



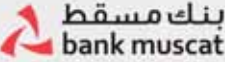
HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT OF NAMIBIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President-elect Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the Republic of Namibia on the occasion of winning the presidential elections of her country. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to the President-elect in leading the people of her country towards the realization of further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



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MECHANISM TO SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF STATE INSTITUTIONS DISCUSSED



The Council of Ministers and the State Council held a joint meeting in pursuance of measures for supporting ongoing cooperation among all institutions

MUSCAT: The Council of Ministers and the State Council yesterday held a joint meeting at the premises of the Council of Ministers in Muscat.

HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmood Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, and some members of the Council of Ministers received Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, and members of the State Council's Office.

The meeting took place within the context of joint coordination between the Council of Ministers and the Council of Oman, as

stipulated in the Basic Law of the State and the Law of the Council of Oman. It was held in pursuance of measures for supporting ongoing cooperation among all institutions in a manner that leads to the realisation of the public interest.

At the outset of the meeting, HH Sayyid Fahd affirmed that the institutions of State operate in an integrated trend to implement economic and social plans and programmes, and contribute to Oman's comprehensive development.

HH Sayyid Fahd explained that, in appreciation of the constructive role played by the State Council, the Council of Ministers

is keen to keep the State Council regularly updated about the efforts made by the government in implementing the State's general policies, improving performance and introducing modernisation in all areas and sectors.

HH Sayyid Fahd added that the Council of Ministers values the State Council's national expertise and experts who, he said, contribute to the preparation of studies that serve the public interest.

For their part, the State Council Chairman and members of the State Council Office commended the pace of constructive cooperation between the government and the Council. They stressed that the forthcoming stage will see more joint coordination with the Council of Ministers towards attaining the desired goals.

The two sides discussed mechanisms for supporting integration among state institutions, activating the role of the State Council in developing purposeful community awareness and the need to exert more efforts to safeguard the country's accomplishments. — **ONA**

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT



Honourable Lady and Spouse of Egyptian President visit ROHM

MUSCAT: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, accompanied by Intisar el Sisi, Spouse of the Egyptian President yesterday visited the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM).

HH The Honourable Lady and Spouse of the Egyptian President viewed ROHM's building which is considered an Omani civilizational and artistic edifice. It is also considered an architectural

masterpiece that is inspired by the Omani architectural heritage.

During the visit, they were briefed on the House's programmes and objectives that aim to communicate with the peoples of the world through music. They also visited the House of Musical Arts and viewed the exhibits in the Exhibition of Musical Arts "Oman and the World". The exhibition includes different artistic artefacts, musical instruments, costumes of participants in operas and the mu-

sical library which comprises rare books and manuscripts.

It is worth noting that ROHM during the upcoming 2025 season will host a special festival celebrating the prominent 20th-century Egyptian singer, actor, and composer Mohamed Abdul Wahab and highlighting milestones from his life and artistic works. This event is part of a series of programmes prepared by the House to celebrate Egyptian art and musical icons. — **ONA**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Sayyid Fahd receives Opec delegation

1 HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received yesterday Haitham Faisal Al Ghais, Secretary General of the Opec and his accompanying delegation. **>A3**

OMAN OQ signs seven key investment pacts

2 OQ Group signed seven investment pacts with local and international companies, securing a total of OMR25.5 million for industrial projects. **>A6**

WORLD Syrian President has fled country: Rebels



3 Amid a rebel offensive, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad has flown out of Damascus for an unknown destination on Sunday. Syrian rebel groups said they have entered the capital, Damascus, in the early hours yesterday. **>A7**

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERALS

Ministerial decision issued to establish Oman Net Zero Centre

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals issued Ministerial Decision No. (35/2024) establishing the Oman Net Zero Centre.

The move aims to support the Sultanate of Oman's efforts in achieving its goals of reaching zero neutrality by 2050, by developing updated strategies, monitoring the implementation of zero neutrality projects, including energy efficiency projects, and providing technical support to government and private agencies.

In this context Eng. Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals stated, "The decision to establish the Oman Net Zero Centre comes in implementation of the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to establish the centre to undertake the task of supervising and following up on zero neutrality plans and

programmes. This will actively contribute to energy efficiency and support relevant entities to reach zero neutrality by 2050.

The Centre will undertake a crucial role in expediting the implementation of net-zero initiatives and supporting all sectors in achieving their objectives, as outlined in the National Net-Zero Strategy. This will be accomplished through collaboration with both government and private entities. The Centre will also serve as a pivotal tool in ensuring the realisation of Oman's vision for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Centre will actively contribute to defining and refining Oman's net-zero strategy, collaborating with relevant authorities to ensure alignment with national objectives. It will also oversee the monitoring and implementation of net-zero



projects, while spearheading public awareness campaigns and bolstering national capacities in this critical domain. These efforts will ensure the realisation of Oman's net-zero objectives and its broader sustainability goals.

The Centre will adopt the necessary executive programmes and plans to achieve the goals across

various sectors, in addition to following up on the implementation of projects and initiatives that support this transformation, addressing the challenges they may face, and submitting the necessary periodic reports.

The Centre will also be responsible for developing and updating the national plan for enhancing



energy consumption efficiency, monitoring its implementation across various sectors, evaluating energy consumption levels in approved projects, and proposing necessary improvements in coordination with relevant authorities.

As part of its responsibilities, the Centre will work to provide technical support and advice to

various entities to reduce carbon emissions and raise energy use efficiency. It will also focus on adopting and transferring the latest international practices and technologies to the Sultanate of Oman, while supporting scientific research, innovation, and developing national capabilities.

Furthermore, the Centre will manage requests for carbon, hydrogen, and low-carbon product certifications.

This includes reviewing and auditing applications, and ultimately issuing certificates in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and the Environment Authority. The Centre will also oversee the registration and approval of requests for carbon certificate trading at the domestic level, ensuring alignment with international carbon credit frameworks. — **ONA**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:04pm
Asr.....3:06pm
Maghrib.....5:26pm
Isha.....6:41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:18am

MEETING

MEMORISE HOLY QURAN

Royal Office Minister receives UK military official

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office here on Sunday Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, Chief of UK Air Staff and his accompanying military delegation.

Cooperation
Gen. Al Nu'mani welcomed the British guest, who expressed his



appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman's efforts in promoting cooperation to achieve the two countries' common interests.

The two sides exchanged views on several topics of common interest. The meeting was attended by the UK Ambassador to Oman.

SAF Chief of Staff
Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison today Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, Chief of UK Air Staff and his accompanying military delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several military topics of common interest.

-ONA

Winners of Holy Quran competition announced



MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science yesterday announced in a press conference the names of winners of Sultan Qaboos Holy Quran Competition (32nd edition).

The first winners in each category were announced as follows: Younis Abdullah Al Majfrifi in Level 1 for memorizing the entire Holy Quran; Ibrahim Said Al Sawafi in Level 2 for memorizing 24 consecutive parts of the Holy Quran; Mohammed Khalfan Al Ghuzaili in Level 3 for memorising 18 consecutive parts; Maisam Ahmed Al Habsi in Level 4 for memorising 12 consecutive parts; Jinan Yaqoub Al Shabibi in Level 5 for memorizing 6 consecutive parts; Said Salim Al Wahaibi in Level 6 for memorizing 4 consecutive parts and Wid Khalid Al Maamari in Level 7 for memorizing 2 consecutive parts.

The competition is aimed at encouraging Omanis to memorise the Holy Quran and pursue the guidance of its teachings, in addition to enhancing the presence of Oman in international Qur'anic contests. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

Attention seekers



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Last week, while I was in a supermarket, a small boy ran and skidded on the floor between shelves and knocked down a few things on the floor.

His parents slapped him and apologized to the staff. What they did not know was that their child only wanted an attention. Obviously they were neglecting him at home and he found the supermarket a perfect place to attract their attention. I am afraid that habit never outgrew us as we grow older. We all need attention from people around us and it does not matter how old we get.

A month ago, I was invited to a ceremony by high-powered government officials and the private sector's business leaders. Their actions and mannerism spoke volumes. They all had something in common. Just like that boy in

the supermarket, they demanded attention but in a different way. It was all about "exposure" as one of them put it. They were competing with each other by wits, quick answers or elaborate pauses when they took photos. I could not help thinking that no matter what responsibility they have or money they collect every month as salary, they are all just kids deep inside.

They would have been forgiven if at least they have gathered there for a good cause instead of given themselves awards. I mentally calculated the net worth of their business operations. The combined wealth they control is over \$10 billion. It means people in that room, not more than 30, can make a big difference to Oman's poor families. Yet they contribute very little to the society. The same society that makes them rich or give them responsible positions to look after under privileged people. I also watched them clapped for each other when each received an award. In the end, as if it was not enough, they patted each other on the backs to congratulate one another.

In a way, they needed an attention when they think they cannot get it from the public. When you come to think of it, they all are perched in their high offices most of the week completely isolated from the rest. In a broader sense, we all thrive for a recognition no mat-

ter where we are or what we do. If we don't get it then we go to a greater length to achieve it. But we all forget the real objective of life. The essence, though it is easy said than done, is not self-centeredness but that unselfish act towards other people. I remember, when I was growing up, a man who lived a few houses away from our home had a small verandah in front of his house. Every afternoon he would sit there and waited for people. He had coffee, fruits and sweets on a big tray on the table. People just stopped over and helped themselves. Some they sat and chatted with him while others just picked something and continued walking.

You may argue that he might have been a lonely man who was seeking attention. But then, if you flip the coin and look the other side of the argument, he was simply doing all that for unselfish reason, just to put a smile on people's faces. People never thought much of it until one day when he did not turn up at his verandah. They found him dead in kitchen while he was preparing for another afternoon to host the street people. Since then, that road was never the same. His death took the heart away from the neighbourhood. There are such examples in every walk of light but the meaning is the same. We are all seeking attention but the method we use are different.

MUSCAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

'Full Scale Shield Exercise 2024'

MUSCAT: The national exercise titled "Full Scale Shield 2024" began at Muscat International Airport. The exercise is being conducted with the participation of military and security departments, units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and civil aviation sector companies.

The exercise seeks to enhance coordination and integration among the parties concerned to help deal with security challenges and air safety requirements at Muscat International Airport. It also seeks to measure the level

of readiness and response in line with the international obligations of the civil aviation sector. All necessary preparations have been made to ensure that airport operations, aircraft traffic and passengers remain constant during the exercise. — **ONA**

MEETING



Sayyid Fahd receives Opec Secretary General

Muscat: HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received yesterday Haitham Faisal Al Ghais, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, HH Sayyid Fahd affirmed that Oman appreciates the great role of Opec in coordinating and unifying the petroleum policies of the member states and determining the best ways to protect their interests.

He pointed to Oman's continuous

cooperation with the organization to ensure the success of its efforts to achieve stability in the global oil markets, as Oman contributed effectively to the establishment of the joint alliance between the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its non-member states (Opec Plus) since 2016.

The meeting reviewed aspects of cooperation between Oman's government and Opec and the efforts made to ensure a balance in energy supplies to serve the global economy, as well as coming up with appropriate means to protect the interests of the organisation.

The Secretary General of Opec stressed that the Sultanate of Oman, under its wise leadership, contributes to supporting Opec's efforts, as it actively participates in the organisation's meetings as an observer, and works to coordinate policies related to oil markets, lauding the achievements made by the Sultanate of Oman in many fields.

The Secretary General of Opec underscored the importance of this visit, which aims at discussing means of supporting goals of the organisation.

The meeting was attended by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Afi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. — **ONA**



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IN PICTURES

Council of Ministers, State Council hold joint meeting



GLOBAL BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Crafting excellence: Redefining Omani fit-outs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In the world of high-end design and construction, a leading Omani company is carving a distinct niche as a premier fit-out company with ambitions that extend far beyond the Sultanate.

Global Building and Construction LLC (GBC) has embraced the "Made in Oman" philosophy, and has earned accolades for delivering bespoke, luxurious interiors that celebrate Omani craftsmanship while enhancing global design sensibilities.

In an exclusive interview to *Times of Oman* recently, Devang Soni, partner at GBC, shared insights into the company's achievements, including their crowning jewel - the fine-dining Em Sherif restaurant at The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat - and their vision to expand across the GCC region.

'A prestigious milestone'

One of GBC's standout projects is the recently completed Em Sherif restaurant, a globally celebrated Lebanese fine-dining brand with origins in Beirut. Known for its mastery of Lebanese cuisine, Em Sherif has over 25 branches worldwide, but its Muscat location at The St. Regis Al Mouj is particularly special.

"This was a prestigious project for us," Soni said. "To execute the first branch in Oman was not only a challenge but also a source of immense pride. The fact that an Omani company delivered this speaks volumes about our capabilities."

The restaurant, designed by renowned architect Ramy Boutros,



captures the essence of Lebanese culture with Mediterranean influences. Its iconic blue-and-white palette, intricate Mashrabiya

screens, and luxurious interiors create a space that is both sophisticated and culturally resonant.

"Em Sherif is a design masterpiece," Soni said with a sense of pride. "It's a blend of elegance and tradition, and the feedback we've received has been phenomenal. The restaurant has become a social media sensation, and we're thrilled to see how it resonates with the community."

Other landmark projects

Beyond Em Sherif, GBC's expertise spans a variety of sectors. The company has delivered exclusive fit-outs for luxury hotels, bespoke villas, and commercial spaces, often collaborating with international architects and designers. "We've worked on projects that

demand precision, creativity, and a deep understanding of cultural nuances," Soni said.

"This is what sets us apart - we don't just build spaces; we create experiences."

