

HIS MAJESTY THE
SULTAN ISSUES TWO
ROYAL DECREES
>A4



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 175 | 20 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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

Discounted Interest Rate

4.75%

Special offer on Sayyarati Auto Loan for Ministry of Education Employees from Bank Muscat

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

OMAN FUEL STATIONS MUST PROVIDE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

All fuel stations obligated to provide clean restrooms and other basic facilities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with Oman's commitment to achieving zero carbon neutrality by 2050, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion issued Ministerial Resolution No. 615/2023 on Sunday, making it mandatory for all fuel stations in Oman to install electric vehicle (EV) charging points in compliance with the standards set by the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR).

This decision underscores Oman's dedication to environmen-



Fuel filling stations situated on highways must incorporate 'integrated stations' that include essential public amenities such as

- Prayer rooms with restrooms for both males and females
- A commercial building housing a restaurant or café
- A store, car wash and a pharmacy

tal sustainability, with a primary objective of enhancing services to align with the country's economic status while elevating the quality of fuel stations to provide comprehensive services to consumers.

The decision also imposes an obligation on fuel marketing companies to ensure that all fuel fill-

ing stations offer essential public amenities, including restrooms and other fundamental services. It further requires cleanliness at these facilities during the station's operational hours.

In the event of non-compliance, the decision outlines a penalty structure. Initial offenders will re-

ceive a written warning, followed by an administrative fine of OMR 1,000 for repeated violations. For persistent non-compliance, the fine increases to OMR 3,000.

Notably, the government recently disclosed that Oman boasts more than 400 EVs, and there are ongoing efforts to expand the

charging infrastructure in the country, which currently stands at 100 charging points.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology for Transport has also announced plans to manufacture electric cars within the Special Economic Zone in Duqm.

As of the end of 2022, the number of fuel filling stations across various governorates in the Sultanate of Oman stood at 676. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion continues its inspection campaigns of these stations to ensure the provision of top-notch services that contribute to reflecting the economic and tourism status of Oman across its various governorates.

It's important to note that the regulations for issuing licences to establish and operate fuel filling stations, as per Ministerial Decision No. 69/2009, emphasise the importance of providing air filling devices, car washing facilities, food stores, and other services.

>A3

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Sayyid Badr holds talks on Gaza issue

1 Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received phone calls from his Iranian and Jordanian counterparts on the situation in Gaza Strip. **>A3**

WORLD 5,143 children killed in Gaza Strip

2 The OCHA said that 5,143 children have been martyred since the seventh of last October as a result of Israeli raids. **>A7**

SPORTS Oman champs in T20 Asia Qualifier Final

3 Oman emerged champions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier Final after a nail-biting win over hosts Nepal in the summit clash in Nepal. **>B7**

COMMENTARY

What we see in Gaza today is an organised terrorism by Israel and the USA



MOHAMED ALZADJALI



Last year, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the West stood up and immediately took notice. They were fast with their condemnation of the actions of Russia, who they said was occupying lands that belonged to Ukraine. They rushed aid and then military supplies to Ukraine, and were vocal in their criticism of Russia as an invader.

And when it comes to the recent conflict between Israel and Palestine in the Gaza Strip, the same countries are supporting Israel, the invader, instead of the rightful owner of the land. To my mind, this is an example not only of hypocrisy and double standards, but of organised terrorism being committed by the occupation forces and the United States of America, with the support of Western countries.

Today, the Americans and Israelis have virtually stopped the United Nations from stepping in to condemn the attack on Gaza or to demand a ceasefire. They have formed a cartel of countries and are using this to impose their views and rules on the rest of the world. This is a facet of terrorism at its worst. If America, Israel and other countries term Hamas as terrorists, I believe, they are worse. They have managed to take lessons

from the organised crime syndicates and are unleashing government-sponsored organised terrorism.

Let us look at America's role in this war. The USA always says that it is looking out for the safety of its citizens, but I differ on this. America's tacit support to Israel will backfire and create more problems for Americans. Do they think that when this war is over, everyone will forget about it? What about the thousands of people who have lost their loved ones? Many have lost their kin, a man or a woman, their son and daughter? Will they make peace? No, they may travel to America, or Israel and take bitter revenge. They have no more hope left in their lives because bombs have sniffed out everything dear to them. And retribution will be the only recipe they will seek for. To America, I will say this: "You are seeding ideas of revenge and retribution in people's minds and this will come back to haunt you."

If one looks at most attacks in the past, all the bombings, all the violence, they have not come from a vacuum. Addressing a special Security Council meeting on the Israel-Hamas war, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the deadly Hamas attack on southern Isra-

el "did not happen in a vacuum." There have been reasons for all of them. Right now, Israel and America are the reasons. They are the instigators, forcing people to become violent. For Israel too, this war will ensure that they will never live in peace. Israelis will never truly be safe anywhere in the world. The country and the people will have to live in constant fear and on alert for terror attacks, and this will affect their economy.

To other countries aligned with these global 'organised terrorists', I would warn them to stay careful. Do not assume that you will not be targeted. And when that happens, do not call Muslims, the terrorists, because you are worse. This is the only way smaller countries can hurt you without the endless resources of the West.

Look at how civilians, which include Palestinian Christians and Muslims, are dying in Gaza today based on vague claims of Israel that Hamas leaders were spotted in the area. Indiscriminate bombing is creating a new generation of Muslims who hate Israel and anyone who stands along with them.

Israel is now saying that it is trying to kill even relatives of Hamas leaders, but you are just creating more Hamas volunteers. **>A2**

Protect your family with MYMO EXPRESS

Clean, Ozonated Fruits & Veggies

Order Now

DOWNLOAD NOW

Google Play App Store

@mymoexpress.om

Facebook Instagram YouTube



OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....11:55pm
Asr.....3:07pm
Maghrib.....5:31pm
Isha.....6:43pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:59am



بريد عُمان
OMAN POST

Parcel Service
Your best choice to deliver your packages locally and internationally

1001 omanpost.om



What we see in Gaza today is an organised terrorism by Israel, USA

< FROM A1 If I have a family member, who is a Hamas cadre, I end up losing my family because of this connection. Then what is left for me? Won't I seek revenge? Israel and the USA calling Hamas as terrorists is like calling former France President Charles de Gaulle a terrorist. The French military officer had led the Free French Forces against Nazi Germany in World War II.

It is a known fact that Israel has not bothered to fulfil even a single condition of the Oslo Accord or any other UN resolution on Gaza. Palestine on the other hand has fulfilled all the conditions. Yet Israel claims that it is a democratic and fair nation. This is all propaganda from the Western countries to justify their government's stance of supporting the aggressor. With social media, people now have an alternative source of

news that shows the truth and this is why so many protests are being held across the world against the terrorism of the West.

Palestinians are winning their case this time, not in the courts of the biased politicians, but in the courts of people. One must remember that the events of October 7 cannot be viewed without looking into the prism of the past. When one visits a doctor for health issues, the doctor always enquires about the medical history, same is the case with Palestinians in Gaza.

An old anecdote comes to my mind, about a school bully and a quiet student who joins class and is immediately picked up by the bully and his friends. The quiet student just wants to be left alone and wants to be free, but when the torture gets unbearable, he lashes out at the bully. The bully then goes to his father and to the school principal to punish the quiet child



since he couldn't do it himself. This is the truth of what Israel is doing today. Gaza has always been surrounded under the prying eyes of Israelis. It is as good as an open prison and all they want is their

freedom, but they have to deal with Israelis forcibly occupying their lands. One cannot view these issues in isolation or from a particular point in time like the West is doing, but one has to delve into the

past and that's when the truth will be revealed.

I also want to point out the deafening silence of fellow Arab countries, who are scared of missiles raining down on their lands

if they take side with Palestinians. They are not equipped to deal with the 'organised terrorists' like the West, America and Israel, so they have chosen to keep quiet. If tomorrow, Russia, China, Iran, and Arab countries stand up and take a stance, we might see some opposition to the brainwashing propaganda.

The policies of the USA President Joe Biden also puts fellow Americans at risk. His excuse that his country is interfering to ensure the safety of Americans is totally unacceptable. If there are any attacks on US installations or hijack attempts made, then it is only because of the flawed approach of the US.

In the meantime, while the world debates and political games are being played behind closed doors, thousands of Palestinians will continue to be exterminated in Gaza, led by two of the biggest terrorist nations in the world today.

CUT CARBON EMISSIONS

Al Sharqiyah varsity inks pact to instal solar plant

IBRA: Al Sharqiyah University signed here on Sunday two agreements with private sector establishments to provide solar energy and establish student housing units to the tune of OMR7.8 million.

The first agreement deals with designing, exporting, installing and connecting a solar energy plant with a capacity of 980 kilowatts.

The total cost of this project is estimated at OMR350,000. It is expected to contribute to reducing carbon emissions by 1818 tons. The second agreement,



worth OMR7.5 million, is regarding the establishment of 4 student housing units with 132 rooms in each unit. The total capacity of the units will exceed 1,600 students. -ONA

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Heritage ministry to showcase Oman's landmarks in London

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, will showcase the country's landmarks at the World Travel Market London 2023, which begins in London on Monday and lasts for three days.

Oman's delegation to the event will be led by Azzan Qassim Al Bussaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism.

The Omani pavilion at the expo will bring together partners from the government and private sectors, whose participation in the



global event stems from a promotional programme aimed at highlighting Oman's competitive tourism capabilities. -ONA

The brands
you trust, have
a brand new
name



KUWAIT

Delegation from Kuwait military academy visits MTC



MUSCAT: A delegation from the Ali Al Sabah Military Academy of the State of Kuwait, headed by Brigadier Khalid Shuja Al Otaibi yesterday visited the Military Technological College (MTC).

Upon the delegation's arrival at the college, they were received by the Acting Commandant of the Military Technological College.

The visiting delegation was briefed on the Military Technological College and they toured its various facilities. -ONA



Closer than you think
Over 100 branches, and more than 300 ATMs/CDMs/FFMs/MFKs to serve you

bankdhofar www.bankdhofar.com



Sayyid Badr, Iran and Jordan ministers hold talks on Gaza



The ministers exchanged views on the continuation of the Israeli military aggression against Gaza Strip, causing civilian casualties

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, on Sunday received a phone call from Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The ministers exchanged views on the continuation of the Israeli military aggression against Gaza Strip, causing more civilian casualties, and the destruction of public facilities, hospitals and



schools. Sayyid Badr and Dr. Hossein also discussed regional and international efforts to achieve a humanitarian truce and allow relief organizations to carry out their missions, to treat the injured and deliver highly needed life-saving supplies to the population in Gaza Strip and repair demolished vital utilities. **Legitimate rights** The two ministers stressed the need to give priority to diplomatic

and political action to activate the international law for restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. They laid emphasis on the importance of terminating the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and establishing an independent Palestinian state. They underscored the futility of expanding the scope of the current brutal war waged by the Israeli occupation forces which, they said, have to bear its legal consequences.

Phone call from Jordan Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received a phone call from Ayman Al Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During the telephonic conversation, the two ministers reviewed the latest developments of diplomatic and political efforts aimed at halting the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, in addition to achieving a truce that would allow the flow of humanitarian and relief supplies to the injured and people in the Strip.

Military escalation The two ministers also touched on the danger of continued military escalation and the worsening humanitarian situation, in addition to the grave regional challenges that are expected to be discussed at the extraordinary Arab Summit that will be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) during this month (November 2023). **-ONA**

FIRST MEETING

OHRC elects new Chairman and Deputy Chairman



MUSCAT: Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) during its first meeting elected Dr. Rashid Hamad Al Balushi as Chairman of the OHRC and Saud Saleh Al Maawali as Deputy Chairman. Al Balushi told ONA that the

commission is working on setting up a national strategy for human rights based on article 11 of the commission's regulations. He said that a lot of work awaits the commission on the national and international levels. **-ONA**

GRADUATION

Royal Navy of Oman marks annual day



MUSANNAH: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) commemorated its annual day, which falls on the November 3 every year with the graduation of a new batch of soldiers under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), at the military parade field on Sunday. On this glorious occasion and in commemoration of the Royal Navy of Oman's receipt of the flag on November 3, 1990, the Royal Navy of Oman presented a military parade that embodied

the skill and competence of its members, and demonstrated the sublime interest and generous care that the Royal Navy of Oman enjoys from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander. The activities of the annual day began with the playing of the Royal Anthem. After that, His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said reviewed the front row of the graduates' queue, then the parade presented a display of the normal and slow military march, passing in front of the main stage, giving the military salute. **-ONA**

INTEGRATED STATIONS

Amenities needed for new fuel stations

< FROM A1 For new fuel filling stations situated on highways, these projects must incorporate "integrated stations" that include essential public amenities such as prayer rooms with restrooms for both males and females, a commercial building housing a restaurant or café, a store, public restrooms, and a pharmacy. Fuel filling stations should also encompass a car wash, an information office, primary mechan-



ical services, parking for both cars and trucks, designated parking for services and activities at the station, and accommodations for disabled individuals.

COMMENTARY

How networking can help graduates get their dream jobs



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Many graduates are now looking for a job but getting one is not an easy task when thousands of job seekers are chasing limited vacancies. However, in places like Oman, the adage 'it is not what you know matters but who you know' gets you connected in almost anything worthwhile if you know to pull the right strings. But these 'strings' do not just drop from the sky on your lap.

A fresh graduate needs to get busy to build a network of people who are well connected in the jobs hierarchy. It seems like a formidable task but it is not really hard if you put your wits together. Having said that, young graduates would tell you they already know about it. Their quick answer will be that they are now connected to top people such as the Chief Executive Officers in the social media like LinkedIn. Then why are they still looking for a job?

But what they do not understand is that while the online connections can be useful but there are many limitations. Nothing can take the place of a physical contact like a good grip of a handshake when you meet new people in seminars or other social functions. But again, even the professional circles like that may not be enough. Here in Oman, what would really get you connected are

the traditional social gatherings that still bring people together for many centuries. The mosques, funerals, weddings, Eid feasts or even the village squares or marketplaces during the weekends. But most young people, unfortunately, do not think these gatherings are important.

They stay away from them thinking they are not important in their lives. But in Oman, tradition still looms large in networking. I am not exaggerating by saying most of the top executives get the jobs from this spider web of networking. So are the newly elected members of the Shura Council.

Again, to remind young job seekers, while posting your CV online is important but if the person considering your application is not in your social circle than you have only half a chance of landing a job. As a matter of fact, expatriates who are living in Oman would tell you it is the same trend that is being practiced in their countries. Maybe a little more extensive here in Oman.

But having said that, it still appears that it is a hurdle for graduates to get in the employment ladder on their own merits. But on closer scrutiny, graduates need to dig deeper from their own initiatives to get themselves employed. No one would hand over a position to them by just waiting for it to happen. They need to do more than that.

One area that they can do something in their lives is to get into small businesses and this is where they can open up new opportunities for themselves. You may argue that small trades also need social networking skills to get themselves going in the struggling stages. But at least, they would open up an alternative route to make a living instead of looking for a job with or without the help of social networking.

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY TOO!

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

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

Oman United Insurance Co.
SAOG

OATH TAKING



HM the Sultan issues two Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Sunday issued two Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 78/2023 deals with oathtaking.

Article (1) states that—with the exception of the oath to be taken before the Sultan, the oath to be taken by members of the State Council, the Shura Council and judges—oathtaking stipulated by laws shall be performed by signing an Oath to be written in the following wording: “In the name of Allah, the Almighty, I swear to respect the Basic Law of the State and enforced laws and legislations, to carry out my duties truthfully, honourably and honestly and to safeguard public funds, as well as the dignity and integrity of my profession and its secrets”.

Prior to assuming their tasks, all employees of the State’s Administrative Apparatus and other public legal persons shall pledge to sign the Oath stated in the first clause of this article.

Article (2) cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing.

Royal Decree No. (79/2023) ratifies an agreement between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Slovak Republic on mutual visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports, signed in New York on 21 September 2023.

