LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

A8
2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

NEW OMANI PUBLICATIONS CORNER INAUGURATED IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

'Al Khalil bin Ahmed Al Farahidi' Corner for Omani Publications was inaugurated at the Library of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in Brunei Darussalam. The inauguration ceremony was held in cooperation with the Sultanate's Embassy in Brunei Darussalam under the patronage of Dato Aminuddin Ehsan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports. >A6

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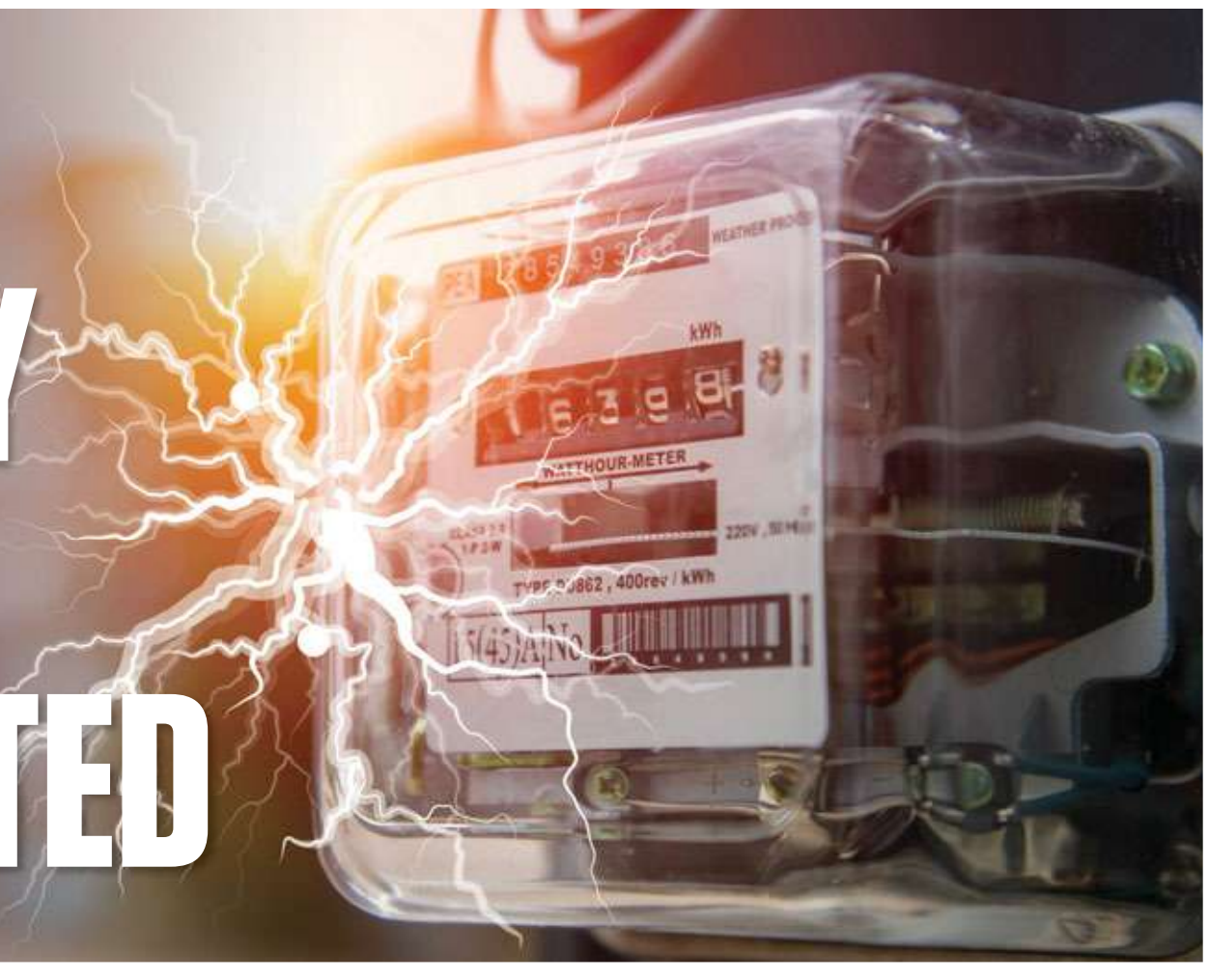
THE AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC SERVICES REGULATION HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED LICENSED POWER DISTRIBUTION FIRMS TO SUSPEND THE DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRICITY SERVICES, THIS SUMMER, FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO PAY THEIR BILLS.

ELECTRICITY BILLS TO BE RECALCULATED



There will also be no increase in tariffs during the summer months this year in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Electricity bills that customers need to pay for the months of May and June will be recalculated according to a new pricing system adopted by the Authority for Public Services Regulation.

Under the new system, the first tier of pricing will affect people who have consumed up to 4,000 kWh, the second tier is for customers who have drawn between 4,001 and 6,000 kWh, and the third segment is for those who have drawn upwards of 6,000 kWh.

There will also be no increase in tariffs during the summer months this year. The APSR has also instructed licensed power distribution firms to suspend the disconnection of electricity services, this summer, for those who are unable to pay their bills. Furthermore, interested customers need to be provided ways to reschedule the bills owed for May and June.

During a press conference held on Monday, the authority said it was also looking at other tariff structures for economic and farming services to help them adapt to the current circumstances. It will also continue to revise the mechanisms that govern the electricity sector on a regular basis.

The APSR also reiterated its intentions to promote public services and promote the rights of all citizens. The assessment comes within the government's vision and keenness to ensure the success of the programme of re-orienting subsidy to the electricity and water sector for the 'entitled segments' as approved in the Medium Term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2024) that was announced in December 2020. The assessment seeks to alleviate burdens on the whole society, given the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The above decisions were made following a comprehensive programme aimed at re-orienting electricity consumption subsidy in coordination with the departments concerned.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

WORLD

US reaches deal on infrastructure bill

2 US senators released a highly anticipated infrastructure legislation package. The bill is worth nearly $1 trillion and calls for $550 billion in added federal spending. Among the major new investments would be $110 billion for roads and bridges; $39 billion for public transit and $66 billion for rail; $55 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure; as well as billions for airports and ports. >A7

OMAN

Quarantine excluded for teaching staff

1 The Civil Aviation Authority has issued a circular excluding teaching staff and their families from institutional quarantine. Previously the Civil Aviation Authority had announced the exemption of all medical and medical assistance categories and their families from the mandatory institutional quarantine. >A3

MARKET

Oman's first biodiesel plant opens in Samail

3 In a breakthrough announcement, Synergy BioFuels announced the commissioning of the first biodiesel plant in Oman in Samail Industrial Estate. The plant successfully produced its first batch of 30 tonnes of biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil that complies with EN14214 international standards. >B1

VALUE ADDED TAX

More than 17,000 companies register for VAT in Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 17,000 companies and institutions have registered for value added tax (VAT) since the beginning of the registration period, a senior official from the Tax Authority has said.

"During the two tax registration windows we have seen so far, the first from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, and the second from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, we have seen more than 17,000 companies and organisations register for VAT," said the official, speaking exclusively to the *Times of Oman*.

The current period runs from July 1 to September 30, 2021, and is for those firms having an annual income between OMR250,000 and OMR500,000, while the period from October 1 to December 31, 2021, is for companies whose annual income is between OMR38,000 and 250,000.

Registration periods

"There are four VAT registration periods in the Sultanate. Companies whose annual income is above OMR1 million must register between January 1 and March 31 this year," he said.

"The next window from April 1 to June 30, 2021 is for those whose annual income is between OMR1 million and half a million. These two periods have elapsed with the registration of more than 17,000 companies." The current period runs from July 1 to September 30, 2021, and is for those organisations that report an annual income of between OMR250,000 and OMR500,000, while the following period is from October 1 to December 31, 2021, and is for companies whose annual income is between OMR38,000 and 250,000.

VAT is a self-assessed tax, and therefore each person must constantly assess the necessity to register for the same. VAT registration is either mandatory or voluntary. If the taxable person exceeds the mandatory limit, he is considered obligated to register, but if he exceeds the voluntary limit, he has the option to register.

HIJRA ANNIVERSARY

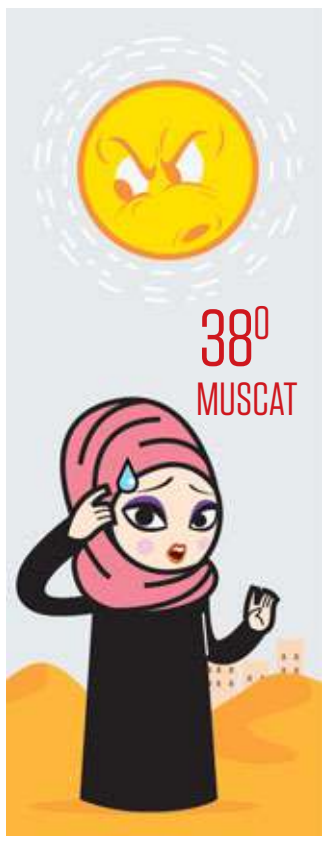
New Hijri Year holiday announced

MUSCAT: On the occasion of the Holy Prophet's Hijra Anniversary (PBUH) and the advent of new Hijri year 1443 AH, it was decided that the first day of Muharram 1443 AH will be an official holiday for the employees of the ministries, public authorities, other departments of the State's Administrative Apparatus, as well as employees at the private sector.

Muharram moon sighting will be declared by the concerned authorities.

The Ministry of Labour explained that the decision allows employers and employees to agree on compensating this holiday if necessity arises.

On this blessed occasion, the Ministry of Labour extended its greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, praying to Allah the Almighty to protect His Majesty, grant him good health, happiness and a long life and for the return of this and similar occasions on His Majesty for many years to come. — ONA



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Henna makers overcome lockdown challenges to do brisk business

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Henna and cosmetics makers are finding ways to do good business during the on-going lockdowns, which has affected some of their main sources of revenue.

Many hairdressers and beauty parlours buy supplies such as henna, perfumes, and other cosmetics from manufacturers in the country. But with these establishments often closed for large parts of the day, required to operate at reduced capacity, and facing a drop in customers because of concerns over catching COVID-19, the demand for such products has fallen.

Although women were unable to visit the salons, they still have to meet their cosmetic needs. This was when Maryam Al Essai decided to set up Meemz Stickers, which makes henna patches for customers.

"I began my project at the start of the pandemic, because I saw there were many women who were unable to go to the salons, but still needed certain cosmetic treatments," said the native of Yanqul in Ad Dhahirah. "They were afraid of going to the hairdressers. Because they needed to look after themselves at home, demand for my product was very high."

"My profits have climbed to more than OMR250 a month, compared to what I used to earn before the pandemic," she said. "I have been able to earn the trust of many customers. Because so many of them spend their time browsing social media, I have gained success by promoting my products on these platforms as well."

Another home business owner who took the initiative to start something of her own is Seham Saif Al Sabriya, from Wilayat Saham in North Batinah. The 35-year-old decided to start Seham Beauty – which is named after her – and make incense, perfumes and natural cosmetics. People prefer her products to those available in stores because they are made from organic raw materials, and have a better smell compared to the ones found elsewhere.

"My cosmetics are 80 per cent comprised of natural ingredients," explained the Sohar University graduate. "People are starting to appreciate the value of goods that are more natural, because they are both effective and safe. In this case, they provide better results in colouring their hair, and solving their skin problems. Some of the other cosmetics you find in the market are unfortunately made from chemicals and can harm your body with regular use." >A6

OMAN

THIS DAY 1978 THAT YEAR

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12.18pm
Asr	3:42pm
Maghrib	6:54pm
Isha	8:11pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4.16am

TIMES OF OMAN

VOL. 4, NO: 24 MUSCAT, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1978—SHABAN 29, 1398 PRICE BAIZAS 200

OMAN CONDEMNS INTERVENTION IN FREE STATES

RECENT EVENTS WERE BREACHES OF NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES

Oman spoke out strongly at the meeting of non-aligned foreign ministers in Belgrade this week against military intervention in the affairs of countries belonging to the movement.

Ambassador Sadiq Jawad Suleiman suggested that recent events of this type constituted a serious deviation from non-aligned principles. This weakened the movement.

Speaking of military intervention, he said that some non-aligned countries had played a role which only served the interests of a super power.

Such practices must be condemned, he continued. The Ambassador proposed that the venue of the next non-aligned summit conference, due to be held in the Cuban capital, Havana, should be reconsidered.

Referring particularly to the Indian Ocean, Ambassador Suleiman said Oman wished to see it nuclear free and detached from great power rivalries. This would help to maintain security and stability.

He also spoke of the non-aligned movement as facing new challenges while passing through its present delicate and decisive phase. Among those he listed were disarmament and economic difficulties, and political problems such as Palestine, and the Cyprus and Korean questions.

Many other speakers, including the Indian and Kuwaiti representatives, spoke in terms similar to that of Oman. The Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee warned of bringing the cold war in by the back door.

Sayyed Fahr bin Taimur, deputy Minister of Defence and Minister of Youth, inspecting the Naval Base at Muscat after he had opened the new building there.

SEBAI'S KILLERS STILL TO BE HANGED

Cyprus Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal against the death sentence by the two Palestinians who murdered Youssif Sebai, leading Egyptian newspaper editor and friend of President Sadat. They are due to be hanged in just over a fortnight from now.

Their lawyer says he will appeal to President Kyprianou for commutation to life imprisonment.

Mr. Sebai was shot down outside a Nicosia hotel in February. The gunmen seized a plane and hostages at Larnaca airport. In a gunbattle by a rescuing Egyptian commando and Cypriot forces, 15 Egyptians were killed .

Egypt broke off relations, and this condition continues.

IRAQ EMBASSY HOSTAGES FREED IN PARIS GUN BATTLE

French police and soldiers on Monday stormed the Iraqi Embassy in Paris to free hostages held by two gunmen. One gunman and a policeman were wounded and two hostages were hurt in earlier shooting.

It is believed that the gunmen demanded a plane to take them to London. They wanted the release of an Arab girl, detained there in connection with the attempt on Friday to kill the Iraqi Ambassador to Britain by putting a grenade under his car.

The Ambassador was saved by a phone call from a friend, which he had to turn back to answer. Two bystanders were injured.

Three Arab men, in addition to the girl, are said to have been involved in the London attempt. Observers relate it to the recent murder outside a West End hotel, of former Iraqi Prime Minister, Gen. al-Naif.

Earlier in the week, the British Government had asked Iraq to withdraw 11 embassy staff members on the ground that they were a security risk. Iraq replied by ordering out eight of the British embassy staff in Baghdad, and two British Air employees.

In Paris, the trouble began when three men arrived at the embassy. Two went upstairs and seized hostages. The third, after opening fire with an automatic weapon, fled.

Lebanese Army May Move Again soon

Talks are expected to end the difficulties experienced by the first Lebanese Army unit to return to the south of the country. It was stopped by rightwing Christian militiamen some 10 miles north of the Israeli border.

They encountered a road block in an area ostensibly under the control of the UN peacekeeping force. The militia also fired warning mortar and artillery rounds.

