

12,000 RUNNERS PARTICIPATE IN AL MOUJ MUSCAT MARATHON

The Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022 proved to be a fine example of Oman's potential to become one of the world's leading long-distance running locations. Featuring the full marathon, the half marathon, and the 10km run, the day began early as thousands of athletes took to the start line. **>A4**



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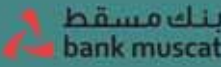
SAYYID BADR MAKES PHONE CALL TO UKRAINE FOREIGN MINISTER

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Oman's Foreign Minister, made a phone call to Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, regarding the Ukrainian crisis. Sayyid Badr stressed the importance of diplomacy, dialogue and peaceful negotiations between the parties affected by the crisis on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principle of good neighbourliness. They also touched on the existing friendship between the two countries and their mutual interest in developing it. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 175 | 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

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GROWTH GATHERS MOMENTUM

160 assets of local companies are being managed by OIA

860 job opportunities to be created by these projects

10 PROJECTS WORTH OVER OMR750MN TO MARK NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

The projects announced by the Oman Investment Authority embody the agency's strategy and objectives that are in line with Oman Vision 2040

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Investment Authority (OIA) has announced the opening of 10 national projects with an investment value exceeding OMR750 million.

The projects are distributed across a number of governorates, and several sectors, through its subsidiaries, and in partnership with local and foreign companies, coinciding with the celebrations of the Sultanate of Oman's 52nd National Day.

"These projects aim to contribute to economic diversification, developing governorates, attract-



ing investments, empowering the private sector, and creating 860 direct and indirect jobs for citizens," Hisham bin Ahmed Al Sheidi, Director General of Economic Diversification Investments at the Oman Investment Authority, said.

He said to the Oman News Agency that the 10 projects embody the agency's strategy and objectives that are in line with Oman Vision 2040, where the agency plays its role in promoting the targeted economic sectors by implementing large projects

in partnership with the private sector in various governorates. These projects are in a competitive business environment and serves Oman's focus towards localisation of national expertise and competencies.

National Development Portfolio

He pointed out that these projects come within the (National Development Portfolio) of the Oman Investment Authority, which manages a total of 160 assets and local companies, and

aims to contribute to the growth and development of the Omani economy in addition to supporting the state's general budget.

Hilal Al Shidi said the projects are based on eight priorities which are financial sustainability, growth in selected sectors, contribution to the gross domestic product, attracting private investors, exit, contributing to in-country value addition, synergy and integration between companies, and implementing governance and transparency structures. **>A2**



Duqm economic zone attracts investments worth OMR3.673bn

DUQM: The Special Economic Zone, Duqm, with a total area of 2,000 sq. kilometres is ideal for integrated economic development of the Sultanate of Oman.

The total investments at the Special Economic Zone, Duqm till June 2022 amounted to around OMR3.673 billion.

Strategic projects

The Sultanate planned to establish mega industrial investment and strategic projects there, besides providing additional facilities at Duqm Port and other projects.

The Special Economic Zones and Free Zones Authority (SEZAD) has completed the execution of infrastructural facilities at the Special Economic Zone, Duqm, where the Duqm Port Company has been provid-

ed with port and other facilities, and the facilities required by the Royal Oman Police and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

The fishing operators have been handed over this year the Duqm Multi-purpose Fishing Port. The Authority has also executed a project for two transformer stations, the first station for light industries with a capacity of 60 megavolt ampere and the second, with a capacity of 40 megavolt ampere at an approximate cost of OMR2.6 million has been dedicated to the fishing and food industries in the area.

The Authority has also upgraded the road network by laying 32 national roads, including the seafloor road, internal roads at Sa'ai, etc. **>A4**



TOURISM

Single-approval for shooting movies to boost tourism

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Scenes from Oman could be part of one of the highest-grossing films in India if one of the leading promoters of film tourism in the Sultanate of Oman is to be believed.

Renny Johnson, one of the earliest to start the business of film tourism in Oman, said the production team of *RRR* had visited Oman for a recce and was keen to shoot a few scenes of the movie in Oman.

The Indian-Telugu movie, *RRR*, is SS Rajamouli's epic action-drama, starring NTR Junior and Ram Charan and completed its run at the box office with a closing business of Rs1,200 crores (US\$175.47 million) worldwide. The film became the third-highest grossing movie at the Indian box office. It is said to be the most expensive Indian film to date made with a budget of Rs550 crore (\$72 million). With Rs240 crore (US\$30 million) worldwide on its first day, *RRR* broke the record for the highest opening-day collection earned by an Indian film.

This is just an example of the op-



portunities Oman's beautiful landscape has for the film producers from India who are keen to explore and make movies in the Sultanate.

However, such opportunities fell by the way due to various reasons and Johnson, who has produced three movies so far, believes that there is a strong need for a Film Commission in the country.

In a chat with *Times of Oman*, Johnson said: "Oman has a huge potential in making it big in film tourism. It offers various landscapes and is a much-sought after destination. However, the issue is that to get the production crew shoot, they need to get permission from five different stakeholders. "From the Ministry of Tourism

to Royal Oman Police to Ministry of Information, we need to get permissions from each department. We also have to get a nod from the Customs department and the Muscat Municipality. At times, these permissions take time which force the interested producers to cancel their plans."

Johnson, who is the Group Managing Director of Royal King Holding LLC, a premier company Oman, and has helped a total of 21 movies from different Indian languages to be shot in Oman since 2009, rued the delay in getting the permissions and hoped that there could be a one-stop approval option for the film industry.

"In other countries, there is a single window for approval. It expedites the process and makes things easier to coordinate. After all, they are bringing in money to the country and helping the economy. Usually, a production crew for a movie would comprise nearly 100 people and the approximate expense during a shoot would be around OMR250,000," said Johnson.

He added: "We have a great opportunity in Oman. Films give enormous publicity around the

world. We remember how Switzerland became popular in Indian movies as many films were shot there. Of late, we see many movies being shot in Dubai. Oman, with its vast potential have a lot to offer and I hope the ministry will act soon to set up a single-approval window."

Johnson said: "Oman community has always welcomed the initiative to open new doors for jobs in the country. Once Oman's culture and landscape is showcased to the world through movies, more tourists are likely to visit the country."

"In today's world, each and every business opportunity is a great step taken to create more job opportunities in Oman and it should not be missed. In the past, we have seen Bollywood movies being shot in Oman. Among the popular ones are *Once upon a time in Mumbai*.

Johnson said there has been a representation sent to Ministry of Tourism to have a one-stop window to boost film tourism in the country. "We hope the necessary steps will be taken and Oman can become a most favoured destination for shooting movies in the future," said Johnson.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Winners of 29th WTA awards announced

1 The winners of the 29th World Travel Awards, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, were announced. **>A3**

WORLD Kherson is ours, says Ukraine president

2 With Russia's withdrawal from the city of Kherson complete, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the country is taking back the key city. **>A6**

MARKET Bank Muscat nod to share capital hike

3 Bank Muscat shareholders have approved the proposed increase of its authorised share capital. **>B1**

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NIKKI BEACH RESORT & SPA MUSCAT

New luxury hotel to open in Yiti Bay

MUSCAT: Nikki Beach Global, the international luxury lifestyle and hospitality brand, announced the opening of Nikki Beach Resort & Spa Muscat. It will feature an adjacent beach club — Nikki Beach Muscat — as well as residences, all developed in partnership with OM-RAN Group.

The luxury hotel, which has already been voted “Best New Hotel Construction and Design Oman” and “Best New Hotel Construction and Design Arabia” at the International Property Awards – is slated to open in fall 2023. The beach club will launch simultaneously with the residences opening shortly after.

Situated on Yiti Bay just 30 minutes from the Muscat airport, Nikki Beach Resort & Spa Muscat will feature 115 rooms, 25 suites, and 30 villas with private pools. On-site dining concepts and facilities will include the beach club and three signature Nikki Beach restaurants.

‘GUMBALL 3000 RALLY



World’s biggest supercar road rally coming to Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will receive from November 13 to 15 a group of world’s most prominent sports cars, including personalities in the fields of sports, music and business.

The fleet will enter the Sultanate from Al Buraimi Governorate, coming from Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates, passing through the governorates of Al Dhahirah and Al Dakhiliyah, and reaching the Wilayat of Jabal Al Akhdar, where the participants will spend their first day.

On the third day, the Gumball 3000 march will start from the Wilayat of Mirbat, through the coastal road Hasik - Shuwaymiyah, to the Wilayat of Duqm.

Hisham bin Juma Al Sinani, Director General of Sports Welfare and Development at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, said: “Receiving this tourism sports is among the Ministry’s priorities in exploiting international competitive events and tournaments to maximise the objectives of the Omani sports strategy with the focus on sports tourism as part of the efforts for sustainable development that will be officially announced in the near future.”

He added: Gumball 3000 is one of the international tourism and entertainment events that enjoy

wide follow-up and great public interest by fans of competitive and exhibition motorsports. The youth have worked on completing the procedures to hold the event in partnership with a number of authorities, including the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, the Royal Oman Police and the Oman Automobile Association, noting that the paths that the participants will traverse have been selected to highlight the most important landmarks and areas of tourist attraction in order to highlight and promote them through these events. The Ministry has approved and supported the participation of one of the Omani participants in this sports and tourism procession, which comes in the context of emphasising the Ministry’s approach and its continued keenness on supporting Omani athletes in various sporting events and forums.”

Haitham bin Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, said: “The Sultanate of Oman is rich in natural attractions that are distributed across various governorates, including natural landmarks such as the coasts extending from Dhofar in the south to Musandam in the north, and the deserts and the eastern and

western Hajar Mountains, which embrace ancient Omani villages, caves, hot springs and wadis, in addition to modernity that today provides advanced infrastructure, stressing that all these elements have given the Sultanate of Oman an attractive environment for global events.”

Al Ghassani added: “We are pleased that the organisers of Gumbal 3000 chose to cross a route that offers a variety of prominent tourist attractions such as Jabal Al Akhdar, Salalah and Muscat in the current round of this prestigious event, in which well-known international personalities are participating.”