Driving innovation and sustainability

A key pillar of GBC's philosophy is sustainability. The company integrates eco-friendly practices into its projects, using sustainable materials and advanced construction technologies such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) and 3D printing.

"Sustainability is not just a trend; it's a responsibility," Soni emphasised.

"We aim to lead by example, ensuring that our projects are not

only aesthetically pleasing but also environmentally conscious."

Commitment to local talent and community

As part of their dedication to Oman, GBC actively invests in training and employing local talent. "We believe in empowering Omani youth," Soni said.

"By providing them with opportunities to work on world-class projects, we're helping shape the future of Oman's interior fit-out, joinery and design industry."

The company also engages in community initiatives, contributing to public spaces and cultural projects that celebrate Oman's heritage.

With a proven track record of success and a clear vision for the future, GBC is poised to be-

come a leading name in the fit-out industry across Oman.

'Made in Oman'

"The successful delivery of Em Sherif proves the might of Oman," Soni said. "With more developments on the horizon, we're confident that the 'Made in Oman' movement will soon become the talk of the region, and GBC will be at the forefront of this transformation."

As Oman continues to emerge as a hub of creativity and innovation, companies like GBC are leading the charge, showcasing the unique blend of tradition and modernity that defines Omani excellence. Whether through stunning interiors or sustainable practices, GBC is not just building spaces - they're building a legacy.



NBO MONEY MARKET FUND

OPEN-ENDED INVESTMENT FUND



OFFER NOTICE

This advertisement is a summary of the prospectus of NBO Money Market Fund ("Prospectus") approved by the Financial Services Authority of Oman ("FSA") vide its Administrative Decision No. **Kh/70/2024** dated **03/12/2024**. NBO Money Market Fund (the "**Fund**") is an open-ended investment fund established by National Bank of Oman SAOG ("**NBO**") registered in the Sultanate of Oman as a specialized bank and licensed as an Investment Fund Manager in accordance with the regulations of the FSA. Terms used but not defined in this advertisement shall have the meaning given to them in the Prospectus.

This advertisement summary should not be relied on for making an investment decision and is not intended to be a substitute for reading the whole Prospectus. Each investor should read the Prospectus and Articles of Association of the Fund in full before making their investment decision. This advertisement summary has been extracted from the unofficial translation of the Prospectus prepared in Arabic and approved by the FSA.

FUND PARTICULARS

Fund Name	NBO Money Market Fund
Fund Sponsor	The Fund is sponsored by NBO. NBO will subscribe for 5% of the capital of the Fund which it will, in accordance with the FSA Regulations, neither sell nor redeem for at least three years from the date of closure of the Initial Subscription Period.
Fund Address	NBO Money Market Fund National Bank of Oman SAOG Investment Banking Division P.O. Box 751, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman
Fund Objectives	The primary objective of the Fund is to generate returns with preservation of capital and daily liquidity, through investment in liquid, low-risk fixed income investments mainly comprising money market instruments issued by Omani, regional and international banks, governments and government-related entities (GREs), and other entities.
Term	Open-ended
Fund Structure	Open-ended fund investing in (i) fixed income investments including mainly money market instruments and (ii) bank deposits and call accounts.
Subscription Start Date	16 December 2024
Subscription Closing Date	30 December 2024
Fund's Financial Year	From 1st January until 31st December of each year, first year will commence from the end of the Initial Subscription Period until 31st of December of the next year.
Fund Currency	Rial Omani
Fund Capital	Minimum: 2,000,000 Rials Omani (two million Rials Omani)
Custodian / Fund Administrator	Gulf Custody Company SAOC
Issue Manager	National Bank of Oman SAOG
Investment Manager	National Bank of Oman SAOG
Legal Advisors	Al Busaidy, Mansoor Jamal & Co.
Collecting Bank(s) / Agent(s)	National Bank of Oman SAOG, Ubhar Capital SAOC, Horizons Capital Markets SAOC
Initial Subscription Price	1,000 Rial Omani
Initial Subscription Period	16 December 2024 to 30 December 2024
Minimum Subscription for Initial Issue	The minimum Initial Subscription shall be 500 Units per Subscriber and thereafter in multiples of 100 Units.
Maximum Subscription	No Maximum Limit
Redemption of Units	Unitholders who subscribe in the Initial Subscription Period shall not redeem, sell, transfer or dispose their Units in any form for a period of three months following the date on which the Fund is registered in the register of investment funds maintained by the FSA. After this three-month period, or the date the Fund has published its first NAV, whichever is later, each Unitholder shall have the right to redeem or transfer its Units (subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Prospectus and the Articles of Association).
Redemption Fees	There shall be no redemption fees.
Net Asset Value (NAV)	The calculation of NAV is the responsibility of the Administrator and is to be affected at the close of each Valuation Day. The valuation of the Units will be carried out on each Valuation Day.
Risk Factors	Investments in the Fund shall be exposed to risks. The Fund does not guarantee any returns. Please refer to Chapter 4 of the Prospectus for further discussions on key risk factors applicable to this Fund.
Auditor	Moore Stephens LLC
Taxation	As per the Income Tax Law No. 28 of 2009 (as amended), income accruing to investment funds set up in Oman under the Securities Law shall be exempted from tax in Oman. However, the income earned by the Fund may be subject to foreign taxation to the extent income is derived from other jurisdictions. Please refer to Chapter 14 of the Prospectus.
Eligible Investors	The Fund is open for investment to Omani investor and non-Omani investors (except US Persons) that are both retail and non-retail investors. All investors are responsible for ensuring they inform themselves of, and are permitted to subscribe for Units under, all applicable laws and regulations, including the laws and regulations of Oman. Please also carefully read the information set out in the Important Notice, in the Prospectus.
Management Fees	The Investment Manager is entitled to management fees of 0.50% per annum of the Net Asset Value of the Fund plus any applicable VAT and other taxes. The management fee will be calculated based on the daily NAV of the Fund and paid monthly in arrears.
Other Fund Expenses	The Fund will also deduct other operating expenses as discussed in detail in Chapter 13 of the Prospectus.
Dividends	The Fund's dividend policy shall be in accordance with the Executive Regulations. The Investment Manager will make a recommendation to the Management Body on whether to distribute or reinvest the dividends, any proceeds and returns from investments or other balances available to the Fund. The Investment Manager shall not declare dividends from the proceeds from the issue of Units.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FUND

Investment Objective

The primary objective of the Fund is to generate returns with preservation of capital and daily liquidity, through investment in liquid, low-risk fixed income investments mainly comprising money market instruments issued by Omani, regional and international banks, governments and government-related entities (GREs), and other entities.

The Fund will invest in:

- Bank Call accounts,
- Bank Fixed deposits,
- Bank Murabaha & Wakala,
- Money market and other short-term funds (UCITs and ETFs)
- Fixed Income securities with residual maturity less than 1 year,
- Fixed Income securities with residual maturity more than 1 year,
- Certificate of deposits,
- Commercial paper,
- Other short-term liquid instruments.

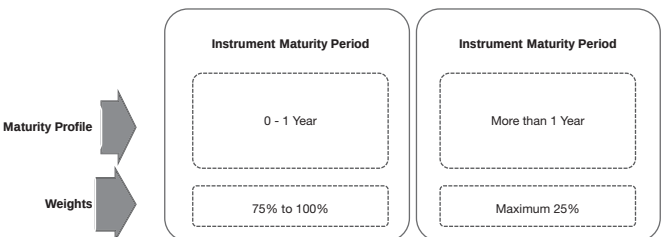
The credit rating (from any of Standard & Poor's, Moody's, Fitch or Capital Intelligence) for non-GCC investments in the above instruments should be at least investment grade. The rating conditions do not apply for investments in the above instruments issued by any Omani and GCC corporate/sovereign entities. The Fund will invest only in instruments/securities that are denominated in any of the GCC Currencies, and in United States Dollars. The Fund will endeavor to hedge wherever possible the foreign exchange risk of the currencies other than OMR, the exchange rate risk will be carried by the Fund.

The Fund will not materially change its investment objectives set out in the Prospectus without obtaining approval of the Management Body.

Investment Strategy

To pursue the Fund's investment objective, the Investment Manager (National Bank of Oman (SAOG)) shall follow a disciplined investment process. The Fund shall follow an active management strategy.

Asset Allocation Strategy



Fund's Management Body

The Articles of Association of the Fund and the Prospectus form the foundations of the constitution of the Fund and unless any of their provisions are in conflict with the Securities Law and the Rules and Executive Regulations prescribed by the FSA for Investment Funds or Directives issued by the FSA (that are currently in force during the date of this notice), the provisions mentioned therein shall be complied with.

The Fund shall be managed and supervised by the Management Body elected by the General Meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association.

The members of the Management Body shall be not less than three and not more than seven, including the chairman and vice chairman. The chairman or anyone authorized by the chairman shall represent the Fund before third parties and the courts.

The Articles of Association shall determine the term of office of the Management Body provided it shall not be more than five years from the date of formation. The first Management Body shall be appointed by the sponsor of the Fund in coordination with other sponsors (if any), provided its term shall not be more than one year from the date of the Fund's registration in the FSA's funds register.

Where any member's position falls vacant prior to the end of the term, the other members, representing at least the majority of the remaining members of the Management Body, may elect a replacement member until the end of the term.

The following members have been nominated by the Sponsor for the first Management Body, which shall comprise of 3 individuals:

- Mahmood Hamed Al-Gharibi
- Hather Al Hajri
- Adnan Abdullah Al Khudhuri

SUBSCRIPTION CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

Subscription Eligibility and remedies of the Fund in the case of breach of subscription requirements

Investment in the Units is open to Omani and non-Omani institutions/individuals (other than US Persons) provided that they meet the eligibility requirements specified in the subscription application.

The Fund is not open to investment from Sanctioned Persons or persons (including persons owned or controlled by such persons) located or headquartered in jurisdictions that are subject to Embargoes.

The Fund, the Investment Manager and their affiliates seek to comply with all applicable anti-money laundering, economic sanctions, anti-bribery and anti-boycott laws and regulations applicable to them and in the jurisdictions in which they conduct business, other applicable laws and regulations relating to the prevention of money laundering and other similar applicable laws and regulations (collectively, the "**Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism Laws**") as may be amended from time to time.

As such, by submitting a subscription application each Subscriber represents and warrants that they and all of their beneficial owners are not: (i) in breach of the Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism Laws, (ii) US Persons, (iii) Sanctioned Persons or otherwise listed on any economic sanctions list or (iv) persons (including persons owned or controlled by such persons) located or headquartered in jurisdictions subject to Embargoes. The Fund has the right at any time to procure information from the Subscriber to verify the accuracy of these representations and warranties and the Subscriber is required to provide any such requested information promptly upon receipt of any such request.

Should the representations and warranties of the Subscriber given under the previous paragraph of this Prospectus be false or misleading, the Fund shall have the right to freeze the account of the Subscriber and a right to compulsorily redeem, at its sole and absolute discretion and at any time, the relevant Subscriber's Units at the prevailing NAV less the costs and liabilities caused to the Fund as a result of the Subscriber's breach of such representations and warranties.

The Fund shall comply with all requirements of Oman law relating to the prevention of money laundering, anti-bribery, anti-terrorism, trade embargoes and economic sanctions, now or hereafter in effect.

Initial Subscription Application

Minimum Size for Fund's Establishment

The Fund will be established with a minimum initial size of R.O. 2,000,000 for the Units. In the event that subscriptions received during the Initial Subscription Period are less than R.O. 2,000,000, then all application money received during the Initial Subscription Period shall be refunded to the respective applicants.

Initial Subscription Forms

Potential investors may obtain Initial Subscription Forms and a copy of the Prospectus from the main office(s) of the Collecting Bank or from the office of the Issue Manager.

Initial Subscription Price

During the Initial Subscription Period, Units will be allotted at a price of R.O. 1,000 per Unit.

Minimum Subscription for Initial Issue

The minimum Initial Subscription shall be 500 Units per Subscriber and thereafter in multiples of 100 Units.

Maximum Subscription for Initial Issue

There is no maximum limit on subscription.

Initial Subscription Period

The Initial Subscription Period shall be from 16 December 2024 to 30 December 2024 during Business Hours.

Mode of subscription during the Initial Subscription Period

- Subscribers shall be required to fill in a complete Initial Subscription Form and furnish all their particulars as required in the Form, including the "Civil Status Number" and "date of birth", copy of the "Birth Certificate" in case of minor children, and "Commercial Registration Number" in case of companies, etc.
- A Subscriber shall have the responsibility of submitting all particulars, ensuring correctness and validity of information provided for in the Initial Subscription Form.
- Before filling in the Initial Subscription Form, the Subscriber is required, to examine the Prospectus and read the conditions and procedures governing subscription for Units with due attention.
- Subscribers shall submit duly filled-in Initial Subscription Forms to a Collecting Bank along with payment in the form of cheque/demand draft/bank transfer/account debit, towards the Units as specified in this Prospectus and ensuring that the documents in support of the information furnished referred to above are enclosed.
- In case of payment of the value for the subscription made through cheque/demand draft, the same shall be submitted in favour of "**NBO Money Market Fund**".

Subscription during the Initial Subscription Period on Behalf of minor children

- Any person of age less than 18 years as of the first day of the Initial Subscription Period will be considered a minor.
- A father may subscribe on behalf of his minor children.
- If an Initial Subscription Form is submitted on behalf of a minor by any person other than the minor's father, the person submitting the Initial Subscription Form will be required to attach a legally valid power of attorney authorizing him or her to deal in the funds of the minor through sale, purchase and investment.

