V, Director Oman, Shabeer K.A, Regional Director of Lulu Oman and other officials.

"The newly opened Lulu hypermarket enhances the shopping experience and contributes to the overall development of the region. This underscores Lulu's commitment to advancing the nation's growth," stated Ahmed Bin Mohammed Bin Ahmed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, in his inaugural speech.

The new hypermarket is Lulu's 32nd store in Oman and the 244th in the GCC. "Lulu currently expanding across the GCC, plans to open three additional outlets in Oman, including Duqm, Musan-

nah, and Samail. Furthermore, we are launching one of the largest state-of-the-art logistics centers for sourcing and exporting fruits and vegetables in Khazaen, the largest economic development zone in Oman, within the next six months. We are immensely grateful to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said and the government of the Sultanate for their outstanding support," said Yusuff Ali M.A., Chairman of Lulu Retail, on the occasion.

It has always been our policy to make the Lulu brand easily accessi-

ble to shoppers in different suburbs and outskirts, so they do not need to drive long distances for shopping. We are committed to extending our services to all regions, particularly in outlying districts. This reflects our dedication to contributing to the overall development of the GCC nations and supporting suburban areas," he added.

This strategic expansion to enhance services in both outlying and urban centers, ensures a comfortable shopping experience for residents. Several projects are in the pipeline, demonstrating Lulu's

commitment to the region.

Lulu has recently announced its plans to launch an Initial Public Offering (IPO) for 25% of its share capital on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, providing an exciting opportunity for the public to invest in the GCC's largest and fastest-growing full-line retailer. The IPO is scheduled from October 28 to November 5 and will offer more than 2,582 billion shares. Trading is anticipated to commence on November 14, with the offering expected to raise between \$1.7 billion and \$1.8 billion for the 25% stake.

ENHANCED SERVICES

Bank Muscat celebrates relocation of Azaiba branch

MUSCAT: As part of its strategic initiative to expand and enhance its branch network, Bank Muscat celebrated the relocation of its Azaiba branch along November 18th Street. The event, held under the patronage of Saleh bin Mohammed Al Zakwani, Executive Chairman of Apex Media, and attended by members of the bank's executive management, esteemed customers, and special invitees.

The new branch is designed to elevate the banking experience by integrating modern safety, security, and technological solutions. This relocation underscores the bank's commitment to providing top-tier services in a comfortable environment, allowing customers to conduct their transactions efficiently and securely. The Athaiba branch offers a comprehensive range of banking services tailored to meet diverse customer needs.

Strategically located in Athaiba amidst key commercial hubs, the branch houses a Private Banking and Wealth Management Center and the Asalah Priority Banking Center. These dedicated facilities offer personalized service through Relationship Managers, ensuring fast and seamless transactions in a welcoming atmosphere. The branch also supports various financing services, including the "Baituna" housing finance prod-



uct, and features specialized services for small businesses through the Najahi Business Banking Unit. Besides, the branch caters to the needs of people with disabilities, offering accessible facilities and self-service banking devices, such as ATMs and CDMs. These machines enable customers to perform a wide array of transactions, including withdrawals, check deposits, and bill payments. The branch operates from Sunday to Thursday, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Abdulnasir N. Al Raisi, General Manager of Personal Banking at Bank Muscat, expressed his enthusiasm for the new branch, stating: "This relocation reflects our continuous efforts to expand our footprint across Oman's governorates, making banking services more accessible to everyone. The new Athaiba branch embodies our vision of providing both our employees and customers with a

modern, technologically advanced environment. We aim to enhance the quality of our services and meet the evolving needs of our customers, as well as offer innovative digital solutions through our various banking devices. As part of our ongoing strategy, we are excited to announce the opening of several new branches in the near future."

Saleh Mohammed Al Maaini, Deputy General Manager - Capital Regions, Bank Muscat, highlighted the significance of the relocation, noting: "The move to a larger, more accessible location on November 18th Street is a major milestone for our branch network, particularly in Muscat. This new branch consolidates multiple banking services under one roof, allowing customers to experience efficient and comprehensive banking in one convenient location. We invite all our customers to visit and explore the wide range of products and services available."

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB participates in 'Hospitality Heroes' award ceremony

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) participated in the ceremony announcing and honoring the winners of the "Hospitality Heroes" competition, organized by the National Hospitality Institute (NHI). The competition aims to showcase promising Omani talents in the hotel and hospitality sector.

The bank's participation aligns with its fruitful collaboration with the National Hospitality Institute, which seeks to provide training, qualifications, and employment opportunities in the tourism sector.

During the ceremony, Sulaiman Al Harthi, Chief Executive Officer of OAB, honored the winners of the "Hospitality Heroes" competition, a prominent annual event now in its fifth consecutive year.

Al Harthi stated: "We are pleased to have participated in the award ceremony for 'Hospitality Heroes', which celebrates the outstanding performance of a

select group of young professionals in the hospitality sector. They represent successful examples of national talents driving the growth of the tourism sector and contributing to the development of the broader economy."

He added: "Our participation in this important annual event is a continuation of the collaboration between OAB and the NHI to empower Omani talents in the labor market. The bank provides financial support for programs that qualify and train students and job seekers, enabling them to seize employment opportunities created by the continuous growth of Oman's hospitality and tourism sectors. This initiative reflects OAB's commitment to investing in human resources, enhancing prospects for sustainable growth in the Sultanate. It is part of the bank's broader innovative initiatives, including the 'OAB Leaders' and 'OAB Leader-

ship Development' programs."

Robert MacLean, Principal of the NHI, said: "This year, we are celebrating a group of outstanding Omani talents, highlighting their successful experiences and their role in raising the standards of work in the hospitality sector, which relies heavily on the skills and passion of its workers to enhance the customer experience. We are honored to have OAB, one of the leading institutions in launching and implementing national capacity-building programs and developing tomorrow's leaders in Oman, join us in celebrating our national talents who support the growth of the hospitality sector. We look forward to the fruitful partnership between NHI and OAB, which will have a positive and tangible impact on enhancing the skills of students and job seekers and increasing job localization in the tourism sector."



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