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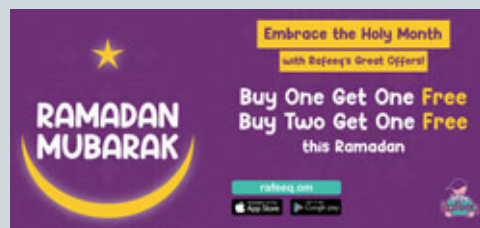
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RAFEEQ – ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU THIS RAMADAN

Online stores such as Rafeeq provide a fast, efficient and convenient way for people to get the freshest produce and handle the Ramadan squeeze. **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 49 | 16 PAGES | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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MOCIIP

Omani inventor files patent for car safety gadget

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A new system designed to prevent road accidents, and provide urgent care to those involved in them, has been designed by an Omani, and received a patent from the government.

Invented by Ali bin Salim Al Busaidi, the system, called 'Musif', aims to greatly reduce the number of victims from traffic accidents, and speed up response time through rapid communication with emergency teams in the Sultanate.

Accurate information

It will also allow for automated reception of accurate accident information, cut human errors in determining location, and achieving integration with emergency services needed to assist in such cases. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Air India Express cancels flights

1 Passengers flying on 2 May, 2021, to Bangalore and Mangalore from Muscat will need to look for an alternative as Air India Express has cancelled the flights. **>A4**

WORLD India's one-day COVID tally tops 400,000

2 With a total of 401,993 fresh COVID-19 cases, India for the first time has reported more than 400,000 cases in 24 hours. **>A7**

MARKET OQ international bond issuance

3 In efforts to diversify funding sources, OQ has announced its first bond issuance in the international debt capital markets. **>B1**

MOF-CBO INITIATIVE

Salary e-transfer system launched in the Sultanate



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Salaries will now be credited to companies using e-banking channels, after the required services were completed by the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Oman.

The systems enabling companies to credit salaries through e-banking services were put in place last March, with the aim to pay salaries to employees at a faster pace.

The move to credit salaries by e-transfers will also have other

benefits, including providing "updated personnel data in all government units in harmony with CBO standards, and maintaining the confidentiality of data and information by encryption of payroll files."

It is also designed to halt the use of payment methods such as cheques to provide salaries to employees.

Efforts by the Ministry of Finance to set-up e-transfer methods are also part of its plans to soon set up an automated clearing house, which will enable the CBO

It is also designed to halt the use of payment methods such as cheques to provide salaries to employees

to directly transfer salaries into the accounts of employees.

As part of its roll-out of the e-transfer system, the Ministry of Finance has also asked other organisations in the country to not provide advance salaries to employees going on annual leave.

"In light of activating the electronic salary transfer system, the Ministry of Finance has instructed all ministries and government units to halt paying the salary in advance for annual leave," said the MoF in a circular. "The system aims at accelerating and facilitating the transactions of salaries and other entitlements, as well as enhancing internal controls."

Times News Service

MUSCAT: There has been a 50 per cent reduction in the number of people donating blood, during the Holy Month of Ramadan, leading to shortages of much-needed blood for patients who require them at urgent notice.

Officials from the Department of Blood Banks Services (DBBS) have requested people in the country to voluntarily come forward and donate blood to save lives.

"All blood banks in the coun-

505
units of red blood cells have been so far collected during Ramadan this year, said a DBBS official

FEWER DONORS CREATE SHORTAGE IN BLOOD BANKS

The triple combination of the pandemic, night lockdown and Ramadan has led to a severe decline in the number of donors

try require between 200 and 400 blood donors daily, but there is a reduction of about 50 per cent this month," said an official from the DBBS. "Our red blood cell collection during Ramadan in 2021 has only amounted to 505 units so far."

Major hurdle

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has also created a major hurdle for blood banks when it comes to finding donors. Many countries around the world are experiencing shortages in blood, which is required for many life-saving procedures.

The virus aside, the steps taken by governments and people to

curtail its spread, including periodic lockdowns, social distancing, the need to stay at home to reduce exposure to the disease, and halting mass gatherings, have directly impacted the effectiveness of blood donation drives and awareness campaigns.

"The usual donation period – which ran after iftar until midnight – has been dramatically curtailed because of the ongoing lockdown, which begins at 9 pm," said the DBBS official. "Because of this, it is often impractical for people to come to the centres and donate. The supply chain for blood has been disrupted, despite there being no decline in

the need for blood."

"Although we are working hard to fulfil the demand for blood, the triple combination of the night lockdown, Ramadan, and the ongoing COVID-19 situation has led to a severe decline in the number of donors, leading to a shortage of blood and related fluids," he added.

Appeal

"We would like to encourage all prospective donors to kindly come forward and make their donation."

The DBBS also stressed the urgent need to share awareness among communities in Oman, on the importance of donating blood, especially during Ramadan. **>A2**



Ramadan Special:
Make a difference by staying in touch

A5

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MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Rafeeq – always there for you this Ramadan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Between the time spent at work during the day, iftar in the evenings, and movement restrictions at night, shopping for groceries to prepare the special meals associated with Ramadan can be a squeeze, particularly with businesses only allowed to operate at 50 percent capacity.

Online stores such as Rafeeq, however, provide a fast, efficient and convenient way for people to get the freshest produce, quality groceries, and favourite foods any time during the day. Oman's largest online supermarket contains a wide range of items for people to shop for, placing your order through the app or the website from the convenience of your home or office takes only a few minutes.

Range of products

Customers can choose from an extensive range of products, including groceries, fresh and frozen

Embrace the Holy Month with Rafeeq's Great Offers!

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this Ramadan

rafeeq.om

zen fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry, dairy, ready to eat meals, savouries, sweets, household supplies, electronics, stationery, game cards, office supplies, baked goods, cereals, grains, sauces, jams, beverages, baby food, personal care products, and many more essentials.

"We understand that time is of the essence for people right now," said Shakir Dadarkar, marketing manager for Rafeeq. "This is why we realise the need to provide

quality products, on time, and at affordable prices. As part of these efforts, we have also put up more than 200 items on our Ramadan offers, not to mention free home delivery for offers above OMR5."

Some 100+ items are available to customers under the Buy 2 Get 1 Free offer, while another 76 are listed under the Buy 1 Get 1 Free offer. More than 100+ items are also available under a special offer, while a further 20 products are currently being sold at dis-

counts of up to 50 percent.

Rafeeq's efforts to provide good products on time have received positive reviews from customers in Muscat and the surrounding areas. Efforts are underway to expand the online store's delivery base, and new products are regularly added to its portfolio.

Jibin Jose, who recently made his first delivery from the store, was pleasantly surprised by its quality. "They delivered on time, provided decently packed fresh vegetables, meat, and other products," he said. "Well done, team Rafeeq, keep it up."

Sanarab Kazi called the online store a "must-use to buy fresh vegetables and fruits," owing to the "excellent service and quality," while Jason Noronha added that they had "quite an easy app from which to select items," before going on to praise the smooth check-out experience.