Al Ghassani explained that Gumbal 3000 comes as a qualitative addition to sporting events of tourist attraction and integrates with other heritage and tourism events taking place in the various governorates, and confirms the distinguished position of the Sultanate of Oman on the global tourism map. The objectives of the race are in line with the definition of areas characterised by tourism and cultural potentials and capabilities in harmony. With the vision of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, which focuses on benefiting from tourism activity in increasing the rapprochement between peoples and cultures.”

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OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

10 projects announced

< FROM A1 The 10 projects among others include the OMR60 million Sanvira Carbon Project in the Sohar Free Zone and is a partnership between the Oman National Investments Development Company (Tannia), Sanvira Industries Limited and United Business Company. The end product will be used in aluminium smelters and other mining industries both inside and outside Oman.

The project will contribute to diversifying Omani industries, enhancing their presence in the local market, and exporting approximately 70 per cent of calcined petroleum coal to contribute to the foreign exchange reserves of Oman, in addition to generating 150 job opportunities for citizens.

Oman Flour Mills Company will have two projects; the first is the Gulf International Poultry Farm located in the Al-Subaikh area in the Wilayat of Ibbi in the Al-Dhahirah Governorate, which is a partnership between the Omani Food Investment Holding Company (Netaj) of the Authority, the Japanese Khaleeji Food Fund, the Japanese Wise Foods company and the IFFCO company.

The farm, with value topping OMR26 million, is located on an area of 18 million square metres, and is one of the largest egg farms in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The

project will have a capacity to produce 360 million eggs annually, and will be using modern and advanced equipment, and providing jobs to 160 employees.

The second project is the Grain Storage Silos in Sohar Industrial Port, which at a value of OMR21 million, aims to support the food security plans of Oman. It will have a storage capacity of 160,000 tonnes and seeks to provide 54 permanent jobs when fully operational.

OQ Group will also open two projects - the first Salalah Ammonia at a cost of OMR178 million, and aims to produce 1,000 tonnes of ammonia from which fertilizers, cleaning products, refrigerants and other chemicals will be exported through the Port of Salalah. The project will provide 50 direct jobs. The second project (Magta A, B & C) in the concession area of Block 60, at a cost OMR157 million will be one of the largest projects that will contribute to increasing production by three times. Through this project 46 jobs for graduates is expected to be created.

The Omani Water and Sanitation Company will open two water supply projects from Sohar in the North Al Batinah Governorate to the Wilayat of Ibbi in the Dhahirah Governorate, and water supply to the Wilayat of Jabal Al Akhdar in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.

The project is directly related to the home delivery business.



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Sultanate wins big at World Travel Awards

Bags nine out of 69 major international awards at the closing ceremony of the WTA 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of His Excellency Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, the winners of the 29th World Travel Awards, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, were announced on Friday, 11th November.

The largest event in the world of travel and tourism was attended by over 500 representatives from the global airlines and hospitality sectors, with the Sultanate winning nine major awards out of 69, which were presented to winners from 50 participating countries.

The Sultanate was crowned with the award for the best tourist destination for nature lovers, which sees it top the list of preferred tourist destinations for the new year 2023, while Muscat International Airport shone at the ceremony after winning the award for best international airport in customer experience, and Salalah Airport, which was crowned the World's Leading Regional Airport. In an impressive three award haul, Oman Air won awards for World's Leading Airline - Business Class, World's Leading Airline - Customer Experience and World's Leading Airline Lounge - Business Class.

The award for the World's Leading Palace Hotel went to the Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, while Jumeirah Muscat Bay and The Chedi won awards for the World's Leading New Resort and World's Leading Beach Resort and Spa respectively.

Commenting on Oman Airports hosting WTA for the second time, Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, Chief Executive Officer of



Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism.



Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Airports.

Oman Airports said, "The travel and tourism industry is one of the most prominent economic sectors in which countries from around the world compete, with the Middle East being one of its most promising markets today. As a result, Oman Vision 2040 has identified this industry as one of the most important sectors that must be focused on in the coming years. As an enabling sector for the tourism industry, our initiative to host the world's largest travel and tourism event aims to enhance the Sultanate's presence on the map of the most prominent tourist destinations in the world."

"The Sultanate hosted more than 500 representatives of leading international travel and tourism companies at the World Travel Awards, which in turn was an incredible opportunity for their counterparts and those working in this field here in Oman, to consolidate relations and build trade partnerships and to enhance their performance and increase the number

of tourists visiting the Sultanate. The media coverage that accompanied the event from the local and international media, highlighted the promising potential of the Sultanate in the global tourism industry. The global TV5 network that covered the ceremony directly on its channels, is a great added value to the Sultanate's efforts in promoting tourism," he added.

Congratulating Muscat and Salalah Airports, he said, "I would like to congratulate Muscat International Airport for winning the award for the best airport in the world in customer experience, and Salalah Airport as well for being chosen as the best regional airport in the world. These important wins once again prove that we are on the right path to pioneering the airport operations and management sector, not only at the local and regional level, but also at the international level. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of Oman Airport's employees for their effort and dedication in rais-

ing Oman's name in international forums. Furthermore, a big thank you goes to our strategic partners, who have always been our supporters and backed Oman Airports for success."

Commenting on the ceremony, Graham Cooke, Founder and President of the World Travel Awards said, "We are delighted to host our closing ceremony for the World Travel Awards for the second time in the Sultanate of Oman's mesmerising capital city, Muscat. With a number of Omani companies winning awards in different categories, I am confident that the Sultanate of Oman is leading the way towards enhancing the performance of its travel and tourism sectors, to become one of the most important sources of its economic income. With a leading network of airports under the pioneering management of a top company like Oman Airports, the Sultanate will definitely see its tourism industry flourish. The Sultanate hosts an immense pioneering potential, through its location at the heart of the world, its unique environment, as well as the legendary hospitality that characterises the Omani people, making it a favourite location for millions of tourists. This beautiful country and its people have so much to offer the world."

"The closing ceremony of the 29th World Travel Awards was absolutely fantastic. Congratulations to all the well-deserved winners from around the world, who have gone above and beyond to achieve excellence in the global travel and tourism sector," Cooke added.

SEVERAL DAY VISIT

Hungary National Assembly speaker to arrive today

MUSCAT: Dr. Laszlo Kover, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary will today begin a several-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The visit aims to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries in the various spheres mainly the relations pertaining to legislative matters.

Majlis Al Shura and the National Assembly of Hungary will hold, during the visit, negotiations to discuss ways of enhancement of

relations between the two sides and coordinating cooperation in legislative field and stands views in the international parliamentary arena.

Bilateral relations
Dr. Laszlo Kover and accompanying delegation will meet with a number of officials to discuss activation of the bilateral relations between the two countries in the various fields. -ONA



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TECHNOLOGY

Oman's first-ever building using indigenous 3D tech completed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The first building constructed in the Sultanate of Oman with the help of a 3D Concrete Printer, developed locally by Omanis, has been completed.

The construction work took about 55 printing hours after preparing the site for foundations and a special structure to ensure quality.

Walid Al Saidi, co-founder of InnoTech company, said: "Concrete printing was a dream project and we decided to make the tools for this dream by ourselves and completed the first building with a 3D printer which was almost a two-year work. The building is for the Petroleum Development Oman and was built in cooperation with the Julphar Company which prepares the cement mixture. The official opening of the building will be announced soon."

He added: "This achievement comes in line with the planned urban development and use of mod-



ern technologies for construction in a reduced period of time. Besides, the use of 3D printing was able to create jobs for Omanis in the construction sector."

It may be mentioned that InnoTech team is the first in the Arab world to build and use the 3D printing technology indigenously as all other previous projects in the region used 3D printers developed abroad. Even the projects were implemented by them.

Besides mentioning the initiative of the PDO to explore innovative technologies for sustainable and efficient buildings, we are pleased to announce the completion of the first 3D printed building using locally developed printer and local materials, in which besides InnoTech Oman, Galfar Engineering & Contracting, SAOG and NJP Oman worked ceaselessly to make the dream project come true.



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FIRST MEETING

Sayyid Belarab chairs Omani Promising Startups Programme

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Belarab bin Haitham Al Said has chaired the first meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the Omani Promising Startups Programme on Thursday.

“The Supervisory Committee of the Omani Promising Startups Programme held its first meeting today, chaired by His Highness Sayyid Belarab bin Haitham Al Said. It aims to strengthen the system of companies based on innovation and advanced technology in the Sultanate of Oman, “Oman News Agency (ONA), said in a statement.



His Highness Sayyid Belarab bin Haitham Al Said.

Community awareness

The Omani Promising Startups Programme also aims to contribute to the dissemination of the culture of startups in educational institutions and to enhance community awareness of their importance, and comes in line with the Oman Vision 2040 within the priority of economic diversification and financial sustainability.

Her Excellency Halima bint Rashid Al-Zari, Chairwoman of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, explained that the programme seeks to empower the owners of innovative ideas, support the establish-

ment of startup companies in this field and link them to business, investment and financing opportunities to achieve expansion in the local and global markets.

International indicators

In addition to working to raise the rank of the Sultanate of Oman in international indicators related to innovation, technology and ease of doing business.

Her Excellency indicated that the programme includes three main axes: capacity building for startups, financing and investment in startups, and the legislative environment that supports startups. Al-Zari added that the programme implemented by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority came in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications

and Information Technology, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Economy, and the Omani Group for Communications and Information Technology (Ethkaa).

The meeting was attended by their Excellencies and representatives of government agencies, members of the programme’s supervisory committee. -ONA



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ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform that Mr Hiran Nishantha Perera, holder of **Sri Lankan passport No N7853448, Resident Card No 85953946** is no longer an employee of **Tawoos Industrial Services Company SAOC**.



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INTEGRATED FISHING TECHNOLOGIES MARINE EQUIPMENT LLC

AT OCEC

Eye conference ends in Muscat

MUSCAT: The three-day Muscat International Eye Conference 2022 concluded at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) on Saturday.