Article (1) ratifies the above-mentioned agreement as per the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. **-ONA**



COMMERCE MINISTRY WORKING ON PLAN TO HELP PRODUCERS IN MARKETING OF FRANKINCENSE



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion is working, in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), on preparation of a project to enable Omani producers of frankincense to enhance the value of products protected by geographic indications and their marketing.

The project aimed to create a qualitative shift in frankincense production and marketing through the use of the geographic indications in relation to industrial property.

It also aims to stress the necessity and importance of awareness related to compliance with the proper methods of production of frankincense to ensure availability and sustainability of the same, which provides the SMEs with several business opportunities and contributes to diversification of sources of income, preservation of the culture and protection of the environment.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, represented by the Intellectual Property Office, reaffirmed that protection of geographic indications aimed to protect the environment and biodiversity of the origin of the service or goods.

Khalid bin Hamoud Al Hinai, Director of the Intellectual Property Office at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said that boosting the

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, represented by the Intellectual Property Office, reaffirmed that protection of geographic indications aimed to protect the environment and biodiversity of the origin of the service or goods.

value of products protected by geographic indications aimed to market and promote the frankincense products in a more efficient manner within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

He said that the project reflects a deep understanding of the scope of the geographic indication for frankincense in the Sultanate of Oman.

He also pointed out that the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion is working on activating and encouraging the protection of the geographic indications in the Sultanate of Oman following the Sultanate’s joining the Lisbon Agreement in February 2021. **-ONA**





امتلکھا بئقہ
Reliably Yours

THE
BIG

COMPRESSOR
IS BACK



Follow us on
f t i @hommeroman
MyHommer.com

 @MustafaSultanElectronics  @MustafaSultanElectronics  @mustafa_sultanE  @mustafa_sultanE

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES,
PLEASE CONTACT :
24818018 / 24818039,
WHATSAPP ONLY : 99316742

AVAILABLE AT LEADING
DEALER OUTLETS

 MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS CO. LLC

CR No. 1/28749/4

Oman Post boosts operations with advance sorting system

The cutting-edge technology has contributed to the improvement of operational efficiency by 43 percent by the end of August 2023 compared to the same period in 2022

MUSCAT: Oman Post, an affiliate of Asyad Group, announced the successful launch and implementation of its innovative automated parcel sorting machine.

The cutting-edge technology has contributed to the improvement of operational efficiency by 43 percent by the end of August 2023 compared to the same period in 2022, in addition to enhancing levels of customer satisfaction.

Launching the new sortation technology highlights Oman Post's commitment to implementing the latest technologies to expedite the processing of postal materials, improve productivity, and increase the efficiency of delivering parcels to customers.

The most advanced parcel sorting machine in Oman utilises new AI technology and advanced data-driven solutions to fully automate the sortation process.

It is capable of handling up to 6,000 packages per hour, sorted over up to 12 lines per run, with a



MODERN TECHNOLOGY: The most advanced parcel sorting machine in Oman utilises new AI technology and advanced data-driven solutions to fully automate the sortation process. - ONA

maximum weight of 20 kg per parcel and maximum sizes of 40 cm height and 50 cm width per parcel.

In addition, the process includes recording the weight of the shipment and optical reading of the data related to the shipment and comparing it with the International postal system (IPS), and Delivery Management Software (Fareye) system to validate the recorded data.

The complete package traceability makes it easier for customers to track their parcels in real time.

Technological developments

On this occasion, Acting CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express, Sheikh Ibrahim Sultan Al Hosni, said, "Oman Post consistently keeps pace with the latest technological developments by adopting advanced digital solutions that

meet customers' aspirations by providing high-quality services while keeping pace with international best practices. The new automated technology was implemented in partnership with global partners, BlueCrest and Emerdis. This will transform how we handle parcels, increasing parcel processing speed, and operational efficiency, and reducing errors which results in reducing the operation cost. We are confident that our advanced solutions will enable us to streamline our operations and deliver exceptional service performance to our customers."

Parcel sorting system

Rohan Mathur, Director of Emerdis Limited, commented on this strategic partnership, saying:

"We are delighted to have delivered the first automated parcel sorting system with image reading OCR in Oman. The investment sets the stage for Oman Post to attract incremental parcel volumes and expand their service capabilities".

Oman Post prioritises innovation to improve customer experience. The new automated parcel sorting machine, with image reading Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, is a substantial investment that enhances parcel handling capacity, streamlines operations, and reduces delivery time.

With the installation of the high-speed automated parcel sorting machine, Oman Post takes a substantial step forward in providing exceptional logistics services to its customers. -ONA

Four arrested for stealing more than 160 bank cards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested four people for stealing more than 160 bank cards issued by foreign banks, which they used to withdraw large sums of money from a local bank in Musandam Governorate.

"The Musandam Governorate Police Command arrested four people of Arab nationality on charges of stealing more than 160 bank cards issued by foreign banks, which they used to withdraw large sums of money from a local bank. Legal procedures are being completed against them," ROP said in a statement.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Stress on sharpening teachers' skills in nuclear science at secondary level

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, concluded on Thursday the regional workshop on best practices for teaching nuclear science and technology at the secondary level.

The five-day workshop involved the participation of 81 guests from 22 countries, in order to empower teachers at the secondary stage and enhance their teaching skills related to nuclear science and technology and raise their level of awareness about the wide and diverse applications of nuclear technology in various areas of life.

The five days of the regional workshop witnessed a number of sessions including various presentations on topics related to the best practices and experiences in teaching nuclear sciences and technology.

On the last day, moderators of all the sessions presented the outcomes of the papers presented in these sessions.

They agreed on an action plan to contribute to achieving the goal of reaching 10 million students through the programmes provided by the regional technical cooperation project RAS0091 on strengthening education in nuclear science and technology.

The strategy for building teachers' skills with regard to facilitating learning of nuclear science and technology subjects in a sustainable manner was also approved.

Posters displayed in the workshop included experiences of the



participating countries, among which: teaching nuclear science and technology from the perspective of Bangladesh, linking nuclear science and technology with secondary school curricula in Syria, developing curricula and teaching tools in nuclear science and technology in Jordan, placing atomic energy and nuclear science in secondary science curricula in Nepal, introducing nuclear science technology into the upper secondary school curricula in Sri Lanka, supporting secondary education by sending nuclear science and technology experts to schools, developing the Ene Hyakka information website, and applying radiological detection in order to apply best practices in linking nuclear science and technology in

secondary education applications to the nuclear devices laboratory, using Learner Guided Activity Sheets (L-GAS) to help improve the academic performance of 10th grade students, breaking down stereotypes about nuclear science and technology, and enhancing their benefits to society and the environment through curriculum design and evaluation.

The workshop came up with several recommendations, including: completing a series of best practices guide on teaching nuclear science and technology at the secondary level, in addition to a special strategy for building teachers' skills related to nuclear science and technology topics in a sustainable manner, and formulating a strategic action plan agreed

upon unanimously to enhance the achievement of the desired goal to reach 10 million students by 2025.

It is worth noting that the five-day workshop included presentations by experts in the field of nuclear science and technology, and special poster presentations.

The workshop also included focused sessions under the slogan "promoting awareness of nuclear science and technology in secondary education in the Asia-Pacific region" where several topics were discussed, including strategic partnership to support good governance, linking nuclear science and technology to school curricula, co-curricular activities, teaching strategies, tools to facilitate learning, evaluation, monitoring, and follow-up.

Embassy of India
Muscat

Advertisement for recruitment of
Clerk (01 post)

Essential qualification:

- i. Graduate degree from recognized university/institution
- ii. Proficient in reading, writing and speaking English
- iii. Conversant with computer applications viz. handling of MS office, knowledge of IT networking and Social Media platforms.
- iv. Valid residence visa of Oman

Age criteria: Between 25-35 years

Desired qualifications:

- i. Knowledge of Arabic and Hindi languages is desirable.

Pay/allowances/other benefits: The pay scale of Clerk is 335-10- 485 -15-635-19-825 with starting salary of OMR 335.000 per month.

Work experience: Candidate with two years prior working in Oman would be preferred.

Interested candidate may fill out an application online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3Qjs3aMULHtnEOpUBB6zZuoYw2eXJTq4v6DriuXTccB4z8w/viewform?usp=pp_url and sent their detailed CV along with scanned copies of educational degree/experience certificates; Oman residence visa and copies of reference provided by previous employer(s), (if any) at secondsecadm@gmail.com latest by 20 November 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Salalah Imports Co. LLC, hereby announces that Mr. Ahmad Mhanna Chafik Ali holder of U.S. Passport No. A04274439 and Oman's Resident Card No. 64906251 (whose photograph is given alongside) will continue his service with our establishment until 30 November 2023. He is not authorized to represent the company after the aforementioned date. Any claim against him has to be reported to us at Mobile no. 99424700 within 10 days from 06 November 2023. After 16 November 2023, no further claims will be accepted.

Anyone who deals with him after the aforementioned date does so at their own risk and responsibility.

CAR FOR SALE



Brand: Ford EcoSport Model: 2014

Engine capacity: 1.5 L Bidding amount: 1200 OMR

Car conditions: require repair

To view the car:
visit the Italian Embassy from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.
Shatti Al Qurum Way 3034 House 2697
Muscat – Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 2469 3727 – 2469 5131

Or visit the Embassy website at www.ambmascate.esteri.it
All bids must be received no later than
07 November 2023 12:00 pm.

SPANISH COAST

Hundreds of migrants rescued off Canary Islands

CANARY ISLANDS: Four migrants have died and more than 700 others were rescued from boats off the Canary Islands, Spanish emergency services said on Saturday.

Authorities intercepted two boats carrying a total of 254 people on Friday evening.

A third boat carrying 238 people was intercepted at dawn on Saturday.



urday and a fourth vessel carrying 247 people was intercepted on Saturday morning.

Most of the migrants were found to be in good health.

However, the Spanish coast guard found two dead bodies during the rescues. Two more migrants also died later in hospital.

Spain's Canary Islands lie around 100 km (60 miles) off the west coast of Africa.

The archipelago has become a popular route into Europe for mi-

grants amid tighter border controls in the Mediterranean.

On Thursday, Spain's Interior Ministry said the number of undocumented migrants arriving in the Canary Islands so far this year increased 111% year-on-year to 30,705.

That figure is nearing the all-time high of 31,678 undocumented migrants recorded in 2006. -aw

52 killed in airstrike on Gaza refugee camp



Dr Al-Daqrان said many of the victims were women and children, adding that the death toll would rise as more bodies were brought to the hospital

GAZA CITY: A powerful blast ripped through the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday night, resulting in dozens of fatalities and numerous injuries, CNN reported, citing hospital officials.

Mohammad Al-Hajj, the director of communications at the nearby Al-Aqsa Martyr's Hospital in Deir Al-Balah, said the blast claimed the lives of 52 people.

Significantly, he attributed the

blast to an Israeli airstrike. "The explosion was the result of an Israeli airstrike," he told CNN.

A resident of the camp said, "We were sitting in our homes when suddenly we heard a very, very powerful sound of an explosion. It shook the whole area, all of it."

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) stated that they are investigating the circumstances surrounding the explosion.

Dr Khalil Al-Daqrان, the head

of nursing at the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Hospital, claimed to have seen at least 33 bodies as a result of what he, too, said was an Israeli airstrike. He said, "One of the houses in the camp was struck. This house was crowded with residents. Its residents were bombed while they were safe in their homes," according to CNN.

Dr Al-Daqrان said many of the victims were women and children, adding that the death toll would rise as more bodies were brought to the hospital. Purported footage from the Al-Aqsa Martyr's hospital showed several bodies covered under white tarpaulin, including those of five children.

Jamal Al Aloul, a resident of Al-Maghazi camp, said he was sleeping when the entire building collapsed on him, adding that he lost his two children in the incident.

However, he was uncertain about the fates of others in the

building, according to the report.

Another resident, Samah Shaqoura, said, "I saw a red light, then we were shaking on the sofa. I saw all my sisters screaming. When I found myself alive, I looked to see who is still alive."

She added that she later found her father had lost his life, the report stated.

Dr Al-Daqrان also underlined the hospital's limitations in handling the high influx of patients from the scene, exacerbated by a shortage of fuel and supplies, making it impossible to provide adequate treatment.

"The number of people inside the hospital who need treatment is more than double the number of beds in the hospital," he said.

The Al-Maghazi refugee camp, is characterised by narrow alleys and high population density, with over 33,000 people living in an area of no more than 0.6 sqkm. -ANI

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

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

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

DEMONSTRATIONS

Protesters storm US streets to condemn Israel's Gaza campaign

WASHINGTON DC: Tens of thousands of demonstrators on Saturday crowded the streets of American cities to criticise Israel's military campaign in Gaza in response to the Hamas attack last month, *The New York Times* reported.

The protests in New York, Nashville, Cincinnati, Las Vegas and even Orono, Maine, demanded a cease-fire and an end to the siege in Gaza.

The demonstrations came a week after vast protests in Asian and European capitals and a day after the Israeli government appeared to reject the United States' call for "humanitarian pauses" in the bombardment.

The protests were filled with messages like "Mourn the dead; fight like hell for the living" and "Let Gaza live!" They also sought a shutdown of American aid to Israel, blending policy demands with anguish and ambition.

Some of the chants, most especially "From the river to the sea!" have been condemned as an antisemitic call for Israel's destruction, though many protesters have defended the slogan as a cry for freedom, as per *The New York Times*.



chanting pro-Palestinian slogans under the watchful eye of a heavy police presence.

The rally and march brought together a disparate group of people. The event was organised by the Cincinnati Socialists, but it was heavily attended by Muslims, Black activists, college students and peace advocates.

In San Francisco, thousands of protesters, many of them union members, including teachers and health care workers, filled Civic Center Plaza in front of City Hall.

Palestinian flags

Many waved Palestinian flags and left mementoes and flowers at an altar spread on the pavement to honour the thousands of Palestinians in Gaza who have been killed in the ongoing war.

The group of more than 200 demonstrators gathered in front of the Provo City Library in Provo, Utah. They comprised a wide range of races, including Muslims, Arab Americans and immigrants. Many of them dressed in the green, white and red colours of the Palestinian flag.

In Provo, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are prominent, and many of them took part in the protest, as per *The New York Times*.

The streets in the capital, Washington, DC, swelled with demonstrators, and the crowd was dense. Some protesters sat on a ledge outside the White House Visitor Center, their message to President Biden clear. "Stop U.S. military aid to Israel" and "You lost my vote," their signs read. -ANI

REFUGEES

220,000 migrants apply for asylum in Germany this year

BERLIN: Roughly 200 refugees arrive in Berlin every day. They are supposed to stay in an initial reception facility such as the one at the former Tegel airport only for a short time, before being relocated to accommodation elsewhere in the city. But available apartments are hard to come by, and some refugees have been stuck at Tegel for more than a year. Currently, some 4,000 people live there and a further expansion is underway to provide up to 8,000 places.

The refugee situation in the German capital is echoed in cities and municipalities all over the country. So far in 2023, 220,000 migrants have made their initial applications for asylum. And of the 1 million Ukrainian refugees from the war, more and more are now registering with the authorities to be housed by the state.

Many municipalities operating 'in emergency mode'

Across Germany, mayors and district councils are saying they no longer know where to accommodate the refugees who are allocated to them according to a fixed distribution formula.

In October, 600 of Germany's 11,000 municipalities took part in a survey conducted by Medien-dienst Integration together with migration researchers from the University of Hildesheim. Almost 60% of them described the situation as "challenging, but [still] fea-



sible." But 40% percent report being "overloaded" or said they were even "in emergency mode."

The lack of accommodation is just one factor. There's also a shortage of administrative staff, and not enough places in nurseries and schools, language courses and counseling services for traumatized refugees.

Mayors and district councilors tend to take a negative view of the situation: 53% said they consider their own municipality to be "overburdened."

