



RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS	
DHUHR	12:20pm
ASR	3:45pm
MAGHRIB	6:22pm
ISHA	7:32pm
FAJR (TOMORROW)	4:58am



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 16 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](https://timesofoman.com) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](https://facebook.com/timesofoman) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](https://twitter.com/timesofoman) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](https://youtube.com/user/timesofomanonline) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](https://timesofoman.com/whatsapp) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](https://timesofoman.com/rss) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](https://linkedin.com/company/times-of-oman) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](https://instagram.com/timesofoman)



Open an account

Your child's financial journey starts with Meethaq



#StartNow



MEETHAQ
للمصرفة الإسلامية
Islamic Banking

OMAN TO PRODUCE 30% OF ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCE BY 2030

Some government institutions have made plans of achieving Oman's goal for zero carbon neutrality by 2050



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is moving forward at a steady pace to reach the production or consumption target of not less than 30 percent of its electrical energy from renewable sources by 2030, said Engineer Salem bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, the Minister of Energy and Minerals said that the oil and gas sectors are currently working to stop the routine burning process, while some industrial regions and cities are seeking to find an environmentally-friendly energy alternative, giving local products more competitiveness in global markets.

He indicated that studies are



being conducted on alternative energy sources, its cost, and the changes that factories need to keep pace with the modern technology to meet the carbon neutral requirements.

He explained that the most prominent sectors that produce carbon emissions at a rate of about 95 percent are industry, power houses, oil and gas, transportation, among others.

He added that some government institutions have made an effort of achieving the Sultanate of Oman's plan for zero car-

The Minister of Energy and Minerals said that studies are being conducted on alternative sources of energy, its cost, and the changes in technology needed to reduce carbon emissions

bon neutrality by 2050, while others are still in the process of searching for projects that will reduce carbon emissions.

Several projects have been announced in the power sector, including: two projects: Manah 1 and Manah stations, and preparations are on for 'Ibri 3' station.

In addition, announcement has been made for five new stations for producing electricity from wind energy. They are: Dhofar 2 station, Sadah station, Duqm station, Mahout station, and Jaalan Bani Bu Ali station.

TOURISM



Dhofar records almost a million visitors in 2023

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With almost a million visitors, the Dhofar Governorate recorded 18.4% growth in tourism in 2023 autumn season.

A total of 962,000 tourists visited Dhofar last year while the number of chartered flights in the winter season to Salalah Airport reached 239.

The number of visitors for winter tourism reached 35,000 by the end of February this year. The hotel occupancy rate for five and four stars categories exceeded 95 percent in the winter season.

Khaled bin Abdullah Al Abri, Director General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate, stressed the importance of promoting tourism service projects in various locations of the Dhofar Governorate, including the mini tourist oases that the Ministry, in partnership with the Dhofar Municipality, has begun implementing.

The "Hushir" oasis project is expected to be completed this year and a tender will be issued to develop the "Haywar" Cave in Mount Samhan that will include a number of services and facilities.

An energy fort will be offered for investment, management and operation and a tender will be issued to rehabilitate two paths for adventure tourism lovers, in addition to the signing of a contract for the management and operation of the fort.

There are plans for rebuilding and operating the old market next to the Mirbat fort.

In the field of museums, the Director General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate,



explained that work is underway to issue a tender to implement the "museum story" for the Land of Frankincense Museum, in addition to a tender to complete restoration work at the Al Baleed and Samharam archaeological sites.

He pointed out that during the coming period a tender will be floated for the antiques, gifts, and crafts market. The handicrafts section in Al Baleed Archaeological Park will be allocated to small and medium-sized companies and Riyadh card holders.

Al-Abri explained that this year will witness the opening of Sadah Fort and Rakhyut Fort after the completion of the restoration and maintenance work. The opening will coincide with World Heritage Day, which falls on April 18 of each year.

Regarding investment opportunities, the Director General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate said, "The Ministry has more than 20 direct and promising investment opportunities in the governorate, as a number of hotel projects are set to begin in the Dhofar 2024 fall season, including the opening of a number of four and five stars category hotels.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Green Mountain a hotspot for tourists

1 The number of visitors to the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate during the year 2023 reached about 205,992, compared to 208,423 visitors in 2022. Statistics issued by the NCSI showed that the number of Omanis who visited the state during the past year reached 102,241. **>A2**



OMAN Russian House Oman marks Spring Festival

2 The Russian House Oman hosted its biggest and most diverse event to date, the Spring Festival. The event brought together around 400 guests to celebrate Maslenitsa (Russian Pancake Week) and International Women's Day. The festivities included traditional games and contests. **>A5**

WORLD India announces dates for elections

3 The general election for 543 Indian Parliament seats will be held in seven phases from April 19, Indian Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday. The counting will be held on June 4. The CEC said that there is no place for violence in the elections. **>A6**

HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Cool weather brings comfort during Ramadan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As the country enters the sixth day of the Holy Month of Ramadan on Sunday, Oman's mild climate has emerged as a silent ally to the fasting faithful.

With daytime temperatures remaining below 30 degrees Celsius and a gentle breeze sweeping across significant areas of the Sultanate throughout the past week, the atmosphere has fostered an ideal setting for Muslims observing the dawn-to-dusk fast during Ramadan.

During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs from sunrise to sunset, a practice that instills discipline, self-control, and empathy for the less fortunate.

Oman's recent weather, characterised by pleasantly warm days and cool nights, has alleviated the physical strain of fasting.

Unlike some regions where scorching heat or extreme cold can intensify the challenges of abstaining from food and water, the present weather has been a welcome reprieve for the fasting Muslims.



In his remarks to *Times of Oman* on Saturday after breaking his fast, Nafis Mohammed, an expatriate electrician in Ruwi, said: "The weather during this Ramadan has been very comforting so far. The mild temperatures make it easier to fast, and I can devote more time to prayer and reading the Holy Quran without feeling drained by the heat."

Similarly, Salma Al Balushi, an Omani homemaker, noted the improvement from last year. She said, "The recent rains and drop in temperatures certainly aid us in fasting. Regardless of the weather, fasting during this Holy Month is a blessing, enabling us to focus on spiritual reflection and worship."

Ahmed Al Habsi, a resident of Sohar, said: "Whether it's breaking

our fast together at sunset or participating in night prayers at the mosque, the pleasant climate enhances the spiritual experience."

He added: "In these initial days of fasting, Oman's serene climate emerges as a boon, offering optimal conditions that ease the physical rigours of abstaining from food and drink from dawn till dusk."

Asgar Mohammed, a Pakistani expatriate, said: "The early days of fasting have been remarkably manageable, thanks to the pleasant weather. The cool mornings and evenings make it easier to abstain from food and water, allowing us to focus more on prayer and reflection."

The current favourable weather also assists volunteers to do charity, making it more feasible for individuals and organisations to distribute Iftar meals and provisions to those in need.

The weather conditions may not last long but it has been a solace in the early days of the Holy Month as fasting Muslims embrace the gentle Oman weather, which serves as a silent companion in their devotion and self-discipline.

Ladies Account

Empowering you more than ever!

Dhofar.islamic

Dhofar_islamic

2477 5777

www.dhofarislamicbank.com

Green Mountain remains hotspot for tourists



The Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar is unique in having an exceptional climate throughout the year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of visitors to the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate during the year 2023 reached about 205,992, compared to 208,423 visitors in 2022. Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information showed that the number of Omanis who visited the state during the past year reached 102,241, the number of Saudi tourists reached 13,430, and the number



of Kuwaiti visitors reached 1,218, while the number of Emirati visitors reached 951, and the number of Bahraini visitors reached 554. The number of Qatari visitors during the past year was 729. Statistics indicated that the number of visitors from other Arab nationalities reached 6,784, while the number of visitors from foreign nationalities reached 80,085. The Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar is unique in having an exceptional climate throughout the year. This makes it one of the tourist destinations from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman, which

combines elements of entertainment and adventure activities such as exploration and new tourist experiences such as: heritage lodges, camping in the mountains, and walking on farm trails. It is noteworthy that the number of existing and licensed hotel establishments with a classification of (3-5 stars) in the Green Mountain State reached 20. It consists of 9 hotels and resorts, one hotel apartment facility, two heritage lodges, and 8 guest houses, and the total number of rooms in these facilities reached 726 of various sizes.

HM sends greetings to Ireland

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Michael Daniel Higgins of Ireland on his country's National day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the president and for his country's people further progress and prosperity.

ONA

Oman Across Ages Museum adds to cultural pride of country



Times News Service

MANAH: Oman Across Ages Museum celebrated its first anniversary on March 13. Since its opening in 2023 under the Royal patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the museum has several achievements to boast of, which are a source of pride to the board of trustees and all the personnel of the museum. Engineer Al Yaqzan bin Abdullah Al Harthi, Director General of Oman Across Ages Museum, said that on its first anniversary, we stress the support and care accorded to the museum, which represents a new addition to the cultural field in the Sultanate of Oman. He said that coinciding with the first annual anniversary of the



opening of the museum, entry to visitors was made free of charge on 13 March. The museum seeks to shed light on deep-rooted history of Oman and its renaissance, he added. He said that Oman Across Ages Museum received during its first year of inception over 450, 000 visitors, including members of of-

ficial delegations and government departments, private sector companies and establishments and school students. He added that the museum saw organisation of several functions and events besides external participation and programmes in which 2,243 people participated.

-With ONA inputs

OHI MARINE MOTORS

MT SERIES MT-10 & MT-09

DEFY THE ORDINARY RIDE EXTRAORDINARY

Get familiar with the ultimate duo – the MT-10 and the MT-09 from Yamaha's MT Series. A perfect blend of power, style and agility.

For inquiries and order get in touch with us today +968 2471 2240 / 2471 1312

Or visit www.ohimarine.com

THE KITCHEN

Experience the enchantment of Ramadan at The Kitchen restaurant, where culinary maestro Joe Barza takes you on a gastronomic journey and where we travel with you through the flavors of Turkey, North Africa, the Gulf countries, and the Levant. As the sun sets and the evening calls to prayer echoes through the air, indulge in a lavish spread of traditional dishes meticulously prepared to honor the spirit of Ramadan.

From the aromatic spices of Moroccan tagines to the rich flavors of Turkish kebabs, each dish tells a story of cultural heritage and culinary excellence. Delight your palate with the tangy note of Lebanese mezzes, the hearty stews of the Gulf, and the delicate sweets that mark the end of each day's fast.

Themed Iftars at The Kitchen Restaurant:

Levant Tales by Chef Julien

Bosphorus nights by Chef Under

Khaleeji Gems

From Marrakech to Cairo

Iftar price OMR 26

CONTACT OUR CULINARY CONCIERGE +968 2488 8000 | DINING.MUSCAT@KEMPINSKI.COM

All prices in OMR, subject to 8% service charge, 5% VAT & all applicable governmental taxes

We deliver your products to your client's door

www.asyadexpress.om

OCCI STRATEGY

OCCI to discuss economy during Ramadan evenings

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will organise four Ramadan evenings on the current economic trends and challenges facing the private sector.

A number of officials, experts and decision-makers will participate in the four evenings.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of OCCI, said that the chamber has prepared a programme for Ramadan evenings to cope with the requirements of the current stage and the OCCI strategy.