The conference came out with a number of recommendations, including the formation of a medical committee concerned with research. -ONA

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INTEGRATED FISHING TECHNOLOGIES MARINE EQUIPMENT LLC

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable consultancy for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/182	Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Water Network Master Plan
Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The tenderer should propose experienced and well qualified consultants who have performed similar Services in line with best international practices and in conformity with relevant standards, if any. Preference shall be given if similar Service performed by the tenderer and the consultant proposed also have performed in similar project for any of the water utility companies in Oman.
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with Ministry of Commerce & Industry. If, Tenderer dose not having Local Agent / Partner in Oman, the Tenderer has to apply temporary registration as per Oman Law at the time of award the contract.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 29 th November 2022
Tender document publish date	03:00 PM on 30 th November 2022
Site Visit	NA
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	03:00 PM on 4 th December 2022
Last date for Response for pre clarification bid	03:00 PM on 7 th December 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 14 th December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



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CURRENCY MONITORING LIST

US Treasury removes India from its Currency Monitoring List

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Treasury has removed India from its currency Monitoring List along with Italy, Mexico, Vietnam and Thailand.

The Department of Treasury said in its biannual report to the Congress that China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan are part of the current Monitoring List. The Treasury has established a Monitoring List of “major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies”.

The move came on a day Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen visited India and held talks with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The report said an economy meeting two of the three criteria in the 2015 Act is placed on the Monitoring List.

“Once on the Monitoring List, an economy will remain there for at least two consecutive Reports to help ensure that any improvement in performance versus the criteria is durable and is not due to temporary factors,” the report said.

It said as a further measure, Treasury will add and retain on the Monitoring List any major US trading partner that accounts for a large and disproportionate share of the overall US trade deficit even if that economy has not met two of the three criteria from the 2015 Act. “In this report, the Monitoring List comprises China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan. Italy, India, Mexico, Thailand, and Vietnam have been removed from the Monitoring List in this Report,” the Treasury said. **ANI**

Kherson is ours, says Zelenskyy as Russia pulls out of key city



He informed that special units of the armed forces are inside Kherson and other Ukrainian troops were also approaching the city



KYIV: As the Russian withdrawal from the city of Kherson was completed, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday said that the country is taking back the key city.

“Our people. Ours. Kherson. Today is a historic day. We are taking back Kherson,” DW news agency quoted what Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. He informed that special units of the armed forces are inside Kherson and other Ukrainian troops were also approaching

the city from the outskirts.

“The people of Kherson have been waiting. They never gave up on Ukraine. It will be the same in the cities still waiting for us to take them back,” Zelenskyy added later in a video address quoted by DW news agency.

Earlier on Friday, Zelenskyy had expressed gratitude to US counterpart Joe Biden for announcing military assistance. His statement came after the US announced military assistance worth USD 400 million for Ukraine.

Taking to his Twitter handle, Ze-

lenskyy thanked US President Joe Biden and the people of the US for once again “showing solidarity” for Ukraine. He stated that the assistance package includes Avenger air defence systems and missiles for Hawk air defence systems.

Zelenskyy tweeted, “Thank you @POTUS & friendly US people for showing solidarity once again - an aid package including Avenger air defence systems & missiles for Hawk air defence systems. Together we’re building an air shield to protect Ukrainian civilians. We’re bringing victory over the

aggressor closer!” Notably, the US has been providing military assistance to Ukraine ever since Russia began its offensive.

On November 10, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a press release announced authorizing military aid for Ukraine. He stated that the latest military assistance worth USD 400 million is the 25th drawdown of US arms and equipment for Ukraine since 2021.

Blinken noted that the drawdown would take the total US military assistance for Ukraine to approximately USD 19.3 billion since the beginning of the administration. He stressed that the US will continue supporting Ukraine with more than 40 allies and partners.

According to the statement released by US Defence Department, the military aid includes missiles for HAWK air defense systems, four Avenger air defense systems, stinger missiles, additional ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), 21,000 155 mm artillery rounds, 500 precision-guided 155mm artillery rounds and 10,000 120mm mortar rounds. **ANI**



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

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APOLOGY

Biden apologises for US pullout from Paris Climate Accord under Donald Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Friday riding on the Inflation Reduction Act and other measures, affirmed that the US was ready to take back the leadership of fighting a warming planet.

While addressing the United Nations COP27 summit, Biden said as quoted by CNN, “My friends, I came to the presidency determined to make ... transformational changes that are needed, that America needs to make and we have to do for the rest of the world, to overcome decades of opposition and obstacles of progress on this issue alone, to reestablish the United States as a trustworthy and committed global leader on climate. As I stand here before you, we’ve taken enormous strides to achieve that”. During his speech, Biden apologized for the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord under former President Donald Trump.

“We immediately rejoined the Paris Agreement. We convened major climate summits and re-established, I apologize we ever pulled out of the agreement,” he said.

While addressing the conference, Biden said that the US will be meeting its emission targets by 2030.

“Today, finally, thanks to the actions we’ve taken, I can stand here as president of the United States of America and say with confidence: The United States of America will meet our emissions targets by 2030,” Biden said as quoted by The Hill.

Among the reasons to shift away from fossil fuels, Biden also called Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

“Russia's war only enhances the urgency of the need to transition the world off its dependence on fossil fuels. True energy security means every nation ... benefiting from [a] clean, diversified energy future,” Biden said as quoted by CNN.

Biden also stressed upon the fact that other nations must also step up to the challenge to ‘permanently bend the emission curve’ as a duty and responsibility of global leadership.

“The climate crisis is about human security, economic security, environmental security, national security and the very life of the planet,” Biden added. **ANI**

 شركة ريسوت للأسمنت Raysut Cement Company S.A.O.C																			
FOR THE NINE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022					SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022														
Dear Shareholders, On behalf of Board of Directors of the Raysut Cement Group of Companies, it gives me pleasure, albeit in these difficult and uncertain times, to present the Audited Financial Statements for the nine months period ended 30 September 2022 of the Company. The prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic has created an unprecedented situation throughout the globe. All mankind, business both at domestic and international levels, are passing through a critical phase, your company is no exception to it hence has suffered significantly. Review of operations and financial performance: Production: Group: The RCC Group has produced 2,201 million tons of Clinker and 2,308 million tons of Cement during the period of nine months against 2,396 million tons of Clinker and 2,891 million tons of Cement during same period last year respectively. The production of Clinker is lower by 8.14% and cement by 20.17%. Decline in production is due to price hike of raw materials in international market which interrupted operations of Sohar Cement Factory and Pioneer Cement Industries. Parent Company: The Parent Company in its Salalah plant produced 1,546 million tons of Clinker and 1,650 million tons of Cement during the nine months period of current year against 1,338 million tons of Clinker and 1,583 million tons of Cement in the last year. Overall, there is an increase in clinker production by 15.57%, and cement production by 4.21% as compared to same period of last year. Subsidiary companies: At Pioneer Cement, a subsidiary company, plant in UAE, the productions of Clinker and Cement stood at 0.655 million tons and 0.189 million tons respectively during the nine months period of current year against 1,058 million tons of Clinker and 0.384 Tons Cement respectively in the same period of current year. Clinker productions is lower by 38.11% and Cement by 50.78% as compared to same period of last year. Coal prices increased by approx. 500% and it was not feasible to procure at peak prices, hence, a plant maintenance rescheduled to save adverse annual financial impact. At Sohar Cement Factory LLC, the production of Cement stood at 0.468 million tons during the nine months period of current year 2022 against 0.928 million tons during the same period of last year which is lower by 49.42%. Decline in production is because of shortage of raw materials and plant maintenance shut down. Sales: Group: The Group have sold 2,304 million tons of Cement during the nine months period of current year against 2,844 million tons of Cement in the same period last year. Overall, there is a decrease of cement sale by 19%. Further, the Group have sold 0.207 million tons of Clinker against 0.306 million tons in the same period last year, it does not include inter group sale of 0.391 million (2021: 0.174 million) tons of Clinker to Sohar Cement Factory LLC. Parent Company: The Parent Company has sold 1,610 million tons of Cement (including 104 tons through Subsidiaries) and 0.135 million tons of clinker during the nine months period of current year against 1,584 million tons (including 0.056 tons through subsidiaries) of Cement and 0.500 million tons of clinker during the nine months period of the year. Subsidiary companies: At Pioneer Cement, a subsidiary company, plant in UAE, has sold 0.195 million tons of Cement and 0.464 million tons of clinker during the current year against 0.302 million tons of cement and 0.729 million tons of Clinker in the same period of last year, overall decrease in cement sales by 50.52%, and in clinker sales by 36.38% during the nine months period of current year 2022. Clinker was mainly sold to Sohar Cement Factory LLC. At Sohar Cement Factory, the sale of Cement stood at 0.483 million tons during the nine months period of current year against 0.924					million tons in the same period last year, a decrease in cement sales by 47.73%. Raysut Maldives Cement Pvt. Ltd. has made a Cement Sales of 100k tons for the nine months period of the current year against 54k tons of cement in the corresponding period of last year, an increase in sales by 84.63%. Raysut Ciment Trading Madagascar has made a Cement sale of 20k tons of cement for the period against 72k tons of Cement for the same period last year, decline in sales is 72% in the nine months of the year 2022. The major markets for the Parent company are domestic, Yemen, East African Markets Zanzibar, Comoros, Madagascar, for Sohar Cement Factory it is northern Oman and for Pioneer, the main markets are UAE and North Oman. Raysut Maldives Cement Pvt. Ltd. market of Maldives in the group's geographical coverage in line with the Group Strategic Plan. Revenue and profit: Group: During the nine months of current year, the Group has made a revenue of RO 50,722 million against RO 72,306 million in the same period last year, a decrease by 29.85%. The Loss before Tax of the Group stood at RO 16,296 million as against loss of RO 2,187 million in the same period last year. The Group operating loss for the period is RO 13,957 million in the current year against a loss of RO 0.080 million in the same period last year. This is due to following reasons: - This loss is mainly due to the significant hike in coal prices around 5 times of the original price. - Low sales realization in market. - Continuous decline in Revenue from Dhofar market. - Increased freight charges for exports. The Loss after Tax for the Group is RO 16,302 million against a loss of RO 2,216 million during the nine months period of last year. Parent Company: With the support of new export markets, the Parent Company achieved an overall revenue of RO 33,975 million during the period against RO 37,140 million during the same period of last year. The Loss after tax of the Parent Company has stood at RO 8,110 million against a loss of RO 3,981 million during the same period last year. Subsidiary companies: During the period, the revenue, earned by Pioneer Cement, a subsidiary company in UAE amounted to RO 11,734 million as compared to RO 23,542 million achieved in the same period last year. Pioneer Cement has made a loss of RO 6,728 million against a profit of RO 1,522 million during the last year. Sohar Cement Factory LLC has made a revenue of RO 9,218 million and loss of RO 0.834 million during the nine months period of current year against revenue of RO 17,155 million and made a profit of RO 1,124 million during the same period last year. Raysut Maldives Cement Pvt. Ltd., in Maldives has earned a revenue of RO 4,252 million and made a profit of RO 0.064 million against revenue of RO 2,052 million and made a profit of RO 0.108 million for the same period last year. Raysut Ciment Trading Madagascar, in Madagascar has earned a revenue of RO 0.990 million and made a loss of RO 0.0489 million against revenue of RO 2.48 million and loss of RO 0.284 million for the same period last year. Capital Structure Change: During the year under review, no capital restructuring like increase or reduction in capital or issue of bond has happened. Future Outlook Various cost reductions initiatives coupled with optimization of distribution of cement keeping market share and profitability in mind, exploring export market for optimum utilization of available					resources would be the major area of attention. With those internal and external initiatives the Company is hopeful to minimize the market pressure to a great extent. The management continues to focus on the dynamic and competitive market for cement, additionally emphasis on operational excellence is an important factor to achieve success for the company. The company has highly experienced management and will continue to strive on a strategy that focuses on the creation of long term value for all stakeholders while ensuring sustainability in the operations. Expansions: The Parent Company is building a Cement Grinding Unit in Dugh with a production capacity of seven hundred and fifty thousand tons of cement per annum and related financing arrangements are made with local bank. The estimated project cost is about USD 30 million. Employees: The Company is always on the lookout for professionally qualified staff members in the management to enrich its base and is striving for training and development of employees for a sustainable growth focused organization. The Company continues to sponsor employees on training to various institutes both within and outside the country, apart from holding large number of in-house training program. Social Responsibility: The Company does recognize its social responsibility and					need for environmental protection. Maintaining pollution free environment as per international standards and continuously endeavoring to its improvement has been the guiding principles of Company. The Company has become a Centre for many institutions of higher learning and Technical Colleges to train their students under the guidance of our executives with practical hands-on experiences. Internal Control: Internal control system is being regularly assessed by the Internal Audit Team as well as by the management. Acknowledgement: On behalf of the Board of Directors and on my personal behalf, I take this opportunity to express our deep sense of gratitude to His Majesty and His Government for their unstinted support and guidance. I would like to thank you for your support and confidence in us. I would also like to thank our associates, dealers, customers, the management team and all our employees for their loyalty, integrity contributions, commitment, and continued support to the overall success of the Company. Ahmed bin Youssef bin Alawi Al Ibrahim Chairman of the Board of Directors				