Basam Al Kayyali was all praise for the "amazing collection, service, and quality of products," and Zahra T liked the "excellent service, and wide range of items available." She added: "The vegetables and fruits are always in perfect condition."

Commitment

Reiterating Rafeeq's commitment to meeting the needs of customers, particularly when they might not have the time go to shopping, Samer Hakim, the online store's operations manager, said, "We have received plenty of positive feedback from our customers, and we are glad they find convenience from the services we provide."

"Many are using us as an alternative to regular grocery stores during the pandemic, but we are sure online stores and the services they offer will continue to stay afterwards as well," he added. To shop from Rafeeq, visit www.rafeeq.om, or download the app from the Play Store for Android, and App Store for iOS.

Over 1.4mn expats working in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: There are 1.4 million expatriate workers employed in the Sultanate with 6 per cent of them holding top posts like managers, investors or specialists, the Ministry of Labour revealed on Saturday in its first quarter report for 2021. The report pegged the total number of migrant workers in Oman at 1,144,185 of which one-third or 604,163, work in the Muscat Governorate. 204,381 work in North Al Batinah governorate while 165,647 are employed in Dhofar.

In terms of designation, 31,254 workers are employed as directors of public administration and there are 60,451 specialists while 40,759 technicians are in the scientific, technical and humanitarian fields.

The majority of expats are concentrated in the basic auxiliary engineering professions, with over 500,000 employed in this sector.

MUSIF

< FROM A1 Patent for innovative device

The device comes with advanced technologies designed to quickly put emergency services in contact with accident victims, so as to limit the harm caused by serious injuries.

"Musif works by sending text message automatically from vehicle drivers to emergency services, in the case of an accident, as well as to a close relative of theirs, to keep them informed," said Al Busaidi.

"The message also contains a location link, allowing emergency services to quickly reach the site of the accident. This will also help them determine the time of occurrence of the accident, as well as provide other relevant data."

"It contains a set of smart safety devices, such as an automatic fire extinguisher, first aid box,



floatation device to help against drowning, heart rate sensors in case of sudden seizures, sound emitters and lamps connected to the car, and a system that will help open doors and windows of

the vehicle, to ease suffocation," he added.

To see how vehicles and motorists can best benefit from this system, a number of tests will be conducted for Musif, in collaboration with international companies that specialise in manufacturing car safety systems, so that this can be converted into a commercial product that can be sold locally and overseas.

Having been patented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MO-CIIP), which is keen on encouraging people in the country to develop their own innovative ideas, the ministry has called on others to also register their concepts with the intellectual property department, to help protect them from infringement.

SHORTAGE

< FROM A1 Call for blood donations

Although Omanis make up 90 per cent of blood donors, those who aren't fasting are encouraged to go to the blood banks any time during the day to make a contribution towards those who most need it.

The Department of Blood Banks Services (DBBS) is open on weekdays from 8am onwards.

People can either walk in to

donate blood, or schedule an appointment on WhatsApp (94555648). Before coming to the blood bank, donors are requested to check with the staff there whether they are open, owing to changes in timings that might be brought about at short notice by the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19.

Updates from blood banks can

be found on social media (Facebook and Twitter), as well as in print and online media.

COVID-19

"Our message is that to wipe out coronavirus (COVID-19), we must practice social distancing, not social disengagement," said the Department of Blood Banks Services official.

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IFTAR PROGRAM

The Prophet (ﷺ) said:
"He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization has the pleasure of announcing the start of this year's Ramadan Iftar Program. We kindly seek your participation for the sake of the needy families in Oman during this holy month. All are requested to join in such a humanitarian and benevolent cause by sending your donation through:

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*Buyback based on 1-year/25,000km ownership (whichever comes first).

**Whichever comes first.

***Dependent on vehicle condition.

Offer valid from April 15th to May 20th 2021.



AIR INDIA EXPRESS

Flights from Muscat to Bangalore, Mangalore cancelled, rescheduled

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passengers who intended to fly on 2 May, 2021, to Bangalore and/or Mangalore from Muscat will need to look for an alternative, after Air India Express cancelled the flights to the two Indian cities.

Those who still wish to travel to Mangalore can do so on the flight scheduled for the 6th of May.

Flight IX 817 was scheduled to depart from Mangalore at 8:50 local time, before landing at Muscat at 10:30, while IX 818 was expected to take off from Muscat at 11:30 and arrive in Bangalore at 16:15. At 17:30, it was to depart from Bangalore, and arrive an hour later in Mangalore. A number of flights operating to other Indian cities have also been rescheduled or merged: the flights that were operating sep-

arately to Hyderabad and Kochi on 3 May have been combined.

The service will now take off from Hyderabad at 8:20, arrive in Muscat at 10:20, depart for Kochi at 11:20, land at 16:30, take off for Hyderabad once again at 17:20, and arrive at 19:00.

The Tiruchirappalli-Muscat flights that operate from 1 May onwards will now leave India at 21:15, and land in Oman at 23:45, while

those that are scheduled to start operations from 2 May onwards will depart from Muscat at 10:40, and arrive in Tiruchirappalli at 15:35 that afternoon. Both services will run until 23 October.

Similarly, the Lucknow service that is set to operate between 2 May and 24 October will leave Muscat 45 minutes past midnight, arrive in Lucknow at 5:25, leave for Oman at 7:20, and land

in Muscat at 9:40.

Flights to Kannur will continue to run, per a revised schedule. Two flights a week will operate between the cities.

The first flight will depart Kannur at 20:55 and land in Muscat at 23:25, before departing Oman 25 minutes past midnight the next day, and arriving in India at six o'clock in the morning.

The second, however, effective 8 May until 29 May, will depart Kannur at 23:45, arrive in Muscat at 2:15, leave Muscat at 3:15, and return to Kannur at 8:50.

Services to Thiruvananthapuram, will also function under revised timings: from 5 May to 27 October, flights will leave Kerala at 10:40, arrive in Muscat at 12:55, leave Oman at 13:55, and arrive back in Thiruvananthapuram at 19:15.



ACWA Power Barka SAOG

P.O. Box: 572, P.C.320, Barka. Tel.: 26896499, Fax: 26894387

Board of Directors' Report 31 March 2021

We are pleased to present the un-audited financial statements of ACWA Power Barka SAOG (the "Company") for the period ended 31 March 2021.

The financial results of the period are summarized as under:

Riyal Omani in Millions

	Period Ended 31 March 2021
Gross Revenues	8,639
Gross Profit	3,419
Profit / (Loss) after tax	1,390
Basic earnings / (Loss) per share – Riyal Omani	0.009

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the world, both socially and economically. While there is no way to tell exactly what the economic damage from the global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic will be, there is widespread agreement among economists that it will continue to have severe negative impacts on the global economy.