It is in line with the Oman Vision 2040, he said, adding the programme will discuss various economic issues.

The first evening will start on Monday, and discuss a number of issues related to the business environment and sustainability of the private sector business.



The other evenings will discuss the role of Future Fund Oman, the partnership between the government sector and the private sector in boosting the economic development programmes, facilitating the litigation procedures, enforcement of commercial judgments in light of the progress in information technology and

the criminal accountability in the commercial companies law among other issues.

He said that the OCCI has paid due attention for organising the Ramadan evenings in the interest of the business community, notably women in business and those concerned with economic affairs.

-With ONA inputs



AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) would like to invite companies/ individuals for the auction related to the sale of four private vessels to transport water located at the port of Bukha in Musandam Governorate:

Auction No.	Description	Last Date for Obtaining Auction Documents	Inspection Date	Document's Fees (Including VAT) (RO)	Deadline for submission of Offers	Deposit Amount (RO)*
01/2024	Selling of (Kamzar) ship	24/03/2024	27/03/2024	52.500/-	4/04/2024	5000/-
02/2024	Selling of (Khasab) ship	24/03/2024	27/03/2024	52.500/-	4/04/2024	5000/-
03/2024	Selling of (Lima) ship	24/03/2024	27/03/2024	52.500/-	4/04/2024	5000/-
04/2024	Selling of (Diba) ship	24/03/2024	27/03/2024	52.500/-	4/04/2024	5000/-

- Interested bidders/ individuals who wish to participate and obtain the auctions documents shall deposit the fees for the auction document by depositing the amount in the following bank:
Account Name: Oman Water and wastewater Services Company (NWS)
Bank Name: Bank Muscat
Account number: 0317-009846380011
- After paying the auction document fees, bidders/ individuals must send a copy of the payment receipt to the e-mail of the company shown below and to mention (Auction Reference /name of the bidder/name of the person/e-mail / phone number).
- After the confirmation of the receipt of the fees, the auction document will be sent by email to the interested bidders.
- Site visit/inspection shall be conducted as per the mentioned date, and in the event of any change of time, the bidder will be contacted/informed by e-mail.
- The deadline of bids submission is on **Thursday 4 April 2024 through email (auctions@owwsc.nama.om) and the bids shall be submitted along with the bank deposit receipt.**
- For more information /clarifications shall be sent via e-mail (auctions@owwsc.nama.om) or phone numbers (22638186 / 22644847).



HELP MAKE OMAN CLEAN AND GREEN.

EARLY BIRD Iftar Buffet

BUY 7 IFTARS & GET 3 EXTRA

Book now and valid for first 10 days of Ramadan

OMR 24 per person

An exquisite buffet alongside live entertainment
Al Tanoor, from Maghrib time until 10.30pm

24776565 79269247

ENJOY ENDLESS LUXURY THIS RAMADAN WITH MITSUBISHI

0% INTEREST RATE UPTO 2 YEARS*

ALL-NEW MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 4WD

CASH BACK RO 2547 TO RO 4808*

FREE SERVICE 50,000 Kms/ 5 years*

FREE INSURANCE*

FREE REGISTRATION*

FREE RAMADAN GIFT

6-YEARS UNLIMITED KMS WARRANTY

For more information call 24 500 500 or WhatsApp / SMS 93 800 925
Offer valid until 25th April 2024.

www.mitsubishi-motors.com.om

*Terms & Conditions Apply

الشركة العامة للسيارات
General Automotive Company
(A part of The Zubair Automotive Group)
CR. No.: 1001477/2



» IFTAR RECIPE Oneza Tabish

LIGHT SHRIMP AND
VEGETABLE STEW



INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp garlic paste
- 1 green chilli, chopped
- 1 cup shrimps , shelled and deveined
- 1/4 cup mix of carrots grated ,green bell pepper (finely chopped) and peas
- 5 cups water
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

- 1. In a skillet over low-medium heat, heat the vegetable oil.
- 2. Add the bay leaf, garlic paste, and green chilli. Cook for about 1 minute until fragrant.
- 3. Add the shrimps and stir well to combine.
- 4. Add in the vegetables and the water.
- 5. Cook until the shrimps and the vegetables soften about 10 minutes .
- 6. Remove and discard the bay leaf. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve hot garnished with fresh coriander sprigs .

» GOOD DEEDS

IMPORTANCE OF READING
THE HOLY QURAN



Reading the Holy Quran in Ramadan provides assistance for all humanity. Reading or learning the Quran will help you to discover the right path in your life. It will give insight into how to live with a purpose to serve Almighty Allah. While there are many ways to learn Quran, in the current times the most effective method is online Quran classes. One of the most important good deeds is sharing the knowledge that Allah the

Almighty has blessed us with. Whether in religion or in our respective lives, try to build good relationships with those around you. Offer them what you have learned during Ramadan. You would be surprised to know how rewarding the deed is. And when it comes to religious views and spirituality, God loves those who pass on their knowledge to others and guide them, as he would shower them with endless rewards and virtues.

FLOOD PROTECTION

27 dams in Oman retain
rainwater to prevent floods

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture , Fisheries and Water Resources stated that the total amount of rainwater retained by 27 dams to protect against flood risks in a number of wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman amounted to more than 134 million cubic metres during the period from March 8 -11, 2024.

Engineer Nasser bin Mohammed Al Battashi, Director General of the General Directorate of Water Resources Assessment at the Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources, said: “The Wadi Dayqa Dam in the Wilayat of Quriyat in the Muscat Governorate has become full, which has a capacity of 100 million cubic metres. In Al Dhahirah Governorate, Al Salif Dam in Ibri, which has a capacity of one million cubic metres, and Surur Dam in the Wilayat of Dhank, which has a capacity of 1.29 million cubic metres, were filled. The Sudairiyin Dam in the Wilayat of Yanqul was also filled, which has a capacity of 0.24 million cubic metres.”

He added that in the Wilayat of Mahdha in Al Buraimi Governorate, the dams of Wadi Haywan were filled with an amount of 0.01 million cubic metres, Masah with 0.03 million cubic metres, Abu Qala with 0.042 million cubic metres, Mahdha with 1.1 million cubic metres, and Al-Jawif with 0.42 million cubic metres.



Al Batashi explained that in North Al-Sharqiyah Governorate, the dams of the Wilayat of Al-Qabil were full, as the amount of water retained in the Wadi Nam Dam reached 0.82 million cubic meters and in Al-Aqeedah Dam 0.04 million cubic meters. The amount of water retained in Al-Rassa Dam amounted to 0.98 million cubic meters, and in the Wilayat of Ibra, the Qafifa Dam was filled with an amount of water amounting to 0.927 million cubic meters. While the Warid Dam recorded a storage rate of 0.702 million cubic metres, the amount of water retention in the Wadi Al-Oyyoun Dam in the Wilayat of Sinaw reached 0.2 million cubic metres. Al Batashi stated that in the Wilayat of Al-Hamra in the Al-Dakhiliyah Governorate, the Wadi Ghul Dam recorded 0.13 million cubic metres, while the Al-Awabi Dam in the Wilayat of Al-Awabi in the South Al-Batinah

Governorate recorded 0.045 million cubic metres. In the North Al Batinah Governorate, the Wadi Al Hilti and Al Salahi dams in the Wilayat of Sohar were filled with an amount of water amounting to 0.55 million cubic metres, the Al Jizzi Dam was filled with 5.4 million cubic metres, and the Aahen Dam in the Wilayat of Saham was filled with an amount of 6.8 million cubic metres. Meanwhile, Al-Hawasna Dam in the Wilayat Al-Khaboura recorded a filling rate of 1.68 million cubic metres. In Musandam Governorate, Al Sarooj Dam in the Wilayat of Madha recorded 0.922 million cubic metres, while Sahana Dam in the same wilayat recorded 0.035 million cubic metres. The Protection Dam in the Wilayat of Sur in the South Al Sharqiyah Governorate recorded a water volume of 8.56 million cubic metres, and one of the dam's gates was opened.

GRAND
MILLENNIUM
MUSCAT

Suhoor
GRAND BUFFET

Spend Suhoor at our spacious outdoor Mazaj Terrace with mesmerizing city view.. Start your day of reflection with family and friends as you nourish yourself with our range of delightful delicacies while enjoying live entertainment.

SUHOOR BUFFET
OMR 15 PER PERSON
OMR 7.5 net for 6 - 12 years old
Free of charge for below 6 years old

MAZAJ TENT COMBO
One shisha and Suhoor buffet
OMR 17 PER PERSON

Weekly Raffle Draw
Mazaj Terrace
10:30 PM to 2:30 AM

Advance booking is required | All prices are in OMR, inclusive of all applicable taxes
| Terms & Conditions Apply

To reserve a table, dial +968 7914 0219





Register Between
9 Mar to 25 Mar 2024

Campaign Period
10 Mar to 31 Mar 2024

Download and Register Now!

SMART CARE APP



Scan Now



Oman Marketing and Services Company LLC
P.O.Box: 2734, Ruwi, Postal Code: 112, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Email: Omasco.ACServices@alfuttaim.om
Tel: 24582401 / 24582180 / 24582575 / 24582940
www.omasco.com

Air Conditioner Service*

- ◆ Applicable for Split Air conditioners only
- ◆ Applicable for the Unit purchased before 31st Dec 2022
- ◆ Register through mobile app to avail the free service
- ◆ Up to 5 AC's per customer can be registered through Panasonic Smart Care App
- ◆ Commercial AC's are excluded
- ◆ Applicable only in Muscat Capital area

Toll Free Number: 80062722  +968 24582940  +968 24582180



MASLENITSA

Russian House Oman celebrates Spring Festival

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Russian House Oman hosted its biggest and most diverse event to date, the Spring Festival. The event brought together around 400 guests to celebrate Maslentsa (Russian Pancake Week) and International Women's Day.

The festivities included traditional games and contests, art classes, dancing, and live music. Guests enjoyed a variety of activities, such as pillow fights, tug-of-war, and a strongman competition.

For the first time, the Russian House Oman organised a marketplace featuring Russian-speaking businesses in Oman. Visitors had the opportunity to experience traditional Omani henna art and enjoy Arabic coffee and sweets.

"This event was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diversity of Russian culture and to strengthen ties between Oman and Russia. The inclusion of the first-ever Russian-speaking business marketplace at the festival provided a valuable platform for businesses to connect, network, and explore potential collaborations, ultimately facilitating business growth in both countries."

- Igor Egorov, Head of the Russian-speaking Community in Oman.

Many guests came dressed in national costumes, adding to the festive atmosphere.

The Russian House Oman team expressed gratitude to the companies that supported the event and provided prizes for the raffle. Special thanks were extended to the gold sponsor, Al Mouj who helped to make an event spectacular.

The team also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the volunteers who made the day unfor-

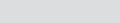


gettable. The Russian House Oman concluded by thanking the Embassy of Russia in Oman and Ilya Anatolyevich Morgunov for their support.

About Russian House Oman

The Russian House Oman is an organisation that promotes cultural and business ties between Oman and Russia. The organisation offers a variety of programs and events, including language courses, cultural workshops, and business networking opportunities.




SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS
www.facebook.com/timesofoman


CROWNE PLAZA
AN IHG® HOTEL
MUSCAT OMAN
CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

**CELEBRATE THE HOLY
MONTH OF RAMADAN**

**احتفل بشهر
رمضان المبارك**

AT MOSAIC RESTAURANT
with scrumptious Iftar offering Ouzi,
Omani and Levantine Cuisines, Tandoor,
live grill station and other international
buffet delicacies

في مطعم موزايك
بوفيه ودية الإفطار مكون من طبق الأوزي الشهير
ومأكولات من المطبخ العماني والlevantي والتandoor
ومحطة شواء وغيرها من أطباق البوفيه المألوف الشهية

**ENJOY RAMADAN استمتع بليلتي
NIGHTS WITH رمضان مع**

- Live Oud Player عرض حي لعزف العود
- Iftar raffle draw سحب قرعة الإفطار

**OUTDOOR متوفر شيشة
SHISHA AVAILABLE بجلسة خارجية**

**OMR 17 NET
PER PERSON**

Time: Sunset to 11 PM

+968 90654364 | +968 9069 6045

mosaic




MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					small and Medium companies	local companies
116/2024	Supply and installation of shock floors at Al-Wafa Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities at Suwaiq	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the fourth degree	Sunday 7-4-2024 02:00 PM	Thursday 2-5-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
117/2024	General maintenance work for the building of the Department of Social Development at Khaboura	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the third or fourth degree				
118/2024	Preparation of corridors and facilities at Al-Wafa Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities at Salalah	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting / design of interior decoration implementation / construction and maintenance of gardens and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the first degree				

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Sunday 17/3/2024

❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

* The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry*

www.mosd.gov.om

ROYAL CARE

Sultan’s Special Force to celebrate SSF Day

MUSCAT: The Sultan’s Special Force (SSF) will celebrate on Sunday the SSF Day, which falls on 15 March every year.

The celebration reflects the development march and modernisation at all administrative levels of the armament of SSF, thanks to the Royal Care and attention accorded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

The celebration also touches on the high training efficiency of the SSF personnel and the advanced arms and equipment provided to the SSF and the role they play in performing their national duties.

On the occasion, the Sultan’s Special Force will organise a celebration at Al Samoud Camp, under the auspices of Major General Musallam bin Mohammed Ja’aboub, Commander of the Sultan’s Special Force. -OMA



UNITED STATES



Former VP Pence says he will not endorse Trump

TEXAS: Former US Vice President Mike Pence has announced that he will not be supporting Donald Trump in the upcoming 2024 election.

In an interview with Fox News, he said, “It should come as no surprise that I will not be endorsing Donald Trump this year.”

Pence, 64, served as vice president under Trump. The decision to not endorse Trump makes Pence the latest in a series of senior Trump administration officials who have declined to endorse their former boss’s bid to return to the Oval Office.

Pence had long been seen as one of Trump’s most loyal defenders.

But he broke with his former boss by refusing to go along with Trump’s unconstitutional efforts to try to remain in power after losing the 2020 election.

When Trump’s supporters stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, trying to disrupt the certification of Joe Biden’s win, Pence was forced to flee to a Senate loading dock as rioters chanted, “Hang Mike Pence!” outside.

In the interview on Fox’s “The Story with Martha MacCallum,” Pence said he was “incredibly proud” of his and Trump’s record in office.

But he added that there were “profound differences” between him and Trump on a raft of policies and issues.

“I mean, as I have watched his candidacy unfold, I’ve seen him walking away from our commitment to confronting the national debt. I’ve seen him starting to shy away from a commitment to the sanctity of human life,” he went on, also referencing what he called Trump’s “reversal on getting tough on China and supporting our administration’s effort to force” the sale of the popular TikTok app.

“In each of these cases, Donald Trump is pursuing and articulating an agenda that is at odds with the conservative agenda that we governed on during our four years. And that’s why I cannot in conscience endorse Donald Trump in this campaign,” he said.

Although Pence refrained from disclosing his voting preference, he affirmed that it wouldn’t be for Joe Biden, emphasizing his loyalty to the Republican Party.

Trump and current President Joe Biden both won enough delegates to clinch their respective parties’ nominations to run for the presidency. -DW

The Election Commission of India announced the dates for Lok Sabha and four state Assembly elections. The counting will be held on June 4

NEW DELHI: The general election for 543 Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha) seats will be held in seven phases from April 19, Indian Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced on Saturday. The counting will be held on June 4.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the dates for Lok Sabha and four state Assembly elections. Phase 1 elections will be held on April 19, the last date for making nominations is March 27. Polls will be held in 21 States and Union Territories.

Phase 2 elections will be held from April 26, last date of nominations for candidates in April 4. Second phase will cover 12 States and Union Territories.

Phase 3 elections will be held on May 7, last date for nominations for candidates is April 19. The third phase will cover 12 States and Union Territories.

Phase 4 elections will be held on May 13, last date for nominations for candidates is April 25. Fourth phase will cover 10 States and Union Territories.

Phase 5 elections will be held



on May 20, last date for nominations for candidates in May 3. The fifth phase will cover 8 States and Union Territories.

Phase 6 elections will be held on May 25, the last date for nominations for candidates is May 6. The sixth phase will cover 7 States and Union territories.

Phase 7 elections will be held on June 1, last date for nominations for candidates is May 14. The seventh phase will cover 8 States and Union Territories.

Phase 1 elections will be held in 102 constituencies, a total of 89 constituencies will undergo in phase 2.

In Phase 3, polling will be held in 94 constituencies.

96 constituencies will undergo polling in Phase 4, and 49 constituencies will undergo polling in Phase 5.

In Phase 6, polls will be held in 57 constituencies and also in Phase 7, 57 constituencies will undergo for polls.

The assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha will be held on May 13. While the Assembly polls in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim on April 19; Counting of votes will be held June 4.

Nearly 97 crore voters will be eligible to vote for 543 Lok Sabha constituencies across the country. With the announcement of dates, the moral code of conduct comes into force immediately.

CEC Rajiv Kumar said that strict directions have been given to District Magistrates and SPs to ensure level playing field. CAPF to be deployed adequately & assisted by Integrated control rooms in each district. Check posts & drones to ensure vigil.

Ensuring voters’ trust is paramount. Violence in elections is unacceptable. Impersonators to be swiftly punished. Transparency in permissions to parties/candidates through SUVIDHA portal.

ECI has offered 27 apps and portals for all stakeholders.

Vigil empowers citizens to report MCC violations and assured action within 100 mts. KYC app facilitates informed voting. A revamped results portal to enhance the experience on results day.

He further mentioned that the poll body is sensitive to environmentally sustainable elections.

“We are making efforts to minimise single-use plastic and encourage eco-friendly practices in the election process,” he said.

CEC Kumar informed that to curb the flow of illicit money, the poll body has held extensive reviews with enforcement agencies.

“Cash movement worth around Rs 3,400 crore was restricted in the last 11 state assembly elections in Rajasthan, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Tripura,” CEC Kumar said.

“Measures like ESMs portal, and coordination between agencies resulted in an exponential increase in seizures in the last 11 elections,” he added. -ANI

STUDY

How do economies fare under populist rule?

WASHINGTON: Populism is on the rise around the world. According to the economist Christoph Trebesch, more than a quarter of the world’s nations are currently ruled by populists. Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been in power for years in Turkey, as has Viktor Orban in Hungary; Javier Milei recently won the election in Argentina, and Donald Trump might to return as president of the United States. In Germany, too, the right-wing populist party AfD is gaining more and more support.

Populists usually present themselves as defenders of the people in the battle against the so-called elites. They promise the people greater prosperity, and the disempowerment of those elites. This is the recipe for their success.

But what is the reality? Do populists actually keep their promises? And how does the economic situation influence whether or not they get into power?

It’s harder for populists to flourish in a healthy economy. This was the conclusion of a study conducted by Trebesch and his economist colleagues Moritz Schularick and Manuel Funke. It examines the connections between economies and populism from 1990 to 2020.

Financial crises are often a sort of catalyst for populists’ electoral success, says Trebesch, who is based at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. In such times, populists can more credibly convey their narrative of “the people



versus the elite” and the “failure of the elite.” The logic behind it is the idea that something fundamental must have gone wrong with the current political system that triggered the crisis.

Trebesch says the same logic means corruption scandals also provide populists with a fertile breeding ground. Silvio Berlusconi was able to capitalise on this in Italy.

Globalisation helps them, too. It has, for instance, been demonstrated that populists are more successful in countries particularly affected by competition from China: where industries have collapsed as a result of imported Chinese goods, leading to job losses, for example.

Thiess Petersen from the Bertelsmann Foundation adds that it

can empirically be shown that, in developed economies, populists do better when people experience a loss of earnings or jobs as a consequence of the injection of capital and introduction of new technologies. Petersen stresses that fear of such losses can be enough on its own to boost support for populists.

However, Petersen goes on to explain that populism has many roots causes, and cannot be explained solely in terms of economic developments. Economic aspects may not even be the most important reasons.

Once they get into power, populists often fail to keep their promises of greater prosperity for the people. The economy doesn’t usually collapse as soon as populists take over, but it tends to do worse in the long term, says Trebesch.

The study by Trebesch and his colleagues shows that 15 years after populists come to power, GDP has decreased by an average of 10 percentage points, compared with similar national economies that are not governed by populists.

“This also means that people’s purchasing power decreases,” says Trebesch, “and, furthermore, we do not see any improvement with regard to inequality, either.”

Donald Trump also promised a great deal. And yet, according to Germany’s Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpib), until the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the American economy was scarcely doing better than it had under his predecessor, Barack Obama. Under Obama, between 2014 and 2017 the American economy grew by an average of 2.4%, compared to

2.5% in the first three years under Trump.

Obama managed to reduce the budget deficit from almost 10% in 2009 to 3.1% in 2016. Under Trump, in spite of good growth rates, the deficit rose again, to 4.6% in 2019. In particular, his 2017 tax cuts were expensive for the state, costing between 1.5 and two trillion dollars. These were a huge gift for high earners and big corporations – but not for the people.

“With Trump, we didn’t see an economic collapse. However, there are certainly studies that show things would have been even better without him,” Trebesch comments.

“We have observed that the effects are greater the longer populists are in power,” says Trebesch. “If Trump were to return to power,

we can certainly expect far more drastic political and economic measures.”

If that happens, the economist anticipates more drastic welfare losses, too.

Similar structures can often be identified in populist economic policies. It is usually a little while before populists damage the economy. This is partly because, to begin with, they don’t interfere much with the workings of economic institutions, such as the central bank, or restrict the independence of the judiciary. However, this kind of interference, targeting institutions perceived to be part of the ‘elite,’ tends to increase over time, says Trebesch.

According to their campaign promises, populists tend to close borders for the movement of people, and also of trade and capital. They like to spend a lot of money, pursue a generally loose fiscal policy, and accumulate public debt. This is particularly evident in Argentina, says Trebesch.

The perverse aspect of this is that, while it is easier for populists to gain power when the economic situation is bad, if the economy then fails to improve, or even worsens, they still stay remain in power. The data shows this very clearly.