Miriam Marnich, the spokesperson for the German Association of Towns and Municipalities, attributes this view to growing dissatisfaction with migration policy

in the population at large "Integration is effectively no longer possible in many municipalities at the moment because resources are exhausted. In terms of personnel, but also in terms of reception capacities," she said.

The solutions proposed by respondents to the survey include limiting immigration to ensure there are fewer people sent to their own municipality — or none at all. They have also called for more money from the federal government, and assurances for reliable long-term funding.

They are also asking for support with accommodation, ranging from a simplification of legal procedures to an increase in social

housing programs.

'Not much to be gained' from tougher deportation rules

Only one-fifth of the respondents said they would like to see more deportations. In view of "how prominent that topic is currently in federal and state politics, that isn't much," said Boris Kühn, a migration researcher at the University of Hildesheim.

At the moment, there are around 250,000 people in Germany who have had their asylum applications rejected. Some people simply cannot be tracked down by authorities. But 200,000 of them can't be repatriated as there is either no

country willing to take them in, or their country of origin is a war zone or they themselves have serious health issues that cannot be treated in their countries of origin.

In late October, the government drafted a bill to increase the number of deportations. However, the high number of refugees in most cities and municipalities currently consists of new arrivals. "So there is actually not much to be gained in terms of numbers through tougher deportation rules," said Kühn.

Social benefits to be reconsidered?

Politicians are also discussing limiting social benefits for refugees, which are more generous in Germany than in many other EU countries. Conservative politicians have described this as a "pull factor" attracting refugees to Germany, and have suggested paying out less or no more cash to new arrivals.

Migration researchers, however, have criticized these demands. "The principle of benefits in kind was already tried in the 1990s, and then again in 2015 and it turned out not to be practical," said Niklas Hader from the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research in Berlin.

It has long been legally possible to provide refugees primarily with benefits in kind, but the states and local authorities prefer not to do this because it requires more re-

sources and turns out to be much more expensive than simply paying out cash.

Adults living in initial reception facilities receive food in their accommodation, and an additional maximum of €150 (about \$160) per month in pocket money for personal needs such as phone cards, toiletries or travel tickets. This "pocket money" is enshrined in law and the constitutional court has ruled that it cannot be arbitrarily reduced.

"If we switch exclusively to benefits in kind, this does not mean that fewer people will set off for Germany," said Marnich of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities. Instead, she suggested that benefits be leveled out across European countries.

Debit card instead of cash

One change that is now being discussed is the switch to payment cards instead of cash payments.

Such debit cards are being used in other countries, such as France. Instead of being given cash, refugees would receive a card, to which social authorities would regularly transfer the allowances which can be used to pay in supermarkets. However, it's not possible to withdraw cash from the card.

But Hader remains skeptical. "We all know that you can of course turn the money on a cash card into cash if you really want to," he said. -aw

5,143 children killed since start of Israeli incursion in Gaza: UN



The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) expects a rise in maternal and newborn deaths in the Gaza Strip due to lack of access to adequate care

NEW YORK: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that the number of child martyrs in Gaza and the West Bank has reached 5,143 child martyrs since the seventh of last October as a result of the continuous Israeli raids.

The OCHA report quoted the

Palestinian Ministry of Health as saying that the number of children martyred as a result of the Israeli aggression on Gaza reached 3,900 child martyrs, in addition to the presence of 1,200 children missing under the rubble among the dead.

The New York-based OCHA indicated that the number of mar-

tyred children in the West Bank killed by Israel reached 43 children, including one child killed by settlers.

For its part, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) expects a rise in maternal and newborn deaths in the Gaza Strip due to lack of access to adequate care.

UNRWA said in a series of publications that “Women, children and newborns in Gaza are disproportionately bearing the burden of the escalation of hostilities.” “Maternal deaths are expected to increase given the lack of access to adequate care,” UNRWA added.

While the tragedy continues, UNRWA stressed that the number of Palestinian martyrs in Gaza has become staggering, noting that the lack of supplies, the ongoing Israeli bombing, and the interruption of communications make

humanitarian relief very difficult.

UNRWA affirmed that queuing to get bread has become worrying and unsafe after the Israeli occupation bombed about ten bakeries in Gaza.

The number of martyrs in Gaza as of Saturday evening reached 9,485 martyrs, including 2,430 women and 572 elderly people, in addition to 3,900 male and female children.

In the West Bank, the number of victims reached 136 martyrs, in addition to 2,300 wounded, including 241 children, in addition to 62 wounded by settlers supported by the occupation forces.

As for the displaced, their number in Gaza exceeded 1.5 million, while their number in the West Bank reached 905 people, including 356 children. An additional 120 Palestinians, including 55 children, were displaced in Area C and occupied Jerusalem. -ONA

Hostage situation at Hamburg Airport ends

HAMBURG: A man who used his car to break into the secure area of the Hamburg airport was arrested on Sunday, police said, ending an 18-hour hostage situation which brought the airport to a standstill.

The suspect is believed to have had his young daughter in the car with him and was keeping the child hostage. Police said the four-year-old child was unharmed.

“The hostage-taking has ended, the man has left his car with his daughter and been taken for questioning by security forces without resistance,” local police said.

Air traffic was suspended until further notice, with approaches to the airport blocked, according to airport officials.

Hamburg airport said on Sunday that flights have resumed, but it noted that considerable cancellations and delays were still there.

“Please keep an eye on your flight status and contact your airline if necessary,” the airport said.

Police had urged passengers and other members of the public to stay away from the airport.

“We must currently assume that he is in possession of a live firearm and possibly also explosive devices of an unknown type,” police had said in the morning, adding that they remained in contact with the suspect. The authorities believe the suspect is engaged in a “custody dispute.” On Saturday, his wife contacted the police over a possible child kidnapping. Some time later, the man drove through a closed gate at the Hamburg airport, firing two shots in the air and throwing “some sort of Molotov cocktails,” according to the police.

His car came to a stop under a Turkish Airlines plane. A police spokeswoman said that the negotiations were conducted in Turkish. It was not immediately clear if the man was a Turkish national or a member of Germany’s Turkish community. -aw

**PAKISTAN SCHOOL SEEB**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

Pakistan School Seeb intends to offer **Annual Contract for the year 2023 – 2024**.
The contractors with relevant experiences are invited for following bidding:

Tender No.	Tender's Name	Tender Collection Date & Time	Final Submission Date & Time
2023/01	School Canteen	November 02, 2023, to November 09, 2023 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM Working Days/Hours	Before and Until November 15, 2023 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM

Experience contractor(s) having relevant experience of at least 3 years of similar nature jobs preferably in Oman, who wishes to participate in the bidding may collect the documents after payment of RO. 20,000 (non-refundable) per Job.

Admin Office
Pakistan School Seeb
Al Chraadi, Al Seeb, Muscat Governorate, Sultanate of Oman; Tel: 24450380
In case of any query you may contact 00968 78275747
Email: inam@pakistanschool.edu.om, principal.seeb@pakistanschool.edu.om

The tenders shall be submitted in Original and complete with all relevant documents. Tenders not in compliance with tender's requirements shall not be considered.
Tender Documents shall be submitted in sealed envelope with clearly mentioned Tender Number/name, Company Name and POC's Number/name. The sealed envelope shall directly be dropped in to the Tender Box available inside the school premises on or before the date mentioned above and addressed to:

Pakistan School Seeb
(PS-Seeb is not bound to accept the lowest Tender or any Tender)

**مسقط غاز**
MUSCAT GAS

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

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th September 2023.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 14.431 million OMR compared with 15.911 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 9%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 14.009 million OMR compared with 15.742 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 11%.

At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2023 is OMR 147,759, compared with net loss of 26,745 OMR for the same period of the last year. The group results got affected by the initial investment that has occurred for the Saudi office that will start operation by Q4 2023.

The parent Company's net loss after tax for the period ended 30th September 2023 is 76,603 OMR compared with net loss of 38,801 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

	30th September 2023		30th September 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	14,009,098	14,430,553	15,741,944	15,910,713
Cost of sales	(13,437,137)	(13,840,045)	(15,281,541)	(15,386,341)
Gross Profit	571,961	590,508	460,403	524,372
General and administration expenses	(713,880)	(803,132)	(641,562)	(661,729)
Investment and Other Income	65,316	65,316	142,358	116,270
Profit for the period before tax	(76,603)	(147,308)	(38,801)	(21,087)
Provision for Income tax	-	(451)	-	(5,658)
Net Profit for the period after tax	(76,603)	(147,759)	(38,801)	(26,745)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(76,603)	(147,759)	(38,801)	(26,745)
Earnings per share	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.001)	(0.0009)

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	30 September 2023		30 September 2022	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	3,280,780	3,497,024	2,926,618	3,138,979
Right of use assets	212,958	212,958	189,791	189,791
Investment	2,004,073	-	1,901,475	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	187,434	187,434	312,390	312,390
Total Non-current Assets	5,685,245	4,894,216	5,330,274	4,637,960
Current Assets:				
Inventories	1,473,089	1,599,779	1,092,486	1,163,326
Trade and other receivables	3,889,906	3,980,679	3,743,365	3,468,016
Cash and cash equivalents	1,417,718	1,501,642	2,550,342	2,553,224
Total Current Assets	6,780,713	7,082,100	7,386,193	7,184,566
TOTAL ASSETS	12,465,958	11,976,316	12,716,467	11,822,526
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,012,670	1,000,000	1,009,975
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	753,887	753,887
Retained earnings	(248,712)	(256,314)	26,608	98,105
Total Equity	6,016,021	6,021,089	6,237,562	6,319,034
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	121,044	128,154	76,141	77,118
Non current portion of Term Loan	192,389	192,389	338,031	338,031
Non current portion of lease liabilities	231,848	231,848	201,301	201,301
Deferred tax	147,149	144,695	153,225	154,740
Total Non-current Liabilities	692,430	697,086	768,698	771,190
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	5,247,557	4,747,741	5,079,904	4,096,341
Bank overdraft	447,949	447,949	524,959	524,959
Current portion of Term Loan	33,450	33,450	74,911	74,911
Current portion of lease liabilities	8,333	8,333	10,215	10,215
Income Tax	20,218	20,668	20,218	25,876
Total Current Liabilities	5,757,507	5,258,141	5,710,207	4,732,302
Total Liabilities	6,449,937	5,955,227	6,478,905	5,503,492
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	12,465,958	11,976,316	12,716,467	11,822,526
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.201	0.201	0.208	0.211

SPORTS



KOHLI HITS RECORD TON, JADEJA PICKS FIVE AS INDIA'S JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON

Kohli equals Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries; Proteas crumble to 83 all out to hand the hosts a 243-run win at Eden Gardens



WORLD CUP 2023 GROUP STANDINGS							
TEAM	P	W	L	N/R	T	NR	PTS
India	8	8	0	0	0	+2.456	16
South Africa	8	6	2	0	0	+1.376	12
Australia	7	5	2	0	0	+0.924	10
New Zealand	8	4	4	0	0	+0.398	8
Pakistan	8	4	4	0	0	+0.036	8
Afghanistan	7	4	3	0	0	-0.330	8
Sri Lanka	7	2	5	0	0	-1.162	4
Netherlands	7	2	5	0	0	-1.398	4
Bangladesh	7	1	6	0	0	-1.446	2
England	7	1	6	0	0	-1.504	2

KOLKATA: Virat Kohli slammed a record-equalling 49th ODI century (101*) on his 35th birthday, and India recorded their eighth successive victory in this World Cup with a 243-run win over South Africa at Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Kohli drew level with Tendulkar with a punched single in the penultimate over of India's innings and a near-capacity crowd celebrated with Kohli and made it a memorable birthday bash. An attacking start from Rohit Sharma (40) and Shubman Gill (23) was supplemented by a brilliant ton from Kohli and an attacking fifty from Shreyas Iyer (77). Courtesy of some late blows from Suryakumar Yadav (22) and Ravindra Jadeja (29*), India finished at 326/5.

India bowlers struck immediately with the new ball, accounting for South Africa's top-order in the first powerplay. Jadeja (5/33) took centre stage thereafter, picking regular wickets to derail the Proteas' effort as they were bowled out in the 28th over.

Mohammed Siraj (1/11) struck for India early on, when he got Quinton de Kock to play on in the very second over. The batter had just completed 1,000 runs in World Cup, off the previous ball.

India pacers further upped the pressure by stringing together a series of dot balls. Understanding the amount of turn available in the wicket, Rohit employed Jadeja in the powerplay. The move brought immediate dividends, as Jadeja cleaned the stumps of Temba Bavuma. And Mohammed Shami (2/18) finished the powerplay with yet another wicket, getting Aiden Markram (9) to nick behind.

Jadeja and Shami benefitted from sharp reviews that were taken on their behalf by Rohit. When Jadeja cleaned up David Miller for 11, the South Africa chase was all but over.

At one stage, it appeared like India might not even need Kuldeep Yadav, their premier spinner, with the ball. But Jansen and the tail wagged long enough to prompt the introduction of the left-arm

wristspinner. Kuldeep came away with two wickets. Jadeja claimed his second five-wicket haul in ODI cricket; he also became the second Indian spinner, after Yuvraj Singh, to take a five-for in World Cups.

In the first innings, India batters were among the boundaries from the very first over, hitting eight fours in the first four overs. Rohit hit five of these boundaries.

He added another four and two sixes in the very next over, off Lungi Ngidi to lift India even further. Rohit hit two exquisite sixes against Ngidi in the fifth over of the game.

However, the skipper's aggressive takedown of the South Africa bowling lineup was eventually brought to an end in the sixth over. Rohit tried to take on Kagiso Rabada but was caught by Bavuma.

However, the run flow didn't stop as Kohli came to the crease and continued going for his shots.

It took Keshav Maharaj's excellence to dismiss Gill. He delivered a beauty which made Gill go towards the on-side and then beat

his bat to trim the off-stump.

As the South African spinners started making better use of the wicket, the scoring opportunities for the Indian batters reduced. From Gill's wicket up until the 25-over mark, Kohli and Iyer scored only three more boundaries.

Shackles were broken in the 28th over when Iyer hit Tabraiz Shamsi for a towering six. A set of boundaries flew from his bat as India upped their rate to over six an over. Kohli too picked pace, and India looked set for a total in excess of 300. However, Iyer's dismissal in the 37th over slowed down India's scoring rate.

The teams were tangled in a closely fought battle in the death overs, even as India tried to lift the scoring rate at the back of some attacking stroke-play from Suryakumar Yadav (22 from 13).

Brief scores: India 326/5 (Virat Kohli 101*, Shreyas Iyer 77; Keshav Maharaj 1-30) beat South Africa 83 in 27.1 overs (Marco Jansen 14; Ravindra Jadeja 5-33, Kuldeep Yadav 2-7). -(cricketworldcup.com)

It's stuff of dreams: Kohli

KOLKATA: Virat Kohli, who equalled Sachin Tendulkar's world record of 49 ODI hundreds, in Kolkata on Sunday, said after the feat that "it's stuff of dreams."

After the record-equalling ton, he said: "Every opportunity to play for India is a big one for me. To be able to do that on my birthday, in front of the whole crowd, it's stuff of dreams, something that as a child you wish had happened."

"I am very grateful to God that I have been blessed with these kinds of moments, so much love from the fans as well and just continue to help the team in any way possible."

While Tendulkar scored his 49th century in his 451st ODI innings, Kohli got there in just his 277th innings in his 289th match. He finished unbeaten on 101 off 121 balls, having steered India to a total of 326.

Kohli now has two hundreds in the 2023 World Cup to go with four half-centuries in eight league games so far.

He is the second highest run-scorer in the tournament behind South Africa's Quinton de Kock, his 543 runs coming at an average of 108.60 and strike rate of 88.29. It is the first time he has scored more than 500 runs in an ODI World Cup. - Agencies

OMAN FOOTBALL

Ivankovic calls up former stars for World Cup qualifiers

MUSCAT: Branko Ivankovic, the Croatian head coach of Oman's national senior football team, unveiled a 28-man squad for the joint FIFA World Cup and Asian Cup round two qualifiers in November.