Bank Account and Documentation Details

- Along with the duly completed Initial Subscription Form, the Subscriber is required to submit a document confirming the correctness of the bank account number as provided for in the Initial Subscription Form except for any subscription through a bank other than the one with whom the Subscriber has his account.
- In case the Subscriber is applying for subscription through the Collecting Bank in which he does not hold an account, he can subscribe by submitting any document from his bank evidencing his account number and name such as the upper portion of the bank account statement issued by the bank containing these particulars only or a letter or any document issued by the said bank containing the said information. The Subscriber shall ensure that the evidence submitted is clearly readable and contains the account number and full name of the account holder.
- An application for subscription, which contains the bank account number of a person other than the Subscriber shall be rejected, with the exception of the applications made on behalf of minor children that contain bank account particulars of their father.
- A copy of a valid power of attorney duly endorsed by the competent legal authorities must be submitted in the event the subscription is on behalf of another person (with the exception of the subscription made on behalf of minor children by their father).
- In case of applications by juristic persons (non-individuals), which are signed by a person in his/her capacity as an authorized signatory, a copy of adequate and valid supporting documentation should be attached.
- The following is the check list for documentation requirement for Unitholders, together with any other documents that may be deemed necessary by the Collecting Bank or the Administrator or may be requested by the authorities concerned.

Applicant	Documents Required
Omani Male & Female – 18 years and above	1. Copy of identity card/passport 2. Proof of Bank Account 3. Proof of residential address
Non-Omani Nationals	1. Passport copy 2. Resident Card copy 3. Proof of Bank Account 4. Proof of residential address
Minor below 18 years, Both Omani and Non-Omani Nationals	1. Copy of birth certificate of the minor/passport 2. Father's Identity Card or Passport Copy (where he is applying on behalf of the minor). 3. Proof of Bank Account 4. For non-Omani nationals: resident card copy 5. Proof of residential address
Companies and Enterprises	1. Commercial registration copy or its equivalent for overseas registered companies 2. List of authorized signatories as registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion, if available. 3. ID copies of the signatories to the application 4. Proof of Bank Account 5. Ultimate Beneficial Owner details and other details as may be required
Authorities and Pension Funds	1. Copy of constitutive decree or decision 2. List of authorized signatories 3. ID copy of the signatory to the application 4. Proof of Bank Account

Investor Identification and Anti-Money Laundering

The Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank, and the Administrator reserve the absolute right to require further verification of the identity of each potential Unitholder or that of the person or entity on whose behalf the potential Unitholder is applying for Units. Each potential Unitholder will provide evidence in a form and substance satisfactory to the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator of its identity and, if so required, the source of its funds within a reasonable time period as determined by the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator. Pending the provision of such evidence, an application for Units will be postponed. If a potential Unitholder fails to provide satisfactory evidence within the time specified, or if a potential Unitholder provides evidence but the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank or the Administrator are not satisfied therewith, the subscription application may be rejected immediately, in which event any money received by way of application will be returned to the applicant by bank transfer to the account from which the monies originated, without any addition thereto and at the risk and expense of the applicant.

The Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator reserve the right to request such information as is necessary to verify the identity of a prospective Unitholder. In the event of delay or failure by the applicant to produce any information required for verification purposes, the Investment Manager, the Issue Manager, the Collecting Bank and the Administrator will refuse to accept the application from such potential Unitholder and the subscription monies relating thereto.

If any person who is a resident of Oman has a suspicion that a payment made in relation to the Fund (by way of offer or otherwise) contains the proceeds of criminal conduct, that person is required to report such suspicion pursuant to the Anti Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism Law promulgated by Royal Decree 30/2016, as amended.

Unitholders will also be expected to comply with the anti-money laundering regulations of their respective jurisdictions to the extent that they are applicable to their investment in the Units.

Collecting Bank

Subscribers shall submit duly filled in Initial Subscription Forms for initial subscription to the following Collecting Bank during their official working hours in the Initial Subscription Period:

1.National Bank of Oman SAOG 2.Ubhar Capital SAOC 3.Horizons Capital Markets SAOC

The Collecting Bank shall have the right not to accept an Initial Subscription Form that reaches the Collecting Bank after Business Hours on the Subscription Closing Date.

The Collecting Bank receiving Initial Subscription Forms shall be required to accept the Subscription Forms after confirmation of compliance with the procedure and subject matter, in line with the requirements as provided for in the Prospectus. Hence, the Collecting Bank shall instruct Subscribers to comply with and fulfill any requirement that may appear in the Initial Subscription Form.

Acceptance of the applications for subscription

The Collecting Bank receiving the initial subscription shall not accept Initial Subscription Forms under the following circumstances:

- if the Initial Subscription Form does not bear the signature of the Subscriber;
- in case of failure of payment of the full value of the Units subscribed;
- if the value of the Units subscribed for is paid through cheque and if the same is dishonoured for whatever be the reason;
- if the Initial Subscription Form is submitted under joint names;
- if the Subscriber has subscribed through more than one Initial Subscription Form in the same name;
- if the supporting documents referred to in the Prospectus are not enclosed with the Initial Subscription Form;
- if the Initial Subscription Form does not contain all the particulars of the bank account of the Subscriber;
- any particulars of the bank account held by the Subscriber as provided for in the Initial Subscription Form are noted to be incorrect;
- if the particulars of the bank account provided for in the application are found to be not relevant to the Subscriber, with the exception of the applications submitted in the name of minor children, who are allowed to make use of the particulars of the bank accounts held by their father;
- in case of failure to have the power of attorney attached with the application as provided for in the Prospectus in respect of the person who subscribes and signs on behalf of another person (with the exception of a father who subscribes on behalf of his minor children);
- if the application has not complied with the legal and organizational requirements as provided for in the Prospectus or applicable laws; or
- for any other reason as deemed appropriate in the best interests of the Fund.

In the event that following acceptance of an Initial Subscription Form and before delivery of the same to the Issue Manager, a Collecting Bank observes that the Initial Subscription Form does not comply with legal requirements as provided for in the Prospectus, the Collecting Bank will endeavour to contact the Subscriber so as to rectify the position. In case of failure to rectify the position within the period referred to, the Collecting Bank shall return the Initial Subscription Form to the Subscriber, together with the subscription money before expiry of the period specified for handing over of the applications to the Issue Manager.

The Collecting Bank shall submit a comprehensive report to the Issue Manager furnishing the details of the Initial Subscription Forms that are required to be rejected and reasons behind such rejection.

Allotment of Units and refund of money following the Initial Subscription Period

Following the completion of the Initial Subscription Period, the Issue Manager will arrange to allot Units within 15 (fifteen) days from the Subscription Closing Date and shall refund the subscription money to applicants whose application has been rejected. The Issue Manager will send allotment notices to the Subscribers who have been allotted Units, at the addresses as specified in their Subscription Forms.

The refund of subscription amounts in respect of which Units have not been allotted during the Initial Subscription Period (whether on account of rejection of the application or otherwise) may be undertaken by electronically transferring such amounts to the bank account numbers provided in the Subscription Forms.

Responsibilities & Obligations

The Issue Manager and the Collecting Bank receiving Initial Subscription Forms shall abide by the responsibilities and functions specified pursuant to the instructions and regulations laid down by the FSA. They shall also abide by any other responsibilities that are provided for in the agreements entered into between them and the Fund.

The parties concerned shall be required to take remedial measures with regard to the damages arising from any negligence committed in the performance of the functions and responsibilities assigned to them. The Issue Manager shall coordinate with the regulatory authorities in order to take all necessary actions and procedures in this regard.

Enquiry & Complaints:

Subscribers who intend to seek clarifications or file complaints with regard to the issues related to the allotment or rejected applications may contact the branch of the Collecting Bank where the subscription was made. In case of absence of any response from the branch, the Subscriber may contact the person concerned as hereunder:

Bank	Key person (S)	Postal Address	Phone No.	Fax No.	Email
National Bank of Oman SAOG	Jaffar Fuad Murtadha	PO Box 751, Ruwi, Postal Code 112 Muscat, Oman	2477 8563	2477 8993	jaffarfuad@nbo.om

In case of initial subscriptions, if the Collecting Bank receiving the Initial Subscription Form fails to arrive at a solution or settlement with the person who has subscribed, it shall refer the subject matter to the Issue Manager, and keep the Subscriber posted of the progress and development in respect of the subject matter of the dispute. The Subscriber shall also keep in touch with the Collecting Bank that received the Initial Subscription Form only so as to know the decisions arrived at.

Expected time schedule for completion of allotment of Units following the Initial Subscription Period

#	Statement	Date
1	Initial Subscription Date	16 December 2024
2	Subscription Closing Date	30 December 2024
3	Due date for Issue Manager to receive Initial Subscription Forms from Collecting Bank	31 December 2024
4	Notifying FSA of the result of the subscription	01 January 2025
5	Approval of FSA with regard to the proposal for the allotment of Units	02 January 2025
6	Commencement of refund and dispatch of the notices regarding allotment of Units	05 January 2025
7	Incorporation of the Fund (subject to FSA approval)	08 January 2025
8	Commencement of subsequent subscriptions to the Fund	Three months after registration of the Fund on the register of investment funds maintained by the FSA.

Subscription for Units after the Initial Subscription Period

Following the closure of the Initial Subscription Period, eligible investors may subscribe for Units in the Continuous Offer Period, which shall commence three months after registration of the Fund on the register of investment funds maintained by the FSA or the date the Fund has published its first NAV, whichever is later.

Subscribers during the Continuous Offer Period must submit a duly completed Subscription Form to the Administrator, during Business Hours along with payment for the Units, on any Business Day along with documents in support of the subscription applications (referred to in the table on page [41] of the Prospectus).

Office Address of the Issue Manager:

Investment Banking Division
National Bank of Oman SAOG
PO Box 751, PC 112, Ruwi. Tel: 24778563. Funds@nbo.co.om

Office Address of the Administrator:

Gulf Custody Company SAOC
PO Box 1110, P.C. 114, Muttrah Port District, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 2421 6941, Fax: +968 2421 6943

Email: gccotrade@gulfcustody.com

Allotment of Units after the Initial Subscription Period

For subscriptions for Units after the Initial Subscription Period, each prospective investor must complete and execute the Subscription Form and submit it to the Administrator along with the applicable documentation in original or certified form (prospective investors should refer to the appendix of the Subscription Form for a list of the relevant due diligence documentation) and procure that subscription amounts in cleared funds are received by the Administrator no later than 10.00am (Oman local time) one (1) Business Day prior to the relevant Valuation Day. The Administrator shall issue the units on the same Valuation Day at the end of the day by applying the preceding day's NAV per Unit and will send a written record of the subscription to the relevant Subscriber. Subscription Forms together with subscription funds not received by the specified time on the preceding Valuation Day will be passed over for processing on the next occurring Valuation Day.

Rejection of Applications

The Administrator may reject any Subscription Form, which does not comply with the requirements set out on page [42] of the Prospectus (Rejection of the applications for subscription) which apply mutatis mutandis to applications for subscription of Units during the Continuous Offer Period once the Fund has reopened for continuous subscription and redemption of Units.

Refund of subscription applications received after the Initial Subscription Period

The Administrator shall effect all refunds for subscription applications received after the Initial Subscription Period within three (3) Business Days from the relevant Valuation Day.

Clarifications and complaints

Subscribers that apply for allotment of Units during the Continuous Offer Period may contact the office of the Administrator (address as provided in the Prospectus) for clarifications or registration of complaints.

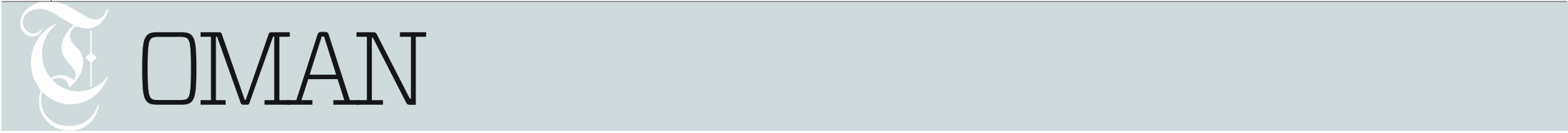
Subsequent Subscription Fee

The Subscription Price during the Subsequent Subscription Period will depend on the NAV, in addition to VAT and any other levied taxes.

Minimum and Maximum Subscription after initial Issue

The minimum subscription (exclusive of Subscription fees and any applicable VAT and taxes) for all subsequent subscriptions during the Continuous Offer Period shall be OMR 500 per Subscriber for existing Unitholders and OMR 500 for new Subscribers after the Initial Subscription Period and in multiples of R.O. 100. There shall be no maximum limit on Subscription.

Investment Manager & Issue Manager 	Legal Adviser  Al Busaidy, Mansoor Jamal & Co.	Collecting Banks / Agents    
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INDIAN SCHOOL MULADHA
(Affiliated to the CBSE, New Delhi, No. 6130007)
P.O. 42, P.C. 314, Al Muladha, Sultanate of Oman
Ph. 26811234 / 26811184, Email: ismloman@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Ref: ISML/TA/005

S. No.	Description
1.	Staff Medical Insurance (01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025) – 128 members
2.	P.E. Uniform (Class I to XII) – 2500 Nos.

- For details, contact School office during working days between **9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.**
- Sealed quotations may be submitted to school office or emailed to **purchase@isml-oman.com** or **accounts@isml-oman.com**
- Last date of tender submission: **15th December 2024**

The School reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Meeting explores future of banking services

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) yesterday held an annual meeting during which it reviewed new regulatory and supervisory initiatives undertaken by the bank.

The meeting, which took place at the Royal Academy of Administration (RAA) under the theme “Digitalising Tomorrow in Muscat”, also explored the future of banking services.

