LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

148% JUMP IN CREDIT OMAN'S VOLUME OF INSURED SALES

Credit Oman recorded a growth of 148 percent in the volume of insured sales for Omani exports and domestic sales for the year 2022 compared to 2021. >A2

HM THE SULTAN SENDS GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Michael Daniel Higgins of Ireland on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Higgins. His Majesty also wished the Irish people further development and growth. — ONA

Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 17 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

People urged to be cautious as a number of deepfakes flood social media platforms

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The recent video clip of a 'cheetah' sprinting along a car on the Sultan Qaboos street and racing past people on Muttrah Corniche had the social media abuzz with various theories.

A couple of hours after the video went viral, *Times of Oman* clarified to its readers that there was no cheetah prowling the streets of Muscat. Rather, it was an advertising campaign where Artificial Intelligence (AI) and creativity were used smartly to run an advertising campaign.

In this particular example, deepfake certainly amazed us, but it also raises concerns about whether we can be sure what's real. Over the recent years, technology like AI and deepfaking has advanced to the point where it's becoming quite difficult to see the flaws in these creations.

There was a time when it was obvious that what we were looking at wasn't real, but we've seen increasingly convincing deepfake examples in recent times.

It is not just the deepfakes that are a cause of concern but the growing threat of malicious content on social media that has led experts to call for more caution while watching and sharing information.

Yet another recent example that went viral in Oman, but later found out to be untrue was a stunt scene of an Indian movie being shot in Muscat. The stunt scene was enacted with all concerned authorities notified and no harm happened to the stuntman, videos of the stunt spread like wildfire with concerns about the safety of the driver as cars went flying at a high speed.

Times of Oman confirmed that the stuntman was safe. These two examples are only a tip of the iceberg. >A6

Regulation of marketing and promotions on websites and social media from March 24

MUSCAT: Regulation of marketing and promotion on websites and social media will be implemented on Friday, March 24, 2023. An administrative fine of OMR 1,000 will be imposed against any violators of the regulation.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will begin implementing the regulation, as issued by Ministerial Resolution No. (619/2022) on December 25, 2022. >A5

FIRST FORUM

Sayyid Theyazin to patronise 'Together We Progress' forum

MUSCAT: Embodying the lofty approach of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in direct communication with citizens, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth will preside over on Sunday 'Together We Progress' forum, which will be organised by the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers .

The forum targets creation of a platform for the review of the government policies and priorities and to discuss the same with the participants representing the various sectors of the society.

The forum, which is being held for the first time, would cover three pillars: Oman Vision 2040 and the mechanisms for following up its implementation through the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit.

The financial measures taken by the government and their economic and social dimensions through the National Programme for Fiscal Balance, and the National Programme for Financial Sustainability under the umbrella of the Ministry of Finance,

The mechanisms for the government to deal with the priority of the labour market and employment through the National Programme for Employment, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Labour.

The forum would also see discussion sessions with the ministers concerned regarding the above pillars.

The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers had earlier announced opening the door for receiving applications for attending the forum by the public through a digital platform, which applications have been sorted out to reflect the percentage of distribution of citizens in the various governorates. — ONA

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Rains expected in Oman from Sunday

1 The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) stated that some governorates of the Sultanate of Oman will witness rain from Sunday, March 19, 2023 until Thursday March 23, 2023. >A2

WORLD

US President Biden to host Indian PM Modi

2 US President Joe Biden plans to host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a state dinner this summer, people familiar with the matter said. The White House aims for the state dinner to take place in June. >A7

MARKET

MSX records weekly trading of OMR40mn

3 Abraaj Energy led the MSX last week to record the best weekly trading value during the current year at OMR40mn, compared to OMR18.5mn, and OMR14.9mn in the previous two weeks. >B1

Oman to meet Qatar in Asian Beach Handball Championship final in Bali on Sunday B5

RAMADAN 1444 AH

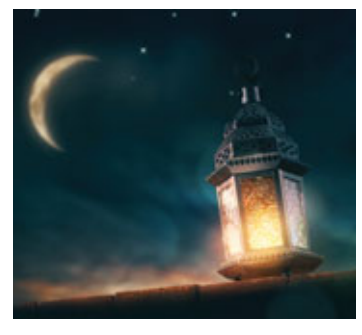
Sultanate of Oman gears up for the Holy Month of Ramadan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The first day of fasting for the Holy Month of Ramadan in the Sultanate of Oman is likely to be on Thursday (March 23, 2023), with Oman's leading astronomical expert saying that "the crescent moon could be sighted on March 22."

Ramadan is determined by the Islamic lunar calendar, which begins with the sighting of the crescent moon.

Astronomical expert Dr. Sabih Al Saadi said: "The crescent moon will be born on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at exactly 9:24pm (Oman time) with no sightings of any type being expected that night. However, on the night of March 22, Wednesday, the new moon should be easily visible to the naked eye in most of the Sultanate's governorates and many parts of the Middle East and North Africa. The first fasting day is thus expected to be March 23, Thursday, for these countries."



For countries where the moon is not sighted, the first day of fasting will be March 24.

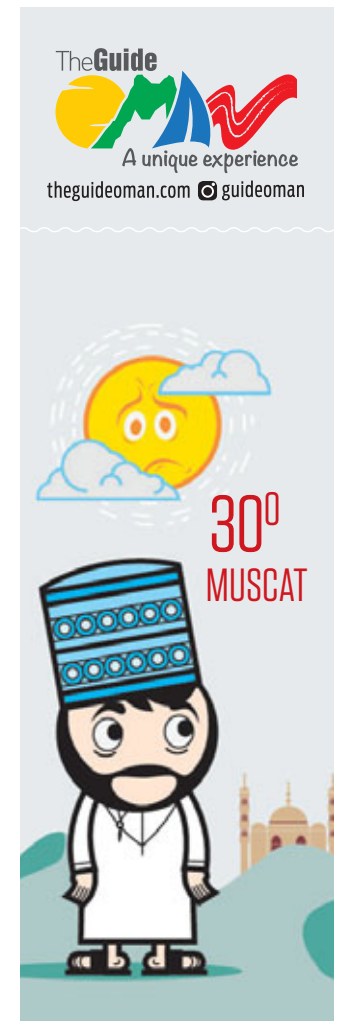
Lunar months last between 29 and 30 days, depending on the sighting of the new moon on the 29th night of each month. If the new moon is not visible, the month lasts 30 days.

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs also confirmed in its report on the crescent of Ramadan 1444 AH in the Hijri calendar, that sighting of the crescent will be possible in all governorates of the Sultanate if the weather is clear on the evening of Wednesday, March 22, 202. It would mean that the first day of the blessed month of Ramadan is Thursday, March 23, 2023.

The name Ramadan stems from the Arabic root 'ar-ramad,' which means scorching heat. Ramadan was called by this name because it came at a time when it was very hot. Ramadan is the month in which the first verses of the holy Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) more than 1,400 years ago. Throughout the month, observing Muslims fast from just before the sunrise prayer, Fajr, to the sunset prayer, Maghrib.

Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam, along with the Muslim declaration of faith, daily prayers, charity, and performing the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah if physically and financially capable.

At the end of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr is celebrated. Depending on the new moon sighting, Eid al-Fitr this year is likely to fall on April 21.



OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

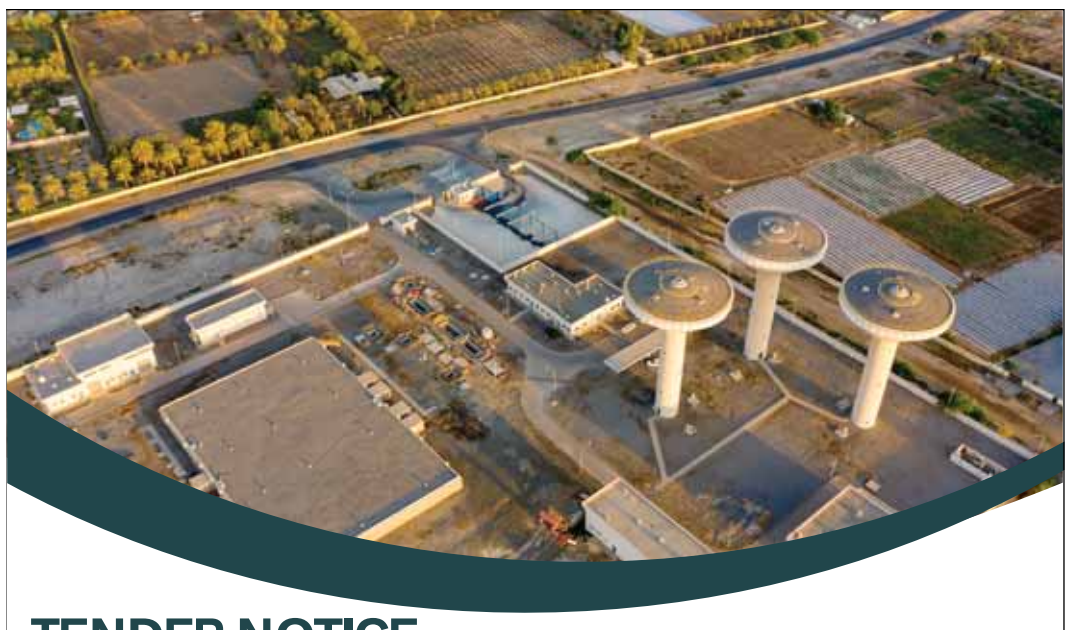
Dhuhr 12:20pm
Asr 3:45pm
Maghrib 6:22pm
Isha 7:32pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:56am

WEATHER UPDATE

Oman likely to witness heavy to moderate rainfall in parts of Oman

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) stated that some governorates of the Sultanate of Oman will witness rain from Sunday (March 19, 2023) until Thursday March 23, 2023.

The latest weather updates and analysis of the National Multi Hazard Early Warning Centre indicates that an upper air trough is likely to affect the Sultanate of Oman starting from Sunday. Several governorates in Oman may receive isolated rainfall.



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2455609/ 2023	Construction of Remaining Works of Water Transmission Line to Al Fay Village in Mahdah Wilayat	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/3/2023	1/5/2023
T/2455545/ 2023	Extension of Water Networks in (Al Harm-04) in Barka Wilayat at Al Batinah South Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/3/2023	1/5/2023
T/2455626/ 2023	Supply and Commissioning of Mobile Dewatering Pump	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 500/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/3/2023	1/5/2023
T/2455640/ 2023	Transporting 181 m3/daily of Water from Mowailh Main Tanker Filling stations to Wadi Al-Bidi Tanks in Sohar Wilayat in North Batinah Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/03/2023	10/4/2023
T/2455643/ 2023	Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Microbiological to Nama Water Services Laboratories	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/03/2023	1/5/2023
T/2455644/ 2023	Design, Supply, Install and Commission Project to Convert Existing Odor Control Unit (OCU) to Bio-Trickling Filter in MPS-3 A'Seeb Area	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 50/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/03/2023	1/5/2023
T/2455642/ 2023	Transporting (45-273) m3/daily of Water from Jibreen Tanker Filling Station to Saih Al-Ma'ashi Tankrs Filling Station in Wilayat Bahla at Al Dakhliya Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	RO 100/- (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	30/03/2023	10/4/2023

The tender documents can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from the date of publication of this announcement until 30/3/2023. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through Supplier Login.

Applicants who are not registered with Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) shall register from **https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration** to have the login credentials of Supplier portal.
All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through Nama Water Services e-tendering page (Supplier Login).

All participating Companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope to Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) Chairman of Tender Committee not later than **3:00 pm** on the bid submission date. Bid Bond must be obtained from a Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services).

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Nama Water Services) e-tendering page not later than 3:00 pm on the date specified above.

For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om or Email to: tender@owwsc.nama.om

نماء nama لخدمات المياه WATER SERVICES

@owwsc_om 1442
www.owwsc.nama.om

TAMKEEN PROGRAMME

Dar Al Atta'a marks passing out of 95 health assistants

MUSCAT: The Dar Al Atta'a charity association held a ceremony on Thursday to celebrate the passing out of 95 health assistants who completed training on dressing and dentistry.

The group is part of the third batch of the association's Tamkeen programme.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

Siham Yousef Al Kharousi, Director of Empowerment at Dar Al Atta'a, said in a speech that Tamkeen programme constitutes a key pillar of the association's drive to provide vocational opportunities to empower and qualify the youth to get jobs.

She added that 48 beneficiaries from this batch got jobs as health assistants in establishments of the public and private sectors, and some of them received jobs in other fields. She pointed out that empowerment in the association's vision seeks to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of families.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the minister felicitated the participants and presented them with certificates.