In a press conference held on Sunday, Ivankovic said that a domestic national training camp will commence on Tuesday and will run until November 22 in Muscat.

Also on the sidelines of the press meet, the Oman Football Association (OFA) unveiled new jerseys for the national teams. Present at the event were Mohammed bin Suleiman al Yahmadi, OFA executive director and other dignitaries.

The OFA also announced former Oman international Khalid al Rawas as the new team manager, succeeding Maqbool al Balushi.

The 28-man squad includes three debutants: Ghanim Al Habsi, Ahed Al Hudaifi, and Nasser Al Rawahi.

Notably, there were surprising recall of former strikers Sami Al Hasani and Khalid Al Hajri. While



Sur's Al Hasani makes a comeback after four years, Al Hajri along with Amjad Al Harthi, and Ali Al Busaidi, are back in the team's setup for the first time since 2021.

During the press conference, Ivankovic emphasised the team's upcoming major assignments, which include the preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026, the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027, and

the 2024 AFC Asian Cup in Qatar.

Regarding striker Abdulaziz al Maqballi's absence from the camp, Ivankovic said: "At present, I have strikers Mohsin al Ghassani, Essam al Subhi, along with Khalid al Hajri and Sami al Hasani for that position."

He reiterated that the doors of the national team are always open for deserving players and his aim is to provide equal opportunities.

Ivankovic also noted that Al Mundher Al Alawi and Arshad Al Alawi, have been sidelined due to injury issues.

Oman's campaign in the preliminary Joint Qualifiers is set to begin with a match against Chinese Taipei on November 16 in Muscat, followed by a game against Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek on November 21.

Ivankovic expressed his optimism about the squad, describing



it as a good mix of youth and experience, and he hopes the team will deliver strong results in the upcoming qualifiers. This marks the first regrouping of the national team since their camp and friendly against the host USA in September.

Oman probables: Ahmed Al Rawahi, Ibrahim Al Mukhaini, Fayez Al Rushedi, Amjad Al Harthi, Ahed Al Hudaifi, Mahmoud Al Mushaifri, Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ali Al

Busaidi, Khalid Al Breiki, Ahmed Al Khamisi, Mohammed Al Amri, Ghanim Al Habsi, Fahmi Dorbeen, Musab Al Mamari, Tamim Al Balushi, Harib Al Saadi, Naser Al Rawahi, Moutaz Abd Rabuh, Omar Al Fazari, Salah Al Yahyaei, Zaher Al Aghbari, Abdullah Fawaz, Jameel Al Yahmadi, Mohsin Al Ghassani, Khalid Al Hajri, Sami Al Hasani, Omar Al Malki, Essam Al Subhi.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

bp Oman in partnership with Oman Energy Association and Haliburton celebrated the graduation of the first cohort from the Ruwad national training programme. The Ruwad programme started last year as a joint effort between bp Oman, Oman Energy Association and a group of oil and gas contractors.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,523.97 points, up by 0.7 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.20 per cent at 438.55 points. Ooredoo, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Maha Marketing, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser.

OCCI highlights its strategic approaches

The seminar was held under the patronage of Dr Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit



MUSCAT: The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) organised a seminar to highlight its strategic approaches and prominent achievements that are in line with Oman Vision 2040.

The seminar was held under the patronage of Dr Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit.

OCCI also conducted several meetings with officials concerned with economic matters in Oman. Several decisions were taken as a result of those meetings to benefit the private sector. -**UNA**



ACFE OMAN CHAPTER

Anti-Fraud Forum 2023 to discuss latest trends and tools in fraud prevention, detection

Times News Service

MUSCAT: ACFE Oman Chapter joins the movement to shine a spotlight on International Fraud Awareness Week kicks off November 12 worldwide and sponsors Anti-Fraud Forum 2023, under the patronage of the Central Bank of Oman and ACFE Oman Chapter.

Tahir bin Salim Al Amri, Executive President Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has duly consented to be the chief guest to inaugurate the Anti-Fraud Forum on November 12. The forum will be an invaluable opportunity for anti-fraud professionals in Oman to meet and discuss the latest trends and tools in fraud prevention and detection.

The day lined up with expert speakers and panellists from the banking and financial sectors, regulatory bodies like the State Audit Institution, Central Bank of Oman, Capital Market Authority, Public Authority for Consumer Affairs etc and all stakeholders from all spectrums of the community participating in this mega event. Iyad Murtada, ACFE International trainer will deliver the keynote address. This is an opportunity for anti-fraud professionals and communities to come together to participate.

The Anti-Fraud Forum will be held as a full-day event, with more than 11 subject matter experts as speakers. The forum will be conducted from 8.30am to 5pm. The topics of discussion are mainly Anti-corruption and Bribery, Money Laundering and Terrorism funding, Privacy compliance, COSO's Fraud Risk Management, and Regulatory Framework to Combat Fraud. This year's event will also em-



phasise AI, blockchain, Internet of things, Mobile apps, Public Data Infrastructure space for digitisation challenges and AML Challenges.

The seriousness of the global fraud problem is why ACFE Global announced that it will be launching International Fraud Awareness Week, November 12-18, as an official supporter to promote anti-fraud awareness and education. The movement, known commonly as Fraud Week, champions the need to proactively fight fraud and help safeguard businesses and investments from the growing fraud problem.

"Fraud awareness is the beacon that illuminates the dark alleys of deception, guarding the wealth and trust of nations. In a world where the shadows of fraud loom large, our collective vigilance is the key to unlocking the doors of a more honest and prosperous future."

ACFE Oman Chapter president Khalil Al Rawahi, CFE, said that the active participation of government and private sector organisations in the Sultanate of Oman and around the world helps make International Fraud Awareness Week an effective tool in raising anti-fraud awareness.

BANK MUSCAT

Seminar organised to raise awareness of entrepreneurs on VAT regulations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Tax Authority and Bank Muscat organised a seminar on Value Added Tax (VAT) to raise the awareness of corporates and entrepreneurs on the VAT regulations and liabilities.

The seminar encompasses a number of topics, most prominently; the concept of VAT, tax rates, taxable registrants, input tax calculations, tax return, tax payment method, tax records and books, in addition to tax refund and deferral of payment of tax.

The seminar also witnessed a remarkable interaction where the attendees' queries were answered. The attendees were informed about tax laws and the most important electronic services that allow taxable entities process their transactions and submit returns on the specified dates.

Specialists from the Authority stressed the importance of raising tax awareness among the institutional and corporate sector of tax laws and introducing them to the most important developments of tax legislation. They explained the importance of submitting tax returns on time through the electronic portal of the Authority, where most of the services are



available online to make it easier for the taxable institutions complete their tax transactions from their place in Oman.

On the occasion, Ibrahim bin Khamis Al Balushi, Senior Assistant General Manager, SMEs, Bank Muscat, said: "Bank Muscat attaches great importance to supporting corporates and developing small and medium-sized enterprises. It is keen to organise workshops and seminars hosting reputed global expertise in order to help customers get well-informed about the economic trends and latest business-related outlooks, as part of Oman Vision 2040 objectives."

Al Balushi added that in July 2021, the bank partnered with leading full-service audit, tax and business advisory firm, Morison Muscat Chartered Accountants, to help Bank Muscat and Meethaq SME customers comply with the Value Added Tax. He said: "This come as part of the bank's continuous support to corporates and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) customers and help them adapt to this taxation concept, which was newly introduced to many local businesses."

Bank Muscat endeavours to organise specialised workshops and seminars with the aim of exchanging

information and experiences in various fields related to the work of institutions as well as businesses related to the banking sector. During the past period, it has organised many events and initiatives, among of which is the allocation of a help desk for registration of companies in the tax system, in addition to providing technical advice and support on the subject of VAT by experts in this field. The bank also organised special programmes and workshops for some of its employees through Jadara Academy in cooperation with the most prestigious educational institutions in the world.

GLOBAL BIO-INDIA

India on track to become top 5 global bio-manufacturing hub by 2025

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has expressed confidence that India is on the path to becoming one of the top 5 global bio-manufacturing hubs by 2025.

According to a press release by the Ministry of Science and Technology, emphasising the remarkable growth of India's bioeconomy in recent years, Singh outlined the nation's potential to play a crucial role in global trade and the bio-economy, contributing significantly to the Indian economy.

Singh made these comments during the launch of the website for "Global Bio-India 2023," a major international event focused on biotechnology, scheduled to be held at Pragati Maidan from December 4 to 6.

Singh said, "In 2014, India's bioeconomy stood at just about \$10 billion; today, it is \$80 billion. In just 8/9 years, it has gone up 8

Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh outlined the nation's potential to play a crucial role in global trade and the bio-economy, contributing significantly to the Indian economy

times and we look forward to having \$300 billion by 2030."

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's bioeconomy has witnessed double-digit year-on-year growth for the past nine years.

In 2014, the bioeconomy was valued at approximately \$10 billion, and today it stands at \$80 billion. Singh further outlined the ambitious target of reaching \$300 billion by 2030.

India's vast biodiversity, unique bioresources in the Himalayas, and 7,500-kilometre coastline provide a competitive advantage in biotechnology.

Additionally, initiatives like Samudrayaan, exploring biodiversity beneath the seas, showcase India's dedication to harnessing untapped bioresources.

Singh highlighted the substantial growth of biotechnology startups in India, which has surged

from just 52 startups in 2014 to over 6,300 at present.

"Biotech Startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years, from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 6,300 plus presently. Every day, three Biotech Start-Ups are getting incorporated in India with aspirations to provide viable technological solutions," he said.

He noted that three biotech startups are incorporated in India every day, indicating a strong drive to provide innovative technological solutions. In Singh's view, biotechnology represents the technology of the future, as the information technology (IT) sector has reached a saturation point.

Singh praised the Department of Biotechnology's support for R&D innovations in advanced biofuels and 'Waste to Energy' technologies, highlighting India's potential to reduce waste and enhance recycling. -**ANI**

OMAN VISION 2040

BankDhofar takes substantial steps to support SMEs



MUSCAT: In alignment with Oman Vision 2040, BankDhofar is taking substantial steps to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with expanded branch networks, cutting-edge digital solutions, and strategic technology integration.

BankDhofar, in collaboration with Oman Vision 2040 is working towards the objectives by offering a range of products and services that align with local business requirements and best practices globally.

Ammar Mohsin Al Balushi, Head of BankDhofar's Mid Corporate Banking & SME, highlights the key initiatives taken to empower SMEs in Oman.

Foremost among these measures is a strategic branch expansion. Within a year, the bank's branch network has surged from 61 branches to over 100. Additionally, three corporate branches in key locations, including Muscat, Salalah, and Sohar have been established. These developments, alongside workforce training and development, ensure a personalized and efficient banking experience for SMEs and corporate customers.

Ammar Mohsin Al Balushi emphasises that BankDhofar goes beyond just financial products. The bank offers specialized advisory services to help SMEs select appropriate financing and banking solutions, aligned with their

unique business models. Market insights are also provided, helping SMEs proactively address challenges and ensure smooth operations.

BankDhofar offers a range of investment solutions, including time deposits and financial products, to help businesses grow and maximise their surplus funds.

Speaking about the role of technology, Ammar said, "Technology is a key enabler in banking growth. We are heavily investing in technology to enhance efficiency, convenience, and security for our customers. Our objective is to empower clients to efficiently manage their financials."

BankDhofar offers key technological services, including corporate internet banking, business-to-business (B2B) solutions, point of sale (POS) services, and a user-friendly soft POS application for Android devices. The bank also provides corporate credit cards, debit credit cards, e-commerce solutions, and Remote Check Capture Deposit (RCCD) services, particularly beneficial for leasing companies and real estate management firms reliant on check transactions.

BankDhofar's unwavering commitment to corporates and SMEs and its continuous investment in technology underpin its dedication to supporting Oman's economic growth and development in line with Oman's 2040 Vision.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Ooredoo, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Maha Marketing, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,523.97 points, up by 0.7 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 1.20 per cent at 438.55 points. Ooredoo, up 9.68 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Maha Marketing, down 4.76 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 2694 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR4.06 million, with more than 21.72 million shares changing hands. Out of 35 traded securities, 8 advanced, 10 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR995,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR937,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR58,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,351.12 points, up 0.33 per cent.

Prices of Bank Nizwa, Ahli Bank, and Al Madina Takaful were up by 2.11 per cent, 1.86 per cent, and 1.19 per cent respectively. Prices of Taageer Finance, Al Sharqia Investment, National Bank Oman and Bank Muscat were down by 3.00 per cent, 1.49 per cent, 0.67 per cent, and 0.39 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,368.81 points, up 0.1 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 1.86 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed were down by 5.46 per cent.

Services Index was down by 0.03 per cent before closing at 1,559.69 points. Prices of Ooredoo, Phoenix Power, and Abraj Energy were up by 9.68 per cent, 1.85 per cent, and 0.34 per cent respectively. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Sembcorp Salalah, Muscat Gases, and Muscat Desalination were down by 3.41 per cent, 2.08 per cent, 1.79 per cent, and 1.24 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,528.719	4,488.410	4,523.972	4,492.337	31.635	0.70	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,374.583	7,316.486	7,351.116	7,326.965	24.151	0.33	
Industry Index	5,372.575	5,360.946	5,368.813	5,363.454	5.359	0.10	
Services Index	1,565.265	1,549.704	1,559.693	1,560.138	-0.445	-0.03	
MSX Shariah Index	438.551	432.868	438.551	433.347	5.204	1.20	
MSX TR INDEX	5,969.396	5,916.264	5,963.138	5,921.440	41.698	0.70	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,047.024	7,983.630	8,021.417	7,995.065	26.352	0.33	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,739.247	5,726.824	5,735.228	5,729.503	5.725	0.10	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,741.343	1,724.032	1,735.145	1,735.640	-0.495	-0.03	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
21,723,878	4,060,332	2,694	23,633,474,485	8	10	17	35

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	SECURITY SYMBOL	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	3,000	321	1	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.105	0.107	0.100	ONES	16,050,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	270,700	80,399	8	0.299	0.299	0.297	0.297	0.299	-0.002	-0.669	0.297	0.272	0.304	0.100	NBOB	482,906,067
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	4,044	663	3	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.161	0.003	1.863	0.164	0.165	0.174	0.100	AACT	36,080,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	25,600	1,690	2	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.069	0.100	SHIC	5,940,000	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	5,030,129	1,261,674	80	0.255	0.255	0.250	0.254	0.255	-0.001	-0.392	0.254	0.233	0.254	0.100	BKMB	1,906,624,854
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	5,220	5,231	2	1.050	1.050	1.000	1.000	1.050	-0.050	-4.762	1.000	0.945	1.050	0.100	MHAS	69,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	575,450	586,869	22	1.020	1.020	1.010	1.020	1.020	0.000	0.000	1.020	1.021	1.020	0.100	OTEL	765,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,891,377	292,080	48	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	BKSB	552,258,739
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	136,294	45,197	32	0.318	0.340	0.318	0.340	0.310	0.030	9.677	0.340	0.335	0.340	0.100	ORDS	221,321,038
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	1,000	66	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.069	0.100	SMNP	13,175,950
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	170,000	14,450	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.001	1.190	0.085	0.084	0.090	0.100	AMAT	14,875,000
Total	11	9,112,814	2,288,641	202													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	38,190	3,230	7	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.081	0.085	0.100	NGCI	7,225,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	3,000	330	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.112	-0.002	-1.786	0.110	0.105	0.112	0.100	MGMC	3,300,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	27,100	1,440	4	0.053	0.055	0.052	0.052	0.055	-0.003	-5.455	0.052	0.052	0.060	0.100	DFIN	10,279,200
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	291	466	1	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000	0.000	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.100	ORCI	30,000,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	100	11	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.100	BACS	9,900,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	20,361	3,333	16	0.167	0.169	0.161	0.164	0.161	0.003	1.863	0.164	0.164	0.169	0.100	ABOB	385,343,824
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	40	34	1	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.850	0.880	-0.030	-3.409	0.850	0.850	0.890	0.100	SOMS	80,750,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	5,000	185	1	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.037	0.040	0.100	BWPC	5,920,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	200	19	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	-0.003	-3.000	0.097	0.091	0.097	0.100	TFCI	25,591,998
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	100	15	1	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.153	0.148	0.153	0.100	GECS	31,056,926
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	360	42	2	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.116	0.120	0.100	VOES	9,442,719
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	2,390,102	229,379	58	0.094	0.097	0.094	0.097	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.097	0.096	0.098	0.100	BKNZ	216,984,444
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	100,814	9,568	12	0.096	0.099	0.093	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2.083	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	SSPW	89,729,763
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	700	16	1	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.023	0.000	0.023	0.100	BATP	15,522,411
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	3,700	81	1	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.022	0.022	0.024	0.100	SUWP	15,716,939
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	15,801	2,054	1	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.120	0.130	0.100	OAB	217,023,300
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,032	67	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.100	PHPC	80,443,080
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	68,694	5,498	8	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.100	MCDE	12,444,032
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	12,000	1,188	3	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.000	0.099	0.100	AMAN	19,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	2,965	232	2	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.086	0.100	OMRF	38,168,097
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	147,891	43,893	48	0.296	0.297	0.296	0.297	0.296	-0.001	-0.338	0.297	0.296	0.297	0.100	ABRJ	228,749,400
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	6,634,269	1,420,791	2,307	0.147	0.150	0.146	0.149	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.149	0.149	0.150	0.100	OQGN	645,262,964
Total	22	12,472,610	1,721,863	2,478													

MILESTONE

Jeddah Islamic Port sets new monthly record in October by handling 511,348 TEUs

RIYADH: Jeddah Islamic Port achieved a significant milestone and set a new monthly record in October 2023, having handled an impressive 511,348 TEUs, according to a press release.

