



Air corridor set up to send aid

First lot of relief material sent on H M the Sultan's directives on Wednesday; quake death toll over 9,057 in Turkey, 2,802 in Syria



Our Correspondent
Muscat

As rescuers in Turkey and Syria battled cold in a race against time to find survivors under buildings flattened by an earthquake that killed more than 11,800 people, international aid has begun to arrive in both the countries.

On Wednesday, Oman announced the establishment of an airbridge to supply relief material as well as search and rescue personnel to Turkey and Syria.

Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Royal Air Force of Oman and Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) sent the first lot of supplies to Syria and Turkey on Wednesday.

A statement issued by CDAA said, 'In implementation of Royal Directives, Oman is operating an airbridge to transport relief and medical materials to the Syrian and Turkish regions affected by the earthquake. In addition, we are sending a unit from the Na-

tional Search and Rescue Team of CDAA to southern Turkey to provide assistance.'

Meanwhile, Oman Charitable Organization (OCO) called on people in the sultanate to donate for the people of Syria and Turkey.

In a statement, OCO asked for donations to be sent by texting the message 'Donate' to Omantel on 90022 or Ooredoo on 90909.

Donations can also be made directly to banks for Syria through Bank Muscat (A/C No

0423010706280016) and National Bank of Oman (A/C No 1049337798006) and for Turkey through Bank Muscat (A/C No 0423010700010017) and Bank Dhofar (A/C No 01040609090001).

Dar al Atta'a launched a campaign - Pain and Hope - to donate to the people of Syria and Turkey through the apps Talabat and TM Done and Bank Muscat (A/C No 0315003966850059), or by sending a text message - 'Donate 1' - to Ooredoo on 90001.

The Embassy of Turkey in Muscat has opened a book for condolences and announced a relief campaign in aid of quake victims.

It stated aid materials should be delivered in a box with a list of contents at the embassy in Shatti al Qurum - Way No 3019, Building No 1622. The list of materials needed in this context includes winter clothes, food boxes, baby formula, diapers, cleaning and hygiene products and women's hygiene products.'

'International community has largely forgotten Syria'

Muscat - Dr Ahmed al Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, has called on the international community to acknowledge the 'compounding' crisis in Syria as more people need humanitarian assistance in the country today than at any time since the conflict in Syria began 12 years ago.

Speaking at the WHO's 152nd Executive Board Session, Dr Mandhari expressed his deepest condolences to the people of Syria, adding, "we expect the death toll to increase in the coming days".

Elaborating on the conflict in Syria, he said next month marks almost 12 years since the crisis began. "Those needs of the Syrian people have soared further as a result following Monday's



earthquake. It has added yet another layer of complexity to the many challenges already facing the Syrian people."

But despite facing multiple concurrent and compounding crises over recent years, the international community has largely forgotten Syria, he added. "Even as health and humanitarian needs increase, funding continues to decrease. It should not take a tragic event such as this crisis for us to turn

our attention to Syria."

He said that WHO's priority now was to make sure that those who have been injured receive the life-saving care they need, as soon as possible, to prevent further loss of life and disability. "And that those who have lost their homes and livelihoods are not exposed to further public health risks."

Dr Mandhari spoke in admiration of the dedicated Syrian health workforce "who are responding to yet another emergency. Despite overwhelming demands and limited resources, they remain as committed as always to saving lives".

He said that WHO is there to support them "as we employ an all-modalities approach to access those in need".

Luxuriate in the award-winning Golf Beach Residences at Al Mouj Muscat

Golf Beach Residences has gained global attention, with these five and six-bedroom oceanside villas winning international awards as homes that combine exceptional design with an outstanding setting and lifestyle within the stylish Shatti district, where families can enjoy easy access to the beach and Al Mouj Golf.

A very limited number are still available to buy, and with construction of 15 of these majestic family homes underway at the heart of Oman's premier lifestyle community, what can homeowners expect from Golf Beach Residences?

CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani says: "Work on the first phase of these exceptional homes has begun and the entire team is thrilled to transform the vision of Golf Beach Residences into a reality.

"We focus on every detail and the reward of our dedication will be handing the villas over to their new owners knowing that every room, every finish and every feature will surpass expectations. These will be homes where families can enjoy life at its most fulfilling."

Exclusive neighbourhood, exclusive neighbours

Set within an exclusive gated neighbourhood nestled alongside Al Mouj Golf and the 5-star St Regis Resort, this is now one of the Sultanate's most desirable addresses.

In a calm and private setting, yet superbly well-connected to Al Mouj Muscat's many world-class amenities, buyers can select three different property types - Golf Boulevard Villas, Golf Park Villas and Beach Boulevard Villas.



"Combined with the superb setting of Golf Beach Residences, we knew we had the opportunity to create exceptional family homes, with designs that incorporate elegant and airy rooms for entertaining and intimate spaces for families to relax and unwind.

"All whilst the excitement and opportunities of life outdoors beckons, from the customisable garden suites to the enviable proximity of our award-winning golf club and pristine beaches," continues Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat.

Here are five factors that are appealing so strongly to buyers:

Designed for life

Golf Beach Residences are spacious and contemporary and designed to evolve with the changing needs of daily life with formal and informal areas that can be adapted as families grow. The opportunity to customise a separate garden suite appeals to owners as the space can reflect their passions whether a cinema or games



space, gym or music room.

Bringing the outside in

Set close to the ocean with extraordinary natural light and views, Golf Beach Residences are designed to maximise every opportunity to connect with the outside all year round. Huge floor to ceiling windows and architectural features invites gentle sea breezes and sunlight in, filtering them where needed and through free-flow-

ing layouts, each floor seamlessly connects to the surrounding gardens, exquisitely landscaped with private pools and terraces.

A smarter way to live

An electric car charging point and smart home technology add to a sense of ease, convenience and luxury and smart energy management systems lower CO2 emissions supporting healthier living.

A golf lover's paradise

Every villa comes with its own golf cart and charging point making it easy for golfers to head to neighbouring Al Mouj Golf, 2022 winner of Best Global Course in the World Luxury Travel Awards, either to play or for the whole family to enjoy the club's superb restaurant. What is more, golf lovers can enjoy preferential club membership rates and discounts exclusive to Golf Beach Residences owners.

The perfect balance

From the versatility of the internal space to the beauty of the external surroundings and the playground of leisure and lifestyle opportunities on the doorstep, life at Golf Beach Residences is all about freedom of choice and balance.

Every day, residents can decide whether to savour in the peace and tranquillity of their private retreat, luxuriating in stylish interiors and spending time with family and friends. Or they can immerse themselves in Al Mouj Muscat's warm and thriving

community of 8,000 people from 85 countries who call this exclusive environment home.

Al Mouj is Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC) and today more than 4.9 million annual visitors and its residents enjoy boulevard style, world-class retail, culinary and leisure experiences as well as daily conveniences and services.

As to embracing nature and the great outdoors, along with the ocean and 6km of pristine sandy beach, there are tree lined walkways, beautifully landscaped parks and 1.5km of cycle trails.

Al Mouj Muscat - a destination without an equal

Al Mouj Muscat is Oman's premier lifestyle community offers a thriving shopping and dining scene with a choice of 85 outlets, and a host of year-round arts and entertainment events.

Alongside the permanent fixtures of an elegant 400-berth marina complete with sea tour operators, a championship golf course and 5-star hotels, it is known as a place where residents from all over the globe enjoy a true sense of belonging.

Al Mouj Muscat believes in creating great moments, every day. From hosting sporting events such as the annual Oman Marathon, to a monthly farmers' market, and staging colourful national holiday celebrations that honour Oman's culture and heritage, Al Mouj Muscat attracts people from across the country to flock to its lively oceanfront setting.

To discover more about Golf Beach Residents, visit www.almouj.com

24 artists from 11 countries to take part in International Sculpture Camp in Sohar

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The eighth edition of International Sculpture Camp will be held from February 10 to 18 in Wadi al Jizzi, Sohar, in an effort to promote arts and support tourism in the sultanate. This edition of the camp will see participation of 24 sculptors from 11 countries.

It has been organised by the

Governor's Office of North Batinah, Office of the Wali of Sohar and Sohar Municipality.

Speaking to *Muscat Daily*, Dr Ali al Jabri, camp supervisor, said, "The 24 sculptors include two Omanis. The other participants are from Russia, the US, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Egypt, Kuwait, the UAE, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Sudan."

The camp will be a chance for sculptors to exchange knowledge

and expertise in the fields of marble, stone and wood sculpting, Jabri added.

The camp will be held under the theme of sustainability in line with Oman's declaration of the Year 2050 as the target to achieve zero carbon neutrality.

The camp will also include a symposium titled 'A Decade of Sculpture', which will be attended by writers, critics and academics from the sultanate and

abroad. Other activities on the agenda are cultural and artists events, and workshops on digital modelling and woodworking.

"We will also organise a trip to mountain villages in Sohar for the participating sculptors to enjoy the tourist sites there," Ali said.

According to Ali, the camp aims to develop creative industries in line with Oman Vision 2040.

Elite riders line up for Tour of Oman 2023

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Tour of Oman 2023 is set to witness the who's who of the world's elite cyclists with defending champion Jan Hirt returning to the sultanate with a new team, Soudal Quick-Step.

The 12th edition of the 831km Tour of Oman will kick off on February 11 from Rustaq Fort to Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre with the participation of 18 teams representing well-known teams from Asia, Australia, Europe and the US.

Additionally, for the first time, a new race will be launched - Muscat Classic - which will be held on the eve of the five-day Tour of Oman on February 10.

A familiar face but in a new kit, Hirt joins forces with one of his main rivals of Tour of Oman 2022, Fausto Masnada, winner of the thrilling Stage 4 in Muscat and runner-up in the final overall standings. The team is expected to shine in the desert, with assets such as Mauri Vansevenant to shake the race and Tim Merlier to show his speed.

Some of the strongest opposition is expected to come from Hirt's former team, Intermarché-Circus-Wanty. In 2022, Rein Taaramäe was an essential asset to propel Hirt towards victory. This time, the Estonian veteran partners with South Africa's pocket climber Louis Meintjes, who made history last year with a stage win in La Vuelta and a place in the top 10 of Tour de France, just ahead of Alexey Lutsenko, whose mix of punch and power has already granted him many successes in the sultanate.



(Supplied photo)

A two-time winner of the overall standings of Tour of Oman (2018 and 2019), Lutsenko of Astana Qazaqstan Team has notably won stages up Jabal Akhdar and in Al Bustan, where the finish of the Muscat Classic is set. Will he launch another furious attack? Or will Astana Qazaqstan Team play one of its other strong cards to claim more success in Oman? The Asian team is used to shining in the sultanate and it is coming with the British icon Mark Cavendish (two stage wins in Tour of Oman) as well as the Under-23 world champion Yevgeniy Fedorov.

Among the strongest teams in the world, UAE Team Emi-

rates has lined up an elite sprinter, Pascal Ackermann, alongside punchy options such as Diego Ulissi and Davide Formolo. Classic experts like AG2R Citroën's Greg Van Avermaet and Oliver Naesen will also be willing to put up a fight on any occasion, while climbers such as Ivan Sosa (Movistar) and Emanuel Buchmann (Bora-Hansgrohe) eye the final battle up Jabal Akhdar, where Jesus Herrada (Cofidis) hopes to shine again (third in 2018 and sixth in 2019).