Tahir Salim Al Amri, CBO Executive President, reviewed key government initiatives aimed to enhance financial sustainability and economic diversification. He also lauded the government’s support for the private sector and Oman Banks Association.

This support, Al Amri added, led to the success of the Financial Action Task Force’s evaluation of Oman’s system on combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

The meeting touched on enthusiasm among local and international investors about the growth of Omani economy. This growth is evidenced by the recent of four new banks and a number of payment service providers to the Financial System, in addition to significant improvements that helped upgrade Oman’s sovereign credit rating.

The meeting also reviewed initiatives aimed at modernising the banking infrastructure, including digital onboarding through an electronic platform designed to identify and verify the identity of clients and register them electronically within the “Know Your Customer” system. Other initiatives include a multi-stage approach to green financing and the introduction of the Gross Settlement System and the international bank account number. — **ONA**



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LADAYN POLYMER PARK

OQ inks seven pacts worth OMR25.5mn

MUSCAT: OQ Group yesterday signed seven investment agreements with local and international companies, securing a total of OMR25.5 million (\$66.4 million) for industrial projects under the “Ladayn Polymer Park.”

This initiative, conducted in collaboration with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), the National Programme for Investment and Export Development (Nazdaher), and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, aims to bolster Oman’s economic diversification efforts.

Diversification efforts

These agreements are part of OQ’s efforts to promote economic diversification, attract investments, maximise the use of natural resources, and empower the private sector in Oman to develop industries that meet local demand while exporting to global markets.

Signing ceremony

The signing ceremony was attended by Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, alongside other senior officials.

The Ladayn Polymer Park offers an array of incentives, including reduced raw material costs for plastic industries and enhanced facilities in industrial, special, and free zones, localised across various governorates.

Sadiq Hassan Al Lawati, Managing Director at OQ Marketing, signed the agreements on behalf of OQ, committing the group to supply raw materials to the investing companies.

Additionally, Madayn signed three long-term land usufruct agreements, valid for 33 years and renewable, with Multibond Metal LLC, Sidra International Industries Group LLC, and Al Waha Al Wataniyyah for Plastic LLC. These were formalised by Madayn’s CEO Dawood Salim Al Hudaibi.

Sohar Free Zone’s Acting CEO Mohammed Ali Al Shezawi signed agreements with Modim Investment LLC and Ideal Plastic FSZ. Meanwhile, Salalah Free Zone’s CEO Ali Mohammed Tabook signed a land usufruct agreement with Ethiopia’s Ras Biru Trading Company FSZ.

Commenting on the occasion, Sadiq Hassan Al Lawati, Managing Director at OQ Marketing, stated that these agreements reflect OQ’s ongoing efforts to attract investments, strengthen Oman’s industrial sector, achieve self-sufficiency in essential products, and export the surplus to global markets. — **ONA**



Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

SUBJECT	TENDER NUMBER	LAST DATE FOR INQUIRIES	LAST DATE TO SUBMIT THE TENDER	TENDER DOCUMENT PRICE
Maintenance and supply spare parts for life rafts	29 /2024	06/01/2025	30/12/2024	180 OMR

2. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

3. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.



"Tender Announcement "

Supply of Food Parcels for the “Ramadan Iftar Program” for the Year 1446 AH / 2025 AD for Al Mahrah Governorate and Surrounding Areas in the Republic of Yemen

Tender No. 2/2024

Oman Charitable Organization (O.C.O.) announces a tender for the supply of 27,900 (twenty Seve thousand and nine hundred) food parcels for the “Ramadan Iftar Program” for the year 1446 AH / 2025 AD, and distributing them to all the districts of Al Mahrah Governorate and the surrounding areas according to the attached list of locations (16 locations).

Specialized merchants and suppliers wishing to submit their bids for this tender can obtain the terms and conditions from the Financial Department of Oman Charitable Organization against payment of nominal fees, during the period from Sunday 8 December 2024 to Wednesday 11 December 2024. The last date for bid submission and acceptance shall be Tuesday17 December 2024.

Bids shall be deposited in the tender box at the Financial Department, O.C.O. Headquarters Building at the Wilayat of Baushar, Muscat Governorate, Al Khuwair 33, Southern Street No. 47, near Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque.

Bids shall be placed in closed envelopes sealed with red wax and addressed to H.E. the Chairman of the Projects and Tenders Committee of O.C.O. before the specified date.

“O.C.O. is not obligated to award the tender in whole or in part or to consider the lowest price.”

ROYAL AIR FORCE OF OMAN

RAFO Commander receives top UK military official

MUSCAT: Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) received in his office at Al Murtafa’a Garrison on Sunday Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, Chief of UK Air Staff and his accompanying military delegation.

Military matters discussed

The two sides exchanged views on several military matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Senior RAFO officers and the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Muscat. — **ONA**



شركة بركاء للمياه والطاقة ش.م.ع.ع
BARKA WATER AND POWER COMPANY S.A.O.G
P.O. Box: 572, P.C.320, Barka. Tel.: 26896499, Fax: 26894387

NOTICE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Barka Water and Power Company SAOG (the “Company”) is pleased to invite all shareholders to the Ordinary General Meeting to be held at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 22 December 2024 via the electronic platform for convening general meetings which can be accessed through the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company website (www.mcd.om), if quorum is not met, a second annual general meeting shall be held at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 29 December 2024, to discuss the following agenda:

(1) To consider and approve the distribution of a cash dividend of (Baiza 32.18 per share) to the Company’s shareholders whose names appear on the shareholder register on the date of this ordinary general meeting from the reviewed financial information of the Company for the period ended 30 September 2024.

In accordance with the Company’s Articles of Association and the rules for convening general meetings via electronic means issued by the Financial Services Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

a. A legal (juristic) person, exclusively, shall have the right to appoint a natural person, as proxy, to attend the general meeting, and vote on decisions taken on his behalf using electronic means. Such natural person must have an investor number registered with the Muscat Clearing and Depository Company SAOC.

b. Shareholders will be able to vote for the items set out in the agenda starting from 3 days prior to the meeting date up until the end of the voting process for that particular item presented in the agenda on the day of the meeting. If a shareholder’s shareholding is increased or decreased, then such shareholders votes will be void, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the general meeting.

For further information, please contact Mr. Adnan Husain on phone number: **92084869**.

Syrian rebels claim President Bashar Al Assad has fled country

Rebel groups faced no resistance entering Damascus on Sunday after taking the city of Homs

DAMASCUS: Amid a rebel offensive, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad has flown out of Damascus for an unknown destination on Sunday, Reuters reported.

The news agency cited two senior army officers, whom it did not name as rebels Syrian groups said they entered the capital, Damascus, in the early hours today.

The development comes hours after rebels claimed to have captured Syria's third-largest city, Homs, to the north of the country.

The head of Syria's main opposition group abroad Hadi al-Bahra Syrian said that Damascus is now "without Bashar al-Assad" according to Reuters.



AlJazeera reported that Syrian rebels have said they have captured Damascus.

"The tyrant Bashar al-Assad has fled," the armed opposition said in a statement. "We declare Damascus free of the tyrant Bashar al-Assad," they said.

The rebels earlier claimed to have entered the capital and taken control of the notorious Saydnaya Military Prison north of Damascus, CNN reported.

CNN cited the Military Operations Command's post on Telegram which said, "We declare the

city of Damascus free from the tyrant Bashar al-Assad." The statement added, "To the displaced all over the world, a free Syria awaits you."

The civil war in the country that had remained dormant for a few years has resurfaced and within a the span of a few weeks, the Syrian rebel groups have taken over several key cities like Aleppo, Homs and Daraa.

The pro-government Sham FM radio station reported that militants had infiltrated the cities of al-Rastan and Tell Bisa in Homs'

northern part.

Syria's defence ministry, however has refuted reports about troops withdrawal from Homs.

"Reports disseminated in some media outlets and resources linked with terrorist organizations about the withdrawal of any units of our armed forces from the city of Homs and its neighbourhoods are not true," it said in a statement posted on its social media page.

Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali said he does not plan on leaving his home as he aims to ensure that public institu-

Oman closely following developments in Syria

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is closely following developments in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Oman stresses the need to respect the will of the brotherly Syrian people and fully maintain Syrian Arab Republic's sovereignty territorial integrity and unity.

tions continue to function.

"I urge all to think rationally and to think about they country," al-Jalali said. "We extend our hand to the opposition who have extended their hand and asserted that they will not harm anyone who belongs to this country," he was cited as saying by Al Jazeera.

Videos posted online, which Al Jazeera said it had verified, show several people in the Ummayad Square, standing on an abandoned military tank and singing in celebration.

On December 5, the Syrian army command stated that militants had infiltrated several neighbour-

hoods in the city of Hama. According to its statement, government forces were redeployed outside the city. On December 7, the Syrian Defence Ministry announced that military units operating in the south of the country were being regrouped in accordance with the military's strategic plan.

Iran envoy to Beirut said that the Syria developments pose a "threat" to entire region.

Syrian government is engaged in fighting with terrorist groups that launched an offensive on November 27 from their stronghold in the western province of Idlib, it reported. -ANI

POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

South Korea's defence minister held for martial law imposition

SEOUL: South Korea's former Defence Minister, Kim Yong-hyun, has been arrested on Sunday as prosecutors investigated his role in President Yoon Suk Yeol's decision last week to impose martial law, The New York Times reported.

Yoon's decision caused political upheaval in South Korea, including an opposition-led attempt to impeach South Korea President and protests. Kim is the first person to be arrested as prosecutors start their probe into allegations made by Yoon's political opponents.

The opposition has asserted that Yoon and his followers in the government and military conducted insurrection and other crimes when they sent soldiers and police personnel into the National Assembly to seize the legislature shortly after South Korea's President imposed martial law last week, according to The New York Times report.

Kim, who surrendered himself to investigators on Sunday, was arrested without a court warrant. The police and prosecutors can use "emergency arrest" when they have grounds to suspect a person who committed a serious crime and there is risk of them fleeing the country or tampering with evidence. They need to apply for a court warrant within two days to formally arrest the suspect.

Kim Yong-hyun, who supported Yoon's martial law plan, re-



signed following the President's announcement. The military rule remained for only six hours after the National Assembly voted against it on Wednesday and forced Yoon to reverse it.

It was unclear whether South Korea's former Defence Minister had a lawyer. Speaking to a daily Dong-A Ilbo prior to his arrest, he said he had been involved in Yoon's decision of imposing martial law, but stressed that it was put in place according to legal procedures.

For most of the two and a half years he has been serving as South Korea's President, Yoon has faced low approval ratings and been in political standoff with the opposition. The opposition and Yoon have tussled particularly over his refusal to accept their demands

that a special prosecutor be appointed to probe allegations of corruption involving his wife.

In a statement on Tuesday, Yoon announced that he was imposing martial law to rid the National Assembly of "shameless North Korean followers and anti-state forces." On Saturday, he apologised to the people of the nation for his "desperate" action, The New York Times reported.

Yoon Suk Yeol said he would leave it to his party, People Power Party (PPP), to decide how long he should remain in office and how the government should be run. After his announcement, PPP decided to boycott the impeachment vote. All except three of the 108 PPP lawmakers joined the boycott, saving Yoon from the impeachment. -ANI

Israel deploys forces in Syria

JERUSALEM: Following the fall of the Syrian Assad Regime, Lt.-Col. Avichay Adraee, the Israel Defence Forces' Arabic Language Spokesperson, has announced the deployment of forces to Israel's

buffer zone with Syria.

"In light of the events in Syria and based on an assessment of the situation and the possibility of armed men entering the buffer zone, the IDF deployed forces in

the buffer zone and at several necessary defensive points in order to ensure the security of the residents of the Golan Heights towns and the citizens of the State of Israel," Adraee tweeted. -ANI

PTI FOUNDER

Lahore court extends interim bail of Imran Khan's sisters

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore has extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and party leader Salman Akram Raja until January 18 in a protest case, Ary News reported.

The case refers to a violent clash that took place between PTI workers and police on October 5. The court also granted an extension in the interim bail of Ali Imtiaz Warraich and others.

It was reported that the PTI leaders had filed bail applications in four different cases. The extension of their interim bail provides them with temporary relief as they face charges related to the protest.

Former PM Imran Khan has warned the government of launching a civil disobedience movement if his demands are not met. Addressing media persons

outside jail, Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan said that former prime minister, who is currently incarcerated, has announced two key demands namely the release of "political prisoners" facing trial and the composition of a judicial commission to probe the events of May 9, 2023, and the November 26 crackdown on PTI protesters.

Speaking to journalists outside Adiala Jail, Aleema Khan disclosed that Imran Khan hinted at having "one final card up his sleeve" but chose not to reveal further details, Ary News reported.

Addressing rumours about the Imran's health, Aleema dismissed them as baseless. She shared that Imran Khan laughed upon hearing the fake reports and assured everyone of his good health, adding that he maintains his fitness through regular exercise. -ANI



Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health (Al Buraimi Hospital) invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tender:

Ref:	Description	Last date for collection of bidding document	Last date for submission of tenders	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non Refundable)
4515/2024	Upgrading of Water Treatment Facility for Buraimi Hospital	Before 10AM On 26/12/2024	Before 10AM On 19/01/2025	specialized companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Second degree	• 10 R.O Small & Medium Enterprises • 25 R.O Local Companies • 25 R.O International Companies

Please note the following:

- Companies wishing to participate in the Tender can purchase the tender documents electronically through the website (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om), provided that they are registered in the system.
- Companies must submit their bids electronically via the above-mentioned website, provided that ABid Commitment Declaration, and bids received without the required Declaration will not be considered.
- Bids shall be placed in sealed and waxed envelopes in the tender box at the Office of the Head of Financial Affairs Department.
- The concerned entity is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid.
- For inquiries related to the above tender, please contact through the website of the Esnad system for electronic tendering: (etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)

SPORTS

Cummins shines as Australia rout India

India could add only 47 to their overnight score as the hosts finished things off in under four overs with the bat for a record pink-ball Test victory

ADELAIDE: Pat Cummins delivered a stellar performance, claiming 5 for 57 to lead Australia to a resounding ten-wicket victory over India on the third day of the pink-ball Test at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

The win, sealed before the first session break, not only leveled the series but also served as a commanding response to Australia's heavy defeat in Perth.