This accomplishment underscores not only the port's critical role in regional and global trade, the press release said, but also its key position in transshipment trade, container handling, and goods movement along the strategic Red Sea coast.

It is also a testament to the relentless efforts of the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) to strengthen Saudi Arabia's maritime sector, enhance operational efficiency, and increase container throughput, all actions that align with the national strategy for transport and logistics services, which aims to reinforce the Kingdom's standing as a global logistics hub connecting three continents. The record is also due to the successful collaboration between Mawani and its strategic partners, the press release added.



Numerous joint projects and agreements have been initiated to enhance infrastructure and upgrade the container terminals. Initiatives include the establishment of new docks with larger depths, deepening approach channels, turning basins and sea lanes, and equipping them with modern, automated, and environment-friendly equipment. All these concerted efforts aim to catapult Jeddah Islamic Port into the elite list of the world's top 10 ports, said the release.

The October achievement surpassed the record set by Jeddah Islamic Port in July 2023 when it handled 491,197 standard containers. In addition to setting new records, the port has also been the recipient of several international accolades. These include the Advanced Port Infrastructure Award at the Landmarks of Logistics 2023, the Port of the Year award at the Logistics and Transport Awards ceremony in the UAE in 2023. -SPA

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Global assets in spot bitcoin ETFs hit \$4.16 billion

LONDON: Global assets invested in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tied to the spot price of bitcoin now total \$4.16 billion, showed data by CoinGecko, a cryptocurrency data and analysis company.

Reuters reported that nearly half of that sum, or \$2 billion, is invested in the seven spot bitcoin ETFs that have been launched in Canada since 2021. Canada also is home to the single largest of the 20 ETFs, the Purpose Bitcoin ETF, which has \$819.1 million in assets.

To date, US regulators have given the nod only to ETFs tied to futures contracts, such as ProShares Bitcoin Strategy, which has about \$1.2 billion in assets. The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) currently is considering as many as 10 applications to launch similar spot-based ETFs in the US. -WAM

PIVOTAL ROLE

bp Oman celebrates graduation of first cohort from Ruwad national training programme

MUSCAT: bp Oman in partnership with Oman Energy Association and Haliburton celebrated the graduation of the first cohort from the Ruwad national training programme. The event was held under the patronage of Sayyid Munthir Al Busaidi, the Vice-Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation and Follow-Up Unit.

The Ruwad programme started last year as a joint effort between bp Oman, Oman Energy Association and a group of oil and gas contractors. The one-year programme prepared graduates with the skills and competencies needed in the local employment market. In Ruwad's first batch with Haliburton, the first contractor to partner in this initiative, 30 people were trained, out of which 18 were hired by Haliburton and seven found employment through different entities.

Yousuf Al Ojaili, President of bp Oman, said, "The Ruwad programme plays a pivotal role in our journey to build a skilled national capability in line with Oman Vision 2040 and bp's sustainability aims. Ruwad is also an ideal platform to foster effective interactions between stakeholders and candidates.

"Thanks to our partnership with Haliburton and Oman Energy Association, we are proud to announce that over 80% of the total trainees are already hired."

"We are proud to be part of



this vital programme, catalysing Oman's workforce development. The impact extends beyond graduation day, providing a strong foundation for graduates to embark on their professional journeys with the necessary skills. Haliburton is shaping the workforce of the future, evident in 18 trainees joining us and others in positions across various entities. This initiative benefits both individuals and the industry. We are excited about their contributions to Oman's growing energy sector," said Fahad Intisar, Haliburton

Oman Vice President.

"At Oman Energy Association, we recognise the significance of programmes like 'Ruwad' in the broader context of Oman's employment landscape. This initiative not only addresses the immediate need for skilled professionals but also contributes substantially to the overall employment market in Oman. By equipping these graduates with relevant skills, 'Ruwad' is empowering them to take on key roles in various sectors. This not only benefits the graduates themselves

but also adds value to the local job market, promoting economic growth," added Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaie, Chief Executive Officer at Oman Energy Association.

bp Oman launched the first batch of Ruwad in October 2022. This initiative, aligned with Oman Vision 2040, symbolises bp's dedication to building a skilled and capable national workforce.

The company is actively exploring opportunities to expand the programme for upcoming batches, fostering Oman's growth and development.

Free home delivery & timely service

oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Oasis Water Co. SAOC,
PO Box 87, Rusayl 124,
Sultanate of Oman.
www.omanoasis.com

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
or GSM: 9275 5522

Winner of
His Majesty's Cup Award
in 2012 & 2013
for Best Five Factories

C.R. No. 1306452



WAYS TO PROTECT

With Scam Shield, when the network detects a potential scam call, it is flagged and displayed as "Scam Likely" on your device

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FROM SCAM

IN TODAY'S HYPER-CONNECTED DIGITAL UNIVERSE, CYBER CRIMINALS HAVE MORE INFORMATION THAN EVER BEFORE, WITH THE ABILITY TO REACH YOU THROUGH UNSECURE PUBLIC WI-FI, YOUR EMAIL INBOX, VIA TEXT MESSAGE, AND MORE.

According to a Scam and Robocall Report from T-Mobile, Americans lost an estimated \$39.5 billion to phone scams in 2022. Lucky for you, there are several ways to protect and safeguard your personal information to help prevent scammers from scammin' this holiday season.

1. Avoid Public USB Ports:

Traveling by plane this holiday season? The FCC warns that cyber criminals can download malware to public USB charging ports to gain access to your information. Prevent this by using an AC power outlet instead.

2. Beware of Charity Scams:

It's the season of giving, but the FCC warns many cyber criminals take advantage by creating fake charities staged as real nonprofit organizations to gain access to your payment information. Woof. To prevent this, don't click on suspicious email or text links and verify the organization is registered at the National Association of State Charity Officials or Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance before donating this holiday season.

3. Screen Your Calls:

Scammers are continuously up-

ping their game, with total robo-call attempts up 75% from 2021 to 2022. Detecting whether an incoming call is a potential scam isn't always easy, but T-Mobile's Scam Shield app makes it simple. Free to all T-Mobile customers, Scam Shield enhances your scam-blocking protections so you can say goodbye to scam calls. In 2022 alone, Scam Shield identified or blocked 41.5 billion scam calls in the T-Mobile network. That's a whopping 1,317 calls identified or blocked every second.

With Scam Shield, when the network detects a potential scam call, it is flagged and displayed as "Scam Likely" on your device.

Customers who want even more protection can download the Scam Shield app or dial #662# from their T-Mobile smartphone to enable Scam Block, which automatically blocks any calls that match the database of scam calls. Take that, tricksters. To learn more, visit t-mobile.com/scamshield.

4. Shop Smarter Online:

According to Statista, 57% of holiday shoppers plan to use their smartphone to make holiday purchases this year, and scammers are onto them, ramping up activ-

ity during the two weeks before Christmas. To minimize any cyber Grinches trying to steal your personal info, monitor your financial accounts regularly for suspicious charges and sign up for your bank or credit card company's text or email notifications to stay on top of fraudulent activity.

5. Use Secure Tools:

Safeguard your online accounts with Multi-Factor Authentication, which requires users to enter two different kinds of information to log in, like a password and one-time PIN code. It's like having a digital bouncer to

make sure only you get into your accounts. Another protection is a password manager, giving you the ability to securely store passwords across multiple platforms and websites. The tool also provides an autofill password function and a new password generator.

To learn more about the industry's top fraud trends and how to stay protected from scammers year-round, check out T-Mobile's Scam Shield Report found at t-mobile.com/news.

While cyber threats are on the rise, you can sleigh scams by staying vigilant and incorporating these best practices into your life this holiday season. -Statepoint

SPORTS

Verstappen claims sprint race

Red Bull's driver completes a comfortable victory after passing Lando Norris' McLaren

SAO PAULO: Red Bull's Max Verstappen drove to a comfortable victory in the Sao Paulo Grand Prix sprint race after passing Lando Norris' McLaren at the start on Saturday.

Verstappen's better launch secured him the inside line for the first corner and he controlled the race from there.

Norris slipped back to third on the first lap behind George Russell's Mercedes but re-passed him on lap five.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez recovered from dropping behind Russell and team-mate Lewis Hamilton to finish third.

The Mexican, under pressure after a series of difficult races, dropped to fifth on the first lap from third on the grid, losing out to Russell at the first corner and then



being passed by Hamilton around the outside at Turn Four.

Perez re-passed Hamilton at Turn Four for fourth and then set off after Russell.

They exchanged places twice on lap eight, Perez passing Russell

into Turn One and then Russell re-taking the position, like Hamilton on the first lap around the outside of Turn Four.

But two laps later, Perez made a move stick into Turn One and was able to secure third place.

Russell hung on to fourth place, his pace fading as the race ran its distance, but Hamilton, also struggling, slipped behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who took fifth with three laps to go.

Hamilton then had to take on

Alpha Tauri's Yuki Tsunoda, who passed the seven-time champion for sixth place with two laps to go and set off after Leclerc, crossing the line right on the Ferrari's tail.

Behind Hamilton, five seconds adrift of Tsunoda, Ricciardo in the

second Alpha Tauri chased Ferrari's Carlos Sainz across the line, the Spaniard securing the final point.

Verstappen said: "Initial get-away wasn't that fantastic but the second bit was very strong and I could get alongside. Twenty-four laps around here is all about tyre management. Just incredibly difficult around here. Last year we were struggling with that already in the sprint and that's why I was a bit careful."

Norris said he had been "caught napping" by Russell, adding: "He was pushing quite hard in the first few laps but then was suffering a lot later on."

"It's a tough circuit. You don't feel like you can push anywhere. You do two laps and then you have no grip. You're managing, you have one little wheelspin and it costs you 0.2-0.3secs."

"But it's a positive race. We weren't expecting to be anywhere close to the Red Bulls here. Today we were good compared to everyone except Max."

One of the drivers creating entertainment in the second half of the field was Fernando Alonso, who fought up from 15th on the grid, after being hit by Alpine's Esteban Ocon in qualifying, to finish 11th, battling for 10th on the last lap with McLaren's Oscar Piastri.

PARIS MASTERS

Djokovic defeats Rublev to set up final with Dimitrov



PARIS: Novak Djokovic fought back from a set down to beat Andrey Rublev in a pulsating Paris Masters semi-final on Saturday.

The world No.1 Serbian won 5-7, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 and will face Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in Sunday's final.

Dimitrov beat seventh seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-7 (1-7), 7-6 (7-3).

Djokovic is chasing a record-extending seventh crown and 40th Masters title, while Dimitrov will

be playing for his second Masters trophy.

The Serb had won all eight of his Paris Masters semi-finals coming into Saturday's match, and Rublev threatened to inflict a first defeat upon Djokovic at this stage.

"Rublev was suffocating me like a snake suffocates a frog for most of the match," Djokovic said.

"He was playing at an extremely high level. I knew that he possesses great quality but today he played off the charts. I don't think I've

ever faced Rublev this good."

Dimitrov showed why he should still be considered a threat at the top of the men's game - the unseeded Bulgarian played sublime tennis and produced a high level when it mattered most in the deciding tie-break against Tsitsipas.

"There were no tears but I got very emotional," said Dimitrov.

"I am just living in the moment right now. It has been a funny road of late, but each win means more and more to me." - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Kane hits third Bundesliga hat-trick

MUNICH: Harry Kane's impressive start to life at Bayern Munich continued as the England captain hit a hat-trick in a statement 4-0 win at Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern are chasing a remarkable 12th consecutive Bundesliga title and they turned on the style to establish a 2-0 lead inside the opening 10 minutes. Dayot Upamecano headed the visitors into a fourth-minute lead before Kane doubled the lead five minutes later.

Kane added the third and fourth goals after half-time.

The former Tottenham forward has a remarkable 15 goals in 10 league Bundesliga appearances after his third hat-trick since



joining Bayern in the summer.

After scoring three against Darmstadt last week, Kane has back-to-back hat-tricks in the

Bundesliga. Dortmund, unbeaten in the league since 1 April before Saturday, went close through Donnyell Malen while veteran Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer produced a fine save to keep out Marco Reus.

But the damage was done in the opening minutes when Dortmund were blown away by Bayern's lightning start.

The only negative on an otherwise perfect day for Bayern came in the 43rd minute when boss Thomas Tuchel was booked for arguing with the officials.

Tuchel's side are second in the table, two points behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen who won 3-2 at Hoffenheim. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Doku shines as City go to top

LONDON: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola says the club have found another supreme young talent in 21-year-old Belgium wide-man Jeremy Doku.

The summer signing from Rennes scored the opener and added four assists as City cruised to a 6-1 Premier League success against Bournemouth on Saturday.

Doku's contribution to second-half goals for Phil Foden and Bernardo Silva were superb - the first involving a delicate pass to set the England man up, the second a sweeping cross-field pass that created the opening for a delicate chipped finish.

Striker Erling Haaland only



lasted 45 minutes after suffering a twisted ankle that makes him a doubt for Tuesday's Champions League encounter with Swiss side Young Boys.

In beating Bournemouth, City extended their record of winning every home game they have played in all competitions in 2023 to 22. Their 13 straight league wins against the Cherries is a Premier League record.

Elsewhere, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta called the VAR decision to allow Newcastle's goal in their 1-0 win "embarrassing" and a "disgrace". Anthony Gordon bundled in the only goal with three VAR checks - to see if the ball went out of play, if there was a foul and if there was an offside - all coming back in Newcastle's favour. The result ended Arsenal's unbeaten Premier League start.

WEC FINAL ROUND

Engine failure ends Al Harthy's podium hopes

MUSCAT: It was a tale of so near yet so far for Oman's Ahmed Al Harthy. The debutant alongwith his Oman Racing with TF Sport team-mates Michael Dinan and Charlie Eastwood, looked all set to finish on the podium in the final race of the 2023 World Endurance Championship (WEC) season at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain, on Saturday.