As for the Oman national champion, Faisal al Mammari, he turned 23 last month and is more than willing to show the world the local grit.

Sayyid Badr receives Arab League official

Muscat - H E Sayyid Badr Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received in his office Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of Arab League, on Wednesday.

Views on issues of concern to the Arab action were exchanged during the meeting,

while laying emphasis on enhancing the march of the joint Arab action in facing regional challenges.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry officials and the delegation accompanying the guest.

Separately, H E Sayyid Badr

received copies of credentials of Turkish and Italian envoys to Oman.

He welcomed H E Muhammet Hekimoglu, Ambassador Designate of Turkey to Oman, and H E Pierluigi D'Elia, Ambassador Designate of Italy to Oman.

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* Pictures shown are for illustrative purpose only. Prizes available only at selected outlets in Oman.

Al Yousef Group donates 60 ACs to Muttrah public schools

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The corporate social responsibility arm of Al Yousef Group (AYG) and Truck Oman Group (TOGS) has donated 60 air conditioning units to a number of public schools in Muttrah in line with AYG & TOGS' commitment to improve facilities in the wilayat of Muttrah.

AYG and its subsidiaries - including TOGS - aspire to make a significant contribution to the society, focusing on a good education environment and community wellbeing. It has extended support to Muttrah, given the company's keenness to contribute to the development of society, including providing access to resources, improving educational facilities and delivering community services.

Commenting on the donation, Sayyid Ahmed bin Hilal bin Saud al Busaidi, Wali of Muttrah, said, "Our sincere thanks to Al Yousef Group for its generous contribution of air conditioning units which are essential for schools. These will provide a comfortable environment for students. We are happy for the initiative and



The education sector is very dear to the group's shareholders, chairman and board. AYG has pioneered contributions in this segment across Oman from the early days

FAISAL AL YOUSEF

proud of the great support from the company to the people of Muttrah."

On his part, Dr Ali al Jahwari, Director General of Directorate General of Muscat, Ministry of



Education, said, "This is a great initiative of the well wishers of students in Muttrah and Muscat Air Conditioning & Electronics. The initiative shows the true co-operation between the people of

Muttrah, the Ministry of Education and Al Yousef Group in the interest of students. It is indeed a great honour for us to receive the donation which will improve the learning conditions of our stu-

dents."

He added, "This gesture will support the development of a good learning environment serving the students of Muttrah, and reflects the company's CSR strat-

egy, which is committed to fulfilling what others need."

For Faisal al Yousef, Chief Executive Officer of AYG, the donation "constitutes a debt being paid to Muttrah from where the

group started its journey".

He said, "The education sector is very dear to the group's shareholders, chairman and board. AYG has pioneered contributions in this segment across Oman from the early days."

Muscat Air Conditioning & Electronics (MACE), which belongs to AYG, has been associated with Sharp Corporation of Japan since 2012 and is its sole distributor of home appliances, consumer electronics, wall mounted air conditioners, photo-copiers, digital multifunction printers, interactive touchscreen LCD monitors, and print software solutions. "During the decade-long association with Sharp in Oman, we have had many satisfied customers using Sharp products and are striving to have many more," the group's CEO said.

"With great pride, we stand together with Sharp to celebrate its presence in the market and welcome what lies ahead with eagerness and excitement. MACE plays a modest role in the development of the nation by providing world-class products from Sharp across Oman to citizens and residents."

RO140,000 project boosts goat farming

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MAFWR) is continuing to distribute indigenous goats in various governorates in order to promote local breeds of goats.

Under the project, the ministry is also establishing several small and medium enterprises in the field of livestock, training and qualifying beneficiaries to breed and propagate local breeds, and promoting local animal products.

Saeed Saif al Amiri, head of the Animal Nutrition Research Department at MAFWR, said, "The project will last for five years and cost RO140,000, funded by the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Fund. In its first phase, the project targeted eight SMEs and distributed 100 genetically improved does and five bucks."

The project aims to increase the production of red meat from local breeds in the market, while also increasing the income of breeders by selling kids.

Amiri informed that there are nine breeds of local goats - five breeds in Jabal Akhdar, Batinah goats, desert goats, Musandam desert goats and Dhofari goats.

Oman also has two breeds of indigenous sheep, found in North Batinah and Dhofar.

Over 4,500 bags of chewing tobacco seized

Muscat - Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) has arrested an expat for selling chewing tobacco in Amerat.

CPA stated that the Consumer Protection Department in Muscat arrested the expatriate worker 'who traded in and sold

non-smoking, chewing tobacco to consumers'.

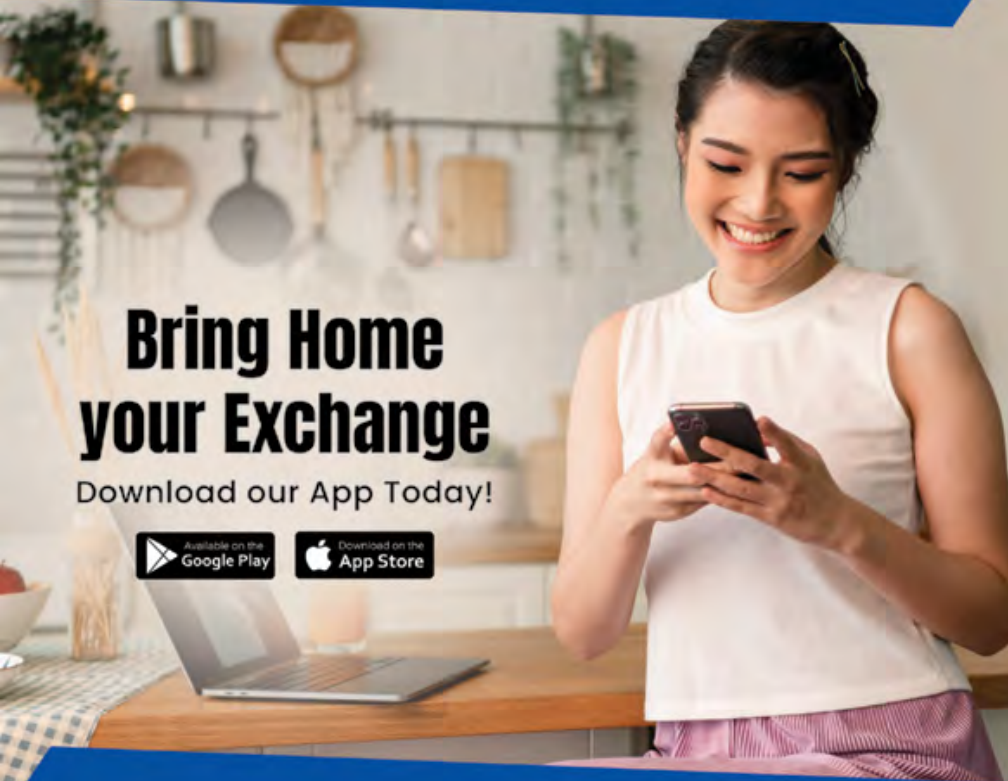
CPA officials had received information that an expatriate in Amerat was using his house for selling prohibited cigarettes and chewing tobacco to consumers. 'Over 4,530 bags of chewing to-

bacco were seized, as well as RO1,800 in cash.'

'This is a violation of Decision No 301/2016 and its amendments regarding the ban on trading in chewing tobacco in any form and under any name,' a CPA statement said.

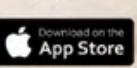
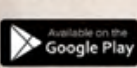


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DUQM QUARRIES

Tender Announcement

Duqm Quarries SAOC is pleased to announce the following tender:

Tender No	Tender Name	Last date for Collecting Documents	Last Date for Submission of Tender	Tender Document Price
DQ/01/2023	Supply and Lease Heavy Machinery Equipment to Al Duqm (Freezone)	16/02/2023	28/02/2023	100 OMR

Tender Conditions:

- Obtaining tender documents from the Department of Administrative Affairs at the company's headquarters located in Airport Heights - DHL Building, Fifth Floor - from 9:00 AM in the morning until 01:00 PM afternoon during official working days.
- Offers shall be submitted in envelopes sealed with red wax and addressed to the Honorable Audit Committee Chairman at Duqm Quarries Company. The number and name of the tender shall be written on the outside, provided that the name of the bidder or what he refers to is not written on the envelope.
- A bank guarantee or certified cheque from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate shall be attached to the bid, at a value of 1% of the value of the bid, and it shall be valid for 90 days. Bids that do not meet the guarantee will not be considered.
- The company is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid. The company has the right to accept or reject any bid without stating the reason.
- Contact: tenders@duqmquarries.om



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Israeli court delays demolition of West Bank village again

Jerusalem - Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday approved a new delay to the controversial demolition of a Bedouin village in the occupied West Bank.

The Khan al-Ahmar community, on a strategic highway east of Jerusalem, was slated for demolition in 2018 after a ruling that it was built without Israeli permits.

Right-wing Israeli group Regavim had taken the government to court in order to force officials to raze the village, whose 200 residents have drawn international support.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing administration, which took office in December, had requested more time to decide on Khan al-Ahmar's fate, telling the court it needed an extension before presenting a plan to demolish the village.

In Tuesday's ruling, the

Supreme Court granted a delay until May 1, but also expressed regret that the government was 'satisfied with the current situation... postponing its response every few months'.

The court imposed a fine of 20,000 shekels (around US\$5,750) over the government's 'general attitude' to the case.

Prior administrations have delayed their decision on Khan al-Ahmar eight times.

Israeli media said the government fears Khan al-Ahmar's demolition could worsen already spiralling violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Opponents of the demolition believe levelling Khan al-Ahmar would pave the way for the expansion of Israeli settlements in the area, effectively forming a barrier between annexed east Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.



This file photo shows Palestinian children sitting outside their home in the Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar in the occupied West Bank, near the east Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, on January 30 (AFP)

Israel has been under international pressure to block the demolition, with European diplo-

mats most recently visiting the community on January 30.

Regavim said on Tuesday that

'the Supreme Court is once again covering for the government's failure to formulate and

enforce comprehensive policy... for Judea and Samaria', using the Jewish biblical terms for the West Bank.

"The time has come for the state of Israel to grow up, to stand up, and to take itself seriously," it added in a statement.

Khan al-Ahmar is located in Area C of the West Bank, which is under full Israeli control and where it is almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain construction permits.

Foreign states have told Israel that demolishing the village would be a violation of international law.

Netanyahu's government, the most right-wing in Israel's history, has announced its intention to pursue a policy of settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank.

Two of Netanyahu's extreme-right coalition partners, who

have a history of inflammatory remarks about Palestinians, have taken charge of critical powers regarding the territory.

Earlier on Tuesday, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the West Bank city of Nablus, the Palestinian health ministry said, with the Israeli army saying he had fired on soldiers.

Since the start of the year, the conflict has claimed the lives of 42 Palestinians - including civilians.

Six Israeli civilians, including a child, and one Ukrainian civilian have been killed over the same period. The West Bank, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, is home to about 2.9mn Palestinians.

An estimated 475,000 Jewish settlers now also live in West Bank communities considered illegal under international law.

AFP

Death toll rises over 11,800 in quake-hit Turkey-Syria regions



Women react as they wait for a rescue team next to their collapsed building in the southeastern Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş, on Wednesday, two days after a strong earthquake struck the region (AFP)

Antakya, Turkey - Searchers were still pulling survivors on Wednesday from the rubble of the earthquake that killed over 11,800 people in Turkey and Syria, even as the window for rescues narrowed.