The Company with help of its Operator has put in place a robust plan that allowed operation of its three plants without being impacted by effects of the pandemic. The operation and maintenance team continued to work in shifts when required and all safety protocols were implemented and strictly followed as mandated by the local authorities.

From Operational perspective, this quarter was maintenance intensive. The Company along with its Operator is pleased to announce that Lifetime Extension activities on Gas Turbine 2 were successfully completed at end of the quarter. The Turbine was put back into service which is operating reliability since then. The Company would like to recognize the efforts of the entire team in completing this complex and significant activity requiring replacement of certain key components within allocated outage time. This maintenance will allow for a reliable operation for the foreseeable future.

The Company during this quarter has faced few challenges on its Steam Turbine and its Generator. The team observed excessive vibration on the Generator during a planned outage. Acting prudently, the rotor of the Generator was extracted immediately and was sent to a workshop of an independent expert located in the United Arab Emirates. The result of the inspection revealed that damage to the rotor required full rewinding using the existing bars. In addition, the retaining ring of the rotor was also damaged for which all efforts are being made for its replacement. The Company has already notified its Insurers of this event who has appointed an independent loss adjuster to review the claim process. The Company is expecting that this repair activity will be completed by mid of June and will result in adverse financial impact of Rial Omani 1.7million.

Further, during a recent borescope inspection of steam turbine HP section, the O&M operator has noticed damage on two blades of row 17. The extent of damage can only be confirmed by opening the Steam Turbine for a detailed assessment with the blades in exposed condition. The financial impact of this event can only be precisely determined when once the turbine is opened and extent of damage is identified, however, considering the steam turbine is already unavailable due to issue with its Generator, there is a likelihood of not having any financial impact due to this event. In any case, the Insurers were notified, and loss adjuster has been appointed on this event as well.

The outcome from the Power 2022 Procurement Process is still awaited. The Company has not heard from the Regulator on this matter as at end of the quarter as was indicated by the Regulator in its letter in December last year. There are serious doubts about future of this process and likelihood of securing a new contract due to existing surplus capacity prevailing in the Grid. The Company highlighted certain risks related to this process in its 2020 Annual Report and their consequential material impact to the business including business continuity and default on its outstanding loan obligations under financing agreements.

On 28 March 2020, the Court of Appeals has issued an unfavourable decision on the case related to two RO Plants. The Company is in consultation with its legal counsel to understand the underlying reasons of this unfortunate outcome and to decide on merits of disputing this outcome in the Supreme Court. The Company will take a decision in this regard after due consideration of all aspects of the case.

The Company continues to engage with its Off taker to identify any suitable opportunity to extend contracts for its two RO Plants even for a short term. The Company believes that it is in a position to offer its water capacity at a very competitive rates to fulfill the demand needs of the Grid. The Company has recently received a short-term Request for Offer (RFO) from OPWP in relation to its two RO plants. OPWP has indicated its willingness to procure around 16MIGD of water capacity from May 2022 until December 2023. They may extend this term by another three months at their discretion. The Company is reviewing the RFO document in detail and will be evaluating prospect of this short-term opportunity.

Plant performance during the period

Power Generation

Quarter 1	Energy Exported (GWH)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor
2021	7.0	0.8%	99.7%
2020	68.8	8.1%	100.0%

Power Plant hardly operated during 1st quarter of 2021. This is due to overall reduction in power consumption due to current COVID situation coupled with introduction of new more efficient power plants in the grid.

Despite the drop in load factor and frequent start-ups/shutdown of power units, reliability of the power plant remained in top decile. This high reliability factor is a reflection of operation and maintenance excellence of the O&M team.

Power plant did not operate at all during Feb-2021 with almost negligible dispatch in remaining two months of this reporting period.

Water Generation

MSFe Water Facility

Quarter 1	Water Delivered (MMm³)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor
2021	0	0	100.0%
2020	0.6	7.5%	99.1%

Plant operated in Call-Off mode (MSF standby) throughout this reporting period with zero water dispatch.

Reverse Osmosis (RO) Phase 1 Facility

Quarter 1	Water Delivered (MMm³)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor
2021	1.8	44.6%	98.3%*
2020	2.3	56.1%	98.1%*

*after incorporating majeure claims events of the corresponding years

The reliability Factor of the RO-1 during the current reporting period remained slightly better than the same reporting period of 2020. This is a result of multiple corrective actions implemented at the plant. However the load factor dropped in 2021 due to lower demand by the off-taker.

Continuing with the historical trend there were multiple episodes of algal bloom during this year as well. The algal bloom resulted the seawater quality parameters outside the Technical Limits. Such a situation is prescribed as Seawater Quality Failure under the WPA and recognized as a force majeure event ("FME"). The Company formally launched the Force Majeure claims to its off-taker.

Reverse Osmosis (RO) Phase 2 Facility

Quarter 1	Water Delivered (MMm³)	Load Factor	Reliability Factor
2021	2.5	49.2%	96.6%*
2020	2.7	52.1%	95.7%*

*after incorporating force majeure claims related to algal bloom of corresponding years

Water dispatch during the current operating period remained slightly less than the corresponding period of 2020, however, there is an improvement in the reliability factor due to gradual attendance of the teething challenges faced during prior years.

Similar to RO phase 1 facility, the RO-2 facility was also affected by Seawater Quality failure events during this reporting period as well. With each passing year frequency of such seawater algal bloom events are on rise. Such events are recognized as a force majeure event ("FME") under the WPA and the Company is released from its obligation. The Company formally launched Force Majeure claims to its off-taker which are under review.

Maintenance activities during the period

This reporting period falls during Wintertime wherein the Company is obligated to provide a capacity of 85% for Power plant and 87% for the MSFe water Plant to complete the annual planned maintenance activities. Therefore, planned maintenance activities were carried out for all those equipment as per the approved outages.

For the two SWRO desalination plants, a 5% planned outage margin is available during a Contract Year to carry out any planned maintenance with the consent of the off-taker.

Below are the main maintenance activities carried out on the main plant, SWRO-1 and SWRO-2 plants during the reporting period:

Power Plant:

- GT-2 major overhaul (MO) and life time extension (LTE) completed successfully during the reporting period despite the challenging situation owing to COVID-19.

- Major overhaul and LTE is an extensive maintenance activity during which gas turbine is fully stripped and majority of its internal parts are replaced.
- Upon completion of MO and LTE, GT-2 was tested and has shown the desired improvements in its power output as well efficiency.
- Generator of GT-2 was repaired in 2018 due to failure of its stator. Due to repeated failure of GVPI design stators it was decided to replace this stator with single bar technology. For this reason the stator which was removed from GTG-1 during 2018 as a result of a non-repairable failure was re-winded with the single bar technology stator and was made ready for usage in GT-2. Replacement of GT-2 stator was also completed during current MO and LTE of GT-2.
- Steam Turbine generator borescope inspection revealed discontinuity in rotor rewinding. To investigate the reason rotor was pulled out and sent to a workshop in UAE.
- Detailed inspection revealed the need of a complete re-winding of the rotor with its existing copper. In addition, retaining ring of the turbine side also shown some pitting and its non-destructive testing shown low hardness. A replacement of this retaining ring is being looked into.
- Borescope inspection of steam turbine HP section carried out. This inspection showed small damage on two blades of stage 17. HP turbine rotor is pulled out and a detailed assessment about condition of all the HP section blades in progress.
- All Power Block Transformers 220kV, 11kV and 415kV full servicing were done.
- GT-2 220kV Transformer oil filtration is done.
- GT-1 Generator Minor inspection was carried out by Generator expert.