-ONA

REMARKABLE INCREASE

Credit Oman records a growth of 148% in volume of insured sales

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Credit Oman recorded a growth of 148 percent in the volume of insured sales for Omani exports and domestic sales for the year 2022 compared to 2021.

The total value of insured sales for the year 2022 amounted to OMR333,289,781 compared to 2021, which amounted to OMR133,600,323.

In addition, insured domestic sales within the Sultanate of Oman recorded a value of OMR145,468,984 a growth of 171 percent, compared to 2021, when the value of insured sales amounted to OMR35,642,573.

Insured sales of exports from the Sultanate of Oman to the world recorded a remarkable increase of percent last year, with a total value of OMR187,820,797 compared to 2021, when it amounted to OMR79, 957,750.

The insured sectors in Credit Oman varied among the consumer food sectors, which topped the value of insured sales during the year 2022, with a total value of OMR158,570,770.

While the value of insured sales in the construction and building materials sector amounted to OMR125, 427, 877, in addition to the growth of the petrochemical and plastic sectors, agriculture, mining and packaging.

The number of buyers for the year 2022 in Credit Oman reached 2,855 local and international buyers, as the number of local buyers in the Sultanate of Oman reached 2063, while the number of buyers around the world reached 792.

These results came in line with the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to enable Omani exports, and the facilities to attract investments and foreign capital, as well as in line with the directives of the tenth five-year development plan (2021-2025), which represents the first executive plan for the vision of "Oman 2040.

It focuses on priority goals concerned with stimulating economic activity and developing the macroeconomic environment by putting in place appropriate mechanisms and procedures to ensure the speedy return of economic activities, and ensuring the achievement of accelerated economic growth rates.

Credit Oman continues its efforts to advance economic development through its insurance services that help manufacturers and business owners sell their products and increase their sales volume without worrying about non-payment by the buyer.

It also provides consultations, advice and guidance to Omani manufacturers to enter promising markets in various countries of the world, through the creditworthiness of the buyer and the exporting country and the mechanisms used for that.

Credit Oman also pays great attention to the owners of small and medium enterprises due to their vital role, and being one of the drivers of the national economy by providing facilities to the owners of small and medium enterprises through its services and integrated insurance solutions.

With ONA inputs

OFFER VALID FROM 6/3/2023 TO 5/5/2023 ONLY FOR CUSTOMERS BUYING MG 2023 VEHICLES FROM MHD DEALERSHIP, FREE INSURANCE 1ST YEAR (OMAN & UAE), FREE 1ST YEAR REGISTRATION. SCRATCH & WIN SERVICE – CUSTOMERS ENTITLED TO WIN FROM 30,000 KM UP TO 200,000 KM SERVICE, SCRATCH & WIN GIFT CUSTOMER ENTITLED TO WIN HUAWEI MOBILE PHONE OR FUEL CARD WORTH RO. 100. WIN YOUR CAR BACK IS FOR 30 NOS OF MG5 STD 2023 MY. THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 30 DRAWS (1 VEHICLE EACH). IMAGES USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

MHD ACERE

10 YEAR UNLIMITED KILOMETRE WARRANTY
FIRST TIME IN OMAN

WINNER OMAN'S MOST TRUSTED BRAND 2022

71557334

Al Manuma | Al Azaiba | Bidayah | Al Buraimi | Ibra | Ibri | Nizwa
Jalan Bani Bu Ali | Salalah | Sinaw | Sohar | Sur | Wattayah | Barka

mg-om.com /mgmotoroman @mgmotoroman

OMAN

TPO celebrates five years of Training Excellence while looking to the future

Established in 2018 Takatuf has quickly established itself as one of Sultanate's leading vocational centres of excellence

Takatuf Petrofac Oman (TPO), who provide hands-on technical training and national and international qualifications for technicians working in the Energy and Manufacturing sectors, celebrated its fifth anniversary at its state-of-the-art technical training institute in Muscat.

Established in 2018 by Takatuf, Oman's leading People Consultancy firm; and joint venture partner Petrofac, a leading provider of services to the global energy industry, TPO has quickly established itself as one of Sultanate's leading vocational centres of excellence, playing a critical role in supporting the Oman Vision 2040, to provide individuals with 'high-level skills to enter Oman's labour market'. Held under the auspices of H.E. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy & Minerals, the commemoration of five years of operations recognised TPO's inspiring technical training achievements.

The event also provided an opportunity to hear how the centre of excellence for the energy industry is gearing up to expand its programmes to support growth across the Sultanate's renewable energies sector.

Exciting opportunities

Many of those responsible for the institute's success over the last five years joined the event at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat facility, with representatives from across government and industry. Guests met TPO's newest intake of students enrolled on its newly launched Two Year Vocational Diploma, under the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation scholarship. It provides exciting opportunities for Oman's future workforce for the Energy industry.

Sheikh Ibrahim Al Harthi, Managing Director of Takatuf and TPO Board Member said, "We are proud to celebrate the achievements of TPO in Oman's vocational education landscape for the past 5 years since inception. Takatuf's deep commitment to supporting the people of Oman, particularly its youth, has been the driving force behind TPO's success in providing top-notch technical training in the energy sector; aligning with Oman Vision 2040's commitment to developing a highly skilled and competitive workforce. We remain dedicated to empowering our students with the skills and knowledge they need to build successful careers in this vital industry, and we look forward to continuing our work in Oman for many years to come."

Dr. Khalid Al Jahwari, Petrofac's Country Manager for Oman and TPO Board Member said: "TPO is testament to Petrofac's commitment to continuously support the skills and competence development of local workforces, across the breadth of the energy sector. Recognising that more complex assets require new skillsets, Takatuf and Petrofac have a shared objective in building capabilities to support Oman's future vision, including the growth of new and renewable energies. This is in line with our intention to help accelerate the country's energy transition and its net zero emissions ambitions by 2050."

TPO's 550 graduates have obtained international qualifications from UK awarding organisations, including City & Guilds, OPITO & CompEX. In 2022, TPO also achieved new milestones for its short course up-skilling programmes, with the training of 1000 short course delegates, as well as its first batch of international students from Schlumberger (SLB) in Turkey. And, while Oman has been TPO's focus, the centre aspires to become a broader regional centre of excellence.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Regulations on social media promotions in Oman to be effective from 24 March

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Regulation of marketing and promotion on websites and social media will be implemented on Friday, March 24, 2023. An administrative fine of OMR1,000 will be imposed against any violators of the regulation.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion will begin implementing the regulation, as issued by Ministerial Resolution No. (619/2022) on December 25, 2022.

The regulation aims to oversee the marketing and promotion of all products, goods and services through social media. This is in order to protect the merchant and the consumer, provide the necessary protection for e-commerce transactions and preserve the rights of dealers.

Azza bint Ibrahim Al Kindi, Director of the Commercial Affairs and E-Commerce Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said: "The regulation aims to oversee the marketing or promotion of any good or service, with or without charge, displayed and published in writing, drawing, image, symbol, sound, or by any other means on any websites or social media that allows user interaction, through what is shared with them by means such as photos, blogs, videos, etc. to reach and interact with customers."

Al Kindi explained that the method for obtaining a licence for "marketing and promotion on websites and social media" is by entering the "Invest Easy" portal through self-service or service centers, and creating a new commercial register or choosing an active commercial register. This can be followed by choosing the commercial registry licensing service, then the activity, and after filling in data and attaching documents, the licence period can be chosen, which ranges from one to three years.

"The licence will be issued automatically without the need for other approvals, in order to facilitate the start of their business," Al Kindi added.

The Director of the Department of Commercial Affairs and E-Commerce confirmed that those addressed by the provisions of the regulation must reconcile their status within a period not exceeding six months from the date of its implementation.

Al Kindi indicated that those wishing to work in this field must obtain a licence to engage in marketing and promotional activity. Persons who practice non-profit work, such as charitable and voluntary work, and activities carried out by the merchant for commodities or services that he sells or provides himself, are excluded from obtaining the licence.

"It is required to obtain a licence to practice the activity through a company registered in the commercial register, and that a licence issued to engage in marketing and promotional activities has not been previously suspended or revoked, as well as to specify the website or social media to be used in carrying out the activity, " Al Kindi said.

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

TWO-DAY EVENT

Oman to host regional workshop on aquafarming

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, will host a two-day regional workshop titled 'The Basics and Criteria for Selecting Aquafarming Sites (Floating Cages) and Setting Guidelines', starting from Sunday.

Engineer Yaqoob bin Khalfan al Busaidy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Fisheries, will preside over the opening of the workshop.

The workshop will be conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). The workshop comes as an implementation of recommendations of 11th Session of the Regional Fisheries Commission which selected the Sultanate of Oman to host the workshop. – ONA

شركة ريسوت للأسمنت ش.م.ع.ع
Raysut Cement Company SAOG

To Whom It May Concern

Date: 19, 03, 2023

By this, Raysut Cement Company (SAOG) certifies that Jotirmoy Pratul Krishna Ghose, British National – Holding Passport No. (554385078), also known as Joey Ghose (seen in photo above) is no longer working in the Company since 9th August 2022, and the Company has filed a legal complaint against him. Accordingly, the aforementioned is no longer a representative of the Company and its Subsidiaries after this date and cannot participate in any dealings that he did or does directly by himself or indirectly through other entities that he had authorized in his earlier capacity to deal as Raysut Cement Company (SAOG) representatives. The Company is completely not responsible for any of his dealings and shall not be held responsible or accountable for his actions and actions of his associates and affiliates after 9th August 2022.

Tender

جامعة التقنية والعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Local Online Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tenders shown in the following table:

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Documents Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
14/2023	Establishment of a general warehouse at the University Branch in Salalah	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the First Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	09/04/2023 at 02:30 pm	27/04/2023 at 10:00 am
15/2023	Establishing a warehouse for specialized laboratories at the University Branch in Rustaq	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Second Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	09/04/2023 at 02:30 pm	27/04/2023 at 10:00 am
16/2023	Establishment of the Chemistry Research Laboratory in the Engineering Department of the University Branch (Salalah College of Technology)	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the First Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	09/04/2023 at 02:30 pm	27/04/2023 at 10:00 am
17/2023	The project of consultancy studies for the rehabilitation of buildings at the University branches of the colleges of technology in Muscat, Ibra, Nizwa and Shinas	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the First Grade	RO 101.800 (One hundred one Omani Riyals & eight hundred Baizas)	09/04/2023 at 02:30 pm	27/04/2023 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online as of Sunday 19/03/2023 at 07:30 am through the following link: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted being sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid.

Broad Horizons آفاق واسعة

utas_oman utas.edu.om

OMAN/WORLD

MASTERCOOL

for cooler experience

- A SMALL CHEST FREEZER WITH A LARGE CAPACITY
- POWERFUL AND FAST FREEZING KEEPS FOOD NUTRITION
- FOR ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT : 24818018 / 24818039, WHATSAPP ONLY : 99316742
- AVAILABLE AT MAJOR HYPERMARKETS & ELECTRONICS RETAILERS

MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS CO. LLC

@MustafaSultanElectronics @MustafaSultanElectronics @mustafa_sultanE @mustafa_sultanE

CR No. 1/28749/4

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Deepfakes include visual and audio contents

< FROM A1

The growing menace of fake videos, false information and spread of malicious content is a cause for worry and the Royal Oman Police (ROP) regularly sends out warning for people to be alert. A police official said: "The Royal Oman Police always calls upon everyone not to broadcast or circulate fake and false news, videos or pictures that disturb public peace and tranquility."

"The Royal Oman Police also draws everyone's attention to verify any information, whether local or international, in any of the social media, and calls for not circulating false news and verifying its authenticity before publishing it."

Mohammed Al Balushi, an IT expert based in Muscat, said: "In the recent times, the tools of the fabricated video industry have developed amazingly, to a degree that threatens individual privacy and sometimes threatens to ignite political crises between countries and at the level of individuals and groups. These fabricated videos spread on websites and social media are not only limited to political and social contents, but also include uncensored stuff to attract high views. We need to be careful and not believe whatever we hear or see."

Moath Al Saeedi, a social media activist said: "Deepfakes now include both visual and audio contents. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer limited to research or useful purposes but sadly, used to cheat and forge people. It is necessary for people to be cautious and double-check the authenticity of the clip or message."

Al Balushi added that there are ways to check the deepfakes and it is important that people learn to spot the difference between a real and a fake story on social media.