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‘PAKISTAN HAVE FOUND FORM AT RIGHT TIME’

The Pakistan captain praised the English team and labelled them one of the best in the world

MELBOURNE : Pakistan captain Babar Azam expressed that the team’s return to form in the last four matches has boosted their confidence going into the T20 World Cup final against England while addressing a press conference on Saturday.

Pakistan have found form at the right time, registering four consecutive victories to their name. They pummelled New Zealand in the semi-final to advance to the final. “The way the team made a comeback in the last four matches has given us confidence. Excitement is there and we are confident and we also have the belief to do well. Hopefully, the result will be good,” expressed Babar.

The opener praised the English team and labelled them one of the best in the world. He also added that the England team has impactful players and they would like to execute their plans against them.

Today’s match



12:00pm

Pakistan vs England

“I think England’s team is one of the best and we played a series against them where we both played competitively. England is a good team and they have a good bunch of players and we would like to execute our plans,” shared the Pakistan captain.

The right-hander acknowledged the support of the crowds and said, “When we come in the ground they give us support. We try to give our hundred per cent to give smiles to our fans.”

“Of course, powerplay matters a lot. We would like to play good cricket in the power play,” stated Babar. Refuting that the team is worried about the rain he said, “We are not focusing on rain. We want to focus on performance. We would like to have a full match and not a rain-curtailed one.”

The opener appreciated the middle-order batter who stepped in big time during the tournament. “When your team is not performing well and you are also struggling then you feel the pressure but our middle order has done really well. The way the team responded was amazing,” mentioned the opener. -ANI



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ODP SIGNS AGREEMENT

Oman Data Park (ODP) signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Omani-British company Crossword Cybersecurity, for reducing cyber security risk for public and private entities.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



BANK MUSCAT HOLDS EGM

Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and an Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) of the bank's shareholders on November 9.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT Q3 2022

Our Values | Safety | ESG | Respect | Vision | Integrity | Caring | Empowerment



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present the unaudited accounts for the quarter ended September 30, 2022.

Our growth in 2022 continues with a 10% increase in revenue, a 11.4% upswing in operating profit and a 20.7% rise in net profit over the corresponding period in 2021. Performance through the year has been positively affected by improved contract service business performance, through contract gains and retention at recalibrated rates along with improving occupancy at PDO Permanent Accommodation for Contractors (PACs).

RS Consolidated

	Rial Million		USD Million	
	Q3 2022	Q3 2021	Q3 2022	Q3 2021
Revenue	89.05	81.02	231.30	210.44
EBITDA	19.06	17.64	49.51	45.82
Operating profit	13.23	11.88	34.36	30.86
Net profit after tax	10.02	8.31	26.03	21.58
Net profit after non-controlling interest	8.48	6.49	22.03	16.86

Performance

Total contracts awarded year to date stands at RO45.6m. This includes contracts for catering at Ministry of Defence Hospitals and FM services at Haya Water that were awarded during the third quarter. As we await the outcome of a three-year tender, an interim seven-month extension till December 2022 has been formalised with the Ministry of Health for catering, cleaning, laundry and pest control services. As the incumbent, we are pleased to report the renewal of our cleaning contract with Port of Salalah for five years.

Global inflationary pressures, though reducing, continue to impact costs, while project delays and deferrals have put Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD) occupancy under increasing pressure.

RSVD occupancy

While the demobilisation of key RSVD tenants' projects is proceeding according to plan, there have been delays in expected mobilisation of commissioning teams and manpower additions on existing projects. Additionally, new infrastructure projects have not materialised as scheduled leading to the current average occupancy of 65%.



RSVD occupancy received a boost from ongoing defence exercises during the last quarter. A combination of various operational initiatives, proactive financial planning and a favourable room-category mix helped to partially mitigate the impact of lower occupancy.

We reiterate our commitment to providing ILO-compliant world class accommodation for workers and stand by to deliver to the government of Oman, our public and private sector clients, the essential requirements for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country. We are also continuing our work with the authorities at all levels to stamp out sub-standard non-compliant

accommodation and reinforce the correlation between SEZAD's minimum standards and the health, safety, security, welfare and productivity of the workforce.

Renaissance 2.0

Renaissance 2.0 initiatives are touching all levels of our operations. Successful project executions have followed Lean Six Sigma (LSS) Green Belt training and are improving process and resource efficiency, driving down costs and meeting our ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) agenda.

LSS methodologies applied at one of our Renaissance Village facilities within oil and gas concession area has optimised water efficiency, led to significant cost savings and eliminated dependence on external sources. The project is expected to reduce CO₂ emissions by an estimated 230 tonnes annually.



The tunnel washer laundry system at RSVD is a big step towards our commitment to quality, efficiency and sustainability. The system commissioned in August cuts down water use by 60%, and electricity use by 40%. The estimated reduction in annual carbon emissions stands at 140 tonnes.

In a transforming organisation, assessing individual and team strengths and identifying areas that need development becomes imperative. DiSC evaluations and the Executive Leadership Assessment and 360 Review Programme have been adopted as a way of stepping back and looking within to identify and boost talent. Independent third-party consultants commissioned in Q3 have completed their assessments that helped inform the composition of committees to drive data analytics, innovation, EDGE projects (innovative, next-generation start-up opportunities, at home and abroad) and sustainability.

An Operational Excellence review was carried out in the last quarter to evaluate various aspects including strategy deployment, performance management, process excellence and technology and innovation.

A comprehensive Digital Gap assessment was initiated as part of the strategic shift towards business transformation through digital initiatives that enhance process efficiencies, improve customer and employee experiences and open avenues for new digital businesses. We hope to shortly onboard a Chief Innovation and Transformation Officer (CITO) to set up the Innovation Hub and lead the implementation of 2.0.



Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) remains an important commitment, but through recognising true merit which lies at the heart of Renaissance 2.0. From the Board to senior management, from engineers to IT and HSE professionals, Renaissance women are proudly coming to the forefront and making significant contributions to the company's successes.

RALI 2

RALI (Renaissance Accelerated Learning Initiative), Renaissance's training and onboarding programme aligned with the Oman Vision 2040 goal of boosting IGV has welcomed its second batch of young Omani graduates. Out of 4,500 applicants, 14 trainees have been selected to begin their eight-month on-the-job training across Renaissance departments and sites. The company is buoyed by the promise and enterprise these young Omanis are demonstrating - contributing their ideas while gaining experience from our operations.



Recognition

Renaissance's position has been reaffirmed with the OER Business Excellence Award for Industry Leadership, given to the company for innovation-led growth and robust investor confidence. It consolidates our belief and commitment to our values that keep service at the heart.

Outlook

We are focused on a business transformation exercise at our UAE subsidiary with emphasis on successful renegotiation of viable contracts, intelligent sourcing and rationalisation of facilities leading to better economies of scale. Our Qatar venture is progressing apace, and initial forays have opened future possibilities of large Soft FM contracts.

In addition to a recalibration of contract terms, in an effort to mitigate the rising costs of materials, the company continues to successfully implement multiple cost-optimisation measures and efficiency initiatives.

We are working on projects, if successful, will lead to increased activity in the oil and gas sector in 2023. Whilst the global economy continues to place existential pressure on Oman, the internal structural and economic reforms are paying off. The windfall of higher energy prices leading to a budget surplus are all positive factors. We envisage lower pressures on receivables as an outcome.

Tribute

On the 52nd National Day, we send His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and all the people of Oman our best wishes and congratulations. His Majesty's leadership in implementing necessary measures to drive economic and structural reform, provides a platform for local and international investment in Oman's future.