“Once they get into power, it’s pretty likely that populists will shape a country for years, even decades, to come,” says Trebesch. -DW

ferred from acute malnutrition, up from 15.6% in January.

"Doctors are reporting that they no longer see normal-sized babies," Dominic Allen of the UN Population Fund said after visiting Gaza's north. At least 23 children in northern Gaza have reportedly died from malnutrition and dehydration in recent weeks, UNICEF said. "The speed at which this catastrophic child malnutrition crisis in Gaza has unfolded is shocking, especially when desperately needed assistance has been at the ready just a few miles away," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF's executive director. — **Agencies**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees military drills



JBL

PRESENTING THE PERFECT SOUND OF THE SEASON

PARTYBOX 110 | PARTYBOX 310 | PARTYBOX ON THE GO ESSENTIAL
PARTYBOX 710 | PARTYBOX ULTIMATE

Bluetooth works with Google Home

Works with Apple AirPlay Dolby Atmos works with alexa Spotify

SPORTS

ICC

‘Stop-clock’ to be permanent rule in limited-overs cricket from 2024 Men’s T20 World Cup

DUBAI: A ‘stop-clock’ to regulate time taken between overs will become permanent in all white-ball internationals from the 2024 Men’s T20 World Cup in June.

Fielding teams must be ready to start a new over within 60 seconds of the last one ending and failing to do so three times will mean a five-run penalty. It follows a trial of the rule in men’s limited-overs matches since December.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) board has made the stop-clock a mandatory playing condition for all ODI and T20 matches between full member nations from June 1, when the Men’s T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies begins. The third umpire will determine when to start the clock, with a countdown from 60 to nought to be displayed electronically in the ground.



A fielding side failing to be ready to start the next over within that minute can receive two warn-

ings, but any subsequent breaches will lead to the batting side being awarded five runs per breach.

The clock can be cancelled after it is started if a new batter is coming to the crease between overs following a dismissal, if an official drinks interval is called, the umpires have approved on-field treatment of a batter or fielder and if time is lost for any circumstance beyond the control of the fielding side.

The ICC also confirmed that the semi-finals and final of the 2024 Men’s T20 World Cup will have reserve days. Matches in the group and super eight stages of the tournament will require a minimum of five overs per side to constitute a game, but that will increase to a minimum of 10 overs per side for the semi-finals and final.

The ICC Men’s T20 World Cup will have in the group stage and

Super Eight series, a minimum of five overs to be bowled to the team batting second to constitute a game, whilst in the knock-out stages, a minimum of ten overs will need to be bowled.

The ICC Board also approved the qualification process for the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026. The event, which will be held in India and Sri Lanka, will see 12 automatic qualifiers. - Agencies



TRAVELLING
THIS SUMMER?
GET INSURED
WITH US FOR A
COMPREHENSIVE
COVERAGE

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com



Oman United Insurance Co.
S.A.O.G

FORMER PAKISTAN PACER

Aaqib Javed named Sri Lanka’s fast bowling coach

COLOMBO: Former Pakistan fast bowler Aaqib Javed has been appointed Sri Lanka’s fast bowling coach on Saturday.

He is set to assume the role with immediate effect until the conclusion of the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and USA in June. Javed is set to leave for Sri Lanka next week.

“Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of former Pakistan pace bowler Aaqib Javed as the national team’s fast bowling coach,” a statement from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said.



“He will work with the national team until the completion of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup.”

Javed, 51, has served as Lahore Qalandars’ head coach in the PSL since 2017, leading them to successive titles in 2022 and 2023. The Qalandars campaign this year was a disappointing one as the side won just one game and finished bottom of the table.

Javed has also worked as Pakistan’s bowling coach, most notably when they won the T20 World Cup in 2009, and served as head coach of the UAE, during a period they were granted ODI status and qualified for the 2015 World Cup.

He was also Pakistan’s Under-19 coach during their run to the title in 2004.

Javed played 163 ODIs and 22 Test matches for Pakistan between 1988 and 1998, and was part of the squad that won the 1992 World Cup.

“We warmly welcome Aaqib and believe that his immense international experience, both in playing and coaching will help our bowlers come into good shape ahead of the upcoming major international competitions, such as the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup,” said Ashley De Silva, CEO, Sri Lanka Cricket. - Agencies

RAMADAN MUBARAK

Experience unmatched performance. Make Jaguar F-PACE yours this Ramadan. Enjoy 5-year/105,000 km* service, 5-year/150,000 km* roadside assistance, 5-year/150,000 km* warranty and more.



JAGUAR
F-PACE

Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC
80062643

jaguar-oman.com

*Whichever comes first. Terms and conditions apply.

JOINT LEAD MANAGER

Bank Nizwa assumed the role of Joint Lead Manager in the issuance of a \$500 million Sukuk by OTEL Sukuk Limited (issuer and trustee). This Sukuk exemplifies the bank's resolute commitment to delivering innovative financial solutions rooted in Islamic finance principles.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



POSITIVE WEEK FOR MSX

The Oman stock market sustained its upward trajectory from the previous week although it registered modest gains as the market stabilised, according to an analyst. The main index increased by 0.18 percent, revisiting the resistance level of around 4,800 from last October.

Oman's automobile fuel production jumps by 57.4% in January

MUSCAT: The production of automobile fuel by refineries and petroleum industries in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 57.4 percent by the end of January 2024 compared to the same month in 2023, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Statistics indicate that the production of standard-grade petrol

(M-91) by Oman refineries decreased by 17.9 percent at the end of January 2024. The output of super grade petrol (M-95) increased by 12.7 percent. The production of M-91 fuel reached about 1.18 million barrels, while its sales amounted to 1.17 million. The production of M-95 automobile fuel reached about 951,100 barrels with sales reaching 993,000 barrels.

The production of diesel (gas oil)

decreased by 26.1 percent, reaching 2.10 million barrels with its sales reaching 1.13 million barrels. Aviation fuel production also increased by 39.7 percent reaching 1.77 million barrels while its sales reached 383,000 barrels. The production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) reached 672,800 barrels, while its sales reached 808,000 barrels.

With regard to petrochemicals, statistics showed that gaso-

line production increased by 17.6 percent, reaching 13,500 metric tonnes, while the production of paraxylene reached 55,300 metric tonnes, rising by 56.5 percent. Polypropylene production decreased by 16.4 percent, reaching 18,600 metric tonnes, but its sales increased by 64.8 percent.

The Sultanate of Oman's exports of M-91 fuel increased by 14.6 percent to reach 227,300 bar-

rels, while there were no exports of M-95 fuel until the end of January. Exports of diesel amounted to 709,400 barrels, aviation fuel to 707,400 barrels, while exports of LPG amounted to 102,200 barrels.

Paraxylene exports amounted to 60,400 metric tonnes, gasoline exports amounted to 6,600 metric tonnes, and polypropylene exports amounted to 9,900 metric tonnes. - **ONA**



STATISTICS



Oman's total electricity generation rises by 6.4%

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's total electricity generation recorded an increase of 6.4 percent to reach 44,346.3 gigawatts per hour by the end of 2023 compared to 41,698 gigawatts per hour during the end of 2022.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the governorates of North and South Al Batinah and Al Dhahirah recorded a total generation of 28,325.2 gigawatts per hour, while the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate recorded the highest percentage of increase in total generation by 91.2 percent to reach 164.4 gigawatts per hour.

The total generation of electricity in Muscat Governorate increased by 65.4 percent to reach 618.5 gigawatts per hour and in Dhofar Governorate electricity generation rose by 13 percent to reach 4,687.2 gigawatts per hour.

The total generation of electricity in the North and South Al Sharqiyah Governorates also increased by 9.3 percent, reaching 9,874.2 gigawatts per hour, and in the Musandam Governorate, the total generation increased by 6.1 percent, reaching 480.4 gigawatts per hour, while the total generation of electricity in the Central Governorate decreased by 30.9 percent, reaching 196.3 gigawatts per hour.

Statistics further indicated that the Sultanate of Oman's net electricity generation until the end of 2023 increased by 6.6 percent to reach 43,11.8 gigawatts per hour.

On the other hand, the NCSI data showed that the total amount of water produced in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 1.5 percent to reach about 520.35 million cubic metres by the end of 2023, compared to 512.44 million cubic metres by the end of 2022. - **ONA**

CHINA'S BATTERY GIANT

CATL reports robust profits

FUZHOU: Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. (CATL), China's largest automotive lithium-ion battery maker, posted strong net profit growth of 44 percent in 2023.

Net profit attributable to its shareholders surged to 44.1 billion yuan (about \$6.21 billion) in the period, CATL said in its annual report filed to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange Friday.

In 2023, the battery giant generated revenue of 400.9 billion yuan, up 22 percent year on year. It has also invested 18.4 billion yuan in research and development, an increase of 18 percent year on year.

According to SNE Research, CATL's electric vehicle (EV) battery consumption volume has ranked first worldwide for seven consecutive years. **Xinhua**

OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (S.A.O.G.)

Chairman's Report and Audited Condensed Consolidated Financial Results for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Respected Shareholders,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of the results of the operations for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Operating performance:

Revenue: Group Revenue for the year ended 31st December 2023 has reached RO 2,942.7 million compared to RO 2,682.8 million for the corresponding period 2022, an increase of 9.7 %. The Group revenue includes Zain Group, which contributed revenues of RO 2,361.2 Mn. Group's revenue increased across all operations with a major portion of that coming from Oman which increased YOY by 7.3 %, KSA by 9 %, Iraq by 20 %, Sudan by 14 % and Kuwait by 5 % respectively.

Expenses: Group's total expenses (including depreciation) increased to RO 2,468.8 million compared to RO 2,235.5 Mn for the corresponding period 2022, an increase of 10.4 %.

Group's cost of sales increased by 9.3 % on account of costs related to revenue growth coming from Device and international transit revenue. Group's Opex (including depreciation) cost increased by 11.3 % primarily on account of increase in rental of telecom towers in Oman, Kuwait, KSA, Iraq and Jordan.

Net Profit: The Group Net Profit after tax has grown by 13.1 % to RO 315.5 Mn compared to RO 278.9 Mn in 2022. After adjusting for minority interest the net profit for the period stands at RO 74.8 Mn compared to RO 91.3 Mn in 2022, a decrease of 18.1 %.

Group net profit for year 2022 includes one-time capital gain on sale of telecom towers in Oman for RO 28 Mn (Net of taxes) which is the major reason for the decrease in Net profit in 2023 compared to year 2022.

Earnings per Share (EPS) attributable to parent shareholder for the year ended 31st December 2023, for the same reason above, has decreased to RO 0.100 compared to RO 0.121 for the corresponding period of year 2022.

Omantel Domestic operations (Domestic performance)

Revenues reached RO 606.5 million compared to RO 565.5 million for the corresponding period 2022. Revenue growth is mainly coming from wholesale transit voice revenue which increased by RO 17.2 Mn and device revenue which increased by RO 19.3 Mn. Growth in retail revenue is contributed by Mobile Postpaid revenue which increased by 10.2 % and Fixed Broadband revenues which increased by 4.2 %.