Penalty for spreading rumours

There is no specific text in the Omani law criminalising spreading rumours and lies. Rather, this act is considered as a breach of public order, as stated in the text of Article (19) of the Law on Combating Information Technology Crimes, which stipulates: Whoever uses the information network or information technology means in producing, publishing, distributing, purchasing or possessing, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than a month and not exceeding three years and a fine of not less than OMR1,000 and not more than OMR3,000, or one of these two penalties against anyone who uses the information network or information technology means to produce, publish, distribute, purchase or possess anything that may or involves prejudice to religious values or public order.

Public order means: a set of security rules and means that preserve security, tranquility and tranquility and regulate the social life of the citizen and resident on the land of the Sultanate of Oman, and spreading rumours and false news affecting the security and economic stability of the country; therefore, the above article is applied as a punishment that deters the convict from committing such a crime again.

Who has the right to initiate this lawsuit?

The crime referred to in Article (19) of the Law on Combating Information Technology Crimes is considered a public lawsuit, and it is an inherent jurisdiction of the Public Prosecution.

The law obligates anyone who witnesses or learns of the occurrence of a crime to notify the competent authorities. Whenever the crime reaches the knowledge of the judicial police officer, he becomes obligated to notify the Public Prosecution, which has a duty to investigate the crimes in question and decide whether to file them or refer them to court.

What is a deepfake?

Deepfakes take their name from the fact that they use deep learning technology to create fake videos. In simple words, the 21st century's answer to Photoshopping is deepfake. Deep learning technology is a kind of machine learning that applies neural net simulation to massive data sets. Artificial intelligence (AI) effectively learns what a particular face looks like at different angles in order to transpose the face onto a target as if it were a mask.

Huge advances came through the use of generative adversarial networks (GANS) to pit two AI algorithms against each other, one creating the fake and the other grading its efforts, teaching the synthesis engine to make better fakes.

Accessible software tools such as FakeApp (opens in new tab) and DeepFaceLab (opens in new tab) have since made deepfake technology available to all. The technology has now more often been used for sinister ends with a desert of information where disinformation can thrive.

The more insidious impact of deepfakes, along with other synthetic media and fake news, is to create a zero-trust society, where people cannot, or no longer bother to, distinguish truth from falsehood. And when trust is eroded, it is easier to raise doubts about specific events.

They also pose a personal security risk: deepfakes can mimic biometric data, and can potentially trick systems that rely on face, voice, vein or gait recognition. The potential for scams is clear.

Times OF OMAN

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

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

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

CYCLONE FREDDY

500,000 people affected in Malawi

GENEVA: Tropical Cyclone Freddy has affected over 500,000 people in Southeastern Africa's Malawi, the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said on Friday as the devastation continues to rise. In the statement, OCHA said the cyclone has affected over 500,000 people, including at least 326 killed and more than 180,000 displaced. As flood waters begin to subside, government-led relief efforts are expanding and focusing on reaching displaced people.

Chikwawa, a town in Malawi, is one of the districts with the highest number of displaced people, the World Food Programme and its partners have distributed super cereal, a blend of corn and soy, to all displacement sites and similar efforts are underway in other districts. However, some areas remain cut off due to the extremely challenging conditions on the ground. Aid workers are mobilising air transport and boats to transport supplies and for search and rescue efforts in locations that can't be accessed by road. The UN assured that their team is present in each affected province and is working closely with the authorities to provide aid to over 49,000 people displaced and to access areas isolated by floods. – ANI

شركة ريسوت للأسمنت ش.م.ع.م
Raysut Cement Company S.A.O.G

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of Raysut Cement Group of companies, I am privileged to welcome you to the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Company and to present the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 along with the Auditor's Report.

2022 was an exceptional year in the history of the company, witnessing the intervention of the Regulator, the Capital Market Authority (CMA), replacing the previous Board of Directors with CMA nominated Board on 11 December 2022.

The present Board of Directors, immediately after being appointed, convened its' first meeting and constituted the Audit Committee and an Executive Nomination and Remuneration Committee and held a series of meetings to assess the financial state of affairs of the company, its' internal control weaknesses, governance gaps and lapses and the business relationships, contracts and commitments. The Board also initiated appropriate steps and mitigation plans to address the issues identified so far.

The investigation proceedings initiated by the authorities and the internal investigation instructed by the new Board of Directors are in progress and the outcomes of such investigations are yet to be known. The auditors of the company have expressed a qualified opinion on the Group's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022, stating that the accounting impact of findings of such investigations could substantially differ from the financial impact provided in the accounts and may materially impact the results of operations for the year and the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2022.

The present Board was not at the helm of affairs of the Group during the year 2022 except for a few days, as the board was appointed by CMA on 11 December 2022 only. At the time of approving the financial statements, the board also took note of the fact that the investigations as stated above were not concluded and the actual financial impact to be reflected in the financial statements for the year 2022 had not been fully ascertained, though provision for impairment had been accounted for. Accordingly, the board was also not in a position to ascertain whether there were further misstatements that could be identified later on conclusion of the investigation, and which may have consequential material effect on the financial statements.

Companies under the Group and major markets:
The major markets for the Parent Company are Dhofar in Oman and Yemen and East African Markets. While Sohar Cement Factory sells cement in northern Oman, for one of the other subsidiaries Pioneer, the main markets are UAE and Oman. The company also has its presence in Yemen through its' Associate company Mukalla Raysut Trading and Industrial Company. Raysut Maldives Cement Pvt. Ltd., another subsidiary of the company caters to the market of Maldives and thus the Group has established its presence with the strategic intention to cover larger geographic area.

Capital Structure Change: During the year there were no capital restructuring; increase or reduction in capital or issuance of bonds.

Dividend Policy:
The Company has been following a dividend policy based on performance achieved, market as well as investors' expectations.

The dividends declared during last five years are tabled below:

Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Dividend on paid up capital	-	-	-	12.5%	29%

Employees:
The company recognizes the human resources and strategic competencies as the most valuable assets of the company and provides opportunities and enhance their competencies with various inhouse training programs.

Social Responsibility:
The Company also gives attention and priority to its social responsibility and environmental protection. It follows the principle of maintaining a pollution free environment as per international standards and continuously endeavoring to its improvement.

Internal Control:
The company has an inhouse internal audit function reporting directly to the Audit Committee and the internal control system is being regularly assessed by the Internal Audit Team as well as by the management. The newly appointed Audit Committee is working to strengthen the Internal Audit function with competent personnel and also to appoint a Chief Internal Auditor. This will ensure that the audit function is well equipped to execute a Risk Based Audit for 2023 in accordance with the Audit plan that the Audit Committee shall approve.

Corporate Governance
The present Board of Directors is not in a position to convey or provide assurance on the company's conformity with corporate governance principles, relating to the period of the previous Board which was dissolved by the CMA and appointing the present Board on 11 December 2022. The new Board is in the process of implementing new set of policies, procedures and internal regulations for ensuring compliance with corporate governance.

A detailed report on corporate governance together with auditor's report is also issued separately as per the requirements of the Code of Corporate governance issued by the Capital Market Authority.

Future Outlook
Regaining the confidence of the shareholders and various other stakeholders are of utmost importance at this stage and hence is the highest priority of the company. The company is in the process of implementing a comprehensive plan including (i) setting a strategic direction for the company, (ii) introducing appropriate organization structure considering its' operations in many countries through the subsidiaries (iii) appointing competent qualified professionals to key management positions, (iv) revisiting the business model and cost structure, (v) ensuring long term funds for sustainable operations of the company (vi) strengthening the internal control system with a set of internal regulations and policies, and above all an overarching corporate governance system founded on the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability.

Despite all the adverse effects of the provisions for impairment of assets accounted in the year 2022 and challenges on governance and weak internal control identified and which are being rectified, the company's competitive advantages remain intact which undoubtedly supports our confidence to bring the company back to the path of success.

Acknowledgement:
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said and the Government for the unstinted support and guidance.

I use this opportunity to thank our associates, dealers and customers for their continued support during this challenging time.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support and for the confidence placed in us. I thank the fellow Board members for their contributions and support in guiding and steering the company and the management team and all our employees for their commitment, loyalty and contributions.

Hamdan Ahmed Al Shaqsi
Chairman of the Board of Directors

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Parent		Consolidated	
	31-Dec-2022 RO	31-Dec-2021 RO	31-Dec-2022 RO	31-Dec-2021 RO
Revenue	45,363,346	51,647,070	69,044,589	93,597,972
Cost of sales	(42,051,301)	(40,992,340)	(68,539,854)	(88,259,019)
Gross profit	3,312,045	10,654,730	504,735	5,338,953
General and administrative expenses	(34,599,634)	(17,220,573)	(42,266,682)	(8,258,271)
Selling and distribution expenses	(8,526,075)	(5,039,762)	(10,596,602)	(9,189,043)
Other income	186,817	799,239	10,503,518	1,559,999
Operating loss	(39,626,847)	(10,806,366)	(41,855,031)	(10,548,362)
Finance cost - net	(2,385,593)	(3,202,314)	(4,024,388)	(4,146,362)
Investment income	44,405	75,478	44,405	75,478
Impairment of financial assets at fair value through OCI	(125,000)	-	(125,000)	-
Impairment loss on investment in subsidiary	(52,522,928)	-	-	-
Impairment loss on investment in Goodwill	-	-	(45,798,586)	-
Impairment loss on carrying value of assets	-	-	(6,724,342)	-
Fair value gain on financial assets at FVTPL	854,495	506,214	854,495	506,214
Loss before tax	(93,761,468)	(13,426,988)	(97,628,447)	(14,113,032)
Income tax credit / (expense)	-	502,000	(6,458)	527,239
Total loss for the year	(93,761,468)	(12,924,988)	(97,634,905)	(13,585,793)
Other comprehensive loss				
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss				
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	(31,643)
Total other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	(31,643)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(93,761,468)	(12,924,988)	(97,634,905)	(13,617,436)
Total (loss) / profit attributable to:				
Owners of the Parent Company	(93,761,468)	(12,924,988)	(97,641,964)	(13,610,630)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	7,059	24,837
	(93,761,468)	(12,924,988)	(97,634,905)	(13,585,793)
Total comprehensive (loss) / income attributable to:				
Owners of the Parent Company	(93,761,468)	(12,924,988)	(97,641,964)	(13,642,273)
Non-controlling interest	-	-	7,059	24,837
	(93,761,468)	(12,924,988)	(97,634,905)	(13,617,436)
Basic and diluted loss per share	(0.469)	(0.065)	(0.488)	(0.068)

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Parent		Consolidated	
	31-Dec-2022 RO	31-Dec-2021 RO	31-Dec-2022 RO	31-Dec-2021 RO
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Goodwill	-	-	3,335,872	49,134,458
Property, plant and equipment	63,270,788	58,777,655	107,338,962	115,745,510
Right-of-use assets	2,548,615	2,773,019	5,819,464	6,224,008
Investment in subsidiaries	30,025,940	82,558,077	-	-
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	125,000	-	125,000
Deferred tax asset	-	-	227,483	239,338
Total non-current assets	95,845,343	144,233,751	116,721,781	171,468,314
Current assets				
Inventories	9,651,672	16,452,421	14,484,478	30,017,486
Trade receivables	2,521,551	18,278,428	4,167,317	20,445,155
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3,417,111	2,562,616	3,417,111	2,562,616
Prepayments, advances and other receivables	1,385,922	8,469,951	1,738,369	4,836,544
Cash and bank balances	137,514	163,937	1,289,617	802,337
Total current assets	17,113,770	45,927,353	25,096,892	58,664,138
Total assets	112,959,113	190,161,104	141,818,673	230,132,452
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity				
Share capital	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Share premium	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873	13,456,873
Legal reserve	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667	6,666,667
Asset replacement reserve	3,647,566	3,647,566	3,647,566	3,647,566
Voluntary reserve	6,352,434	6,352,434	6,352,434	6,352,434
(Accumulated losses) / retained earnings	(43,987,082)	49,774,386	(33,859,237)	63,782,727
Equity attributable to owners of the Parent Company	6,136,458	99,897,926	16,264,303	113,906,267
Non-controlling interest	-	-	344,622	337,563
Total equity	6,136,458	99,897,926	16,608,925	114,243,830
LIABILITIES				
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	27,901,887	30,091,921	35,474,898	39,160,058
Lease liabilities	2,613,564	2,748,550	5,991,695	6,382,306
Other liabilities	12,996,768	7,044,220	12,996,768	7,044,220
Deferred tax liability	1,513,000	1,513,000	1,513,000	1,513,000
End of service benefits	532,595	523,104	1,112,867	1,064,517
Total non-current liabilities	45,557,814	41,920,795	57,089,228	55,164,101
Current liabilities				
Borrowings	6,773,452	3,158,476	11,135,479	4,668,422
Lease liabilities	134,106	134,106	447,266	255,826
Trade and other payables	35,804,753	25,412,688	32,327,951	30,591,816
Other liabilities	12,322,158	5,107,259	12,322,158	5,107,259
Short term borrowings	6,230,372	14,529,854	11,781,223	19,989,927
Income tax payable	-	-	106,443	111,271
Total current liabilities	61,264,841	48,342,383	68,120,520	60,724,521
Total liabilities	106,822,655	90,263,178	125,209,748	115,888,622
Total equity and liabilities	112,959,113	190,161,104	141,818,673	230,132,452
Net assets per share	0.031	0.499	0.081	0.570

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request. Requests to be sent to the following address : Raysut Cement Co.(SAOG), P.O.Box 1020 Salalah –211, Sultanate of Oman.