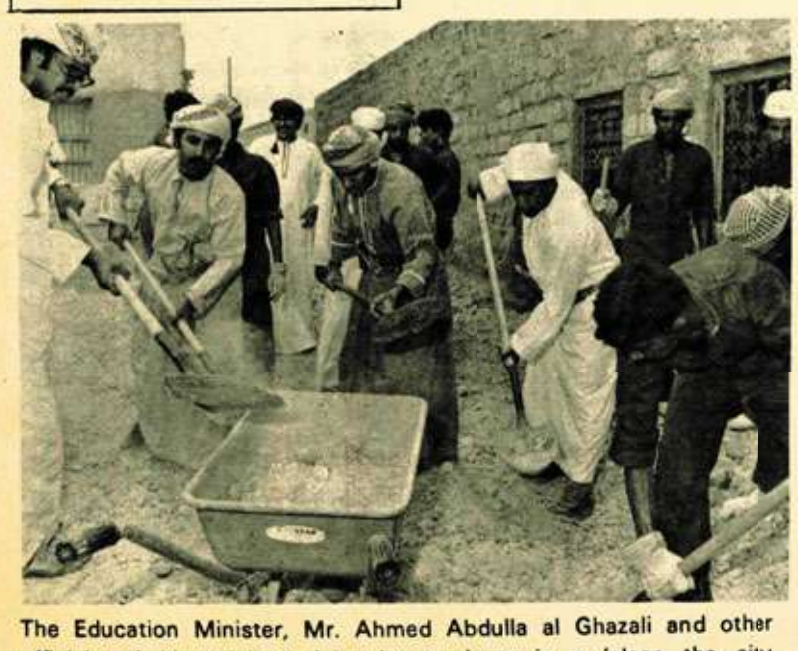
The militia complaint appears to be that the Army unit, which is an advance guard of one totalling some 1,500 men, was pro-Syrian. Beirut denies this, saying the unit is balanced between all Lebanese groups.

BRITAIN CANCELS £900M. DEBTS

Britain is to cancel debts of £ 900 million owed to her by 17 countries which have received loans under aid programmes.

This follows similar action by Canada, Holland, Switzerland, and Sweden.

The 17 countries have been chosen from those whose income per head is less than $ 280 a year, the official World Bank definition of poverty. Britain has excluded countries with bad records on human rights.



The Education Minister, Mr. Ahmed Abdulla al Ghazali and other officials of his ministry join the students in a 'clean the city campaign' at Sur. (See story on page 28).

الوطنية للتأمين على الحياة والعام
NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE
Ominvest Group
مجموعة اومينفست
Market Leader and largest insurance company in Oman
No.1 in Health Insurance and now
No.1 in Motor Insurance in Oman*
*Based on total Health/Motor Insurance premiums in 2020.

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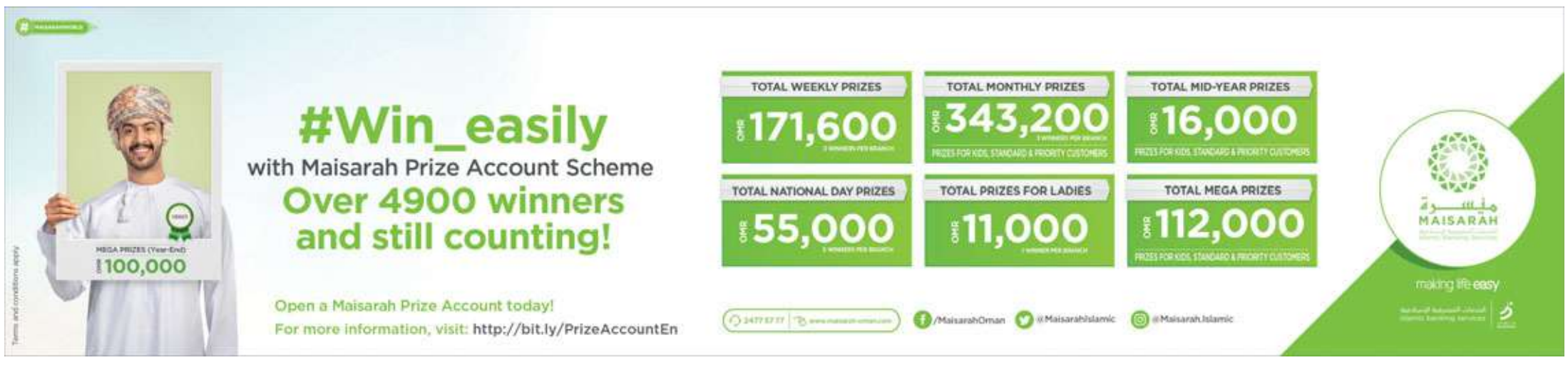

COVID-19

No institutional quarantine for teaching staff in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a circular excluding teaching staff and their families from institutional quarantine.

The authority said in a circular to all airlines: "Starting from Sunday, August 1, 2021, the Supreme Committee that deals with COVID-19 excludes institutional quarantine for faculty members working in government, private and international educational institutions and their families coming to the Sultanate, provided they adhere to home quarantine guidelines and wear the electronic bracelet." Previously the CAA had announced the exemption of all medical and medical assistance categories and their families from the mandatory institutional quarantine.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Over 4,000 e-cigarettes seized

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 4,000 electronic cigarettes, which are prohibited from being circulated in the Sultanate have been seized by the Consumer Protection Authority (CPA).

The authority said: "Pursuant to Resolution No. (698/2015) regarding the ban on the circulation of electronic cigarettes and hookahs, the CPA represented by the authority's General Court in the Governorate of Muscat seized more than 4,300 electronic cigarettes."

Prevention

"This comes within the framework of the efforts made by the authority to follow up on the markets in various governorates of the Sultanate to monitor suppliers and prevent harm caused by the spread of unauthorised and unhealthy commodities," CPA added.

Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority

Zawawi Trading Company L.L.C.

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz

CLA (117 platform), GLA (156 platform),
A-Class (176 platform), B-Class (242, 246 platform)
Model year: 2017- 2018

Date of Campaign: 03.08.2021
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
5	WDD176****J571976	To	WDD176****J591100	CLA 250 4MATIC
13	WDD117****N482213	To	WDD117****N483049	A 250 Sport
1	WDD176****J580197			AMG A 45 4MATIC
1	WDC156****J346878			GLA 250 4MATIC

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain CLA (117 platform), GLA (156 platform), A-Class (176 platform) and B-Class (242, 246 platform) vehicles a bore in the universal joint on the steering shaft might not meet specifications. In this case, a play between the bearing in the bore hole and the universal joint might occur. Over time, this play could increase and lead to noises and an imprecise steering feel. If the symptoms are not recognized over a longer period, the bearing could separate from the universal joint. In this case, the steerability of the vehicle would be impaired.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will check the steering shaft on the affected vehicles and replace it, if necessary. The expected workshop visit for the check and if necessary, replacement of the steering shaft will take up to 1.5 hours and will be free of charge.

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 03.08.2021 to get their car inspected.

Contact details: Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 03.08.2021.

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.

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Sharqiyah Desalination

P.O. Box: 685, Jibroo - 114, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel.: +968 24693890, Fax: +968 24693845
http://sharqiyahdesalination.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT AND CONDENSED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Sharqiyah Desalination Company SAOG (the "Company"), I am pleased to present the unaudited Financial Statements of the Company for the period ended 30th June 2021.

Operational Highlights
The Sur Independent Water Plant ('the Plant') continued to deliver on its reputation for continuous and reliable water production volumes with a total water delivery to the Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company ('OWWSC') of 20,151,385 m3 as at June 2021 against 17,110,682 m3 for the same period in the previous year (i.e. a increase of 18%).

The average scheduled plant availability for the period reached 98.8%. This consistently high availability is the result of a strict maintenance program followed and implemented by the operation & maintenance team, as well as improved coordination with OWWSC. The Company continues to uphold its excellent reputation as a provider of potable water to the Sharqiyah region.

On March 18, 2021, the Plant successfully completed the Annual Performance Test for the contractual year 13 (CY13). The total production during the 24 hours of the test was 131,837 m3 (100% of the Guaranteed Water Capacity).

Business Continuity
As the COVID-19 threat unfolded in 2020, it has created a challenge for the Company to overcome. While the global crisis caused a status of emergency, the Company continued to find solutions to this new unforeseen obstacle and ensured the safety of its employees as well as the smooth operation of the Plant, and subsequently, the continuous supply of desalinated water to the region as it always has.

Financial information

Revenue has increased by 2.7% as compared to the same period in the previous year (RO 177K).

The cost of sales has increased by 14.9% as compared to the same period in the previous year (RO 575K). This is mainly due to the increase in water output charge and electricity cost linked to higher water delivery volumes and increase in contractual water capacity charge for the operator.

The administrative and general expenses remain at the same level compared to the same period in the previous year.

Finance expenses have decreased by 10.1% as compared to the same period in the previous year (RO 151K). This is mainly due to the impact of the decrease in outstanding loans payable to lenders.

Current period profit before tax has decreased by RO 245K, due to above reasons.

Current period profit before tax represents 10.1% of the revenue while the after tax profit stands at 8.5% of the revenue.

Internal Control and Corporate Governance
The Management of the Company believes in a strong internal control system, overseen by our Internal Auditor in compliance with SOX guidelines.

The Company has in place high standards of corporate governance, which are compliant with the Code of Corporate Governance promulgated by the Capital Market Authority.

Acknowledgements
As Chairman of the Board, I would like to thank our shareholders, not only for their confidence, but also for their continued support and for the expertise they bring to the Company.

The Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to OPWP, OWWSC, APSR, Muscat Clearing and Depository, the Capital Market Authority and the Government of Oman for their tremendous support in regulating and developing the water sector, and for their assistance, which comforts the smooth functioning of our operations.

Finally, we would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tareq bin Taimour for his wise leadership; we pray to Almighty to shower him with blessings, keep him in good health and give him a long life.

Thank you and kind regards,

Sebastien Chauvin
Chairman

INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021 (UN-AUDITED)

	Unaudited 3 months ended 30 June 2021 RO	Unaudited 3 months ended 30 June 2020 RO	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 June 2021 RO	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 June 2020 RO
Revenue	3,662,394	3,518,232	6,819,290	6,642,437
Cost of sales	(2,502,430)	(2,202,911)	(4,437,846)	(3,863,493)
GROSS PROFIT	1,159,964	1,315,321	2,381,444	2,778,944
Administrative and general expenses	(171,203)	(176,166)	(349,215)	(350,357)
Finance expenses- net	(674,205)	(758,066)	(1,346,790)	(1,498,222)
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	314,556	381,089	685,439	930,365
Taxation	(47,374)	(57,587)	(103,145)	(140,204)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	267,182	323,502	582,294	790,161
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:				
Fair value adjustment on derivatives	(375,656)	(257,031)	1,863,176	(3,682,984)
Deferred tax on fair value adjustment	56,349	38,553	(279,476)	552,448
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (EXPENSE) FOR THE PERIOD, NET OF TAX	(319,307)	(218,478)	1,583,700	(3,130,536)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (EXPENSE) FOR THE PERIOD	(52,125)	105,024	2,165,994	(2,340,375)
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	0.003	0.003	0.006	0.008

INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021 (UN-AUDITED)

	Unaudited 30 June 2021 RO	Unaudited 30 June 2020 RO	Audited 31 Dece. 2020 RO
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	427,969	475,425	477,568
Finance lease receivable	60,583,337	63,817,221	62,168,988
Right-of-use assets	9,861	21,923	14,682
Total non-current assets	61,021,167	64,314,569	62,661,238
Current assets			
Finance lease receivable	3,128,903	2,873,393	2,999,477
Trade and other receivables	1,783,680	1,550,947	1,361,735
Amount due from related parties	215,380	58,581	87,283
Cash and bank balances	1,780,839	1,317,807	2,059,932
Total current assets	6,908,802	5,800,728	6,508,427
TOTAL ASSETS	67,929,969	70,115,297	69,169,665
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	9,780,216	9,780,216	9,780,216
Legal reserve	2,479,976	2,366,047	2,421,747
Retained earnings	5,386,135	5,707,506	6,208,806
Cumulative changes in fair values	(4,717,012)	(7,579,802)	(6,300,712)
Total equity	12,929,315	10,273,967	12,110,057
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Derivative financial instruments	4,962,190	8,139,662	6,634,155
Long term loan	41,268,605	44,225,750	42,755,333
Deferred tax liability	2,312,150	1,606,186	1,929,530
Deferred revenue	289,619	298,920	294,373
Employees' end of service benefit	100,832	86,559	88,948
Lease liabilities	6,146	17,307	6,145
Total non-current liabilities	48,939,542	54,374,384	51,708,484
Current liabilities			
Derivative financial instruments	587,235	777,750	778,446
Long term loan	3,043,044	3,158,603	3,049,464
Deferred revenue	9,301	8,513	8,897
Lease liabilities	5,581	8,000	11,162
Trade and other payables	1,338,611	614,400	521,207
Amount due to related parties	1,077,340	899,680	981,948
Total current liabilities	6,061,112	5,466,946	5,351,124
Total liabilities	55,000,654	59,841,330	57,059,608
TOTAL EQUITY AND LABILITIES	67,929,969	70,115,297	69,169,665
Net asset value per share	0.132	0.105	0.124

OMAN

TFM 95.4 91.0 Follow us on TFMOman

COVID-19 and students: Ensuring emotional wellbeing

BY NOW, it is evident that the COVID-19 pandemic is leaving behind a wide trail of disruption and destruction. One of the biggest casualties is our mental health, with the pandemic having increased stress and anxiety greatly across the globe. The unfortunate reality is that children are no less immune to this effect.

After more than a year of school closures, remote schooling, online classes and the resultant physical and social isolation, life now is drastically different for children from the way it used to be. And numerous studies recently have highlighted an increase in the negative feelings reported in students and children. The impact can show up as a variety of behavioral changes – loss of motivation, loss of appetite, agitation, fidgeting, sleeplessness, nightmares, withdrawal from interaction and activities, even panic attacks, severe anxiety and depression.

But what can we do about it? Make your well-being your top priority. If you are a student or a parent, here are some points that might help.

First of all, acknowledge your feelings. Only by becoming aware of our feelings and accepting these can we work on overcoming our struggles. Journal your thoughts. Create a Worry Box - a box where you can literally deposit all your anxious thoughts. Jot down your troublesome thoughts and drop them in the box and as you do so, imagine letting the box do the worrying for you. Even better, be open to conversations. Share your concerns with your parents, friends, school counselors and others whom you trust.

One of the primary reasons for children to feel anxious is a lack of routine. Especially in the case of delayed or cancelled classes and exams, or gap year students with ample time, it's easy to feel a dearth of purpose. The best weapon against that is to have a routine. Create a list of activities and things that make you feel good — books, art, movies, hobbies, learning, projects and the like. Filling up the day with a combination of rest, fun and productivity can make you feel more in control and at the same time provide zest and enthusiasm.