For two days and nights since the 7.8 magnitude quake, thousands of searchers have worked in freezing temperatures to find those still alive under flattened buildings on either side of the border. Turkish Red Crescent chief Kerem Kinik had warned that the first 72 hours were critical in search and rescue efforts but pointed to complications of 'severe weather conditions'.

Emergency workers on Wednesday saved some children found under a collapsed building in the hard-hit Turkish province of Hatay, where whole stretches of towns have been levelled. "All of a sudden we heard voices and thanks to the excavator... immediately we heard the voices of three people at the same time," said rescuer Alperen Cetinkaya.

"We are expecting more of them... the chances of getting people out of here alive are very high," he added.

Officials and medics said 9,057 people had died in Turkey and 2,802 in Syria from Monday's 7.8-magnitude tremor, bringing the total to 11,865 - but that could yet double if the worst fears of experts are realised.

The World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned that time is running out for the thousands injured and those still feared trapped.

'People dying every second'

Due to the scale of the damage and the lack of help coming to certain areas, survivors said they felt alone in responding to the disaster. "Even the buildings that haven't collapsed, were severely damaged. There are now more people under the rubble than those above it," a resident named Hassan, who did not provide his full name, said in the rebel-held town of Jindayris.

Even the buildings that haven't collapsed, were severely damaged. There are now more people under the rubble than those above it

HASSAN

"There are around 400-500 people trapped under each collapsed building, with only 10 people trying to pull them out. And there is no machinery," he added.

The White Helmets leading efforts to rescue people buried under rubble in rebel-held areas of Syria have appealed for international help in their 'race against time'. They have been toiling since the quake to pull survivors out from under the debris of dozens of flattened buildings in northwestern areas of war-torn Syria that remain outside the government's control.

"International rescue teams

must come into our region," said Mohammed Shibli, a spokesperson for the group known formally as the Syria Civil Defence.

"People are dying every second; we are in a race against time," he told AFP from neighbouring Turkey.

Syria appeals for EU help

The issue of aid to Syria was a delicate one, and the sanctioned government in Damascus made an official plea to the EU for help, the bloc's commissioner for crisis management Janecz Lenarcic said. A decade of civil war and Syrian-Russian aerial bombardment had already destroyed hospitals, collapsed the economy and prompted electricity, fuel and water shortages.

The European Commission is 'encouraging' EU member countries to respond to Syria's request for medical supplies and food, while monitoring to ensure that any aid 'is not diverted' by President Bashar al-Assad's government, Lenarcic noted.

In parts of quake-hit Turkey, shops were closed, there was no heat because gas lines have been cut to avoid explosions, and finding petrol was tough.

Some families of the missing were trying to stay hopeful for a rescue but were struggling.

"My nephew, my sister-in-law and my sister-in-law's sister are in the ruins. They are trapped under the ruins and there is no sign of life," said Semire Coban, kindergarten teacher, in Turkey's Hatay.

AFP



Musandam Power Company SAOG

PO Box 228, PC 134, Al Qurum,
Jawharat Al Shatti, Muscat, Sultanate Of Oman.
www.musandampower.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Musandam Power Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Musandam Power Company SAOG (the "Company") was registered and incorporated as a closed joint stock company in the Sultanate of Oman on 18th November 2014. Subsequently, the Company was converted to a joint stock company ("SAOG") and was listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange ("MSX") on 5th December 2019.

The Company is engaged in the design, construction, ownership, financing, operation, and maintenance of a dual fuel power plant (the "Plant"), with natural gas as the primary fuel and diesel oil as the alternative fuel with a capacity of 120 Mega Watt (MW), located in Wilayat Bukha in the Musandam Governorate, Sultanate of Oman. The Company is selling the electrical energy generated to Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (the "OPWP"). Before listing, the Company was a subsidiary of Oman Oil Facilities Development Company LLC ("OOFDC"), which is owned by OQ SAOC ("OQ"), a closely held joint stock company incorporated in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Company commenced commercial operations on 17th June 2017.

Corporate Governance

The Company has a comprehensive system of internal controls in place with a clear structure, delegated authorities, and accountabilities.

During 2022, the Company continued to review key internal policies and procedures to ensure the highest standards of corporate governance and to ensure compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance and applicable regulations issued up to 31st December 2022 by the Capital Market Authority.

An independent assessment on internal audit department was completed in 2022. There were no material weaknesses highlighted in the external auditor report. The Company also started an independent assessment of the board sub-committees, the result of this work is expected to be completed in early 2023.

Operational Results

The operational performance of the plant during the year continued to exceed, with 99.9% plant reliability against 98.0% planned (2021: 99.9%). The plant handled a high demand of 80,22 MW during the year (2021: 75.56 MW). The total energy generated and delivered was 409,745 MWh (2021: 395,110), an increase of about 3.7% over the previous year.

The Company continued to maintain plant reliability and meeting OETC load demand with a continued focus on excellence in Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Management. We acknowledge the good performance of our Operation and Maintenance Contractors (Wardia) team.

The Company duly met all the stringent environment permit conditions promulgated by Department of Environmental Conservation. All HSE activities achieved successfully completed and all key performance indicators achieved.

Gas availability from Musandam Gas Plant ("MGP") is declining due to lower gas reservoirs in Musandam as a result, the dependency on diesel increased, a higher resulting in more expensive operating costs. The Company is protected under the NCSA to get reimbursed for any incremental fuel costs due to diesel consumption in the event of shortage or unavailability of gas. In the month of Nov 2022, MEM through OQ arranged Dolphin Gas to compensate the gas shortage from MGP. Due to this additional gas availability, dependency on diesel is likely to decline and the plant in future months is expected to operate on Gas fuel.

Financial Results

Excellent plant availability and higher power generation has led to consistent increase in the revenue compared to the prior year. Mainly due to the decrease in the fuel thermal efficiency gain because of the increase in the weighted average cost of consumption of Fuel oil in 2022 as compared to 2021, the gross profit has slightly declined by 2.24% as compared to 2021. The Company recorded a net profit of RO 2,647 million in 2022 compared to RO 3,095 million in 2021, representing a decline of 14%. The Company's overall profit from the operation is reduced by RO 0.521 million as compared to 2021, mainly due to the decline in the thermal efficiency and increase in the indirect costs. The net profit for the year is aligned with the financial performance disclosed in the IPO Prospectus and Business Plan for the year 2022.

The Company has duly met all its commitments under the facilities agreement, Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC ("OPWP") continues to settle all invoices raised by the Company as per the payment provisions provided within the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). There was some recovery of the amount due from the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) for the incremental fuel cost, the balance is expected to be settled in 2023.

Finally, the Company's operational and commercial performance during 2022 has enabled it to declare and pay an aggregate dividend of 29.8 Baiza per share (with a nominal value of the share as Baiza 100 per share). This corresponds to 29.8% of the paid-up capital of the Company.

The share price of the Company stood at 310 Baizas per share on 31st December 2022.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The Company takes its role as a responsible corporate citizen seriously. During the year, the Company planned to support environmental improvements in Musandam. The Company contributed to planting 130 trees on Bukha coastal road in Musandam. The Company also contributed to supplying plants and lights for the beautification of Al H1 Park near Bukha in Musandam.

Medium term & Outlook

The Company continuously endeavors to identify and implement areas of improvement in plant operations. All reasonable measures are being taken by the management to maintain excellent operational performance and the thermal efficiency of the plant during the year 2022. Any change in the power supply and demand landscape in the Sultanate has limited impact on the financial performance of the Company since its profitability is mainly derived from plant's availability and reliability and the fact that the plant is performing in isolated grid.

The Company and its Operation & Maintenance Contractors are making all efforts to steadily increase the Omission, while ensuring smooth and reliable operation of the plant, currently, the Company is on track to meet Omission commitment made to the Authority for Public Services Regulation and Ministry of Labour. The company has achieved 93% (2021: 92%) of Omission at the end of the year 2022.

On the 1st of January 2023, The Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (OPWP) has achieved a significant milestone in the implementation of Oman electricity market which is the Middle East's first electricity spot market. This market will provide new era of the efficient and economical based offered prices for the forecasted demand. The electricity market will initially be implemented in the Main Interconnected System across the northern part of Oman, with prospects to expand to cover other regions over time. The Company's Power Purchase Agreement with OPWP expires in 2032. Accordingly, the spot market will have no impact on the revenue stream of the Company until the expiry of the Power Purchase Agreement.

In terms of challenges and opportunities, the company was facing certain challenges like the availability of natural gas and higher dependency on diesel. The company was working closely with the government to find out solutions by materializing the options. In the month of Nov 2022, MEM through OQ arranged Dolphin Gas to compensate the Gas shortage from MGP. Due to this additional gas availability, dependency on diesel is reduced and plant in future months is expected to operate full on Gas fuel.

The Company extended the O&M contract with Wardia for another 34.141 years. The extension of O&M contract was effective from June 2022.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to express gratitude to OPWP, the Authority for Public Services Regulation, the Capital Market Authority, and other governmental and non-governmental bodies for their guidance and support. I would also like to thank all personnel associated with the operation of Musandam Independent Power Plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, and also to those others such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.

Finally, it's my honor and also on behalf of the shareholders, board members, and employees of the Company to express to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarek our best greetings and sincere wishes and praying to Allah the Almighty to grant him success in achieving goodness for our beloved country, its people and the whole humanity. We pledge loyalty and allegiance in serving the nation under his wise leadership.

Mohammed Al Ruwaidhi

Chairperson

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021
	RO '000	RO '000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	68,069	70,035
Current assets:		
Inventories	3,403	3,381
Trade and other receivables	23,648	19,051
Cash and bank balances	1,522	1,707
Total current assets	28,573	24,139
Total assets	96,642	94,174

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

Equity:

Share capital	7,039	7,039
Legal reserve	1,515	1,250
Retained earnings	3,133	2,848
Total equity	11,687	11,137

Non-current liabilities

Senior facility loan	52,590	55,773
Provision for asset retirement obligation	183	174
Lease liability	100	103
Deferred tax liability	3,672	3,199

Employees' end of service benefits

	3	2
Total non-current liabilities	56,548	59,251

Current liabilities:

Senior facility loan	3,249	3,620
Lease liability	3	3
Trade and other payables	20,655	17,663
Short term loan facility	4,500	2,500
Total current liabilities	28,407	23,786
Total liabilities	84,955	83,037
Total equity and liabilities	96,642	94,174
Net assets per share	0.166	0.158

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Year ended 31 December 2022	Year ended 31 December 2021
	RO '000	RO '000
Revenue	18,474	18,178
Operating costs	(11,311)	(10,851)
Gross profit	7,163	7,327
General and administrative expenses	(1,016)	(660)
Finance costs	(3,027)	(3,026)
Profit before income tax	3,120	3,641
Income tax expense	(473)	(546)
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	2,647	3,095
Basic and diluted earnings per share for the year	0.038	0.044

Biden warns US will act on China after balloon downing

Washington, US - President Joe Biden vowed on Tuesday he would not hesitate to defend US interests against China after he ordered the downing of a suspected surveillance balloon but, delivering his State of the Union address, kept the door open to cooperation.

In the annual speech to assembled lawmakers, many of whom have pressed for a hard line on China, Biden called for US investment in the military, technology and alliances to take on the country widely viewed as the chief US competitor.

"I'm committed to work with China where it can advance American interests and benefit the world," Biden said.