Net Profit for the year 2023 stands at RO 63.3 Mn compared to RO 85.7 Mn in the previous period. Net profit for the year 2022 includes one-time capital gain on sale of Towers for RO 28 Mn (Net of taxes). Excluding the Capital gain from the profit for year 2022, the net profit for year 2023 showed an increase of 9.7 % compared to the previous year. This increase was on account of stable EBITDA and a decrease in Finance costs.

Dividend:

The Board of Directors, subject to the approval of shareholders, recommends a distribution of a final dividend of 55 baiza per share (2022 - 55 baiza per share). This is in addition to interim dividend of 5 baiza per share distributed earlier in 2023 totaling 60 baiza per share for the year 2023 reflecting a 60 % payout ratio of the net profit.

Subscriber Base:

The total domestic mobile subscriber base as of 31st December 2023 was 3.18 Mn (including Mobile Resellers) compared to 3.22 Mn of the corresponding period, the shortfall was due to a decrease in Prepaid subscriber base which is significantly off set by growth in Postpaid subscriber base.

Subsidiary Companies:

1) Mobile Telecommunication Company (Zain):

Zain Group revenues year ended 31st December 2023 was RO 2,361.4 Mn compared to RO 2,129 Mn of the corresponding period of the previous year, an increase of 10.9 % over the last year. EBITDA stands at RO 871.3 Mn, compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of RO 828.6 Mn recording an increase of 5.2 %. Net profit stands at RO 359.7 Mn compared to RO 276.5 Mn of the previous period, an increase of 30.1 % over the last year. The Board of Directors of Zain Group recommended a final dividend of 25 fils per share which takes the total dividend for the year 2023 to 35 fils for the year 2023 reflecting a 70 % payout ratio from the net profit. Key operations in Kuwait, Iraq, KSA and Jordan deliver impressive profit growth. The completion of Tower sales during the year in KSA and Iraq helped in creating value and efficiencies for the Group.

Domestic Market Share:

Omantel's Mobile market share as of December 2023 (excluding Mobile Resellers) is 37.4 %. The fixed broadband market share as of December 2023 is 55.9 %.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): As part of its ongoing commitment to support the society and environment, Omantel has embarked on number of CSR initiatives and programs and has extended its support to various organizations and events. The below summarizes the major initiatives and events supported during the year 2023:

Community Wellbeing

- Oman Charitable Organization (OCO):** Omantel Contributed RO 150,000 to the Oman Charitable Organization (OCO) as part of its ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
- House Maintenance:** The company supported families with low income to live in healthy and safe homes by providing full house maintenance to houses with critical conditions that can cause hazard living in them. Omantel contributed OMR 115,000 through their collaboration with Dar Al Atta, benefiting 20 families.
- Fak Kurbah Donation Campaign:** A humanitarian initiative in collaboration with the Omani Lawyers Association to contribute to the release of insolvents who are imprisoned due to their financial claim cases. The company set aside OMR 10,000 for this initiative in 2023, which benefited 16 Insolvents.
- Cancer Patients Support Campaign:** Supporting the training program for healthcare workers and stakeholders of Palliative Care for terminally ill patients. In addition, Omantel employees are taking part in the annual walkathon to support the association's efforts in raising awareness of the community regarding fundraising. The company set aside OMR 15,000 for this initiative in 2023, in collaboration with Oman Cancer Association (OCA).

Education

- IT & Coding Curriculum:** In continuation of the four-year agreement between Omantel and the Ministry of Education, Omantel contributed RO 100,000 in 2023. The development of an IT and coding curriculum for primary school students (Grade 3 and 4) to provide them with the skills of the future and the fourth industrial revolution in line with Oman Vision 2040, which benefited 240,000 Students.
- Applied Research Fund:** Promote scientific research in the fields of ICT and Nanotechnology in support of the efforts made to develop scientific research in Oman. The second collaboration will be for another 5 years focusing on the field of ICT (2024). OMR 60,000 were set aside for this initiative in year 2023. In collaboration with Sultan Qaboos University.
- Scholarships for students:** Provide educational opportunities for Omani students of General Diploma graduates to study in Oman with a 5-year financial support for scholarships in the specializations of ICT to enhance their competencies in this field to keep them up with the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. OMR 47,960 were set aside for this initiative in 2023. Which benefited 11 Students in total, in collaboration with Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation.
- Omantel Innovation Corner:** The corner is based on providing interactive learning tools with innovative and sophisticated technologies based on intelligent ICT solutions to educate young children and young people about digital literacy and encourage them to think about inventions by conducting various IT experiments. The corner will be reactivated in 2024. OMR 20,000 set aside for this initiative in 2023. Which benefited 11 Students in Total in collaboration with The Children Public Library.
- Innovation and Technology Transfer Center:** The center is one of the 14 research centers within SOU, addressing the urgent need to expand the activities in the field of innovation. OMR 50,000 is set aside for this initiative in year 2023, which benefited 2000 students. In collaboration by Sultan Qaboos University.

Environmental

- Artificial Coral Reef:** Supporting the cultivation of artificial coral reefs in the ocean, protecting and improving habitat and increasing populations of fish and other marine life. OMR 20,000 were set aside for this initiative in year 2023. In collaboration by InnoTech.

Future Outlook

In 2023, Omantel maintained its position as a leader in the telecommunications sector in the sultanate of Oman and continue to maximize value to our esteemed shareholders. We eagerly look forward to building a totally connected community through innovation together with our customers. Our vision extends beyond traditional connectivity roles. Omantel is evolving into a technology company that is engaging in global diversification ventures.

Our corporate strategy, "Shift Gear," is steering our company's vision toward a digital-native future. We have made remarkable strides over the past three years, earning recognition for our top-notch digital experiences. As AI takes centre stage in our strategy, we are exploring its potential to enhance customer offerings and streamline operations, marking the start of a transformative journey from a Telco to Tech Company. In this context, Omantel Labs focuses primarily on developing entrepreneurial skills among the youth and accelerating the growth of technology startups in the Sultanate of Oman through five technological fields: 5G technology, Internet of Things, cybersecurity, subscriber experience concept, and big data. Additionally, Omantel obtained, through one of its subsidiaries, a license from the Central Bank of Oman to provide electronic payment services in the Sultanate through the OM Pay application. This service will enable Omantel to provide diverse payment options for individuals and businesses alike.

In 2023, Omantel advanced significantly in implementing the strategy by introducing new initiatives and strategic partnerships that will cement the foundation of our growth.

Through our endeavors to expand the horizons of partnership and innovation, we have collaborated with AWS (Amazon Web Services) to address data residency and security requirements, especially for government entities and regulated industries in Oman.

We are also working with AWS to develop a marketplace that will run on AWS built platforms which leverages its Machine Learning and Data Analytics capabilities to provide a personalized customer experience.

Our continuous partnership with global tech giant Google empowers us to achieve our goals competently. Together, we have embarked on groundbreaking initiatives, including implementing Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) on prediction models and revenue maximization, network optimization, and the API monetization project aimed at serving enterprise businesses.

To accelerate digital transformation, the Huawei-powered national cloud will facilitate Oman's digital revolution with secure and local data hosting, coupled with cutting-edge cloud services and Hyperscaler capabilities brought to customers' doorsteps. Omantel is also partnering with other global giants to foster digital transformation and growth in Oman.

Through these alliances, we are confident we can develop a successful digital Infrastructure that will play a pivotal role in enabling customers, enterprises, including SMEs, and Government entities to advance their business and achieve more. These developments are also pivotal for accelerating Oman's digital transformation, aligning with its ambitions outlined in Vision 2040, and positioning Omantel as the vision Digital Arm.

Moreover, Omantel's participation in several international cable systems is also supported by an assemblage of several direct regional terrestrial links in our portfolio, which makes the Sultanate of Oman one of the most connected places in the region and an attractive international hub as the entrance to the Gulf for carriers, content, and cloud providers. The formation of Zain Omantel International (ZOI), in partnership with Zain Group, marks a strategic expansion in our services. With the new entity adopting a vibrant brand identity and a comprehensive service portfolio, ZOI is set to become a leading force in the global wholesale telecommunications sector.

Thanks and Appreciation

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to our shareholders and loyal customers for their continued support, which enabled us to achieve these excellent results. We also wholeheartedly appreciate the sincere contribution of executive management and employees to the company's performance in the market's challenging situation. With your support, we are confident that Omantel will continue its good performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we are honored to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for his visionary leadership. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him long life, health, and welfare so that Oman and its people can achieve more progress, prosperity, and welfare.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Note:

- The audited consolidated financial statement will be delivered to any shareholders or other interested party who requests them, within 5 days of the written request. The request must indicate preference for Arabic or English.
- Request may be addressed to Secretary, Board of Directors, Omantel P.O. Box 789, P.C. 112, Ruwi Sultanate of Oman. Fax: 242 40 586

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023

	2023 RO '000	2022 RO '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and bank balances	428,635	441,192
Bank balances held in customers account	15,975	10,132
Trade receivables and other current assets	1,276,006	1,122,000
Contract assets	125,754	108,940
Inventories	81,006	69,573
Investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	49,040	50,708
Investment securities at amortised cost	-	1,000
	1,976,416	1,803,545
Assets of disposal group classified as held for sale	6,254	322,956
Total Current assets	1,982,670	2,126,501
Non-current assets		
Contract assets	70,037	65,983
Investment securities at fair value through profit or loss	25,357	24,528
Investment securities at FVOCI	14,412	21,794
Investment securities at amortised cost	1,000	-
Investments in associates and joint venture	239,848	150,027
Other non-current assets	75,454	59,752
Deferred tax asset	28,428	29,269
Right of use of assets	257,787	206,539
Property and equipment	1,828,373	1,761,504
Intangible assets and goodwill	3,232,476	3,389,546
Total Non-current assets	5,773,172	5,708,942
Total Assets	7,755,842	7,835,443

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,566,444	1,466,164
Contract liabilities	120,235	122,772
Income tax payables	32,182	38,652
Borrowings	487,100	547,584
Lease liabilities	45,653	33,078
	2,251,614	2,208,250
Liabilities of disposal group classified as held for sale	1,244	109,318
Total Current liabilities	2,252,858	2,317,568

Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	1,880,046	1,740,067
Lease liabilities	309,574	210,914
Other non-current liabilities	406,216	679,958
Total Non-current liabilities	2,595,836	2,630,939
Total liabilities	4,848,694	4,948,507
Equity		
Share capital	75,000	75,000
Legal reserve	25,000	25,000
Voluntary reserve	49,875	49,875
Capital contribution	7,288	7,288
Capital reserve	36,893	36,893
Foreign currency translation reserve	(103,843)	(90,719)
Investment fair valuation reserve	(4,932)	(3,653)
Other reserves	822	5,204
Retained earnings	560,200	530,408
Attributable to the Company's shareholders	646,303	635,296
Non controlling interest	2,260,845	2,251,640
Total equity	2,907,148	2,886,936
Total Liabilities and Equity	7,755,842	7,835,443

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss – Year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 RO '000	2022 RO '000
Continuing operations		
Revenue	2,942,717	2,682,776
Cost of sales	(1,016,298)	(930,161)
Gross profit	1,926,419	1,752,615
Operating and administrative expenses	(839,531)	(707,380)
Allowance for expected credit loss on financial assets	(47,070)	(46,383)
Depreciation, amortization and impairment	(565,948)	(551,536)
Operating profit	473,870	447,316
Interest income	19,869	8,567
Investment income	15,627	6,598
Share of results of associates and joint venture	4,373	5,466
Other (expense)/ income	(42,062)	(8,251)
Gain on disposal of units in associate	-	755
Gain on sale and lease back transactions	70,084	495
Gain on disposal of a subsidiary	686	-
Impairment of goodwill	-	(34,458)
Finance costs	(199,906)	(157,352)
Gain/ (loss) from currency revaluation	7,636	2,448
Profit before tax from continuing operations	350,177	271,584
Income tax expenses	(34,693)	(20,690)
Profit for the year from continuing operations	315,484	250,894
Discontinued operations		
Profit for the year after tax from discontinued operations	-	28,030
Profit for the year	315,484	278,924
Attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Company	74,792	91,316
Non-controlling interests	240,692	187,608
	315,484	278,924
Earnings per share (EPS)		
Basic and diluted – RO		
From continuing operations	0.100	0.084
From discontinued operations	-	0.037



LIFESTYLE



MINIMISING MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS CAN BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HEALTH: STUDY

A recent study suggests that efforts to limit carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from motor vehicles, along with investments in electric vehicles and public transit, would reduce air pollution and have a significant impact on children's health. They'd also save money.