Resuming their second innings at 128 for 8, India could only muster 47 runs before being bowled out for 175. Mitchell Starc struck in the first over of the day, dismissing Rishabh Pant for his overnight score of 28 with a delivery that kissed the edge and flew to the keeper. Cummins then dismantled the tail, targeting India's lower order with sharp bouncers. Ravichandran Ashwin and Harshit Rana succumbed to short-pitched deliveries, while Nitish Kumar Reddy's spirited resistance ended



when he ramped a Cummins delivery straight to fine third. Reddy top-scored for India with a fighting 42 off 47 balls, marking

his third 40-plus score in his maiden Test series. However, India's batting woes continued as they faced a mere 81 overs across both

innings, resulting in the shortest pink-ball Test ever played in Australia and the shortest between these two teams.

Chasing a paltry 19, Australia's openers Usman Khawaja and Nathan McSweeney polished off the target in under four overs, ensuring the game wrapped up well ahead of schedule. McSweeney, cheered on by the 33,184-strong crowd, added flair to the chase with a couple of elegant boundaries.

Travis Head, who scored 140 in Australia's first innings, capped off a memorable Test by claiming the Player-of-the-Match award.

Brief scores: Australia: 337 (Head 140, Labuschagne 64; Bumrah 4-61, Siraj 4-98) and 19/0 beat India: 180 (Reddy 42; Starc 6-48, Cummins 2-41) and 175 (Reddy 42; Cummins 5-57, Boland 3-51). - **Agencies**

BLUNDELL TON IN VAIN

England crush NZ to win Test series



WELLINGTON: England delivered a commanding performance in Wellington on Sunday, crushing New Zealand by 323 runs in the second Test to secure their first Test series victory in the country since 2007-08. Despite a dazzling counterattack from Tom Blundell (115), the hosts were overwhelmed by England's relentless dominance, with the match concluding inside three days at Basin Reserve.

England began the day in a position of unprecedented comfort, boasting a massive second-innings lead of 533. Joe Root, ever the cornerstone of England's batting, brought up his 36th Test century with a composed knock, even managing a cheeky reverse-ramp to reach the milestone before falling moments later. With Root's landmark secured, Ben Stokes declared the innings at 427/6, giving England ample time to dismantle New Zealand for a second time.

The hosts faced a monumental task: chasing 583 runs for victory or surviving nearly three days for a draw. The challenge quickly proved too steep. Chris Woakes, bowling with precision, struck early to remove Devon Conway and Kane Williamson, while Brydon Carse chipped in with two wickets, including a spectacular return catch to dismiss Tom Latham. At 59/4 by lunch, New Zealand's hopes of salvaging the game appeared bleak.

Tom Blundell, however, refused to go quietly. Counter-attacking with remarkable poise, he smashed 115 off 96 balls, a knock laced with 13 fours and five towering sixes. His partnerships with Daryl Mitchell and Nathan Smith provided brief resistance, with the latter adding 42 as New Zealand's second-highest scorer. Blundell's brilliance, however, only delayed the inevitable. His audacious attempt to scoop Shoaib Bashir ended in a sharp catch by Ben Duckett, who showed remarkable anticipation and athleticism to complete the dismissal. With Blundell gone, the tail folded swiftly.

Brief scores: England 280 (Brook 123, Pope 66, Smith 4-86) and 427 for 6 decl. (Root 106, Bethell 96, Duckett 92, Brook 55) beat New Zealand 125 (Atkinson 4-31, Carse 4-46) and 259 (Blundell 115, Stokes 3-5). - **Agencies**

SECOND TEST



South Africa tighten grip on Sri Lanka

GQEBERHA: South Africa gained a commanding position on day three of the second Test at St George's Park, extending their lead to 221 runs with seven wickets in hand on Saturday.

Temba Bavuma (48*) and Tristan Stubbs (36*) added an unbroken 82-run partnership after Sri Lanka were bowled out for 328 in the first innings, courtesy of Dane Paterson's maiden Test

five-wicket haul.

Starting with a slender 30-run lead, South Africa's second innings was built on Aiden Markram's gritty 55. Markram reached his first fifty in 12 innings but fell shortly after, edging a wide delivery to Kusal Mendis.

Ryan Rickelton followed with 24 before being trapped lbw by Prabath Jayasuriya.

Stubbs and Bavuma then stead-

ied the innings, with Bavuma continuing his red-hot form in the series, already amassing over 300 runs. The pair absorbed Sri Lanka's pressure, particularly from Jayasuriya, who found turn on a surface expected to favor spinners on day four.

Earlier, Marco Jansen and Paterson dismantled Sri Lanka's middle and lower order after a steady start by their batters. Jansen dis-

missed Angelo Mathews early, and Paterson ran through the tail, finishing with 5-71. Sri Lanka collapsed from 297/5 to 328 all out, losing their last five wickets for 31 runs.

Brief scores: South Africa 358 & 191/3 (Markram 55, Bavuma 48*, Stubbs 36*, Jayasuriya 2-75) lead Sri Lanka 328 (Nissanka 89, Kamindu 48, Mathews 44, Paterson 5-71). - **Agencies**

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Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579846/47; Al Mawelah: 99473174; Barka: 92190747; Nizwa: 99874368; Sohar: 92837722; Sur: 25546190; Rustaq: 92869449; Salalah: 23211460. Saturday Showroom Timing: Muscat, Al Mawelah, Barka, Sohar & Salalah from 9.00 AM to 1.30 PM. The vehicle specifications may vary as per the grade chosen. Pictures, Color & features may physically differ in actual.

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES UP
India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves started to rise again after having slumped for an eighth consecutive week, in the process hitting a multi-month low. In the week that ended November 29, the foreign exchange kitty rose \$1.510 billion to \$658.091 billion, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed earlier this week. — **ANI**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSM INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,548.18 points, down by 0.51% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.42% at 417.41 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 1.05%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.87%, was the top loser > **B2**

Groundbreaking ceremony for polymer plant in Sohar Port and Freezone held

Universal Fine Chemicals SPC's project represents a remarkable investment of \$300 million and will occupy 240,000 square metres

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of His Excellency Sultan bin Salim Al-Habsi, Minister of Finance, and with the presence of His Highness Sayyid Faisal bin Turki Al-Said, Chairman of Universal Fine Chemicals SPC, along with a distinguished gathering of officials, SOHAR Port and Freezone witnessed the groundbreaking of the world's second-largest polymer production plant in SOHAR Port. This project marks a significant milestone in the development of Oman's industrial sector, reinforcing the country's position on the global stage for innovation and sustainable development.

The project represents a remarkable investment of \$300 million and will occupy 240,000 square metres within SOHAR Port, demonstrating a strong commitment to technological advancement and industrial growth.

Utilising advanced technologies, the facility will produce poly-



acrylamide and related monomers essential for diverse industries, including energy, agriculture, waste-water management, and paper production.

This initiative addresses global challenges in energy production

and water management while driving innovation-led growth.

By strengthening Oman's position in the global economy, this partnership will also foster the development of downstream industries within SOHAR Port's Pet-

rochemical Cluster.

The plant is expected to commence operation by the first quarter of 2026.

Emile Hoogsteden, CEO of SOHAR Port, commented, "This collaboration not only shapes trade

dynamics but also propels Oman's Vision 2040 forward. It positions SOHAR Port as a leading global exporter of industrial chemicals and reflects our commitment to innovation-led growth and market expansion. By connecting busi-

nesses to the world and attracting substantial foreign direct investment from Singapore and China, we enhance the port's appeal as a premier investment destination. Ultimately, we are diversifying the economy beyond traditional sectors while fostering sustainable development and creating career opportunities for the people of Oman."

Echo Liu, CEO of Universal Fine Chemicals SPC, said, "By targeting diverse and expansive markets, our partnership will establish a strong foothold in key economic zones and amplify supply chains while attracting relevant industries. This innovative polymer manufacturing plant is poised to leverage SOHAR's strategic geographic position and logistics capabilities to stimulate economic growth and enhance local trade networks. Furthermore, the project extends its reach beyond regional boundaries, focusing on markets in the GCC, North and South America, and the European Union."

Success will be measured by achieving target production volumes of polyacrylamide and related monomers, implementing innovative manufacturing technologies, and expanding market share in key global regions.

The initiative will also prioritise reducing environmental impact through advancements in water treatment, energy efficiency, and sustainable agricultural practices.

This mission aligns with SOHAR Port and Freezone's strategic objectives, reinforcing their commitment to advancing global trade and economic development while positioning Oman as a hub for industrial innovation and sustainable progress.

BILATERAL TIES



Oman, Cyprus sign pact for avoidance of double taxation

Muscat: The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Cyprus on Sunday signed in Muscat an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of financial evasion.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman by Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority, while it was signed on behalf of the Government of Cyprus by Andreas Kakouris, Permanent Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus.

The agreement aims to encourage investments, enhance economic relations between the two countries, and boosting the economic reputation of the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement also provides legal protection for investors, to spare them the imposition of double taxes. It also regulates the mechanisms of tax application.

— **ONA**

USER-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE

Get ready to travel: Enjoy BankDhofar exclusive offers with Ladies Credit Card

MUSCAT: As the peak travel season approaches, BankDhofar, one of the leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman, is introducing exclusive offers with the Ladies Credit Card, designed to elevate the travel experience of women.

This innovative card offers a range of privileges and benefits, making every journey a memorable one.

The card not only offers the standard benefits of a Visa card but also includes a number of exclusive benefits tailored to meet the needs of the Bank's women customers.

Visa Ladies Credit cardholders can enjoy exclusive rewards. The Rewards points programme offers a seamless and user-friendly experience, making it easy for cardholders to track their points, browse rewards, and redeem their points through BankDhofar's mobile app or website.

With a variety of redemption options and an ever-expanding catalog of premium products and experiences, customers enjoy endless opportunities to indulge, explore, and save.



These points can then be redeemed, allowing customers to choose from more than 900 airlines and destinations worldwide. Ladies customers can earn up to 0.75% value back on all pur-

chases made outside Oman.

The card offers the extensive benefits of the Visa Ladies Credit Card, including unlimited access to airport lounges in Muscat and Salalah, comprehensive travel

and purchase protection and global acceptance at millions of locations worldwide.

Ladies Credit cardholders can book transportation from Rental-Cars or SIXT Rental and get up to 10% discount.

The Bicester Collection offers Visa cardholders to enjoy a 10% off fashion and lifestyle brands, world-famous restaurants and more.

BankDhofar credit cards are perfect for any trip. With special offers on dining and shopping, the credit cards make any trip easy yet luxurious.

To embark on your next adventure with confidence, apply for the BankDhofar Ladies Credit Card today.

Visit your nearest BankDhofar branch for more information. BankDhofar is the second largest bank in the Sultanate of Oman in terms of number of branches as its national wide network currently consists of 129 branches including Dhofar Islamic.

The network also includes more than 360 (ATMs – CDMs – FFM's – MFK's) for BankDhofar and Dhofar Islamic.

AUTO LOAN

ahlibank customers can now avail amazing new BMW offer

MUSCAT: As part of its continuous efforts to bring the latest value-added benefits and services to its esteemed clientele, ahlibank is proud to announce its new offer for customers looking to apply for an auto loan to purchase a BMW vehicle. This exciting offer exemplifies ahlibank's commitment to meet the evolving needs of its existing customers, whilst simultaneously expanding its service portfolio to accommodate potential new customers' requirements as well.

ahlibank customers can apply for an auto loan on BMW vehicles without being charged any interest for the first two years of the loan. This offer includes all models

of BMW vehicles, catering to customers' automobile requirements. Most notably, the Bank will start charging interest to the customers from the third year of applying for the loan. This offer underpins ahlibank's commitment to consolidate client's needs with easy, hassle-free auto loan offers.

Commenting on the exciting new offer, Qais Ibrahim Al Hasni, AGM - Head of Retail Business Support at ahlibank, stated, "At ahlibank, we believe that by supporting our customers' vehicle ownership journey, we will foster deeper relationships that contribute positively to their financial well-being. This offer aligns with our broader vision of setting new

standards in customer-centric banking that supports long-term financial growth and satisfaction. Without a doubt, ahlibank seeks to ease the financial strain on its clients, empowering them to make sound, confident decisions that enhances their lives, and furthers positive change."

ahlibank will continue to explore new avenues to provide its customers with unique value propositions. This new auto loan offer on BMW vehicles not only provides financial relief through an interest-free period but also showcases ahlibank's dedication to creating accessible and flexible financing solutions. By offering an adaptable framework for auto

loans, ahlibank demonstrates its proactive approach in catering to diverse client needs, making luxury vehicle ownership more attainable and ensuring customers experience a seamless, rewarding banking relationship.

ahlibank continues to offer a comprehensive suite of services, modern technology, and innovative solutions across the Sultanate, having all its product offerings geared towards achieving its customers' requirements with efficiency. The Bank offers top-class retail and commercial banking solutions in line with its vision of being an innovative center for banking, and a true 'Partner in Excellence'.



