

 TIMESOFOMAN.COM
 FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
 TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN
 YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE
 TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP
 TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS
 LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN
 INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

An advertisement for Sayyarati Auto Loan. On the left, a QR code is positioned above a red button labeled 'Apply now' and the website 'bankmuscat.com'. In the center, a woman in a yellow dress and headscarf sits inside a red outline of a car, holding a document. To the right, the text 'Sayyarati Auto Loan' is displayed in black, followed by 'Starting from 3.75% p.a.' in red, and 'Installments in 2 months' in black. The Bank Muscat logo, a red circle with a white stylized 'M', is on the far right. Below the logo, the text 'Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.' and 'T & C Apply' are visible. A small vertical text '© Bank Muscat 2019' is on the bottom left.

This success story not only reflects the spirit of innovation fostered at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences but also exemplifies the potential of young Omani talent to drive meaningful change in diverse sectors.

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:09pm
Asr.....	3:33pm
Maghrib.....	6:42pm
Isha.....	7:59pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:07am

Terms And Condition Applies

Enjoy priority for transactions

With Al Rifaa Privilege Account

Visit your nearest branch today

Scan to learn more

Al Rifaa

الأعمال المصرفية الحصرية
PRIVILEGE BANKING

2479 000 | www.barkidhofar.com

barkidhofar

Oman calls to combat extremism at OIC meet

The summit took the slogan “Enhancing unity and solidarity through dialogue for sustainable development”

BANJUL: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs took part in tasks of the 15th Session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit Conference held in, Banjul, the Republic of the Gambia on 4 and 5 May 2024.

Oman’s delegation was headed by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The minister conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the confer-



ees and his sincere wishes for the success of the summit.

Al Maamari pointed that the summit was held at a delicate moment and conditions that require member states to unite and enhance the quest for prosperity and sustainability that serve their respective peoples and the world at large.

He added that the Islamic world today needs to double efforts and devise effective initiatives and policies to address the common challenges.

In his speech, he laid emphasis on the importance of member states’ intensifying joint action to combat extremism, terrorism, discrimination, hatred and Islam-

ophobia. He also underlined the importance of promoting values of tolerance and coexistence in the world. Al Maamari stressed that the tensions and military escalation that jeopardize the safety and stability of the region is a natural outcome of the brutal Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip.

The minister deplored the “international community failure to stop this senseless war and deter Israel from its persistent violations of international law and some countries’ use of double standards.”

In this context, Al Maamari expressed regret for the United Nations “Security Council’s failure

to adopt resolutions on recognising the State of Palestine, despite global consensus on Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and right to establish their independent state.”

Al Maamari said that the Sultanate of Oman always emphasizes its steadfast position at international and regional meetings in supporting the Palestinian cause.

The two-day conference discussed means of combating hate speech and Islamophobia, as well as economic, humanitarian, social and cultural challenges.

It called for the promotion of dialogue among nations belonging to different civilisations in the world. -ONA

Photography exhibition organised by QOMRA



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The National University of Science and Technology on Sunday inaugurated the 9th QOMRA week at the College of Engineering campus titled “Manifestation”.

The theme was chosen as “Manifestation” is expressing an idea directly or indirectly and that is exactly the power a photo has.

The photography exhibition is organised by QOMRA (the photography club). The inauguration ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Said bin Sultan bin Ya’arub Al Busaidi, the Undersecretary of Culture at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.

There were 343 entries in total with 96 photographers participating, of which the works of 32 photographers were shortlisted and are on display at the exhibition.

The exhibition showcases 40 photographs with varying styles and symbolising various aspects. Ghalib Al Hadabi, Ahad Al Alawi

and Al Yaqdhan Al Darmaki secured the first, second and third place respectively after being chosen by the visitors.

Ahad Al Alawi, a student at Sultan Qaboos University, said: “My passion for photography thrives alongside my academic pursuits. As an active member of the university’s photo society, I owe them immense gratitude for opportunities to develop my skills.”

One project, “Behind the Curtain,” secured second place at the National University Photography Week.

The photo portrays a ballet dancer backstage, wrestling with anticipation and anxiety. Monochromatic tones highlight her raw emotions, blurring the line between stage fright and artistic expression.

“Taken a year ago, it captures the enigmatic struggle between self-doubt and passion, a testament to my artistic vision and commitment to human experience,” he said.

OSFA holds AGM and elects new board

Times News Service

Muscat: The Oman Switzerland Friendship Association (OSFA) held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday (24 April, 2024), at The Zubair Corporation and online. The meeting discussed the activities of the Association during the past year, including a highly successful Business Forum in Lucerne, Switzerland and approved the audited financials for the year ending 2023.



It was an election year for the next three-year term. Six of the seven Board Members were re-elected, being Hani Al Zubair, Luca Decarli, Mohammed Abdul-

lah Al Kharusi, Dr. Anka Kaestner, Said bin Saif Al Maskery and Lateef Shahdad.

The final Board Member was the newly elected Ziyana Saud Al

Mudhaffer, who replaces Khalid Said Al Wahaibi who stepped down for this term.

The newly elected Board will meet soon to discuss the plans for 2024.

Association Chairman, Hani Al Zubair thanked the Membership for their continued support, and also thanked His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their guidance and support since the Association’s inception.



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Labor

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
23/2024	Consulting services for the job competency indicators project	Sunday 26/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 13/06/2024 10 a.m.
09/2024 Re-floated	Supply and installation of independent air conditioners for the central data services rooms of the Ministry's General Office building	Sunday 26/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 13/06/2024 10 a.m.
17/2023	Supply and installation of independent air conditioners for the central data services rooms of the Ministry's General Office building	Sunday 26/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 13/06/2024 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tenders' documents online through the following link, starting from Monday 6/5/2024 at 08:00 a.m.: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Bids shall be submitted online.
- Bids shall be opened at **11:00 am on Thursday 13/06/2024.**

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN

sifr
SODIUM FREE
DRINKING WATER

Exclusive
OFFER

Eid Mubarak

RO 50 ONLY

RO 20 ONLY

Hot & Cold Dispenser
2 Full Bottles
30 Refill coupons

White Tap Dispenser
2 Full Bottles
15 Refill coupons

oman
OASIS

OASIS WATER COMPANY S.A.O.C.
P.O. Box: 87, Rusayl 124, Sultanate of Oman.
CR No: 148602 - 1986-2020204
Offer valid from 12th March to 30th June 2024.

800 71 222
9275 5522

RAO organises cross-country competition



MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) on Sunday organised the final rounds of its cross-country competition that saw the participation of 15 teams representing RAO's brigades and other divisions.

The closing ceremony was held under the auspices of Maj. Gen. Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman.

At the outset of the ceremony, the RAO Commander listened to a briefing on the stages of the competition. Then, he gave the signal to start the competition. The contestants showed a high level of readiness and physical fitness. The RAO band presented musical performances that entertained the audience and triggered enthusiasm among the competitors.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the chief guest distributed cups, shields and prizes to top winners. The event was attended by senior officers and other personnel of the Royal Army of Oman. -ONA

‘Baleegh’ bags first place in the theatrical performance



Live broadcast of the festival was arranged through official channels and radio stations in Oman to generate interest about the culture among students

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Centre for Vocational Guidance and Student counselling, concluded the activities of the ninth school theatre festival ‘Culture and Empowerment’ on Thursday.

“Wadi Al-Warda” play from Al-Wusta Governorate won the third best theatrical performance award, and the second-best theatrical performance award went to the play “Wadi Al-Hikayat” from North Al-Batinah Governorate, and the play “Baleegh” from Al Dakhiliyah Governorate came first in the theatrical performance.

The seven theatrical performances from the governorates of Muscat, Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Batinah, Al Wusta, South Al Batinah, Dhofar, and South Al Sharqiyah, continued for five days, in the presence of an elite group of theatre artists and specialists from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

The closing ceremony was held under the patronage of Basil bin Ahmed Al-Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth for Sports, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education, advisers, Directors-General at the Ministry, theatre artists, critics and students.

The ceremony began with the playing of a piece from the Royal Anthem, after which Fahd bin Juma Al Balushi, supervisor of school activities, member and rapporteur of the jury at the festival, delivered the committee’s recommendations, which included adding group playing competitions, Omani folk arts, and student chanting.

The committee also recommended live broadcast of the festival through official channels and radio stations in the Sultanate of Oman to generate interest and deepen the culture of competitions among students; as it is an opportunity to discover their abilities, give them self-confidence, provide them with the necessary experiences to develop their personality, learn from the experiences of others, and to raise the level of culture of the Sultanate of Oman.

Jassim Al Battashi, the theatrical, television and radio artist and member of the jury at the festival, presented the recommendations of the theatre competition committee.

The recommendations emphasised that the texts submitted for

the school theatre festival must keep pace and be compatible with the goals and determinants of education, and with regard to cognitive awareness and sensory perception among school students.

The supervisors at the festival must work to improve the performance and develop the emotional sense of an actor and train them to improve their theatrical presentation.

The committee stressed on the importance of holding training seminars to motivate them to compose, and practice artistic techniques of theatrical presentation, and the necessity of nurturing talent and giving them more experience, and attention to other technical aspects of the theatrical show, especially sound effects, and functional décor.

This was followed by a video clip that included snapshots of the festival’s theatrical performances, then the results of the solo play competition and the theatre competitions were announced.

Certificates of proficiency in acting were won by Qutaiba bin Azzan Al-Saadi for his role in the play “Bint Al-Sayyad” from Muscat Governorate, Shatha bint Saad Al-Hakamani for her role in the play “Wadi Al-Warda” from the Al-Wusta Governorate, and Abdullah Al-Owaisi for his role in the play “Al-Falaj” from South Al Batinah Governorate, and Ola bint Ali Al Owaisi for her role in the play “Bint Al Sayyad” from Muscat Governorate, and Elias Al Hamdani for his role in the play “Al Falaj” in South Al Batinah Governorate, and Asayel bint Abdullah Al Salumi for her role in the play “The Fires of Memory” from Dhofar Governorate, and Samir Rajab for her active participation in the play “Fires of Memory” from Dhofar Governorate.

The play “Valley of the Rose” from Al Wusta Governorate won the award for best theatrical make-up, and designer Asma Al-Bariki for the play “Wadi Al-Hikayat” in North Al Batinah Governorate won the award for best theatrical costumes, and play “Bint Al Sayyad” from the Muscat Governorate received the award for best music and sound effects.

Asaad bin Salem Al-Siyabi won the award for the best theatrical lighting for the play “Baleegh” from the Al-Dakhiliyah Governorate, and the award for the best theatrical decoration and scenery went to the play “Baleegh” from the Al-Dakhiliyah Governorate.

The award for best actress in a secondary role went to Mehr bint Mahfouz Al-Hakamani for her outstanding performance in the play “Wadi Al-Warda” from Al Wusta Governorate, and Othman bin Adnan Al-Saedi won the best actor award in a secondary role for his outstanding performance in the play “Bint Al Sayyad” from Muscat Governorate.

Balqis bint Hussain Al-Subhi won the best actress award for her outstanding performance in the play “Bint Al Sayyad” from Muscat Governorate, and Ali bin Rashid Al-Alawi won the best actor award for his remarkable performance in the play “The Consequence of Greed” from South Al Sharqiyah Governorate.