The findings by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health with collaborators at the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Boston University School of Public Health appear in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

The researchers modeled the benefits of implementing multiple scenarios of the proposed climate policy framework known as the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) in 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia. Under the most stringent cap on CO2 emissions and the investment scenario that devoted the most resources to mass transportation, they estimated a total of over 58,000 avoided cases of infant mortality, preterm birth, low birth weight, autism spectrum disorder, new cases of asthma, worsened asthma symptoms, and other respiratory illnesses. The related economic savings were \$82 million annually. Assessment of the distribution of avoided cases of worsened asthma symptoms indicated that children in all racial and ethnic groups benefited, with somewhat greater health benefits in non-white populations.

Under TCI, fuel suppliers would be required to purchase carbon emissions allowances, the proceeds of which would go towards clean transportation programs. While this program was not implemented, it serves as a useful model for other climate mitigation policies. Specifically, researchers modeled changes in ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide between 2022 and 2032 associated with on-road transportation sector emissions under nine hypothetical CO2 emissions cap and investment scenarios proposed under TCI. They estimated potential health co-benefits for adverse birth, pediatric respiratory, and neurodevelopmental outcomes using BenMAPR, a health impact assessment platform that builds from the EPA's Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program.

"Health benefits assessments often overlook children's health outcomes. Yet we know that early exposure to air pollutants has multiple detrimental effects on children's health and well-being; and these are preventable," says co-author Frederica Perera, PhD, DrPH, professor of environmental health sciences and director of translational research at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health at Columbia Mailman.

Researchers also note the importance of strategic decarbonization efforts as the climate crisis escalates. "Ambitious carbon caps and policies that focus on vulnerable groups, including children, can both improve health outcomes and help mitigate the impacts of climate change," says first author Alique G. Berberian, MPH '19, PhD student and graduate student researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The researchers also note the importance of including health and environmental justice in climate policies. "Climate policies can have major effects not just on climate, but also on health and environmental justice. Our research shows the importance of including these other benefits of policies when evaluating climate policies," said senior author Jonathan Buonocore, ScD, assistant professor of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health. -ANI

SPORTS

Qurum Thunders lift D50 title



The inaugural Oman D50 cricket tournament saw Qurum Thunders defeat Ruwi Rangers in the final

MUSCAT: Qurum Thunders clinched the inaugural edition of Oman Cricket's Oman D50 tournament at the Oman Cricket Academy ground recently. In the final of the 14-day tournament that featured top five Premier Division teams, Qurum



Samay Shrivastava (left) receives player of the final award

Thunders defeated Ruwi Rangers by 31 runs to lift the trophy. Batting first, Qurum Thunders were restricted to 156/9 as Rangers' pacer Kaleemullah ran through the top-order to finish with four wickets. Shoaib Khan's 60 of 95 balls, and Samay Shrivastava's unbeaten 51 of 111 balls helped Thunders reach a challeng-

ing total. Besides Kaleemullah, Umair Shakeel and Mohammed Nadeem picked two wickets each. Rangers' chase was derailed by a splendid spin spell from Shrivastava as they were bundled out for 125. Khalid Kail's 78 (94 balls) was the only batter to provide a fight. Ayaan Khan and Afreidh KT picked two wickets each.



Mohammed Adeeb Usmani with the player of the tournament award

Thunders had finished second in the league stage behind Rangers. The tournament was played on a single round-robin format followed by Qualifiers and an Eliminator for the final. Thunders is co-owned by Khimji Ramdas and are also known as Muscat CT. The D50 event was a new con-

cept introduced by Oman Cricket this season and teams played under the names registered with D10 and D20 leagues. Speaking after the title win, Madhu Jesrani, Qurum Thunders director, said, "We did not have a great start this season with disappointments in D20 and D10 leagues as we failed to win any of

the titles. But as the season progressed, the boys improved and peaked at the right time during the D50. They showed character at crucial stages of the matches to clinch the prestigious crown in the inaugural edition." Jesrani lauded the performance of Samay Shrivastava in the final and congratulated each and every member involved with Muscat CT's success. Shrivastava was named the player of the final while Mohammed Adeeb Usmani of Renaissance was adjudged player of the tournament (348 runs and 5 wickets). Pankaj Khimji, OC chairman and Maqbool Moosa Al Lawati, OC board member, gave away the awards. **Brief scores:** Muscat CT 156/9 in 50 overs (Shoaib Khan 60 (95), Samay Shrivastava 51 (111); Kaleemullah 4/12) beat Ruwi Rangers 125 in 30 overs (Khalid Kail 78 (94); Samay Shrivastava 4/25).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER-FINALS DRAW

Holders Man City drawn against Real Madrid

LONDON: Defending champions Manchester City have been drawn against 14-time winners Real Madrid while Arsenal will play against Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals of the Champions League. The first legs take place April 9-10, with the second legs on April 16-17. The Gunners will host German side Bayern, who have England captain Harry Kane in their squad, at Emirates Stadium in the first leg. Meanwhile, this is the third successive season City, who won last year's title, have met Real in the knockout stages. Both City and Arsenal play their first-leg fixtures on April 9, with the Gunners at home to Bayern and Pep Guardiola's side at the Bernabeu. The return legs take place on April 17, with the two Premier League sides facing each other in the semi-finals if they win their respective ties. In the other ties, five-time winners Barcelona will play French champions Paris St-Germain, while Atletico Madrid, who are fourth in La Liga, host German opposition Borussia Dortmund. The semi-finals will be held on April 30 and May 1, with the second legs a week later on May 7-8. Wembley Stadium will host this

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER-FINALS		
ARSENAL	vs	BAYERN MUNICH
ATLETICO MADRID	vs	BORUSSIA DORTMUND
REAL MADRID	vs	MANCHESTER CITY
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN	vs	BARCELONA
QUARTER-FINALS 1ST LEGS: 9/10 APRIL 2ND LEGS: 16/17 APRIL		
SEMI-FINALS 1ST LEGS: 30 APRIL / 1 MAY 2ND LEGS: 7/8 MAY		
FINAL SATURDAY 1 JUNE		

year's final on Saturday, June 1. Arsenal reached the quarter-finals for the first time since 2010 by beating Porto in a tense penalty shootout at the Emirates on Tuesday. Kane moved to the Bundesliga champions from Tottenham last summer and the 30-year-old striker has scored 30 times in 25 league appearances this season. The Gunners lost their last tie with Bayern 10-2 on aggregate,

losing both legs of their last-16 meeting in the 2016-17 competition 5-1. They were also beaten 5-1 in the group stage of the previous season's competition, having won the home tie 2-0. Bayern will not be permitted to have their fans at the Emirates after fireworks were set off and thrown onto the pitch during their last-16 match against Lazio earlier this month. -Agencies

EUROPA LEAGUE QUARTER-FINALS DRAW

Liverpool to meet Atalanta, West Ham face Leverkusen

LONDON: Liverpool will play Atalanta in the quarter-finals of the Europa League with West Ham set to face Bayer Leverkusen. Italian rivals AC Milan and Roma meet for a place in the semi-finals, while Portuguese club Benfica take on Ligue 1 side Marseille. Meanwhile, Aston Villa have been drawn against Lille in the quarter-finals of the Conference League. The first legs take place on April 11, with the second legs on April 18. If Liverpool come through their tie, they will face either Benfica or Marseille in the semi-finals, with West Ham meeting AC Milan or Roma if they find a way past Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen. Liverpool still have the potential to pick up four trophies in Jurgen Klopp's final season in charge after they beat Czech club Sparta Prague 11-2 on aggregate in the last 16, winning 6-1 in the second leg at Anfield on Thursday. Atalanta and Liverpool have met on two previous occasions, with the Reds winning 5-0 in Italy and losing 2-0 at home during the group stage of the Champions

EUROPA LEAGUE QUARTER-FINALS		
MILAN	vs	ROMA
LIVERPOOL	vs	ATALANTA
BAYER LEVERKUSEN	vs	WEST HAM UNITED
BENFICA	vs	MARSEILLE
QUARTER-FINALS 1ST LEGS: 11 APRIL 2ND LEGS: 18 APRIL		
SEMI-FINALS 1ST LEGS: 2 MAY 2ND LEGS: 9 MAY		
FINAL WEDNESDAY 22 MAY		

League in 2020-21. The Italian club are sixth in Serie A and are yet to lose in the Europa League this season, winning five and drawing three. Klopp described the draw as "tricky". "We played there [in 2020] - not that I watched them since then 500 times, but it's still the same manager, pretty sure of a similar structure, so it means un-

comfortable to play against, very well organised," added Klopp. "It is a quarter-final - I didn't expect any easy opponent. I have a lot of respect for what Atalanta is doing in the last years, very consistent." The semi-finals are scheduled for May 2 and May 9. Dublin Arena in the Republic of Ireland hosts this season's final on May 22. -Agencies

INDIAN WELLS

Sakkari sets up summit clash against Swiatek

CALIFORNIA: Maria Sakkari beat US Open champion Coco Gauff in a rain-hit match to set up an Indian Wells final against world No.1 Iga Swiatek on Friday. Greece's Sakkari let a 5-2 second-set lead slip but regrouped to beat third seed Gauff 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2. Rain held up play in California in the middle of the first set and again at the start of the second. Poland's Swiatek needed just 65 minutes to beat Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk 6-2, 6-1. Sunday's final will be a rematch of the 2022 showpiece, which Swiatek won in straight sets. Swiatek is bidding for her second title of the year after winning the Qatar Open, while Sakkari is aiming for her first.



In the men's draw, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz plays Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner in the last four, followed by last year's runner-up Daniil Medvedev against home hope Tommy

Paul in the second semi-final. Alcaraz was stung on the side of the forehead when a swarm of bees descended on his Indian Wells quarter-final against Alexander Zverev.



Umpire Mohamed Lahyani was forced to suspend play in the third game as the bees invaded the court in California. The match was delayed for one hour and 40 minutes before de-

fending champion Alcaraz won 6-3 6-1. "For sure the most unusual match I have ever played in my career," Wimbledon champion Alcaraz said afterwards.