Additionally, research suggests some very simple methods to maintain positivity and happiness.

> Especially in the case of delayed or cancelled classes and exams, or gap year students with ample time, it's easy to feel a dearth of purpose.

Gratitude

One of these science-backed ways is to practice gratitude. How do we do that? At the end of each day, just before you it the bed, write down the best three things that happened that day in a journal or an app. Every day offers something good, and focusing on that good produces a sense of contentment as you drift off to sleep.

Kindness

Now, this is an activity that makes both the giver and the recipient happy. Science says even just thinking about the kind things you have done can make you happier. So throughout the day, be open to doing random acts of kindness. Like supporting your parents with a chore without being asked, helping out your sibling, or even video calls with lonely, vulnerable relatives seeking social connection. And then track these in a journal or an app, and savour these at the end of the day.

Movement

Everyone knows exercise is essential for good physical health. But it turns out exercise, or even movement is great for our happiness too. So make sure you clock in at least 30 minutes of activity each day. It could be walking, running, cycling, climbing stairs, motion-controlled video games, playing with friends when permitted, indoor PE exercises, or even general moving around in the house.

Love for learning

Nourish a love for learning. Enrol in free or paid MOOCs/courses on platforms like Coursera, EdX, Udacity, and LinkedIn Learning. I will highly recommend that you take the happiness course taught by Dr Laurie Santos, Professor of Psychology at Yale University. Her Yale course on "Psychology and the good life" became the most popular course in Yale's history and is now available for free on Coursera as the "Science of Well-being".

Social connection

If you are isolating as a COVID mitigation measure, make sure to practise physical isolation and not social isolation. Family, friendships, and other social connections make life rich, meaningful and hold immense power in making us feel happy. So reach out virtually to your friends and family and keep the spark going in your friendships with shared experiences. Most importantly, if you think you need further help, do not hesitate to approach a professional. You deserve to be healthy and happy, in mind and body. Stay happy, Stay positive.

*Dr Baby Saamuel is the Vice-Chairman, Knowledge Oman and is Ex-Chairman, Indian Schools in Oman. **You can contact him at mail@babysam.biz for queries or suggestions.***

شركة إسمنت عمان (ش.م.ع.ع)
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G)

P.O. Box 560, Ruwi, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Respected Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oman Cement Company (SAOG), it gives me a great pleasure to present you the Company's performances during the six months period ended on 30th June 2021.

Company has continued its efforts to overcome the adverse impact of steep rise in prices of some major elements of cost, and extensive efforts have been made in this direction with better cost management and sustained efforts to improve productivity during the current period also. Though intense competition due to lower prices from competitors has continued to be a major challenge, we have taken elaborative measures to minimize the impact. Company's performance during the period was also impacted by the adverse effects of pandemic caused by COVID-19, however with an efficient management of crisis, Company could continue to operate efficiently.

The Company continues to be an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certified Company. It has also API Spec 10A (American Petroleum Institute) quality monogram certification for manufacturing and sale of Oil Well Cements.

1. PRODUCTION

(i) Clinker Production:
Company has produced a total quantity of 1,217,115 MT of Clinker during the period as against 1,129,904 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year, being higher by 87,211 MT (7.72%).

(ii) Cement Production:
Company has produced 1,183,686 MT of Cement during the period as against 1,306,889 MT produced during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by 123,203 MT (9.43%).

2. TURNOVER & PROFIT

(i) Company has achieved a sale of 1,186,581 MT of Cement during the period as against 1,315,618 MT sale during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by 129,037 MT (9.81%). In value terms, the Company has achieved a sale of OMR 23.516 million of Cement during the period as against OMR 25.806 million sale during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by OMR 2.29 million (8.87%).

(ii) Company has earned profit before tax of OMR 2.301 million during the period as against OMR 2.554 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by OMR 0.253 million (9.90%).

(iii) The Company has earned profit after tax of OMR 1.984 million during the period as against OMR 2.105 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, being lower by OMR 0.121 million (5.75%).

3. INVESTMENTS

The company has continued to place its surplus funds in fixed income investments in fixed deposits and subordinated debts of commercial banks.

4. ASSOCIATE COMPANY
Mondi Oman LLC

Company's share of profit after tax in associate company amounting to OMR 192,210 during the period as against OMR 99,660 during the corresponding period of the previous year, as reported by the associate company, has been suitably accounted for in the financial statements of the Company.

5. MARKET DEMAND & FUTURE OUTLOOK

Cement market in Oman has continued to witness an intense price competition between major suppliers which include local cement companies as well as cement manufacturers from neighboring countries. Company has continued with its dynamic pricing policy responsive to the market during the period coupled with its high emphasis on quality of highest standards to retain its market share.

6. EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION & UPGRADATION

(i) Company is in the process of implementing a project to promote use of alternative energy by utilizing waste tires as an alternate fuel. The project consultant and EPC contractor have been appointed and field activities are expected to commence soon.

(ii) Company's decision to set up a new cement plant at Duqm with a capacty of 5000 TPD of Clinker has currently been put on hold pending confirmation of availability of fuel and its strategic decision to expand capacity of existing plant at Muscat.

(iii) Company is in the process of upgrading its capacity by setting up of a new production line at its existing Plant location at Muscat and the progress in this regard will be reported from time to time.

7. COVID-19 UPDATE

Company has faced major challenges arising due to spread of COVID-19 and has successfully ensured compliance of directives and guidelines issued by Supreme Committee and other authorities. The Company COVID Crisis Management Committee has continued to enforce preventive measures for health and safety of employees in line with such guidelines such as social distancing, working from home wherever possible and adopting work hygiene at place of work apart from creating necessary infrastructure. With active efforts, the adverse impact has been contained and company has maintained its production without any major interruption.

The confidence and encouragement extended to the Board by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the shareholders is highly appreciated and the staff & management of the company pray Almighty Allah to continue to guide H.M. Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimur, Sultan of Oman, for the common welfare of the country and its people.

Dr. Abdullah Abbas Ahmed
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

	30 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2020	31 Dec 2020 Audited
	RO	RO	RO
INCOME			
Revenue	**23,515,512**	25,805,807	50,143,753
Cost of sales	**(20,055,426)**	(22,106,852)	(41,539,257)
Gross profit	**3,460,086**	3,698,955	8,604,496
EXPENSES			
General and administration	**(1,849,699)**	(1,752,057)	(3,218,274)
Operating profit	**1,610,387**	1,946,898	5,386,222
Other operating income	**22,633**	91,904	102,052
Net finance income	**475,806**	414,184	782,570
Net investment income	**192,210**	101,000	180,160
Profit before taxation	**2,301,036**	2,553,986	6,451,004
Taxation	**(317,133)**	(449,456)	(1,268,238)
Profit for the period	**1,983,903**	2,104,530	5,182,766
Basic earnings per share (annualized)	**0.012**	0.013	0.016

Note:
The Complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who request them in either Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt to the following address :
Oman Cement Company SAOG, P.O.Box 560, P.C. 112, Sultanate of Oman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2020	31 Dec 2020 Audited
ASSETS	RO	RO	RO
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	**102,295,074**	109,419,520	105,383,785
Right-of-use asset	**739,198**	786,888	763,042
Intangible assets	**67,115**	9,196	1,581
Investment in an associate	**1,023,068**	1,119,831	1,003,741
Investment at amortized costs	**989,691**	7,991,832	976,672
Bank deposits	**992,970**	988,357	975,315
Total non-current assets	**106,107,116**	120,315,624	109,104,136
Current assets			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	**113,480**	120,920	113,480
Investment at amortized costs	**1,000,000**	3,272,700	7,000,000
Bank deposits	**-**	7,500,000	7,500,000
Inventories	**27,980,825**	23,237,954	25,425,439
Accounts and other receivables	**9,104,204**	10,875,129	9,962,024
Cash and bank balances	**18,491,901**	3,660,681	6,826,083
Total current assets	**56,690,410**	48,667,384	56,827,026
TOTAL ASSETS	**162,797,526**	168,983,008	165,931,162
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	**33,087,271**	33,087,271	33,087,271
Share premium	**6,724,145**	6,724,145	6,724,145
Legal reserve	**11,029,090**	11,029,090	11,029,090
Voluntary reserve	**16,543,635**	16,543,635	16,543,635
Fair value reserve	**(692,847)**	(692,847)	(692,847)
Retained earnings	**78,868,511**	77,115,099	80,193,333
Total equity	**145,559,805**	143,806,392	146,884,627
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Non-current portion of lease liability	**721,143**	750,564	774,723
Deferred tax liability	**7,763,028**	7,823,181	7,800,161
Employees' end of service benefits	**924,410**	1,073,691	892,681
Total non-current liabilities	**9,408,581**	9,647,436	9,467,565
Current liabilities			
Current portion of term loans	**-**	6,724,113	2,062,375
Current portion of lease liability	**28,451**	28,451	28,451
Accounts and other payables	**7,399,202**	8,446,862	6,515,198
Taxation	**401,487**	329,754	972,946
Total current liabilities	**7,829,140**	15,529,180	9,578,970
Total liabilities	**17,237,721**	25,176,616	19,046,535
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	**162,797,526**	168,983,008	165,931,162
Net assets per share	**0.440**	0.435	0.444

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- BEng Chemical Engineering
- BSc IT Management for Business

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- MSc in International Operations and Supply Chain Management

AL ARAIMI BOULEVARD

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ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN

RAO holds joint exercise with US infantry brigade

MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) and the United States Army's infantry units began a joint drill codenamed "Valley of Fire 2021".

During the 11-day exercise, the RAO is represented by 11th Infantry Brigade.

The exercise is being conducted with the participation of the Sultan of Oman's Parachutes, the Sultan of Oman's Armoured Division, the Sultan of Oman's Artillery, the Royal Air Force of Oman and the SAF Signals and Engineering divisions.

The joint drill kicked off at Thamrait Air Base in Dhofar Governorate amid precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Simulation and role-playing tasks of the exercise are aimed to provide training in accordance with a macro plan set by the RAO to achieve the desired national objectives.

VALLEY OF FIRE 2021: The joint drill kicked off at Thamrait Air Base in Dhofar Governorate amid precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19. -ONA

Such plans seek to maintain preparedness and high combat ability. They come within the context of annual training programmes carried out in cooperation with friendly countries to exchange expertise in military fields. -ONA

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

New Omani publications corner opened

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: "Al Khalil bin Ahmed Al Farahidi" Corner for Omani Publications was inaugurated at the Library of the Ministrya of Culture, Youth and Sports in Brunei Darussalam.

The inauguration ceremony was held in cooperation with the Sultanate's Embassy in Brunei Darussalam under the patronage of Dato Aminuddin Ehsan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The corner aims to strengthen the distinguished cultural cooperation relations between the two countries.

Sheikh Ahmed Hashel Al Maskari, the Sultanate's ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, said in his speech during the ceremony that the move is part of the embassy's endeavor to continue strengthening the outstanding relations of cooperation and friendship between the Sultanate and Brunei Darussalam in cultural cooperation and related fields.

It also aims to support the initiatives launched by the Bruneian government to encourage young people to adopt a culture of reading and knowledge, by enriching public libraries in Brunei with different types of books covering various fields of knowledge, Al Maskari added. ONA

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PRELIMINARY STATISTICS

187,000 Omanis registered with pension funds: NCSI

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) data show that the number of Omanis registered in pension/retirement funds of the public sector (Civil Service, Diwan of Royal Court and Central Bank of Oman) till May 2021 declined by 0.1% (compared to April 2021) to 187,897, of them 55.8% males and 44.2% females.

Preliminary statistics show that there are three subscription-based segments registered in different wage bands.

The first segment, a total of 52,542 Omanis registered in public sector funds, receives salaries ranging from OMR1,000 to less than OMR2,000.

The second segment (36,681 Omanis) receives OMR700 to less than OMR 800.

The third segment (25,630) receives between OMR900 and less than OMR1,000.

Age-wise, statistics show that Omanis registered in the above-mentioned public sector funds fall in 3 segments, as indicated below: 39,883 beneficiaries aged 30-34 years, 42,159 beneficiaries aged 40-44 years, 53,913 beneficiaries aged 35-39 years. -ONA

Gulf Stone Company SAOG شركة محاجر الخليج ش.م.ع.ع

P.O. Box : 47, P. Code : 327, Sohar Industrial Area, Sultanate of Oman Tel. : (968) 26751675 Fax : (968) 26750186, Email : gulfston@omantel.net.om

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Management is pleased to present the unaudited financial results for the period ended 30th June 2021.

Production
During the reporting period, the total production was 36,761 SQM comparing to 38,771 SQM for the same period of 2020.

Sales
The company managed to sell 50,991 SQM during the reporting period with revenue of RO 1,183,420 comparing to 44,544 SQM and RO 1,043,508 for the same period of 2020.

Profit
The company has a net Loss of RO -422,045 for the reporting period comparing to net profit RO -361,615 for the same period of 2020.

Shareholder's Equity
The shareholder's equity has reached by the end of the period RO 2,128,208 which is 59% of the paid up capital.

Sudarshan K.V.
General Manager

UN AUDITED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	30-06-2021	30-06-2020
Revenue	1,183,420	1,043,508
Cost of sales	(1279,017)	(1038,512)
Gross loss	(95,597)	4,996
Other income	279	2,079
	(95,318)	7,075
Expenses		
Selling and distribution expenses	(86,110)	(80,680)
General and administrative expenses	(145,855)	(208,015)
Finance costs	(94,762)	(79,994)
	(326,727)	(368,689)
Net loss before tax for the year	(422,045)	(361,615)
Income tax	-	-
Net loss after tax and total comprehensive loss for the year	(422,045)	(361,615)
Basic loss per share	(0.012)	(0.010)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

UN AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	30-06-2021	2020 Audited
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,844,133	3,013,572
Right-of-use assets	282,156	188,931
Total non-current assets	3,126,289	3,202,503
Current assets		
Inventories	1,637,489	2,027,499
Trade and other receivables	800,519	700,753
Cash and bank balances	45,967	79,866
Total current assets	2,483,975	2,808,118
Total assets	5610,264	6010,621
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	3,630,000	3,630,000
Legal reserve	437,665	437,665
Accumulated losses	(1,517,412)	(1,517,412)
Loss for the period	(422,045)	-
Total capital and reserves	2,128,208	2,550,253
Non-current liabilities		
Employees' benefit liabilities	99,636	1,43,545
Non-current portion of term loans	771,977	783,206
Deferred tax liabilities	4,306	4,306
Lease liabilities	269,304	176,479
Total non-current liabilities	1,145,223	1,107,536
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	738,697	684,741
Current portion of term loans	466,680	543,466
Lease liabilities	16,560	22,080
Bank borrowings	1,114,896	1,102,545
Total current liabilities	2,336,833	2,352,832
Total liabilities	3,482,056	3,460,368
Total equity and liabilities	5,610,264	6,010,621
Net assets per share	0.059	0.070

NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that **Mr. Shrivardhan Bhimsingh Chavan, holder of Indian Passport No Z2432913 Resident card No.62089225** is no longer represents the company **Abu Nabil LLC** from 04/05/21. Request all not to deal with him on behalf of the company.