JUNE

US President to host Indian PM for state dinner this summer

WASHINGTON : US President Joe Biden plans to host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a state dinner this summer, people familiar with the matter said, reported Bloomberg.

The White House aims for the state dinner to take place in June but the timing could slip.

However, a spokesman for the National Security Council declined to comment, reported Bloomberg. Indian PM Modi's formal state visit is a sign of the deepening US-India relationship in various fields including defence, technology, space exploration, trade and investments.

Moreover, the Biden administration advances policies and initiatives for a free and open Indo-Pacific to counter what it sees as a growing threat posed by China and India plays a key role in it.

India is hosting the Group of 20 (G20) leaders summit in New Delhi in September, where Russia's invasion of Ukraine will be among the chief topics of discussion. It's unclear whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the gathering, reported Bloomberg.

Biden is also expected to see Modi in Australia in May when the countries convene for the Quad summit along with the leaders of Australia and Japan.

Biden's dinner party with Prime Minister Modi will be his third official state visit and dinner, following ones for French President Emmanuel Macron in December and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on April 26. Last month, the United States and India unveiled the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies, a proposal to exchange advanced defence and computer technology, including the joint production of General Electric Co aircraft engines.

It is to be noted that India has not been as outspoken against Putin's war in Ukraine as the US and its allies would like.

Meanwhile, US political leaders of both parties have sought to strengthen ties with Modi. -ANI

SOCIAL MEDIA

"I'm Back": Trump writes first Facebook post

WASHINGTON: Former United States President Donald Trump wrote his first Facebook post on Friday after being banned from social media platforms for two years.

"I'M BACK," Trump posted along with a 12-second video which seems to be his victory speech after winning the 2016 election and also tried to put out his campaign for the 2024 election in that video.

After the 2016 video, Trump put his famous slogan "Make America Great Again" or MAGA, which came to be popular during his last successful presidential campaign.

Earlier, in February, Meta restored Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts. Andy Stone, policy communications director at Meta, has confirmed the development.

The reinstatement had been expected after Facebook's president of global affairs Nick Clegg that the suspension will be lifted, as per the news report. Trump's accounts on Facebook and Instagram were suspended by Meta after January 6, 2021, Capitol riot.

The ban was announced initially as an indefinite ban that included the last two weeks of his presidency, as per the NBC News report. The ban on Trump's account was formally extended for two years. At the time of writing this news article, Trump has not shared any new posts on his Facebook or Instagram accounts. -ANI

AVIATION INDUSTRY

Call for clean fuel alternatives to make air travel more sustainable

Times News Service

RAS AL KHAIMAH: Regional and international stakeholders in the Arab aviation industry set the momentum for the sustainable growth of aviation at the 10th edition of the Arab Aviation Summit (AAS) at Al Hamra International Exhibition & Conference Centre in Ras Al Khaimah.

At the region's leading aviation and tourism event, industry leaders also called for renewed commitments to reduce emissions and implement decarbonisation strategies for the sustainable growth of the sector.

Three strategic multi-stakeholder agreements were signed during the event, reinforcing the summit's growing importance as a platform for facilitating public-private cooperation and opening doors for regional and global partnerships. An agreement between Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority and the FTI Group in Germany now paves the way for greater air connectivity between the two destinations.

A state-of-the-art vertiport will be established for the first time in Ras Al Khaimah in an agreement signed between VPorts and Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) Airport. VPorts is further securing the future of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) by building and operating the AAM World Integrator World Centre in Dubai in partnership with Electra.aero, Falcon Aviation and SkyDrive.

Held under the theme, 'Impactful sustainability in modern-day travel and tourism', the three-day summit brought together some of the best minds in aviation who explored the role of sustainable aviation as a catalyst for driving growth and prioritising climate action in the Middle East market, one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world. With the regional fleet set for a significant expansion over the next decade, experts and thought leaders shared insights on challenges and opportunities and called on greater public-private sector cooperation to transition the sector to a greener future. Efficiency and practical approach towards sustainability in aviation were a key pillar in all discussions and the inclusion of the entire aviation echo-system in the air and on the ground. Net zero goals in the industry were at the forefront of panel discussions on the main day of the summit as industry stalwarts highlighted the role of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and the value of collaboration in strengthening the growth of the sector.

Discussions on the opening day of the summit centred on the need for providing quality training as the region experiences a surge in demand for aviation professionals and to ensure that the next generation of aviation workforce is work-ready.

DHOFAR TOURISM COMPANY SAOG

P.O. Box: 2808, P.C. 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman. Tel. 23275500

Notice and Invitation to Attend the Annual General Meeting

The Board of Directors of DHOFAR TOURISM(the "Company") has the pleasure to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual General Meeting , which will be held on Friday at 05:00 PM on 31/03/2023, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) . If the quorum requirement for holding the Annual General Meeting is not fulfilled, a second Annual General Meeting General Meeting shall be held on Monday at 05:00 PM on 03/04/2023, via the electronic platform which can be accessed through the website of Muscat Clearing & Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om) to discuss the following agenda:

Annual Ordinary General Meeting Agendas :

1. To consider and approve the Board of Director's Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2022
2. To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
3. To consider the Auditor's Report and to approve the Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account) of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.
4. oppointment of external auditors for the Company for the financail year ending 31/12/2023 and Approval of their propsed fees

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the controls for holding General Meetings using modern technology issued by the capital market authority , we would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. Legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on its behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in MCDC.
2. Voting on any of the agenda items begins no more than three days before the date of the General Meeting until the voting process ends on the day of the General Meeting. If the shareholder's shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be canceled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the General Meeting.

For further information please contact on telephone No 99277488 or email: Hassan.baomar@dhofartourism.net

Chairman	Legal Advisor	External Auditor
Ahmed bin Yousuf bin Alawi Al Ibrahim	Mohammed Al-Barami Advocacy & Legal	Abu Tamam Grani

SPORTS

IT'S NOT SMART ENOUGH TO HELP YOU DRIVE
A TIMES OF OMAN HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE

NZ VS SRI LANKA: SECOND TEST

Williamson, Nicholls hit double centuries

WELLINGTON: On a day when New Zealand batters made merry at the expense of Sri Lankan bowlers, Kane Williamson became the first ever Black Caps player to a special Test landmark on Saturday.

During his remarkable innings of 215 on Day 2 of the second Test at Wellington, Williamson became the first-ever New Zealand player to notch up 8,000 Test runs. In 94 Test matches, Williamson has scored 8,124 runs at an average of 54.89 and a strike rate of 51.46. He has a total of 28 centuries and 33 half-centuries in the longer format.

The double ton by the former New Zealand captain was also the sixth of his Test career. Among the players currently active, only Virat Kohli (7) has more double centuries than the Kiwi talisman.

After the first day was marred by rain, New Zealand displayed tremendous attacking intent from the get-go. Boundaries were flowing from the bat of Williamson and Henry Nicholls, who also hit a double century.

Sri Lanka's agony finally ended thanks to Prabath Jayasuriya as he scalped Williamson for 215, bringing an end to the marathon 363-run partnership.

Nicholls continued to take the attack to Sri Lanka thereafter and brought up his maiden Test double century in just 240 balls. This was the 18th instance in Test cricket and the first time for New Zealand where two batters scored a double century in the same innings.

The hosts declared at 580/4 as soon as Nicholls got to his milestone and then made early inroads with the ball, leaving Sri Lanka reeling at 26/2 at stumps.

Brief scores: New Zealand 580/4 declared (Williamson 215, Nicholls 200; Kasun Rajitha 2/126) vs Sri Lanka 26/2 (Dimuth Karunaratne 16 n.o.; Matt Henry 1/15). - ANI

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

ASIAN ECONOMIES

The emerging-market economies in Asia are likely to be less affected by the global slowdown, helped by the rebound in China and more moderate inflation pressures, according to OECD Economic Outlook report. India's growth is projected to moderate to around 6 per cent in Financial Year 2023-24. -ANI

STOCK MARKET INVESTORS

The number of stock market investors in China rose by more than 1.67 million in February, industrial data showed. The figure soared 98.48 per cent from the previous month, according to the China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited. -Xinhua

MSX records weekly trading of OMR40mn

Abraaj Energy pushed the market value of the Muscat Stock Exchange to rise at the end of Thursday's trading to OMR23.93 billion

MUSCAT: Abraaj Energy Services Company led the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) last week to record the best weekly trading value during the current year at OMR40 million, compared to OMR18.5 million, and OMR14.9 million in the previous two weeks.

Last week's trading represented 88.1 per cent of the total trading value witnessed by the Muscat Stock Exchange in February, which amounted to about OMR45.4 million.

The company was listed for trading last Tuesday after the end of the subscription in about 377.4 million shares that it offered for public subscription between February 20 and March 2, and the trading value of the share amounted to OMR25.80 million, and the share witnessed the execution of 15,977 transactions, thus accounting for 64.6 percent of the total value of trading, and 92.10 percent of the total number of transactions executed during the week, amounting to 17,337 transactions. The number of transactions executed on the shares of Abraaj Energy Services Company is equivalent to the total number of transactions executed on the MSX during the past January and February.

During the past three trading days, the stock witnessed selling pressure on the part of investors from the second category, who were looking to obtain a good return from the subscription that was offered to them for 224 baisas per share.

Thursday's session closed at 298 baisas, up 49 baisas from the listing price of 249 baisas, and achieving gains of 74 baisas over the offering price for subscribers of the second category, and the stock was able to rise in Thursday's trading to 302 baisas.

Abraaj Energy Services pushed the market value of the securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange to rise at the end of Thursday's trading to OMR23.93 billion, recording weekly gains at OMR166.50.

Last week, MSX witnessed a number of positive news. The Oman Cement Company announced that the Omani Investment Authority has begun the procedures for exiting the company in which the majority is owned by a strategic foreign investor, Huaxin Cement Company Limited, which is one of the 10 largest cement manufacturers in the world, and is listed on the Shanghai and Hong Kong stock exchanges. The Omani Investment Authority in Oman Cement Company holds 59.5 percent of the company's total capital, which amounts to OMR33.10 million.

This disclosure prompted the share of Oman Cement Company to rise last week to 332 baisas, achieving weekly gains of 33 baisas, after witnessing the execution of 69 transactions with a trading value of OMR551,000.

Last week, the Muscat Stock Exchange recorded a positive performance for the main index of the Stock Exchange, which rose by 38 points and closed at 4,887 points. The financial sector index recorded gains of more than 53 points, while the industry sector index declined by 40 points, the service sector index lost 28 points, and the Sharia index recorded a decline of . 5 points.

During the past week, the prices of 18 companies increased, most notably Abraaj Energy Services, Omani Qatari Insurance, Oman Cement, Al Batinah Energy, and Oman Beverages. Last week, the stock exchange witnessed a decline in the prices of 33 securities, led by Dhofar Electricity Generation, Oman Flour Mills, Raysut Cement, Oman Fisheries, and Eastern Investments. - ONA

BANKING

UBS in talks to acquire embattled Credit Suisse

ZURICH: Banking giant UBS (UBSG.S) is in discussions to take over all or parts of Credit Suisse (CSGN.S), with the boards of Switzerland's two biggest lenders set to meet separately over the weekend, the *Financial Times* reported on Friday.

According to Reuters, the Swiss National Bank and regulator FINMA are organising the talks in an attempt to build confidence in the country's banking sector, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter. -BNA

جهاز الضرائب
TAX AUTHORITY

Announcement

The Tax Authority would like to draw the attention of taxpayers who are subject to Excise Tax to submit their returns for the first quarter of 2023, according to the forms prepared for this purpose through Tax Authority's Portal: www.taxoman.gov.om not later than April 30, 2023

We hope everyone will abide and commit to the deadline of submitting.