MSFE desalination:

- Desal-11 evaporator stages inspection was done.
- Desal-11, condensate pump, BRP 1 & 2 and distillate pump manual rotation is done, found all free rotating
- Desal-11 Blow down Pump found hard to rotate manually, pump removed and cleaned fully, rotation became fine and installed back.
- Desal-11 Full PM was done

RO-1 plant:

- Periodic outages of RO trains were taken to inspect the membranes due to high conductivity.
- During such outages leakages issues in UF pre-treatment system was also rectified.
- All the required PMs of battery banks, UPS system, HVAC system were completed.
- All the quarterly inspection of all switchgear related safety equipment and PPEs were also completed.

RO-2 plant:

- DWEER system servicing was done for both actuators of RO train 1 and 4.
- DWEER system leakages were attending for almost all RO trains
- CIP of various MF racks was done.
- Quarterly inspection of all "Switchgears safety isolation equipment's and PPE" was conducted
- Periodic outages of RO trains were taken for membranes inspection and replacement purposes.

Financial highlights (in RO '000)

Income Statement	Period Ended 31-Mar-21	Period Ended 31-Mar-20
Total revenues	8,639	8,127
Operating costs	(5,220)	(5,385)
Gross profit	3,419	2,742
Other costs	(2,029)	(1,336)
Net profit after tax	1,390	1,406
Earnings / (Loss) per share	0.009	0.009

Revenue

Capacity revenue is higher by (RO 1.34m) compared to the corresponding period mainly due to higher power capacity revenue recognized based on downtime available to the Company in the winter period. The Company earlier was recognizing similar winter period capacity revenue based on actual availability basis. In addition, the water capacity revenue was higher for RO plants due to lower seawater quality related forced outages in the current year. These upsidess were partially offset by lower output revenue of all plants by (RO 0.83m) due to lower demand when compared with the corresponding period.

Operating Costs

The decrease of (RO 0.17m) in operating costs compared to corresponding period was mainly due to lower gas / electricity consumption (RO 0.70m) due to lower despatch during the current period partially offset by higher depreciation (RO 0.24m) owing to revision of useful lives of the plants and their residual valuation and higher repair and maintenance cost due to steam turbine generator failure (RO 0.31m).

Gross Profit

Increase in gross profit (RO 0.68m) mainly attributable to higher capacity revenue from all plants partially offset by higher maintenance costs, higher depreciation and bottom-line impact from lower output revenue for the period.

Other Costs

Other costs (net of other income) for the current period are higher by (RO 0.69m) primarily due to write-off of certain components that were replaced during the Lifetime Extension (LTE) of GT2 (RO 0.81m) slightly offset by lower finance cost on account of repayment of loan principal amounts to the lenders.

Net Profit after Tax

The minor decrease of (RO 0.02m) in net profit is mainly due to net increase in costs due to write off of GT2 components and higher repair and maintenance costs offset by higher capacity revenue and lower finance costs.

Cash Flow Statement '000	Period Ended 31 Mar 2021	Year Ended 31 Dec 2020
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	11,229	8,682

Balance Sheet '000	As at 31 Mar 2021	As at 31 Dec 2020
Total assets	95,498	105,041
Net shareholder's equity	29,289	27,898
Paid up capital	16,000	16,000
Current ratio	0.66:1	0.78:1
Gearing ratio	55:45	56:44
Net assets per share – Riyal Omani	0.183	0.174

Cash and cash equivalents, at the end of the period

The increase in cash and cash equivalents for the period ended 31 March 2021 is due to accumulation of cash for upcoming loan repayment due in April.

Outlook and Key Risks

The Company has planned to undergo Annual Performance Tests for all four revenue generating units; main power plant, thermal seawater desalination unit, and two RO based desalination units. The successful completion of these tests will ensure revenue stream for the next contract year.

Unfavorable outcome of Power 2022 Procurement Process in which case the Company may not be having any contracted capacity beyond 2021. This will put the Company in a very difficult situation considering the significant outstanding loan obligations it will have on its balance sheet by end of 2021. The Company may not be able to repay its loan obligations and may default under its Financing Agreements. This may consequently result in business continuity issues and the Company will then need to engage with its Project Lenders to agree a way forward since projects assets are securitized in favor of Lenders under the Financing Agreements. The Company may need to recognize further write off on its power plant which can result in significant erosion of the share capital of the Company.

The Company with help of its legal counsel will make a detailed assessment regarding disputing the unfavourable decision of the Courts of Appeal on its two RO plants. Based on legal advice on merits of disputing it further, the Company may decide to lodge its dispute in the Supreme Court. The RO Plants were constructed with aim of providing the much-needed capacity in the Grid on a very fast track basis and got operational only in 2014 and 2016 respectively. Non-renewal of these contracts is a high risk to the Company and could adversely impact the Company in terms of recoverability of the terminal value to the tune of RO XX million that was assumed at the time of original bidding for the two RO Plants.

The Company will continue to evaluate the short-term Request for Offer (RFO) received from OPWP in relation to its two RO plants and put all efforts to win a contract for these plants at economical tariff. The successful outcome of this proposal is not certain and is dependent on acceptance of offered tariff by the off-taker.

The Company will end up operating in proposed Spot Market in case it is unable to secure a new long-term PPA under Power 2022 Procurement Process. However, the initial understanding of the Company indicates a very low or no cash flows in the initial 3-4 years in the Spot Market regime due to prevailing surplus contracted capacity situation in the National Grid. The Company has no control over this surplus contracted capacity.