Any one dealing with him shall be doing at their own risk and company will not be responsible

NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that **Mr. Ratheesh Kumar Palliparambath, holder of Indian Passport No.K3980000 Resident card No.93867921.** has been terminated on 25/04/21 and no longer represents the company **Abu Nabil LLC.** Request all not to deal with him on behalf of the company.

Any one dealing with him shall be doing at their own risk and company will not be responsible

NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that **Mr. Ahmed Butt , holder of Pakistani Passport No. CZ3494152 Resident card No.64116414.** has been suspended on 08/06/21 and no longer represents the company **Abu Nabil LLC.** Request all not to deal with him on behalf of the company.

Any one dealing with him shall be doing at their own risk and company will not be responsible

BUSINESS

< FROM A1 Lockdown challenges

A factor that worked in Seham's favour was easy access to time and space at her home. Naturally fond of making cosmetics, she used her previous experience, and her ambition to set up her own business to make sure her efforts were successful.

She also did a few online courses that helped her understand her customers' needs, which helped her design her products accordingly.

"I made sure my products were priced so that everyone could benefit, and the courses I studied greatly added to my experience," she said.

"As my income rose, my profits also increased, and I have seen a day-to-day increase in customer numbers, after I made greater efforts toward business promotion during the lockdown period." Seham now earns about OMR50 to 100 a day from her successful home business. While some chose to start cosmetic businesses, another Omani woman, Aysha Al Badi, used her culinary skills to make stuffed vine leaves and other delicious traditional foods.

Having learned cooking since she was a child, her lip-smacking dishes are very popular among other families.

"Many restaurants chose to close during the pandemic, so in my free time, I began cooking food in small quantities and distributed it to my family, friends, and relatives," she recalled. "Thanks to their support, my project saw expansion. At the start of the pandemic, when many people turned to home businesses, I saw an increase in customers as well." "Their confidence in my hygienic and delicious food saw many people ordering my delicious Omani foods, so my income has increased, compared to what it was before the lockdowns were first brought in," she said.

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US senators reach deal on Joe Biden's infrastructure bill

The bill is worth nearly $1 trillion and calls for $550 billion in added federal spending

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL: Ten key senators and their staff laboured over the weekend to produce 2,700 pages of the bill.

WASHINGTON: United States senators released a highly anticipated infrastructure legislation package, which would fulfill one of President Joe Biden's major policy priorities.

The bill is worth nearly $1 trillion (€842 billion) and calls for $550 billion in added federal spending.

Among the major new investments would be $110 billion for roads and bridges; $39 billion for public transit and $66 billion for rail; $55 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure; as well as billions for airports, ports, broadband internet and electric vehicle charging stations.

Ten key senators and their staff labored over the weekend to produce 2,700 pages of the bill, which will soon be subject to the amendment process, where senators try to add or remove sections within it. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is hoping that the bill will not get stuck in this stage.

"We haven't done a large, bipartisan bill of this nature in a long time," Schumer said, vowing that a final vote could be held "in a matter of days."

The US Senate is currently comprised of 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats, with Vice President Kamala Harris serving as the tie-breaking vote. But due to the so-called filibuster rule, no Senate legislation can be brought to a vote without a two-thirds majority, or 60 Senators.

Several Republicans sign on

Republicans have so far refused to support any of Biden's bills that they deem "too progressive" or too left-leaning, including the Democrat's original infrastructure plans. DW

DETERIORATING SECURITY

Afghan President Ghani blames 'abrupt' US withdrawal for deteriorating security

KABUL: Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani on Monday blamed the country's deteriorating security on the US deciding "abruptly" to withdraw its troops.

"The reason for our current situation is that the decision was taken abruptly," he told the Afghan Parliament, adding he had warned Washington that the withdrawal would have "consequences," reported Tolo News. President Ghani said in a special session of the National Assembly that Afghanistan was facing a test of survival and the country must be mobilized to pass this test successfully. Ghani also announced the beginning of a six-month security plan to improve the security situation in the country.

He announced that the period of military presence in Afghanistan is over and it is now the responsibility of the Afghans to determine their future. President Ghani in his speech said the present time offered an opportunity to build peace and harmony in the country and it is now the time for unity and solidarity. ANI

WE ARE HIRING

LANDMARK GROUP

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Position Objective:
The Job holder will be responsible for proactively design and produce original multiple graphic, interactive, typographic and/or illustrative material online and offline, with limited supervision and with independent, strong technical and conceptual ability. A strong and extensive knowledge of Graphic Design is required.

Key Responsibility:
- Conceptualization, coordination, production of a wide range of original static and interactive graphics for multiple touchpoints offline and online, including but not limited to BTL and ATL advertising, branding and additional integrated communication platforms.
- Presenting finalized ideas and concepts. Coordinate with suppliers to fulfill creative tasks including photographers, videographers, retouches, illustrators, animators.

Skills:
Excellent Adobe Creative Suite, including but not limited to Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere, InDesign and Lightroom. Excellent Excel skills / Word / PowerPoint.

Eligible staff are requested to directly mail their application to Mr. Avinash Tyagi at avinash.tyagi@landmarkgroup.com before 8th August, 2021.

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WILDFIRES

Death toll rises as wildfires rage along coastal resorts in Turkey

ANKARA: The death toll from five days of wildfires in Turkey's Antalya and Mugla provinces rose to eight on Sunday, as strong winds and hot weather fueled the flames, making firefighting efforts more difficult.

Turkish news agency DHA said the bodies of a Turkish-German couple were found on Sunday in their burned home in Manavgat, Antalya. The fires had already claimed the lives of five other people in Manavgat and one person in Marmaris in Mugla province in recent days.

Since the fires broke out Wednesday, 864 people have received medical treatment, Turkey's health minister said.

According to the Forest Ministry, most of the more than 100 wildfires that broke out in Turkey in the past days have been contained, with six still needing to be brought under control.

Numerous evacuations

More than 1,100 residents and tourists in the city of Bodrum in Mugla province were taken to safety in nearly 20 boats on Sunday, according to the mayor, Ahmet Aras.

The Defense Ministry said residents were also evacuated by boat from the coastal city of Marmaris.

In Antalya, residents of the village of Sirtkoy were also transported to safety, according to broadcaster NTV.

Fires were also still blazing in Manavgat and the inland town of Milas, Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said. Firefighters are being helped by locals as well as support teams from Russia, Ukraine, Iran and Azerbaijan.

Turkish authorities say they are investigating the fires as having potentially been set by Kurdish militants. DW

Port of Salalah

INVITATION TO TENDER - BUNKERING FACILITY

Port of Salalah (POS) is region's largest transshipment port is also a multi-purpose port, offering value added services such as bunkering, container repairs, container freight station, warehousing and ship repairs.

POS is looking for reputed private, state owned and multinational companies to acquire an existing bunkering storage terminal with laid pipeline at the Port of Salalah on a ("as is where is basis") with a right to operate for bunker services. Interested companies having valid experience to own and operate Oil terminals for storage and distribution of petroleum products having a minimum 10 years of experience in subject field shall bid for the right to operate this Bunker Storage Terminal.

The existing terminal has a capacity of 104,000 m3 which handles marine grade bunkering fuel and also has provision of expansion to store an additional capacity of 12000 metric tons. The successful bidder will venture into a new contractual agreement for the right to use to provide bunker services with the Port, after its acquisition of existing facility at Port of Salalah.

The present facility comprises of:

- Product tank farm comprising of 4 atmospheric pressure fuel oil storage tanks and 2 gas oil tank with future provision for 2 additional tanks capable of storing 12,000 metric tons
- The product pipelines run underground from the jetty to the Storage facilities. The facility has dedicated pump station, truck loading bay, firefighting facilities, motorized valves tank gauging system monitored by SCADA system, oil water separator.
- The Tanks are provided with gauging devices which are monitored and controlled by a Supervisory Controlled and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.
- A separate hardwired ESD system provides an orderly shutdown in emergency conditions with standby generator and utility services, heating facility for the tanks and underground valve chamber at the jetty for ship shore interface.

Interested Companies / Parties shall apply;

a) The bidder should have requisite approvals, permits and license for the above said activities, sufficient resources (manpower and equipment), financials, experience, technical know-how, and safety competency to manage the above facility.
b) The interested bidders shall pay an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of OMR 10K (USD 26K) in advance before participating in this tender process.
c) Details of the bank will be provided after getting your company profiles with credentials and details of similar project handled by your firm.
d) EMD amount will be returned to disqualified/unsuccessful contractor after deducting OMR 100 (USD 260) as an administrative cost.
e) The interested bidders shall also send their company profile,
f) The details of online bidding platform and the process of bidding will be shared to participate in the tender after confirmation of the aforesaid EMD Payment.
g) The last date for submitting your interest to participate in this Tender shall be or on or before 15th August 2021.
h) All claims and dispute are subject to Oman Laws and the courts in Salalah shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to same. The decision of Salalah Port Services Company SAOG shall be final and binding.
i) All documents and correspondence with POS shall be in English Language

Port of Salalah reserves the right to reject any or all Companies without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
Interested Companies / Parties please write in the subject of your email "BUNKERING FACILITY" and send your intent to Tender@salalahport.com with company profile and credentials.

Tender Announcement

MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C INVITES INTERESTED COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLWING TENDER

Tender No.	Description	Last Date of Buying	Date of Submission	Grade	Sit Visit	Tender Price (R.O)
MEDC-12/2021	Construction of Shed for Power Transformer	19/8/2021	07/9/2021	Specialist.	23/08/2021 @9:00 AM at MEDC head office with Full PPE.	1050

The table below shows the instructions for participation: -

Participation	• Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender documents. • The amount specified above is including 5 % VAT. • The amount specified above is Non-Refundable payment (Terms and Condition apply) • For payment procedure and to obtain the tender document, please contact us via e-mail Contract@medcoman.com • 24588600 – Ext: 8577 - 8726
Purchase timing	Tender documents can be purchased at the official working time between 08:00 – 13:00 hours
Enquiries	Any inquiry can be sent using clarification avilable in the tender documents , one week before bid submission date
Tender Submission	• Tenders should be submitted in a sealed and stamped envelope addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CO. marked only with tender number and the subject • Please follow **SUBMISSION OF TENDER** mentioned in clause 20.0 in Prime Document
Guarantee	• The Tender should enclose a bank guarantee or a certified cheque issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman Unconditional and irrevocable and shall be disbursement as soon as it is submitted for the value of (1%) of the tender value valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission and addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C. • Any bid that does not meet the bank guarantee will not be considered Any bid that does not meet the bank guarantee will not be considered
Terms and Conditions	• The name of the bidder, other marks or any reference must not be specified on the envelope • Tenders received after the deadline stated in the Invitation to Tender, including any extension thereof, for any reason whatsoever will not be considered • The Tender shall be valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission • If the submission date extended, the bank guarantee or a certified cheque shall be extended in accordance with the bid extension date • MEDC is not bound to consent the lowest Bid or any other Tenders. • Preference of awarding the tender will be given to those bidders who achieved a high percentage of purchasing from Local Products and have a High-level percentage of Omanization • Muscat Electricity Distribution Company gives priority to award the projects to SMEs companies. • For projects whose value is less than OMR 10K, the priority to award will be given to registered companies that hold a valid certificate Of Reyadah
Bid Placement	The Completed Tender should be deposited in the **Tender Box No. 1** in the ground floor of MEDC Head Office building at Airport Heights, before 10 a.m. on the assigned date of tender submission

medcoman.com
80070008

TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020

"I've been at these kind of meets before where I've been up and down, so I knew what to expect. I feel like me and Bohl prepared for that."

***Emma McKeon**, Australia*

TOKYO OLYMPICS DIGEST:

OMANI DELEGATION ENDS TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN ENDS: Five athletes represented the Sultanate and competed in four different disciplines

Oman's Hamed Al Khatri registered a total of 1,148 (382- kneeling,392-prone, 374-standing) to finish 35th among the 39 world ranking shooters in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions qualifications event on Monday at Asaka Shooting Range.

The top eight shooters got the highest score in the qualification round and advanced to the final on Monday. The first place went to Sergey Kamenskiy (ROC) with 1,183 points with a preference over shooter Changhong Zhang (CHN) who finished as runner up with a total of 1,183 points while shooter Jon-Herman (NOR) came third with a total of 1,181 points.

Sebic Milenko (SRB) came fourth with 1,180 points. Miran Marcic (CRO) earned a direct ticket to finals as he came fifth with 1,178 points while Serjiy Kulish (UKR) finished sixth with 1,178 points. The seventh qualifier was Petar Gorsa (CRO) with 1,176 points while Yury (BLR) took the last ticket with 1,176 points as well. In his previous participation at the Rio 2016 Olympics, Khatri had recorded 1,138 points and finished at 43rd place. Confidence

After the event, shooter Hamed Al Khatri said that it was a cumulative experience

for him to attend the Olympic Games. "The lesson I learned is confidence and having the ability to do best in the forthcoming events. Striving for the top positions is the target and I will continue my training to reach the top," he added.

"I aimed to qualify for the finals but it was pretty difficult as many of the world ranking shooters took part and registered highest scores. Also, it was too windy. I will work to enhance and plug my weakness and focus on having quality shots with highest scores," he said.

Participation

With completion of Khatri's participation, the Sultanate's ended their campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Five athletes represented the Sultanate and competed in four different disciplines. Swimmer Issa Al Adawi began the campaign as he was placed in sixth place with a timing of 51:81s in the 100 metres freestyle.

Sprinter Mazoon Al Alawi finished sixth in the 100m race event with a timing of 12:35seconds. Oman's top sprinter Barakat Al Harthy advanced to Round one of the Men's 100m race event in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He topped preliminary heat in two groups and clocked 10:27 seconds as his season's best record. In round One of qualification heat five of Men's 100 m race event, Barkat clocked 10:31 seconds and came seventh.

Commitment

Kazem Al Balushi, Oman's Chef de Mission, appreciated the cooperation of all the representatives of the national teams which took part in the 32nd Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 for their commitment and adherence to all precautionary measures and preventive instructions issued by the organizing committee to have a safe Olympic Games.

"A special thanks to all the players, coaches and administrators who followed all the rules and regulations to ensure their safety and the safety of all Olympic participants," he added. Kazem pointed out that everyone was looking for good results from our athletes.

"I believe all the sporting associations and committees have to learn from the mistakes and weakness of this participation. Also, they have to set long term plans and proper strategies to ensure registering top results in the forthcoming international events," he ended.