"But make no mistake about it - as we made clear last week, if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country. And we did," he said to applause.

Biden said that 'winning the competition' with China should unite Americans.

"I will make no apologies that we are investing to make America stronger - investing in American innovation, in industries that will define the future that China



US President Joe Biden delivers the State of the Union address in the House Chamber on Tuesday (AFP)

intends to be dominating."

But Biden steered clear of hawkish language as he mentioned by name his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, whom he met at length in November in Indonesia. Biden said he told Xi

that 'we seek competition, not conflict'.

In a foreign ministry statement issued after Biden's address, China vowed to 'firmly defend' its interests, but also said it was 'opposed to using compe-

tition to define the entire Sino-US relationship'.

It went on to urge the United States to 'pursue a positive and pragmatic China policy, and work with China to push Sino-US relations back to the track of

healthy and stable development'.

China was one of the few foreign policy issues mentioned by Biden in a more than one-hour speech that comes as he prepares for a likely run for a second term. He also promised long-term support for Ukraine but made no mention of Iran, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, North Korea or this week's devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Pentagon says China rejected talks

A US fighter jet on Saturday shot down what the Pentagon called a Chinese surveillance balloon after it floated out over the Atlantic Ocean, with the military saying it had waited until a point when the debris could not hurt people on the ground.

The episode led US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to postpone a visit to Beijing aimed at reducing tensions as he accused China of violating US sovereignty.

Blinken said he sought to maintain communication with China. But at the Pentagon, a spokesman said that China rebuffed a request to speak.

AFP

Over 200 children in Thailand facing charges over protests: Amnesty International

Bangkok, Thailand - More than 200 children in Thailand are facing serious criminal charges, including sedition, for their role in largely peaceful pro-democracy protests that shook the kingdom in 2020, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

Youth-led demonstrations calling for political change and reform to Thailand's untouchable monarchy drew tens of thousands onto the streets of Bangkok at their peak in late 2020.

Amnesty accused the Thai authorities of having 'arrested, prosecuted, surveilled and intimidated' child protesters for taking part, in a report calling for charges to be dropped against under-18s.

"Children with their whole lives ahead of them now face severe repercussions merely for participating in peaceful protests," Amnesty International Thailand researcher Chanatip Tatiyakaroonwong said.

Nearly 300 under-18s have

faced criminal charges related to the protests, the human rights campaign group said, and more than 200 cases are still active.

Most were accused of violating rules around public gatherings imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But at least 17 minors are facing accusations of insulting the monarchy, which can carry long prison terms.

Under the kingdom's lese-majeste laws - among the harshest in the world - insulting the monarchy can carry a jail sentence of up to 15 years per charge.

The youngest child arrested during a protest was 11 years old, the report said, while in another case police reportedly used cable ties to restrain a 12-year-old in July 2021.

Minors told researchers that as well as following them, authorities had also put pressure on their teachers and parents to discourage them from participating in protests.

AFP



شركة التغليف المحدودة (ش.م.ع.)
Packaging Co Ltd. (SAOG)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we present the Chairman's Report of "Packaging Co Ltd (SAOG)" for the year ended on 31st December 2022

The year ended with revenue of RO. 10,562,150/- and net loss of RO.168,514/- (after tax) as against revenue of RO. 9,538,597/- and net profit of RO.252,556/- (after tax) in the same period of previous year 2021.The profit before depreciation is RO.428,734/- (after tax) for the year 2022, compared to profit before depreciation of RO.788,144/- (after tax) in the previous year 2021.

The paper prices were highly volatile and increased to unprecedented levels, this has impacted company's profitability as company was not able to pass increased paper prices to its customers fully and resulted in loss,

We would like to place on record our thanks to all our employees for their dedication and hard work.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all of you for the patience and confidence reposed in the company. We also thank the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Muscat Securities Market for their support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur for his vision and growth oriented policies aimed at bringing about a prosperous national economy.

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Note : The Complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who request them either in Arabic or English within 7 days of the receipt of the request at the company's address at PO Box No 2818, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman.

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 RO	2021 RO
ASSETS		(restated)
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	5,478,729	6,047,222
Current assets		
Inventories	3,022,364	2,393,586
Trade and other receivables	3,813,348	3,546,886
Bank balances and cash	14,519	7,448
Total current assets	6,850,231	5,947,920
Total assets	12,328,960	11,995,142
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000
Share premium	90,811	90,811
Legal reserve	539,548	539,548
General reserve	53,378	53,378
Revaluation Reserve	581,608	666,608
Retained earnings	423,943	592,457
Total equity	4,689,288	4,942,802
LIABILITIES		
Non - current liabilities		
Longterm portion of term loan	687,952	845,832
Employees end of service benefits	20,591	129,021
Deferred tax liability	243,560	288,095
Total non - current liabilities	952,103	1,262,948
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current portion of term loan	157,880	157,880
Trade and other payables	2,585,021	2,975,096
Bank borrowings	3,394,668	2,556,416
Loan from a related party	550,000	100,000
	6,687,569	5,789,392
Total liabilities	7,639,592	7,052,340
Total equity abd liabilities	12,328,960	11,995,142
Net assets per share	1.563	1.648

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 Statement of comprehensive income

	2022 RO	2021 RO
INCOME		
Revenue from contracts with customers	10,562,150	9,538,597
Direct costs	(9,970,582)	(8,442,109)
Gross Profit	591,568	1,096,488
Other income	288,150	426,821
	879,718	1,523,309
EXPENSES		
General and administration	510,963	656,956
Selling and distribution	365,877	392,194
Finance Charges	201,127	176,833
	1,077,967	1,225,983
(Loss) / profit before taxation	(198,049)	297,326
Deferred tax credit / (charge)	29,535	(44,770)
Net (loss) /profit for the year	(168,514)	252,556
Other comprehensive income:		
Not reclassifiable to income statement:		
Loss on revaluation of freehold land	(100,000)	-
Deferred tax release on revaluation decrease	15,000	-
Other comprehensive loss for the year	(85,000)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(253,514)	252,556
Basic earning per share	(0.056)	0.084
* Income tax will be provided at the year end		

Australian school principal stands trial over charges of sexual assault

Melbourne, Australia - The former principal of an ultra-orthodox Jewish school in Australia went on trial on Wednesday over charges she sexually assaulted three female students.

Malka Leifer, 56, has been charged with 29 offences stemming from her time as the principal of the Adass Israel School in Melbourne, according to an indictment released by the court.

The school is part of an ultra-orthodox Jewish sect in Melbourne known for its reclusive nature. The charges, stretching from 2003 to 2007, included raping a student during a school camp, and sexually assaulting another girl inside a school office.

She was also accused of sexually assaulting one of the students after asking her to come over and clean her house.

Leifer, a mother-of-eight who left Israel in 2001 to teach at the school, has pleaded not guilty to each charge.

According to the indictment, Leifer raped one student after inviting her home to 'sleep over for kallah lessons' - a kind of pre-wedding etiquette class that includes sexual education.

On other occasions Leifer told the students she was preparing them to be wives, prosecutor Justin Lewis told the court in his opening statement.



A general view of the County Court in Melbourne, where Malka Leifer, the former principal of an ultra-orthodox Jewish school in Melbourne, went on trial over rape charges on Wednesday (AFP)

"This will help you for your wedding night," Leifer said after one sexual assault, according to Lewis. "This is what is good for you," she allegedly said during another incident. The 29 charges included 10 counts of rape, 10 counts of indecent assault, and three counts of sexually penetrating 'a 16 or 17 year old child'.

Sheltered upbringing

Lewis told the court the three

students had a sheltered upbringing that made it difficult to raise the alarm about Leifer, who was a highly respected teacher.

One of the students told Leifer that her mother had been physically and verbally abusive at home, the court heard.

Leifer would later use this information to discourage the student from making a complaint, Lewis said, indicating that she would "tell everyone" about the student's family life in

retaliation.

The allegations finally came to light when one of the students confided in her therapist, Lewis told the court.

Defence lawyer Ian Hill said Leifer denied "all of the criminal conduct alleged by each of the complainants" and that her interactions with the students were "professional and proper".

"We deny that they are telling the truth," he said.

AFP

New Zealand PM woos voters with minimum wage hike

Wellington, New Zealand - Recently installed New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins unveiled a higher minimum wage on Wednesday, as he seeks to court voters ahead of a tight October general election.

With New Zealand in the grip of a cost of living crisis, Hipkins said the minimum wage would rise by 95 cents to US\$14.22 an hour from April 1.

It is the first major policy announcement from Hipkins, who was sworn in as prime minister last month following Jacinda Ardern's shock resignation.

"Those on low incomes make impossible trade-offs between food and medical care, dry homes and a pair of shoes," Hipkins said.



New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins (AFP)

"These families need our support now more than ever.

Hipkins is currently polling almost neck-and-neck with conservative opposition leader Christopher Luxon. Trying to bur-

nish his own political brand after years in Ardern's shadow, Hipkins said her government had tried to do 'too much too fast'.

Hipkins said he wanted to put 'the cost of living front and centre'

before New Zealand goes to the polls on October 14.

The new prime minister also plans to abandon or amend some proposed reforms which had proven controversial.

Work on a merger of national broadcasters TVNZ and Radio New Zealand 'will stop entirely'. "Support for public media needs to be at a lower cost and without such significant structural change," Hipkins added.

A planned social insurance scheme, to help workers who have been made redundant, is also 'off the table'. "We will need to see a significant improvement in economic conditions before anything is advanced."

AFP

India's Modi blasts opposition after Adani furore

New Delhi, India - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday defended his record after criticism of his close association with tycoon Gautam Adani, whose business empire has been rocked by corporate fraud allegations.

Investors wiped out around US\$120bn in value from Adani Group after claims of accounting fraud by short-seller US investment group Hindenburg Research last month.

Political opponents accuse Modi of abetting Adani's rapid rise, allowing the billionaire to unfairly win contracts and avoid proper regulatory oversight.

Modi avoided addressing the cloud over Adani Group but said in parliament that the people of India trusted that his government acted with integrity.

"People know Modi has come to their help in times of crisis, how will they agree with your abuses and allegations?" Modi



PM Narendra Modi speaks in Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Wednesday (ANI)

said. "The trust of millions of people is my protective shield, it can't be breached by your abuses and allegations."

Modi was speaking a day after Rahul Gandhi of the opposition Congress party told the legislature that Adani's close ties with Modi had led to 'tremendous growth and expansion of his businesses'.

Hindenburg accused Adani of a 'brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme' in 'the

largest con in corporate history'.

Adani artificially boosted the share prices of its units by funneling money into the stocks through offshore tax havens, the investment group said.

The conglomerate has rejected the claims as a 'maliciously mischievous' reputational attack. Adani, 60, was until last month Asia's richest man but the stock market rout delivered a dramatic hit to his personal fortune, tumbling

him down from third to 17th on Forbes' real-time billionaires list.

Parliament has been adjourned several times in recent days with opposition parties calling for a probe into Modi and Adani's links. The Congress party staged protests around the country on Monday to demand a 'serious investigation' into Adani's conglomerate and potential exposure by public financial institutions.

AFP

Ousted Sri Lankan president quizzed over cash stash

Colombo, Sri Lanka - Sri Lankan police told AFP on Wednesday they are investigating ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa over a hidden cash stockpile uncovered when protesters stormed his former residence last year.