However, an engine failure with just 20 minutes remaining to conclude the eight-hour race, put paid to the dreams and hopes of a flourish in the final race of the WEC season for Al Harthy.

Al Harthy finished the season with two GTE Am podiums during his maiden WEC campaign. He began the contest with an impressive opening stint.

Having qualified the No.25 Aston Martin Vantage GTE third fastest on Friday, the Omani was as quick and competitive at the start.

The Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, OQ, Omanel and MHD-ITICS-supported racer handed over the Aston



Martin to Dinan after the first hour and was behind the wheel in hour three. Al Harthy ran a comfortable third and all looked well placed for a potential podium finish. Dinan returned to the car midway through the race, before Eastwood got behind the wheel for a triple stint to conclude the Middle East encounter.

Holding fifth with over two hours to go, Eastwood was back into fourth with more than 90 minutes on the clock and within little more than 25 seconds of the podium. Pushing on, with half an hour to go the gap was down to 18

seconds and silverware looked a distinct prospect. Shortly after, though, the challenge came to a devastating end - the engine giving way and leading to instant retirement.

Al Harthy and Oman Racing with TF Sport concluded their maiden season in WEC with a creditable fifth in the GTE Am driver standings with the squad also fifth in the team points table.

After the race, Al Harthy said: "It's a difficult way to end the season. Unfortunately we lost the engine in the last 20 minutes of the race. We had the podium



in sight. Charlie [Eastwood] was driving an amazing triple stint at the end to see us closing the gap to P3.

"I had a good start to the race but, unfortunately, the incident in front between some LMP2 and the Hypercars caused me to be cautious and we were down to P8. It was important for me to try and catch up, and I was really happy with the way I did that by overtaking so many cars in the fastest period of time I could to make sure we were chasing P2.

"I was really happy with how it went, we performed well and did

the absolute best we could."

Al Harthy also thanked Oman's Ambassador to Bahrain, Sayyid Faisal bin Hareb Al Busaidi, for his presence at the race along with representatives of sponsors from Oman.

"The support this year has been unbelievable. It's a historic year for Oman and myself. Being part of WEC for 2023 allowed us to race in Le Mans for the 100th year of that race. We competed at the maximum capacity in every race, and now we focus on what comes next. I'm very proud of all we've achieved together this year."

SPANISH LA LIGA

Araujo nets late winner for Barcelona

MADRID: Ronald Araujo scored a dramatic injury-time winner, awarded by the video assistant referee, as Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 1-0 in La Liga on Saturday.

The defender threw himself at Ilkay Gundogan's cross and headed the ball through goal-keeper Alex Remiro's legs.

It was initially flagged offside but the VAR ruled he was on-side. The win was scarcely deserved as Real Sociedad had the better chances - with Takefusa Kubo and Martin Zubimendi denied by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Barca's biggest opportunity before the goal was just moments earlier when Gavi's shot was saved by Remiro.

Barcelona move up to third but remain four points behind surprise La Liga leaders, their local neighbours Girona.

Girona's 4-2 win at Osasuna earlier in the day took the Catalan minnows back to the top of the La Liga table. - Agencies



Duleep Mendis' men edge hosts Nepal in the summit clash of the ICC Men's T20 Asia Qualifier Final; both teams have qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024

MUSCAT: The setting for the match was nothing short of a cricketer's dream: a picturesque ground, a packed stadium with nearly 30,000 enthusiastic spectators, some even perched on trees, displaying their love for the game. The coveted title was on the line, and Nepal aimed to celebrate their qualification for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Oman, who had also secured their place in the 2024 T20 World Cup with Nepal, were determined to finish as the only unbeaten team in the eight-nation Asia qualifier.

And they did achieve it in a thrilling style, as Duleep Mendis' team emerged triumphant, breaking Nepali hearts in a nail-biting clash that required a super over to determine the winner. Oman concluded their successful trip to Nepal with five successive wins.

The one-over eliminator was forced as the match was tied as Oman chased 184 set by the hosts in the Asia Qualifier Final at the Tribhuvan University ground in Kirtipur on Sunday.

In the super over, Oman out-



Best bowler: Bilal Khan



Player of final: Kashyap Prajapati



Best player: Aqib Ilyas



played Nepal by 11 runs as Naseem Khushi blasted 19 runs, studded with three sixes, off Nepal's pacer Abinash Bohara to take Oman to 21/0.

Bilal Khan conceded just ten runs and took a wicket of Kushal Bhurtel off the first ball as Nepal could only manage 10 runs in the end to give Oman a deserving win.

Earlier, Oman, chasing 185 to win, were restricted to 184/9 with seasoned Mohammed Nadeem playing a crucial knock of 24 off nine balls to tie the match.

Needing eight to win in the final over, Oman lost two wickets off successive balls from Sandeep Lamichhane but Nadeem hit a four off the penultimate ball to set up a GrandStand finish. With 2 runs needed off the last ball, Nadeem got run out when returning for the second run to tie the game.

Oman's chase was kept on track as opener Kashyap Prajapati played a stellar innings of 63 off 52 balls that included four maximums and three boundaries.

Aqib Ilyas (33 off 19 balls) and skipper Zeeshan Maqsood (26 off 18 balls) kept the momentum with

crucial knocks to take the game deep into the final overs. Maqsood also became the top scorer for Oman in T20Is with 1,100 runs following his knock, getting past Jatinder Singh's 1,078 runs.

Hosts Nepal elected to bat first and put up a solid total of 184, courtesy an unbeaten 52 from skipper Rohit Paudel and Gulshan Jha's hurricane 54 off 25 balls.

Opener Kushal Bhurtel hit 31 at the top to help his team put on 47 in the powerplay. A late cameo of 20 off just six balls from Karan KC put Nepal in a good position to defend.

Oman's Fayyaz Butt went for runs aplenty as he conceded 63 runs in his four-over spell while Bilal Khan was the most successful with 3/26.

Ilyas picked 2/22 and Maqsood had one for 27. Butt's 63 runs in four overs were the most given by an Oman bowler in T20Is.

At the awards ceremony, Oman swept the individual awards after lifting the winner's trophy. Prajapati was named the Player of the Match. Aqib Ilyas was named the Player of the Tournament with 106

runs and 10 wickets to his name and pacer Bilal Khan was declared the best bowler of the tournament.

Both Oman and Nepal booked their spots in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 after winning their respective semi-final matches against Bahrain and the UAE respectively on Friday. It will be Oman's third appearance at the T20 World Cup with the previous coming in 2016 and 2021.

At the 2024 T20 World Cup, for the first time, 20 teams will form part of the event and will be divided into four groups of five.

The top two teams in each of the groups will move to a Super Eight phase, where the remaining teams will be split into two groups of four. The top two in each group will then make their way to the semi-finals.

Brief scores: Nepal 184/6 (Kushal Bhurtel 31, Rohit Paudel 52*, Gulshan Jha 54; Bilal Khan 3/26, Aqib Ilyas 2/22) tied with Oman 184/9 (Kashyap Prajapati 63, Aqib Ilyas 33, Zeeshan Maqsood 26, Mohammed Nadeem 24*; Sandeep Lamichhane 2/31, Karan KC 2/30). Super over: Oman 21/0 (Naseem Khushi 19) beat Nepal 10/1).



PHOTOS: CRICKET ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL



ROUND-UP

Juliana Salla appointed as general manager of JW Marriott Hotel Muscat



With over 20 years of experience within the international tourism and hospitality sector in South America, North America, Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific and China, Salla has worked with Marriott in a variety of positions for the company's brands

MUSCAT: JW Marriott Hotel Muscat announced the appointment of Juliana Salla as its General Manager, responsible for overseeing the brand's flagship hotel in Oman,

which reopened its doors in October. With over 20 years of experience within the international tourism and hospitality sector in South America, North America,

Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific and China, Salla has worked with Marriott in a variety of positions for the company's brands, including senior leadership roles at W owned properties in Qatar, Indonesia and China. "I am honoured to be taking on this leading role with such a prestigious, meticulously designed property. We aim to foster a serene sanctuary for business and leisure, or a seamless blend of both, for meaningful stays that feature the highest levels of attention to detail every step of the way," said Juliana Salla, General Manager of JW Marriott Hotel Muscat. "Despite their geographical distance, Oman and Brazil share a common appreciation for rich cultural diversity and natural beauty

and Muscat is the perfect destination to experience JW Marriott's serene sanctuary and make memorable connections. I am extremely happy to be here and excited to extend our extraordinary hospitality to all who join us." For six years before moving to Muscat, she took up integral positions at two Ritz-Carlton properties, in Bali from 2017 to 2020, then at Fari Islands, Maldives from 2020 to 2023. Prior to those appointments, she honed her inspiring leadership skills for 10 years with the W brand, while playing a key role in the pre-opening of various W properties. Salla kick started her career with Disney Cruise Lines before gravitating to land-based hotel operations.

Underpinned by exceptional love of service and hospitality, JW Marriott Hotel Muscat features 304 luxurious, spacious guest rooms and suites featuring dramatic and unique interior design. A short drive from Muscat International Airport in the heart of Madinat Al-Irfan, it also boasts direct connectivity to the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre and offers business and leisure travellers a haven to escape from the hustle and bustle of urban living. The hotel stands as a beacon of environmental sustainability, with its architectural excellence aligning with the stringent standards for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the US Green Building Council.

PROMOTION

'Fill & Win' this National Day with special prizes from Al Maha Petroleum

MUSCAT: Commemorating the Sultanate of Oman's 53rd National Day, Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company has kickstarted the celebration by launching its 'Fill & Win' promotion to reward its loyal customers. The draw promises a chance to win a range of fun and exciting prizes, including 1 year's worth of free fuel for 10 winners, 5 gram of gold for 5 winners and one MG5 car as the grand prize for one lucky winner. Through this activity, Al Maha aspires to share joy and gratitude with its loyal

customers as they are the reason behind its continued success. Till December 17, customers could enter the National Day exclusive raffle by scanning the QR code displayed at all Al Maha fuel stations and filling in the details requested, such as Mobile Number and Tax Invoice number on the purchase of M91 and M95 petrol for OMR 5. The promotion does not include non-fuel or diesel purchases. Each OMR 5 spent on petrol will double the chances of winning the raffle.

INSIGHTFUL

Al Hashar Pharmacy holds session to raise awareness on breast cancer

MUSCAT: Al Hashar Pharmacy, a leading healthcare provider dedicated to enhancing community health and well-being, took a significant step towards raising awareness about breast cancer through an insightful and engaging awareness session. Breast cancer continues to be a prevalent global health concern, affecting millions of lives each year. Recognising the pervasive impact of breast cancer on individuals and families, Al Hashar Pharmacy took proactive steps to educate and empower its team members. The session, held on October 30, featured a leading medical expert



Dr Rajyashree N. Kutty Specialist Surgeon, specialising in breast diseases, breast care, breast cancer screening and founder of Barakat Al Noor Clinic in Al Khuwair, Mus-

cat provided invaluable insights on early detection, risk factors, and the latest advancements in breast cancer treatment and importance of lifestyle management for com-

bating this disease. "Our employees are the backbone of our organisation, and their health and well-being are of paramount importance. By providing them with the knowledge and tools to understand and combat breast cancer, we hope to make a positive impact on their lives" said CEO of Al Hashar Pharmacy. The session witnessed active participation from Al Hashar Pharmacy's dedicated staff, who engaged in discussions and posed pertinent questions. Through this initiative, employees were left with a heightened awareness of the significance of regular screenings and self-examinations.

SLEEK DESIGN



Experience distinctive luxury with Lexus ES

MUSCAT: The Lexus ES makes a fine mark with its sleek design, impressive luxury, amazing fuel economy and a range of features that elevate experiences on every journey. The Lexus ES draws attention with its impressive design language. Powering the Lexus ES are two powertrain options. A 3.5-liter 24-valve V6 engine that produces 298 hp and 36.3 kg-m of torque. And a high-efficiency 2.5-litre 16-valve DOHC engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg-m of torque. The two powertrains on ES350 and ES250 are paired to an eight-speed direct-shift automatic transmission. Luxury can always be rewarding too with the ES hybrid electric model. It has a hybrid battery that is available with 8 years/160,000 Kms warranty and is automatically charged either by petrol engine or during braking or decelerating,

eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. Furthermore, it hosts number of advanced technologies, yet drives like any other conventional car and does not require special fuel. The ES300h offers an impressive 24.1 km/L mileage. Adding to thrill and pulsating experiences is the ES350 F Sport version, gives a new dimension to how thrilling driving experiences can be. In addition to a thrilling exterior that highlights its bold and aggressive personality, the Lexus ES350 F SPORT has features such as a retuned suspension, 19-inch wheels and tyres, and unique aluminium interior trim that gives the machine a more dynamic look and feel. The ES is equipped with an exquisite interior that invites the driver and passengers to enjoy a range of advanced features offering a refined cabin experience.

They include Dual Zone Auto Air-conditioning, Voice Recognition, Power Rear sunshade, Premium Touchscreen Audio System, Android Auto & Apple CarPlay and much more. Highlighting Lexus' unrelenting focus on safety, the vehicle ensures complete peace of mind with an advanced safety technology package that includes Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) / Traction Control (TRC) / Brake Assist System (BAS) / Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD) / Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) among many others. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 1st year 2 free pickup and drop for service and 24 hours on road assistance from e-Fetch.

EDUCATION

ABQ hosts inaugural merit scholarship awards ceremony

MUSCAT: ABQ, a leader in international education in Oman, hosted its first ABQ Merit Scholarship awards ceremony at one of its premium international schools recently. This event marked the culmination of ABQ's scholarship initiative for the current academic year, which aimed to recognise and support secondary school students with exceptional academic records. The event was attended by the presence of ABQ Education Group Chairman, Al Zubair Muhammad Al Zubair, who expressed his enthusiasm for this initiative, stating, "ABQ has a long-standing history of nurturing outstanding academic achievements. The presentation of these thirteen scholarships is yet another testament to the group's commitment to investing in the future of this country. Each of the scholars should feel proud, knowing that this allocation is a direct reflection of their dedication and hard work." Recipients of the ABQ Merit Scholarships enjoy the privilege of having 100% of their tuition fees waived for a period of two years. Humayun Kabir, ABQ Chief Executive Officer, elaborated on the rigorous selection criteria for the scholarships, emphasising that they were solely based on academic merit. He stated, "ABQ takes immense pride in the success of this initiative, which garnered an astonishing 300 applications this year. The Scholarship Programme, designed to specifically recognise educational excellence, is an important addi-



tion to the educational landscape of Oman. Applications for the 2024-25 Scholarship Programme will open in January 2024." One of the ABQ Scholars, Yumna Salim Said Salim Al Yazidy, said, "I realise that opportunities like the one ABQ offers are exceedingly rare. ABQ provides an environment that not only pushes you to unlock your full potential but also imparts the essential skills that prepare students for a promising future." Another ABQ Scholar, Abdullah Said Al Balushi, used the opportunity to thank ABQ's educators, "Our dedicated teachers have been the guiding lights on this edu-

cational journey. Their unwavering commitment and support towards our growth and learning has made all the difference. They have not only bestowed great knowledge but also instilled the values of perseverance, resilience, and the importance of never giving up in us." In closing, Kabir emphasised the universal significance of academic excellence, stating, "The award ceremony served as a reminder that excellence knows no bounds. Academic brilliance is a universal language that unites all. ABQ Education Group will continue to celebrate it, nurture it, and share it with the world."



mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222 9275 5522

CR. No. 1998452



50 YEARS OF FORWARD MOMENTUM



**The journey, the people, the community,
and the nation are all crucial pillars
in the bank's fifty-year voyage.**

The Sultanate of Oman celebrates its 53rd National Day and the Renewed Renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The National Bank of Oman (NBO) takes pride in being among the pioneering institutions that played a pivotal role in shaping Oman and fostering the Sultanate's Renaissance since its inception. As the first local bank in the Sultanate of Oman, NBO celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, under the Royal Blessing of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Since its inception on 3rd February 1973, the bank has continued to provide various banking services and to strengthen its position as one of the banking establishments which is aimed to create value for its customers and provide innovative banking solutions that contribute to the economic and social growth of the country.