We also take this opportunity to pledge our services and support to the government as it presses ahead with its Public Private Partnership (PPP) and privatisation programmes. We further commit to delivering cost-efficient services to the public and private sector through long-term Integrated Facilities Management (IFM) contracting models which promote In-Country value.



Samir J. Fancy
Chairman

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 TH SEPTEMBER 2022		
	2022 Rial '000	2021 Rial '000
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	139,397	144,772
Intangible assets	1,935	1,959
Investments	5,578	5,231
	146,910	151,962
Current assets	69,219	68,036
Current liabilities	45,335	47,257
Non-current liabilities		
Term loans excluding current maturities	66,562	77,219
Non current payables and advance	10,570	10,428
	77,132	87,647
Net assets	93,662	85,094
Equity		
Share capital	23,641	23,641
Treasury shares	(6,853)	(6,853)
Share premium	26,936	26,936
Legal reserve	8,801	8,574
Subordinated loan reserve	-	2,250
Other reserves	462	552
Retained earnings	18,268	9,225
	71,255	64,325
Non controlling interest	22,407	20,769
Total equity	93,662	85,094

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022		
	2022 Rial '000	2021 Rial '000
Revenue	89,050	81,023
Operating expenses	(75,820)	(69,141)
Profit from operations	13,230	11,882
Net finance costs	(3,366)	(3,556)
Profit before tax	9,864	8,326
Tax	157	(21)
Profit for the period	10,021	8,305
Net profit attributable to :-		
Shareholders of the Parent Company	8,478	6,489
Non-controlling interest	1,543	1,816
	10,021	8,305

Note:
1) The complete accounts will be sent by mail to shareholders within 7 days of receipt of request.
2) The complete set of financial results can be accessed at www.renaissanceservices.com

Bank Muscat approves issue of bonus shares, perpetual bonds

At the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), shareholders of the bank granted their approval for the proposed increase of the authorised share capital of the bank from OMR450,000,000 to OMR800,000,000 and for amending the Articles of Association, accordingly

Times News Service

bank's Board of Directors.

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and an Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) of the bank's shareholders on November 9 through the electronic platform provided via Muscat Clearing and Depository's website.

Both meetings were presided over by Sheikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani, Chairman of the

Authorised share capital

At the EGM, shareholders of the bank granted their approval for the proposed increase of the authorised share capital of the bank from OMR450,000,000 to OMR800,000,000 and for amending the Articles of Association, accordingly.

Also approved during the EGM was the issuance by way of the dividend of 375,319,853 subordinated, perpetual AT 1 bonds to the bank's

list of shareholders at the rate of 1 bond per 10 ordinary shares held by the shareholders on the meeting date, and in accordance with the relevant conditions.

The bank's Board of Directors was authorised by the shareholders to complete all the necessary actions after approval is received from regulators.

Ordinary General Meeting

During the OGM, shareholders approved the distribution of bonus shares at the rate of 1 bonus share for every 1 share held by the shareholders of the bank on the meeting date, from the share premium reserves of the bank for the financial year ended 31st December 2021. The approval of the distribution of bonus shares will result in an increase in the issued share capital of the bank from 3,753,198,531 shares (aggregating to OMR375,319,853) to 7,506,397,062 shares (aggregating to OMR750,639,706).

Strong support

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani thanked the regulators, shareholders, customers and partners for their strong support of the bank,

which has helped maintain the bank's performance momentum over the years. He added: "Bank Muscat, which celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year, continues to demonstrate its leadership in Oman's financial services sector. As the Sultanate's leading financial institution, Bank Muscat is poised for greater growth and development in the coming years as it strives to continue serving the nation and the people of Oman."

Financial sector

Sheikh Khalid bin Mustahail Al Mashani added that bank Muscat's Board of Directors welcomed and supported the measures undertaken by the Central Bank of Oman and the Capital Markets Authority to strengthen and diversify the financial sector.

Sheikh Khalid Al Mashani explained that the bank's growth and achievements could not have been achieved without the oversight and appropriate policies initiated by the government. Sheikh Khalid Al Mashani also wished all the success to the banking sector in continuing its contributions to the Sultanate's economic development.



INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING

Pearl REIF IPO attracts overwhelming participation from all segments of investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Pearl REIF, the largest IPO (initial public offering) in MSX in the last seven years received an overwhelming demand of over OMR35 million.

The IPO received strong levels of response from the both retail and institutional categories of investors. REIF IPOs being rare in the Sultanate made this a challenging transaction and its success promises to be a key benchmark for similar future capital market offerings.

Thanks to all investors

Wahbi Al Riyami, Chairman of The Pearl REIF, said, "The response received for the IPO and the subscription numbers that we have witnessed reflects the robust offering which was underpinned by strong promoters, the sound structure of the instrument and an experienced fund management team. Our thanks to all investors who have participated and the Capital Market Authority (CMA) & Muscat Clearing and Depository (MCD) for their continued support and guidance."

Aown Abbas Al Bahrani, Deputy Chairman of the Pearl REIF and Director of Public Markets at



The IPO got positive recommendations from leading brokerage houses in Oman

OIA, said, "We are pleased that investors across segments have appreciated the opportunity and the response shows the confidence

placed in the offering. We extend our sincere thanks to all our partners for managing the IPO process in an efficient manner."

The Pearl REIF IPO comprised an offering of 208,137,400 Offer Units for 112 Baisas per Offer Unit (including Offer Price of 110 Baisa and Offer Expenses of 2 Baisa per Offer Unit) for a subscription. The IPO received positive recommendations from leading brokerage houses in Oman.

Oman Investment Authority and its subsidiary, Omantel are the promoters of The Pearl REIF. Sohar International is the investment manager and issue manager.

OMAN DATA PARK



ODP signs agreement to reduce cyber security risk for public and private entities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Data Park (ODP) signed a strategic co-operation agreement with the Omani-British company Crossword Cybersecurity, for reducing cyber security risk for public and private entities and enhance the protection of the cyber security structure of sensitive information in the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement aims at adding more security measures to secure the data hosting process for the institutions and companies, enhance its protection from the danger of third parties such as suppliers and other parties, and ascertain funding sources, verifying suspicions of money laundering.

The agreement was signed by Eng. Maqbool Al-Wahaibi, CEO of ODP and Stuart Jubb, the group managing director of Crossword Cybersecurity.

Commenting on this event, Engineer Maqbool bin Ali Al Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Data Park Company, stated: "We are pleased to sign a partnership agreement with an international company such as Crossword, to transfer technology related to cyber security to ensure the protection of the sensitive data of government entities and private companies in the Sultanate of Oman, in particular, combating against external attacks that targeting some public and private companies where they are penetrating their devices and affecting their data and incurring heavy losses for them."

Maqbool added, "We delight to call on government agencies and companies to take advantage of high-tech services to bridge the gap in the areas of cyber security information sharing." Khalid bin Ali Al Maskari, Director of Development at Crossword Cybersecurity said, "Signing an agreement with Oman Data is considered as a strategic step to set a cyber-security plan at the regional level, while this agreement allows expanding cyber security services and enhances the skills of national cadres with professional experiences."

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Argentina announce squad for FIFA World Cup 2022, Messi to lead

Forward Paulo Dybala, who is injured, made the cut despite not having played for his club Roma since early October

BUENOS AIRES: A 26-man roster for the World Cup in Qatar, which runs from November 20 to December 18, led by Lionel Messi, was announced on Friday by Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni. Forward Paulo Dybala, who is injured, made the cut despite not having played for his club Roma since early October. Dybala has been selected in the team as Argentina hopes he can get back in shape before their World Cup campaign kicks off on November 22 against Group C rival Saudi Arabia. Argentina are also scheduled to play Mexico and Poland in Group C after they face Saudi Arabia in their campaign opener. "They are proud to be called up and wear this jersey, let's hope that you as fans are too. All togeth-



er," coach Scaloni said in an Instagram video as quoted by ESPN. The talismanic striker who plays for Paris Saint German (PSG) will want to repeat the heroics of Copa America 2021, where they lifted the coveted trophy. Earlier, Spain announced their World Cup squad that does not feature veteran defender Sergio Ramos. The PSG player ran out of favour of the Spanish coach and couldn't make the cut to be in the team. Sadio Mane who was specu-

lated to miss out due to an injury has made it to the Senegal World Cup squad. Qatar will host the World Cup from November 20 to December 18, 2022. After the event in South Korea and Japan in 2002, this will be the second World Cup exclusively held in Asia and the first World Cup ever to be contested in the Arab world. Argentina squad in full: Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martinez, Franco Armani and Geronimo Rulli

Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel, Nahuel Molina, German Pezzella, Cristian Romero, Nicolas Otamendi, Lisandro Martinez, Juan Foyth, Nicolas Tagliafico, Marcos Acuna Midfielders: Leandro Paredes, Guido Rodriguez, Enzo Fernandez, Rodrigo De Paul, Exequiel Palacios, Alejandro Gomez, Alexis Mac Allister Forwards: Paulo Dybala, Lionel Messi, Angel Di Maria, Nicolas Gonzalez, Joaquin Correa, Lautaro Martinez, Julian Alvarez. **ANI**

FIFA WORLD CUP



Spain announce 26-man FIFA World Cup squad; Sergio Ramos snubbed

BARCELONA: Spain on Friday announced the 26-man squad for the World Cup, with no place for Paris Saint-Germain's Sergio Ramos or Liverpool's Thiago Alcantara, Spain football team announced on their official social media handle. Former Real Madrid defender Ramos, who was a member of the 2010 World Cup-winning Spain team, was hoping to play in his fifth tournament but was unable to travel to Qatar. Meanwhile, the twenty-year-old Barcelona forward Ansu Fati has been added to Spain's squad for the World Cup. Since making his fourth appearance as a teenager in October 2020, after breaking the record for Spain's youngest scorer, Ansu has not competed for Spain. Leg injuries ended his stellar start for Spain and Barcelona.