"I saw some bees around, but I thought it was just a few of them. But I saw the sky and there were thousands flying, stuck in my hair, going to me. It was crazy. I tried to stay away from them, but it was impossible. I'm a little bit afraid of them. I had to stay safe, and I was running everywhere." Sinner earlier extended his winning run to 19 by beating Czech player Jiri Lehecka 6-3, 6-3. Elsewhere, American 17th seed Tommy Paul held his nerve to beat Norwegian ninth seed Casper Ruud 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 and reach the last four of the California tournament for the first time. He will face Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev, who beat Danish seventh seed Holger Rune 7-5, 6-4. -Agencies

Experience essence of Ramadan at Grand Millennium Muscat

Immerse yourself in the spirit of Ramadan with its exquisitely prepared Iftar and Suhoor buffets, luxurious accommodations, and an array of exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Grand Millennium Muscat hotel welcomes guests seeking to celebrate the month of giving during the holy month of Ramadan. Immerse yourself in the spirit of Ramadan with its exquisitely prepared Iftar and Suhoor buffets, luxurious accommodations, and an array of exclusive benefits. As the sun sets, guests can partake in a traditional Iftar buffet at Taybat Restaurant, featuring a delightful array of hot and cold mezzeh, Omani shuwa, ouzi, aromatic oriental rice, live cooking stations, Arabic and continental sweets and much more to satisfy every taste. Priced at just OMR 20 NET per person, OMR 10 NET for children aged 6-12, and complimentary for children under 6 years

old, our Iftar buffet promises a de-lighttudul culinary experience. Enhancing the ambiance, guests can enjoy the soothing melodies of our oud player from 8:30pm to midnight, adding a touch of traditional music to the dining experience. For those seeking a midnight feast, our Suhoor buffet at the Mazaj Terrace awaits daily from 10:30pm to 2:30am, priced at OMR15 NET per person. Elevate your experience with the Ramadan staycation package, offering well-appointed rooms starting from OMR52 for a de-luxe room. Alongside comfortable accommodation, guests can relish a delectable Iftar buffet until 8:30pm and a Suhoor buffet from 10:30pm.



HOLY MONTH



Floward launches Ramadan campaign ‘Bundles of Blessings’

MUSCAT: In its ongoing commitment to social responsibility, Floward, the go-to online flowers and gifts delivery destination in MENA and UK, is announcing the launch of its new CSR initiative dubbed ‘Bundles of Blessings’, aimed at providing thousands of meals to those in need and encouraging people to donate their leftover food rather than discarding it during the holy month of Ramadan. As part of this initiative, Floward is collaborating with the Saudi Food Bank (Ita’am), the Qatar Red Crescent Society, and the Omani charity Atta Hifz Al Neama. Members of Floward’s team are volunteering to distribute the meals to those in need, right before the Maghrib prayer for an entire week. The distribution is taking place in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and is extending to several areas within Oman and Qatar. As for Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, Floward is collaborating with the “Fridges of Kuwait” initiative, aimed at ensuring that public refrigerators across Kuwait are always stocked with food to help those in need, by filling these fridges with meals across several areas in Kuwait. Similarly, Floward is collaborating with the UAE Food Bank, where four fridges are being installed across different areas in Dubai and Sharjah and supplied with meal packages. These fridges will be available until the end of the year, therefore, Floward is inviting everyone not to throw away their excess food and donate it to those in need instead. By providing nutritious meals, the company is hoping to lessen

some of the burdens on families and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. Floward Chairman and CEO, Abdulaziz B. Al Loughani, said: “We would like to extend our congratulations to everybody on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, we hope that you all have a blessed month. At Floward, we hold social responsibility at the core of our values and consider it our duty to help those in need and to actively participate in the betterment of our community. Our initiative for Ramadan this year is designed to provide support to the less fortunate and to promote awareness about the significance of minimising food waste throughout this sacred month. We are hoping to inspire everyone to join in the spirit of giving and making a positive impact in our communities.” Additionally, the company launched its Ramadan marketing campaign under the name “Works Like Magic” highlighting the company’s wide range of gift offerings that are befitting of all tastes. It aims to inspire people to exchange gifts and heartfelt gestures during the holy month, thus strengthening the bonds of love and gratitude within individuals. Established in 2017, Floward is a full-fledged e-commerce solution that offers prime fresh-cut flowers sourced from the best growers and farmers around the world and arranged locally by a team of florists and designers. Floward also offers cakes, chocolate and perfumes curated by the region’s most exciting designers bundled with its flower arrangements and manage last-mile same-day delivery to ensure the best customer experience.

ONE-OF-A-KIND SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Bank Muscat Shukran Visa Prepaid Card: Earn Shukran points on every spend

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, launched its Bank Muscat Shukran Visa Prepaid Card in partnership with Landmark Group and Visa. The card was developed to provide customers with a one-of-a-kind shopping experience by offering a variety of benefits, including discounts from partner stores and other rewards such as OMR 15 worth of gift vouchers, discounts on flights, hotels and cinema. The Bank Muscat Shukran Visa Prepaid card is secure reloadable card intended for everyday use when shopping in stores and online. Bank Muscat is keen to expand its services and products to satisfy customers’ expectations by adopting innovation and tailoring benefits to fit their specific needs. **Earn points on every purchase** Customers will earn 1 Shukran Point



for every OMR 1 spent at Landmark Stores and 1 Shukran Point for every OMR 2 spent outside Landmark Group chain of stores. The total points accumulated through the prepaid card spends is added to the Shukran points gained from their Shukran membership. Points can be redeemed across

Landmark Group stores in Oman, the GCC, Egypt and online on more than 15 brands across Fashion, Home, Electronics, Hospitality and Leisure, at Landmark Group stores such as Centrepont, Babyshop, Splash, SHOEMART, Lifestyle, Max, Shoexpress, Home Centre, Home Box and Emax.

Easy application and management The Bank Muscat Mobile Banking app and Internet Banking services offers simple and convenient application and management of the prepaid card, customers can utilise the online services to top up the card, check available balance, view transaction history and block the card if it is lost or stolen. The prepaid card is linked to the cardholder’s Shukran membership, allowing them to earn and redeem Shukran points in stores and online. Customers who do not already have a Shukran membership will have it automatically generated during the card application. In line with its vision “To Serve You Better, Everyday”, the Bank has launched recently its complimentary courier delivery service for prepaid cards. Customers no longer have to visit the branch to pick up the card.

MOMENTOUS OCCASION

Indian School Sur celebrates Kindergarten Graduation Day



MUSCAT: Indian School Sur celebrated a momentous occasion on March 7, as it joyfully bid farewell to its UKG students from the academic year 2023-2024 during the Kindergarten Graduation Day celebration. This ceremony, brimming with joy, pride, and nostalgia, marked the conclusion of a pivotal chapter in the lives of these young learners. The Chief Guest, Yusra Al Khilani, President of the Omani Women Association Sur, and the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Intisar, Service Manager at Bank Muscat, Sur, along with School Management President Jami Srinivas Rao, Nishreen Basheer, Member of SMC, and Principal Dr S Srinivasan

graced the occasion, inspiring the young graduates with their words of wisdom and encouragement. Yusra Al Khilani extended heartfelt congratulations to the young graduates, highlighting the invaluable role children play in a community. She urged everyone present to cherish and embrace these young minds, emphasizing their importance to society. Principal Dr. S. Srinivasan commended the teachers for their dedication in nurturing the students, and congratulated the graduates, offering sincere wishes for a bright future. He emphasized the transformative impact of quality education in fostering growth and excellence.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome speech by Nivedha of UKG B, followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and wisdom. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm as LKG students performed the popular “Baby Shark” action song, showcasing their energy. Nusrath Shoukath, KG & Primary in charge, delivered an inspiring address, stressing the importance of laying a strong foundation for the students’ academic journey. The entertainment continued with captivating performances, including a mash-up dance by UKG students and action songs by LKG and UKG students. Emotions

ran high during the graduation ceremony for UKG A, as parents witnessed their children receive certificates and accolades. A special moment honored Yusra Al Khilani for her exemplary contribution to society, followed by a captivating dance performance by Class 2, welcoming the students to their next academic phase. In closing, Aayda Shamshad Khan of UKG A delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all individuals who contributed to the success of the event. The Kindergarten Graduation Day at Indian School Sur was a memorable affair, filled with pride, nostalgia, and a promise of bright futures ahead.



mai alkaline
pH 9.1 to 9.5
Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222
9275 5522

CS No. 159452

ROUND-UP

Indulge in the spirit of Ramadan with Al Araithi Boulevard Mall

The mall has introduced several new brands and restaurants making it a preferred destination for everyone



MUSCAT: Al Araithi Boulevard Mall, a premier shopping destination, announced the grand opening of several new stores and restaurants that promise to enhance the shopping experience for all visitors. With a diverse range of offerings, these additions further solidify the mall's position as a must-visit destination for shoppers of all tastes and preferences.

The new openings include
Buckets & Buckets: The first and only restaurant in Oman dedicated to Seafood Buckets only. They bring a mix of the East and the West to you through their self-designed flavours and locally sourced ingredients. A concept brought to Muscat to provide a unique casual dining experience that combines fun and food.

Panda Wok: Oman's first authentic Chinese restaurant, exploring savoury dim sum to mouth-watering Sichuan specialties and aromatic noodles, customers can expect an array of bold flavours, vibrant colours and exquisite presentation with every bite.

Paris Boutique: Offering the latest in exquisite jewellery and accessories, the store is located on the ground floor and is set to become a favourite among fashionista women seeking stylish and trendy jewellery. Shoppers can expect a wide selection of collections.

Salman Stores: A popular brand among the community and a must-visit store offering 30 – 80% discount on houseware and kitchenware items. The store also has a huge collection of watches, luggage, sewing machines, Shoes, Bags, Eyewear, Fashion and Silver Jewellery, Perfumes and Cosmetics to choose from. The store is located on the ground floor.

Baskin Robbins: Satisfy your sweet cravings at Baskin Robbins. Dive into a world of delectable ice cream flavours, from classic to modern flavours. Come, celebrate and savour the ultimate ice cream experience. The store is located on the ground floor.

Swiss Style: A haven for wedding gowns. Located on the first

floor, you can find Swiss Style, a boutique that specializes in exquisite dresses and wedding gowns. Discover a unique blend of contemporary and traditional styles exploring their range of elegant and sophisticated garments.

Fashion City: Elevate your style with the launch of Fashion City on the ground floor. Explore a wide range of trendy outfits that suit all occasions. Specialist in women's wear it will redefine your fashion game with the latest trends.

Paris Beauty: Unveil your natural beauty at the Paris beauty kiosk. Experience quick and rejuvenating skincare solutions on the go. Located on the ground floor, this kiosk is a shortcut to women's care.

These exciting new additions join an already impressive lineup of stores within the mall, creating a shopping experience that is second to none. Shoppers will find a diverse range of options, ensuring that there is something for everyone to enjoy.