The Special Jury Award for Distinguished Acting Performance



was won by Yousef Al Zaabi for his role in the play “Wadi Al-Hikayat” from North Al Batinah Governorate. The dialogues of the play “Baleegh” by Asaad bin Salem Al Siyabi from Al Dakhiliyah Governorate won the best theatrical script award, and the best theatrical direction award went to director Rashid Al-Bariki from North Al Batinah Governorate for the play

“Wadi Al-Hikayat”. Basil bin Ahmed Al-Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for Sports and Youth, presided over the closing ceremony of the school theatre festival in its ninth edition, said: “We thank the Ministry of Education for its efforts in refining our children in schools and embracing their talents in various

theatrical arts. I also extend my thanks to all educational directorates in the governorates and the teachers and supervisors for their tremendous efforts to develop the students’ talents. This festival, in its ninth edition, will shine in the skies of the Sultanate of Oman in all forums and activities at all levels. I congratulate all the winners, and also hope for the continuation

of such festivals to sharpen our children’s abilities.”

Saif bin Sulaiman Al-Jalandani, Director-General of the Directorate-General of Education in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, congratulated the students for winning first place in the best integrated theatrical performance in the play Baleegh.

He said: “We congratulate our children for winning first place in this year’s school theatre festival, as this victory came through efforts and integration between talented students, directors and supervisors. There is no doubt that attention to students bears fruits. We thank everyone who contributed and made efforts, including teachers, school administrations, and supervisors. We dedicate this victory to them, and thank the parents for their cooperation and solidarity.”

DISCUSSION

Finance Minister receives IMF Executive Director

MUSCAT: Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance received in his office on Sunday Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to discuss several topics of common concern.

The two sides highlighted international and local growth forecasts and the effects of public policies in tackling financial crises, as well as Oman's efforts in green sustainable financing.

-ONA



OMAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION



OAA honours trio of Al Harthy, Al Zubair and Al Rawahi

Times News Service

MUSCAT: They are Oman's talented trio in the world of motorsports. They have flown the flag of the Sultanate of Oman at the biggest stage and brought laurels for the country across various nations. They have set the tracks and circuits ablaze at some of the most renowned and challenging races and rallies. They are stars in their own right that Oman's motorsports fraternity is proud of and role models for Oman's youngsters.

Meet Ahmad Al Harthy, Abdullah Al Rawahi, and Al Faisal Al Zubair.

The trio's achievements in the world of motorsports are well-known as they have earned victories at the biggest races and rallies.

In a gesture to acknowledge their contribution to motorsports, the Oman Automobile Association (OAA) recently organised a felicitation ceremony for them at

the OAA headquarters.

Brigadier (Retd.) Salim al Maskari, OAA chairman of the board of directors, and Brigadier Jamal al Tai, OAA vice-chairman, honoured the trio and lauded their achievements. The top OAA officials wished the three stars the best for their upcoming assignments as the trio is involved in a busy season of endurance races and rallies.

Al Faisal Al Zubair's impressive results saw him secure second place in the Asian Le Mans Series in Dubai and also the runner-up spot in the Gold Cup category of the Fanatec GT World Challenge Endurance at Paul Ricard in France. Recently, Al Zubair won the opening round of the International GT Open held in Portimão, Portugal.

Ahmad Al Harthy, the most experienced driver, who has had a stellar career over the past ten years, was recently also honoured with a Royal Commendation badge. During the past decade,

Al Harthy has to his credit many wins, including at the world-famous Spa circuit and Le Mans race.

Abdullah Al Rawahi last year became the first-ever driver to be crowned FIA Middle East Rally Championship winner from Oman. He shared the title with legendary Nasser Al Attiyah.

Al Rawahi is also the recipient of an FIA award, and he along with Al Harthy were also honoured by His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports, and Youth.

Al Rawahi also secured a respectable third-place finish in the opening round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship 2024 held in Qatar.

The felicitation ceremony underlines OAA's commitment to promoting and supporting motorsport in Oman. The OAA has been instrumental in creating a platform for Omani drivers to showcase their talents and compete at the highest levels.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

National Committee for Road Safety holds meeting

MUSCAT: The National Committee for Road Safety held a meeting here on Sunday under the chairmanship of the Inspector General of Police and Customs.

The meeting highlighted annual statistics on the levels of road safety in Oman and the efforts of traffic safety institutes in the governorates in raising the awareness of different segments of the society.

Moreover, the committee reviewed various indices and results



of studies related to road safety.

The committee lauded the level of awareness among members of the society and the cooperation of citizens and residents in adhering to traffic regulations.-ONA

FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

EA carries out campaign to plant 4mn wild trees in Dhofar

Times News Service

SALALAH: The Environment Authority (EA), represented by the General Directorate of Environment in Dhofar Governorate, on Sunday carried out a campaign to plant 4 million wild trees in the mountains of Dhofar Governorate for the fourth year in a row.

The campaign will continue until the end of June 2024 with the participation of government and private agencies and the local community. The campaign aims to raise vegetation cover and combat desertification in the Dhofar Governorate, as one million seeds of Sidr and Samar trees were planted in the states of Mirbat and Sadah, and another million seeds were planted for frankincense trees in the Jabal Samharan Nature Reserve.



Two million seeds

This phase will be followed by planting of two million seeds in the mountains of the Dhofar Governorate in preparation for the fall season.

The planting phase was preceded

ed by many efforts by specialists in the directorate, represented by collecting seeds according to the flowering seasons of wild trees throughout the year, followed by the stage of refining and preparing them for plantation.

A different method of planting was also devised for this campaign, which is creating a suitable environment for the seeds by mixing the seeds with the soil and some basic materials.

They are packaged in square-shaped moulds, each square containing 3 seeds, and then dried so that the soil bonds with the other components to ensure the preservation of these seeds for as long as possible.

The seeds are then transported to the work sites and distributed in their appropriate and naturally protected environment.

It is worth noting that this campaign comes to achieve one of the pillars of Oman Vision 2040 and focuses on the environment and its natural resources.

-With ONA inputs

Salalah Free Zone

The world within your hands

Member of

ASAD

إحدى شركات

المنطقة الحرة بحلالة

Salalah Free Zone

The world within your hands

الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة

Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones

Sultanate of Oman

سلطنة عمان

Expression of Interest

NOTICE

Salalah Free Zone announces the following Expression of Interest for shortlisting of Companies specialized in the related services.

EOI No	Description	Last Date for Document Collection	Site Visit Date	Clarification Request Closing Date	Expression of Interest Submission Date
1	Business Opportunity in SFZ Green Field Land Development	19/05/2024	21/05/2024 09:00 am HQ Building	19/06/2024	26/06/2024

Interested companies may obtain the Request for Expression of Interest Document from SFZ email ID SFZ-SupplyChain@asyad.om

The Expression of Interest, shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Business Opportunity in SFZ Green Field Land Development"

The sealed envelope shall be delivered by hand to Supply Chain Department in Salalah Free Zone Company , HQ Building on the date and time specified above

All correspondences pertaining to the Expression of Interest enquiry must be directed to email ID SFZ-SupplyChain@asyad.om

AL JAZEIRA SERVICES CO. SAOG

P.O. Box 2865, Ruwi, P.C 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel.: 24706499, Fax: 24703653

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Services Co. SAOG, I am pleased to present the unaudited financial statements for the three months ended on 31 March 2024.

Profits and assets

The revenue from catering and allied services business for the three months ended on 31 March 2024 was up by 9% to RO 2,728,842 compared to revenue of RO 2,492,873 for corresponding three months in 2023. The operating profit of the Company at RO 179,732 was up by 21% compared to RO 149,007 for the same period in 2023.

The net gains from investments for the period was 20,990 against gain of RO 137,716 reported for the same period in 2023.

The share of profit from associate company, Al Anwar Ceramics Tiles Co. SAOG for the three months ended on 31 March 2024 was RO 185,755 down by 81% compared to RO 957,831 for the corresponding three months in 2023.

The net profit after tax for the three months ended on 31 March 2024 was RO 350,150 down by 71% compared to profit of RO 1,192,965 for the three months ended on 31 March 2023.

The shareholders' equity as on 31 March 2024 was up by 9% to RO 18,071,394 against RO 16,636,997 as on 31 March 2023. Therefore, the net assets per share as on 31 March 2024 was 162 baisa as against 149 baisa as on 31 March 2023.

Future outlook

We remain focused on our core business of catering and allied services and our outlook for the future remains stable.

The Board of Directors is considering options such as investments and financial restructuring which may include capital reduction. This will be disclosed to the market as and when the decision in this regard is taken by the Board of Directors.

I am pleased to report that your company has adhered to all the applicable regulations covering corporate governance in Sultanate of Oman.

Acknowledgements

We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik for inspiring leadership and wise policies. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless His Majesty with good health and strength to lead our nation to further progress and prosperity. We also extend our sincere thanks to our Customers, Shareholders, Muscat Securities Exchange and Capital Market Authority for their continued support. My appreciation also goes to the Company's management and staff for their continued dedication and hard work.

Abdureidha Mustafa Sultan
Deputy Chairman

The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder, who request them, either in Arabic or English, within 7 days from the receipt of the request.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Group 31/03/2024	Parent 31/03/2024	Group 31/03/2023	Parent 31/03/2023
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Assets				
Non-current assets				
Furniture and equipment	67,322	6,727	103,048	6,460
Goodwill	90,000	--	90,000	--
Investments in subsidiaries	--	320,444	--	320,444
Investments in associates	11,041,568	11,041,598	12,044,540	12,044,540
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	9,868	9,898	9,898	9,898
Deferred tax asset	228,774	226,043	224,232	223,019
Total non-current assets	11,437,562	11,604,710	12,471,718	12,604,361
Current assets				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	782,451	782,451	704,206	704,206
Inventories	403,022	--	412,162	--
Trade receivable and other financial assets	4,122,639	12,482	3,582,519	33,628
Dividend receivable from an associate	1,627,589	813,795	813,795	813,795
Due from related parties	--	1,920,599	--	1,409,239
Cash and bank balances	2,773,138	2,039,538	2,528,441	2,109,631
Total current assets	9,708,840	6,382,660	8,041,123	5,079,499
Total assets	21,146,432	17,987,370	20,512,841	17,674,860
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Shareholders' capital and reserves				
Share capital	11,171,717	11,171,717	11,171,717	11,171,717
Legal reserve	3,763,884	3,735,270	3,763,884	3,735,270
Other reserves	49,387	49,387	49,387	49,387
Retained earnings	3,395,733	3,245,621	1,952,567	1,809,888
Investment fair value reserve	(309,327)	(309,327)	(300,558)	(300,558)
Total shareholders' capital and reserve	18,071,394	17,892,668	16,636,997	16,465,704
Non-current liabilities				
Employees' terminal benefits	566,237	53,024	440,938	46,516
Total non-current liabilities	566,237	53,024	440,938	46,516
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	1,954,455	20,791	1,765,658	23,018
Due to related parties	346,806	--	371,533	1,563
Dividend payable	--	--	1,117,172	1,117,172
Provision for Taxation	207,540	20,887	180,543	20,887
Total current liabilities	2,508,801	41,678	3,434,906	1,162,640
Total liabilities	3,075,038	94,702	3,875,844	1,209,156
Total Shareholders' capital and reserves and liabilities	21,146,432	17,987,370	20,512,841	17,674,860
Net assets per share	0.162	0.160	0.149	0.147

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Group 31/03/2024	Parent 31/03/2024	Group 31/03/2023	Parent 31/03/2023
	RO	RO	RO	RO
Revenue from contract with customers	2,728,842	--	2,492,873	--
Cost of providing services	(2,250,198)	--	(2,060,152)	--
Gross profit	478,644	--	432,721	--
Other income	9,683	--	8,061	--
Total	488,327	--	440,782	--
Expenses				
Employees salaries and other costs	(144,966)	(52,233)	(130,115)	(49,221)
General and administrative expenses	(153,207)	(22,183)	(150,490)	(27,140)
Depreciation	(10,423)	(579)	(11,177)	(425)
Total	(308,596)	(74,995)	(291,775)	(78,786)
Profit/(loss) from operations	179,732	(74,995)	140,007	(78,786)
Net Gain from Investments	20,990	20,990	137,716	137,716
Share of profit from investment in an associates	185,755	185,755	957,831	957,831
Dividend from a subsidiary	--	214,080	--	189,753
Finance costs	(3,169)	(2,812)	(4,812)	(4,447)
Profit before tax	383,308	343,018	1,239,742	1,204,067
Income tax expenses	(33,154)	5,002	(46,777)	(12,953)
Net profit after tax	350,150	348,020	1,192,965	1,191,114
Other comprehensive income				
Share of fair value reserve in an associate	(35,704)	(35,704)	85,534	85,534
Total comprehensive income for the period attributable to the parent co.	314,446	312,316	1,278,499	1,276,648
Basic earnings per share	0.003	0.003	0.011	0.011

OFFICIAL VISIT

Japanese foreign minister arrives in Nepal

KATHMANDU: Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamikawa Yoko arrived in Kathmandu on Sunday for a one-day official visit to the Himalayan nation.