Arabian Car Marketing Co.LLC
C.R.No 1152015
Retail Enquiries: 24575900, 92880658, 99466316
Exclusive Showroom at Wattayah
www.lincolnoman.com
Follow us on

Offer valid from 12th March - 10th May '23 on all models sold for personal use. This offer is not valid with any other promotions, on taxis, driving school, Rent-a-car usage, companies and any form of commercial usage and government purchases. #Service: As indicated in the maintenance schedule. 5 years /100,000 KMS service package (includes 2 years /40,000 kms additional service + 3 years / 60,000 kms complimentary service) whichever is earlier covering 10 services @ 10,000 kms service interval on all models . ##Registration: First year registration on all models.

LINCOLN

MARKET

DEVELOPING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

OCCI, ICAI join hands to launch CFO leadership programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Muscat Chapter (Under the sponsorship of the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS), in collaboration with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) launched a unique programme to empower potential Omanis in public and private sector organisations.

The OCCI-ICAI initiative is expected to promote the overall business and investment environment and the quality of the accounting profession among Omanis.

The key objective of the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) leadership programme is to train and develop strategic leadership capabilities among potential Omanis, and attract citizens to leadership positions in the accounting profession in large numbers.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of OCCI; Dr Abdullah Masoud Al Harthy, OCCI Board Member; CA Aniket Sunil Talati, President of ICAI, CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal; CA Sajeev Surendran, ICAI Muscat Chapter Chairperson; and Jim Joseph Itty, Vice Chairperson, exchanged documents in the presence of various dignitaries from the public and private sectors at the Sheraton Oman Hotel.

During the event, a beneficial programme for ICAI members was also launched.

"We, at ICAI, are fully committed to delivering excellence to potential Omanis," Sajeev Surendran said.

OCCI, INMECC

Pact inked to boost commercial, trade activities in Oman and India

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industries (OCCI) and the Indo Gulf & Middle East Chamber of Commerce (INMECC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to boost economical, commercial and trade activities in Oman and India.

Sheikh Faisal Al Rawas, Chairman of OCCI and Dr N. M. Sharafudeen, Chairman of INMECC signed the MOU at the OCCI headquarters in Ruwi.

Davis Kallukaran, founder Director of INMECC in his welcome address said that India is among Oman's top trading partners. India is the 2nd largest market for Oman's crude oil exports for the year 2022 after China. India is also the 4th largest market for Oman's non-oil exports for the year 2022 after UAE, the US and Saudi Arabia and 2nd largest source of its import after UAE.

He added that INMECC and OCCI can work together for the progress of the priority sectors identified by Oman Vision 2040 in the areas of agriculture & fisheries, mining, tourism, manufacturing and logistics, especially in tourism since the share of tourism to Oman's economy is only 2.4 per cent of the GDP compared to the global average of 10 per cent.

A delegation of senior officials and business representatives from diverse areas spanning health, pharmaceuticals, mining, tourism, telecommunication, energy, shipping, and real estate from Oman led by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion Minister and Redha Juma Saleh, OCCI Chairman had held a meeting with the delegates of Indo Gulf & Middle East Chamber of Commerce (INMECC), at Mumbai in May 2022, which has culminated in the signing of the MoU.

Sheikh Faisal said that both chambers can play a very vital role and facilitate the successful implementation of the objectives of the agreement among various sectors of our economies where the people of both countries will be the ultimate beneficiaries.

The economic and commercial relations between India and Oman are robust and resilient. Bilateral trade during FY 2021-2022 reached $9.988 billion. Investment flows, both ways, have been robust, as reflected in numerous joint ventures, established both in India and Oman.

He appreciated the Government of India for inviting Oman to the G20 summit and said, "The Government of Oman take this as a great honour to the people of Oman. The Sultanate's unique character can be attributed to its stable economy, its people, location and infrastructure which boast some great reasons why you should invest and relocate to Oman. More people are choosing Oman; it is a country that will open your eyes to new experiences and exciting business possibilities. With opportunities across several sectors it could be the ideal home for your business to grow and develop."

CMA INITIATIVE

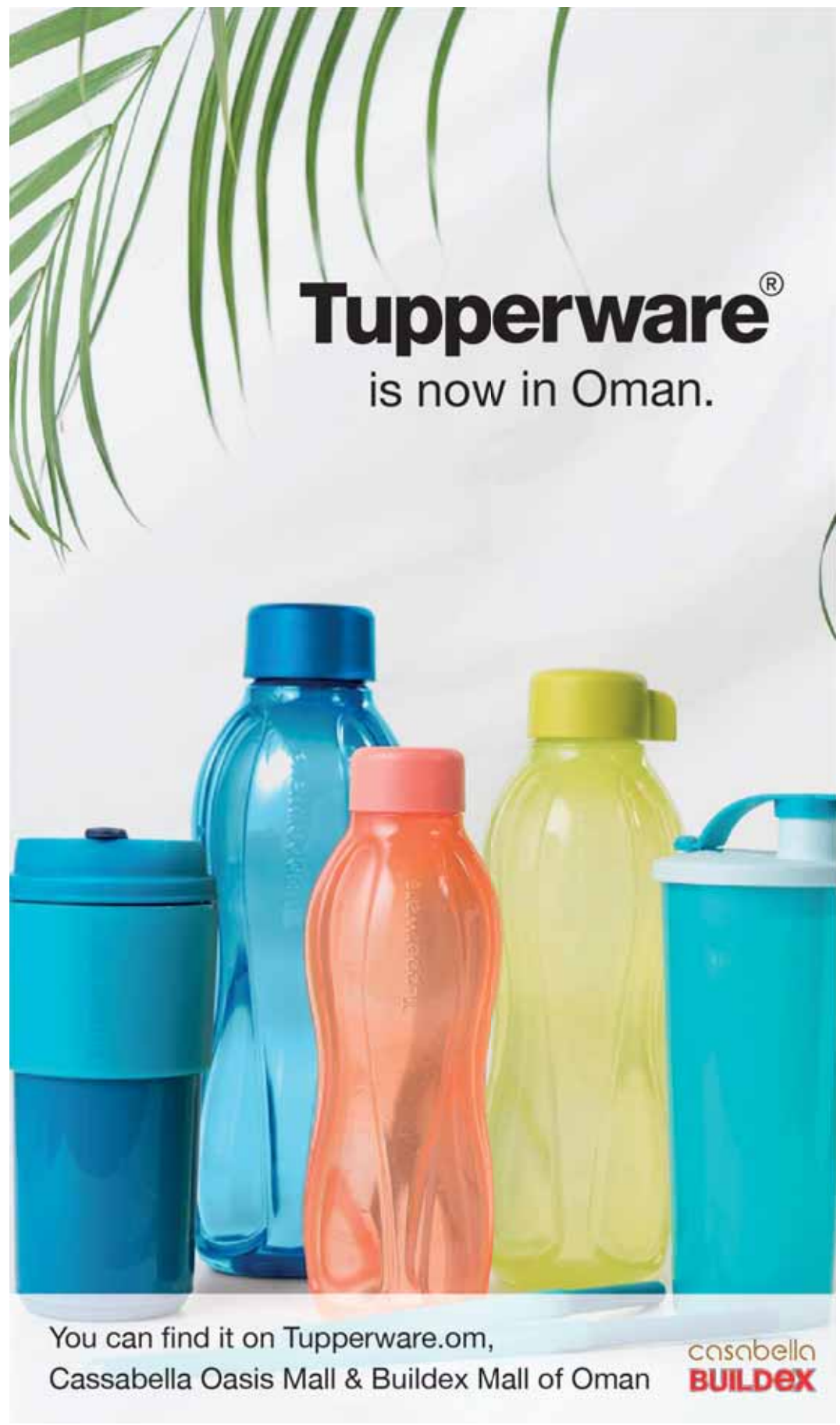
Training on property insurance organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) began Tamkeen 2023 with the property insurance training programme to empower participants and familiarise them with the technical aspects of different property insurance branches along with the practical issues faced and their solutions.

The programme targets employees of underwriting and claims departments in the property insurance branches.

Ula Al Suwaid, Director of Insurance Institutions Regulation, said that property insurance has become one of the main types of insurance in the Omani market because of the successive climate conditions that the Sultanate of Oman has faced during the past two decades. This has enhanced the community's awareness of the importance of taking the necessary precautions against climatic hazards.



Oman set up title clash with Qatar

Semi-final wins at Asian beach handball secure both teams a spot in the 2024 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships

MUSCAT: Oman will hope to change the 'final' script at the Asian Beach Handball Championships on Sunday when they take on favourites and five-time champions Qatar in the summit clash of the 9th Asian Beach Handball Championships in Bali, Indonesia.

Both the finalists also secured their place in the 11th IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships in June/July 2024 after advancing to the Asian finals.

In the past eight Asian editions, Oman have played against Qatar for the title on five occasions but have failed to get past the Team in Maroon on each occasion.

The last time Oman played against Qatar was in the 2019 final in Weihai, China, when Qatar won their fifth straight Asian title after a 2-0 victory. Oman have the honour of being crowned the champions at the inaugural championship in 2004 when they defeated Bahrain in the final played in Muscat.

Coached by experienced Hamood al Hasani, Oman reached the final in Bali on Friday when they stunned defending champions Iran 2-0 (23-11, 22-20) in the semi-finals.

In the other semi-final game, last edition's runners-up Qatar beat Vietnam 19-18, 19-18. Both Oman and Qatar will be playing in their seventh Asian finals.

Oman had emerged Group B topper, remaining unbeaten as they collected 10 points. Oman began with a 2-0 win over Hong Kong and then went on to beat Vietnam 2-0, Indonesia 2-0, Kuwait 2-0, and China 2-0 in group stage.

Qatar also maintained an unbeaten run in Group A.

Oman will participate in the beach handball worlds for the seventh time next year after making their debut in 2004.

The winning team on Sunday will also qualify for the beach handball competition at the 2nd ANOC World Beach Games, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, from August 5 to 12, 2023.

The 9th Asian Men's & Women's Beach Handball Championship began on March 10 with the following participating nations in the men's event: Indonesia, Iran, Qatar, Vietnam, Oman, Philippines, Kuwait, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and China.

ACC U16 WEST ZONE CUP

Oman U16 cricket coach confident of a good show

MUSCAT: Oman U16 cricket team head coach Syed Aamir Kaleem has expressed confidence in his boys as they look forward to a top-place finish at the ACC Men's U16 West Zone Cup 2023 in Dubai, UAE, from March 24-30.

Organised by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), and hosted by the Bahrain Cricket Federation, the tournament features all the six GCC countries. The event is being organised after a gap of three years.

Besides Oman, the other teams participating in the tournament are UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

The round-robin 35-over-a-side matches will be played under floodlights at the Vision Cricket Centre Grounds in Dubai.

Oman, captained by Jeet Shah, will take on UAE in the opener on March 24. They play Bahrain on the next day and then meet Saudi Arabia on March 27. Oman face Kuwait on March 28 before concluding their campaign with a match against Qatar on March 30. Wicketkeeper Rahil Habibulla has been named the team vice-captain.

Speaking after a training session at the Oman Cricket Academy grounds in Al Amerat on Friday, Aamir Kaleem said: "We have been preparing hard for this tournament for the past one month. We have a great bunch of young and talented cricketers, who have performed exceptionally well during the recently-concluded junior domestic season.

"They have made it to the national team based on their merit and have displayed lot of talent in the local competitions. They have the potential to make it big and I am confident that the team will do very well in the upcoming championship."

A former Oman international cricketer, who has served the country with distinction for a long time, Aamir Kaleem, added: "We have played series of practice games and did match-simulation trainings in the leadup to the tournament along with regular skill sessions. We hope to reap favourable results as the boys have been putting in lot of efforts. The tournament is a perfect stage for them to perform and will give them the required exposure and experience to prepare them for the bigger stage.

"I am excited to coach this young talented bunch of players and I thank Oman Cricket and its board members for the trust they have shown in me and the boys. We are looking forward to a top-place finish in the UAE."

Oman squad: Jeet Shah (captain), Rahil Habibulla (vice-captain), Prathiesh Ramesh, Devansh Loya, Wajih Abbas, Omindu Medagoda, Giriharan Kuttiraja, Aneek Chakraborty, Aryan Joshi, Kriv Patel, Saumya Sampat, Rishab Gupta, Jayapranesh, Kavish Shah. Head coach: Syed Aamir Kaleem, manager: Sher Mohammed.