As one of the leading banks in providing banking solutions, NBO sought to achieve its four values: authenticity, relentlessly pioneering, creating value through connection, and pursuing simplicity which are the guiding principles that support achieving the bank's goal "unlocking opportunities, as one." The bank has always focused on boosting its resilience and strategy, working to meet its



H.H Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab, HM Advisor and Muscat Governor during the opening of NBO



customers' changing expectations and needs, and keeping up to date with the technological developments under various economic conditions.

In 2022, NBO unveiled its refreshed corporate identity, featuring enhancements to the brand's visual presentation to better distinguish it



A copy of the letter from late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the approval of the establishment of the first local bank in Oman

self and align with evolving market dynamics

Over the past fifty years, the bank has taken pride in contributing to the growth of the Omani economy through the financing of numerous development projects and steadfast support for national efforts aimed at economic diversification across various sectors.

Since its inception, NBO has strived to offer a diverse range of banking services to companies, government agencies, individuals, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This commitment to creating value and fostering customer growth has resulted in enduring relationships that have spanned from NBO's early days

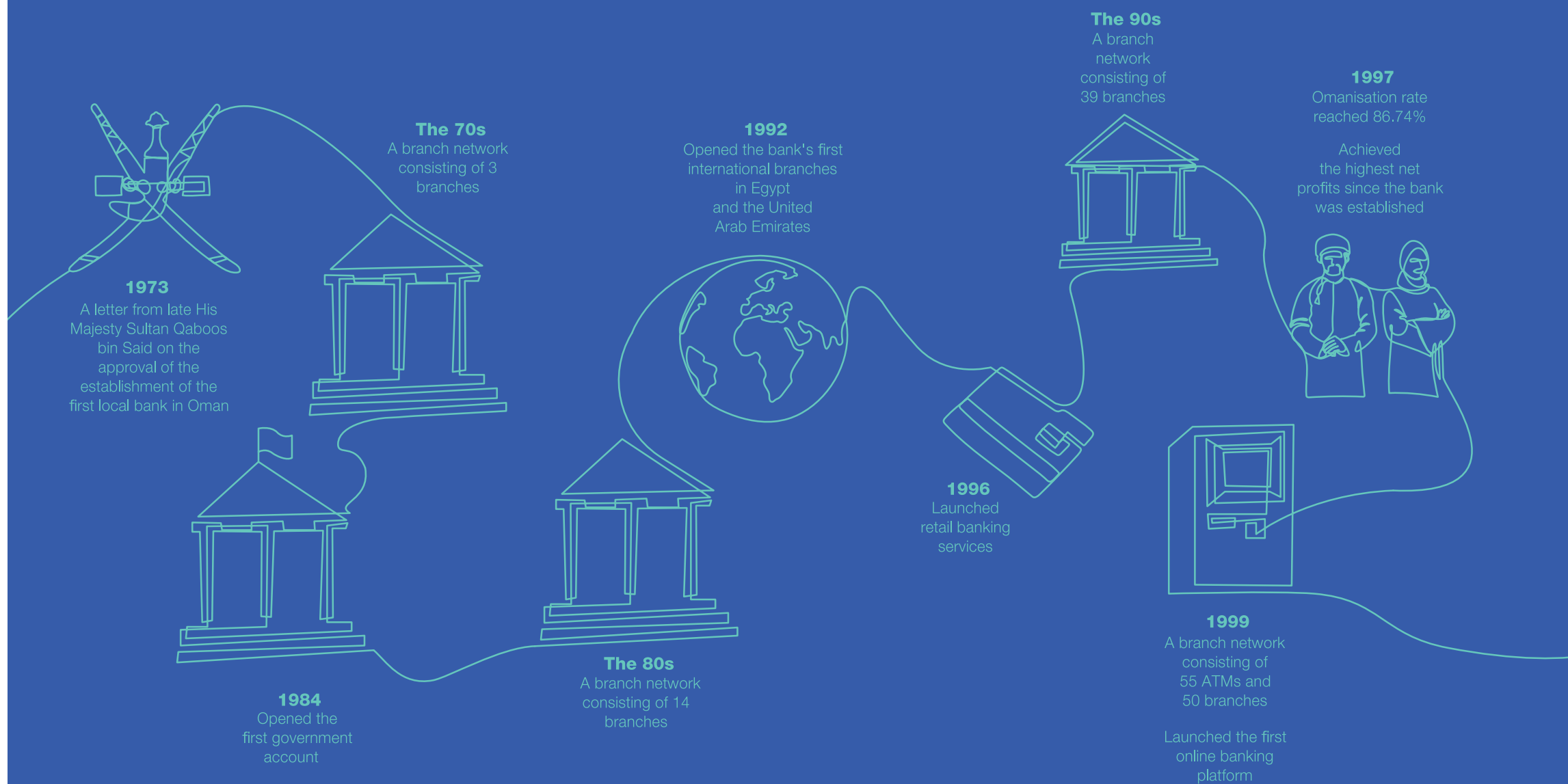
to the present. NBO has consistently adapted to the evolving needs of its customers, embracing digital technologies across its operations. Initially launching with two branches in 1973, NBO has since expanded its branches network to encompass 67 branches including 59 branches throughout various regions of the Sultanate of Oman, 2 branches in the United Arab Emirates and 6 NBO Muzn branches. This expansive network ensures a comprehensive array of banking services for all customer segments. NBO emphasised its commitment to its Private Banking and Sadara Priority Banking customers, consistently delivering value through comprehensive and specialised solutions and consultations at every stage of their asset growth.

Throughout the past 50 years, the National Bank of Oman has consistently concentrated on enhancing its role as an active contributor to the growth of the banking and financial sector in the Sultanate of Oman. Simultaneously, it has strived to establish itself as a distinguished workplace for national talents, providing numerous promising career opportunities.

Through its comprehensive social responsibility strategy, the bank continues to champion projects that enhance societal value. Additionally, the bank takes pride in its leadership role

within the Islamic banking sector and its support for the Islamic banking industry in Oman. This includes the establishment of 'Muzn Islamic Banking,' the Sultanate's first licensed Islamic banking window in 2013, which offers a range of banking solutions in accordance with Islamic Sharia principles.

The bank takes great pride in its iconic main building, which stands as an architectural masterpiece in Muscat. The design of this landmark draws inspiration from Oman's rich heritage, harmoniously blending traditional and modern elements, both natural and architectural. This fusion results in a unique structure that embodies the bank's authenticity. Opened in 2017, the building boasts cutting-edge standards and modern technologies, ensuring the delivery of world-class customer service that reflects the bank's commitment to customer satisfaction. The interior design draws inspiration from Omani valleys, while the facade features locally-sourced stones commonly found in the Sultanate. In line with the renewed Renaissance led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the bank reaffirms its commitment to Oman, its customers, and society as a whole, pledging to continue opening new horizons in various fields.



NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF POSITIVE IMPACT ON COUNTRY AND SOCIETY

NBO's 50th anniversary

Within the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of its foundation, the National Bank of Oman cooperated with Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO) in terms of donations to support other organisations aimed to help children, orphans, people with disabilities and other sectors of the society.

Employees

The bank's employees are the cornerstone of all its work, and constitute an essential factor that distinguishes the bank from other establishments. Since its establishment, the bank has sought to empower national cadres and create job opportunities in various banking fields.

Throughout the past fifty years, the bank has been dedicated to creating growth opportunities and advancing employee roles. It takes pride in launching numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the capabilities and competencies of its workforce.

Since its inception, the bank has demonstrated a strong commitment to employee development by establishing a training centre in the early nineties. The bank views its employees as a vital investment in its future growth.

The training centre's initiatives encompassed a foundational programme for employees, including qualification courses and on-the-job training covering the fundamentals of banking, various administrative fields, and collaborations with local and international educational institutions to ensure the adoption of the latest and most effective training methods. These collective efforts have resulted in the cultivation of highly qualified professionals, strengthening the bank's role in actively contributing to the progress of both the banking sector and Oman as a whole.

In continuation of these efforts, the bank launched the Academy



of Excellence in 2012, through which it continued to provide training opportunities and administrative programmes for the employees, such as the recently launched 'Tamayuz' programme, which is specifically designed to develop the skills and expertise of highly qualified employees from various departments and branches, including its NBO Muzn Islamic Banking window.

As part of the Bank's commitment to fostering strong bonds among employees and promoting a positive work environment, it has implemented the 'Rawabit' programme. This program consists of a series of interactive workshops designed to emphasise the Bank's values, guide employees on how to embody these values in their interactions, and cultivate a work culture centred around teamwork, cooperation, communication, and collaboration. It aims to improve professional conduct in the workplace, integrate the bank's values into daily routines, and establish connections among employees

across various regions.

As an integral part of Omani society, the National Bank of Oman has been dedicated to collaborating with its employees, partners, government agencies, and charitable associations throughout its five-decade journey. Its primary aim has been to offer essential support to individuals and entities in need. The bank has focused its efforts on various initiatives, including crisis response, youth empowerment, social and economic development, education, healthcare, assistance for people with special needs, and other impactful areas.

Incubator of innovation

As part of its commitment to innovation and youth empowerment, the bank launched the 'Innovation Incubator' Programme in 2021. In cooperation with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, the Omani Academy for Small and Medium Enterprises, and Paradigms Consulting Company, the initiative contributed to teaching 30 participants from IT gradu-



ates on how to design startup companies in the field of financial technology. At the end of the initiative, three participants secured and got the opportunity to present their ideas to a group of potential investors.

Support for the youth

The bank implemented training courses in cooperation with Outward Bound Oman to develop basic life skills for 900 Omani youth from all over Oman, enabling them to acquire the skills necessary for entering the labour market. Under the memorandum

of understanding executed with the Ministry of Labour, the bank offered supplementary training courses to graduates of the National Leadership Development Programme, known as 'Etimad.' These courses provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and knowledge while enhancing their leadership skills. Over the years, the Bank has also hosted delegations from several ministries for discussion and educational sessions held at its headquarters.

In 2022, the bank received more than six hundred train-

ees and continued to empower Omani youth, developing their capabilities and skills, enhance their experience in the banking and financial sector, and ensure that they acquire valuable professional and social experiences that prepare them to enter the labour market with confidence and to contribute effectively to the growth of the country.

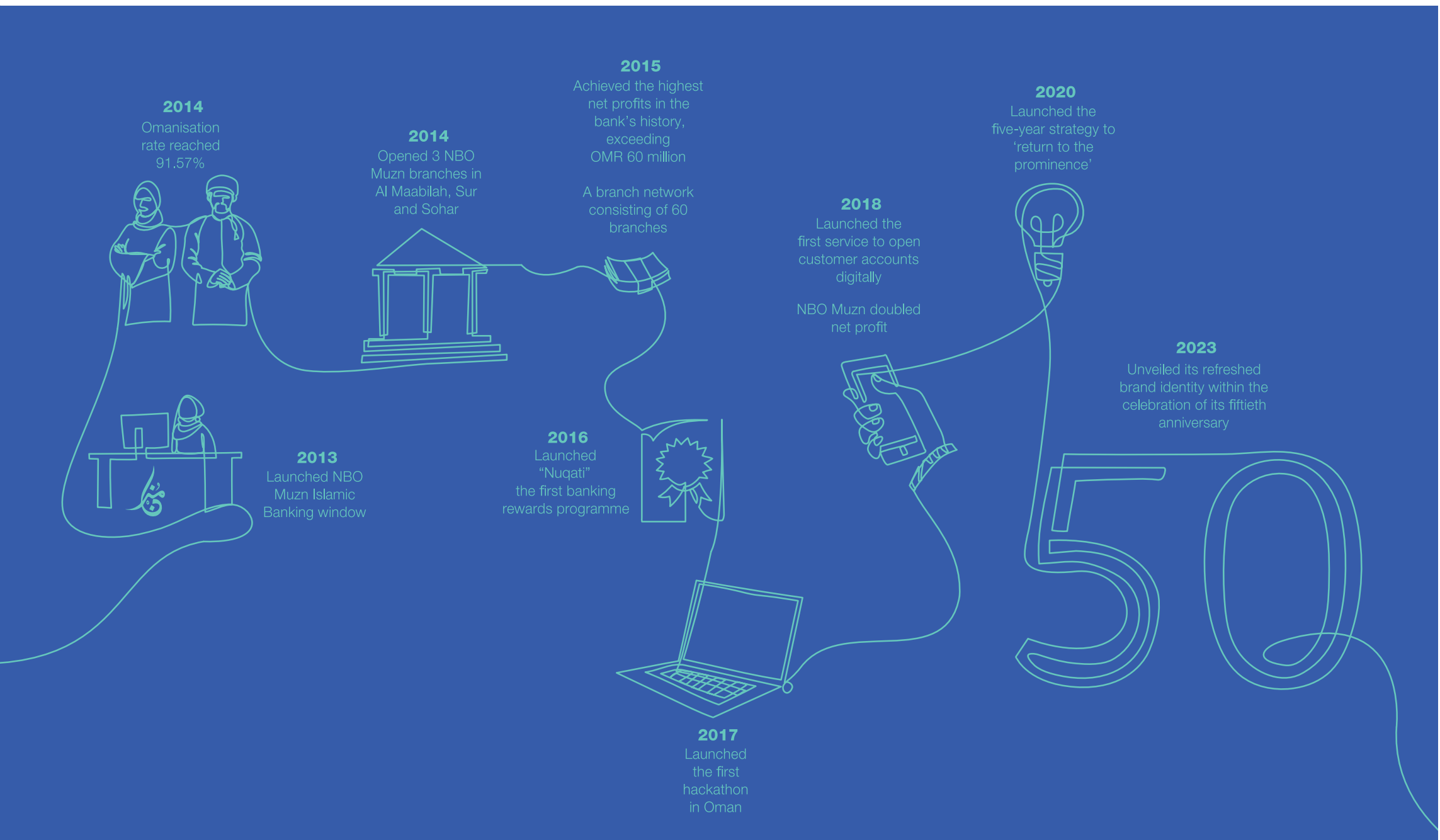
Scholarship programme

In 2015, coinciding with the celebrations of the 45th anniversary of foundation, the bank launched a scholarship programme to enable 11 students from low-income families to complete their undergraduate degrees at the best universities in the United Kingdom. In 2022, the programme concluded with these students successfully graduating and now working at the bank. This initiative embodies the bank's belief that education is the foundation of life and the key to the future. It reflects its commitment to nurturing talented Omani youth and creating opportunities for them to achieve their ambitions and dreams.

The bank thus makes a long-term investment in the youth and the future of the Sultanate of Oman.

NBO Hackathon

Proud of its commitment to Omani youth and the development of the financial sector in the country, the bank has initiated innovative programmes. From 2017 to 2019, it organised the National Bank of Oman Hackathon Competition, the largest of its kind in the banking and financial services sector. This competition provided a platform for young individuals to share their digital ideas and innovations aimed at solving key digital challenges in banking, customer service, and other domains. The competition garnered enthusiastic participation from individuals of all age groups.



Support of small and medium enterprises

Beyond its banking services and support for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the bank actively engages in community initiatives aimed at bolstering local businesses and projects, thereby contributing significantly to the diversification of the Sultanate of Oman's economy.

One such initiative is the 'Café Thursday' programme, launched at the bank's head office in Azaiba. This initiative supports food and beverage projects by offering a platform for SMEs to showcase their products. These businesses can participate in this weekly initiative without incurring any participation fees.

Another noteworthy initiative, which underscores the bank's commitment to SMEs and the local community, is the organisation of the 'Eid Habta Open Area Souq.' Held at the main



building in Athaiba during Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha, this event draws significant participation from emerging SMEs. It serves as a distinctive platform for businesses and entrepreneurs

to exhibit their products, while offering visitors the opportunity to purchase various Eid-related items, including jewellery, perfumes, fashion, household goods, and food.