MARKET



MSM index ends lower

Sembcorp Salalah, up 1.05%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.87%, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,548.18 points, down by 0.51% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.42% at 417.41 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 1.05%, was the top gainer while, Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.87%, was the top loser. Shares of OQEP were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 665 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.81 million, with more than 21.58 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 1 advanced, 29 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR98,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR91,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR7,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,625.57 points, down 0.48%. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Oman United Insurance, Takaful Oman, Muscat Finance, United Finance, OMINVEST were down by 8.16%, 2.44%, 2.33%, 1.75%, 1.75% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,251.40 points, down 0.53%. Prices of were up by respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cement were down by 3.19%, 2.04%, 1.54%, 0.78%, 0.27% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.62% before closing at 1,721.83 points.

Prices of Sembcorp Salalah were up by 1.05% respectively. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, National Gas, Oman National Engineering, SMN Power Holding, Dhofar Generating were down by 9.87%, 3.85%, 3.39%, 2.02%, 1.56% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,571.51	4,548.18	4,548.18	4,571.51	-23.33	-0.51
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,655.58	7,625.57	7,625.57	7,662.17	-36.60	-0.48
Industry Index	5,276.42	5,245.24	5,251.40	5,279.55	-28.15	-0.53
Services Index	1,732.64	1,721.83	1,721.83	1,732.64	-10.81	-0.62
MSX Shariah Index	418.91	416.63	417.41	419.19	-1.78	-0.42
MSX TR INDEX	6,397.35	6,364.70	6,364.70	6,397.35	-32.65	-0.51
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,697.52	8,663.43	8,663.43	8,705.01	-41.58	-0.48
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,087.74	6,051.76	6,058.86	6,091.34	-32.48	-0.53
SERVICES TR IDX	2,062.64	2,049.78	2,049.78	2,062.64	-12.87	-0.62
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,067.21	1,067.21	1,067.21	1,067.21	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
21,589,081	2,807,867	665	27,340,390,897	1	29	16	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BD.	DIFF. %	LAST PR.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	45,069	4,290	10	0.094	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.095	0.099	0.100	91,638,907	
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	33,469	9,639	1	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.000	0.000	0.288	0.279	0.288	0.100	468,272,550	
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	305,000	24,705	13	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	16,200,000	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	4,252	344	4	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.082	0.100	14,175,000	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	295,407	19,201	13	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.063	0.066	0.100	46,436,412	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	11,222	10,472	6	0.934	0.934	0.933	0.933	0.935	-0.002	-0.214	0.933	0.933	0.934	0.100	699,750,000	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	2,700	1,013	3	0.376	0.376	0.375	0.375	0.376	-0.001	-0.266	0.375	0.378	0.375	0.100	124,077,266	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	80,946	20,621	6	0.253	0.255	0.253	0.254	0.255	-0.001	-0.392	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.100	1,906,624,854	
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	629,384	174,346	30	0.277	0.278	0.277	0.277	0.279	-0.002	-0.717	0.277	0.268	0.279	0.100	213,345,400	
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,258,000	167,422	10	0.133	0.134	0.133	0.133	0.134	-0.001	-0.746	0.133	0.124	0.143	0.100	880,093,754	
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	1,000	381	1	0.381	0.381	0.381	0.381	0.384	-0.003	-0.781	0.381	0.375	0.384	0.100	45,720,000	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	125,000	47,500	9	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.383	-0.003	-0.783	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	89,835,800	
OM0000002440	AL SHARQYA INVESTMENT HO.	90,000	6,300	4	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.100	6,300,000	
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,191,640	157,965	139	0.133	0.134	0.131	0.131	0.133	-0.002	-1.504	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.100	567,311,796	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	88,087	5,638	10	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.064	0.065	0.100	43,192,796	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	6,620	2,231	3	0.338	0.338	0.336	0.336	0.342	-0.006	-1.754	0.336	0.332	0.336	0.100	224,570,783	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	32,000	1,792	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.055	0.057	0.100	19,943,129	
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	49,109	4,816	9	0.099	0.099	0.096	0.096	0.098	-0.002	-2.041	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	21,720,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	12,000	1,368	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.118	-0.004	-3.390	0.114	0.113	0.118	0.100	17,100,000	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	1,161	261	1	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.245	-0.020	-8.163	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.100	22,500,000	
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	30	19	1	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.699	-0.069	-9.871	0.630	0.630	0.000	0.100	59,850,000	
Total	21	4,262,096	660,325	276													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	10,000	1,150	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.110	0.116	0.100	10,350,000	
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	10,829	1,100	2	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.100	27,651,231	
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	6,058	2,419	5	0.395	0.400	0.395	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.395	0.400	0.100	32,561,100	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	91,391	8,798	8	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.100	216,984,444	
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	53,298	3,038	7	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.061	0.100	83,363,383	
OM0000008477	OMAN REIT FUND	48,484	3,477	8	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.069	0.072	0.100	35,404,191	
OM0000008569	JABAL REIF	14,510,400	1,480,060	3	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	17,748,000	
OM0000009759	QO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	1,425,690	495,111	220	0.348	0.350	0.346	0.347	0.349	-0.002	-0.573	0.347	0.347	0.347	0.010	277,000,000	
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	17,688	2,048	8	0.116	0.116	0.115	0.116	0.117	-0.001	-0.855	0.116	0.115	0.118	0.100	58,940,011	
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	45,800	14,467	9	0.316	0.316	0.315	0.316	0.319	-0.003	-0.940	0.316	0.288	0.316	0.100	50,560,000	
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	17,615	1,183	2	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.066	0.069	0.100	10,268,326	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	282,000	19,365	9	0.068	0.068	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	12,791,700	
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	13,833	1,806	5	0.128	0.132	0.128	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.128	0.128	0.131	0.100	7,740,000	
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	54,630	3,472	14	0.064	0.065	0.063	0.063	0.064	-0.001	-1.563	0.063	0.063	0.070	0.100	14,001,120	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	202,995	69,204	12	0.343	0.351	0.340	0.340	0.347	-0.007	-2.017	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.100	67,876,104	
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	59,000	2,478	3	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.043	-0.001	-2.326	0.042	0.042	0.047	0.100	12,900,146	
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	19,907	798	5	0.040	0.041	0.040	0.040	0.041	-0.001	-2.439	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.100	10,000,000	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	221,792	20,445	38	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.002	-3.191	0.090	0.090	0.097	0.100	18,471,767	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	106,986	8,101	16	0.077	0.077	0.075	0.075	0.078	-0.003	-3.846	0.075	0.072	0.077	0.100	6,375,000	
Total	19	17,200,286	2,137,498	375													
INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS																	

India's IPO fundraising set for landmark year

NEW DELHI: Fundraising via initial public offerings (IPO) in India is set for another landmark year this 2024, asserted S&P Global Market Intelligence in a report.

Economic growth, favorable market conditions and improvements in the regulatory framework helped companies raise record amounts in 2024, the financial in-

formation and analytics firm said in its analysis earlier this week.

As of December 3, as many as 298 companies have gone public on the exchanges - NSE and BSE. Notably, Hyundai Motor India's Rs 278.59 billion public issue, which was completed in October, is the country's largest IPO ever.

The listed companies raised a

combined Rs 1.4 trillion rupees, according to data compiled by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The IPO count this year grew over 22 per cent from 243 in 2023, while fundraising volumes jumped about 140 per cent from Rs 588.27 billion, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.

The NSE's benchmark index,

the NIFTY 50, reached an all-time high of 26,216 points on September 27, while the BSE Sensex peaked at 85,836 points on September 26.

The stock market gains have been underpinned by India's robust economic growth prospects. Sensex and Nifty rose about 13-14 per cent so far this year, with three more weeks to go. —ANI

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Savour the spirit of Peru: A CULINARY ODYSSEY AT COYA MUSCAT

Times News Service

MUSCAT: “One cannot think well, love well, and sleep well if one has not dined well.” Virginia Woolf’s timeless words resonate deeply with me, and I believe they capture the soul of every epicurean adventure.

For someone who lives to explore new flavours, the idea of authentic Peruvian cuisine has always been tantalising.

But instead of embarking on an 18-hour journey to Peru, COYA Muscat, nestled in The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort, offers an equally immersive experience - a true taste of the Incan land, right here in Oman. From the moment I entered COYA Muscat, I knew I was in for something special.

Greeted with a cheerful “Welcome to Paradise” by their elegantly poised staff, I was immediately transported into a realm where food meets artistry and culture. The setting was a feast for the senses, with its vibrant Latin American-inspired décor, bespoke hand-carved furnishings, and curated Peruvian trinkets.

The restaurant’s semi-outdoor seating was perfect for basking in the cool Muscat breeze while embarking on my culinary journey.

A cultural and culinary celebration

COYA Muscat isn’t just a restaurant; it’s an experience. Under the stewardship of Mohammed Simo Bennani, the general manager, and the culinary genius of executive chef Dhharram Rana, the restaurant seamlessly weaves together art, music, and food.

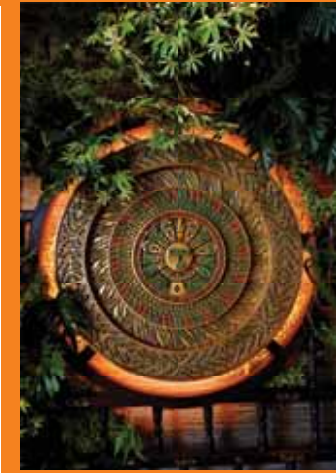
Known for his innovative approach to tropical ingredients and immersive dining experiences across the globe, Bennani had transformed a section of the ground floor of the The St. Regis Al Mouj Muscat Resort into a vibrant setting reflecting Latin American culture — an experience designed to take us on a unique culinary journey.

Be it the art or the music, COYA Muscat took us on a multi-sensory journey from the moment we walked in. Every element celebrates Peru’s multicultural heritage, blending indigenous flavours with Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish influences.

Our welcome drink showered a plethora of historical and mythological extravaganzas through their names.

I began my adventure with a trio of signature non-alcoholic drinks: *The Eyes of Inti*, *Inca’s Rage*, and *Purple Rain*.

Each sip carried zesty, ex-



The Peruvian menu beautifully reflects the influence of its indigenous roots - particularly the Incas - while honouring the culinary traditions brought by European, Asian and African immigrants. These diverse influences, combined with Peru’s abundant native ingredients have created a cuisine that is both rich in history and globally celebrated.

otic flavours that lingered on my palate like a beautiful memory.

While I was familiar with Peru’s rich Incan history, my knowledge of its cuisine was limited. That changed the moment I tasted COYA’s six-course menu, which brought Peruvian traditions to life, enhanced by global techniques and Chef Rana’s unique flair.

The Peruvian menu beautifully reflects the influence of its indigenous roots - particularly the Incas - while honouring the culinary traditions brought by European, Asian, and African immigrants. These diverse influences, combined with Peru’s abundant native ingredients, have created a cuisine that is both rich in history and globally celebrated.

At the heart of Peruvian gastronomy are four major staples that define its unique character:



Mohammed Simo Bennani



Dhharram Rana



exotic purple corn, an astonishing variety of over 3,000 types of potatoes and tubers, vibrant chillies, and nutrient-rich quinoa. Together with rice, wheat, and a diverse range of meats, these ingredients form the backbone of Peru’s culinary identity.

A journey through flavours

The meal began with *Ceviche Clásico*, a quintessential Peruvian dish of raw fish marinated in citrus juices. Its tangy, fresh flavours were the perfect prelude to what followed.

The *Atun Chifa Ceviche*, with yellowfin tuna, soy, sesame seeds, and rice crackers, was a delightful twist on the classic, while the *Pargo a la Trufa* (red snapper with truffle, ponzu, and chives) and *Lubina Clásica* (sea bass with sweet potato, red

onion, and choclo) elevated seafood to an art form.

Shellfish lovers are in for a treat with the *Camarones* (tiger prawns with miso, shiso, chimichurri, quinoa furikake, and aji amarillo) and the *Ceviche Mixto*. The latter, a mix of scallops, octopus, calamari, and Peruvian ground cherry leche de tigre, is an explosion of textures and flavours that will leave you craving more.

As a meat lover, I couldn’t resist the grilled *Wagyu Sirloin*. Cooked to perfection, it had a subtle charcoal bitterness that complemented its melt-in-the-mouth tenderness.

For vegetarians and vegans, the *Alcachofas* (baby artichoke with apple, miso, shiso, and pumpkin seeds) and *Tomate de Verano* (summer tomatoes

with compressed watermelon, wakame, sunflower seeds, and aji panca) showcase the creativity and inclusivity of COYA’s menu.

The sweet symphony

I usually approach dessert with caution, but COYA’s offerings were impossible to resist.

The *Mouse de Praline*, with praline mousse, passion fruit, white chocolate ice cream, and popping candy, was a symphony of flavours and textures.

And the *Churros de Naranja*, made with orange and lime churros, milk chocolate, and *Dulce de Lychee* sauce, was the perfect sweet goodbye to this incredible journey.

A love letter to Peruvian cuisine

Beyond the flavours, COYA

Muscat tells a story - a story of Peru’s multicultural evolution. From the indigenous influence of the Incas to the culinary imprints of European, Asian, and African immigrants, each dish celebrates Peru’s unique history and the tropical ingredients that define its cuisine.

My three-hour brunch at COYA Muscat was a revelation. Each course deepened my appreciation for Peruvian flavours, culture, and heritage. It’s a culinary affair I’m not ready to end.

As I plan my dream trip to Machu Picchu, I’m certain that COYA Muscat will remain my go-to for indulging in the spirit of Peru. And when I return from the land of Inti, I’ll be back for another taste of this extraordinary escape.