Kamikawa Yoko's visit to Nepal comes as the last destination of her visit to various Asian countries. She flew from Sri Lanka's Colombo to Kathmandu on a special flight.

She arrived in Nepal at the invitation of her Nepali counterpart, Narayan Kaji Shrestha. On arrival at Kathmandu, Yoko was welcomed by Nepal's Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal along with other Nepali dignitaries at the airport.

Later in the afternoon, Kamikawa Yoko will be visiting Basantapur Durbar Square and engaging

in meetings in the following hours.

As per the itinerary, the visiting Japanese Foreign Minister will have a meeting with the Nepali Counterpart at 3 pm.

She will call on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' at 4 pm and Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel at 5 pm.

The Japanese Foreign Minister

will then take part in the dinner and later depart for Tokyo in the evening.

Fourth Japanese foreign minister

Kamikawa Yoko is the fourth Japanese foreign minister to visit the Himalayan Nation since the two nations established diplomatic relations in September 1956. — **ANI**



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

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

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

Arabian Travel Market in Dubai sees 26% year-on-year growth

This year's ATM, taking place from 6-9 May, is centred spotlighting the pivotal role of start-ups and entrepreneurs in shaping the sector's future



launch on Monday with a focus on the Trends Shaping the Future of Hospitality in the Middle East, led by senior representatives from IHG Hotels and Resorts, Marriott International, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Banyan Tree Dubai, Mastercard and Silkhaus. Other sessions on Monday on the Future Stage include The New Age of Island Tourism, which explores how islands in the Middle East are offering new opportunities for tourism, and the Global Economic Disruptions Affecting the Future of Travel session.

Speaking ahead of launch day, Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market, said: "Following the unprecedented success of our 30th edition in 2023, exhibitor participation has increased by a remarkable 26% this year, making ATM 2024 the largest in the event's history."

"This notable growth underscores ATM's reputation as an unmissable event for the global travel and tourism community, offering unrivalled business and networking opportunities for attendees and exhibitors across a wide range of travel sectors and verticals."

Growth has been achieved across all show verticals, including regional year-on-year upticks for the Middle East (28%), Asia

(34%), Europe (34%) and Africa (26%). In addition, more than 100 prominent travel technology companies will showcase their latest innovations to a global audience at this year's event. The Travel Tech section is 58% larger this year, indicating an unprecedented surge in interest from companies that want to display their latest technological advancements.

ATM continues its commitment to sustainability for another year, building on the show's main theme in 2023 and in keeping with its 30 long-term sustainability goals. The Sustainability Summit on 9 May will explore Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations, consumer preferences, and the collaborative efforts required to create a more sustainable future for travel and tourism. Meanwhile, the Sustainable Stand Award will recognise the exhibitor who has made outstanding efforts to reduce their stand's carbon footprint.

Held in conjunction with Dubai World Trade Centre, ATM 2024's strategic partners are the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), Destination Partner; Emirates, Official Airline Partner; IHG Hotels & Resorts, Official Hotel Partner; and Al Rais Travel, Official DMC Partner.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Arabian Travel Market (ATM), the leading global event for the travel and tourism sector, will return to the Dubai World Trade Centre this week for its 31st edition. Taking place from 6-9 May, over 41,000 attendees are expected to visit the annual trade show, which will feature 2,300 exhibitors from 165 countries.

This year, ATM is centred on the theme 'Empowering Innovation

- Transforming Travel through Entrepreneurship', spotlighting the pivotal role of start-ups and entrepreneurs in shaping the sector's future. This focus will provide a platform for industry leaders and policymakers worldwide to empower the travel and tourism community to harness entrepreneurship and identify opportunities for growth.

A four-day conference programme will deliver over 50 informative sessions from more than 200 high-profile speakers who will address attendees across the Glob-

al Stage and the new Future Stage. Issam Abdulrahim Kazim, Chief Executive Officer - Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, will host the Global Stage Welcome: The Gateway to Global Insights keynote speech, outlining Dubai's tourism goals and plans for the coming years. Later tomorrow, Ministers from the GCC and beyond will take to the stage to discuss the key strategies to support and develop tourism in the region at the Ministerial Debate: Streamlining Tourism within the GCC.

ATM will also host the Market Insights Summit on the Global Stage on opening day, exploring the potential of China, India and Latin America as they emerge as key players in global tourism. The panel for the Summit includes Basmah Al-Mayman, Regional Director for the Middle East, UN Tourism; Guy Hutchinson, President, Middle East & Africa, Hilton; Julia Simpson, CEO & President, World Travel and Tourism Council; and Jan Gerrit Koechling, Partner, Roland Berger.

The Future Stage will officially

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY



SQU awards seven vital research works

< FROM A1 The winning projects included a research work on the value addition and increase in production of olives in the Sultanate of Oman by Dr. Rashid bin Abdullah Al Yahyai from the College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences. Another research on management of Parthenium in the Sultanate of Oman was awarded to Dr. Mohammed Farouq from the College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences.

Also, a research work on the reduction of carbon dioxide level by transforming it into products of advantage using sustainable solar energy in Oman was awarded to Dr. Rengaraj Selvaraj from the College of Science.

Other research work receiving the grant included technical evaluation of the low-energy air conditioning of buildings in Oman to Dr. Mohammed Abdulqayoum from the College of Engineering.

Also, a research on designing effective systems for transforming carbon dioxide to poly-carbons or organic carbon was awarded to Dr. Mohammed bin Zaher Al Abri from the Nanotechnology Research Centre.

Dr. Amer bin Saif Al Hinai, Deputy Vice Chancellor of SQU for postgraduate studies and research, said that the conference accompanying the SQU Day comes within the university's efforts for development of research and innovation and boosting their role in supporting economic and digital transformation. -With inputs from OMA



GERMAN EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

Germany has already exceeded its annual ecological limits: NGO report

BERLIN: Just over four months into the year, Germany has already exceeded sustainable consumption limits for the year, according to the US-based environment NGO Global Footprint Network.

According to its calculations, if everybody in the world behaved like the Germans, humanity would need three Earths to provide enough resources to sustainably accommodate their consumption.

So-called overshoot days occur when a country's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what the planet can regenerate in that year.

The worst offenders, such as Qatar and Luxembourg, already exceeded their limits in February. Other countries, such as Cambodia and Madagascar, will likely stay well below their limits and not overshoot.

Last year, Germany overshoot its limit on May 4 — one day later than 2024, taking into account the leap year difference.

"The German Earth Overshoot Day is a reminder to change the underlying conditions in all sectors now so that sustainable behavior becomes the new normal," Aylin Lehnert, education officer at German environmental NGO Germanwatch, said in a press release. "We need a new debt brake, a debt brake in relation to the overloading of the Earth."

According to Greenwatch, meat production and consumption in Germany is one of the main drivers of its overuse of Earth's resources. About 60% of its agricultural land is used for animal feed production, and millions of tons are imported from overseas.

Germany's total imports led to the destruction of 138,000 hectares (341,005 acres) of tropical forest worldwide from 2016 to 2018, according to the international development agency GIZ.

The Global South, which largely lives within sustainable limits, shoulders much of the burden of overconsumption through envi-



ronmental destruction and climate change damage.

On Tuesday, Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) criticised the country's reckless use of soil, water and raw materials.

BUND Chairman Olaf Bandt said in a statement, "Our Earth is overloaded. A country that consumes as many resources as we do is operating poorly and recklessly." BUND is calling on the German government to introduce a resource protection law for soil and land, arable and pasture land, fishing grounds, ground and surface water, forests and wood.

According to the Happy Planet Index (HPI) released on Thursday, all this over-consumption doesn't necessarily lead to better lives for its citizens.

The index, compiled by the Hot or Cool Institute, a Berlin-based public interest think tank, combines data on well-being, life expectancy and carbon footprint to assess how well countries are caring for their citizens without overtaxing the planet.

For example, Sweden and Germany have very similar levels of general well-being and life expectancy, but Sweden achieved that quality of life with 16% fewer emissions per capita than Germany and less than half the per capita footprint in the United States.

Costa Rica had comparable figures for life expectancy and well-being but almost half the environmental impact of Germany.

The countries with the best balance

Vanuatu, Sweden, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua all topped the list for balancing good lives with low impact.

The index, which also breaks down income levels within countries, found that the top 10% of earners globally are responsible for nearly half of all emissions but have almost no gains in well-being and health over low-emitters.

A good example of this is air travel. People who fly a lot emit far more carbon than people who do not, but they do not show a significant increase in well-being compared to those who fly less. In the United States, a 2020 study revealed that wealthier homes have 25% larger energy footprints than low-income homes but equal levels of life satisfaction.

Lewis Akenji, managing director of the Hot or Cool Institute, called for countries to rethink their priorities.

"We need to focus on wasteful consumption and inequality, which is making the planetary crisis worse," Akenji said in a statement. — **DW**

Gaza death toll rises to 34,683

In addition, 78,000 injuries have been registered with thousands of victims still under the rubble

GAZA: A number of Palestinian civilians were killed and others injured in a series of Israeli airstrikes over the early hours of Sunday morning across the Gaza Strip, marking the 212th day of the ongoing Israeli genocidal war on the enclave.

In a preliminary toll, the ongoing Israeli aggression has resulted so far in 34,683 documented Palestinian fatalities, the majority of whom are children and women.

In addition, 78,000 injuries have been registered, with thousands of victims still under the rubble.

Wafa correspondents reported that Israeli warplanes launched two airstrikes on the Al-Salam neighbourhood east of Rafah city in southern Gaza, targeting a house belonging to the Bahloul family. The attack resulted in the killing and injury of several civilians

An earlier airstrike targeted a house belonging to the Al-Sha'er family in the same neighborhood,



resulting in the injury of three people.

Israeli fighter jets also struck the town of Zawaida and targeted an agricultural land in the neighbouring Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza.

Simultaneously, Israeli airstrikes hit a site in the Jeneina neighbourhood east of Rafah, south of the Strip, while Israeli aircraft fired towards the east of the Bureij and Maghazi refugee camps and the city of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

Earlier in the night, Israeli warplanes targeted the Wadi al-Arayes area east of the Zaytoun neighbourhood in Gaza City, where a mother and her two children were killed, and their father was injured.

Israeli warplanes also targeted a residential building in the Ard al-Mufti area north of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, and a house north of the Nuseirat camp, injuring several civilians.