Rajapaksa presided over an unprecedented economic crisis that saw the island nation's 22mn people suffer through months of food, fuel and pharmaceutical shortages.

He fled the country last July after an angry mob besieged his compound - tendering his resignation from abroad days later - but has since returned and is living under armed guard.

Protesters occupied his presidential palace for several days, discovering 17.5mn rupees (US\$48,000) hidden in Rajapaksa's private quarters that they later turned over to police.

Police investigators on Monday 'recorded a three-hour long statement from the

former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa on the cash found in the president's house', police spokesman Nihal Thaldudwa told AFP.

A court in the capital Colombo had ordered police to take a statement on the cash stockpile last November.

Thaldudwa said the interrogation was part of an ongoing investigation, without giving further details.

Rajapaksa is part of a powerful political clan that has dominated Sri Lankan politics for decades.

He won a landslide election in 2019 after promising 'vistas of prosperity and splendour' but saw his popularity nose-dive as the country's crisis worsened.

Protesters set up camp in his residence after he fled the country, frolicking in his pool and strolling around the compound's lush gardens until they were ordered to leave by police.

AFP



The burnt out wreckage of Boeing 737 water-bombing plane which crashed 460km southeast of the West Australian city of Perth (AFP)

Pilots walk away from 737 crash in Australia

Sydney, Australia - Two pilots have made a 'miraculous' escape after their Boeing 737 water-bombing plane crashed and burned while fighting a blaze in remote Western Australia.

The plane left a long scar in the scrub- and tree-covered landscape when it came down while battling a bushfire in the Fitzgerald National Park about 420km (260 miles) southeast of Perth.

Aerial images taken shortly after the accident, which happened on Monday, showed thick black smoke spewing from the aircraft on the ground, with the rear of the fuselage consumed by the inferno.

The impact had left a long sand-coloured trail through the greenery behind the plane.

Emergency services images captured a short time later showed that the tail section had separated from the rest of the aircraft, which lay in cinders.

The two pilots were released from hospital a day after the accident. They have not been iden-

tified although officials said they were believed to be North American. "It is nothing short of miraculous that they were able to walk from that plane," the state's emergency services minister, Stephen Dawson, told a news conference on Tuesday.

"We are very grateful that they are healthy and, well, it is a truly remarkable outcome. And it is probably testament to their skill as pilots."

The large air tanker, a converted passenger plane, hit the ground only about 20 seconds after completing a water drop in the area, officials said.

An investigation has been launched by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which said it was the first 'collision with terrain' involving a Boeing 737 in Australia.

"It is a remarkable outcome that both of the crew have managed to get themselves out of the aircraft and are safe and well," said the bureau's chief commissioner Angus Mitchell.

AFP



الأنوار للاستثمارات ش.م.ع Al Anwar Investments SAOG

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Directors' Report

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the un-audited consolidated results of Al Anwar Investments SAOG (AAI) for the nine-month period ended on 31 December 2022.

Financial Overview of Al Anwar Investments Group ("AAI")

The Company reported a consolidated net loss of OMR 879,266 for the nine-month period ended on 31 December 2022 as against a profit of OMR 335,646 for the period ended on 31 December 2021, mainly due to fair value loss of OMR 744,788 on company's marked to market investments listed on Muscat Security Exchange (MSX) and in India.

In 2022 the Company has invested in securities which have been classified as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI). The profits or loss from these investments are therefore classified in Other Comprehensive Income and do not impact the Net Profit/(loss) of the Company. The total value of the securities classified as FVOCI has increased from OMR 3,683,868 as of December 2021 to OMR 9,661,999 as of 31 December 2022.

As of 31 December 2022, a profit of OMR 2,099,439 has been generated from investments classified as FVOCI and as result the total comprehensive income (Net Profit/(loss) plus Other Comprehensive Income) for the nine-month period ended on 31 December 2022 was OMR 1,031,000 as against a profit of OMR 141,212 for the period ended on 31 December 2021.

Net asset per share of the Company as on 31 December 2022 was 152 Baisas per share against 156 Baisas per share as on 31 December 2021.

Investment update

1. Al Maha Ceramics SAOG

Al Maha has reported revenue of OMR 7,606,280 for the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2022, as compared with OMR 7,371,829 during the previous period, a growth of 3%. Net profit after tax for the period is OMR 1,859,379 as compared to OMR 1,840,840 in the previous period, a growth of 1%, which is mainly due to increase in sales revenue and effective cost control measures taken at various levels. In 2022, the Company acquired a 45% stake in Al Hael Ceramics at a total investment of OMR 2,100,000 and as per the management agreement, AMC will manage factory of Al Hael for the next 5 years.

2. Voltamp Energy SAOG

The Company has reported revenue of OMR 26,398,357 for the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2022, as compared with OMR 19,760,603 during the previous period, a growth of 34%. Net loss after tax (attributable to shareholders of Parent Company) for the period is OMR 1,437,623 compared to net loss of OMR 490,600 in the previous period. The profitability was impacted primarily due to the unprecedented increase in raw material prices.

3. Arabia Falcon Insurance Company SAOG

The Company has reported Gross Written Premium of OMR 17,245,559 during the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2022 as compared to OMR 14,495,060 for the previous period, a growth of 19%. The Net profit after tax for the period is OMR 693,516 compared to OMR 1,053,787 in previous period, a decline of 34%, due to increase in Unearned Premium Reserve (UPR) and increase in Motor claims, caused by higher spare parts cost and increase in number of claims.

4. Al Ruwad International for Education Services SAOC

The Company has reported a growth in revenue and a marginal loss for the nine-month period ended on 31 October 2022 as compared to loss of last year. This is primarily due to lower number of students enrolled in the school during academic year. The combined impact of Covid 19 and the challenging economic conditions had a considerable impact on private schools in Oman.

The school has entered into Governance agreement with Ellesmere School, United Kingdom on 4th November 2022. This should improve the school's competitive position and support it in attracting higher number of students in future years.

5. National Biscuits Industries Ltd. SAOG

The Company has reported revenue of OMR 9,892,000 for the nine months period ended on 30 September 2022, compared with OMR 7,415,000 during the previous period, a growth of 33%. Net loss after tax for the period is OMR 2,017 as compared to net profit to OMR 275,139 in the

previous year, a decline of 99%. This is largely due to increase in cost of raw materials, rising logistic costs and overheads.

6. National Detergent Co. SAOG

The Company reported revenues of OMR 14,852,204 for the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2022, as compared with OMR 13,958,396 for the previous period, a growth of 6%. There is visible sign of improvement in the consumers sentiment post pandemic, resulting in gradual increase in demand of Company's products in the marketplace.

Net loss for the period is OMR 387,944 as compared to net profit of OMR 114,192 in the previous period, which is primarily a result of increase in materials prices and logistic costs globally due to geopolitical situation and higher crude oil price.

7. Oman Chlorine SAOG

Oman Chlorine Group has reported revenue of OMR 23,470,000 for the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2022 as compared with OMR 13,165,000 in the previous period, a growth of 78%. Net Profit (attributable to Parent Company Shareholders) for the period is OMR 2,536,000 as compared to loss of OMR 459,000 in the previous period.

The Oman operation reported a net profit of OMR 2,127,000 compared to previous period profit of OMR 1,215,000, an increase of 75%. The overall sales revenue in the Oman plant increased during nine months of 2022 by 47% due to higher production volume resulting from expansion and improved sales prices for company products.

Union Chlorine LLC, UAE, a subsidiary, has declared net profit of OMR 885,000 during the nine-month period ended on 30 September 2022 compared to loss of OMR 1,048,000 in previous period. The parent company's share of profit is OMR 530,000. The plant operating at capacity utilization of 103%, the revenue was higher while capitalizing on the international demand & securing more contracts at higher realizations.

Gulf Chlorine WLL, Qatar, a subsidiary, has declared a net loss of OMR 234,000 during the nine-month period ended 30 September 2022 compared to a loss of OMR 2,044,000 in previous period. The parent company's share of loss is OMR 119,000. Revenue during the period has increased from OMR 3,127,000 to OMR 7,119,000. The company has managed to post net profits for Q3 2022 and also has achieved its highest export sales during July to September 2022.

Future Outlook

Oman's economy is expected to continue to improve as restrictions related to Covid-19 ease and oil prices recovers from the lows witnessed in prior years. S&P Global Ratings has revised Oman's rating outlook to positive from stable, citing improving fiscal position, progress on reforms and rising oil prices.

AAI has maintained a prudent and active approach towards managing its investment portfolio. Our objective this year is to:

- continue to support and pro-actively manage our investment companies and,
- take advantage of investment opportunities available in the market

We are confident that AAI and its portfolio investment companies will continue to play a pivotal role in Oman's economic growth, create job opportunities for Omani nationals, and attract foreign investments in the Sultanate of Oman. The Board has reviewed the plan to raise capital through Right issue upto OMR 10mn which is being considered during 2023.

Thanks, and Appreciation

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to express our greetings and good wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and pray to Allah to grant him and his government success to lead the country and the people to greater prosperity and progress.

The Board records its sincere appreciation to Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Investment Promotion, Capital Market Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange, Bankers, Auditors for their continued support to Al Anwar Investments SAOG and the group companies.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors of all of Al Anwar portfolio investment

companies for direction given to the managements of the respective companies. I place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the management team and all employees of the group companies.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the Shareholders of Al Anwar Investments for the confidence they have reposed in the company and its Board.

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors of

Al Anwar Investments SAOG

Masoud Humaid Malik Al Harthy

Chairman

6 February 2023

Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Financial Position			
	31 Dec 2022 OMR'000	31 Dec 2021 OMR'000	Audited 31 March 2022 OMR'000
Assets			
Investment in associates	31,611	31,438	31,460
Investments at fair value	15,061	13,529	11,073
Property and other assets	2,302	2,270	2,270
Receivables	225	153	1,158
Cash and bank balances	220	307	88
TOTAL ASSETS	49,419	47,697	46,049
Equity			
Share capital	20,000	20,000	20,000
Legal reserve	4,568	4,568	4,568
Fair value reserve	1,447	(671)	(463)
Retained earnings	4,353	7,210	6,032
Equity attributable to shareholders of Parent Company	30,368	31,107	30,137
Liabilities:			
Bank borrowings	18,625	16,263	15,513
Payables	426	327	399
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,051	16,590	15,912
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	49,419	47,697	46,049
Net assets per share attributable to shareholders of the Parent			
Company (in Baisas)	152	156	151

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 st Des 2022			
	31 Dec 2022 OMR'000	31 Dec 2021 OMR'000	
Share of results of associates	689	480	
Interest income	250	531	
Realised (loss) / profit on sale of investment	(5)	(5)	
Net Increase / (decrease) in value of investment	(745)	458	
Other income	11	9	
Net income	200	1,473	
Administrative expenses	(234)	(210)	
Financing charges	(775)	(864)	
Corporate social responsibility	(10)	-	
Director fees	(60)	(63)	
Total expenses	(1,079)	(1,137)	
Profit (loss) for the period before tax	(879)	336	
Income tax expense	-	-	
Profit /(loss) after tax for the period	(879)	336	
Other comprehensive income (expense):			
Share of other comprehensive profit / (loss) of associates	(190)	30	
Net Increase / (decrease) in value of investment	2,100	(225)	
Other comprehensive loss for the period	1,910	(195)	
Total comprehensive Income (loss) for the period attributable to Equity holders of Parent Company	1,031	141	
Earnings profit (loss) per share attributable to shareholders of Parent Company (in Baisas)			
	(4)	2	
Note: 1) The complete accounts will be send by mail to any shareholders who requests them in arabic or english as requested, within 7 days of receipt of the request. 2) Financial statements are available on MSX website.			