MG DO MORE

MEDALS TALLY

Top 30 as of 6PM (Oman time)

Rank		G	S	B	T
1	PRC	29	17	16	62
2	USA	22	25	17	64
3	Japan	17	6	10	33
4	Australia	14	4	15	33
5	ROC	12	21	17	50
6	Great Britain	11	12	12	35
7	France	6	10	7	23
8	Germany	6	6	11	23
9	Republic of Korea	6	4	9	19
10	Netherlands	5	7	6	18
11	Italy	4	9	15	28
12	New Zealand	4	3	4	11
13	Czech Republic	4	3	1	8
14	Canada	3	4	7	14
15	Switzerland	3	4	5	12
16	Croatia	3	2	2	7
17	Chinese Taipei	2	4	4	10
18	Brazil	2	3	5	10
19	Cuba	2	3	3	8
20	Hungary	2	2	2	6
21	Denmark	2	1	2	5
22	Slovenia	2	1	1	4
23	Ecuador	2	1	0	3
24	Greece	2	0	1	3
25	Kosovo	2	0	0	2
25	Qatar	2	0	0	2
27	Georgia	1	4	1	6
28	Spain	1	3	3	7
29	Romania	1	3	0	4
29	Sweden	1	3	0	4

Indian women's hockey team makes history to reach first-ever semi-final

TOKYO: The Indian women's hockey team created history on Monday here at Oi Hockey Stadium -- North Pitch -- as they qualified for the semi-finals of the Olympics for the very first time after defeating Australia 1-0.

In what comes as a historic day and possibly the greatest moment for women's hockey in India, Gurjit Kaur scored the lone goal in the match during the first half through a penalty corner in a very tightly contested match. The Indian players looked to give it their all as they ensured Gurjit's effort didn't go in vain.

The Australians threw it their all, but the Indian women refused to buckle even though the Aussies kept piling the pressure with each passing minute. The first quarter started in great pace as both teams put their foot on the accelerator and the forwards from both teams came very close to finding the back of the

net. But none succeeded in scoring after the first fifteen minutes.

After saving a penalty corner on another end, India soon got the second PC of the match in the second quarter. India's star drag-flicker Gurjit made sure that she made the opportunity count as she gave the Women in Blue a crucial lead against the mighty Aussies. Indians went for a direct PC and after hitting the legs, the ball hit a stick and found a way into the goal. Notably, Australia had conceded just one goal in the tournament so far. -ANI

Qatar's Barshim, Italy's Tamberi share high jump gold in Tokyo

TOKYO: Qatar's Mutaz Barshim and Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi on Sunday shared a rare Olympic athletics gold in the high jump here at Olympic Stadium. Barshim became Qatar's first Olympic track and field champion. He alongside Tamberi registered a best clearance of 2.37 metres on Sunday.

Both Barshim, 30, and the 29-year-old Tamberi did not have a failed attempt until they attempted to clear the 2.39-metre mark. After three failures each at 2.39, both Barshim, 30, and the 29-year-old Tamberi ended up tied and entered a conversation with an Olympic official, about a prospective jump-off, but Mutaz asked immediately: "Can we have two golds?"

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One look, and with no words exchanged, both athletes knew they were sharing it as they gripped hands and whooped for tremendous joy.

With this moment of absolute history, they became the first joint Olympic podium in athletics since 1912.

It is amazing. This is a dream I don't want to wake up from," BBC Sport quoted Barshim as saying. "I have been through a lot. It's been five years that I have been waiting, with injuries and a lot of setbacks. But we are here today sharing this moment and all the sacrifices. It's really worth it now in this moment."

Tamberi had to take time out to recover from a career-threatening injury that ruled him out of Rio 2016. "After my injuries, I just wanted to come back, but now I have this gold, it's incredible. I dreamed of this so many times," said the Italian. "I was told in 2016 just before Rio there was a risk I wouldn't be able to compete any more. It's been a long journey." -ANI

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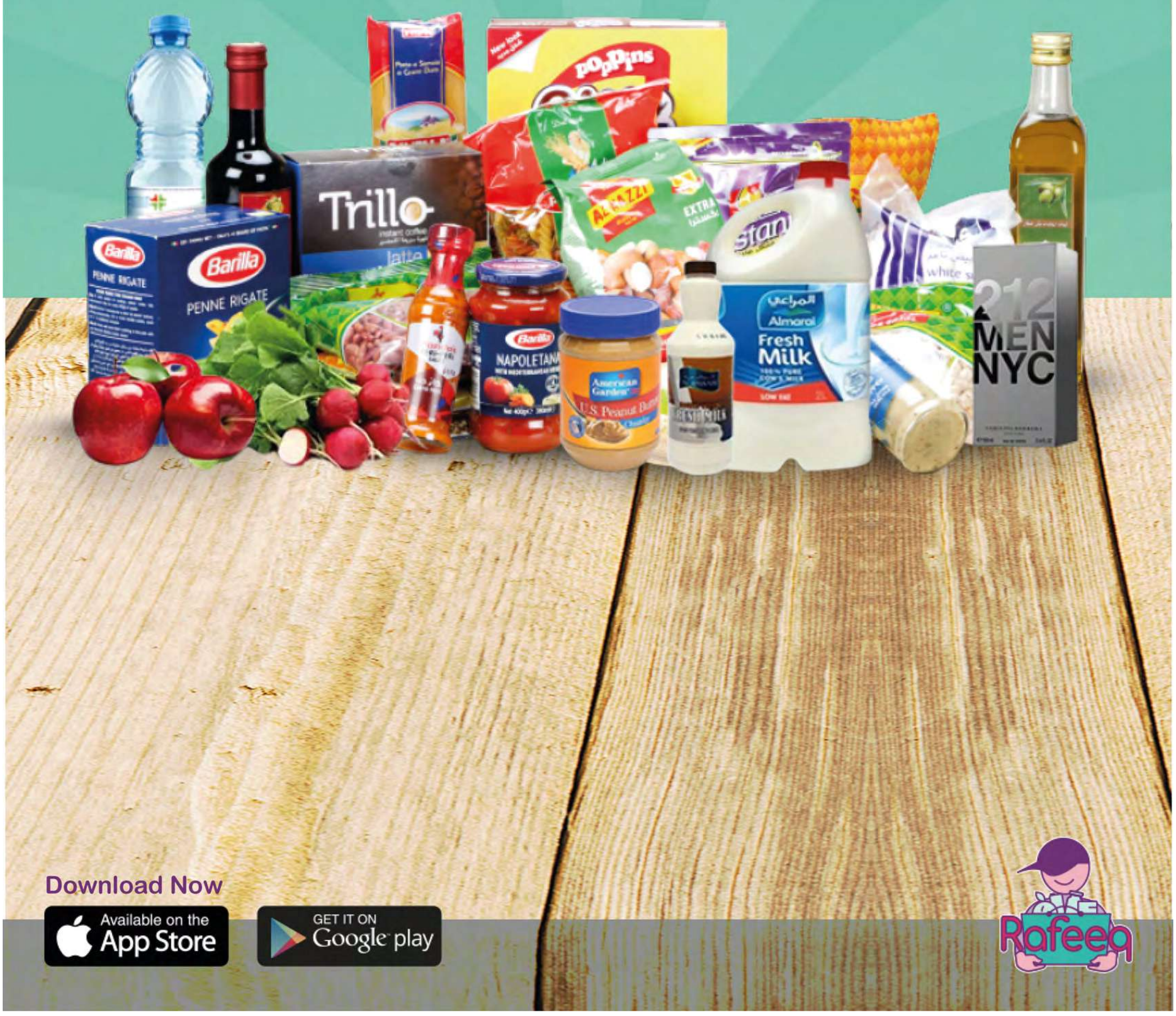

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by October 2021 reaching $73.22, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 34 cents. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,007.18 points, down 0.76 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.57 per cent at 584.31 points. SMN Power Holding, up 3.23 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cables Industry, down 4.62 per cent, was the top loser.

Sultanate's first biodiesel plant opens in Samail Industrial Estate

The plant successfully produced its first batch of 30 tonnes of biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil that complies with EN14214 international standards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a breakthrough announcement, Synergy BioFuels announced the commissioning of the first biodiesel plant in Oman in Samail Industrial Estate.

The plant successfully produced its first batch of 30 tonnes of biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO) that complies with EN14214 international standards.

"This is a significant milestone in our journey to support Oman's green economy and Oman Vision 2040. Being able to establish a state-of-the-art biofuels plant and produce the first batch of biodiesel in Oman is an incredible achievement and we would like to thank Be'ah for its support in our journey," indicated Anthony Helou, CEO of Synergy.

The biodiesel plant is only one part of the Oman Biofuels Hub that has been established by Synergy. The biofuel hub includes in addition to the biodiesel manufacturing plant, a research centre that is focusing on biofuels and renewable fuels in collaboration with local researchers and universities.

"Our team has a grand vision for the biofuels project. The biodiesel plant is only the beginning, we have established the first and only biofuels hub in Oman and the region. We are working with a great team to innovate in this whole space. Expect great announcements on the hub's various projects very soon," added Anthony Helou.

Furthermore, in collaboration with Sarooj Construction, the biodiesel from the plant will be used to power the construction of the first oil & gas wellhead for PDO. Within three weeks, Sarooj Construction would complete the construction of an oil & gas wellhead in SaihRawl in Oman using Biodiesel fuel for the heavy equipment. This will be the first oil & gas well-head in Oman and the Middle East where biodiesel was used as a fuel to power the construction equipment.

"Construction equipment has a huge carbon footprint, by using Omani-produced biodiesel we are helping in de-carbonising the construction business and assisting Oman's oil & gas sector in its mission towards net-zero emission oil," indicated Simon Karam, Chairman of Sarooj Construction.

MILESTONE: This is a significant milestone in our journey to support Oman's green economy and Oman Vision 2040. - Supplied picture

LUXURY LIFESTYLE DESTINATION

Muscat Municipality chairman visits Muscat Bay to review its development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Eng. Issam Al Zadjali, Chairman of Muscat Municipality visited Muscat Bay, Oman's bespoke luxury lifestyle destination to learn more about the progress and development.

The visit is part of the partnership between the private and public sectors on the development initiatives that are aimed to fulfilling the Oman 2040 vision.

Sheikh Hamood bin Sultan Al Hosni, CEO, Muscat Bay, Abdullah Al Nasri, VP, Muscat Bay and the senior management team welcomed Eng. Issam Al Zadjali and the delegation at the Experience Centre. This was followed by a progress overview presentation which highlighted the handover of the completed phases and the proposed plans to reach completion in a phased manner.

The presentation was followed by a tour across the property to witness the transformation with an emphasis on the completed phases, amenities, facilities and conveniences forming a cornerstone of the premium lifestyle experience.

This included the Zaha zone, comprising villas, apartments, parkland and swimming pool and sports amenities; Nameer zone comprising 33 exquisite villas; Wajd zone with its 22 prestigious hilltop villas overlooking the bay; and Village Square, a commercial area with restaurants, cafes, supermarket, gym and other facilities. The delegation also toured the upcoming Jumeirah Muscat Bay Hotel and the exclusive staff accommodation.

Summarising his visit, Al Zadjali said, "The development at Muscat Bay is impressive and we observed it provides a well-balanced eco-system of natural resources, amenities and lifestyle. We wish continued success and look forward to the completion of the next phase."

Commenting on the journey thus far, Sheikh Hamood Al Hosni said, "It was an honour to share Muscat Bay's transformation journey with Eng. Issam Al Zadjali and the senior delegation on their visit. We have been committed to delivering a premium lifestyle experience while preserving our natural heritage and we have been successful with that. As completion approaches in a phased manner, we look forward to offering an enriching experience of nature, luxury and convenience at Muscat Bay."

Muscat Bay is on schedule for the opening of the Jumeirah Muscat Bay Resort Hotel soon, the first Jumeirah hotel in Oman.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Pact signed to endorse smart cities in Oman

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology signed a cooperation agreement with the National Energy Centre (NEC) to introduce the experience of smart cities and the Internet of Things (IoT) in the Sultanate.

The agreement also includes cooperation to promote knowledge transfer between the government and the business and academic sectors. The agreement covers several fields, namely smart public services, smart infrastructure solutions, smart environment solutions such as managing wasted water and smart road lights system, as well as reading electricity and water meters' solutions.

The agreement was signed by Dr Ali Amer Al-Shidhani, the Ministry's Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology and Eng. Abdullah Rashid Al-Badi, CEO of NEC. - ONA

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Latest TallyPrime version promises personalised business reporting

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tally Solutions, a leading international business management software provider introduced the latest version of TallyPrime which has further increased the power of TallyPrime reporting, allowing customers to create and save personalised views to suit the unique requirements of their business.

Vikas Panchal

The solution will enable small and medium businesses in the region to make data-driven decisions to accelerate their business growth.

The 'Save My View' feature will enable users to save the configurations/settings changed in a report once and be able to access it instantly every single time. Additionally, to improve the anytime anywhere accessibility of the 'Tally Reports in Browser', its experience has been further improved by bringing a consistent content and visual experience across devices. This has been done ensuring that the business data remains in complete control of the business owner and authorised personnel only.

Commenting on the launch, Vikas Panchal, Business Head-Middle East, Tally Solutions said, "Business reports in Tally is one of the most powerful and useful features which has assisted millions of small and medium businesses to take insightful decisions for the growth of their business. With the launch of this latest version, we have taken the power of these business reports to the next level. Now businesses can easily configure and save any report as per their business requirement. Furthermore, they can now easily experience these reports seamlessly on the go, across any browser on any device. Our teams have worked extensively to bring this enhanced browser experience which is completely secure and private."

TallyPrime is available for purchase through Tally's strong network of partners on the ground or by visiting their website at www.tallysolutions.com. Tally has been present in the GCC for over a decade which has enabled them to get a thorough understanding of the businesses and their requirements. The company is committed to help businesses in GCC in their journey towards automation and provide solutions that increase their productivity.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

SMN Power Holding, up 3.23 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cables Industry, down 4.62 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,007.18 points, down 0.76 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.57 per cent at 584.31 points. SMN Power Holding, up 3.23 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Cables Industry, down 4.62 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Madina Takaful were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 516 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.5 million, with more than 9 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded stocks, 2 advanced, 25 declined and 15 remained unchanged.