Red Crescent retrieves remains of martyrs from rubble

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society announced today that its teams managed to retrieve some of the remains of five Palestinians killed by Israeli occupation forces in the village of Deir al-Ghusun, in the occupied West Bank province

of Tulkarm.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said in a press statement that the remains were retrieved from under the rubble of the house where the five were killed. The house was targeted and destroyed by Israeli missiles upon the heads of its occupants during the deadly Israeli military onslaught yesterday on the town.

PRCS clarified that its teams transported the retrieved remains of the martyrs to Thabet Governmental Hospital in the city of Tulkarm.

The five Palestinians were killed yesterday in an Israeli onslaught which lasted for 13 hours, during

Talks on Gaza truce deal to resume in Egypt

CAIRO: A delegation from the Palestinian group Hamas is expected to meet with Qatari, Egyptian and US mediators on Sunday in a bid to strike a deal on a truce in Gaza amid the Israel-Hamas war.

Negotiators have been discussing a proposal for a 40-day pause in fighting and an exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinians held in Israeli jails, according to details made public by Britain.

Israel has so far sent no delegation to the talks in Cairo, with an Israeli official telling the AFP news agency it would do so only if there was "positive movement."

Up to now, both sides have accused each other of block-

ing a deal.

Hamas has said it will not agree to any truce that does not include a complete end to the war and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Israel has refused to guarantee an end to its offensive, launched after Hamas carried out attacks in southern Israel on October 7 in which 1,200 Israelis were killed and 250 taken hostage.

Last November, 105 of the hostages were released in exchange for Palestinians held by Israel during a weeklong cease-fire, but since then negotiations have failed to produce any lasting truce.

It is unclear how many of the Israelis remaining in captivity are still alive. — **ONA**

TRILATERAL SUMMIT

South Korea, China, Japan to hold talks

SEOUL: The Republic of Korea is in final consultations with the People's Republic of China and Japan to hold a long-stalled trilateral summit of their leaders on 26 and 27 May 2024, according to the foreign ministry.

"South Korea, Japan and China agreed to hold the summit at the earliest date convenient for all sides," an official at the ministry said. "We have been in consultations with Japan and China as the current chair country."

Fumio Kishida, Japanese Prime Minister and Li Qiang, Chinese Premier are expected to visit Seoul to meet with President Yoon Suk Yeol of the Republic of Korea.

The trilateral summit was last held in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu in December 2019.

The summit has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. — **ONA**

UNITED NATIONS

UN demands better protection for journalists on environment beat

NEW YORK: Marking the World Press Freedom Day on Friday, 3rd May, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted an uptick in violence faced by journalists covering environmental issues, which has made the profession increasingly dangerous.

The United Nations chief said journalists and media professionals "have a key role in informing and educating" the public about the world's current environmental and climate emergency which stands as a threat to future generations.

It is through this work that people can have a greater understanding of environmental factors affecting the world and advocate for change, he said.

However, based on recent UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) reports, journalists, especially environmental journalists, face violent attacks and even death for simply doing their job.

"Dozens of journalists covering illegal mining, logging, poaching



and other environmental issues have been killed in recent decades," Guterres said. But, "in the vast majority of cases, no one has been held to account."

UNESCO's report analysed the violence environmental journalists face.

The report found that journal-

ists and news outlets reporting on environmental issues dealt with about 750 attacks in the past 15 years, the Secretary-General said.

In an interview with UN News, Guilherme Canela, UNESCO's chief of freedom of expression and safety of journalists, said the report found that 70 per cent of

journalists doing environmental reporting dealt with at least one form of violence, and a quarter of the surveyed reporters dealt with legal attacks.

Additionally, Canela said that over the past 50 years, 44 journalists covering environmental stories were killed.

He said it is important to remember that journalists are important observers of conflict zones and that they provide life-saving information for civilian populations affected by these conflicts.

"UNESCO is sounding the alarm that we need to take care of the protection of those journalists covering environmental issues," he said, "because raising that awareness about what's going on in the environment and holding powerful actors accountable is absolutely essential to face the current environmental challenges that the planet is having."

30 years after the historic Santiago Declaration, which advanced media independence and pluralism, UNESCO reaffirms its worldwide commitment to defending press freedom of expression.

World Press Freedom Day is dedicated to the importance of journalism and freedom of expression in the context of the current global environmental crisis.

— **ANI/WAM**

FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

Why managing Africa's natural disasters is taking on urgency?

PRETORIA: After the worst drought in decades, East Africa is now being pounded by heavy rains. At least 180 people have died in floods and landslides in Kenya since the rainy season began in mid-March, with hundreds of thousands forced to leave their homes.

"The flooding in Kenya is absolutely out of control," reporter Andrew Wasike told DW's AfriLink programme.

"The rains just won't stop. Whole villages across Kenya have just disappeared. And the worst part? Roads are gone, bridges are completely washed out, people are cut off. It's heartbreaking, and the forecast says this rain isn't going to let up anytime soon."

Tanzania and Somalia have also been hard hit by torrential rain and severe floods, displacing tens of thousands and inundating crop lands.

In contrast to that, southern Africa is suffering from prolonged dry spell at the same time, which has scorched crops during what is supposed to be the growing season, threatening food security.

These are only a few of the natural disasters currently clobbering the continent.

Why is Africa so vulnerable to natural disasters?

The reasons for Africa's propensity to suffering natural hazards are complex but include the reduced capacity of governments and institutions to protect communities from and respond to disasters.



The vast majority of Africans are also dependent on rain-fed agriculture for their food, making them especially vulnerable to suffering the negative effects of flooding and drought.

Recurring disasters, which can wipe out crops and cause massive displacement, often leave poor nations picking up the pieces of one event when they are being slammed by another.

For instance, in 2023 Malawi was lashed by Cyclone Freddy, which dumped six months of rain-fall in six days and triggered mud-

slides and floods across the nation, killing more than 1,000 people. But Freddy came hard on the heels of two prior cyclones in 2022.

In total, Malawi, which is still one of the world's poorest countries, has experienced 16 major flooding events, five storm-related disasters and two severe droughts since 2010, according to the World Bank.

"This has left almost no time for the country to recover and has resulted in a severe erosion of food security at the national level," finds the World Bank.

Why are natural disasters particularly hard on Africa?

Climate change meanwhile is increasing the frequency and severity of natural hazards on the continent, find numerous experts, including the UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The likelihood of severe droughts, for instance, has increased 100-fold on the Horn of Africa. In southern Africa, the impacts of the El Nino climate phenomenon, which brings drier and warmer weather and low and erratic rainfall as well as floods,

are becoming "more intense and prolonged" due to global warming, writes climate change expert Tadadzwanashe Mabhaudhi in a 2024 article for The Conversation.

At the same time, man-made changes to both rural and urban environments are also worsening the effects of natural disasters.

"Some of these disasters are caused by environmental degradation, loss of wetlands, loss of forests, and so any little amount of rain that comes causes floods," climate change expert Sosten Chiotha, told DW.

Factors such as increased settlements, deforestation, livestock grazing and clearing for crops are dramatically altering the landscape in many rural areas, making it susceptible to the effects of erosion after severe weather events.

In urban areas, on the other hand, the unchecked expansion of many of Africa's cities is seeing people building shelters along rivers and on wetlands, destroying natural buffers for floodwaters. Informal settlements also fill in green spaces, resulting in a lack of drainage to carry away floodwaters.

Drainage systems clogged with plastic pollution, a reality in many African towns and cities, also add to the growing flood risk.

What can Africa do to better prepare for natural disasters?

As with most issues, there is no single solution to address everything; however, certain approach-

es have come up repeatedly in public debates on Africa's levels of preparedness.

Improved evaluation of weather data is one way to be better prepared, says Chiotha, who is also the regional director for Southern and Eastern Africa at Regional Director at LEAD, a leadership non-profit.

"Let's enhance our monitoring and the collecting of long term data. Many of the disaster issues in Africa don't appear in the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] reports because basically there is very little data," he said.

Improving on early warning systems would also help people on a continent where more than half the population aren't covered by such a system.

The damage caused by a disaster can be reduced by nearly one-third if an early warning is issued within 24 hours, according to the World Meteorological Organisation. Last year, the organisation launched an initiative to try to give more Africans access to an early warning system about impending disasters.

Nature-based solutions, such as preserving forests and wetlands to reduce flooding, are also being hotly discussed.

"But for that to happen, you need to ensure that the services that people derive from these forests and from these wetlands [such as wood for energy or clearing for agriculture] can be found elsewhere somehow," said Chiotha. — **DW**

SPORTS

Jadeja’s all-round show takes CSK to third spot

Punjab dominated the proceedings right from the toss, but their batters collapsed from 62/2 to 78/7 chasing Chennai’s 168

DHARAMSHALA: An all-round performance from Ravindra Jadeja (43 and 3/20) steered Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to an easy 28-run win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) at Dharamshala on Sunday.

The victory helped CSK climb to third place in the points table with six wins and five losses, giving them 12 points. PBKS are at the eight spot with four wins, seven losses and just eight points.

Punjab Kings (PBKS) showcased their very best and worst selves all in the course of about 45 minutes. In the end the bad outweigh the good.

Sam Curran’s men had dominated proceedings right from the toss. A target of 168 should’ve been well within their reach, especially when they strung together a period of play where they hit six boundaries in 18 balls between the fifth and the seventh overs.

The equation at that point was 112 off 78 with eight wickets in hand. This was not the time to collapse but collapse they did, losing both their set batters, their captain and their finisher. They tumbled from 62/2 to 78/7.

It all began with CSK ticking every box they shouldn’t tick in a batting innings in T20 cricket.



They lost a wicket in the powerplay. Ajinkya Rahane’s poor IPL continued with his fifth score of 15 or less. Then they lost three wickets in 11 balls, including their top-scorer Ruturaj Gaikwad (32

TODAY’S MATCH

Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad

Mumbai, 6pm

balls was crucial to the total CSK ended up with.

Rahul Chahar was once again at the forefront of the PBKS bowling performance. Harshal Patel backed him as secured two of his three wickets with slow, sharply dipping yorkers. One of them was MS Dhoni for a first-ball duck.

Brief scores: Chennai Super Kings 167/9 (Ravindra Jadeja 43; Rahul Chahar 3-23, Harshal Patel 3-24) beat Punjab Kings 139/9 (Prabhsimran Singh 30; Jadeja 3-20, Tushar Deshpande 2-35). - Agencies

Du Plessis, bowlers secure win for RCB

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) managed to survive a middle-over scare of wickets collapse despite an explosive partnership between skipper Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli to record a four-wicket win against Gujarat Titans (GT) on Saturday.

RCB have jumped to the seventh place, with four wins and seven losses, giving them eight points. With the same win-loss record and points but an inferior net-run-rate, GT are in the ninth spot.

Riding on the back of their seam-bowling success and a blistering opening stand between du Plessis and Kohli, RCB dominated for the first 26 overs of the game. But a middle-order collapse - where GT picked up six wickets for only 25 runs - briefly put them on the back foot. However, Dinesh Karthik (21*) and Swapnil Singh (15*) counterpunched to complete a four-wicket win.

RCB’s Mohammed Siraj and Yash Dayal found success with balls from behind a good length. Siraj dismissed Wriddhiman Saha for the fourth time in six innings and then had Shubman Gill playing away from his body for a catch at deep point. Sai Sudharsan also failed to get going, and GT could post only 23/3 in the powerplay.

M Shahrulkh Khan, David Miller and Rahul Tewatia then scored in the thirties to keep the GT innings moving. Before a lower-order collapse. GT slid from 131/5 to 147 all out, and their innings had two run-outs including a Kohli direct-hit dismissal of Shahrulkh.