Oman's fixtures: 24 March: vs UAE, 25 March: vs Bahrain, 27 March: vs Saudi Arabia, 28 March: vs Kuwait, 30 March: vs Qatar.

FIA WEC SEASON OPENER

Al Harthy takes third spot in qualifying session

MUSCAT: Oman's Ahmad Al Harthy produced an excellent pace during his maiden FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) qualifying session at Sebring International Raceway in Florida, USA, on Thursday, to secure a highly competitive third on the GTE Am grid for the first race of 2023 season.

Having progressed well with team-mates, Michael Dinan and Charlie Eastwood, throughout the various testing and free practice sessions during the week, Al Harthy's first ever visit to the American track, appears to have begun well.

The Oman Racing with TF Sport trio headed into qualifying in a confident mood.

Al Harthy took to the wheel of the No.25 Aston Martin GTE for Thursday evening's session and the FIA WEC debutant delivered a fantastic performance. Ending the run with a best time of 1m59.657 seconds (181.1 km/hr), he secured the third fastest time and only just missed out on the GTE AM front row by 0.3 seconds.

As well as emerging as the fastest of the Aston Martin entries, the Omani – supported by Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS – was notably happy with the overall handling and performance of his car.

Al Harthy said: "I'm really happy with our performance from qualifying. It was a great start to my first ever WEC qualifying and at a new circuit as well. I think we got the maximum we could from our strategy and our performance. In terms of the race, it's going to be a very long eight hours race and a lot can happen.

"We want to have a good race where we can run our own pace and strategy and see where we end up. I'm really happy with how things have gone so far and I'm looking forward to the race."

MYMO express
All n One App
كل ما تحتاج في تطبيق واحد

DH

مسقط للخدمات المالية ش م م
Muscat Financial Services LLC

WARNING OF PATENT INFRINGEMENT

The American Company Delaware Horizon INC and its commercial agent in the Sultanate of Oman Muscat Financial Services & Investment LLC, drew the attention of all commercial financial and banking and other institutions to not commit any infringing or continuing to infringe on its patent or any of its elements, registered in most countries, including the United States of America and the Sultanate of Oman, which patent rights are owned by the Delaware Horizon and are related to payment and financial transfer through a cell phone, in order to avoid legal pursuit and legal consequences as per the applicable laws.

For contact and inquiries

info@mfsioman.com
info@delaware-horizon.com

(12) United States Patent
Al-Sahli

(10) Patent No.: US 10,032,156 B2
(45) Date of Patent: Jul. 24, 2018

(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONDUCTING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS USING A MOBILE DEVICE

(71) Applicant: Mahmoud Anass Mahmoud Al-Sahli, Mississauga (CA)

(72) Inventor: Mahmoud Anass Mahmoud Al-Sahli, Mississauga (CA)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 13/875,028

(22) Filed: May 1, 2013

(65) Prior Publication Data
US 2013/0246265 A1 Sep 19, 2013

Related U.S. Application Data
(63) Continuation of application No. 12/918,462, filed as application No. PCT/CA2008/000333 on May 14, 2008.

(30) Foreign Application Priority Data
Mar. 9, 2008 (XO) P110/2008

(51) Int. Cl.
G06Q 40/00 (2012.01)
G06Q 20/32 (2012.01)
(Continued)

(52) U.S. Cl.
CPC G06Q 20/3229 (2013.01); G06Q 20/1085 (2013.01); G06Q 20/38 (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) Field of Classification Search
CPC G06Q 40/00; G06Q 20/32; G06Q 20/341; G06Q 20/04; G06Q 20/108; G06Q 40/02; G06Q 40/04; G06Q 40/06
(Continued)

(56) References Cited
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS
(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS
(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Hai Tran
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Hayes Soloway PC

(57) ABSTRACT

8 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

US 10,032,156 B2
Page 2

(51) Int. Cl.
G06Q 20/38 (2012.01)
G06Q 20/40 (2012.01)
G06Q 20/18 (2012.01)

(52) U.S. Cl.
CPC G06Q 20/32 (2013.01); G06Q 20/40 (2013.01); G06Q 20/4014 (2013.01)

(58) Field of Classification Search
USPC 705/35-45
See application file for complete search history.

(56) References Cited
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

* cited by examiner

ROUND-UP

Celebrate Ramadan with Changan's exclusive offers on all 2023 models

This special Ramadan promotion is exclusively designed for individual showroom customers not applicable for fleet / corporate buyers

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE), part of Bahwan International Group, has unveiled an enticing deal as part of its exclusive Ramadan promotion on Changan models to celebrate the holy month.

The 'Ramadan is about peace of mind' offer is available on models including CS95 (2.0l Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 6-speed AT), CS85 COUPE(2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 8 speed AT); CS75 PLUS (2.0L Turbo Engine 224 hp, 8 speed AT), EADO Plus (1.6 L Turbo,126 hp, also available at 1.4 Turbo,155hp), HUNTER 1.9L Turbo Diesel Engine, 150 hp, 4WD. 6-speed MT and 4WD, 6-speed AT, CS35 Plus (1.4 Turbo, 156 hp, 7-speed DCT and ALSVIN 1.5L Engine, 105 hp, 5-speed DCT.

The Changan Ramadan offer is all about peace of mind.

Free service for two years/35,000 km to four years/75,000 km), free insurance, free registration and manufacturer's warranty (from five years / 150,000 km to six years/2,50,000 km. The manufacturer's warranty of five years / 150,000 km is applicable on Hunter Pickup. Six years / 250,000 Kms is applicable on Alsvin, EADO Plus, CS35 Plus, CS75 Plus, CS85 Coupe and CS95 only. This special Ramadan promotion is exclusively designed for individual showroom customers not applicable for fleet /corporate buyers.

A senior official for AGAE said, "We want to emphasise that Ramadan is the ideal time to purchase Changan vehicles, and retail customers can gain significant advantages from the Ramadan promotion. We extend our gratitude to our valued customers for their faith in our brand, and we are pleased to provide the best possible service to them through this exclusive promotion."

All customers purchasing Changan models during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration for private registration only.

All customers purchasing Changan models during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle Insurance. (Oman and UAE) for private registration only.

All Changan vehicle purchase customers will get a free service package as mentioned below, in which no wear & tear parts are covered. The service proposed is periodic maintenance service as per the manufacturers' recommendation of 10,000km service intervals. Customers can avail of during the period including free service (two years/35,000 km to four years/75,000 km).

Chnagan Alsvin: Free Service 2 Years or 35,000kms; Changan EADO PLUS & CS35 Plus will get 3 years or 55,000 km and Hunter PICUP, CS75PLUS, CS85 Coupe and CS95 will get 4 years or 75,000 km whichever is earlier

Customers of Changan models can avail of a special manufacturer's warranty.

The manufacturer's warranty of five years / 150,000km is applicable on Hunter Pickup. Six years / 250,000km is applicable on Alsvin, EADO Plus, CS35 Plus, CS75 Plus, CS85 Coupe and CS95 only. This special Ramadan promotion is exclusively designed for individual showroom customers not applicable for fleet /corporate buyers.

CS75 Plus: Premium performer

With its premium design, comfortable automotive interior, and highly intelligent configuration, the compact crossover Changan CS75 Plus which comes in luxury and sport variants offers a host of special features. The Changan CS75 Plus 2WD features a more sloped roofline and more power. Under the hood, it has a 2.0-litre turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, mated to a seven-speed automatic transmission with a power of 224 hp and torque of 360 Nm. With a wheelbase of 2710 mm, it measures 4700 mm in length, 1865 mm in width and 1710 mm in height.

CS95: A seven-seat 4WD SUV

Changan's high-performance full-size SUV CS95 is a seven-seater SUV 4WD which amplifies the driving experience with sophisticated luxury and superior comfort and has been designed to stir the driving emotions. With a commanding presence and muscular stance, Changan CS95 is designed to demand attention wherever it goes. With meticulously crafted details complemented by convenient technology, the CS95 ensures refined luxury in every drive for up to seven passengers. With a range of innovative driving technologies, the CS95 delivers an assured sense of confidence and control to the driver. Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides owners with a highly efficient and energy-saving performance. Under the hood is a Blue Core 2.0L turbocharged engine mated with a six-speed AT which produces 224 horsepower and 360 Nm of torque. CS95 is packed with endless features and has numerous advantages over its segment competition.

CS85: The luxurious coupe

Changan CS85, the luxurious crossover coupe combines the dynamic handling of an SUV with the sporty aesthetics of a coupe to give owners the best of both worlds. Packed with a 2.0L turbocharged engine which produces 224 horsepower and 360 Nm of torque, an 8-speed AT Changan CS85 Coupe redefines the definition of smoothness. Positioned as a premium coupe SUV, the model stands out from its counterparts by its sleek appearance, focus on high quality and application of the latest technology in the vehicle's many features. Changan CS85 Coupe is a sporty coupe-designed SUV which reflects one's personality. Style and fashion will be the new constant in your life once you own this sporty coupe. Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides highly efficient and energy-saving performance.

EADO Plus: Compact yet aggressive

Changan EADO Plus is a compact yet aggressive family sedan with premium styling, a luxurious interior, and plenty of safety features. With intelligent safety features to assist, EADO Plus lets drivers be at peace when on the road. Taking from the inherent design language, EADO Plus ups the ante with a crisply styled exterior that emphasizes a strong sense of sportiness. With an engine of 1.6-litre Turbo, the Changan EADO Plus sport edition offers the power of 126 hp, Nm torque and transmission of 7 speed DCT. The model offers a dimension of 4730x1820x1505 mm (LxWxH), a wheelbase of 2700 mm, a fuel tank of 53 litres and an excellent fuel economy of 18.3 km per litre as per GSO. EADO PLUS is also available in a 1.4 Turbo engine coupled with 155 hp.

Hunter Pickup: Power to perform

Equipped with safety features and modern driving systems, The 'power to perform' Changan Hunter with a 1.9-litre turbo diesel engine producing 150 hp with a 6-speed manual transmission and is available in 4 WD. One of the greatest facets of the Changan Hunter is its pick-up capabilities and usage. Being a heavy-duty pickup for loading, it is sturdy, spacious and of high quality, and is suitable for various load and road conditions. Boasting class-leading power and excellent ground clearance, it delivers an unmatched level of supremacy and capability, especially for the farm and construction sector. Offering excellent seating comfort, SUV-like interiors and manifold features, Changan Hunter ensures a pleasurable and comfortable drive for the passengers. Changan Hunter's also double cabin pick-up comes with a 2.4 turbo gasoline engine producing 210 hp with a 6-speed Manual (2WD and 4WD) and Automatic transmission available in 4WD.

CS35 Plus: New-gen crossover

Changan's CS35 Plus, a sporty new-gen crossover equipped with state-of-the-art technologies is popular for its unparalleled driving experience. Energetic like the youth, it is packed with a 1.4-litre Turbo charged engine which produces 156 hp and 260 nm of torque and is fitted with a seven-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) to always keep you ahead of the segment competition. CS35 Plus possesses a fashionable appearance, strong power and good entertaining features. Developed by the global research and development team of Changan Automobile, it integrates all comprehensive functions: high-quality performance, comfortable driving experience, large internal space and abundant configurations of entertainment. Vibrant in style and sporty in design, the All-new CS35 Plus gives a robust presence on the outside while the beautifully crafted interiors give a first-class feel inside. Its vibrant and energy-filled design appeals to the youth and is tech-savvy. It is a youthful SUV for the younger generation who is spirited, passionate, social and want to become the influencers of their time.

Alsvin: Impeccable energy-efficient family sedan

Bearing a streamlined body design, exquisite interior design, and impeccable energy-efficient engine, the Changan Alsvin allows owners to exceed their everyday expectations. The 1.5L 5-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission car truly brings unparalleled value to customers and offers an excellent fuel economy of 18.3 km per litre. Changan Alsvin's inline-4 motor engine puts out 105hp and 145Nm of torque.

Changan Alsvin brings features and technology to the customers in the segment that they could previously only have dreamt of. The additional features offered in the 1.5L DCT are comparable to the highest price of comparable alternate cars in this segment such as moon roof, cruise control, TPMS, start-stop technology and heated side mirrors. Measuring 4390mm x 1725mm x 1490mm, Changan Alsvin's boot capacity is an adequate 390 litres. Styling is contemporary for this entry-level four-door segment with sleek and swoopy lines. Alsvin's front end is dominated by a large grille that extends below the bumper line and its interior is modern with a dashboard that features a floating infotainment touchscreen that is much in demand now.

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR TINY TOTS

ISWKi celebrates Kindergarten Graduation Day

MUSCAT: The Indian School Wadi Kabir Cambridge International (ISWKi) celebrated its Kindergarten Graduation Day on March 14, 2023.