SPORTS

Norris wins in Abu Dhabi to seal constructors' title for McLaren

The winner led from start to finish and his fourth win of the season was enough to secure the championship by 14 points, despite Ferrari finishing second and third with Sainz and Leclerc

ABU DHABI: Lando Norris delivered McLaren's first Formula 1 Constructors' Championship in 26 years with a dominant win at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday, clinching the title by 14 points over rivals Ferrari.



Norris' performance was crucial, especially as the tension mounted after an incident involving his team-mate, Oscar Piastri, at the start of the race. Piastri, who had qualified second, was tapped into a spin by Red Bull's Max Verstappen on the first lap.

Verstappen received a 10-second penalty for the clash, but Piastri was forced to recover from the back of the grid. With McLaren's championship hopes resting solely on Norris, the pressure was palpable.



Despite a spirited charge from Ferrari drivers Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc, Norris led from start to finish, securing his fourth victory of the season and McLaren's long-awaited championship.

season, McLaren enters 2025 as a potential favourite to defend their newly-won championship.

As the final lap unfolded, Norris celebrated over the team radio, exclaiming, "Next year's going to be my year, too," setting the stage for an exciting new chapter in McLaren's F1 story.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man City draw at Crystal Palace; Man United stunned by Forest

LONDON: Manchester City's recent struggles continued as they were held to a 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace on Saturday, extending their poor run to just one win in their last nine games.



City's hopes of regaining consistent form after their win over Nottingham Forest were dashed by an early Palace lead. Just four minutes into the match, Will Hughes delivered a precise pass to wing-back Daniel Munoz, who fired home the opening goal.

The hosts had further chances to extend their advantage before Erling Haaland's header from Mathheus Nunes' cross leveled the score.

Palace restored their lead through another set-piece as Hughes' corner was met by Maxence Lacroix, who headed past City goalkeeper Ederson. However, City responded once again, with Bernardo Silva finding Rico Lewis, who struck a stunning effort to make it 2-2.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayern extend lead with victory over Heidenheim

MUNICH: Bayern Munich maintained their unbeaten start to the Bundesliga season with a dominant 4-2 victory over Heidenheim on Saturday, extending their lead at the top of the table to six points.



A brace from Jamal Musiala, coupled with goals from Dayot Upamecano and Leon Goretzka, propelled Bayern to another vital win. The victory came as challengers Eintracht Frankfurt were held to a 2-2 draw by Augsburg.

ITALIAN SERIE A

Juventus fight back for draw against Bologna

TURIN: Juventus extended their undefeated start to the Serie A season to 15 games, but it was a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Bologna on Saturday, with head coach Thiago Motta sent off in 50th minute against his former club in a match that had plenty of drama.



The visitors from Bologna took the lead early in the first half with a sharp goal from Dan Ndoye. Bologna continued to dominate the match and were rewarded when Tommaso Pobega doubled their lead in the second half.

SPANISH LA LIGA

Bellingham stars in Madrid's triumph; Barcelona held to a draw by Real Betis

MADRID: Jude Bellingham's incredible form continued as he scored for a fifth consecutive La Liga match, leading Real Madrid to a comfortable 3-0 win over Girona on Saturday.



The England midfielder, who had not scored in the league this season before his current streak, made history as the first Real player to score in five consecutive league games since Karim Benzema in March and April 2021.

Bellingham's opening goal came late in the first half when he fired a bouncing ball into the net from 16 yards out. After the break, the 21-year-old showcased his playmaking ability with a brilliant through ball to Arda Guler, who

slotted home Madrid's second.

PREMIER LEAGUE

West Ham striker Antonio in 'stable' condition after car crash

LONDON: West Ham United has confirmed that striker Michail Antonio is in a stable condition and "conscious and communicating" following a car crash on Saturday afternoon.

In an official statement released Saturday evening, the Premier League club said that Antonio, 34, is currently under close supervision at a central London hospital. The club requested that the public respect the privacy of Antonio and his family during this difficult time.



The club requested that the public respect the privacy of Antonio and his family during this difficult time. They added, "The club will make no further comment this evening but will issue a further

update in due course."

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service responded to the incident in Epping, where they attended a road traffic collision involving a single car at 1:02pm. Firefighters worked to free a man trapped in the vehicle, successfully releasing him by 1:45pm.

The casualty was then taken into the care of the Ambulance Service.

Essex Police are investigating the serious crash, which involved a Ferrari, and have called for witnesses and dashcam footage to aid their inquiries.

West Ham previously expressed

their "thoughts and prayers" for Antonio, his family, and friends.

Antonio, who joined West Ham from Nottingham Forest in 2015,

has scored 68 goals in 268 Premier League appearances for the club.

He is West Ham's record goalscorer in the competition. This season,

Sohar International wins ‘Bank of the Year 2024 - Oman’ by Banker Magazine

This recognition highlights the bank’s forward-thinking strategy, exceptional growth, and significant contributions to advancing both national and regional economic goals

MUSCAT: Sohar International, Oman’s best bank, has been honored with the esteemed title of ‘Bank of the Year 2024 – Oman’ by The Banker magazine, a prestigious UK based publication by the Financial Times.

This recognition highlights the bank’s forward-thinking strategy, exceptional growth, and significant contributions to advancing both national and regional economic goals.



It reflects Sohar International’s dedication to transforming Oman’s financial landscape through innovation, strategic growth, and active participation in pivotal national projects. By driving economic diversification in line with Oman Vision 2040, the bank continues to strengthen its position as a key enabler of sustainable development.

At the award ceremony held in London on December 4, 2024, global financial leaders gathered to celebrate excellence in the banking industry.

Sohar International was proudly represented by Mr. Aziz Al Jahdhami, Chief Priority Banking Officer, and Mr. Omar Baccouche, Executive Vice President of Global Banking, who accepted the award on behalf of the bank’s leadership and dedicated team. This accolade not only highlights the bank’s achievements but also underscores its unwavering commitment to fostering sustainable growth, empowering communities, and strengthening Oman’s position on the global economic stage.

Commenting on the recognition, Mr. Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said: “Being named ‘Bank of the Year 2024 – Oman’ by The Banker is a testament to Sohar International’s unwavering commitment to redefining excellence in banking. This accolade highlights the success of our forward-looking strategy, exceptional growth, significant contributions to advancing national and regional economic goals, and dedication to transforming Oman’s financial landscape. At Sohar International,

we remain steadfast in our mission to elevate industry standards while aligning with Oman’s economic aspirations. Our investments in digital transformation have enhanced accessibility and operational efficiency, empowering clients with intelligent financial solutions that meet their evolving needs. Moreover, our deep commitment to sustainability ensures that our growth contributes to long-term national and environmental resilience. This recognition inspires us to continue driving purpose-driven progress and shaping the future of banking in Oman and beyond.”

The prestigious ‘Bank of the Year 2024 – Oman’ award by The Banker reflects a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of financial institutions against a diverse set of criteria.

This recognition emphasises not only quantitative performance indicators such as financial strength and stability but also qualitative dimensions, including strategic adaptability, innovation, and a commitment to delivering exceptional customer experiences.

Sohar International’s success in earning this accolade underscores its excellence in driving digital transformation, embedding sustainable practices, and fostering positive socio-economic contri-

butions in alignment with Oman’s national development goals. By maintaining strong governance and consistently upholding regulatory standards, the bank has reinforced its position as a leader in the financial sector, setting new benchmarks for innovation, resilience, and value creation.

Sohar International’s achievements in 2024 reflect its commitment to excellence, innovation, and leadership.

The bank was honored with the ‘Best Corporate Banking – Oman’ by the Global Business Review Magazine Awards 2024, the ‘Best Performing Company’ in the Large Cap category at the Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards 2024, and the prestigious ‘Oman’s Best Bank’ by the Middle East Euromoney Awards for Excellence Recognized for its digital innovation, Sohar International received the ‘Digital Leadership in Banking’ award at DX Oman 2024 and the ‘Best Mobile App Oman 2024’.

Additional accolades include multiple honors at the Oman Banking & Finance Awards and the ‘Most Innovative Digital Bank for Ecosystem Services – Oman 2023’ by The Global Economics, UK. These achievements reaffirm Sohar International’s position as a leader in advancing the financial sector in Oman and beyond.

ALL-NEW MG RX9 PREMIUM SUV



A masterpiece of modern design, power, and versatility

MUSCAT: MG Motor Oman introduced the MG RX9, a flagship SUV that redefines luxury and performance in its segment. Combining sleek design, state-of-the-art technology, and robust power, the RX9 is crafted to cater to the dynamic needs of modern families, road-trip enthusiasts, and drivers who demand excellence in every journey. With its striking aesthetics, expansive 7-seater configuration, and an array of advanced features, the MG RX9 stands as a testament to superior engineering and thoughtful craftsmanship, promising an elevated driving experience both on the road and off the beaten path.

Mr. Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, expressed his excitement about the new MGRX9, stating, “The introduction of the MG RX9 reflects our commitment to bringing world-class vehicles that combine style, functionality, and cutting-edge technology to Oman. The RX9 is more than just an SUV; it’s a statement of modern innovation and versatile performance, perfectly designed to cater to the diverse needs of our customers. We are confident that this flagship model will set new benchmarks in its segment and resonate strongly with drivers in Oman.”

to accommodate 1026 litres in the 5-seat configuration, provides plenty of room for luggage, making it ideal for long trips.

In the front, the dashboard features premium materials, including high-quality wood grain or aluminium dashboard trim and soft-plated keys, adding an additional touch of elegance. Features such as the 12.3-inch touch screen, virtual cluster, and hidden intelligent air-conditioning controls ensure drivers are equipped with all the latest features. Available in black or two-tone beige and brown leather, the cabin maintains a sophisticated yet practical design. Seating comfort is further enhanced by the 8-way electrically adjustable driver’s seat (with memory function in the LUX trim) and the 4-way electrically adjustable passenger seat, providing personalised comfort for all.

The MG RX9 is designed for exceptional performance across all terrains. Powered by new Net Blue 2.0 Turbo super-efficient engine and paired with a 9-speed automatic transmission, it delivers smooth, responsive handling in any environment. With five adaptive driving modes – Auto, Eco, Sport, Snow, and Off-road – drivers can easily adjust settings to suit road conditions. Whether in the city, on the highway, or off-road, the MG RX9 offers a seamless driving experience, enhanced by its advanced intelligent driving system and all-road intelligent cruise assist.

Safety is at the forefront of the MG RX9’s design. Equipped with Bosch’s 3rd Generation Intelligent Front View Camera and 5th Generation Millimetre Wave Radar, the RX9 offers advanced driver-assistance systems for all-around protection. The SUV also features HD 360-degree surround view cameras, allowing drivers to have complete visibility, whether parking or maneuvering in tight spaces. Besides these, MG RX9 also comes with “MG Pilot” level 2 ADAS on the LUX trim, which includes Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB), Lane Departure Warning (LDW), Lane Keep Assist (LKA), Emergency Lane Keeping (ELK), Intelligent High Beam Control (IHC), Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) and Blind Spot Monitoring System (BLIS).

INDIAN SCHOOL SUR

Celebrating excellence: ISS hosts 33rd Annual Athletic Meet for primary section

MUSCAT: Indian School Sur (ISS) hosted its 33rd Annual Athletic Meet for the primary section with great enthusiasm on December 5, 2024, on the school grounds. The event was a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship, teamwork, and resilience, showcasing the school’s dedication to fostering holistic growth among its young learners.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Sami Said Rashid Salim Al Hatrushi Al Uraimi, Head of Scouts and Guides Department, Ministry of Education, South Al Sharqiya, Sultanate of Oman. He was welcomed with a grand Guard of Honour by the Scouts, Guides, and members of the Student Council, followed by a bouquet presentation by Mr. Jami Srinivasa Rao, President of the School Management Committee, as a gesture of gratitude. Other esteemed dignitaries present were Dr. Ramkumar Lakshmi Narayanan, Convenor, School Management Committee; Mrs. Nishreen Basheer, Treasurer; and members Mr. Pradeep Kumar A.V., Advocate Saeed T.P., and Mr. Shabeeb Mohammed, along with the Principal, Dr. S. Srinivasan.

The event began with a soulful prayer song performed by the school choir, followed by a warm welcome address delivered by Advocate Saeed T.P., a member of the School Management Committee. This set a positive tone for the day’s proceedings. The flag hoisting ceremony, led by the Chief Guest, symbolised the unity and spirit of the school community. Following this, the Chief Guest officially declared the sports meet open, igniting a wave of excitement among the participants.

A ceremonial torch relay symbolizing passion and perseverance was conducted with great fervor. The torchbearers, Ms. Harshini Mahendran and Mast. Siddharth Pradeep were introduced as exemplary athletes for their outstanding achievements in various sports disciplines. An inspiring oath-taking ceremony, led by Master Siddharth, emphasized the values of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship, setting the tone for the competitions to follow.

The sporting events commenced with a thrilling 50-metre sprint, showcasing the agility and determination of the young athletes. Students from UKG added charm to the event with their demonstrations of various sports activities, displaying exceptional coordination and discipline. Relay races and mass drills performed by Grades I to IV, including an eye-catching ribbon drill and dumbbell drill, highlighted teamwork and synchronised effort.

The event concluded with a grand prize distribution ceremony, where the Chief Guest, along



with the dignitaries, presented medals and trophies to the young athletes for their stellar performances. Individual champions from Classes I to IV were announced, bringing immense pride and joy to the winners.