Net current liability position as at quarter end also shows deteriorating liquidity position of the Company which will challenge the ongoing business operation if material current obligations were to be settled on immediate basis.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	31 March 2021	31 December 2020
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	73,435,742	70,509,895
Intangible assets	104,201	133,184
Right-of-use assets	447,809	455,203
Total non-current assets	73,987,752	71,098,282
Current assets		
Inventories	4,786,945	4,783,747
Trade and other receivables	5,510,472	20,492,747
Cash and bank balances	11,213,159	8,666,570
Total current assets	21,510,576	33,943,064
Total assets	95,498,328	105,041,346
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	16,000,000	16,000,000
Legal reserve	5,333,333	5,333,333
Special reserve	85,555	85,555
Retained earnings	7,869,748	6,479,178
Total capital and reserves	29,288,636	27,898,066
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term loan-non-current portion	23,767,522	23,709,315
Deferred tax liability	5,732,031	5,914,192
Provision for site restoration	3,418,101	3,367,014
Employees' benefit liabilities	92,121	87,111
Lease liabilities-non-current portion	695,896	686,635
Total non-current liabilities	33,705,671	33,764,267
Current liabilities		
Long-term loan - current portion	11,899,076	11,899,076
Trade and other payables	11,808,872	20,504,484
Lease liabilities - current portion	15,344	15,344
Taxation	8,780,729	10,960,109
Total current liabilities	32,504,021	43,379,013
Total liabilities	66,209,692	77,143,280
Total equity and liabilities	95,498,328	105,041,346
Net assets per share (RO)	0.183	0.174

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 (EXPRESSED IN OMANI RIAL)

	Period ended 31 March 2021	Period ended 31 March 2020
Income		
Revenue	8,639,231	8,127,031
Operating costs	(5,220,080)	(5,385,349)
Gross profit	3,419,151	2,741,682
Other income	15,733	15,120
Total	3,434,884	2,756,802
Expenses		
General and administrative expenses	(351,949)	(296,071)
Derecognition of replaced parts of plant and machinery	(810,421)	-
Profit from operations	2,272,514	2,460,731
Finance costs	(634,867)	(804,846)
Profit before tax for the period	1,637,647	1,655,885
Income tax	(247,077)	(250,261)
Net profit after tax and total comprehensive income for the period	1,390,570	1,405,624
Basic and diluted earnings per share (RO)	0.009	0.009

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, within 07 days of receipt of the request on the address mentioned above.



RAMADAN PRAYER TIMINGS

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Dhuhr	12.09 pm
Asr	3.34 pm
Maghrib	6.40 pm
Isha	7.56 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4.11 am

Muscat

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► IFTAR TIMING

6:40 pm

► RAMADAN WORDS



“O you who believe, seek help through patience and prayer. Surely, Allah is with those who are patient.” (Q. 2:153)

► HEALTH TIP

To keep yourself sustained during the long hours of fasting include complex carbohydrates in your diet. Have barley, oats, wheat, millet, brown rice, quinoa, nuts and seeds.



► GOOD DEED

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY STAYING IN TOUCH

We’re all facing unprecedented challenges owing to the ongoing pandemic and in times of stress and anxiety it’s quite possible that we might lose touch with our friends and acquaintances. This Holy Month of Ramadan let us try to re-connect with them.

Checking up on someone whom we know during this challenging time is just one of many ways that we can ensure that they are doing fine. If you hear about someone really struggling a lot during the pandemic, don’t hesitate to reach out to them even while you are at home. Make the most of social media and apps and check on friends who are living in different parts of the world. Remember the three key words. Ask, listen and support. Ask about their well-being, be a patient listener to their plights, and support in whatever way possible. A conversation can make a lot of difference in helping someone feel less lonely and helpless.



LOW PRESSURE

Heavy rainfall over parts of Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: There was heavy rain-fall in eastern parts of Musandam Governorate due to the effects of a trough of low pressure. Oman Meteorology said: “Currently, rainfall of varying

intensity is occurring in the eastern province of Musandam, and cumulonimbus clouds began to develop over the Hajar Mountains and parts of Dhofar Governorate, with chances of sporadic rains varying in the coming time.”

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Offer is valid from 16.04.2021 to 31.05.2021. Cash gift is optional and varies based on Model/Variant/Model year/Year of manufacture, and can be adjusted against down-payment. Insurance (Oman & UAE) & Registration, for the 1st year (Private yellow plate). Service is for 3 Years or 50,000 Kms whichever comes earlier. 5 Years/Unlimited mileage warranty is through AAA, in accordance with their terms & conditions. 24x7 Roadside assistance is through AAA for the 1st year. Sales to Government Institutions & Ministries, Rent-a-Car, Taxi, and Driving schools are excluded from the scheme. Vehicles shown are for illustrative purpose only.

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SHARE THE GOODNESS OF A'SAFFA WITH YOUR LOVED ONES THIS RAMADAN

This Ramadan, A'Saffa chicken helps you make every meal delicious - with a wide variety of healthy chicken products. Be it a roast, biryani or a simple snack - share the joy of wholesome meals and have a blessed Ramadan with loved ones. A'Saffa - a name you can trust.

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AL BATINAH POWER COMPANY SAOG
P.O. Box 39, P.C 103, Bareeq Al Shatti, Sultanate of Oman,
albatinahpower.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT
Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Al Batinah Power Company SAOG (the "Company"), I have the pleasure to present the Directors' Report of the Company for the 3-months period ended 31 March 2021.
Operational Highlights
The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to upset the scale of balances and poses different restrictions on normal routine life and businesses continuity. However, the Company continued to streamline its operations and achieved a major milestone of 1 million manhours (1,011,706-man hours - 3,556 days) without lost time accidents, which is reflective of our continued focus on health, safety, security and environment ("HSSE").
The plant operated with a reliability of 99.73% and delivered 102 GWh to the grid. The plant load for the period was 6.43% compared to 14.12% in the corresponding period of the previous year.
Also, the plant successfully passed the annual performance test for the 9th Contract Year under the Power Purchase Agreement (the "PPA") with Oman Power & Water Procurement Company SAOC ("OPWP") by demonstrating the Guaranteed Contracted Power Capacity on both fuel gas and fuel oil.
Financial Results

	3-month-2021 RO'000s Unaudited	3-month-2020 RO'000s Unaudited	Percentage change
Revenues	5,207	6,272	-17.0%
Direct costs	(4,826)	(5,817)	
Gross profit	381	455	-16.2%
General and administrative expenses	(170)	(184)	
Profit before interest and tax	211	271	-22.0%
Finance costs (net)	(1,866)	(2,123)	
(Loss) before tax	(1,655)	(1,852)	10.7%
Tax expense	(470)	(446)	
Net (loss) for the period	(2,125)	(2,298)	7.5%

Lower revenues and direct costs as compared to the previous year were attributed mainly to lower plant load factor. The variability of the plant load influences the fuel and energy charges received from OPWP. However, these charges are passed through to the gas supplier and the O&M service provider and hence have no material impact on the Company's profitability. Lower gross profit was attributed mainly to the fewer operating days due to the leap year 2020 and higher insurance premium. Furthermore, the steady reduction in the finance costs positively contributed to the better profit before tax. As a result, the net loss was 7.5% better than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The share price was 52 Baizas at the end of March 2021.