At the session close, local investors were net buyers for OMR259,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR209,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR51,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,394.94 points, down 0.79 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Oman & Emirates Holding, National Life Insurance, National Bank Oman and Madina Takaful were down 4.10 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.19 per cent and 1.89 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,817.11 points, down 1.02 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy, Galfar Engineering, Jazeera Steel Product and Al Anwar Ceramics were down 4.62 per cent, 3.85 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 1.48 per cent and 0.88 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.54 per cent before closing at 1,711.48 points. Price of SMN Power Holding and Dhofar Generating was up 3.23 per cent and 1.59 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev . Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,038.57	4,007.18	4,007.18	4,037.74	-30.56	-0.76
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,444.64	6,394.94	6,394.94	6,445.83	-50.88	-0.79
Industry Index	5,867.63	5,817.12	5,817.12	5,876.91	-59.79	-1.02
Services Index	1,723.35	1,710.22	1,711.48	1,720.80	-9.32	-0.54
MSX Shariah Index	587.71	584.31	584.31	587.71	-3.40	-0.58
MSX TR INDEX	4,849.46	4,811.77	4,811.77	4,848.47	-36.70	-0.76

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,952,768	1,459,807	516	21,585,024,436	2	25	15	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 2

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	732	559	3	0.764	0.764	0.764	0.764	0.764	0.000	0.000	0.764	0.704	0.748	0.100	120,330,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	75	20	1	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.268	0.268	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.261	0.270	0.100	53,600,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	130,934	12,570	12	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.094	0.098	0.100	233,712,647
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	102,466	39,552	7	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.000	0.000	0.386	0.384	0.386	0.100	251,264,473
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	3,000	246	1	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.084	0.100	8,200,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,215	1,717	4	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.239	-0.001	-0.418	0.238	0.237	0.238	0.100	78,747,705
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	441,455	185,119	48	0.416	0.420	0.416	0.420	0.422	-0.002	-0.474	0.418	0.418	0.420	0.100	23,100,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	104,750	47,158	6	0.450	0.454	0.450	0.450	0.454	-0.004	-0.881	0.454	0.454	0.454	0.100	99,000,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	50,000	5,100	2	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.101	0.104	0.100	9,180,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	31,297	24,662	4	0.792	0.792	0.788	0.788	0.796	-0.008	-1.005	0.788	0.780	0.788	0.100	591,000,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	690,397	306,423	48	0.444	0.444	0.440	0.444	0.450	-0.006	-1.333	0.440	0.440	0.442	0.100	1,587,066,808
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	183,100	73,220	23	0.400	0.400	0.398	0.400	0.406	-0.006	-1.478	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	49,959,184
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	689,744	45,125	39	0.066	0.067	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.100	19,964,511
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	530,000	58,300	4	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.112	-0.002	-1.786	0.110	0.108	0.113	0.100	214,462,321
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	40,935	15,719	9	0.390	0.390	0.384	0.384	0.394	-0.010	-2.538	0.384	0.388	0.394	0.100	23,502,441
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	102,123	12,997	14	0.129	0.129	0.127	0.127	0.131	-0.004	-3.053	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.100	30,099,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	261,469	30,688	21	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.117	0.122	-0.005	-4.098	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.100	23,400,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	6,090	6,048	3	0.980	1.000	0.980	0.992	1.040	-0.048	-4.615	1.000	0.984	1.000	0.100	88,982,400
Total	18	3,375,782	865,225	249												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	44,504	2,855	4	0.063	0.068	0.063	0.064	0.062	0.002	3.226	0.068	0.066	0.065	0.100	12,776,678
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	5,100	653	4	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.126	0.002	1.587	0.128	0.122	0.128	0.100	28,446,720
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	26,135	2,499	2	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	12,480,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	255,300	15,291	12	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.100	20,948,665
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	310,000	37,200	10	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	359,562,172
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	4,000	188	2	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.000	0.047	0.100	9,724,440
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	205,319	10,579	8	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.052	0.100	35,094,146
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	697	38	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.052	0.057	0.100	37,863,536
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	143,634	26,572	4	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.185	0.186	0.100	308,840,850
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	778,455	36,012	31	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.046	0.047	0.100	67,279,667
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	115,000	13,675	9	0.119	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.120	-0.001	-0.833	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.100	3,995,003
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	6,000	586	3	0.097	0.099	0.097	0.098	0.099	-0.001	-1.010	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	147,000,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	155,662	13,086	14	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	21,301,560
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	100,500	8,241	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.078	0.082	0.100	78,274,900
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	372,705	25,717	17	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.068	0.071	0.100	13,800,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,053,255	109,975	72	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	18,200,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	791,000	141,939	12	0.183	0.183	0.179	0.179	0.183	-0.004	-2.186	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.100	291,044,398
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER.	708,323	58,122	33	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.084	-0.002	-2.381	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.100	16,644,889
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	40,758	15,488	1	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.390	-0.010	-2.564	0.380	0.380	0.390	0.100	100,700,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	122,012	8,573	15	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	88,378	11,049	6	0.130	0.130	0.125	0.125	0.130	-0.005	-3.846	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.100	10,175,344
Total	21	5,326,737	538,338	262												

PRESSURE ON MARGINS

Global container port congestion squeezes operators' margins: Fitch

LONDON: Global container port congestion has increased port operators' costs and put pressure on their margins, Fitch Ratings has said. However, the operators' performance has been supported by the strong rebound in volumes in 2H20 and 2021. "We expect bottlenecks to be resolved by 2022, although some supply chain changes could be permanent."

Fitch said demand for container transportation and trade volumes recovered sharply in 2H20 and continued to grow in 1H21 supported by increased consumption of goods, after a contraction in 1H20 when lockdowns peaked.

Global shipping has been battling with chaotic schedules for months. -ANI

NEW PROJECT

Tanweer to raise Masirah's power grid's reliability with OMR186,340 project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Rural Areas Electricity Company 'Tanweer' - a member of Nama Group - continues its efforts to raise the electricity grid's reliability in the Wilayat of Masirah in Al Sharqiyah South Governorate with an OMR186,340 project.

The new project upgrades the Al Nahdha area network in Masirah by adding a 6 MVA transformer to the existing Dowa primary sub-station, and the related works, including the laying an 11-kilovolt underground cable to the current ring main unit (RMU) to ensure the sustainability of the electricity infrastructure.

The new enhancement was designed to reinforce the existing feeders to meet the growing demand in the area and enhance the reliability of the power supply in Masirah province, which enjoys distinctive tourist and economic features.

Tanweer's project consists of two main components. The first is laying a new 11kv underground cable from Dowa primary substation to the distribution substation (Al Nahdha area) with a total length of 15km.

The second component is the supply and installation of a 6MVA transformer, 11KV PMR - 1 Nos and 33kv and 11kv gantry.

Upgrading the Masirah electricity grid is among the numerous projects undertaken by Tanweer to raise the efficiency and reliability of the electricity networks in its areas of operation in the Sultanate to meet the increasing demand for electricity for residential, commercial and investment purposes in different governorates.

> Upgrading the Masirah electricity grid is among the numerous projects undertaken by Tanweer to raise the efficiency and reliability of the electricity networks in its areas of operation in the Sultanate to meet the increasing demand for electricity

GARTNER REPORT

Top five business trends in manufacturing sector identified

DUBAI: Gartner, Inc. identified the top 5 business trends that will impact the global manufacturing sector in 2021. These trends will drive business disruption and widen opportunities for manufacturers.

"The first response to the global pandemic for many manufacturers was to go digital in their operations as fast as possible," said Michelle Duerst, research vice president at Gartner. "While going digital is the right path, it is not enough. The trends identified by Gartner can help to manufacture CIOs prepare for similar future disruptions in the long run and mitigate challenges such as lack of customer touchpoints, entering new markets or product lines and financial distress."

CIOs can use these five strategic business trends to improve top-line growth by providing better experiences.

- Trend 1: Digital + Product Experience
- Trend 2: Total Experience
- Trends 3: Ecosystem Partnerships
- Trend 4: Data Monetisation
- Trend 5: Equipment as a Service (EaSS)

EaaS is a commercial model where businesses pay for operational assets through recurring operating charges rather than purchasing equipment.

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2BR flat at Darsait opposite Al Ahli club	~~225 OMR~~	**190 OMR**
2BR premium flat at Ghubra North next to Liwan mall	~~350 OMR~~	**300 OMR**
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Call Rithesh: 99318626 / WhatsApp: 72582888
www.alhabib.om

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For viewing please call 24694088, 99316410, 92841690 or email us on: hartc@omantel.net.om

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Contact: 96707247 or 24704141

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Monthly Rent: 375/- to 650/-
Fully Furnished Apartment And Transport For Office Also Available
Contact: 99657906 or 24781446

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NOTICE

Announcement of Capital Reduction

In accordance with the provisions of Article 150 of the Commercial Companies Law.

The company (الخريف العالمية للتجارة ش م م), which is registered with the Commercial Registration No. 1031381, hereby announces that it is going to reduce its capital from Omani Rials 150,000.000 to 40,000.000.

Whoever has any objection to the foregoing shall present the reasons for such objection to the Secretariat of Commercial Registry at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within 30 days from the date hereof.

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CONNECT

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Urgently Required

- **Facility Management Manager** (with 15 years' experience in MEP works).
- **HVAC Engineer**, **Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer**, **AC Technician**, **Electrician**, **BMS Operator**, **RO Operator** and **STP Operator** in Facility Management background (Minimum 5 Yeas experience for Multinational company).

Interested Candidates can send their CV to:
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JOB WANTED

Indian Chartered Accountant

With 6 years of experience (Oman) in Accounts, Audit, Taxation, VAT, Investment, Budgeting seek suitable placement.

Contact 79848875

SALES MANAGER

Indian National, Mechanical Engineer having 14 years of experience including more than 8 years in Oman as Sales & Purchase Manager for Scaffolding; having good knowledge & experience in Fasteners & Steel wires as well.
Valid Oman D/L & release available for immediate recruitment.

Contact: 96497864
Email: taranrajpal@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies.

Contact Number # 78556829

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Indian National,18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer; Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Please contact – 78022980

Senior Manager

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Previously worked as Director of Admission and Administration at college in Bangalore seeks for Senior management role in company or educational institutions in Muscat. Presently in Muscat (family visa).

Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

Purchasing and Marketing

Indian Male,26 Years old, B Com Graduate having 4+ years of Oman experience in Purchasing and Sales role in an excellent grade Construction and Trading Company with fine market knowledge is looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L, NOC available.

Contact: 90158051
junaidhsalaahi@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Indian Male 39 years B.com having 14 years Gulf experience as Accountant looking for suitable placement. Having Oman driving license and NOC available.

Contact: 97998397
Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

Omani Mechanical Engineer

Bachelors degree in Mechanical Eng. from the United States of America & Nebosh Holder. 3 yrs of experience (Machinaries, Hydraulic, MEP, Tendring & Documentation) - 2 yrs in Oil & Gas.

Contact: 95070748
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ACCOUNTANT

Indian male B.com, Accountant, 12+ years of experience in power plant O&M up to finalisation. Oman D/L & NOC available.

Contact: 96774266
Email: gexongeorgep@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finace & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Indian male, B.Com, MBA Finance, 23 years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance (last 14 years in Oman) looking for a suitable placement.D/L & NOC available. Contact 93231040, Email: trp270172@gmail.com

Indian, MBA Finance with 14 + years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 99510161 Email: vinodpanchaman@gmail.com

Female ACCA qualified member, 4+ years work experience in Oman, driving license, NOC available, looking to join a finance team. Contact 95785272

Indian Male, 24, com having 1 year six month experience in Accounts, seeking suitable post from reputed companies, NOC available. Contact 78167102 email: alexpsojan@gmail.com

Experienced accountants, accounts data entry upto finalisation, with audit support & filing IT & VAT returns, contractual with Tally Prime cloud based solution seeks opportunity. Contact 91334194

Srilanakan with 5 yrs experience & have completed BBA in Accounting looking for an Accountant job. Contact: 98981998, 9388825

ADMIN/HR

Indian male having 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Hr/ Admin. Contact 95425764

Lebanese Female, MBA, looking for an executive job, experienced in project coordination, management and logistics, bilingual Arabic, English, D/L. Contact 98103298

Experienced expat lady looking for secretary, HR/Admin assistant or any office jobs. Contact 94551898

BBA graduate in airport and airline management, having previous 2 years experience as office admin is seeking for suitable job, also have valid Oman D/L. Contact 96998665, 79744741. Email roychancres55@gmail.com

Indian Male, Smart, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience. Contact 99283938

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

16 Years Experience Draughtsman in Building & Roads Can Design also looking for Job or freelancer Job. Contact 93935786

3D Designer/Graphic designer*. Having 10 years of experience looking for Job. Contact 96425994

ENGINEER

MEP Mechanical Engineer, 9+ years GCC experience, with valid D/L (Oman & UAE) and NOC available. Can join immediately. Contact 96706269 Email: mirshanazee@gmail.com

BTech, MBA with 2.5 years of work experience, presently working in oman. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79556453"

B.Tech Civil Engineer 25 yrs plus exp (18 yrs Oman) Buildings Multi-storeyed Commercial/Residential Complex, Infrastructure Waterline, Oil/Gas, Refinery. Valid Omani D/L, NOC is available - Seeking suitable placement. Contact 92671539 Email: pvmani_2006@yahoo.com

Young Indian male, Civil QA/QC/ Materials Engineer having 6+ years of experience in Civil Engineering Industry looking for an suitable opportunity. NOC available. Contact +968-91631010 Email: naseem.sulthaan@gmail.com

Srilankan male, Mechanical quantity surveyor having 7 years gulf (Oman & Qatar) experience now looking job Oman. Contact 0094777001136 Email: thameemrifnas@gmail.com

Project Manager/Engineer (Electrical) with 10 Years Experience in Oman at (Primary & Distribution Substations and OHL) Tendering ,Estimation and Execution ,Oman Driving License & NOC available. GSM: 99092164 E-Mail: awilooo018@gmail.com

Electrical Engineer, more than 19 years of experience in both Consulting and contracting fields with valid D/L & NOC is looking for suitable placement. Contact +968 91321203, Email: ragheshp@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer MEP with 2 years Experience. Contact 79027224

Indian, Civil Engineer, 24 yrs of Oman Experience in Construction Industries with DL & NOC seeks suitable position. Contact 78390920, 94268227 yousufyounusalikhan53@gmail.com

Sr.Civil Engineer (BE) Over 15 yrs experience (Ministry, ROP, Diwan, commercial G+11, Municipality, Industries projects in Oman with D/L. Contact 97432396 Email: jamal_rangun@yahoo.com

Very Experienced Civil Engineer worked as Estimation, Tendering, Billings, prepared Shop Drawings, As Built Drawings, Snags, Handled MEP. Contact 96163786

B.Tech. Civil with 10 years experience in construction and water pipeline works GRB water tanks. Contact 94334788

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Looking for driving job with NOC. Contact.97095200

Oman experienced Indian L. Driver looking for a job. Contact 78552271

IT

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MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL

Land Surveyor, Indian Male 30 yrs land surveyor with 9 yrs experience in Oman.,valid D/L. Contact 93079335 Email adarshsoman2@gmail.com

HSE OFFICER with valid Oman D/L. 7 years experienced in Oman. Contact 94743007 (Oman), +917902565053 (Indian), Email: ajeesh4god@yahoo.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Inventory, Purchase, Sales: Indian male 30, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B operations, Accounting and various other skills, NOC available. Contact 96219904 Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male (30) MBA,6 years' experience in Sales and procurement with D/L. Fluent in English, Hindi, Malayalam and Arabic. Contact 97291114. Email: jawadazeez123@gmail.com

6 Years Experience outdoor salesman with driving in Oman.NOC available. Contact 91550548

Sales Executive, B.Com with 10 years experience in food products in Oman looking for job. Have Oman D/L & Visa. Contact 78273463

26, Indian male born in Oman, with 3years of experience, having valid D/L, looking for suitable placement in Engineering Sales/Marketing Field Holder of Bachelors in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering. Contact 98914229

*Classified Advertisement space booking with text, should be done till 12.00 noon for next day's publication.
* Subject to space availability

LIFESTYLE

5 SECRETS TO SHOPPING HOME GOODS

When it comes to decorating your home – and equipping it with everything you need to make the most out of it – it's easy to get lost in a sea of sites and stores. It's also easy to develop a routine that feels comfortable, but ultimately holds you back from the deals and the outside-the-box thinking that can score you major rewards, along with a host of items you'll love having around your house.