It was a befitting ceremony to celebrate new beginnings for the tiny tots and to bid goodbye to everything that gave them a reason to smile during their time in Kindergarten. The evening began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by an inspiring speech by the distinguished Chief Guest, Shilpa Pawani.

The smart tiny tots were dressed in graduation robes and caps.

The Principal - DN Rao, Special Guest - Rajendra Ved, Pawani and other members of the school management committee felicitated the little graduates with certificates of graduation.

The little graduates were gifted individual photographs dressed in their graduation gowns.

The little learners enthralled the audience as they danced to tunes displaying their dancing skills with highly coordinated movements. The evening had all parents, teachers, distinguished dignitaries and guests teary-eyed with sheer pride and joy.

The programme ended with an encouraging address by Rao and blessings from Ved, the Executive Director of the School Managing Committees of both ISWK&ISWKi.

Kindergarten graduations are a milestone, not just for the children, but also for parents and teachers who have helped them thrive in their early years. It is a moment to appreciate the children's innocence before they step into the next 12 years of schooling.

ISWKi Cambridge International is the school of choice, offering the Cambridge Curriculum in Muscat, Oman.

RECOGNITION

Majan University College wins 'Top Omani Brand' award

MUSCAT: Majan University College (MUC) has been recognised as the 'Top Omani Brand' in the 'Higher Education' category in a survey conducted by one of Oman's Arabic business magazines. This is a significant achievement for Oman's longest-established private sector college.

The award ceremony was held on March 15 at the Majan Ballroom in the Al Bustan Palace. The event was attended by the chief guest, Sayyid Muhammad Salim Al Said, and was hosted by Shaikh Salim bin Mustahail Al Mashani. The ceremony was attended by representatives from various organisations, and senior representatives from Majan University College were among the guests.

The 'Top Omani Brand' award is a significant recognition for MUC, as it acknowledges the college's commitment to providing high-quality education, and its contribution to the development of Oman's education sector. The award reflects the college's strong reputation for excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement.

In accepting the 'Top Omani Brand' award, Dr Maha Kobeil, MUC's Dean & CEO, expressed her gratitude to the organisers of the award ceremony and the readers of Alam Al-Iktisaad. Dr Maha also highlighted the college's commitment to providing high-quality education and to making a positive contribution to society.

MUC is the oldest private sector college in Oman, having opened in 1995.

SUCCESSFUL EVENT

Bank Muscat takes part in third International Bioethics Conference

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, took part in the third edition of the International Bioethics Conference held recently at the Sultan Qaboos University.

Held under the auspices of Sheikh AbdulMalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, the event was attended by several high-profile attendees including a number of their highnesses, excellencies, representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), leading scientists in the field, besides representatives from a number of ministries, government institutions and academic institutions in Oman.

During the event, Al Khalili presented an award of partnership to Saleh Mohammed Al Maaini, Deputy General Manager –Capital Regions, Bank Muscat.

The conference focused on highlighting and sharing the experiences of different countries in dealing with ethical issues during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saleh Mohammed Al Maaini, Deputy General Manager – Capital regions, expressed his gratitude for being able to take part in the conference which discussed the repercussions and ethics of COVID-19-related measures. He pointed out how it touched various aspects of our lives as well as the ongoing initiative to develop legislative and regulatory policies in this regard at both the national and international levels.

Al Maaini said: "We are glad to participate in this very successful event. As a pioneering financial institution in Oman, the bank has been a part of many academic, cultural, economic and sports events and activities. It is a matter of great pride that Bank Muscat is always at the forefront in supporting and serving our community in all aspects."

كاسابيلا
casabella
JOE'S
CURVER
٣٠٪ إلى ٧٠٪
30% TO 70%
تخفيضات
DISCOUNT
على مجموعة واسعة من المنتجات
ON WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS
من 16 مارس إلى 10 إبريل
MARCH 16TH TILL APRIL 10TH
رمضان كريم
Ramadan Kareem
CLICK HERE

ROUND-UP

INFINITI Oman unveils exclusive Ramadan promotion on its models

All customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles from Suhail Bahwan Automobiles during the period will be eligible to participate in the campaign scheme

MUSCAT: Upholding its tradition of rewarding its esteemed customers during the holy month of Ramadan, INFINITI Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), has unveiled exclusive deals for its range of INFINITI models. These offers encompass a variety of benefits such as free registration, free insurance, assured gifts, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/Road assistance card, and referral programmes.

This offer which commenced on March 5 will remain valid until May 4, 2023. All customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles from Suhail Bahwan Automobiles during the period will be eligible to participate in the campaign scheme.

The promotion is valid for individuals who purchase INFINITI vehicles for personal use exclusively. It does not apply to rent a car, taxi, driver trainer, fleet and ministry billing sectors. The scheme is exclusively available for retail billing.

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman, said, "As part of our celebrations of the holy month, we are delighted to offer customers the chance to purchase their dream INFINITI with a fantastic deal. Our special incentives provide an exceptional opportunity to experience the impressive performance, safety, and comfort of INFINITI vehicles, which remain a popular choice among car buyers in Oman."

He added, "We understand the importance of this special occasion and want to make it easier for our customers to purchase their dream cars. This is our way of giving back to our community and showing our appreciation for their support."

All customers purchasing INFINITI Q50, QX50, QX55, QX60, QX80 in the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration.

All customers purchasing INFINITI Q50 MY2023 and QX80 MY2022 in the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle insurance (Oman and UAE only).

All customers purchasing INFINITI in the scheme period will be eligible for complimentary Window Film and Body Paint Protection treatment which will be done at the SBA Service Centres only.

Customers purchasing INFINITI MY2023 models ofQ50, QX50, QX60, QX80 during the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of three years or 60,000 kms (whichever is earlier). INFINITI MY2022 models of QX50, QX55, QX80 and MY2023 QX55 in the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of five years, 100,000. This offer excludes battery and wear and tear components. This offer includes service intervals of 10,000kms.

All INFINITI vehicles: Q50, QX50, QX55, QX80 purchased in the scheme period will have three years / 100,000km manufacturer's warranty.

Complimentary AAA Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI Range, for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman and UAE.

INFINITI will generate references of people looking to buy a car. This reference will be generated from existing INFINITI customers. The same person cannot refer himself but can refer multiple names. If any of the referred persons buys an INFINITI car, then the person who referred him will get OMR 100 gift voucher. This gift voucher can be redeemed during vehicle service at SBA workshop, purchase of consumables from SBA counters, purchase of parts and accessories from SBA counters. All such gift voucher winners will be declared on an ongoing basis. This gift voucher is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for credit. The gift Voucher will be valid for 6 months from the date of issue. The voucher needs to be redeemed fully all at once. Part redemption will not be allowed.

SBA is largely committed to supporting INFINITI Oman's growth in the Sultanate through major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of more than 40 showrooms, service centers and parts outlets, SBA has further built upon its legacy of trust, excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers.

RECOGNITION

Universal Engineering Services wins prestigious awards from Cummins

MUSCAT: Universal Engineering Services (UES) has won the Long-term association award for being with Cummins for over 40 years at a ceremonial event held at Sofitel Obelisk Hotel, Dubai, UAE.

UES also bagged the Best Performer award for Service Business for the year 2022. The awards were handed over by Thierry Penni, Vice President, Africa Middle east ABO.

Founded in 1919, Cummins Inc, with its head Quarters in Columbus Indianapolis USA, has remained a Global leader in Diesel and Gas Engines and Gensets for its initial 100 years. It has actively taken lead in the global clean energy transition and has the vision to be the leader in the clean energy domain for the next 100 years. It has already moved in Fuel cells and Electrolysers to cater to the world of Hydrogen production and Hrodgen to Power production.

Universal Engineering Services (UES) established in 1980 as a distributor of Cummins and Cummins Power generation in Oman is Part of Bahwan Engineering Group. Consistently over the years, Universal Engineering has been bestowed with many awards including "Gold" in 2017 for Distributor Excellence. UES is also the authorised distributor of "FleetGuard" a brand well known worldwide as one of the best in the Filtration business.

Universal Engineering Services conveyed its gratitude to all its clients without whom this journey would not have been possible.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Zubair Auto participates in Unified Gulf Traffic Week

MUSCAT: As part of its social responsibility goals, the Zubair Automotive Group took part in the 35th Unified Gulf Traffic Week which was themed "Your Life is a Trust."

Through its participation, the group aims to raise awareness of traffic safety and emphasise the significance of adhering to traffic laws and regulations.

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Sayyid Dr Munther Al Busaidi, the Vice Chairman of Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-Up Unit. The event also witnessed the presence of many personnel from Sultan's Armed Forces, Royal Oman Police (ROP) and stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. As part of the event, the ROP hosted an exhibition at the Mall of Oman to raise awareness of the dangers of traffic accidents and their causes.

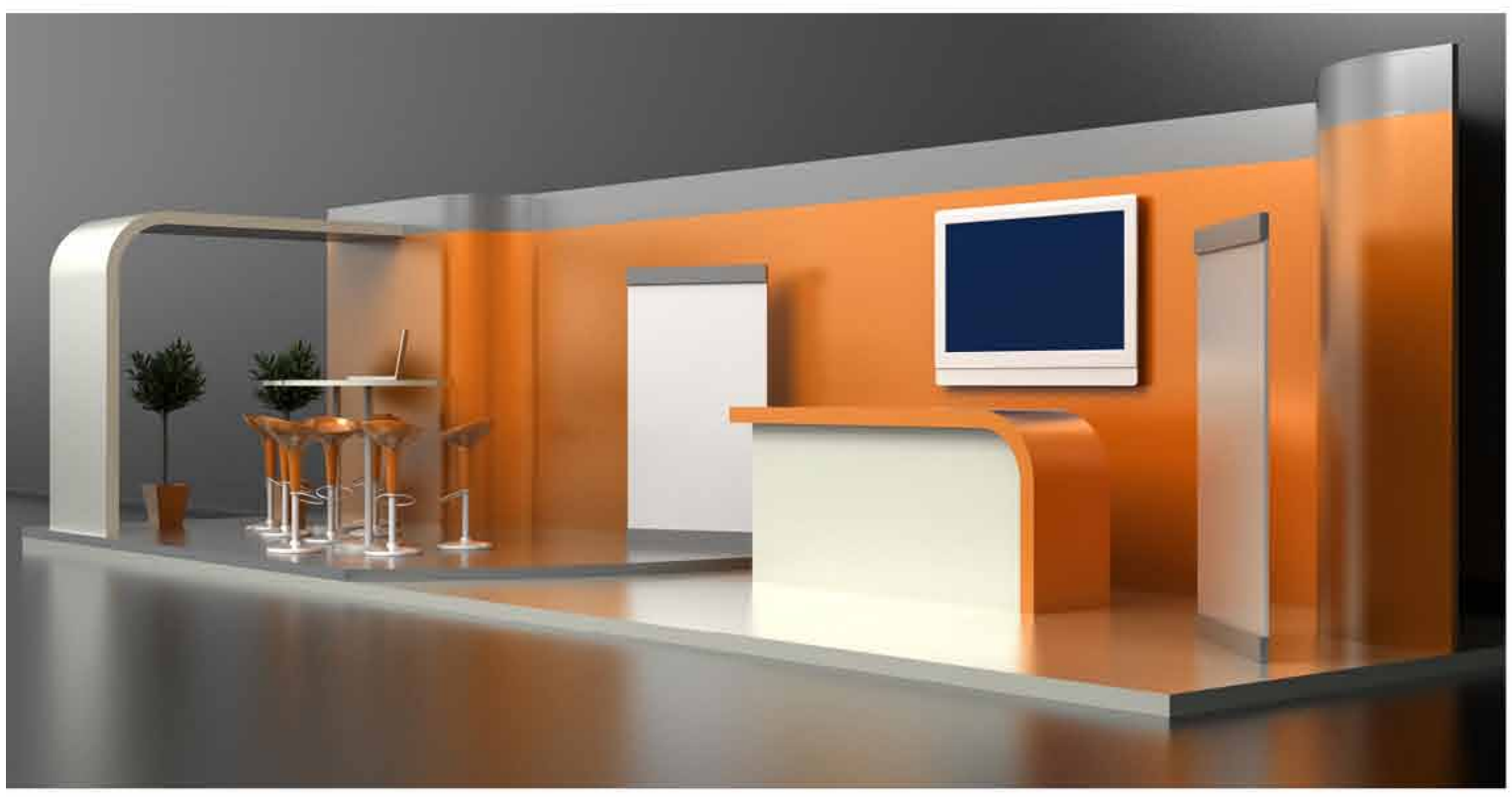
Mohammad Al Farei, Chief Operating Officer of the Zubair Automotive Group commended the ROP's efforts in promoting road safety, saying, "The participation of the Zubair Automotive Group in the Unified Gulf Traffic Week is aimed at strengthening the public-private partnership's role in instilling a culture of adhering to road safety rules. We also aspire to enhance the collaboration between all segments of the community to achieve the desired objectives of such events. The ultimate goal is to raise public awareness about the importance of following the rules and the positive impact that will have on the individual and society as a whole."