On November 17, Spain's players will fly to Jordan to play a friendly match against that nation's national team. After that, they will take a flight to Doha, where the squad will set up camp for the World Cup. Spain will face Costa Rica in its World Cup opener on November 23. In Group E, the 2010 champions will also compete against Germany and Japan. The full squad is: Unai Simon, Robert Sanchez, David Raya, Dani Carvajal, Cesar Azpilicueta, Eric Garcia, Hugo Guillamon, Pau Torres, Aymeric Laporte, Jordi Alba, Jose Gaya, Sergio Busquets, Rodri, Gavi, Carlos Soler, Marcos Llorente, Pedri, Koke, Ferran Torres, Pablo Sarabia, Yeremy Pino, Alvaro Morata, Marco Asensio, Nico Williams, Ansu Fati and Dani Olmo. **ANI**

T20 WORLD CUP

Sachin Tendulkar backs Team India after T20 disappointment

MUMBAI: Legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar backed Men in Blue after their ten-wicket loss to England in the semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup, saying that though the loss was very disappointing, the team should not be judged on basis of this defeat since its the number one side in the shortest format of the game. Highlighting that the T20 top ranking is not an instant process he added that a side should play good cricket over a period of time for it and India made their mark in the same. "I know that the Semi Finals against England was very disappointing. Let us accept that we did not put up a good total on the board. 168 in Adelaide Oval is not



great since the dimensions of the ground are entirely different and side boundaries are really short. We were also unsuccessful in tak-

ing wickets. It was a tough game for us, a bad and disappointing defeat," legendary cricketer Tendulkar told ANI.

He also stressed that India is the number side in the shortest format of the game. "To get to that Number 1 spot, it does not happen overnight. The team has to play good cricket over a period of time and it has done that. Let us not judge our team on the basis of this performance. Players also did not want to go out and fail. In sports, these ups and downs are there. We have to be in it together," concluded Tendulkar. His remarks came after the Men in Blue were knocked out in the semi-finals of the ICC T20 World Cup which left millions of cricket fans shattered. Top knocks from openers Alex Hales and Jos Buttler powered England to an emphatic 10-wicket win over India in the second semi-

final of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup in Australia at Adelaide on Thursday. Put to bat first by England, India posted 168/6 in their 20 overs. Hardik Pandya (63 off 33 balls) and Virat Kohli (50 off 40 balls) were the stars for Men in Blue with the bat. They put on a crucial stand of 61-runs for the fourth wicket. Pacer Chris Jordan was the pick of the bowlers, taking 3/43. Adil Rashid and Chris Woakes got a wicket each. Chasing 169, England put pressure on Indian bowlers right from the first over. India did not have an answer for the onslaught brought by Jos Buttler (80*) and Alex Hales (86*). England chased the total with

all ten wickets in hand with four overs to spare. Hales (86* off 47 balls) was adjudged as the 'Man of the Match'. Coming to the group stage, India had finished the group stage at the top of the Group 2 table with eight points under their belt, having won four matches out of five. They only lost one match in their group stage against South Africa. Star batter Virat Kohli (296 runs in 6 innings with four fifties and tournament's leading run-scorer), Suryakumar Yadav (239 runs in 6 innings with three fifties), pacer Arshdeep Singh (10 wickets) and all-rounder Hardik Pandya (128 runs with one fifty and eight wickets) were some of India's best performers in the tournament. **ANI**

ICC CHAIRMAN

Greg Barclay re-elected as ICC Chairman for two-year term

DUBAI: The ICC board has unanimously re-elected Greg Barclay as the Independent Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a second two-year term as announced by the International cricket governing body on Saturday. Barclay was unopposed following the withdrawal of Tavengwa Mukuhliani from the process, and the Board reaffirmed its full support of him to continue as Chair for a further two years. "It is an honour to be re-elected as the

Chair of the International Cricket Council and I would like to thank my fellow ICC Directors for their support," Barclay said on his re-appointment. The newly elected chairman mentioned that ICC has taken consequential steps in promoting the sport of cricket and laying a roadmap for its future. "Over the last two years we have made significant strides forward with the launch of our global growth strategy that provides clear

direction to build a successful and sustainable future for our sport," he added. Barclay expressed his happiness in continuing the work for the game of cricket in close association with the ICC members. "It is an exciting time to be involved in cricket and I look forward to continuing to work closely with our Members to strengthen the game in our core markets as well as grow it beyond that, ensuring more of the world can enjoy cricket," concluded Barclay. **-ANI**

T20 WORLD CUP

There is excitement but we have to start afresh: Jos Buttler on final

MELBOURNE: England captain Jos Buttler said the team is excited about the final of the T20 World Cup after thumping India in the semis, but will start fresh, while addressing a press conference on Saturday. England have dominated the white ball format in the past few years after giving their team a complete overhaul, adapting to a more aggressive brand of cricket. The team reaped its success as they won the 2019 ODI World

Cup under Eoin Morgan and are on the brink of winning another white-ball mega tournament when they lock horns with Pakistan in the final of the 2022 T20 World Cup. "There is huge excitement for the match. But it doesn't count for anything because we have to start afresh," said the captain ahead of their clash against Pakistan in the final. Buttler also spoke about the recent seven-match T20I series that they played in Pakistan's

home territory and said that the conditions in the final would be very different to those in Pakistan. "We played them a lot recently but that was in different conditions. We know that we are up against an amazing team," said the wicketkeeper-batsmen. He also mentioned that he used to watch the cricketers play cricket in his childhood and dreamt of holding the World Cup trophy. **-ANI**

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ROUND-UP



New Sharia Supervisory Committee of Takaful Oman Insurance meets BoD

Apart from reaffirming its commitment to Sharia principles, the meeting discussed the Sharia framework under the regulatory regime and key challenges of the Islamic insurance industry

MUSCAT: The first meeting between the new Sharia Supervisory Committee (SSC) of Takaful Oman Insurance and the company's Board of Directors was held recently. The meeting witnessed attendance from Mohammed Abdullah Al Khonji, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, and distinguished members of the Board of Directors. Attendees from the Sharia Supervisory



Committee included Sheikh Dr Majid bin Mohammed Al Kindi, Chairman of the Committee, and members of the Sharia Supervisory Committee. Apart from reaffirming its commitment to Sharia principles, the meeting discussed the Sharia framework under the

regulatory regime, key challenges of the Islamic insurance industry, and various new developments and opportunities in the sector. Takaful Oman Insurance has remained steadfast in its efforts to continuously enhance its portfolio while adhering to the norms

and regulations of the Sharia law. The company has demonstrated utmost transparency in all its procedures, worked with integrity and upheld the highest values of ethicality in all its dealings. The board has also shown its commitment to providing its full support and assistance to the Sharia Supervisory Committee. Neelmani Bhardwaj, Acting Chief Executive Officer at Takaful Oman Insurance said, "Takaful Oman Insurance, being the first Islamic insurance company in the Sultanate, is leading transformation in the sector and setting new benchmarks along the way. Our strong dedication to providing world-class Sharia-compliant products has helped us increase our data-base of loyal customers. At the same time, we have also been able to advocate the benefits of opting for Islamic insurance products. The unwavering support from our SSC team, their expert advice, and continuous guidance have been instrumental in helping us achieve new milestones in the field." In line with the company's vision to spread awareness of Sharia-compliant insurance products, Takaful has also conducted a number of training sessions for all levels of management to further familiarise the team with the Sharia principles of insurance. The training sessions were conducted by one of the SSC members, Mufti Zeeshan Abdul Aziz, and was well-received by all the attendees.

IN COLLABORATION WITH EVO

Audi to launch Oman's largest network of interconnected electric vehicle chargers

MUSCAT: To provide a hassle-free ownership experience to new Audi EV owners, Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors has partnered with EVO to launch Oman's largest network of interconnected electric vehicle chargers. The Omani landscape is unique in its scale and widespread development and requires a robust EV infrastructure to attend to the mainstream adoption of electric vehicles. This is one of the main challenges faced by electric vehicle customers today. Audi Oman understands these challenges and has taken a proactive stance to partner with EVO and develop a robust network that can both support the adoption of electric vehicles in Oman as well as provide Audi EV owners with a seamless and hassle-free experience. Under the patronage of Eng.



Said bin Hamood Al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communication, and Information Technology, and in line with Oman's net-zero 2050 commitment and the Sultanate's drive towards a greener tomorrow, Audi Oman and EVO have unveiled the first of a series of public electric vehicle chargers at a special event held at the Oman Automobile Association. Audi Oman and EVO are planning

to install over 70 chargers across Oman before the end of 2022 and will further expand this network to over 250 charging points by the end of 2023. Additionally, the EVO app which is scheduled to launch in December 2022 will provide Audi EV users with a wide range of exclusive services geared at facilitating their transition to e-mobility. EVO and Audi ensure the most advanced

suite of services in the region. The e-tron Sportback launched in Oman earlier this year is a symbol of EV readiness in the nation. The launch of the battery-powered luxury crossover along with the robust charging network will further complement Audi's offerings and cement its position as the leader in the EV marketplace in Oman. Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors Oman, said: "We believe our commitment to developing EV infrastructure in Oman will greatly contribute to Audi's overall sustainability strategy. The charging process is fundamental to the everyday usability of an EV. We are happy to introduce a series of new charging points which we are sure will add to the convenience of owning a premium state-of-the-art EV such as the e-tron Sportback."

52ND NATIONAL DAY

Malabar Gold unveils special collection of diamond pendants

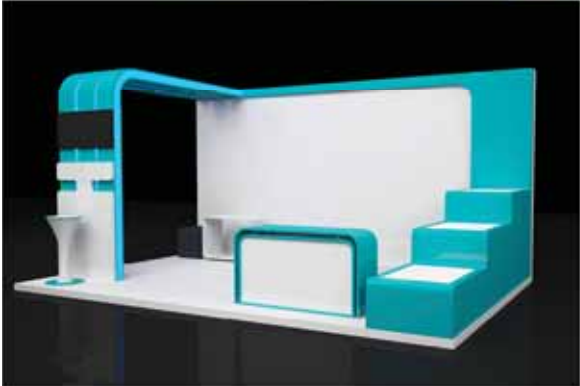
MUSCAT: To pay tribute to the glorious spirit of the nation on the occasion of Oman's 52nd National Day, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 290 showrooms across 10 countries, has launched a special collection of diamond pendants and rings priced at OMR52. "We are very excited to launch the limited-edition collection of pendants and rings to commemorate the 52nd National Day of Oman. Malabar Gold & Diamonds truly values and appreciates the significance of this day for the country and its residents and is honoured to be a part of Oman's rich legacy of culture and commerce. Our 18 showrooms

across the Sultanate are widely accepted by both nationals and expatriates alike and are representative of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' position in the country's jewellery trade," said Najeeb K, Regional Head - Oman, Malabar Gold & Diamonds. The exclusive collection is available in 9 designs and reflects the vibrance of Omani culture. Malabar Gold has a strong retail presence across Oman and has incorporated the special design as part of the Mine Diamonds collection. The National day products will be available across all 18 outlets of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Oman, located at Muscat, Seeb, Barka, Salalah, Sohar, Muttrah Souk, Ibri, Al Bandar, Nizwa and Al Khoud.