Corporate Social Responsibility
Striving to ensure that the Company has a positive impact on people and the country, the Company allocated 40,000 OMR for the CSR initiatives for the year 2021.
The Company along with other ENGIE group companies, are discussing with Ministry of Education ("MoE") to sponsor a PV solar project for a school in the middle of the desert in South Sharqyah. The school classrooms and the residence of the teachers are supplied electricity by diesel generators. The PV solar will provide a clean access to energy, reduce environment pollution and solve the issues of transporting the diesel, generators maintenance and supply unreliability. The Company contribution will be 15,000 OMR. Moreover, and considering the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Company donated an amount of 17,577 OMR to the COVID 19 special account that has been opened by the Ministry of Health to receive contributions to curb COVID 19 spread. Finally, the Company had sponsored a school competition to design smart applications "App Inventor". 200 students from Oman's government and private schools will be trained to design mobile applications. At the end of the training program the students will compete in designing mobile applications. The first two winners will participate in the MIT competition in Boston USA. The Company contribution will be 7,422.5 OMR.
Medium term Outlook
All reasonable measures were taken by the management to maintain high availability levels in 2021. Any change in the power supply and demand landscape in the Sultanate has substantially no impact on the financial performance of the Company since its net profit is mainly derived from its plant availability.
The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic situation had no material impact on the Company's business and the plant continues to enforce its business continuity plan to cope up with the crisis.
The Company continues to take actions to close the gaps identified in the DCS/SCADA cyber security audit report issued by the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR). APSR is being updated on regular basis on the actions taken by the Company to ensure due compliance to the cyber security standards.
The spot market implementation plan is going on with Q2 2021 and Q4 2021 are planned for the trial period and go live respectively. The Company's PPA with OPWP expires in 2028 and accordingly the spot market will have no impact on the revenue streams of our Company until the expiry of the PPA.
The Company has been closely monitoring the financial market conditions for any opportunities to avoid the cash sweep that is scheduled from April 2023 as agreed in the Finance Documents.
Acknowledgement
I would like to extend my personal thanks to all personnel associated with the operation of the power plant and the staff of the Company for their hard work and dedication, as well as to those others such as our contractors, whose expertise has assisted us in achieving these excellent results.
Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and His Government for their continued support and encouragement to the private sector by creating an environment that allows us to participate effectively in the growth of the Sultanate's economy and to dedicate our achievements to the building of a strong nation.
Saif Al Harthy
Chairperson of the Board

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH

	2021 RO'000s	2021 USD'000s	2020 RO'000s	2020 USD'000s
Revenues	5,207	13,541	6,272	16,311
Direct costs	(4,826)	(12,550)	(5,817)	(15,127)
Gross profit	381	991	455	1,184
General and administrative expenses	(170)	(442)	(184)	(479)
Profit before interest and tax	211	549	271	705
Finance costs (net)	(1,866)	(4,853)	(2,123)	(5,522)
(Loss) before tax	(1,655)	(4,304)	(1,852)	(4,817)
Tax expense	(470)	(1,223)	(446)	(1,158)
Net (loss) for the period	(2,125)	(5,527)	(2,298)	(5,975)

Earnings per share
Basic earnings per share (Baizas / cents)
(3.15) (8.19) (3.40) (8.85)
UNAUDITED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT

	31 March 2021 RO'000s	31 March 2021 USD'000s	Audited 31 Dec. 2020 RO'000s	Audited 31 Dec. 2020 USD'000s
Assets				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	237,080	616,592	238,924	621,392
Right-of-use assets	3,186	8,285	3,246	8,441
Capital spares	587	1,528	566	1,472
Total non-current assets	240,853	626,405	242,736	631,305
Current assets				
Inventory	1,963	5,105	1,913	4,974
Trade and other receivables	2,786	7,245	15,249	39,660
Short term deposit	1,153	3,000	1,154	3,000
Cash and cash equivalents	304	790	1,543	4,014
Total current assets	6,206	16,140	19,859	51,648
Total assets	247,059	642,545	262,595	682,953
Equity and liabilities				
Equity				
Share capital	67,489	175,523	67,489	175,523
Legal reserve	6,530	16,983	6,530	16,983
Retained earnings	19,428	50,529	21,553	56,056
Equity before hedging reserve	93,447	243,035	95,572	248,562
Hedging reserve	(7,617)	(19,807)	(9,081)	(23,616)
Equity	85,830	223,228	86,491	224,946
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Term loans	107,780	280,310	107,575	279,777
Lease liabilities	3,339	8,684	3,416	8,883
Derivative instruments	8,960	23,302	10,683	27,784
Deferred tax liability	19,946	51,876	19,218	49,981
Asset retirement obligation	302	786	297	771
End of service benefits	28	74	27	70
Total non-current liabilities	140,355	365,032	141,216	367,266
Current liabilities				
Term loans	16,002	41,618	16,002	41,618
Lease liabilities	99	257	140	364
Trade and other payables	3,263	8,483	15,336	39,890
Short term borrowing	1,510	3,927	3,410	8,869
Total current liabilities	20,874	54,285	34,888	90,741
Total liabilities	161,229	419,317	176,104	458,007
Total equity and liabilities	247,059	642,545	262,595	682,953
Net assets per share (Baizas / cents) - adjusted	138.46	360.11	141.61	368.30

Nirav Modi files appeal to challenge his extradition to India



LONDON: The fugitive diamond dealer Nirav Modi, who is wanted in India for allegedly defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) out of an estimated \$2 billion has filed a permission to appeal in the UK high court against his extradition to India. Modi, 50, who was arrested in March 2019 and has been held in the Wandsworth prison in south London ever since, was ordered to be extradited by the UK Home Secretary Priti Patel on the 15th April 2021. Westminster Magistrate's Court's judge Sam Goozee made a decision on February 25, finding Nirav Modi guilty on all the charges saying that the fugitive businessman had a case to answer for and should be returned to India.

The Indian government alleges that Modi and his associates colluded with officials at the state-owned Punjab National Bank to defraud the bank out of more than USD 1.4 billion by using a credit facility known as Letters of Undertaking, a form of bank guarantee to facilitate international transactions. The court had been told that the proceeds of the fraud were then laundered through a series of shell companies manned by dummy directors and located in Dubai and Hong Kong. Modi is also charged with the destruction of evidence and intimidating witnesses. **ANI**



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

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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Anti-dumping probe on import of car batteries begins

MUSCAT: The Office of the Technical Secretariat to Combat Harmful Practices in International Trade, for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States has commenced anti-dumping investigation on the import of car batteries (32amp to 225amp) imported from/or with Spain, Turkey and India as countries of origin, under customs item No. 85071000 of the common customs tariff of the GCC States. The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion stated that the step taken came within the Common

Law (System) of Anti-dumping, Countervailing Measures & Safeguards of the GCC States and its executive regulation, promulgated by Royal Decree No. 20/2015.

HS Code
The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion urged Omani establishments and companies importing and manufacturing the above products in accordance with the HS Code to approach or call the Anti-dumping Department at the Ministry.