After surviving a close run-out chance on the first ball of the chase, Kohli brushed off all jitters by hitting Mohit Sharma for a six over cover and one more over midwicket in the opening over. Du Plessis then took Josh Little for 20 runs in the next over and RCB were off.

RCB’s fifty was brought up in just 3.1 overs. Kohli then pounced on Suthar for consecutive sixes over long-on. The onslaught continued as du Plessis then reached his fifty off 18 balls as RCB went



past their previous-best power-play score of 88. By the time he was dismissed in the sixth over by Little, RCB had already razed 92 off the target.

From then on, however, wickets started to fall. RCB were probably looking to finish the game quickly to give their slim playoff qualification chances an NRR boost, but their batters fell trying to go after GT’s bowlers.

Will Jacks fell to Noor Ahmad’s spin while Rajat Patidar, Glenn Maxwell and Green were all dismissed by Little’s short balls. When Noor’s googly had Kohli edging behind for 42 in the 11th over, RCB had stuttered to 117/6.

With four overs of Rashid left - he didn’t bowl earlier due to a blow to his shoulder while batting - GT searched for a seventh wicket to put in the ultimate squeeze, but Dinesh Karthik did not let the spinner settle by clubbing three fours in his opening over to give the Chinnaswamy crowd their voice again. When Rashid returned for his second over, Swapnil gave him the same treatment, hitting a six over the bowler’s head to secure the two points.

Brief scores: Gujarat Titans 147 in 19.3 overs (Shahrulkh Khan 37, Rahul Tewatia 35, Yash Dayal 2-21, Vijaykumar Vyshak 2-23, Mohammed Siraj 2-29) lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru 152/6 in 13.4 overs (Faf du Plessis 64, Virat Kohli 42; Josh Little 4-45). - Agencies

The New Sorento

KIA

Movement that inspires

24.6" TFT Supervision & Nav. Infotainment System

Smart Cruise & Collision Control

Shift by Wire TM (SBW)

Crafted for exceptional performance that exceeds expectations, the Kia Sorento 3.5L V6, 268HP empowers you to conquer every challenge on the road, with ease.

#KiaSorento #TheNewKiaSorento #MovementThatInspires

Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579840, Al Mawaleh: 99473174, Barka: 93201347, Ibra: 99874368, Ibri: 99874368, Nizwa: 99874368, Sohar: 26858600, Sur: 25546190, Suwaiq: 93201347, Rustaq: 92190747, Salalah: 23211460

© Manufacturer’s Warranty of 5 Years/ 100,000 Kms whichever is earlier. For paint and body perforations, standard Kia warranty terms are applied.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

Zubair EDC recently organised yet another “Tajribati” dialogue session to shed light on the concept of alternative innovative funding solutions. The initiative is a unique platform for entrepreneurs to communicate and exchange opinions and experiences.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,805.25 points, up by 0.67 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.07 per cent at 453.22 points. Voltamp Energy, up 5.90 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 3.85 per cent, was the top loser.

Car fuel production falls by 3.2% in Oman

The production of regular fuel (M-91) fell by 15.3 per cent by the end of March

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's production of car fuel recorded a decrease of 3.2 per cent by the end of March 2024 compared to the corresponding period in 2023, according to preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The production of regular fuel (M-91) fell by 15.3 per cent by the end of March 2024. High-grade fuel (M-95) increased by 17.9 per cent. Production of M-91 fuel reached 3,920,500 barrels, while sales stood at 3,340,100 barrels. The production of M-95 fuel reached 3,105,600 barrels and its



sales reached 3,106,100 barrels.

Diesel production declined by 10.6 per cent to stand at 7,426,700 barrels and its sales reached

3,386,700 barrels. Meanwhile, jet fuel production increased by 9.4 per cent to stand at 2,947,700 barrels, while its sales stood at

1,087,600 barrels. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) production reached 2,203,400 barrels and its sales stood at 2,432,600. -ONA

OMAN REAL ESTATE EXPO

Oman's residential leasing market buoyant, occupancy rising significantly

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's residential leasing market is buoyant with occupancy significantly increasing in well-managed assets, according to an industry expert.

"This trend persists despite a decline in expatriate numbers compared to the beginning of the year," Ihsan Kharouf, Head of Savills Oman, said in an exclusive interview with the *Times of Oman*.

"However, considering the major population influx last year, tenants are gradually transitioning from their initial quick-fix accommodations towards more suitable, longer-term homes," he added.

He said this at the sidelines of the Oman Real Estate Expo which was held recently at the Oman Conven-



tion and Exhibition Centre. "The real estate exhibition in Oman for 2024 has been the best I have ever seen in terms of attendance, number, and scale of exhibitors," he said.

These exhibitions serve as a great barometer for the market, not just reflecting current market conditions but also indicating market confidence for the upcoming period. This is positive news for the market, as such confidence can be self-fulfilling, he further added.

"The office market continues its positive momentum from 2023, with Savills recording the best commercial leasing numbers in a decade," Ihsan Kharouf said. "Meanwhile, there remains a delicate balance between supply and demand, with owners leveraging active market intelligence in pricing to ensure maximum occupancy," he further added.

Elaborating on the retail sector, he said that it can be categorised

into three main segments. Prime retail is performing strongly, with waiting lists even present. In contrast, secondary retail tenants maintain a strong negotiating position due to oversupply. Lastly, localised, community, or destination retail, actively managed in line with market demand, is performing well, with key money being exchanged to accommodate some tenants.

"It is evident that we are entering a dynamic period in the Omani market, especially with the launch of the Muscat Structure Plan and the announcement of numerous new projects in Muscat and other major cities. These developments will have a significant impact on the real estate landscape," Ihsan Kharouf said.

FOREIGN INVESTORS

FPIs return as buyers in Indian stock market

NEW DELHI: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have again returned as net buyers in the Indian stock market in May. Till May 3, they bought equities worth Rs 1,156 crore in India, data from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) showed.

In April, FPIs turned net sellers in Indian stocks, as the ongoing geopolitical crisis in the Middle East then likely pushed investors to take money off their portfolios.

FPIs, who continued to remain net buyers for the third month until till mid-April, have cumulatively sold stocks worth Rs 8,671 crore by the end of the month, data showed.

"The market is at record highs. There has been a pre-election rally. It is not as strong as in the past. More than anything else, FPIs will respond to changes in the US bond yields. If the US bond yields fall and the Indian economy and markets do well they will turn aggressive buyers," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Going back, FPIs aggressively sold Indian stocks and turned net sellers in the Indian equity market in January 2024, before turning net buyers thereafter. In February and March, they were net buyers. Firm GDP growth forecasts, inflation at manageable levels, political stability at the central government level, and signs that the central bank is done tightening its monetary policy have all contributed to painting a bright picture for the Indian economy. -ANI

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

Omantel hosts first Oman chapter meeting of Middle East Investor Relations Association

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication and ICT services in the Sultanate of Oman, on Wednesday, hosted this year's first meeting of the Oman chapter of the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA), marking a significant milestone in its commitment to advancing Investor Relations (IR) practices within the region.

This significant event, held for the first time at Omantel's headquarters, underscores the company's dedication to promoting transparency and best practices in investor relations. By facilitating this important meeting, Omantel not only reinforced its role as an industry leader but also demonstrated its commitment to boosting Oman's investment landscape.

Ghassan Al Hashar, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Omantel, said: "Hosting the MEIRA Oman chapter meeting aligns with Omantel's strategic vision to lead by example in the realm of investor relations. Omantel strongly believes in the need to drive initiatives that foster a deeper understanding of the financial markets and create a more transparent dialogue between companies and investors. We are extremely proud to host this meeting and network with organizations having a similar focus on Investor Relations."

Paolo Casamassima, Chief Executive Officer of MEIRA stated: "This Oman chapter meeting comes at a time when the regional



capital markets are witnessing higher levels of maturity as well as global interest. We are confident this event will be a catalyst for greater networking among all MEIRA members, and that we can all benefit from learning about new trends in Investor Relations. We appreciate Omantel's role in hosting this important meeting."

The meeting, facilitated by Omantel, brought together leading

professionals and stakeholders from across the Middle East, comprising more than 100 attendees, including 14 CFOs, 25 IROs, and a significant representation of local Analysts. Discussions focused on current IR trends, challenges, and strategies to elevate the overall investment framework within the region. The networking highlighted the crucial role of cross-regional knowledge exchange in enhancing

the standards and practices of investor relations.

The event began with a presentation by Omantel CFO Ghassan Al-Hashar on "The importance of the Investor Relations function in communicating with institutional investors" highlighting key aspects of "Omantel IR program and Equity Story." The presentation also demonstrated how Investor Relations can foster transparency and

communication and how effective IR practices, especially in ESG disclosures, can boost any company's international presence.

Omantel's proactive approach in hosting the MEIRA meeting not only reflects its commitment to best IR practices but also its dedication to contributing to the economic prosperity of Oman. By leading such initiatives, Omantel supports the Muscat Stock Exchange in attracting more investors and elevating Oman's position as a key investment destination in the Middle East.

Omantel has succeeded, through the integration of its operations, processes, and extensive expertise in the field of communications and digital technology, in establishing its position as a leading telecommunications company within the Sultanate of Oman and beyond. The company's innovative approaches have contributed to providing the latest solutions to various consumer and business sectors. The company aims to deliver an unparalleled, exceptional experience to its subscribers and strives to always exceed their expectations. Omantel works towards contributing to the achievement of Oman Vision 2040 objectives by investing in emerging technologies and providing cutting-edge solutions in modern technology, information and communications technology, such as cloud solutions, ICT solutions, AI, Smart solutions, cybersecurity, and much more, in addition to harnessing its technological capabilities to enhance innovation and leadership in new and advanced technologies.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY



FSA reconstitutes Raysut Cement Company board

MUSCAT: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) issued a decision reconstituting the board of directors of Raysut Cement Company (SAOG).

The decision appointed a new board of directors comprising experts and independent and impartial members to manage the company temporarily.

The board will be chaired by Shabib Mohammed Al Darmaki and will comprise the membership of Naser Jumaa Al Zadjali, Badr Awad Al Shanfari, Ali Rashid Ali Al Shuhi and Abdhameed Ahmed Al Balushi.

The new board will continue the tasks commenced by the previous board to complete the reorganisation and restructuring of the company and fine-tune its governance to ensure the stability of its financial and operational positions to correct its path to ensure sustainable performance and protect the interest of all the shareholders and enhance the stability of the market.

FSA would like to clarify that the new board will lead the company during the coming period to deal with liquidity issues in the short term to attain financial stability and guarantee the continuation of the operations of the parent company and the subsidiaries to turn the company to profitability as soon as possible.

FSA emphasised to all shareholders, investors and stakeholders that the financial and operational status of Raysut Cement Company is subject to strict scrutiny by the FSA through the newly appointed board of directors to ensure the company is on the right path.

The new board will lead the company during the coming period to deal with liquidity issues in the short term to attain financial stability and guarantee the continuation of the operations of the parent company and the subsidiaries

Moreover, the unaudited quarterly financial reports and the annual audited financial reports are available to the public and are disclosed continuously.