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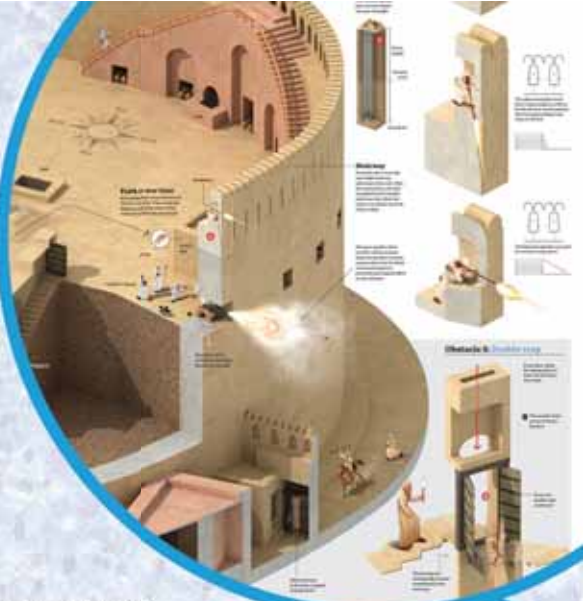
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ROUND-UP



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AGAE opens state-of-art showroom for premium automotive brand Changan

The state-of-the-art showroom in Maweleh will cater to the rising demand for premium Changan models and the luxurious UNI series

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) announced the inauguration of a flagship showroom for the premium automotive brand Changan at Al Maweleh in Muscat.

The state-of-the-art showroom will cater to the rising demand for premium Changan models and the luxurious UNI series.

Changan Maweleh showroom key highlights

Spread over an area of 1300 square metres, the facility has the capacity to display 20 +cars. Designed in accordance with global standards, the showroom's façade holds a glass fascia with an inside height of 6.3 metres and a front elevation of nine metres which provides excellent visibility to the customer.

The showroom location has easy access to customers residing in Muscat and is only 2.4km from Burj Al Sahwa roundabout. The showroom has ample sitting places for customers to discuss and look at the display cars. The largest showroom area also provides customers with a sufficient place to look at the entire model range of Changan and UNI models, seven different model variants in Changan and three models in the UNI range need such a large state-of-the-art showroom to meet customer choices. The state-of-the-art showroom also has an exclusive new car delivery area, customer lounge, wheelchair access, ample car parking and comes with prayer room facilities etc.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, "We have always believed in strengthening our relationship with our customers and are elated to expand our network and come closer to all of them. We have a great partnership with the Changan brand and are very happy to extend this further with the inauguration of our new facility. We look forward to welcoming new buyers to the Changan family and establishing a fruitful, long-term relationship." He also added that Bahwan group showroom standards are very well maintained for buying convenience like test-drive to satisfy the customer on the quality of drive, easy financing and also offers low instalments through banks and finance companies, insurance and Registration to support the customers to buy their favourite Changan and UNI Models.

The premium automotive brand Changan has received an overwhelming response among Oman customers. Changan Automobile boasts a comprehensive portfolio of a range of products including Sedan, Crossovers, SUVs and Pick-ups like Changan Alsvin- Entry level sedan, EADO Plus - Family Sedan, CS35 Plus Crossover, CS75 Plus Crossover, CS85 Coupe, CS95 7 Seater 4WD and Hunter Pick-up's. All the models of Changan Hunter pickup has a 'European Standard' body and plastic bed liners which is unique to the model.

Changan Auto Luxury brand is called UNI and it's positioned as futuristic and fashionable, the UNI range features progres-



sive design and smart technologies offered only in luxury brands. Changan UNI range of automobiles is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors. For a luxury model to be 'sporty at a glance', the UNI range adopts a short overhang and long axle design, adding a sporty feeling to a luxury range. This improves the overall handling of the UNI range having high agility and high-speed stability when driving.

The UNI range has adopted pure, precise and agile exterior design elements. The hidden door handle design blends in with the body, making it simple and sophisticated. The UNI family's classic borderless grille design is combined with the narrow, sharp headlamps on both sides for an intense look. The aerodynamic airship-shape spoiler improves driving stability and is fashionable in aesthetics. The space battleship gear shift knob has a sporty design, giving the user a sense of exploration on every trip.

Equipped with the IACC system, the UNI range can achieve L2 autonomous driving having features of FCW+AEB+LDW+LAS+TJA +AEB+LCDA. UNI range is

equipped with four high-definition wide-angle cameras giving 360-degree view around the vehicle in real-time to park your vehicle safely.

The UNI range adopts a simplistic yet Avant-grade interior design. It uses an asymmetrical design in the instrumentation and centre console as well as bright colours that create technically dynamic interiors. It adopts the Intelligent Cockpit Interaction System which appears to be two screens staggered on the surface, but internally they are connected as one have a high-resolution display and adaptive backlight control to protect the eyes from fatigue to the max while reading and driving.

The UNI range features newly designed seats with fuller side wings which also provide more reliable support and confidence when cornering. The wireless charging provides ultra-fast charging with wide-range compatibility.

Changan Auto

One of the 'big four' Chinese automakers of the world and a top-selling brand, Changan Automobile boasts of a comprehensive portfolio of products which includes sedans, crossovers and SUVs. With an inspiring history



of 160 years, Changan Automobile Group traces its corporate origins way back to 1862 with 62 years of automobile making and 36 years experience of in manufacturing Changan vehicles.

With world-class R&D facilities, Changan develops products which are advanced, hi-tech, innovative, fashionable, safe and deliver a strong performance. Each year Changan invests 5% of the annual sales revenue for product R&D and with continuous efforts has built a global collaborative R&D network

with various priorities. Changan has been ranked No.1 in R&D capability in China's automotive industry for the past ten years.

It has 3 R&D centres in China's Chongqing, Shanghai and Beijing and 4 overseas facilities in Turin of Italy, Yokohama in Japan, Nottingham in the UK and Detroit USA. Supported by intelligent driving, intelligent interconnection and intelligent interaction technologies, it is building an intelligent vehicle platform in stages. Changan has been vigorously developing new

energy and intelligent vehicles. Changan uses Bluecore Powertrain technology based on the principles of power, cleanliness and quiet to provide customers with a highly efficient product and energy saving.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment has set up a spacious and state-of-the-art showroom in Maweleh and Al Qurum. The main service centre is in Ghala, Muscat. AGAE has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in many cities including Salalah, Sohar, Sur, Nizwa, Ibra and Barka etc.