LET THE GAME BEGIN

Rohit Sharma, Pat Cummins play down pitch chatter ahead of India-Australia first Test in Nagpur

Nagpur, India - India skipper Rohit Sharma and Australian counterpart Pat Cummins on Wednesday brushed aside concerns about the pitch ahead of the first of four eagerly awaited Tests.

Australian commentators have said that a bone-dry pitch has been prepared in Nagpur to make life difficult for the visitors' many left-handed batsmen in the match starting Thursday.

Cricket writer Robert Craddock told broadcaster SEN that if parts of the pitch had been prepared specifically to target Australia's left-handed batsmen, it would amount to "straight-up pitch doctoring".

Former Australia all-rounder Simon O'Donnell said the International Cricket Council "should step in and do something about it, if they think it's not right".

But Cummins told reporters that Australia's batters would take the pitch in their stride.

"Potentially, it looks a little bit dry for the left-handers and knowing how much traffic will probably go through there from the right-arm bowlers," said Cummins.

"It might be a fair bit of rough out there. Again that's something we just got to embrace. It's going to be fun, it's going to be challenging at times, but we have batters who relish the chance to problem solve on their feet."

Australia's set of key left-handers includes David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Alex Carey, Matt Renshaw and Travis Head.



India captain Rohit Sharma (L) and his Australian counterpart Pat Cummins (R) pose with the trophy on the eve of their first Test in Nagpur on Wednesday (AFP)

Their right-handers include Steve Smith - who scored three centuries including a brilliant 178 during Australia's 2017 tour of India - and Marnus

Labuschagne, currently number one in the ICC Test rankings.

Cummins said that getting a good first-innings lead in India was more important than any-

where else in the world.

"You just got to find a way to put a big total on the board, especially thinking if it's going to spin, it's going to get really hard

in the second innings," the fast bowler said.

'Not bothered'

Indian skipper Sharma also

downplayed concerns about the pitch, saying that the "focus is on playing the game".

"(In the) last series we played here, a lot was spoken about

pitches. All 22 (players) are quality cricketers and not bothered about how much it is turning, how much it is seaming and all that."

India are likely to field three spinners, including Ravichandran Ashwin and the returning Ravindra Jadeja, but Sharma did not reveal the starting line-up.

Cummins confirmed that Australia would be without injured pacers Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc as well as all-rounder Cameron Green.

Foreign teams have often struggled to overcome conditions in India, with England thrashed 3-1 in 2021.

Australia last won a Test series in India in 2004 and India have won the teams' last three encounters, including twice in Australia.

A draw in any of the four Tests will be enough to secure world number one Australia a place in the ICC World Test Championship final at The Oval in June.

Second-placed India need to win at least 3-0 to assure themselves of a spot in that final for the second year running.

Indian cricket commentator Harsh Bhogle also brushed aside chatter about the pitch.

"So much talk about pitches before the game starts! For one, it is the same for both teams. And second, it has to present a challenge to the touring side. That is the essence of home and away contests," Bhogle wrote on Twitter.

AFP



Wrexham's Sam Dalby (C) battles with Sheffield United players for the ball during their FA Cup match (AFP)

No Hollywood ending for Wrexham as Blades win FA Cup thriller

London, United Kingdom - Wrexham suffered a cruel FA Cup plot twist as the non-league club run by movie stars conceded two stoppage-time goals in a 3-1 defeat at Sheffield United on Tuesday.

Owned by Hollywood actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney since 2020, Wrexham had become the headline act in this year's FA Cup.

They defeated second-tier

Coventry in the third round and took Championship promotion chasers United down to the wire before finally bowing out in a fourth-round replay at Bramall Lane.

Anel Ahmedhodzic put United ahead but Wrexham equalised through Paul Mullin's penalty to spark dreams of another against-the-odds result straight from the pages of a blockbuster movie script.

Mullin then missed a penalty that would have given Wrexham the lead and Billy Sharp and Sander Berge played the villains with goals deep into stoppage time to earn United a fifth-round tie against Tottenham.

Despite the lack of a Hollywood ending, Reynolds, unable to attend the match, saluted his fifth-tier team in a tweet immediately after the final whistle.

AFP

Australia's Green, Hazlewood out of India Test opener

Nagpur, India - Australia's Cameron Green and Josh Hazlewood have been ruled out of the first Test against India due to injuries, skipper Pat Cummins confirmed on Wednesday.

All-rounder Green is struggling with a finger injury while fast bowler Hazlewood is out because of his Achilles tendon.

Both will miss the first of the four Tests beginning on Thursday in Nagpur alongside pacer Mitchell Starc.

"We will announce the team at the toss tomorrow but we are really confident on everyone in our touring party," Cummins said at the pre-match media conference.

"Cameron Green is injured, so he won't play, same as Josh Hazlewood."

He said he was "disappointed that they are not available. Hopefully, both (will) come back on-line for the second Test match."

But he added that Scott Boland "has been with us for the last 12 months and performed well in all conditions... We feel really really happy with the depth that we have."

Nathan Lyon will lead Aus-



Josh Hazlewood warms up during a practice session on Wednesday

We will announce the team at the toss but we are confident on everyone

PAT CUMMINS

tralia's spin attack on a pitch that is expected to turn from day one as the tourists look to win their

first Test series on Indian soil since 2004.

"Nathan is going to be right up there with our most important bowlers," Cummins said of the champion off-spinner, who has claimed 460 wickets in 115 Tests.

"He is going to bowl lots of overs. He has got the experience, so he is up for the challenge. He has been working with the other spin bowlers. He will lead our attack this series."

AFP



Michael Rechner

Bayern sign goalkeeping coach after controversial sacking

Berlin, Germany - Bayern Munich announced on Wednesday they had signed goalkeeping coach Michael Rechner to replace sacked Toni Tapalovic, whose firing kicked off a war of words at the club.

Bayern will pay a "six figure transfer fee" to Hoffenheim for the 42-year-old goalkeeping coach, according to German news outlet Kicker.

Tapalovic, a close friend of Bayern captain and injured goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, was fired in January, having arrived at the club with Neuer from Schalke in 2011.

In response to the sacking, Neuer, who is out with a broken leg from a skiing accident in December, gave an interview saying he felt "his heart was being ripped out" and said the sacking was "the worst thing he had endured in his career".

Neuer's interview resulted in waves of criticism from Bayern's hierarchy, including sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic who said on Sunday that Neuer was "putting his personal interests above the interests of the club", and said "as captain I would have expected a different attitude from him".

AFP

Vlahovic back among goals as Juve stroll past Salernitana

Salerno, Italy - Dusan Vlahovic scored his first Juventus goals in nearly four months on Tuesday with a brace in his team's easy 3-0 win at Salernitana.

Serbia forward Vlahovic set Juve on their way to victory in Salerno when he rifled in a penalty off the post in the 26th minute and then swept in Juve's third just after half-time.

Filip Kostic tapped in Juve's second shortly before the break after Vlahovic's mishit shot fell to his international teammate, help-

ing Juve up to 10th and 12 points off the European positions.

A further point away are Lazio and the Champions League spots, an unlikely target for Juve after last month's 15-point penalty for illicit transfer activity.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri insisted pre-match that Tuesday's clash was a relegation six-pointer and he continued in that vein after a simple win.

"We need to get another 14 points in order to reach 40 for safety, after that we'll see ... I

hope we can be in the top half of the table," he told DAZN.

Vlahovic's double broke a club goal duck which stretched back to mid-October, when he struck a last-minute derby winner against Torino.

Since then the 23-year-old has struggled with injuries, only coming back to action in Juve's home defeat to Monza last time out after playing twice more in October and then underwhelming at the World Cup.

His return was a boost to Al-

legri who lost Leandro Paredes and Arkadiusz Milik to injury and may not have Paul Pogba back until next week's Europa League clash with Nantes.

Vlahovic will face his old club Fiorentina on Sunday in one of the fieriest fixtures in the Serie A calendar.

"The most important thing was that we won the match after not winning for three matches (in the league)," said Vlahovic to DAZN.

AFP



Dusan Vlahovic (L) of Juventus celebrates with team-mate Nicolò Fagioli after scoring against Salernitana in their Italian Serie A match on Tuesday



LeBron James of Los Angeles Lakers celebrates after becoming the NBA's all-time leading scorer in Los Angeles, California, on Tuesday (Getty Images via AFP)

THE GREATEST?

As 'King' James breaks NBA all-time points-scoring record, Jordan-LeBron debate revived

Los Angeles, United States - As LeBron James adds to his amazing legacy by becoming the NBA's career scoring leader, the debate resumes over whether he or Michael Jordan is the NBA's all-time greatest player.

Los Angeles Lakers forward James, in his 20th NBA campaign at age 38, overtook fellow legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the all-time league scoring crown on Tuesday.

"To be in the company with such a prominent dominant force as Kareem was, it's an honor," James told ESPN before breaking the record.

Retired icon Jordan ranks fifth on the all-time NBA points list with 32,292 in 1,072 games for a record average of 30.1 points a game. James was at about 27.2 with superior assist and rebound averages.

"Air" Jordan also was a winner and Most Valuable Player in all six of his NBA Finals appearances with the Chicago Bulls in the 1990s. He was a five-time season MVP and 10-time scoring champion. James has won four titles in 10 NBA Finals appearances, eight in a row from 2011-2018. He was



Michael Jordan made 11 All-NBA teams, won five MVPs, six Finals MVPs and six NBA titles

a four-time finals MVP and four-time season MVP and won his only season scoring crown in 2008. Both captured two Olympic gold medals and each starred in "Space Jam" movies, becoming cultural icons with epic endorsement deals.

Like Jordan, James was a high-leaping, acrobatic, amazing playmaker in his younger days who adjusted his game to remain dangerous and raise the level of his teammates.

"We can enjoy one without

tearing down one," the late Kobe Bryant tweeted about the Jordan-James debate in 2018. "Don't debate what can't be definitively won by anyone."

Only two players have more trips to the finals than James - Boston's Bill Russell with a record 12 and his 1960s dynasty teammate Sam Jones at 11. James and six-time NBA champion Abdul-Jabbar each reached 10 finals.

"When you talk about just a basketball player, a complete basketball player, LeBron James

is a much better basketball player than Michael Jordan," former Detroit guard Isaiah Thomas told ESPN in 2018. "What I'm witnessing is LeBron James... dominating this period of time. I haven't seen anyone else do that in our league, with the exception of two people and that's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Russell."

While Russell and Abdul-Jabbar were giants who dominated inside the paint, Jordan and James were playmakers who could threaten to dominate from

anywhere on the court.

Former NBA All-Star guard Gary Payton resisted picking among superstars from different times. "I don't compare them," he said. "You've got two players who dominated their eras. Michael won six. So what? Eight straight finals is really good."

NBA legend Dominique Wilkins said James has a mental edge similar to Jordan's ability to turn any perceived slight into motivation.

"LeBron always had a size and agility advantage over players but also the mentality," Wilkins said. "He basically said, 'I can do whatever I want and whenever I want to do it' throughout his career."

Patrick Mahomes, the Kansas City Chiefs quarterback chasing his second Super Bowl crown on Sunday, was raised on classic Jordan games thanks to his father and gave a divided answer to the Jordan-James debate.