"We are excited to welcome

these new stores and Restaurants to the Mall," said Shakir Dadarkar, Head of Marketing. "With their unique offerings, we aim to provide our customers with an even more diverse and enjoyable shopping experience. We believe that these new stores and restaurants will become instant favourites for our visitors. Our new leasing options in the mall offer exciting opportunities for brands to thrive in a dynamic retail environment. With prime locations and tailored spaces, we are inviting businesses to elevate their presence and engage with our diverse consumer base".

Other than these stores, there are several other international and local brands which are scheduled to be opened in a couple of months and it will be announced on their social media platforms and through different media channels.

Al Araithi Boulevard has a stunning fountain area surrounded by some Multicuisine restaurants making it a perfect venue for Iftaar gatherings. All the restaurants in the mall are offering a luxurious buffet, inviting customers to experience and unforgettable culinary.



KIMSHEALTH launches Muscat Fitness Challenge

MUSCAT: KIMSHEALTH Oman Hospital, Darsait announces the commencement of the second season of the Muscat Fitness Challenge, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health.

This 40-day fitness challenge aims to underscore the significance of maintaining fitness and raise awareness among Oman's residents regarding the health risks associated with obesity. It also endeavors to inspire young individuals to adopt healthier lifestyle choices.

Registration for the challenge will be open from March 10 to April 10. The event will officially commence on April 15 and conclude on May 25.

We anticipate the participation of over 100 individuals from diverse backgrounds and nationalities. Corporate participation is encouraged, with a maximum of ten participants per group.

During registration, medical checkups and histories will be conducted to ensure participants meet the eligibility criteria for the event and are in good health. Participants may register individually or under corporate affiliations, with the age group ranging from 22 to 45 years.

Interested individuals can visit the Muscat Fitness Challenge Registration kiosk at KIMSHEALTH Oman Hospital, Darsait, to undergo medical assessments. Registration is limited to 100 individual participants,

with a nominal fee of 25 OMR to foster commitment and dedication among participants.

Oman Oasis and Geepas (Royalford) will serve as the official hydration partner throughout the challenge, ensuring participants remain hydrated and active. Sapil Perfumes, the fragrance partner, will provide perfumes and fragrances to positively influence participants' moods.

The challenge will feature a diverse array of indoor and outdoor activities, including yoga sessions, hiking, Zumba, and exclusive sound meditation therapy conducted by Certified Sound Meditation Therapist Suneinah Joseph. "4U Gym" and "Biggest Gym" will serve as fitness partners, providing gym facilities to participants.

Motivational health talk sessions will be conducted during the event periodically by:

Dr. Amira Al Raidan-Supervisor for drug awareness and training at the Prevention committee of the National committee for Narcotics and Psychotropic substances, Ministry of Health

Dr. Shashiraj Eswarappa - Consultant Internal Medicine & Medical Director at KIMSHEALTH Hospital, Oman

Ms. Jishy Seby - Dietician, KIMSHEALTH Hospital, Oman

Dr. Munnu Zain Muneer - Family Medicine Doctor, KIMSHEALTH Hospital, Oman
Physical trainers

RAMADAN

Embark on sensory adventure: Kempinski Hotel Muscat presents exquisite Ramadan Iftar, a culinary voyage to Arab world

MUSCAT: Kempinski Hotel Muscat announced its exquisite culinary programme for Ramadan promising a month filled with unforgettable dining experiences and cultural delights.

From themed nights at The Kitchen Restaurant to Ramadan Tales at Zale, authentic Indian iftar at Bukhara, and lavish group iftars, Kempinski Hotel Muscat is set to be the ultimate destination for Ramadan celebrations in Muscat.

This year's Ramadan experience at The Kitchen Restaurant is unlike any other, as guests embark on a journey to Arab countries to immerse themselves in the rich traditions and vibrant celebrations of this holy month for an unforgettable experience, where the spirit of unity, hospitality and tradition come together to create lifetime memories. As our guests indulge in the culinary delights and cultural treasures of Gulf countries, North Africa, The Levant & Turkey, they will discover with us the true essence of Ramadan, a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration shared with loved ones across borders and cultures.

Themed Nights at The Kitchen Restaurant
Embark on a culinary journey like no other with themed nights at The Kitchen restaurant, featuring a lineup of renowned chefs and unique dining experiences:

Celebrity Chef Joe Barza: Exclusive dining experience curated by the culinary maestro himself, Chef Joe Barza as he returns to us from March 11-17 with live cooking stations and culinary wonders from the Levant.

Levant Tales by Chef Julien El Khal: Join us in celebrating the spirit of Ramadan with Chef Julien El Khal as we gather to break to fast with a culinary experience that honours the vibrant culture and heritage of the Levant. From the crisp tang of fresh herbs to the comforting warmth of slow-cooked meats, each dish is a masterpiece crafted with care and tradition.

Bosphorus Nights with Chef Onder: Embark on a sensory journey through the flavours of



Turkey this Ramadan. Immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of Turkish cuisine as you indulge in a feast of tantalising aromas and rich flavours. Let the ambiance of our beautifully adorned dining space transport you to the bustling streets of Istanbul, where every dish tells you a story of tradition and culinary artistry.

Khaleej Gems: Step into a realm of opulence and warmth as you enter our khaleeji-inspired Ramadan Iftar celebration. Feel the vibrant ambience envelop you, with the gentle scent of oud lingering in the air, and the soft glow of lanterns casting a warm, inviting

light. Experience the richness of khaleeji culture as you immerse yourself in the sounds of traditional music, the sight of intricately decorated surroundings, and the taste of authentic flavors that transport you to the heart of the gulf.

From Marrakech to Cairo: Experience the captivating blend of Moroccan & Egyptian cuisine this Ramadan at our mesmerizing iftar celebration. Step into our elegantly adorned dining space, where the tantalizing scents of Moroccan spices and Egyptian aromatics linger in the air, inviting you on a sensory journey. From sa-



very Moroccan tagines to fragrant Egyptian Koshary, each dish is a celebration of the rich flavors and traditions of the region.

Ramadan Tales at Zale
Experience the magic of Ramadan with an exclusive Suhoor served at Zale Club & Lounge, where traditional storytelling meets modern dining for a truly enchanting experience. Oud Player Shadi Tawbi will accompany your evenings

with a Live Saj Station.

Authentic Indian Iftar at Bukhara
Savour the authentic flavours of India with a special iftar menu at Bukhara, featuring a selection of traditional Indian dishes prepared with the finest ingredients and spices.

Catering by Kempinski
For those looking to host a memorable Ramadan gathering at home

or at a special venue, Kempinski Hotel Muscat offers catering services that bring the hotel's exceptional culinary expertise to your doorstep.

Lavish group Iftar
Gather your loved ones and colleagues for a lavish group iftar experience at Kempinski Hotel Muscat, where impeccable service, exquisite cuisine, and a warm ambience await.



TOYOTA'S BIGGEST excitement

GRAND RAFFLE*
5 TOYOTA
CROWN



SERVICE*

FROM
3 YEARS / **30,000** KMS
(whichever is earlier)

UP TO
10 YEARS / **100,000** KMS
(whichever is earlier)

INSURANCE*

1 YEAR

**FREE
REGISTRATION***



Installment Starting From
RO 86*



Installment Starting From
RO 207*



Installment Starting From
RO 70*



Installment Starting From
RO 98*

CLICK



*Conditions Apply



Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED C.R NO:1703412



Facebook.com/toyotaoman



@toyotaomanofficial



Youtube.com/toyotaoman



www.toyotaoman.com

CR 1056286

THIS RAMADAN, AN OFFER LIKE NEVER BEFORE IN JEBEL SIFAH!

PAYMENT PLAN UPTO

6 YEARS



STARTING AT OMR 50,000

10% DOWNPAYMENT | GOLF VIEWS

T&C APPLY*



by ORASCOM
DEVELOPMENT



CALL NOW:

800 45555



LIGHT UP WITH GEELY

Ramadan deals that bring us together



EMGRAND
\$EMI
starting from
68 R.O.



COOLRAY
\$EMI
starting from
86 R.O.



AZKARRA
\$EMI
starting from
106 R.O.



OKAVANGO
\$EMI
starting from
104 R.O.

***Free Insurance**

#Manufacturer
Warranty
5 Yrs/150,000 kms

****Service**
From 3 Yrs/30,000 kms
Upto 5 Yrs/50,000 kms
(Whichever comes earlier)

\$Free AAA
Roadside Assistance
for 3 Yrs

*****Free Registration**

**##Walk-in
& Win**
Apple AirPods
Fuel Card
LULU Voucher



Offer valid from Feb 27th till Apr 26th 2024. *Free insurance applicable to all variants of Okavango only. **Service 3 Yrs/30,000 kms (whichever is earlier) applicable on Azkarra Signature 2WD & 5 Yrs/50,000 kms (whichever is earlier) applicable on Azkarra Platinum 4WD. ***Free registration for 1 Yr is available for all variants of Azkarra. #Manufacturer warranty of 5 Yrs/150,000 kms (whichever comes earlier) applicable for all models. AAA Roadside assistance for 3 Yrs applicable on all models from the date of purchase. **Additionally, customers have a chance to participate in the Walk-in & Win and win prizes including One set of Apple AirPods, two Fuel Cards (50 OMR each) and ten Lulu Vouchers (10 OMR each), winners will be raffled and announced post campaign. \$The EMI mentioned refers to base models and requires the cash gift utilized or an equivalent amount paid as down payment. These rates are calculated based on a 5.25% reducing balance interest rate from Bank Muscat over a tenure of 8 Yrs, loan approval is subject to Bank Muscat's terms and conditions and approval process. This offer is exclusive to private vehicle purchases and does not apply to fleet, Ministry, Taxi, Rental, or commercial registration. Terms and Conditions apply. Visit your nearest Geely showroom for full details.



LET STRENGTH

SHINE THROUGH



RAM 1500 RANGE

**PAY 50% NOW & 50% IN 12 MONTHS
WITH 0% INTEREST**

5 YEARS / 100,000 KMS FREE SERVICE

5 YEARS / 100,000 KMS WARRANTY

5 YEARS / 100,000 KMS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

FREE FIRST YEAR INSURANCE & REGISTRATION

WALK-IN & WIN AN IPHONE



RAM

Vehicle image shown is for illustrative purposes only and accessories shown might not be part of the standard model. ©2024 FCA US LLC. All Rights Reserved. RAM is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.



Offer valid from 4th March to 3rd May 2024 on RAM vehicles purchased at the Mohsin Haider Darwish Automobiles LLC dealership by retail customers for personal use only. 0% Interest for 12 Months - Subject to 50% down payment and balance 50% through finance for 12 months loan tenure. Subject to credit approval from selected bank & finance company. 5 Years / 100,000Kms Free Service - Whichever comes earlier. 5 Years / 100,000Kms Warranty - Whichever comes earlier. 5 Years / 100,000Kms Roadside Assistance - Whichever comes earlier. 1st Year Free Insurance for Oman and UAE only. Walk-in & Win iPhone 14 - Customers who walk into the MHD Automobiles Showroom in Al Hail during the promotion period are eligible to enter the raffle draw to win an iPhone 14. 2 Winners will be randomly selected on 5th May 2024 and contacted directly.



mhdramtrucksoman

Toll Free – 800 22 008

WWW.RAM.COM/OM

CR.No. 1429946