There's no reason to be intimidated by options when shopping for home goods. With a few tips and tricks, you can develop a different way of shopping that maximises savings, while minimising your time investment. We've assembled a list of our five favourite secrets.

1 Never shop without a strategy

If you've just moved into a new space, or are looking to redecorate a large portion of your home, your best shopping skills won't manifest unless you've already got a plan. This doesn't mean you already have to know exactly what you want, it just means not going in blind. A strategy doesn't have to be intricate, but a little pause before shopping can save you a whole lot of time later. Below are three examples that illustrate the point.

• **Measure** – Measure the spaces you're buying items for. This shouldn't be considered a secret, but it's a step that's skipped by too many shoppers to ignore. This extends beyond furniture, however – even if you're just buying a simple coffee maker, make sure to measure the counter you're putting it on. Before buying anything that's going to alter the look of a room, or take up even a moderate amount of space, make sure you've got room to fit it in, without overcrowding the area.

• **Create a look board** – For bigger projects that involve shopping for several items, it's always good to see the big picture. Whether you use Pinterest, or create an old-fashioned collage from magazines, tie everything you're looking to accomplish together through theme and aesthetics before you start shopping. The better sense you have of how an area should look (or feel), the better you'll be able to shop for it.

• **Start with the biggest room** – For large-scale projects involving your whole home (or at least multiple rooms), shop for the biggest room first, or at least for the biggest priority. It might be tempting to bounce around, but by starting big and focusing room to room, you'll have an easier time navigating all your options, and will be less likely to waste money on items and ideas that don't make sense in the end.

2 Start with the sales section

Whether you're shopping in-person or shopping online, the sales section is where you want to start looking. If nothing else, it can tell you a lot about how that store chooses to price its entire inventory. Don't just stop there, though. Compare those sale prices to those of their competitors – in many cases, stores will match those prices if they happen to be lower, whether they advertise that policy or not.

On top of that logic rests a more obvious benefit – you might find something that still fits your original idea, but saves you a lot of money. Finally, check the original release date of the items you find in the sales section, or ask when the next major sale is planned for. It might clue you in on how long – or how short – you have until that pricey item you need to finish your room might become more affordable.

3 Write reviews

Feedback – it's not just for venting. Plenty of sites offer rewards and discounts in exchange for simply telling them how you feel. Different online stores offer different perks.

It's an easy way to save on all sorts of items you won't find on sale. Most importantly, you'll be taking part in the movement to make online reviews reliable.

4 Stay logged in to social media

By leaving your Facebook, Instagram, or even Twitter account open while you shop, you'll often find exclusive deals. Maybe you're not the biggest fan of social media, which is understandable. But in an era where engagement ranks nearly as high as sales, many stores unlock discounts, or offer access first to those already paying attention to them online. If you want to skip checking endless pages and brand profiles on loop, you can even sign up for alerts – so you'll know exactly when to log on and claim your deal.

5 Shop unlikely sources

Discount stores can make for unlikely success stories; often providing the decor and items you've been looking everywhere for. Before breaking the bank at a premium retailer, make a visit to one of these shops. The drawbacks here are obvious – these stores are often out of date, but you might just complete your vision for half the cost you expected.-*Articlecity*

ROUND-UP

While Germany mulls over better solutions for a climate-friendly future, one northern village has already made the transition. And its residents say the benefits are worth every penny. A visit to Sprakebüll.

A GERMAN VILLAGE EMBRACES A

SOLAR FUTURE

"I am proud of Sprakebüll. It's great to be a part of this, to hear people from outside tell me how Sprakebüll has become known for its green energy," says Christina Johannsen.

Johannsen runs an organic farm and shop with her husband, and customers often bring up the subject. After all, in Sprakebüll the energy revolution has already happened.

Right across from the shop, customers can charge their electric cars. Behind it, houses are being built for young families. And the new fire station on the corner was financed with revenue from the citizens' wind farm, as Mayor Karl-Richard Nissen says proudly, pointing to six light gray wind turbines on the horizon, about two kilometres (1.2 miles) away.

'Nothing but benefits'

"Alternative energy sources have brought us nothing but benefits," Nissen says.

With the wind and solar plants, business taxes flow into municipal funds. "We've been able to build bike lanes here, and the community can do things it otherwise wouldn't be able to."

The proceeds from the wind farm also subsidise music lessons for children in Sprakebüll, among other things, and the village's e-car is available to all at low cost via car sharing.

Nissen says participation on a local level has been the key to success. Without it there would be no second wind farm. Not everyone on the municipal council voted for it, but the outcome was nevertheless accepted.

"The decisive factor here was not to abandon the field to large investors," Nissen emphasises when looking back.

Commitment and return on investment for clean energy

The first community wind farm here was went online back in 1998. Villagers and farmers jointly raised the capital. Without these investments and securities on their own houses, it would have been unlikely for the banks to have financed loans of €7.5 million ($8.86 million) for the five wind turbines back then, according to one of the initiators, farmer Hans-Christian Andresen, 73.

Bank loans for such projects are no longer a problem, and residents in the respective communities are very happy to contribute to new wind farms nowadays

Two solar parks have also been built in Sprakebüll with public involvement. Many people here also have solar modules on their own houses.

Sprakebüll generates roughly 50 times more electricity than it consumes. And its biogas, not oil, that villagers have been using to heat their homes for the past few years: All homes in the village were connected to their own heating network in 2013. The heat is generated in a plant right next to Johannsen's farm store, and the biogas is supplied from a farm by pipeline.

Innovation prevents rural exodus

In the 1960s, Sprakebüll had 26 farms, but today there are only three. Without renewable energy sources, "we would be a very poor region," says Mayor Nissen.

Nissen says that has become the case just 15 km north in neighboring Denmark.

"The alternative energy development has not happened in this way in Denmark. When you go there, you see how dead the villages are. Agriculture is down, just as it is here. And there just isn't anything else there," says Nissen.

And without innovative entrepreneurs like the Andresens, who employ 30 people, there would probably be "a big rural exodus here, too."

His son, Christian confirms this: "I, for one, wouldn't be here."

The 42-year-old agricultural engineer joined his father's company in 2007. The company builds solar plants, manages citizen wind- and solar farms, and helps farmers making the transition to using solar-powered field robots.

"A lot of know-how and innovative power has emerged here and is being developed further, and solutions are being sought for what can be done with the electricity," says Christian.

The same goes for a successful hydrogen project in Haurup, 20 km away. Hydrogen is produced here from wind power using electrolysis and then fed into the natural gas pipelines.

Andresen is convinced that the planet can be powered completely by renewables by 2030, and that Sprakebüll is living proof that "it will happen much faster than many people today believe." -DW

FEATURES

UPCOMING DEVICE

Facebook's smart glasses will likely rely on your phone to work

WASHINGTON: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg recently announced the company's next consumer product-Ray-Ban smart glasses, the details of which have been under the wraps until now. If you are tech-savvy and want to get some insights into the properties of the upcoming device, then we have got you covered!

In a statement to Mashable, a Facebook spokesperson provided some insight as to how the smart glasses will likely rely on your phone to work. As per Mashable India, the upcoming device would not act as a standalone device but will work in conjunction with a smartphone or another external display.

Integrated display

The device wouldn't have an integrated display, as reported by The Verge last year; but there have been some speculations that it will function the same way Snapchat Spectacles or Amazon Echo Frames do.

According to Mashable India, the device might actually be much more similar to those other smart frames. As with the Spectacles and Echo Frames, Facebook's Ray-Ban smart glasses will allow a user to stay connected to whatever device that may be without distracting its user from their current environment.

For those who are worried that Facebook will use the device as an opportunity to gather information on its users for its upcoming project Aria AR glasses, Facebook said its "Ray-Ban glasses are completely separate from Project Aria. They will not share data." The company said it would "share more info on capabilities and our data policies when we reveal the product." The Ray-Ban smart glasses are expected to get launched later this year. – ANI

NIGHT WATCHMAN IN ANCIENT VILLAGE OF EAST CHINA'S ANHUI

Night watchman Lu Lei sounds a gong in Xidi Village, Yixian County of Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province. It is a serene night as the luminous moon gleams in the sky. With a gong and mallet in hand, Lu Lei sets out to perform dageng.

Lu, a post-80s man, has been a night watchman as a substitute for his father, a member of Xidi's dageng team, in the ancient village loved by many for its picturesque scenery. Lu works at a tourism company in the county seat of Yixian during the day and returns home in Xidi after work.

Xidi ancient village was built nearly 1,000 years ago.

The village is home to 224 well-preserved Hui-style ancient wooden dwellings, and that makes fire prevention a top priority. Patrolling a familiar street with historic wooden houses on both sides, Lu sounds out the hours with his gong to remind villagers of the time and to warn against fire.

Dageng has a long history in Xidi. Traditionally, people measured time based on the position of the sun in the sky during the day, and relied on a night watchman to sound the hours at night. In 1996, the ancient village reestablished the dageng team. - Xinhua/Han Xu

الوطنية للتأمين على الحياة والعام
NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE
Ominvest Group
مجموعة اومينفست

NATIONAL LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the six-months ended 30 June 2021

Dear Shareholders,

It is my pleasure to present to you the unaudited results of National Life & General Insurance Co SAOG ("the Company" or "NLGIC") for the six-month period ended 30 June 2021. I am also pleased to highlight some of the major developments and recognitions of NLGIC during the period as follows:

- NLGIC has been ranked among Top 10 insurance brands in the Middle East- "Most Valuable Brands- Middle East 2021".
- NLGIC has been awarded "Best Social Media Award" by Comex arranged by Arabian Research Bureau and the "Best Customer Centric Life and General Insurance Company" by The Global Economics.
- In May 2021, A M Best affirmed the Financial Strength Rating of B++ (Good) and the Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating of "bbb+" of NLGIC with a stable outlook.
- NLGIC is continuing its strategy of innovation and customer centricity by introducing new products, making available Motor Insurance through Omantel kiosks and enhancing its mobile app and customer portal during H1 2021.

Performance Highlights for the Six-Months ended 30 June 2021:

Gross Premiums and Net Underwriting Results:
Gross Written Premium (GWP) of RO 85.4 million during H1 2021 was marginally lower than RO 87.2 million recorded in H1 2020. The Net Underwriting Result (NUR) of RO 9.1 million in H1 2021 was 47% lower than NUR of RO 17.1 million in H1 2020. The previous period, NUR for H1 2020 was higher due to one-off impact of Covid-19-related lockdown in Q2 2020, which translated into a high profit margin of 20% on the GWP as compared to profit margin of 12% in H1 2019. The current period NUR of RO 9.1 million in H1 2021 was back to normal levels with profit margin of 11% of the GWP in H1 2021. The Company achieved healthy levels of NUR for H1 2021 although it was impacted by various factors such as reduced profitability in overseas operations, increased mortality in the country on account of Covid-19 which has resulted in a higher level of Covid-19 claims in the company's Life portfolio, and increased loss ratios in the Motor portfolio.

Investment Income
The company's investment income increased by 49% to RO 3.4 million as compared to RO 2.3 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. The increase in Investment Income of RO 1.1 million is attributable to realized gain of RO 0.8 million from sale of bonds during H1 2021 and increase in fixed investment income of RO 0.3 million.

Net Profit After Tax (NPAT)
Even though the Company's NUR was impacted by various factors stated above, the Company has achieved a healthy NPAT of RO 4.9 million in H1 2021 by increasing its investment income and maintaining control on its management expenses.

Changing Regulatory Landscape
2021 is a year of major changes for the insurance industry and NLGIC. In Oman, in addition to the implementation of Value Added Tax and Regulation for Public Joint Stock Companies during H1 2021, the insurance industry has to implement Investment Regulations for Insurance Companies and the Royal decree No. 44/2021 amending provisions of the Insurance Companies Law, wherein it states that the Health Insurance segment will be separated from Life and General Insurance segments. In UAE, NLGIC is implementing Internal Control in Financial Reporting (ICFR) as required by UAE Insurance Authority. On the information technology front, NLGIC has to implement requirements mandated by The National Electronic Security Authority (NESA) and Abu Dhabi Health Information and Cyber Security (ADHICS) standard launched by the Department of Health, Abu Dhabi. NLGIC is currently in the process of upgrading its systems and processes to comply with all the regulatory directives.

Acknowledgements
We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik for his dynamic and progressive leadership. Under His Majesty's visionary leadership, we pray for the steady growth, stability, and enduring prosperity of our great country.

I would like to thank our esteemed shareholders, partners and regulators for their continued support and trust. I would also like to especially thank the management team and all our employees for their performance, hard work and commitment.

Khalid Muhammad AlZubair
Chairman

UNAUDITED INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021

	30 June 2021 RO (Unaudited)	31 Dec.2020 RO (Audited)	30 June 2020 RO (Unaudited)
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	8,470,750	10,233,957	11,315,944
Bank deposits	46,894,969	41,596,096	33,177,842
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	295,619	-	-
Investments carried at amortised cost	11,210,534	14,204,940	14,213,702
Investments carried at fair value through other comprehensive income	32,275,549	37,034,234	33,233,816
Insurance and reinsurance receivables	59,794,894	43,155,850	76,288,342
Reinsurance share of outstanding claims and IBNR reserve	7,200,682	5,867,158	8,419,023
Reinsurance share of actuarial/ mathematical and unexpired risk reserve	12,211,075	10,307,915	13,601,163
Other receivables and prepayments	14,103,491	5,698,261	10,429,704
Loans to policyholders	90,247	113,873	138,416
Property and equipment	6,735,287	6,943,707	6,796,268
Deferred tax asset	242,217	197,262	448,221
Intangible Assets (including Goodwill)	460,849	472,647	484,445
Total assets	199,986,163	175,825,900	208,546,886
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	26,500,000	26,500,000	26,500,000
Legal reserve	8,746,761	8,261,717	7,845,154
Contingency reserve	14,116,673	12,970,009	12,239,252
Revaluation reserve	447,420	447,420	447,420
Fair value reserve	503,274	438,638	(1,403,218)
Foreign exchange fluctuation reserve	(26,227)	(23,710)	(27,871)
Retained earnings	12,947,810	18,826,386	15,612,537
Total equity	63,235,711	67,420,460	61,213,274
LIABILITIES			
Gross outstanding claims and IBNR reserve	39,030,218	23,171,076	28,852,489
Gross actuarial / mathematical and unexpired risk reserve	67,138,692	51,541,513	73,042,613
Due to reinsurers	10,319,744	8,088,029	12,893,391
Other liabilities	16,928,769	23,039,850	22,070,680
Short term loan	2,499,734	-	8,650,000
Income tax payable	833,295	2,564,972	1,824,439
Total liabilities	136,750,452	108,405,440	147,333,612
Total equity and liabilities	199,986,163	175,825,900	208,546,886
Net assets per share	0.239	0.254	0.231

UNAUDITED INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	30 June 2021 RO (Unaudited)	30 June 2020 RO (Unaudited)
Gross written premium	85,394,600	87,173,827
Gross premium, earned	69,797,421	72,534,395
Reinsurance share of ceded premium earned	(12,056,101)	(14,330,035)
Net premium earned	57,741,320	58,204,360
Commission income	1,553,254	1,757,787
Income from policy fees	695,115	567,349
Gross claims expense	(56,223,208)	(49,433,090)
Reinsurance share of gross claims expense	11,765,887	12,485,627
Commission expense	(6,434,933)	(6,437,577)
Net underwriting result	9,097,435	17,144,456
Investment income – net	3,372,465	2,268,808
Expected credit losses on financial assets	15,306	(9,959)
Other operating (expense) / income	(22,863)	(11,191)
Third party administration fees	(539,221)	(604,137)
General and administrative expenses	(6,216,841)	(6,048,774)
Finance cost	(55,426)	(93,244)
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	(11,798)	(11,798)
Profit before income tax	5,639,057	12,634,161
Income tax expense	(788,618)	(1,793,835)
Profit for the period	4,850,439	10,840,326
Other comprehensive income / (expense)		
(Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss):		
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	(2,517)	(5,914)
Change in value of debt investments carried at fair value through other comprehensive income– net	(557,260)	(730,916)
(Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss):		
Change in value of investments carried at fair value through other comprehensive income– net	799,589	(1,167,818)
Other comprehensive income / (expense) for the period	239,812	(1,904,648)
Total comprehensive income for the period	5,090,251	8,935,678
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	0.018	0.041

Items in the unaudited interim condensed consolidated statement of other comprehensive income above are disclosed net of tax.