The measures taken by FSA are within its roles to ensure the stability of the regulated sectors and institutions under its law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 20/2024 and the powers conferred under the Commercial Companies Law and Securities law which aim to protect investors and maintain the stability of the capital market in the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Voltamp Energy, up 5.90 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 3.85 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,805.25 points, up by 0.67 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.07 per cent at 453.22 points. Voltamp Energy, up 5.90 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Finance, down 3.85 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 1021 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.8 million, with more than 194 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 19 advanced, 10 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR593,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR321.5,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR270,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,775.1



points, up 0.52 per cent. Prices of National Bank of Oman, Batinah Development and Investment and Ahli Bank were up by 3.85 per cent, 3.45 per cent and 1.85 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Al Madina Investment Holding, Global Financial Investment and Madina Takaful were down by 3.85 per cent, 1.43 per cent 1.37 per cent and 1.22 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,917.8 points, up 0.75 per cent. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom, were up by 5.90 per cent, 5.59 per cent, 0.44 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mill were down by 0.87 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.05 per cent before closing at 1,836.92 points. Prices of Barka Power and Water, Suwadi Power and Musandam Power were up by 0.35 per cent, 1.28 per cent and 0.34 per cent, respectively. Prices of Abraj and SMN Power were down by 0.33 per cent and 1.17 per cent respectively. – United Securities

Steady global growth expected for 2024-2025

PARIS: The global economy is continuing growing at a modest pace, according to the OECD's latest Economic Outlook. The Economic Outlook projects steady global GDP growth of 3.1% in 2024, the same as the 3.1% in 2023, followed by a slight pick-up to 3.2% in 2025. **Tight monetary conditions** The impact of tight monetary conditions continues being felt, particularly in housing and credit markets, but global activity is proving relatively resilient, the decline in inflation continues, and private sector confidence is improving. The OECD unemployment rate stood at 4.9% in February, close to its lowest levels since 2001. Real incomes are rising in many OECD countries as inflation moderates, and trade growth has turned positive. The outlook continues to differ across countries, with weaker outcomes in many advanced economies, especially in Europe, and strong growth in the United States and many emerging market economies.

targets in most major economies. GDP growth in the United States is projected to be 2.6% in 2024, before slowing to 1.8% in 2025 as the economy adapts to high borrowing costs and moderating domestic demand. In the euro area, which stagnated in the fourth quarter of 2023, a recovery in real household incomes, tight labour markets and reductions in policy interest rates will help generate a gradual rebound. Euro area GDP growth is projected at 0.7% in 2024 and 1.5% in 2025. Growth in Japan should recover steadily, with domestic demand underpinned by stronger real wage growth, continued accommodative monetary policy and temporary tax cuts. GDP is projected to expand by 0.5% in 2024 and 1.1% in 2025. China is expected to slow moderately, with GDP growth of 4.9% in 2024 and 4.5% in 2025, as the economy is supported by fiscal stimulus and exports.

Inflation Headline inflation in the OECD is projected to gradually ease from 6.9% in 2023 to 5.0% in 2024 and 3.4% in 2025, helped by tight monetary policy and fading goods and energy price pressures. By the end of 2025, inflation is expected to be back on central bank

Resilient "The global economy has proved resilient, inflation has declined within sight of central bank targets, and risks to the outlook are becoming more balanced. We expect steady global growth for 2024 and 2025, though growth is projected to remain below its longer-run average," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said. -WAM

ZUBAIR EDC

'Tajribati' session discusses alternative innovative funding solutions for SMEs and start-ups in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Zubair Enterprises Development Center (Zubair EDC) recently organised yet another "Tajribati" dialogue session to shed light on the concept of alternative innovative funding solutions. The session, organised at The Zubair Corporation, hosted Mohammed Al Tamami, founding partner and head of commercial affairs at Mamoon Company, and Mohammed Shehzad, CEO of Ethixs Investment Company and the session was moderated by Ali Shaker, Head of Head of Z-EDC. The "Tajribati" initiative is a unique platform for entrepreneurs to communicate and exchange opinions and experiences, and discuss successful solutions and challenges faced during the establishment stage. Tajribati initiative comes within the Centre's efforts to develop entrepreneurship in the Sultanate, through hosting a group of experts and specialists to clarify the challenges and difficulties facing owners of small and medium enterprises and present appropriate solutions. Entrepreneurs discussed various topics and key aspects such as types of venture capital, the difference between traditional and innovative financing methods and types, important features and types of crowdfunding and prominent tools required by the entrepreneur to effectively take advantage of modern and innovative financing methods.



Ali Shaker, Head of Zubair EDC, said: This session came after extensive discussions with entrepreneurs to find suitable financing to manage their commercial projects. He pointed out that the session had positive interaction and feedback from the attendees, whether through informative inquiries or presentations of their experiences in this field. He further pointed out that "Tajribati" organised by the Zubair EDC is an outstanding

platform for entrepreneurs to gain knowledge, and information, and directly discuss with specialists and experts, various topics related to their commercial projects. Mohammed AlTamami, co-founder and head of commercial affairs at Mamoun Company, expressed his happiness in participating in the "Tajribati" session, he said: It was a wonderful opportunity for me to take part in this session organised by the Zubair

EDC, interacting with entrepreneurs, discussing challenges and be familiarised with the methods of obtaining funding and projects management. He noted that during this session, I discussed the concept of alternative financing, its types, and the definition of crowdfunding based on donation, reward, and lending, in addition to financing based on contribution. Then he explained the advantages of this

type of sustainable finance and its economic feasibility. Shehrazad said: I thank Zubair EDC for giving me this opportunity to present the alternative channels and added: There is an urgent need today to search for alternative financing channels that complement traditional channels and take into account the situation and needs of SMEs & start-ups, and appreciates the developments achieved in recent years in terms

of digital financing and modern financial technologies. One of the participating entrepreneurs commented: I am happy to participate in the "Tajribati" session, organised by the Zubair EDC. He pointed out the various difficulties faced by entrepreneurs in obtaining appropriate financing to manage their businesses. Entrepreneurs' participation in this session enabled them to learn about innovative financing, crowdfunding, and the techniques used to obtain financing and will seek to apply everything learned in this session in managing their commercial projects. Tajribati sessions made available by Zubair EDC are designed to explore all topics of interest to entrepreneurs who own small and medium enterprises, difficulties and challenges faced how to overcome them, and the opportunities available in various sectors. The main approach to tackle these demands is by hosting specialists from the public and private sectors and academics from various fields. Since the establishment of the Zubair Centre, it has sought to create an appropriate environment for the growth of entrepreneurship by providing a package of procedures and opportunities for entrepreneurs to develop their enterprises, whether through initiatives held by the Centre or through participation in seminars and mutual visits with a number of the Centre's partners from inside or outside the Sultanate.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Muzn Islamic reinforces commitment to Sharia compliance at first Sharia Supervisory Board meeting

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muzn, the Islamic banking window of the National Bank of Oman (NBO), conducted its 1st Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) Meeting of 2024. This significant event gathered esteemed board members, reaffirming Muzn's unwavering commitment to Sharia compliance in its financial solutions. Present at the meeting were the members of the SSB, which included Sheikh Mufti Dr Muhammad Zubair Usmani, who serves as the Chairman of the Muzn SSB. Accompanying him were Sheikh Dr AbdulRahman Abdullah Al-Saadi and Sheikh Dr Saleh Nasser Al Kharusi, all of whom bring their extensive expertise to guide Muzn in adhering to Islamic financial principles.



Salima Al Marzoqi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer, said, "Cultivating the principles of Sharia in our financial solutions is at the core of Muzn's mission. Our 1st SSB Meeting of the year 2024 signifies our enduring dedication to fostering the Islamic finance sector's growth in Oman. By collaborating with our esteemed Sharia Board

members, we are actively shaping the future of Islamic banking, ensuring our products and services align with the highest standards of compliance. We remain dedicated to delivering seamless, innovative solutions whilst always putting our customers' values first." Muzn stands at the forefront of the Islamic banking sector, offering

innovative, competitive and quality financial solutions that align with Sharia values. Notable among the latest products are the Structured Deposit Products, Minor Savings Accounts, provision of Medical facility under Services Ijarah, Masjid Account, Corporate Term Wakala based on Wakala bi Istithmar, cash deposit through Muzn and NBO CCDMs using Omanet cards, etc. The Shari'a Supervisory Board reviewed the Sharia Audit and Shari'a review Reports for the designated time frame and provided their satisfaction that the bank complies with Sharia guidelines. Muzn, where Sharia principles and modern banking innovation converge, is committed to serving both existing and new customers in accordance with the highest standards of Islamic finance.

MOTOR SHOW

Chinese cars gain popularity in Botswana

GABORONE: At the 9th edition of the Shell Gaborone Motor Show in Gaborone, the Botswana capital, Chinese auto brands such as Haval, Cherry, Tank, and JAC generated interest among local car enthusiasts. Over the last five years, Chinese-made vehicles have entered the competitive landscape of Botswana's automotive industry. Chinese brands such as Chery, Haval, JAC, and BAIC are gaining popularity among Botswanan consumers, who value the vehicles' build quality, durability, and reliability. Bellson Othomile, sales executive at Motor Holdings Botswana, said Haval is a popular brand in Gaborone and across Botswana. "The brand has a lot to offer in terms of cost, technology, auto-

motive design, and comfort. Chinese cars are starting to become a good alternative to brands that previously dominated the southern African automotive markets," he told Xinhua during the May 3-4 motor show. Many decided to buy Haval cars because "the price is totally different and below what you can usually expect... when you look at the interior of the car, the technology of the car, how it drives, and how it looks in general," he said. "That was the more compelling aspect of the product." According to Othomile, excluding those that are purchased in bulk, about 23 units are sold in a month. The most popular unit is Haval Jolion, whose Chinese equivalent, Chulian, means "first love." -Xinhua



LIFESTYLE

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER
HOW COMPLEXITIES IN
DIET IMPACT AGEING

samples from the national CALERIE study -- the first randomized clinical trial of calorie restriction in humans. Shalev and his team sought to understand the effect of caloric restriction on telomere length in people. Because telomere length reflects how quickly or slowly a person's cells are aging, examining telomere length could allow scientists to identify one way in which caloric restriction may slow aging in humans.

"There are many reasons why caloric restriction may extend human lifespans, and the topic is still being studied," said Waylon Hastings, who earned his doctorate in biobehavioral health at Penn State in 2020 and was lead author of this study. "One primary mechanism through which life is extended relates to metabolism in a cell. When energy is consumed within a cell, waste products from that process cause oxidative stress that can damage DNA and otherwise break down the cell. When a person's cells consume less energy due to caloric restriction, however, there are fewer waste products, and the cell does not break down as quickly."

The researchers tested the telomere length of 175 research participants using data from the start of the CALERIE study, one year into the study and the end of the study after 24 months of caloric restriction. Approximately two-thirds of study participants participated in caloric restriction, while one-third served as a control group.

During the study, results showed that telomere loss changed trajectories. Over the first year, participants who were restricting caloric intake lost weight, and they lost telomeres more rapidly than the control group. After a year, the weight of participants on caloric restriction was stabilized, and caloric restriction continued for another year. During the second year of the study, participants on caloric restriction lost telomeres more slowly than the control group. At the end of two years, the two groups had converged, and the telomere lengths of the two groups was not statistically different.

"This research shows the complexity of how caloric restriction affects telomere loss," Shalev said. "We hypothesized that telomere loss would be slower among people on caloric restriction. Instead, we found that people on caloric restriction lost telomeres more rapidly at first and then more slowly after their weight stabilized."

Shalev said the results raised a lot of important questions. For example, what would have happened to telomere length if data had been collected for another year? Study participants are scheduled for data collection at a 10-year follow-up, and Shalev said that he was eager to analyze those data when they become available.

Despite the ambiguity of the results, Shalev said there is promise for the potential health benefits of caloric restriction in humans. Previous research on

the CALERIE data has demonstrated that caloric restriction may help reduce harmful cholesterol and lower blood pressure. For telomeres, the two-year timeline was not sufficient to show benefits, but those may still be revealed, according to Shalev and Hastings.