Support of national efforts during crises

To support government efforts to confront the (COVID-19) pandemic, the bank donated more than OMR1.5 million. The bank affirmed its commitment to employ all its resources, team and infrastructure to support the Ministry of Health, as it launched an immunisation campaign for its employees and their spouses, and provided a number of ambulances in both Muscat and Dhofar governorates, in addition to purchasing medical equipment for the hospitals in Dhofar governorate. These efforts are part of a list of initiatives and procedures implemented by the bank to provide basic support to the healthcare sector in the country in order to contribute to curbing the spread of (COVID-19).

When Oman was affected by Tropical Cyclone Shaheen, the bank immediately launched a number of initiatives, including provision of finance to contribute to reducing the effects of the cyclone. The bank allocated an amount of OMR10 million for provision of interest-free loans and postponement of installments for affected customers for a period of three months. This is in addition to the bank's cooperation with a number of stores in order to provide customers with a 50 percent discount on essential home appliances.

The month of giving

The bank is proud of its annual Ramadan initiative, which aims to spread the values of giving during the holy month of Ramadan. The bank annually distributes food parcels to the needy

families and other groups of the society in cooperation with various charitable associations. This annual initiative contributes to strengthening the Bank's ties with the local community by providing it with various necessary means of support and assistance.

Muzn, NBO's Islamic banking window, celebrates its 10th anniversary

In 2023, Muzn, the Islamic banking window of the National Bank of Oman, marks its tenth anniversary since its establishment in Oman. NBO Muzn Islamic Banking proudly holds the distinction of being the first licensed Islamic banking window in the Sultanate of Oman. Since its inception, NBO Muzn has consistently expanded its presence and achieved excellence in customer service, contributing significantly to the growth and development of the Islamic banking sector in the Sultanate.

In conjunction with its anniversary celebrations, NBO Muzn unveiled an updated brand identity, aligning it with the National Bank of Oman's identity. NBO Muzn takes pride in being part of the bank's 50-year history as the first local bank in Oman. Leveraging NBO Muzn's expertise in Islamic banking and the capabilities of the National Bank of Oman, the Islamic banking window will continue to cater to diverse customer needs by offering distinctive banking products and services that adhere to Islamic Sharia principles and align with customers' values and beliefs.

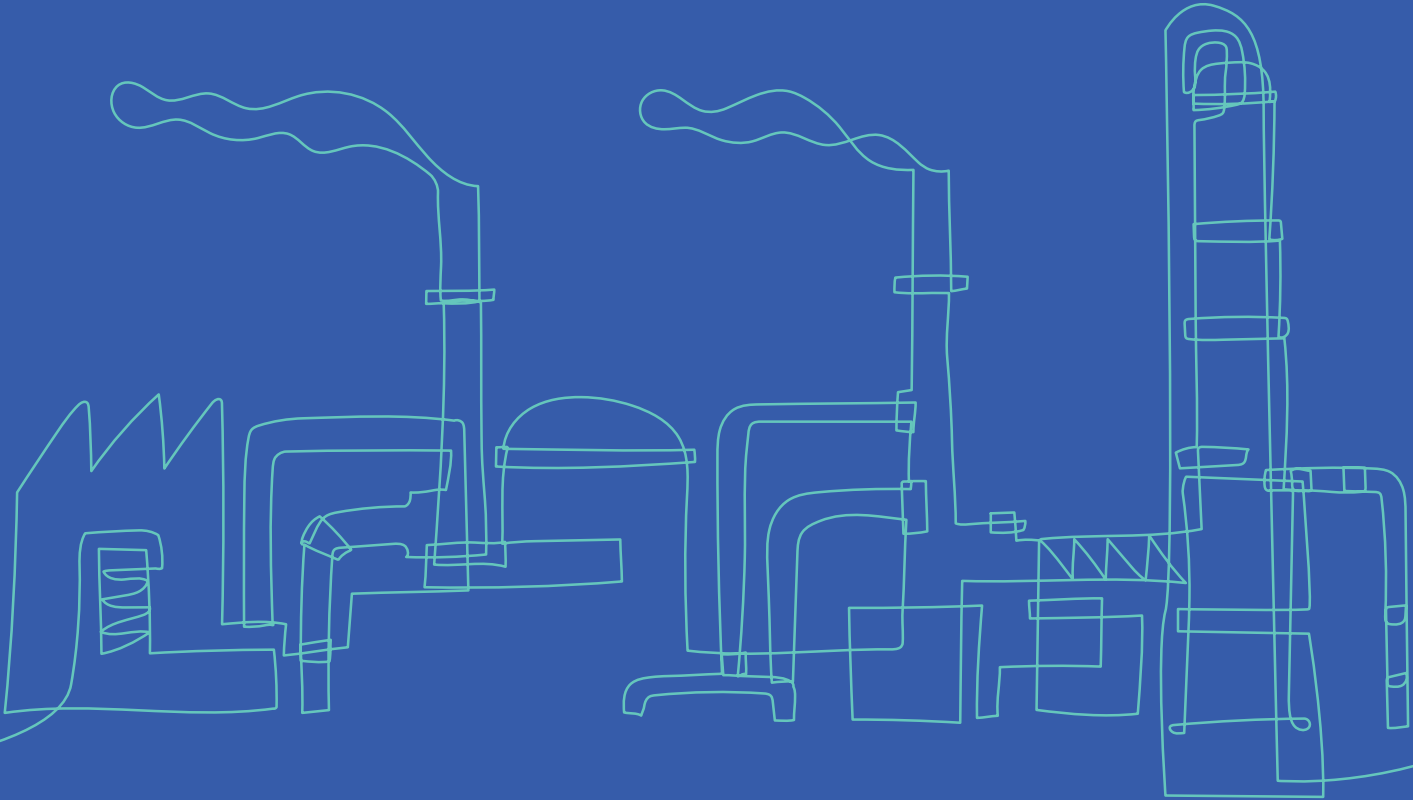
Since the inception of its journey, NBO Muzn has aimed to meet the daily banking needs of all its customers, supporting them in securing a financially stable future and in protecting and growing their wealth. NBO Muzn offers a wide range of Sharia-compliant banking products and services for both businesses and individuals. This includes the recently launched Kids Wakala with tiered profit rates by category, free Takaful Life Insurance, 'Tijara' and 'Masjid' Accounts for companies, among others. NBO Muzn also provides secure services, including innovative digital solutions that enable customers to automate and manage their payments.

NBO Muzn also provides secure services that include innovative digital solutions to enable customers to automate and manage their payments, including a banking service application and an online Islamic banking platform for companies.

The bank takes pride in the accomplishments achieved by NBO Muzn throughout its ten-year journey & eagerly anticipates the future and the new horizons that lie ahead for NBO Muzn. It is also poised to seize the growth opportunities presented by the Islamic banking sector. Since its inception, NBO Muzn has been dedicated to achieving excellence in its products & services, guided by its values and the principles of Islamic Sharia. NBO will continue to leverage its expertise, further develop it, establish new partnerships, and provide innovative banking solutions that cater to the evolving needs of its valued customers.



ADVANCING THE NATION'S ECONOMY AND PROGRESS



National Bank of Oman: Pioneering Oman's Progress

STEADY STEPS TOWARDS THE FUTURE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The National Bank of Oman (NBO) takes great pride in its rich history marked by remarkable achievements. Throughout its journey, NBO has played a pivotal role in Oman's development by financing key economic projects that have significantly contributed to the advancement of the national economy and the improvement of the quality of life for Omani citizens. This commitment to progress began under the visionary leadership of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said and continues today in alignment with Oman's renewed renaissance, guided by the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

These projects have spanned across vital sectors, encompassing education, healthcare, housing and construction, energy, oil and gas, infrastructure, the food sector, logistics, the industrial sector, and more. NBO's journey has been marked by several important milestones.

- 1973**
Financed Petroleum Development Oman maintenance and development contracts

1984
Opened the first government account

1992
Financed Ali Al Shaihani Group

1993
Financed Oman Air

Financed the construction of Muscat Securities Market headquarters

Financed Oman Housing Bank

1994
Financed the construction of Nizwa Hospital

Financed Al Araiimi Complex

1996
Financed the Central Bank of Oman's headquarters expansion project
- Financed the Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Defence road maintenance project

Financed the import of Airbus 320 for Oman Air

1997
Financed Oman Copper Industries Company

Financed Oman Cables

Financed Oman Chemical

Financed Oman LNG

1998
Financed Oman Air projects

Financed Salalah Port

2002
Financed Oman India Fertiliser Company

2009
Financed Oman Petrochemicals

2010
Financed Sohar Port

- 2011**
Financed Duqm Port

Financed Oman Aluminium Rolling Company

Financed the electricity infrastructure project in Sur

2014
Financed Duqm Frontier Town

Financed the expansion of Sohar Refinery project

2015
Financed ORPIC expansion project

Financed Octal Petrochemical Company

Financed Liwa Plastics Industrial Complex

2021
Selected as the exclusive banking partner to manage the strategic account of Oman Tax Authority
- Partnered with Al Fardan Hotels & Resorts Group

2022
Funding arrangement for the development of first ever Penicillin production facilities within the GCC

MoU with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning under the Sorouh Initiative

Participated in a syndication deal for Oman Air

2023
Issue Manager and one of the Joint Global Coordinators for Abraj Energy Services' IPO

Financed Oman Oil Marketing Company

Refinanced a syndicated loan for OQ Gas Networks

Participated a Collection Bank for the OQ Gas Networks IPO

THE BANK CONTINUES THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

During its journey, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has maintained a steadfast focus on achieving comprehensive digital transformation. The bank has consistently worked to incorporate technology into its products and services, prioritizing the enhancement of the customer experience and the fulfilment of all customer expectations, regardless of their scale. NBO has been a pioneer in delivering numerous digital services and has actively led the digital transformation efforts in Oman. The bank firmly believes in the vast opportunities

presented by the world of financial technologies, which it aims to explore and harness. Consequently, the National Bank of Oman remains dedicated to discovering new avenues for achieving this objective and enriching its customers with a flexible and innovative banking experience.

The first digital banking corner in Oman
The National Bank of Oman opened the first digital banking corner of its kind in Oman at its headquarters in Athaiba, with the aim of serving customers

and non-customers 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. The new digital corner provides a convenient and flexible banking experience that meets the needs of users at any time, based on the bank's keenness to take into account its customers' time and circumstances. The digital banking corner is designed to meet customer needs and includes a multi-function interactive service machine, an interactive teller machine, an ATM, and comprehensive function machines. These modern services can be used 24 hours a day / 7 days a week, and users are guaranteed the highest level of security.

Interactive service machine and self-service machines
Customers and non-customers can use the interactive service machine and multi-function self-service devices to open accounts, order, replace and refill prepaid cards, make withdrawals, cash or cheque deposits, replace direct debit cards, transfer funds, as well as inquire about their accounts, loans, cards, printing account statements, and other services supported

The first banking services application in Oman
The bank launched the banking service application in 2015, to provide integrated banking solutions including opening accounts digitally, local and international remittance, requesting bank cards and related services, requesting cheques, and paying bills besides a wide range of features. The application is being updated continuously.

Electronic payment application for vendors
To support entrepreneurs and establishments, the bank launched the electronic payment application for vendors, which is an innovative digital platform that allows them to receive payments digitally by scanning the QR (Quick Response) code on customers' phones or by requesting the amount from customers digitally.

Corporate digital services
The online corporate banking service platform enables companies to manage all their commercial transactions anytime

and anywhere. It is characterised by its user-friendliness and a central panel that ensures customers have complete control over all features. The corporate banking service platform is designed to align with sector trends and enable companies to efficiently manage their business operations. The bank continues to provide comprehensive banking solutions for companies through this platform, offering a more convenient and flexible customer experience. This allows them to seamlessly conduct their daily financial transactions from their offices, including instant transactions, payments, and transfers in multiple currencies. Furthermore, it facilitates tasks such as uploading files for suppliers and processing salary payments, including files for the wages protection system. The platform enables customers to conduct a variety of business transactions such as issuing letters of financial credit, guarantees, loans against trust receipts, discounting invoices, collecting documents through direct processing, and getting

instant updates about their transactions including the status of the transaction, its documents and related messages and account statements.

The services also include the Automated Clearing Chamber Service, which is available seven days a week and around the clock. The service allows customers to conduct transactions instantly, and the direct debit service for companies, which enables companies to automate their payments and long-term and short-term receivables and hence reducing their need for cheques.

The bank is dedicated to fostering a flexible and user-friendly experience that supports business growth and development. This commitment is in line with its mission to offer valued business partners the finest digital solutions.

The National Bank of Oman consistently introduces an array of innovative banking solutions and services rooted in cutting-edge modern technologies. Its aim is to provide customers with the most seamless and adaptable banking experience available.



شانجان أوتو
CHANGAN AUTO
قيادة نحو آفاق أوسع Driving Forward With You

Choose your favourite Changan model today!

Easy to own with low monthly installments.

CS95

2.0L Turbo Engine,
224 hp, 8-speed AT,
4WD, 7 Seater



EMI
OMR **187***
for 6 years

CS75 PLUS

2.0L Turbo Engine,
224 hp, 8-speed AT



EMI
OMR **139***
for 6 years

CS35 PLUS

1.4L Turbo Engine,
156 hp, 7-speed DCT



EMI
OMR **109***
for 6 years

EADO PLUS

1.4L Turbo Engine,
155 hp, 7-speed DCT



EMI
OMR **94***
for 6 years

ALSVIN

1.5L Engine, 105 hp,
5-speed DCT



EMI
OMR **65***
for 6 years

CHANGAN The Premium Range

Super Warranty up to 6 years / 250,000 Km#

KNOW MORE

*Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment, for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. #Whichever is earlier. For more information, please visit the Changan Showroom.

Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Sohar 95351200

Sales Centers : Barka 96581495, Ibra 95500965, Ibri 79326176,
Nizwa 94962202, Salalah 96562624, Buraimi 94419793

changanoman
www.changanoman.com

800 50800

الخليج العربي للسيارات والمعدات ش.م.م
Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

C.R. No: 1232361



Happy JOURNEYS. BETTER Savings.

15th October 2023 to 14th December 2023



RO

20

DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF
4 TYRES OF RIM 17 AND BELOW

RO

30

DISCOUNT ON PURCHASE OF
4 TYRES OF RIM 18 AND ABOVE

Terms & Conditions:

- Discount applicable only for PCR/VAN/4WD & LTR TYRES ON DOT 2022 on NSP with out VAT.
- Offer is applicable only at Saud Bahwan Automotive Tyre Retail Outlets on cash/bank card sales.
- Offer is valid on select sizes.
- Prices/offers does not include tyre fitting, balancing & Alignment charges.
- This offer cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion.

This season get more with Yokohama tyres!
For details visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Group tyre retail outlets

Azaiba : **24527391** • Barka : **26887673** • BB Ali : **25553605** • Bureimi : **25660281** • Ghala : **24625165**
• Nizwa : **25410024** • Salalah : **23210138** • Seeb : **24452438** • Sohar Sanaya : **26948346**
• Sohar : **26858661** • Suwaiq : **26860782** • Wattayah : **24579595**

Email – enquiries@sbgta.com

CLICK



91261728



SAUD BAHWAN Group

Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC

ISO 9001, 2015 Certified | C.R No: 1703412, PO Box 3168, Ruwi, PC 112



www.yokohamaoman.com



Yokohamaoman



Yokohamaoman

ROWA

AIR CONDITIONERS



A New Cooling Experience




**Super Fast
Cooling**

**Quiet
Operation**



**Gold Fin For
Rust Protection**

6 in 1 Filter



4 way swing

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



جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT
96742452

SALALAH

97924410, 94048494

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers



www.genetco.net



@GenetcoOman



@GenetcoOman



Genetco Oman