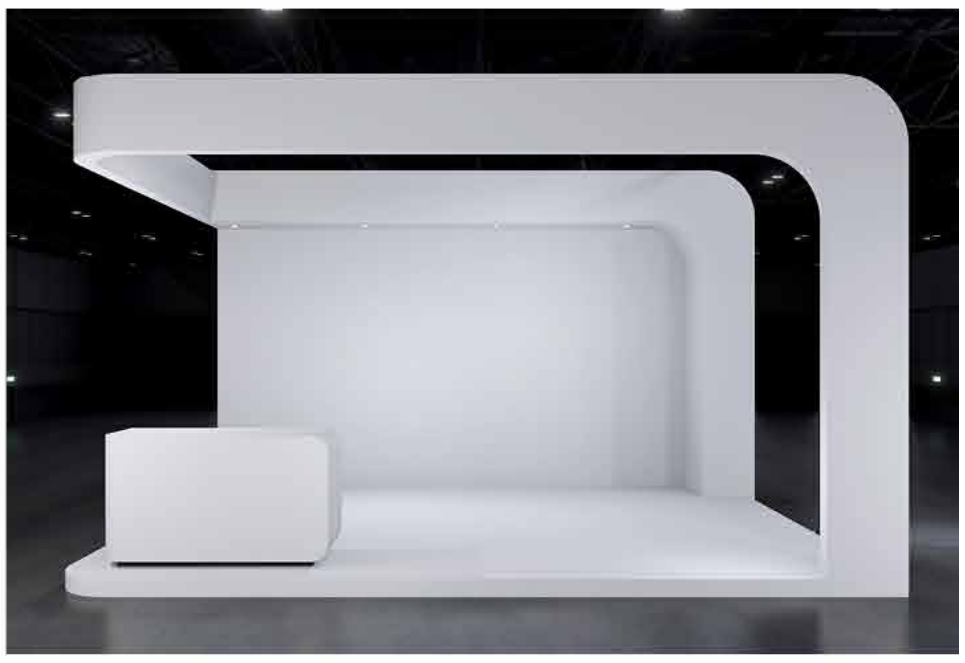
We Fix

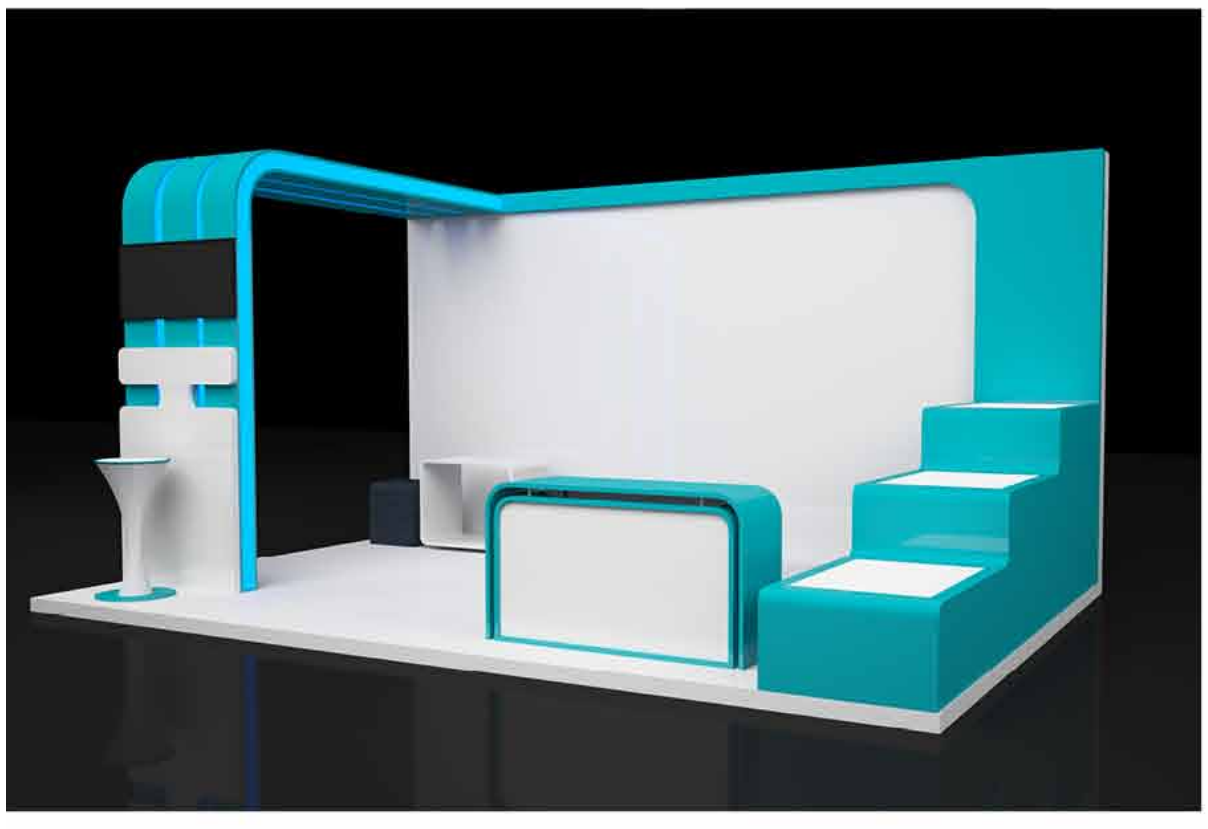
FOR COST EFFECTIVE EXHIBITION BOOTHS/ DISPLAY STANDS

Call us on

99614066







Contact us on wefix@mmg.om
or call/whatsApp 99614066/ 95405033
to make customized exhibition booths

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

Changan Ramadan is about peace of mind

CS85 COUPE
2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp,
8-speed AT

CS95
2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp,
6-speed AT, 4WD, 7 Seater

CS75 PLUS
2.0L Turbo Engine 224 hp,
8-speed AT

CS35 PLUS
1.4L Turbo Engine, 156 hp,
7-speed DCT

EADO PLUS
1.6L Engine, 126 hp, CVT
Also available 1.4L Turbo Engine,
155 hp, 7-speed DCT

HUNTER
1.9L Turbo Diesel Engine, 150 hp, 4WD, 6-speed MT
2.4L Turbo Gasoline Engine, 210 hp, 4WD, 6-speed MT
& 4WD, 6-speed AT

FREE SERVICE
FROM 2 YEARS / 35,000 KMS
TO 4 YEARS / 75,000 KMS#

FREE
INSURANCE@

FREE
REGISTRATION^

MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY
FROM 5 YEARS / 150,000 KMS
TO 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS**

KNOW MORE

Offer valid from 23rd February to 22nd April 2023 on all models purchased through the CHANGAN Showroom Retail Offer. # Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. Offer includes only 10,000 kms service intervals. The periodic maintenance service will be between 2 years / 35,000 kms to 4 years / 75,000 kms and varies from model to model. To know more please visit the CHANGAN Showroom. @For 1st year, Oman & UAE only. ^For 1st year only. **Manufacturer's Warranty – 5 Years / 150,000 Kms – Applicable on Hunter Pickup only. 6 Years / 250,000 Kms – Applicable Alsvin, EADO Plus, CS35 Plus, CS75 Plus, CS85 Coupe & CS95 only. Whichever is earlier. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showroom Location :
Al Qurum 9464 1010, Al Mawaleh 9788 8180, Sohar 7932 4865
www.changanoman.com changanoman

800 50800

C.R. No. 1232361

UPGRADE Your Lifestyle
SUBSCRIBE, SAVE & ENJOY

Your new style of living!
Unlimited 2 for 1 Offers and valuable Discounts
at leading merchants covering all your needs.

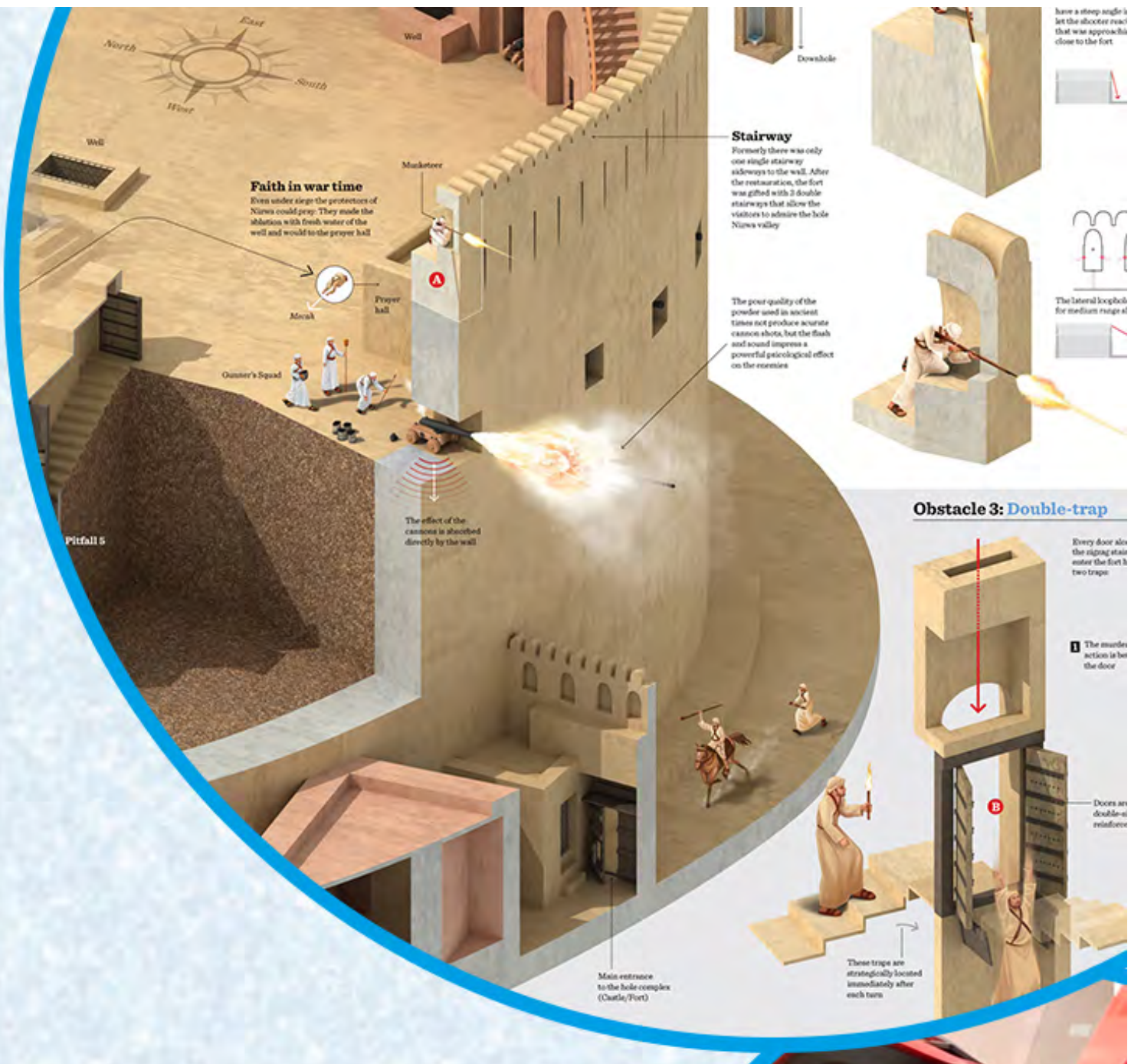
circlee

FREE 2TRY

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
97211869

sales@novagram.om

مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

TRUSTED SINCE 1920

OMAN'S 1ST EXCHANGE

SMARTER WAY TO
SEND MONEY

SWIFTLY — SECURELY — SMARTLY

FOR JUST OMR 1 ONLY

Terms & Conditions Applied

Download our app today!

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE
شركة برشوتم كانجي للصرافة

Download it NOW!

+968: 91787829 | 99849289 | 91787829

www.pkexchange.com