Three of Shalev's trainees, Hastings, current graduate student Qiaofeng Ye and former postdoctoral scholar Sarah Wolf, led the research under Shalev's guidance.

Hastings said the opportunity to lead this study was critical to his career.

"I was recently hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition at Texas A&M University, and I will begin that work in the fall semester," Hastings said. "Prior to this project, I had limited experience in nutrition. This project literally set the course of my career, and I am grateful to Dr. Shalev for trusting me with that responsibility." -ANI

Penn State researchers may have discovered another layer of complexity in the enigma of how nutrition affects ageing

A new study led by experts at Penn State's College of Health and Human Development investigated how calorie restriction affects a person's telomeres -- regions of genetic bases that act as protective caps at the ends of chromosomes.

The researchers' findings were published in the journal Ageing Cell. The researchers analysed data from a two-year trial on caloric restriction in humans and discovered that people who reduced their calories lost telomeres at different rates than the control group, despite the fact that both groups ended the study with telomeres of nearly the same length. Calorie restriction of 20 per cent to 60 per cent has been found to promote prolonged life in numerous species.

Over the course of human life, every time a person's cells replicate, some

telomeres are lost when chromosomes are copied to the new cell. When this happens, the overall length of the cell's telomeres becomes shorter. After cells replicate enough times, the protective cap of telomeres completely dissipates. Then, the genetic information in the chromosome can become damaged, preventing future reproduction or proper function of the cell. A cell with longer telomeres is functionally younger than a cell with short telomeres, meaning that two people with the same chronological age could have different biological ages depending on the length of their telomeres.

Typical aging, stress, illness, genetics, diet and more can all influence how often cells replicate and how much length the telomeres retain, according to Idan Shalev, associate professor of biobehavioral health at Penn State. Shalev led the researchers who analyzed genetic



SPORTS

Real Madrid are champions



Carlo Ancelotti's men secured the La Liga title after Barcelona's shock defeat at Girona

MADRID: Real Madrid were crowned champions of La Liga for the 36th time after Barcelona suffered a 4-2 defeat by Girona on Saturday night. Carlo Ancelotti's side eased to a 3-0 win over Cadiz earlier on Saturday, which meant the Catalan club had to win at the Estadi Montilivi. Barcelona led 2-1 at half-time, but three second-half goals from Girona left Real with an unassail-



able lead at the summit with four matches of the season remaining. England midfielder Jude Bellingham has been a key figure in Real's success, having scored 18

goals in 26 La Liga games in his first season with the club. Bellingham posted on X, external "CAMPEONES!!! HALA MADRID Y NADA MAS!!!" which



translates as "Champions!!! Go Madrid and nothing more!!!" The 20-year-old joins Laurie Cunningham (1979-80), Steve McManaman (2000-01 and

2002-03), David Beckham (2006-07) and Kieran Trippier (2020-21) as Englishmen to win La Liga. Los Blancos have lost just one league game this season and could potentially finish the campaign with 99 points, which would be their second-highest total ever. It has been an impressively dominant campaign for Ancelotti's men, who have lost just once- at local rivals Atletico Madrid in September - and are unbeaten in their last 28 league games. And the stats speak for themselves: Real boast by far the best defensive record in La Liga, conceding just 22 goals in 34 games. It is Ancelotti's second La Liga title as Real coach, having previously won it in 2021-22. Ancelotti has won league titles in Spain, Italy, Germany, France and England. Real have now won nine more titles than the 27 held by Barcelona. With their combination of goals

from various sources, an adaptable defence and an incomparable mid-field, all astutely controlled by an unflappable manager, Real are as close to a complete team as it gets. They can play effectively in different styles - dominating possession and pressing high; sitting deep and defending diligently; counter-attacking with speed and purpose - and still possess arguably their greatest quality of all: the self-belief to find a way to win when the going gets tough. That cocktail of individual and collective qualities has been mixed together to give Ancelotti's men the domestic title with a rare degree of comfort, and could also soon see them, yet again, crowned kings of Europe. The 14-time European Cup winners face Bayern Munich at the Bernabeu on Wednesday in the second leg of their Champions League semi-final, having drawn 2-2 at the Allianz Arena. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Haaland scores four as City move a point behind Arsenal



LONDON: Erling Haaland's first four-goal haul in the Premier League left Manchester City three wins away from a historic fourth successive English league title as they routed Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 on Saturday. With no margin for error following Arsenal's earlier victory over Bournemouth, City delivered the perfect response. City were given a helping hand they did not need thanks to a favourable 12th-minute penalty decision from referee Craig Pawson. Haaland sent Wolves keeper Jose Sa the wrong way, then beat the Portuguese from the spot again just before the break after he had been brought down by Nelson Semedo. In between, the striker had scored with a superb far-post header, climbing to an amazing height unchallenged at the far post, to send Rodri's cross back across goal and into the corner.

A minute after Hwang Hee-chan had pulled one back for the visitors, Haaland struck again, powering on to Phil Foden's brilliant lofted pass. It took the Norwegian to 25 Premier League goals for the season. Julian Alvarez finished off the scoring five minutes from time to leave City a point behind Arsenal, but now with three games remaining to the Gunners' two. Haaland has scored five twice, at Luton in the FA Cup in February and against RB Leipzig in the Champions League in March last year. He now has nine hat-tricks. His overall tally for the season is 36. Incredibly, he is now 87th in the all-time Premier League scoring charts with 61, one more than City legend David Silva. **Other results:** Brentford 0 Fulham 0, Burnley 1 Newcastle 4, Sheffield United 1 Nottingham Forest 3. - Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Verstappen clinches Miami sprint race from Leclerc

MIAMI: Red Bull's Max Verstappen took a controlled victory ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in the sprint race at the Miami Grand Prix on Saturday. Verstappen was in control after fending off an attack from Leclerc at the first corner. Sergio Perez dropped behind RB's Daniel Ricciardo at the first corner, after trying to pass Leclerc, but recovered to take third. Ricciardo drove an exceptional race, fighting a rearguard battle, to hold off Carlos Sainz's Ferrari and Oscar Piastri's McLaren to take fourth. Lewis Hamilton was left frustrated by some over-aggressive defence from Haas driver Kevin Magnussen in eighth place, taking the final point on the track. But Hamilton was penalised for speeding in the pit lane and given a drive-through penalty, which added 20 seconds to his race time and dropped him to 16th. Magnussen earned himself three 10-second penalties for leaving the track and gaining an advantage. He was also given a five-second penalty for leaving the track without reason multiple times. The second incident was especially annoying for the seven-time champion because it allowed RB's Yuki Tsunoda to slip by for eighth place after Hamilton had spent 14 laps trying to pass the Haas. Hamilton, though, managed to reclaim the place on the final lap, only to be hit with the penalty. Hamilton was also involved in a first-corner incident that led



to the retirement of McLaren's Lando Norris that will be investigated by stewards. After a battle that lasted most of the race, penalties for both meant that neither Lewis Hamilton nor Kevin Magnussen scored any points. **Verstappen takes pole** Red Bull's Max Verstappen beat Ferrari's Charles Leclerc to pole position at the Miami Grand Prix later on Saturday after the sprint race. Verstappen was 0.141 seconds quicker than Leclerc as the two men finished first and second in qualifying, just as they have in all competitive sessions so far in Miami. Carlos Sainz made it a Ferrari two-three ahead of the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez. McLaren's Lando Norris could not find the pace he demonstrated at times on Friday but will

line up fifth for the race ahead of team-mate Oscar Piastri. Mercedes drivers George Russell and Lewis Hamilton, who unconventionally took medium tyres in the search for pace on their final runs in qualifying, were seventh and eighth, ahead of Nico Hulkenberg's Haas and the RB of Yuki Tsunoda. Verstappen's sixth grand prix pole in six races this season was never really in doubt, even if Leclerc edged into first place in the second session by 0.033secs. The Dutchman, who had not been happy with the car said: "We definitely improved the car a bit, but every year I come here I find it really difficult to be consistent with the car feeling on one lap. It is super hard to make the car feel good in sector one and sector three. It was the same today." - Agencies

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER



Suarez slams hat-trick in record Messi display

NEW YORK: Luis Suarez scored a 12-minute hat-trick and Lionel Messi produced a record-breaking display as Inter Miami beat the New York Red Bulls 6-2 in Major League Soccer on Saturday. Visitors New York led 1-0 at half-time on Saturday before two goals from Miami substitute Matias Rojas sparked a second-half rout. Messi claimed five assists and also scored to give the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner six goal contributions - both records for an MLS game. The Argentina forward, 36, now has 10 goals and 12 assists from eight league games this season. Rojas cancelled out Dante Vanzeir's opener just three minutes after coming on at half-time, before Messi put the hosts in front from a Suarez pass. Rojas then chipped in his second goal before Messi laid on Suarez's treble, with the latter volleying in from a Messi cross, poking in after a one-two with Messi then turning the ball in from close range. - Agencies

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Swiatek edges past Sabalenka to lift her first Madrid Open title

MADRID: World No.1 Iga Swiatek saved three championship points to beat world No.2 Aryna Sabalenka 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7) and win her first Madrid Open title on Saturday. The Pole had a break down early in the third set but held her nerve down the stretch to gain revenge for defeat by Sabalenka in last year's final. Swiatek dug deep to save two match points in the 13th game of the third set to stay in the match and then saved another in the tie-break on her way to victory. The first meeting of the top two players in the world this season kept the Spanish crowd enthralled

for more than three hours, and featured some extraordinary power, brilliant shot-making and superb defence. It is the 22-year-old's 20th career title and denies Sabalenka a third crown in the Spanish capital. After the players exchanged early service breaks, they settled down and it was the serve that dominated proceedings. Swiatek was the first to be tested and as she started to make more unforced errors she needed to work hard to save three break points and level at 3-3. In the next game it was Swiatek's turn to earn break-point opportunities, but Sabalenka saved both



thanks to a pair of forehand winners. But it was Swiatek who seized the initiative, forcing a couple of errors from her opponent to go 6-5

up and she showed nerves of steel on her own serve to take the set. Sabalenka had been a set and a break down before beating Elena

Rybakina in Friday's semi-final, and made a superb start to the second set here, holding and then breaking to go 2-0 up. That started a run of four breaks in a row, only halted when the Pole, a four-time French Open champion, held to level at 3-3. Sabalenka did her best not to let her rival settle into a rhythm and was rewarded when the pressure told on Swiatek as she served to stay in the second set, the Australian Open champion sending a smart forehand down the line to level the match at one set apiece. Sabalenka seized the early initiative in the decider, breaking to go 3-1 up and pile on the pressure but

Swiatek clawed her way back into it and twice had to serve to stay in the match. The Belarusian, who turns 26 on Sunday, twice saw championship points come and go as Swiatek forced the tie-break - a first between the pair. Sabalenka went long with a forehand for Swiatek to earn her first match point, and although Sabalenka responded with an ace, moments later the world No.1 was given another chance - and Sabalenka went long again to spark celebrations. Swiatek had won six of her previous nine matches against Sabalenka. - Agencies

IN PICTURES



Bollywood actors Rajkummar Rao and Alaya F along with actress Jyothika pose for a photo
Bollywood actors Rajkummar Rao and Alaya F along with actress Jyothika pose for a photo during the installation of beeper audio signal device, in Mumbai. ANI Photo



28th Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance opens in Seabrook, Texas
People visit the 28th Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance in Seabrook, Texas, the United States. The exhibition is showcasing an impressive collection of over 200 cars and boats. Xinhua



Drought hits several regions in Mexico
A drone picture shows the partially dried-up lake bed of Patzcuaro Lake, a traditional fishing place and tourist resort in Michoacan, Mexico. Xinhua



Shanghai Longines Global Champions Tour 2024
Edwina Tops-Alexander of Australia competes during the Shanghai Longines Global Champions Tour 2024 in Shanghai, east China. Xinhua



Open house event held at raptor rehab centre in Canada
A staff member holds an owl in her arm during an open house event at the Orphaned Wildlife (OWL) raptor rehabilitation centre in Delta, British Columbia, Canada. Xinhua



Northern Chinese city hosts original music festival to boost economy
An aerial drone picture shows a scene at an original music festival held in Shijiazhuang, north China's Hebei Province. Xinhua

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar to organise Omani Women’s Leadership Forum



The forum will address several topics, like women in financial sector, diversity and inclusion at work place

MUSCAT: BankDhofar is organising the Omani Women's Leadership Forum at Al Bustan Palace Ritz-Carlton Hotel on May 8. The event is held under the patronage of Al Sayyida Maani bint Abdullah Al Busaidi, Director General of Family Development and President of the Child Protection Committee at the Ministry of Social Development, in line with supporting the government's directions

aimed at empowering Omani women in various sectors, especially the economic and the financial sectors. The forum will address several topics, like women in financial sector, diversity and inclusion at work place, as well as guiding women on how to develop their talent and enhance skills to transform them into projects on the ground with optimal utilisation of media to promote their brand or project.