"If I had one game, I would take Michael Jordan or one series," Mahomes told Fox Sports. "But I would say for a full entire season, I've got to go with LeBron because he can do a little bit of everything."



Al Hilal's Salem al Dawsari celebrates after scoring against Brazil's Flamengo in the FIFA Club World Cup semi-final on Tuesday (AFP)

Al Dawsari penalties send Al Hilal into Club World Cup final

Tangiers, Morocco - Salem al Dawsari scored two penalties as Al Hilal beat Flamengo 3-2 on Tuesday to reach this weekend's Club World Cup final in Morocco.

The Saudis on Saturday will play the winner of Wednesday's other semi-final between European champions Real Madrid and Egypt's Al Ahly.

Al Dawsari's first spot-kick came in the fourth minute after Luciano Vietto was felled by Flamengo right-back Matheuzinho.

The Saudi Arabia forward became the first player to score against the same opponents in two editions of the Club World Cup after also netting against the Brazilians in 2019.

The teams were level a quarter of an hour later as

striker Pedro side-footed his effort first time past 36-year-old Abdullah al Muaiof.

Al Dawsari's second penalty came nine minutes into first-half injury time after Vietto was tripped by former Marseille midfielder Gerson.

Gerson was sent off for a second yellow card, having received his first on 15 minutes for diving in the Al Hilal box.

With 20 minutes remaining, Al Hilal moved closer to the final when Argentinian Vietto fired in off the crossbar after Al Dawsari's clipped pass.

After 20 seconds of the six minutes of additional time, Pedro cut the deficit with an easy tap-in but it was not enough to spark a late comeback from the Copa Libertadores champions.

AFP

Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay launch WC2030 bid

Buenos Aires, Argentina - Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay on Tuesday launched their official joint bid to host the Football World Cup in 2030, exactly 100 years after the event was first held, in Montevideo.

"We are convinced that FIFA has an obligation to honour the memory of those who organized the first World Cup," Alejandro Dominguez, president of the Conmebol South American federation, said in Argentina.

He was attending a launch event at the Argentine Football Association (AFA) headquarters in Ezeiza, south of Buenos Aires.

Competition is intensifying before FIFA chooses a host in 2024. The South Americans' main challenge is a joint bid from Spain, Portugal and Ukraine, which has the backing of European governing body UEFA.

Saudi Arabia is considering bidding to stand along with Egypt and Greece.

In December, Dominguez said FIFA should honour the legacies of South American icons Pele and Diego Maradona by awarding the centennial 2030 World Cup to the continent. Uruguay was the first-ever world champion in 1930, beating Argentina 4-2 in the final of the 13-team World Cup it hosted in Montevideo.

Argentina are the reigning champions, having triumphed over France in Qatar last year.

The next World Cup will be hosted in 2026 by the United States, Mexico and Canada - the first time there will be 48 teams competing, up from 32.

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IT'S TEE TIME!

Asian Tour's International Series Oman at Al Mouj Golf officially starts with a ceremonial tee off

Muscat - The start of International Series Oman was marked with a ceremonial tee shot at the Greg Norman-designed Championship golf course as Al Mouj Golf welcomed local dignitaries to celebrate its Middle Eastern debut and first of 10 International Series events on the Asian Tour in 2023.

Led by Asian Tour CEO Cho Minn Thant and Chairman of Oman Golf Committee Mundhir Al Barwani, the tee-off took place on the first hole of the oceanfront course.

A number of local VIPs gathered to witness the Asian Tour breaking ground in the Middle East for the first time, under the patronage of Lujaina Mohsin Darwish, Chairperson of Mohsin Haider Darwish LLC, and a member of the Board of Directors at Oman Olympic Committee.

Ahead of the series in Oman for the first time, Al Mouj Golf, CEO Nasser Al Sheibani wel-



The Asian Tour's International Series Oman started with a ceremonial tee-off at the spectacular Greg Norman-designed Al Mouj Golf



comed the event, saying: "We are proud to host the season-opener event of The International Series 2023 on the Asian Tour, here at the championship course of Al Mouj Golf. It's fantastic to welcome so many local dignitaries alongside the world-class field that's been assembled.

"The International Series promises to promote the country across continents, elevating the competitive experience for players on the Asian Tour. It once again highlights Oman as a unique venue on the world golf stage."

The impressive 132-player

field ready to tee it up this week includes golfers from 23 countries across 6 continents, headlined by Brooks Koepka, Sergio Garcia, Graeme McDowell, Louis Oosthuizen, Joaquin Niemann and Charl Schwartzel, all competing on the oceanfront course for their share in a total prize fund of

\$2 million.

Ahead of the tournament, Four-time Major Champion, Brooks Koepka, spoke about the condition of the golf course. "I have only been here for the past day or so but it is a beautiful golf course and the hospitality from the Omani people has been

amazing.

"That stretch of holes by the water is amazing and I'm looking forward to seeing the challenge the course has to offer on Thursday when the tournament starts."

Graeme McDowell commented on playing in the Sultanate for the first time and said:

"I've played a lot of golf in the Middle East for the last 20 years and it's always amazing to come to new places. I like what I see so far, it's a beautiful country with great facilities and a great golf course this week and I'm really looking forward to competing this weekend."

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Rose says Ryder Cup will not be 'devalued' if LIV players banned

London, United Kingdom - Justin Rose said he does not believe the Ryder Cup will be "devalued" if LIV Golf players are prevented from competing at this year's event in Rome.

American golfers who joined the Saudi-funded circuit are ineligible to play in the tournament, which pits the United States against Europe every two years.

The make-up of the European team hinges on this week's arbitration hearing in London, which will decide whether players signed up to LIV Golf can play on the DP World Tour, formerly known as the European Tour.

Rose, whose victory in the US PGA Tour's Pebble Beach Pro-Am on Monday boosted his chances of making a sixth Ryder Cup appearance, told the BBC: "There is so much strength in depth, I don't think it will be devalued.

"People like watching Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka, Sergio Garcia, Ian Poulter (who are all signed up



Justin Rose

to LIV Golf). They bring a lot of passion. They will be missed, for sure, but it is what it is.

"You have the powers that be, the traditional people who kind of still have control of golf, and you have an upstart league which is trying to bring in a fresh idea and rival product.

"It's all good either way, it's just can both fit together in this scenario?"

The emergence of LIV Golf has caused a deep rift in the pro-

fessional game, with Rory McIlroy detailing how his previously close friendship with Sergio Garcia has broken down.

However, Rose has remained friends with players including Poulter and Henrik Stenson, who was stripped of the Ryder Cup captaincy after joining LIV.

"Everyone can make their own decision -- I do not think badly of them for doing that and they are still my mates," said the former US Open champion.

"There are going to be consequences to that decision and obviously the rulings will determine whether that is good or bad for them.

"One good thing from a Ryder Cup point of view is this decision will be done early enough and whatever the outcome, there's time for relationships to heal. Clarity is what most of us want."

The Ryder Cup tees off at the Marco Simone Golf and Country Club in the Italian capital on September 29.

AFP

Ons Jabeur

'Heart-broken' Jabeur to miss Doha, Dubai tournaments

Tunis, Tunisia - World number three Ons Jabeur said on Wednesday she was "heart-broken" after announcing she will miss Middle East tournaments in Doha and Dubai later this month to undergo minor surgery.

Tunisia's Jabeur, 28, was runner up at last year's Wimbledon and US Open but dropped down from second in the world rankings in February.

"To take care of my health situation. My medical team have decided that I need to get a minor surgery in order to be

able to be back on the courts and perform well," Jabeur said on social media.

"I will have to retire from Doha and Dubai and this is breaking my heart.

"I would like to say sorry to all the fans out there in the middle east that waited for this reunion. I promise I will come back to you stronger and healthy," she added.

The WTA event in Qatar starts on February 13 with the Dubai tournament six days later.

AFP

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IN TOWN

THE COLOURS OF LIFE



'The Colours of Life' solo exhibition by Indian artist Kanak Mitra inaugurated by Maryam al Zadjali, former director of Omani Society for Fine Arts, at Matti Sirvio Art Galleria, last Friday



Reception onboard 'Santa Maria'



Ambassador of the European Union, H E Patrick Simonnet, and Ambassador of Spain H E María Luisa Huidobro, host a reception on board Spanish Frigate 'Santa Maria' at Sultan Qaboos Port. Photos: V K Shafeer

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

01. What were the first names of author D H Lawrence?

- A. Darwin Haversham
- B. Dennis Harold
- C. Darren Hurst
- D. David Herbert

02. British clog dancing can be seen as a forerunner of what?

- A. Ballet
- B. The tarantella
- C. Tap dance
- D. Bunions

03. Over 6 days in March 2021 transport of over 10% of global trade came to a stop. What was the reason?

- A. A call to reduce the rate of global warming
- B. Lockdowns in the course of recurring waves of COVID 19 infections
- C. A ship ran aground in the Suez Canal and blocked the waterway
- D. A terrorist scare

Answers: 1.D 2.C 3.C

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		2	5	8	1			
8							6	
9	8						2	
4	6			7			3	8
	1						4	9
	5							4
			4	1	5	9		
		9	7	6				

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

8	5	2	8	9	7	6	4	1
9	7	6	5	1	4	8	2	3
4	1	8	3	6	2	9	5	7
6	4	7	9	5	8	3	1	2
8	3	1	2	7	6	5	9	4
5	2	9	4	3	1	7	8	6
1	9	5	7	2	3	4	6	8
7	6	4	1	8	5	2	3	9
2	8	3	9	4	6	1	7	5

BOGGLER

T	A	Y	T
X	L	B	A
E	I	E	C
O	E	D	Z

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.

Solution 20-25 words: Excellent, 15-20 words: Very good, 10-15 words: Good, 5-10 words: Average

WORD BUILDER



You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Someone you used to have strong feelings for (either positive or negative) could reappear on the scene today either via email or phone. Their allure is undeniable, although you don't know if you're ready to reconnect. Wait until you know more about how you feel. This isn't something you should act on impulsively.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Trying to be perfect is the biggest waste of time ever! Not only does it isolate you from other (imperfect) people, but it also puts you in a perpetual state of frustration. Today, you need to stop going for the gold medal in everything. Start learning how to accept yourself the way you are.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

A surprise reunion between you and long lost ex will test your flexibility and force you to ask serious questions about how much you have really changed. The answers won't come easily, but if you have time to sit down for a conversation with this person, you can gain a lot of clarity on a lot of issues you thought were long gone -- or at least long-ago dealt with.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

The restrictions that are being put on you in one area of your life are forcing you to act out in another area, namely, your love life! Totally flirtatious energy is sweeping through your life right about now and it's having some interesting effects. Do you want to find out just what it takes to make everyone around you blush?