— ONA





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

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021
Dear Shareholders,
We hope all of our Shareholders are safe and request to Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.
The COVID 19 virus represents a new challenge for us all and we are taking this global threat seriously and are closely monitoring developments. To this end, we have implemented numerous precautions and protective measures to safeguard our employees and to ensure uninterrupted supply of goods to our valued customers. We are committed to follow the Government instruction to protect the entire community and to overcome this serious global threat.
We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2021.
At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2021 is 3.729 million OMR compared with 5.267 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 29% mainly due to decrease in the LPG export sales and project sales.
The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 31st March 2021 is 3.471 million OMR compared with 5.267 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 34% mainly due to decrease in the LPG export sales and project sales.
At the group level, we made a net profit after tax of 72,240 OMR for the period ended 31st March 2021, compared with 221,707 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 67% mainly due to decrease in the export sales and project sales.
The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2021 is 48,869 OMR compared with 221,707 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 78% mainly due to decrease in the export sales and project sales.
The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.
Thanking you,
Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2021		2020	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Sales	3,470,636	3,729,077	5,267,593	5,267,593
Cost of sales	(3,242,301)	(3,460,030)	(4,852,464)	(4,852,464)
Gross Profit	228,335	269,047	415,129	415,129
General and administration expenses	(232,951)	(234,796)	(196,341)	(196,341)
Investment and Other Income	62,109	50,739	81,139	81,139
Profit share from UIGC	-	-	(39,095)	(39,095)
Profit for the period before tax	57,493	84,990	260,832	260,832
Income tax	(8,624)	(12,750)	(39,125)	(39,125)
Net Profit for the period after tax	48,869	72,240	221,707	221,707
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	48,869	72,240	221,707	221,707
Earnings per share	0.002	0.002	0.007	0.007

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

	31March 2021		31March 2020	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	2,686,625	3,080,980	3,138,143	3,138,143
Right of use assets	232,760	232,760	261,497	261,497
Investment	1,404,000	-	1,810,297	1,810,297
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	-
Trade Receivable	499,824	499,824	-	-
Total Non-current Assets	4,823,209	4,810,364	5,209,937	5,209,937
Current Assets:				
Inventories	840,244	856,173	205,979	205,979
Trade and other receivables	1,939,610	1,952,500	2,854,995	2,854,995
Cash and cash equivalents	3,507,940	3,531,263	2,352,873	2,352,873
Total Current Assets	6,287,794	6,339,936	5,413,846	5,413,846
TOTAL ASSETS	11,111,003	11,150,300	10,623,784	10,623,784
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	753,887	753,887	1,110,887	1,110,887
Retained earnings	50,597	73,968	242,964	242,964
Total Equity	6,261,551	6,284,922	6,810,918	6,810,918
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	64,508	64,508	54,379	54,379
Non-current portion of Term Loan	547,530	547,530	763,675	763,675
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	206,917	206,917	235,947	235,947
Deferred tax	148,520	148,520	195,624	195,624
Total Non-current Liabilities	967,475	967,475	1,249,625	1,249,625
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	2,726,023	2,737,823	1,716,494	1,716,494
Dividend payable	435,000	435,000	600,000	600,000
Bank overdraft	433,795	433,795	-	-
Current portion of Term Loan	205,445	205,445	189,238	189,238
Current portion of lease liabilities	24,513	24,513	18,385	18,385
Income Tax	57,201	61,327	39,124	39,124
Total Current Liabilities	3,881,977	3,897,903	2,563,241	2,563,241
Total Liabilities	4,849,452	4,865,378	3,812,866	3,812,866
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	11,111,003	11,150,300	10,623,784	10,623,784
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.209	0.209	0.222	0.222

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



GRIM MILESTONE

SOUTHERN BORDER WALL

[^]EMI calculated for 8 years tenure on loan amount after 20% down payment on net selling price after cash gift. Credit subject to approval by finance companies



Barca miss chance to go on top after home defeat to Granada

Two defensive lapses allowed Darwin Machis and Jorge Molina to overturn Leo Messi's opener for the home side

MADRID: FC Barcelona missed the chance to go top of La Liga with just five games left when they were stunned 2-1 by Granada at Camp Nou on Thursday night.

Although Barca controlled most of the ball and had the majority of the chances, two defensive lapses

allowed Darwin Machis and Jorge Molina to overturn Leo Messi's opener for the home side, who remain third in the table, two points behind Atletico Madrid.

With a difficult visit to Valencia on Sunday, Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman made three changes to his starting 11 with Samuel Umtiti, Ilaix Moriba, and Sergi Roberto in for Clement Lenglet, Pedri, and Sergino Dest. As expected, Barca controlled the ball, but they could not test Aaron in the Granada goal until the 20th minute. Three minutes later, Antoine Griezmann, who is in his best form of the season, set up Leo Messi to put Barca ahead. It was the French forward's seventh assist of the season. Griezmann and Messi combined again shortly afterward only for Messi to drag his shot wide and with Barca in the ascendancy. Aaron did magnificently to deny Messi when he was able to deflect the ball just wide after a pass from



LA LIGA: Barcelona's Lionel Messi, left, competes during a Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Granada CF in Barcelona, Spain.

Sergio Busquets. The second half began with Griezmann shooting just wide from the edge of the Granada penalty area before Sergi Roberto fired just over the bar after a flowing move involving Messi and Frenkie de Jong. The home side looked to be in complete control as they stroked the ball around, but they were caught flat-footed in the 63rd minute when Oscar Mingueza failed to cut out a through ball allowing Darwin Machis to race forward and beat Marc Andre Ter Stegen and level the scores. Koeman was sent off for his protests, but TV replays showed there was no offence in the move and although his side again took control after Ousmane Dembele and Pedri came into the game, Jorge Molina again made Barca pay for more poor defending when he nodded home Granada's second goal in the 80th minute completely unmarked from five meters out. **Xinhua**

SRH remove Warner as captain, Williamson to lead

NEW DELHI: Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise SunRisers Hyderabad on Saturday announced that Kane Williamson will be taking over from David Warner as the captain of the side for the remainder of the 2021 season.

SunRisers Hyderabad is currently at the bottom of the table with just 2 points from six games. The franchise has also hinted that there would be a change in the playing XI for their next game and there would be definitely a change in the overseas set of players and it may be hinting at Warner sitting out the match against Rajas-



“SunRisers Hyderabad would like to announce that Kane Williamson will be taking over the captaincy for tomorrow’s match and for the remainder of IPL

2021. The team management has also made the decision that they will be changing their overseas combination for tomorrow's match against Rajasthan Royals," SRH said in an official statement.

"This decision has not come lightly as the management respects the enormous impact David Warner has had for the franchise over a number of years. As we face the remainder of the season we are sure David will continue to help us strive for success both on and off the field," it added.

SRH will next take on Rajasthan Royals on Sunday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. **ANI**

Want to give our bowlers enough to attack: Fawad Alam

HARARE: Pakistani batsman Fawad Alam, who scored a century on Day Two of the ongoing first Test against Zimbabwe, has blamed the slowness of the pitch for the slow batting approach adopted by his team's batsmen.