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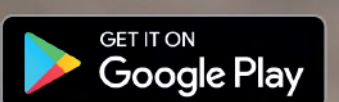
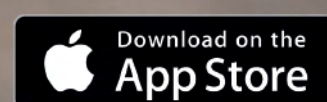
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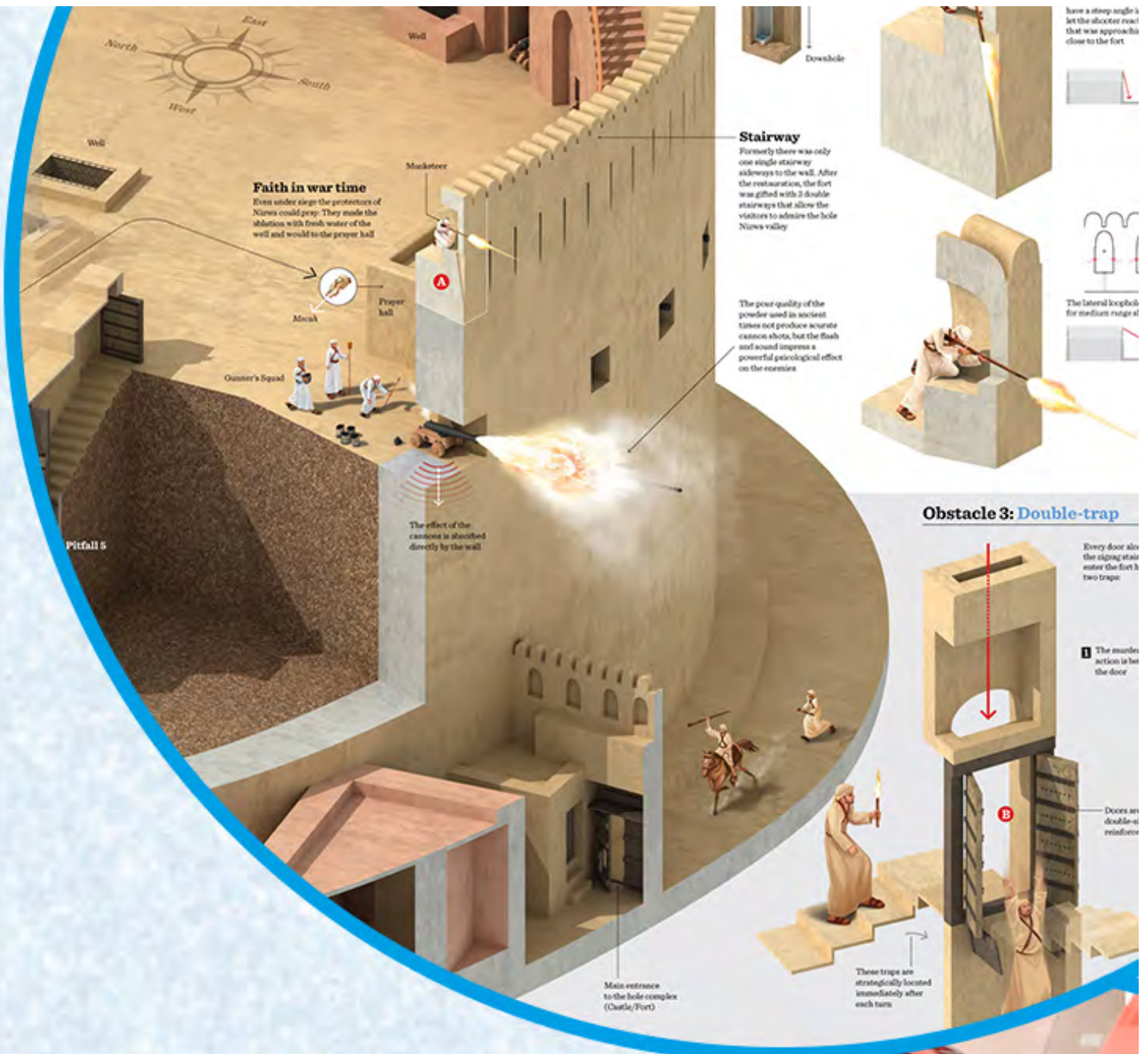
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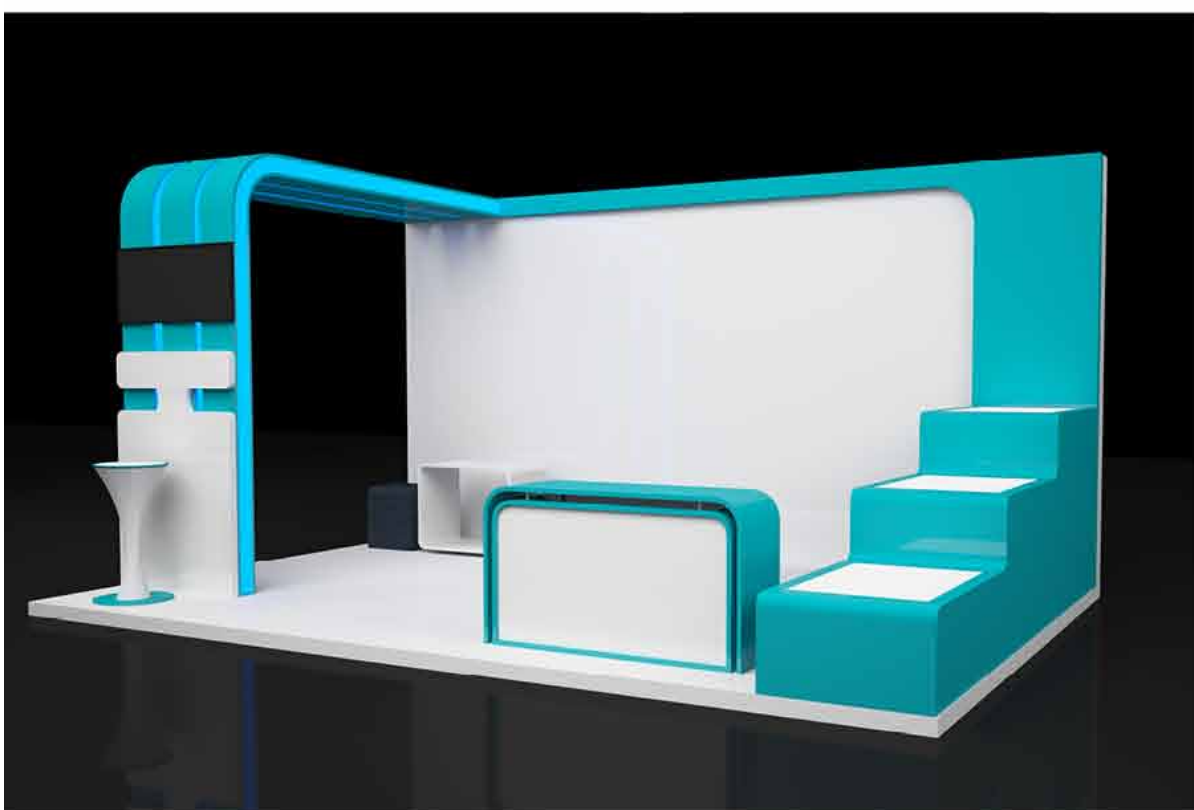
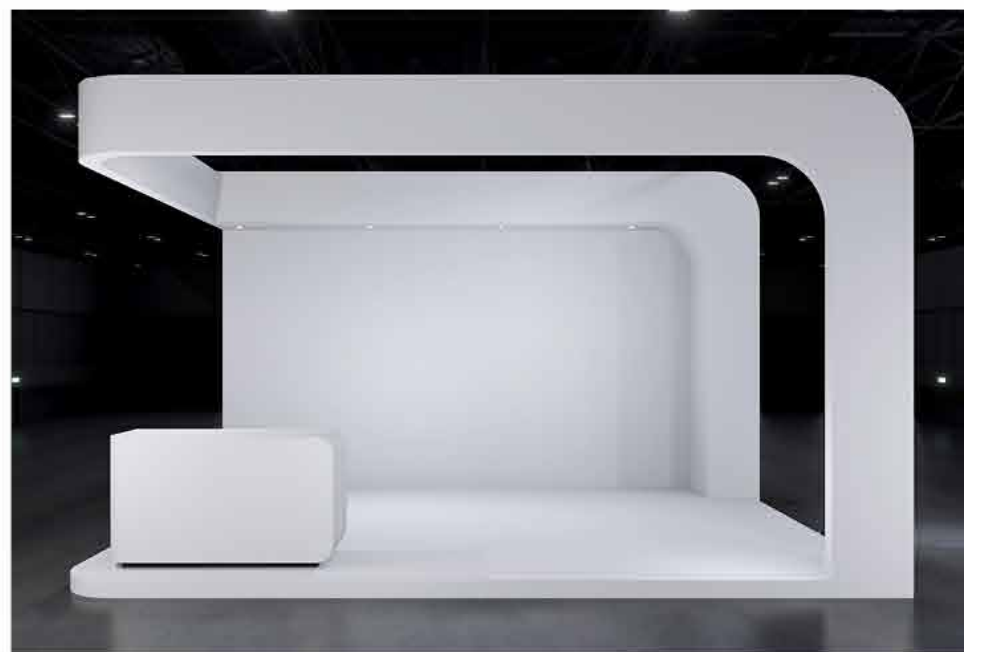
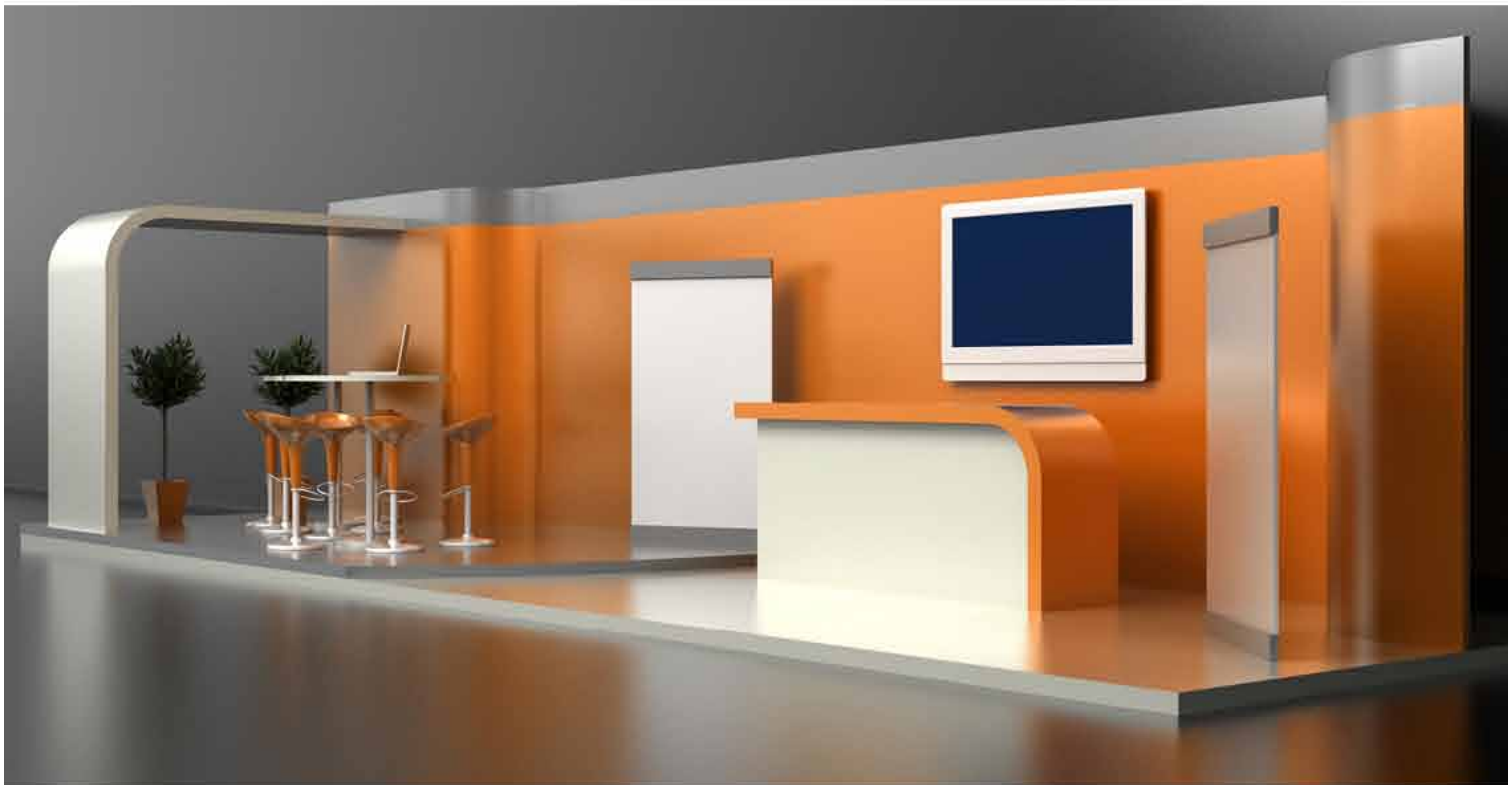
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