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Many people are looking to you for input, and this sense of obligation may be starting to overwhelm you, so take it easy and just relax. Getting all worked up will only make you even more indecisive than you already are. If they're breathing down your neck, tell them to give you the space and the time you need to figure things out.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Today, you should use the killer combination of cold logic and warm smile to gain advantage over the competition. You can't persuade someone to agree with you based on your charm alone. You need the facts to support you. Before you start any kind of negotiation, make sure you've got the evidence you need to support your position.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Group dynamics are going to be tricky for you today. Sure, there is strength in numbers. But there is also the chance that you'll lose your individual identity. Be mindful of who you're associating with right now, because there are some people you can trust and other people you can't.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Someone who lives a very glamorous-sounding life could be coming onto the scene. Pay attention when they arrive, because they can teach you something you need to learn. You're quite good at resisting temptation, but it's time for you to learn how to live with it. It's not always about succumbing or triumphing.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

The bad news is that there is a slight possibility that you could have an extremely frustrating day, but the good news is that you can avoid it if you try hard enough! First of all, avoid the people who are likely to push your buttons. You know who they are. Those people who are all talk and no action. If they're in that meeting you need to attend, sit far away from them.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

A flighty friend is coming extremely close to driving you up a wall right now. They are once again testing your limits by putting their own whims ahead of commitments they've made to you. It's time for you to communicate clearly to them just how much you will (or won't) accept from them. Realistically, your announcement won't come as a shock to them.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

When it comes to romance, you should err on the side of economy right now. Instead of focusing so hard on having a sizzling affair, why not just be happy with a warm connection? Too much heat too early only means you'll end up fizzling out sooner. What you need right now is a slow burn that gives both of you enough time to really appreciate your connection and build upon it.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

A new variable could come into your life soon, and it is coming in the form of a very attractive person. This could be someone who's attractive to you romantically, sexually, or professionally. How they attract you won't really make much of a difference. What really matters is how you react to them. Keep your cool! Sure, they might make your heart race but if you let them know this, they'll have too much influence over you.

entertainment

GRAMMYS
GOLDEN
GIRL

Beyonce, the music royal whose art has shifted the culture time and again, has cemented herself as one of the world's seminal stars, breaking the Grammys all-time record for wins

On Sunday, music's golden girl made history again, becoming the 'winningest' artist in Grammys history, surpassing the late classical conductor Georg Solti's long-standing record of 31 lifetime trophies.

Speaking through tears, the regal artist donning a metallic Gucci corset gown with elbow-length black leather gloves, said, "I'm trying not to be too emotional. And I'm trying to just receive this night."

Paying special tribute to the queer community, who she credited with inventing the genre she celebrated in her historically layered record that pays homage to pioneers of funk, soul, rap, house and disco, Queen Bey reigned supreme at the Grammys.

Breaking the all-time record for wins with her 32nd prize and fourth of the night, the Album of the Year prize that's long eluded Beyonce, however, went to Brit singer-songwriter Harry Styles.

All of the top contenders including Adele, Taylor Swift and Lizzo went home with an award - but it was surprise after surprise in the top four categories.

Beyonce entered the ceremony with the most chances at Grammy gold with nine, following the release of *Renaissance*, her rich, sprawling ode to club music.

She clinched the all-time Grammy record by winning the prize for Best Dance/Electronic Music Album for *Renaissance*, thus surpassing the late classical conductor Georg Solti, who had 31 awards.

Styles commented, "On nights like tonight, it's obviously so important for us to remember that there is no such thing as bests in music." His win over Queen Bey was sure to draw obvious comparisons to 2017, when Adele swept the top prizes at the glitzy music biz gala, shutting out Beyonce's culture-shaking *Lemonade*.

The Grammys' winningest artist still remains on the outside look-

ing in at the top prizes - Beyonce has never won Album or Record of the Year, which this time around went to Lizzo for *About Damn Time*. Beyonce was nevertheless the top winner on Sunday with her four gramophones.

Three wins for Carliile, Lamar

Both, folk rocker Brandi Carliile and rapper Kendrick Lamar, ended the night with three awards each. Adele, one of the night's heavyweights, took home just one award in the pop categories, while Taylor Swift was shut out once again from Song of the Year, a song-writing award.

Swift did however win the Best Music Video prize for her short film based on the 10-minute version of her song *All Too Well*.

Puerto Rican reggaeton megastar Bad Bunny kicked off the show by bringing the audience to its feet with the first performance, before taking home the prize for Best Musica Urbana Album. He nabbed the prize for his major drop *Un Verano Sin Ti*, which was also an Album of the Year contender.

Actor Viola Davis became the latest showbiz heavyweight to earn a coveted EGOT - winner of an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony - by taking the Grammy for best audio book, narration and storytelling for her memoir *Finding Me*.

The star-studded 65th annual gala, hosted once again by comedian Trevor Noah, also featured performances from Styles, Lizzo and Mary J Blige, as well as an exuberant tribute to hip-hop music featuring a constellation of stars.

After several Grammy years with clear Best New Artist favourites - winners like Olivia Rodrigo, Megan Thee Stallion and Billie Eilish - American jazz singer Samara Joy scooped up the prize over an eclectic field.

AFP



Harry Styles

KEY WINNERS

Album of the Year
Harry's House (Harry Styles)

Record of the Year
About Damn Time (Lizzo)

Song of the Year
Just Like That (Bonnie Raitt)

Best New Artist
Samara Joy

Best Dance/Electronic Music Album
Renaissance (Beyonce)

Best Dance/Electronic Recording
Break My Soul (Beyonce)

Best Pop Vocal Album
Harry's House (Harry Styles)

Best Rap Album
Mr Morale & the Big Steppers (Kendrick Lamar)

Best Rock Album
Patient Number 9 (Ozzy Osbourne)

Best Pop Solo Performance
Easy on Me (Adele)

Best Pop Duo/Group Performance
Unholy (Sam Smith and Kim Petras)

Best Americana Album
In These Silent Days (Brandi Carliile)

Best Country Album
A Beautiful Time (Willie Nelson)

Best Music Video
All Too Well (Short Film - Taylor Swift)

Best Global Music Album
Sakura (Masa Takumi)

Best Score Soundtrack - Interactive Media
Assassin's Creed Ragnarok: Dawn of Ragnarok (Stephanie Economou)

MOST WINS

Beyonce 4
Bonnie Raitt 3
Kendrick Lamar 3
and Brandi Carliile 3



Samara Joy



Steve Lacy



Adele



Bonnie Raitt (R) accepts her award from US First Lady Jill Biden



Brandi Carliile (C) poses with the awards for Best Americana Album, Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance alongside Phillip John and Timothy Jay Hanseroth in the press room

RELEASING TODAY

LITTLE EGGS: AN AFRICAN RESCUE



Toto and his friends must rescue his egg children after they're taken away for a gourmet food event in Africa.

Genre: Animation
Starring: Marcelo Barcelo, Mauricio Barrientos, Bruno Bichir
Language: English



HOLLYWOOD MOVIE REVIEW: BANDIT

Genre: Action

Starring: Mel Gibson, Josh Duhamel, Elisha Cuthbert, Nestor Carbonell

CAREER CRIMINAL AT WORK

This movie is based on the true story of 'The Flying Bandit', who successfully got away with 59 bank and jewellery heists. The story revolves around Robert Whiteman (Josh Duhamel), a career criminal, who escapes from a US prison and crosses the border into Canada where he assumes a new identity.

After over 100,000 miles uncaught, Robert is addicted to the rush and money that provides his double life, but turns to lifetime gangster Tommy (Mel Gibson) for a bigger investment. Detective Snydes (Nestor Carbonell), whose life's work is

to bring Tommy down, with the help of a special police task force, sets off a cross-country manhunt to put Canada's most wanted bank robber behind bars.

Canadian filmmaker Allan Ungar (Gridlocked), working from Kraig Wenman's adaptation of Robert Knuckle's 'The Flying Bandit', presents a fictionalised version of the life and times of Gilbert Galvan Jr, one of the most successful bank robbers in the history of Canada.

The movie opens in 1984 with Galvan (Josh Duhamel) escaping from a minimum security prison in Michigan and heading north across the border.

While in Canada, he establishes a new identity as Robert Whiteman and begins robbing banks as a means of securing income.

Bandit goes down easily in the first 60 minutes. The chemistry between Josh Duhamel and Elisha Cuthbert is quite hot while Mel Gibson seems to reach back into his past to play the part of a likeable rogue.

The problem with telling a true story like this is that the end is quite apparent. It's just like watching *Titanic* when everyone enters the theatre knowing fully well what's going to happen in the end.



Rating ★★★★★

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR CONTRIBUTES 20% TO GDP

VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES IN OMAN GREW 28.6% YEAR-ON-YEAR TO RO6.274BN DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2022 COMPARED TO RO4.878BN IN THE SAME PERIOD OF 2021

Our Correspondent Muscat

The contribution of industrial sector in Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) has reached to nearly 20 per cent in 2022, thanks to the increased industrial production capacity and growing non-oil exports to the world.

The sultanate celebrates Omani Industry Day on February 9 every year. Industrial sector plays an important role in Oman's economic mix and it is one of the priority sectors in supporting the country's directions towards economic diversification.

The development and growth of industrial and manufacturing units has been the foundation of Oman's long-term economic diversification strategy as the sec-

INVESTMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL CITIES REACH RO7BN MARK

Our Correspondent Muscat

Total volume of investments in the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates' (Madayn) industrial cities in Oman has reached to over RO7bn at the end of 2022.

The industrial cities, which are spread across Oman, are witnessing a robust growth in terms of attracting new investors and projects.

According to Madayn, the sultanate's industrial cities attracted more than 300 new projects worth more than RO300mn in investments in 2022, taking the total volume of investment to over RO7bn by the end of 2022.

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Hamad bin Hamoud al Qasabi, acting CEO of Madayn, said that due to increasing demand of investors to set up projects in the industrial cities, the volume of invest-



Al Rusayl Industrial City

ments continues to grow.

Qasabi informed that Madayn is currently working on development projects in all of its industrial cities, for which more than RO120mn has been allocated.

"Some of these projects are nearing completion and others are in the implementation

economies of the governorates of Dhahirah and Musandam by providing a conducive environment for various business activities and providing job opportunities," he said.

Two other projects, in the governorates of North Sharqiyah and Dhofar, are ready for implementation. "Procedures related to that are now being finalised."

Madayn is also working to improve the services it offers to investors.

"We have completed the opening of 'Masar' centres in all industrial cities and are working on developing the digital transformation system and automating other services," Qasabi said.

Through an integrated, one-stop solution service system, Masar service centres are designed to provide all of Madayn's services to investors - from receiving new investment applications to signing final contracts.

2022 compared to RO788.7mn in the same period of the previous year, NCSI data showed.

Other industries such as power generation, water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities collectively increased by three per cent to a value of RO717.5mn in the first nine months of last year against RO697mn in the same period of 2021. Construction activities, however, recorded a decrease of 2.2 per cent at RO1.851bn in the first nine months of 2022 compared to the same period of previous year.

With a focus to become an investment-friendly country and development of industrial infrastructures such as ports, free zones, special economic zones and industrial cities, Oman has been able to attract a substantial amount of foreign direct investment in various industries. Total foreign direct investment in the manufacturing sector increased to RO1.717bn as of September 2022, according to NCSI data.

According to the statistics, the number of Omanis working in the manufacturing sector reached 34,809, or 12.2 per cent of the total Omani workforce working in the private sector, which numbered 283,982 as of end of December 2022. Number of expatriate workers in Oman's manufacturing sector stood at 192,767 as of November 2022.

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المنشورات، الكتالوجات، المجلات، النشرات، التقارير السنوية، الملفات، والملحقات، مطبوعات الترويج، والمطويات، شئط الهدايا، الملصقات، والبوسترات، التقاويم، والمفكرات.

طباعة المغلفات

محارم ورقية، كراتين الصيدلة، إخمام، علب رباعية الزوايا، أغطية الأيسكريم، الخ.

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