Note: The unaudited financial statements are available in the website of Muscat Securities Market. However, the same will be sent to any shareholder who requests them either in Arabic or English, within 7 days from the receipt of request at the company's address: National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG, P.O. Box:798, Wadi Kabir, PC 117, Sultanate of Oman.

ROUND-UP

Sindbaad: A revolutionary new age Omani B2C/B2B marketplace

Sindbaad is the region's first B2C and B2B eCommerce marketplace, an all-in-one website for your personal and business needs at your fingertips

Sheikh Ghalib Mohammed Khalfan Al Naamani, Chairman (left) and Shoaeb Abdul Rehman Kasmani, Founder and Managing Director

MUSCAT: The novel COVID-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down. The unexpected severe economic uncertainty has become a new emerging opportunity for e-commerce retail. There has been a paradigm shift from traditional retailing to now buying and selling on online platforms from the comfort of our homes.

"Shop from home" was an initiative launched by Oman and many other countries to use electronic applications to shop from stores, restaurants etc. Consumers had to purchase goods while they were forced to stay at home during lockdowns. The eCommerce business is gaining momentum in the country in line with Oman Vision 2040 promoting the digital economy.

Realising the need, a revolutionary new age Omani home-grown marketplace Sindbaad (www.es-indbaad.com) was launched at the beginning of 2021.

Sindbaad is the region's first B2C and B2B eCommerce marketplace, an all-in-one website for your personal and business needs at your fingertips. At Sindbaad, consumers can shop from over 100 choicest local and international brands in fashion, electronics, essentials and much more. Businesses can also connect with other businesses across the MENA region to buy/sell products in large quantities, negotiate prices and finalize contracts.

Sindbaad is paving the way for Omani business entities to enter international markets. "In Oman, we have exceptional treasures and talent. We truly have the power to be a leading market in the Middle East where businesses can thrive and have a well-deserved opportunity to showcase their products to the world," says the Chairman, Sheikh Ghalib Al Naamani.

Sindbaad enables businesses to transform the way they market, sell, operate and improve their efficiencies. It provides the technology infrastructure and marketing reach to help merchants, brands, retailers and other businesses to leverage the power of new technology to engage with their users and customers and operate more efficiently.

Founder and Managing Director of Sindbaad, Shoaeb Kasmani says, "Sindbaad as a marketplace is an ecosystem that is unique, energetic and innovative. It connects consumers, enables businesses to be profitable and create employment opportunities. In just a few months since launch, we have acquired numerous local and international brands in a broad range of categories providing a wholesome personal shopping experience for customers and providing the ultimate business to business experience for companies across Oman."

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a major role in Oman's economy. The sector has attracted considerable attention from the government as is reflected in the Oman Vision strategy 2040. Among the various challenges faced, SME's in Oman have limited access to technology and digital solutions. SME's are struggling to gain desired exposure and connect in real-time with buyers and sellers locally and beyond the region. Sheikh Ghalib further adds," The pandemic has only made the business development for SME's more challenging. Sindbaad provides SME's the biggest opportunity to collaborate and connect with businesses beyond the region."

Backed by technology experts proficient in Search Engine Optimisation, Google AdWords, Print Media Advertisements, Digital, Radio, Billboards, business analytics and other marketing solutions, Sindbaad provides substantial exposure to each SME to be discovered by buyers across the MENA regions for their top-quality products and services.

Sindbaad offers step by step solutions to SMEs in Oman. Kasmani explains," Starting from onboarding, product/services display, enquiry and lead generations, order management, deliveries and various payment plans, all steps are carried out by Sindbaad, which swiftly moves the SME trade journey to the digital world through a hassle-free experience."

Sindbaad's vision is to be a leader in the online and mobile e-commerce industry in Oman and the MENA region. They said, "We aim to build a place that caters to everyone's online shopping and business needs. It is more than just a platform, but a reason for building meaningful connections between buyers and suppliers around the globe. Our mission is to make "Sindbaad" a household name and deliver products and services that consumers around the world are inspired by, and value in a trusted environment. Sindbaad strives to expand their products and services to become central to the everyday lives of their customers.

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Huge turnout from Zubair Corp staff towards complete immunisation

MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation announced the commencement of the vaccination campaign for the second dose of the 'COVID-19' vaccine for all employees of its subsidiaries, within all the wilayats of the Sultanate, on August 1. This effort is in line with the national vaccination drive, spearheaded by the Ministry of Health. The vaccination centre at Zubair Automotive Group in Azaiba witnessed a large turnout of employees towards completing both doses of the vaccination.

The Zubair Corporation seeks to enhance the work environment in the Corporation and its subsidiaries through the implementation of several plans and programmes that contribute towards providing a healthy workplace for employees. The Corporation places significant importance and attention on the health and safety of its employees. This is made possible through the implementation of the highest safety standards across various work environments, either at The Zubair Corporation or any of its subsidiaries.

Commenting on the campaign, Hilal Omar Al Siyabi, Head of Corporate Services at The Zubair Corporation, said, "We are pleased with the large attendance of the employees from the companies affiliated with The Zubair Corporation, to be administered with the second dose of the vaccine. This reflects the team's commitment to implementing relevant measures to reduce the risk of the virus and its infection. We look forward to completing this campaign in the upcoming days, to enable ourselves to be fully prepared for the recovery phase."

"I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the campaign team and the Human Resources departments from all the corporation's subsidiaries. Through their efforts, they were able to do everything required, necessary for the campaign's success and achievement of its goals. I would also like to thank the concerned team from the Ministry of Health for their dedication in facilitating the required procedures," Al Siyabi added.

From her side, Nawal Salem al Hashemi, who is supervising the vaccination campaign, said, "Coordinating campaigns like this on a large scale and involving all employees, across various entities, is not an easy task. Our success in organising this campaign would not have been possible without the collective efforts of several employees, who were present, day and night, to ensure that the campaign was conducted seamlessly and without any delay or confusion. Together, we look forward to completing the second phase and as prepare for the post-COVID era ahead.

"I would like to remind all our colleagues and emphasise the need to maintain their full commitment to all relevant precautionary measures, even after receiving the vaccine. This is as per the directives issued by the Ministry of Health, which need to be adhered to, since the administration of the vaccine does not provide complete protection from infection but helps prevents severe symptoms," Nawal added.

The Zubair Corporation began its campaign to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, ever since the onset of the pandemic. It has worked on a set of awareness initiatives for employees so that precautionary measures can be implemented in the work environment across various companies of the group. It continues to carry out its awareness campaign for employees, about the need of adhering to the precautionary measures even after vaccination and to follow instructions issued by relevant authorities.

AGREEMENT

Siemens and OES to establish vocational apprenticeship training institute

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Educational Services (OES) and Siemens agreed to develop a vocational training institute and introduce the country's first comprehensive apprenticeship system.

The two companies signed an agreement to establish Oman-German Technology Solutions, a hi-tech vocational training institute, built on the German system of apprenticeships. Under the partnership, Siemens will contribute expertise and experience to prepare young Omanis for careers in electrical, mechanical and process engineering and mechatronics.

"What makes it special is that this will be Oman's first training institute to follow Germany's widely respected model for dual-track vocational education," said Claudia V. Massei, CEO for Siemens Oman. "This Siemens contribution to the Omani society is deeply aligned with the values of our company: innovation, excellence and responsibility. We are proud to play a role in empowering the next generation of Omani technical specialists to succeed in careers in manufacturing, infrastructure, and energy industries."

The training programme will start with 100 apprentices and gradually expand to meet the requirements of the growing Oman labour market. Graduates will gain valuable qualifications that will help them in the job market and throughout their careers. During the three-year programme, apprentices will progressively spend less time in the classroom and more in on-the-job training, which gives a graduate technical expert, qualified on Level 5, a boost at the workplace when they start their first jobs after the programme.

"The institute will aim to reduce Omani youth unemployment and make the country's economy more competitive," said Dr Hussain Al Salmi, CEO of Oman Educational Services. "This cooperation is coming at the right time," he said. "Oman German Technology Solutions (OGtech) as a new subsidiary of OES with a strong link to GUtech and our German partners, is a vocational training project, based on the successful German-style Apprenticeship system, with a mission to instil the Omani youth with in-depth, practical knowledge in preparation for careers in Oman's industries." Dr Hussain emphasised the fact that the next generation of the Omani industrial labour force will be able to adapt and integrate transformative intelligent technologies into every area of business to optimize processes, make data-driven decisions, and promote innovation.

Officials attending the signing ceremony included Amelie Tittel, Chancellor at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; Dr Al Khattab Ghalib Al Hinai, Vice Chairman of the State Council and a member of the board of governors at the German University of Technology in Oman; and Abdulrahman Al Yahyaei, CEO of the Oman Society for Petroleum Services.

RECOGNITION

Kempinski Hotel Muscat restaurants win 2021 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award

MUSCAT: Kempinski Hotel Muscat announced that Bukhara, Soi Soi and Countdown sports Lounge have been recognised as 2021 Travelers' Choice award winners.

This achievement celebrates businesses that consistently deliver fantastic experiences to guests from around the globe, having earned great traveller reviews on TripAdvisor over the last 12 months. As challenging as the past year was, Kempinski Muscat restaurants stood out by continuously delighting and exceeding guest expectations.

"This recognition is an incredible honour and we thank our guests who trusted us and enjoyed their dining experiences with us and we thank our team for their dedication and hard work in making these awards happen by delivering the highest quality service," said Carsten Wiegandt - General Manager of the hotel.

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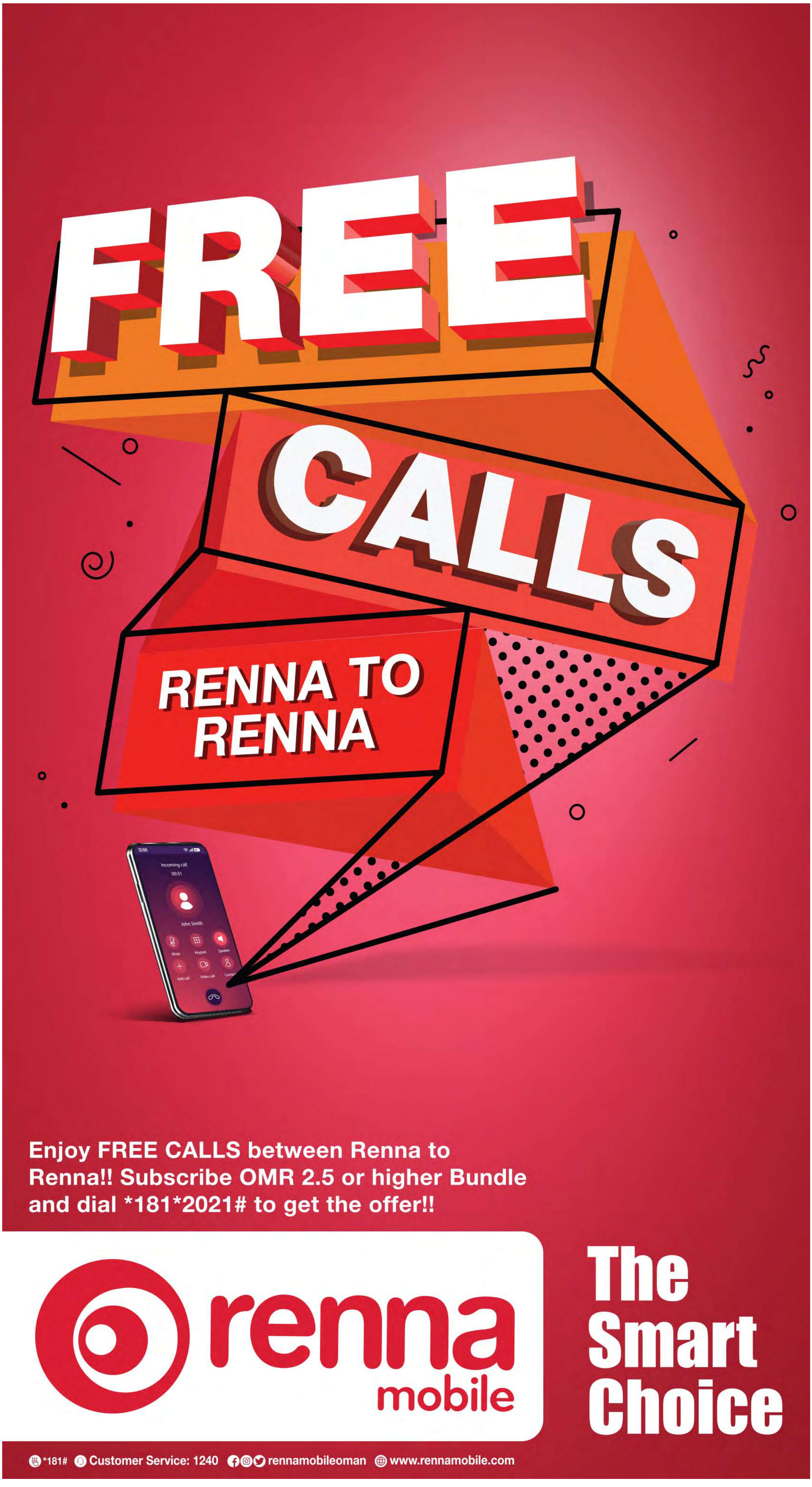
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