Céline Schillinger, a global Engagement Influencer, is a prominent speaker at the forum. She is one of the leading women in France who was awarded the National Order of Merit by the French government for her innovative initiatives in the business world. Schillinger, a TEDx speaker currently works as a consultant in leading organisation, enabling institutional transformation, and enhancing the value of work. She has written a book on engagement leadership, which was published in 2022. BankDhofar supports government initiatives and directions that are in line with Oman Vision 2040, especially in the employment field and digital transformation, as the bank contributed to providing job opportunities for citizens, and was able to employ more

than 250 Omani talents in recent months, which contributed to raising the Omanisation rate to 92%. As for the digital transformation sector, the bank is constantly investing in digital transformation and technology to enrich the banking experience for customers and provide them with the best services. It has expanded its digital channels by providing customers with the opportunity to open bank accounts through smart phones and other digital channels, which enable them to complete their banking transactions with complete ease. Easily and conveniently at the right time and place, which led to an increase in the total number of transactions via digital channels in 2023 by about 85.5%, in addition to an increase in the value of completed transactions by 55.3%.

REAL ESTATE CONFERENCE

Bank Muscat showcases financial services and facilities offered for real estate development

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to partake in conferences and exhibitions in different fields, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, participated in the Real Estate Conference organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, which was held from April 29 till May 1 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year, the conference coincided with the 19th edition of the Oman Design and Construction Week 2024.

The conference witnessed the participation of more than 150 local and international exhibitors representing 40 countries. The conference hosted around 10 panel discussions on various topics, featuring 42 working papers. This event represents a platform to exchange knowledge and expertise, and showcase cutting-edge technology in the field. The 3-day conference focused on various topics, including Oman's structure as a promising investment hub in real estate development, supporting emerging companies, empowering financial and human resources, creating an integrating environment between sectors, and shed



light on the latest digital developments in the sector. Within the topic of "Future-Ready Real Estate: Financing, Technology and Community Living", Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager, Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, presented on Bank Muscat contribution to real estate market and Sustainable Finance in Oman. He shed light on Bank Muscat's contribution and commitment to supporting real estate sector in Oman, the services and products offered in this regard such as Baituna housing loan from Bank Muscat and Meethaq Home Finance, and its wide network of

channels across the Sultanate. In addition, he reflected on the Bank's role in supporting national strategic projects like Sultan Haitham City where individuals wishing to avail residential units will enjoy a discounted rate of interest on Baituna housing loan. He also touched upon Bank Muscat's commitment to providing sustainable financial options such as Green Finance product as well as other solutions designed specifically to support the goals set in this regard. Housing finance development is particularly important in boosting equitable economic growth, enabling households build assets, im-

proving living conditions, empowering a country's population, and strengthening communities and overall social cohesion. Bank Muscat is committed to supporting this crucial sector and strengthening its role in the development and growth of the Sultanate's economy. As Oman prepares for the next phase of its progress and development under the landmark Oman Vision 2040, the role of home financing is only set to grow more and more important. Bank Muscat customers can take advantage of the fast processing of applications and the excellent insurance coverage for their financing. Bank Muscat also offers Green Finance, which is Oman's first environmentally-friendly finance product. The bank's Green Finance was launched in 2019 in association with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It encourages customers to install solar panels on their rooftops and use solar energy for a large part of their household energy requirements. This unique initiative reflects the bank's commitment to responsible banking and its continuous contributions to the country's overall progress and development.

ISLAMIC BANKING EXPERIENCE



Alizz Islamic Bank receives delegation from Financia Business School

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently hosted a delegation from Financia Business School as part of its mission to benefit from the Islamic banking experience in the field of providing retail and corporate sharia compliant banking solutions. The delegation was received by senior officials of the bank headed by the CEO, Ali Al Mani. The discussion included a comprehensive overview on the concepts of Islamic banking and the Sharia-compliant products offered by the bank. Alizz Islamic bank hosted the MBA students aimed not only to enrich their understanding of Sh-

aria-compliant products but also to foster a stronger bond by providing a platform for exchanging knowledge and building relations with the academic community, paving the way for future collaborations and mutual growth in the realm of Islamic banking. Financia Business School, located in Paris, France was founded in 2013 by professionals in the financial sector with the core values of inclusion, quality and success. The school offers an Executive MBA course in Islamic finance which provides students with a solid technical foundation in the Islamic Finance Industry.

EXPANSION

Sohar International branch and Sohar Islamic Service Centre in Duqm commence operations

MUSCAT: In alignment with the bank's ongoing organic expansion strategy to serve customers and achieve further financial inclusion, Sohar International, the fastest-growing bank in Oman, announced the commencement of operations at its premium Sohar International branch and Sohar Islamic service centre located in Duqm. The new service points are fully equipped to offer a superior banking experience to customers across all segments. Strategically situated to provide convenience, the Sohar International branch and Sohar Islamic service centre boast a prime location, spacious facilities, and ample parking, ensuring easy access for customers. Staffed by a team of seasoned professionals, the new service points are committed to delivering efficient, responsive, and tailored banking services that meet the diverse needs of our valued clientele. The new state-of-the-art service points feature a 24-hour digital lobby equipped with fully



functional ATMs and CDMs, enhancing accessibility and convenience for customers at all times. Abdul Qadir Al Sumali, Chief Retail and Premier Banking Officer at Sohar International, underscored the strategic significance of expanding operations into Duqm. "This expansion reaffirms our steadfast dedication to delivering inclusive and innovative banking solutions tailored to diverse customer needs. We are excited to extend our premium services to the Duqm community, ensuring convenient access for valued cus-

tomers in the wilaiyat and neighbouring areas. The comprehensive suite of banking services and products at our new branch encompasses account opening, card issuance, and financing facilities," said Abdul Qadir Al Sumali. In line with its customer-centric approach, Sohar International emphasizes the importance of human interaction alongside digitalization. By increasing its branch footprint, the bank aims to strengthen relationships with customers, recognizing the enduring value of personalized service. Abdul Wahid Al Murshidi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer at Sohar International, emphasized the institution's commitment to setting new benchmarks and fostering innovation within the Omani banking sector. "Our expanding network of branches, alongside a suite of thoughtfully designed services and products, reflects our dedication to delivering a delightful banking experience."

JEWELLERY

Rizan Gold & Diamonds unveils retail showroom in Oman

MUSCAT: Rizan Gold & Diamonds Jewellery, one of the leading players in the gold bullion and wholesale jewellery industry is now expanding its retail gold and diamond jewellery offering in Oman. Its new retail showroom was inaugurated by member of Shura Council, Muthrah Hussein Bin Muhammad Al Lawati and renowned Indian Actress Anaswara Rajan on April 26. With more than two decades of exquisite craftsmanship, Rizan Jewellery is building on its goodwill in the bullion industry to expand its retail offering, promising accessibility and elegance for jewellery enthusiasts. The Group Chairman, Sha-noob PP also announced launch of new showrooms in Singapore and Ras Al Khaimah in the next few weeks. The group also operates Auriz Gold Refinery in Sharjah, which



has a capacity to refine around 2400 tonnes per annum. Customers in Oman will have an opportunity to buy Auriz branded coins, tola and kilo bars from Rizan showrooms at exclusive rates. The group also owns and operates AQ Diamonds, a brand renowned for customised diamond jewel-

lery ornaments. AQ Diamonds provides customers a unique opportunity to design and personalise their ornaments. Rizan Jewellery Group currently operates 17 showrooms across 8 countries. By the end of 2024, Rizan aims to expand its operations to 4 more countries.



mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

© OmanOasis © OmanOasisOfficial © OmanOasisWater



mai alkaline

HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222

9275 5522

Call No. 15944452

LYNK & CO

03+

ACCELERATE AWAY WITH ULTIMATE OFFERS

2.0L
TURBO

EMI STARTING FROM
168 OMR
/ MONTH

0-100 KM/H
IN **5.7s**



**6 Years/Unlimited
KMs Warranty***

**600 Litres
Fuel#**

**6 Years/60,000
KMs Service****

**Registration
1st year**

**6 Years AAA
Roadside Assistance*****

**Gift Voucher
worth RO 50##**



Showroom - Ghala Heights, Muscat

Offer valid till 18th May 2024 & applicable on all models and model variants. *5 Years/100,000 kms manufacturer warranty + 1-year unlimited KMs extended. **Service - Whichever is earlier. *** Applicable for the first 6 years. #Petrol Card worth of 600 litres with every vehicle purchased. Rate calculated as per 0.239 OMR per litre for M 95 petrol. ## LULU gift voucher with every vehicle purchased. EMI mentioned are of the base models, subject to 20% down payment & calculated @ 5.25% reducing interest PA from Bank Muscat for a tenure of 5 years (conditions apply) & subject to approval. Vehicle shown are for illustrative purposes. Specifications subjected to change without notice. For more details, please visit our showroom. Offer valid only for private vehicles. Not available on fleet, Ministry & Taxi / Rental / commercial car purchases.

71611137

lynkcooman.com

lynkcooman



ROWA

AIR CONDITIONERS



A New Cooling Experience



**Super Fast
Cooling**

**Quiet
Operation**



**Gold Fin For
Rust Protection**

6 in 1 Filter



4 way swing

RAC-18CSA/XA61T | RAC-24CSA/XA61T | RAC-30CSA/XA61T | RAC-36SC20



جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT
96742452

SALALAH

97924410, 94048494

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers



www.genetco.net



@GenetcoOman



@GenetcoOman



Genetco Oman

Which mountain on the Oman-UAE border lends its name to the railway project between the two countries?

'Hhalas', 'Hhunaizi' and 'Fargh' are varieties of which fruit associated with Omani heritage?

Two violins, one viola, and one cello make up a "String _____"

What is the name given to Taylor Swift's fanbase?

Ready to flex your mind?
Inviting schools to participate in the

Quiz League

Oman's first video quiz show!

Register your school ASAP on
www.mmh.com/quiz

Follow us on Instagram
[@tquizleague](https://www.instagram.com/tquizleague)
for more questions



Venue partner



Associate partner



Associate partner



Associate partner



Associate partner



Hydration Partner



Event Management



Media partner

Partner with us to fuel young minds:
Write to quiz@mmh.com to be a sponsor