Mast. Aayan Sunil was awarded the individual champion’s trophy in the Class I boys’ category, while Ms. Chaitradri Adda received it in the girls’ category.

Mast. Lezin Muhammed was the individual champion in the Class II boys’ category, and Ms. Krithika A. won in the girls’ category.

Mast. Rufus Blesson Koshy earned the individual champion’s trophy in the Class III boys’ category, while Ms. Khadiza Binte Khalid was the girls’ champion.

Mast. Muhammed Sajjat clinched the individual champion’s trophy in the Class IV boys’ category, with Ms. Naadavi receiving it in the girls’ category.

The Red House was declared the overall champion, claiming the coveted trophy, while the Blue House secured the runners-up position.

The school management expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, Principal, faculty, parents, and students for their invaluable contributions to the success of the event.

AT WOMANI AWARDS 2024

Bank Nizwa earns dual recognition for empowering women employees

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to fostering an inclusive work environment where women can thrive, innovate, and lead, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, was recently honoured the ‘Best Employee Support 2024’ award at WOMANi 2024 event, which organised by Cambridge IFA. The award is a testament to its efforts in creating opportunities for women across all organizational levels.

At the event, Ms. Haifa Al Lawati, Chief Human Resources Officer at Bank Nizwa, shared valuable insights on the pivotal role of Islamic finance in driving economic diversification, promoting inclusion, and empowering women in leadership positions. She highlighted how Sharia-compliant financial solutions can serve as a catalyst for economic resilience while simultaneously advancing societal progress. Furthermore, Ms. Haifa Al Lawati, was titled one of the ‘Most Influential Women in Islamic Business



and Finance’.

Commenting on the dual recognitions, Ms. Haifa Al Lawati, stated, “These accolades reflect Bank Nizwa’s dedication to creating a workplace defined by inclusivity, equal opportunity, and purpose. By cultivating a culture where our woman workforce feels valued and equipped to excel, we strengthen our organisational capabilities and contribute meaningfully to the Sultanate’s broader ambitions for economic diversification and sustainable development. Recognitions like these highlight the collective

spirit of our team and our focus on setting benchmarks of excellence, innovation, and transformative change.”

She added, “We are incredibly proud to have received these prestigious recognitions, both as an institution and on an individual level. Being named the Best Organization for Female Employees Support reflects the shared efforts and core values that the bank consistently strives to uphold. At Bank Nizwa, empowering women is a responsibility we embrace with conviction as we recognize and celebrate their essential role

in fostering a prosperous society. Women bring unique perspectives, collaborative approaches, and resilience to overcome challenges, making them invaluable assets to any organisation.”

Bank Nizwa’s efforts to support women employees are exemplified through initiatives designed to upskill, nurture talent, and foster leadership. In line with this, the bank offers comprehensive training programs that equip women with the skills needed for career advancement and personal growth. The bank also hosts workshops and leadership sessions to inspire confidence and strategic thinking, enabling female employees to assume roles of greater responsibility.

Bank Nizwa takes a holistic approach to cultivating a work environment that leverages the diverse talents of its employees. By supporting and empowering individuals, the bank enhances employee satisfaction, drives innovation, and reinforces its competitive edge, further solidifying its leadership in Islamic finance.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat officially celebrates winning the ‘Best Place to Work Award 2024’

This international award is a testament to the bank’s pioneering efforts in developing human resources and fostering a model work environment

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, Oman’s leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has officially celebrated winning the “Best Place to Work” Award for 2024, presented by the prestigious “Best Places to Work” Institution, a globally recognised body based in the UK.

To mark the occasion, a representative from the Institution visited the Bank’s Head Office in Airport Heights, where Said bin Salim Al Aufi, General Manager of Human Resources & Administration at Bank Muscat, received the trophy on behalf of the Bank, in the presence of the Bank’s officials



and employees.

This international award is a testament to the Bank’s pioneering efforts in developing human resources and fostering a model work environment

In May 2024, Bank Muscat announced this accolade in this global competition, based on a survey measuring organizational culture and employee satisfaction, along with a comprehensive evaluation of human resources policies and practices. The Bank received high ratings across several indicators, which qualified it for the award. This accolade hon-

ours distinguished international institutions that play a key role in continuously improving the work environment, enhancing employee experience, and providing exemplary workplaces. The achievement highlights the success of the strategies and plans Bank Muscat has implemented in human resources development.

On this special occasion, Said bin Salim Al Aufi, General Manager of Human Resources & Administration at Bank Muscat, warmly welcomed the visiting delegate and expressed his pride in receiving the international award and

being recognised by a specialized global institution. He emphasised that this achievement reinforces the Bank’s leadership in human resource development and its commitment to creating a work environment that aligns with international standards.

Al Aufi further noted that this recognition reflects the Bank’s dedication to developing human resources and viewing employees as integral partners in the Bank’s progress, success, and continuous growth.

He also highlighted the Bank’s commitment to promoting trans-

parency, governance, and workplace values, emphasising that the success of this award underscores the Bank’s commitment to empowering employees, supporting their growth, and nurturing their skills and potential. The General Manager of Human Resources and Administration extended his gratitude to the officials at the “Best Places to Work” for this prestigious award, recognising the responsibility to maintain a model, innovative work environment that enables employees to achieve common goals.

In recent years, Bank Muscat has fostered an exemplary work environment by enhancing the skills, experience, and competencies of its employees, equipping them with the tools necessary for significant career growth. This commitment is reflected in their high level of customer service and the provision of top-notch banking solutions. The Bank has also formulated a strategic plan and implemented thoughtful policies aimed at achieving success in human resources development, while creating new opportunities for Omani youth. This initiative aims to cultivate a culture of continuous learning that showcases their talents and skills in the workplace.

The Bank is dedicated to organizing a variety of events, such

as the annual Leadership Forum, staff open days, and sports activities. These events are designed to engage employees in promoting the foundational values of the bank and provide a platform for exchanging ideas and insights that contribute to business development.

Moreover, Bank Muscat honours employees with over 20 years of service, acknowledging their vital role in the Bank’s success and growth, which reflects its commitment to human resources development. The Bank also conducts internal awareness campaigns throughout the year to improve understanding of customer service principles, raise awareness about electronic fraud, and promote professional conduct and workplace ethics.

In terms of social responsibility and community service, the Bank actively encourages employee participation in initiatives such as blood donation drives, volunteering opportunities, and financial inclusion efforts. This includes organizing educational camps for employees’ children to introduce them to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and its management. In the realm of innovation, the Bank hosts the Ibdaa Festival, celebrating innovation and motivating employees to engage positively and think creatively.

RECORD-BREAKING PARTICIPATION

MHD sponsors the 2024 Bidiyah Carnival Automotive Challenge

BIDIYAH: The vibrant Wilayat of Bidiyah in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate came alive with the thrilling “Bidiyah Carnival Automotive Challenge,” proudly sponsored by MHD. Held as part of the Sultanate of Oman’s celebrations of the 54th National Day, the event took place over three days at Tel Bidiyah Field and Bidiyah Public Park, coinciding with the winter desert sports season.

This year’s edition was marked by exceptional enthusiasm, drawing large crowds of motoring enthusiasts, tourists, and families from across Oman and the GCC. With participation from both professional drivers and amateurs, the carnival showcased exhilarating endurance car sports and competitive events, further boosting tourism and economic activity in the region.

Highlighting the scale of the event, seven MG3 cars were awarded to the first-place winners in each category, alongside cash prizes totaling OMR15,000 for the second- and third-place winners. Competitions spanned seven categories, including 6-cylinder and 8-cylinder modified and unmodified vehicles, “Backfire” and “Burnfire” events, and an open category with strict safety protocols.

Reflecting on MHD’s sponsorship and involvement, Mr. Moh-



sin Hani Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, stated:

“The Bidiyah Carnival Automotive Challenge is a testament to the passion Oman holds for motorsports and the shared spirit of adventure and innovation. MHD ACERE is proud to support this event as it not only celebrates our country’s vibrant National Day but also promotes tourism, community engagement, and the love for automotive excellence. We remain

committed to fostering such dynamic platforms that bring communities together while driving economic and social progress in Oman.”

Adding to the excitement, the event featured an exhibition of vehicles by MHD, including renowned brands like MG, Jetour, INEOS, Jeep, Dodge, Hongqi, and Defender. The showcase provided attendees with a close-up view of these remarkable automobiles, blending innovation, performance, and style.

The Bidiyah Carnival Automotive Challenge continues to be a major highlight of Oman’s winter tourism calendar, with events planned to extend until March 2025. This year’s record-breaking participation and audience turnout underscore its significance as one of the largest automotive competitions in the Sultanate.

TO ELEVATE E-COMMERCE FULFILLMENT

Temu and Asyad Express form strategic partnership

MUSCAT: Temu, the direct-from-factory online marketplace, announced a strategic partnership with Asyad Express, part of Asyad Group, to enhance delivery service across Oman and improve the fulfillment process for its customers.

This collaboration combines Temu’s innovative direct-from-manufacturer business model with Asyad Express’s advanced logistics network to offer access to a wide variety of quality products at affordable prices. As part of the alliance, Temu expands its payment methods to include a new cash-on-delivery option, reflecting the company’s commitment to providing a seamless shopping experience.



Quality products

“Temu’s mission is to make quality products affordable to more consumers. We aim to deliver a superior customer experience by working with Asyad Express as a local fulfillment partner,” a Temu spokesperson said.

Jason Ashbrook, Vice President of Commercial at Asyad Express, added, “We are pleased to collaborate with Temu to provide quality and reliable services to online shoppers in Oman. Together, we aim to ensure customer satisfaction in the delivery and

fulfillment process.”

Asyad Express is dedicated to providing efficient and reliable global express delivery services. This partnership with Temu aligns with the strategic vision of Asyad Group aiming to reinforce Oman’s role as a premier logistics gateway to the GCC and MENA. By leveraging Asyad Express robust infrastructure and advanced technology, this collaboration will enhance cross-border trade, attract global businesses, and contribute to the economic growth for Oman.

Since launching services in Oman in September 2023, Temu has offered a wide range of products across over 200 categories, from household items to electronics. By connecting customers directly with manufacturers, Temu’s model reduces costs and inefficiencies typically seen in traditional retail supply chains. As consumer shopping behaviours continue to evolve, this alliance positions both companies at the forefront of digital retail innovation in one of the world’s fastest-growing e-commerce regions.

CURATED BY DEVYANI SAMPAT

Indian Social Club presents a captivating Flower Fashion Show

MUSCAT: The Indian Social Club (ISC) annual calendar envisages organising and presenting interesting cultural events, including especially for the ladies of the club.

The recent event was a Flower Fashion Show which was conducted by Devyani Sampat on 08 November 2024 at the club premises. The event was highly appreciated by the Indian community and had an overwhelming response. As always it was well executed by ISC with its commitment to foster cultural enrichment.

Everything was flawless right from the flower adorned backdrop to the meticulously coordinated high tea that followed. Al Hosni Group International, was the title sponsor of the event.

Devyani’s contributions to the floral arts extend beyond this event. She is a member of prestigious organisations like WAFA (World Flower Association), NAFA (National Flower Association) Europe, WFC (World Flower Council) and Ikebana International in Japan.

She conducts demonstrations worldwide. Her inspiration for floral fashion stems from global experiences, having participated



in flower shows in Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong and Hyderabad. These experiences have shaped her vision, driving her desire to bring this unique art form to Oman’s multicultural audience.

The show featured 13 stunning models, each sashaying down the ramp in dazzling ensemble crafted with flowers, feathers, crystals and other unique materials.

Devyani’s ingenuity in blending natural elements with innovative techniques was a testament to her artistry. In one of the costumes she incorporated braided grass called ‘Cat Tail’, grown locally

in Muscat, while in another she transformed glue sticks into intricate embellishments. Each model sported her headgear royally with a sophistication that match the standards of an international fashion show. The psychedelic color schemes of the lights along with the thumping beats of the music made the event a spectacular entertainment programme.

Aligning perfectly to the evening’s charm, Seema Chaudhery, an accomplished choreographer and dance director, curated the ramp walks and orchestrated two energetics dance performances by her



troupe. This captivating interludes brought a touch of grandeur to the event, seamlessly complementing the theme of the floral elegance.

Devyani had the privilege of honing her craft under the guidance of renowned masters from around the world.

Her mentors included the late Leela Rajkumar from India, Phubast Chesdmethree from Thailand, Lesley from UK, Mary Franks from France and Madhu Shah from Australia.

The audience was left spellbound, with many complementing the models, designers and organ-



izers for the spectacular evening. The models, Sonal Shah, Rashna Saher, Hansika Gagnani, sunila Kawatra, Kala Rao, Dr Parul, Ragini Vaishnav, Priya Shivakumar, Mausam Mistry, Pushpa Negi, veena Naveen, Vatsala Mishra and Manjeet Kaur Parmar, embodied elegance and poise in Devyani’s creations.

The night was anchored by Garima Bhandari, a seasoned radio professional and programme director of TFM. Known for her engaging personality and illustrious career interviewing Bollywood stars like Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh

Khan, Garima brought her signature charisma to the event. Her lively commentary and interactions with the audience added a vibrant energy that kept spirits high throughout the evening.

As the event concluded, the ISC ladies’ coordinator expressed heartfelt gratitude to the chairman Babu Rajendran, the management committee and staff for their unwavering support. The Flower Fashion Show was not just an event but an artistic triumph that will be remembered as a shining example of cultural celebration and creativity in Oman.

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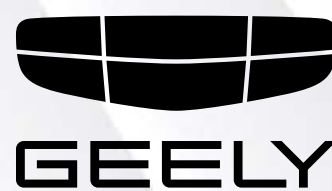


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