On Friday, Fawad's fourth Test century gave Pakistan a lead of 198 runs in the first-innings against Zimbabwe in Harare. At the end of Day Two, Pakistan had reached 374/6, but the scoring rate hovered between 2.7 and 2.8. "The batsmen know how the pitch is behaving. You must have seen that the ball. It wasn't coming on to the bat, and the pitch is getting slower with

every passing session,” ESPNcricinfo quoted Fawad as saying. “The ball was keeping low, but we tried to score as much as we could. They [Zimbabwe] even took the new ball late, and when they did, we scored more freely.”

Zimbabwe took the second new ball after 105.1 overs. Pakistan scored 59 runs in the first session in 32 overs and there was a phase when 17 overs went without a boundary at one stage. They got 99 in the second session, and then 113 in the final session.

“Credit should be given to the openers [Imran Butt and Abid Ali], the way they played and laid

a solid foundation for the others. They might have scored slowly, but it helped us later on, allowing us to dominate,” the left-handed batsman said.

"There was a plan to score 300 today but we were 25 runs behind," he said. "It's mainly because, when both Babar and Azhar got out, the pressure was on us for a while.

"Scoring on slower tracks is always difficult as we have to create gaps to find runs. But it was a good day overall, and we still have three days in hand and tomorrow we want to add as much as we can to give our bowlers enough to attack," he added. **ANI**



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\$1 BILLION BOND ISSUED

Abu Dhabi Ports, rated A+ (Stable) by S&P and A+ (Stable) by Fitch, has successfully issued \$1 billion 10-year bonds under its recently established Euro Medium Term Note Programme, to be jointly listed on the London Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



KHEDMAH SIGNS PACT

Oman Investment & Finance Co. (Khedmah), one of the leading Investment and Services Company in Oman, has signed a new agreement with ProgressSoft to enhance its Khedmah application with value-added mobile payment services in Oman.

OQ announces its inaugural bond issuance in global capital markets

OQ has successfully executed its inaugural bond issuance in the international debt capital markets, with strong participation from investors and financial institutions from around the world

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In efforts to diversify funding sources, OQ recently announced its inaugural bond issuance in the international debt capital markets. This is a further step towards enhancing OQ's presence in the international markets and amongst its investors.

On this occasion, Talal Al Awfi, OQ's Group Chief Executive Officer said "The execution of the bond is a great success for both OQ and Oman. It comes in line with the

best global investment practices and aims to meet OQ's funding requirements. It also emphasises OQ's presence as a global energy player and the trust we have amongst the global investors."

Financial strategy

Nazar Al Lawati, OQ's Chief Financial Officer stated, "In line with our financial strategy for 2021, we are very pleased to announce that OQ has successfully executed its inaugural bond issuance in the international debt capital markets,

with strong participation from investors and financial institutions from around the world."

Al Lawati added, "Despite overwhelming demand, OQ decided to limit its initial issuance under the newly-established bond programme to \$750 million in a 7 years' bond for general corporate purposes."

Al Awfi further stated, "While diversifying its funding source and improving its debt profile, OQ is also focused on executing its divestment strategy which will seek to privatise certain assets to

reduce the organisation's current leverage levels. I would like to sincerely thank all those who participated in achieving this momentous milestone for the company."

The group believes that OQ's inaugural bond will further enhance Oman's presence in the international market as one of the main global players in the energy sector through providing investment opportunities for global investors, help to diversify its funding sources and will contribute to the Omani economy.

REPORT

Strengthening consumer demand mitigates impact of gold-backed ETF outflows

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Gold investment demand fell in Q1 driven by hefty outflows in gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) as growing expectations of higher interest rates impacted sentiment, according to the World Gold Council's latest Gold Demand Trends report.

While Q1's overall global gold demand, at 815.7 tonnes (t), was on par with the preceding quarter, there was a significant (23 per cent) drop year-on-year, as gold-backed ETFs saw 177.9t of outflows.

However, the effect of this drop in ETF demand was mitigated by the strength of bar and coin demand. Such retail gold purchases reached 339.5t (+36 per cent year-on-year), influenced by price-driven 'bargain-hunting' and widespread concern over growing inflationary pressures.

Furthermore, the value of gold jewellery purchased by consumers enjoyed a post-Covid rebound, rising to 477.4t- a 52 per cent annual increase. This marked a strong improvement from an extremely weak Q1 2020.

The increase in consumer demand was buoyed by the decline in the gold price from the record highs seen in August 2020. There was a 10per cent decrease in the gold price over the course of Q1



GOLD DEMAND TRENDS REPORT: While Q1's overall global gold demand, at 815.7 tonnes (t), was on par with the preceding quarter, there was a significant (23 per cent) drop year-on-year, as gold-backed ETFs saw 177.9t of outflows. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

which, paired with the global economic recovery, boosted the procyclical elements of gold demand.

Q1 also saw continued healthy levels of net buying by central banks: global official gold reserves grew by 95.5t, 23per cent lower y-o-y but 20per cent higher q-o-q. Hungary's large purchase (+63t) bolstered Q1 buying, and more than matched Turkey's substantial sale. Demand for gold for use in technology was 11 per cent an-

nually in Q1 compared to the same quarter the preceding year, as consumer confidence continued to recover. This technology demand of 81.1t was just above the five-year quarterly average of 80.9t.

Louise Street, Senior Markets Analyst at the World Gold Council, commented, "As countries around the world continue their recoveries, economies have started to cautiously re-open. This led to an encouraging return in consumer

confidence in Q1, as illustrated by the stellar rise in gold jewellery demand. Conversely, having seen investors take shelter in gold from the initial impacts of COVID-19, Q1 2021 saw a sell-off in the gold price as confidence in economic recovery grew and US interest rates rose sharply.

"Despite this, gold retains its relevance in well-balanced portfolios, especially with a risk of inflation looming. Looking ahead to the rest of the year, we see reasons to be optimistic about the gold market as its main drivers remain well supported."

Key findings included in the latest Gold Demand Trends report for Q1 2021 are as follows:

Overall demand (excluding OTC) declined in Q1 by 23 per cent year-on-year to 815.7t.

■ ETFs saw outflows totalling 177.9t

■ Bar and coin demand was at 339.5t achieving its best quarter since Q4 2016

■ Global jewellery demand improved 52 per cent from Q1 2020 to 477.4t

■ Central banks were net buyers of 95t in the first quarter of 2021

■ Demand in the technology sector grew by 11 per cent year-on-year to 81.1t

■ Total supply declined 4 per cent year-on-year.

MOCIIP REPORT



460 LPG storage depots across the Sultanate till 2020

Times News Service

MUSCAT: There were 460 wholesale/retail storage depots for the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders across the Sultanate till the end of 2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion pointed out that among these licenced LPG storage depots, four were given licence in 2020.

The Governorate of North Al Batinah topped the list of the number of licenced (wholesale/retail) LPG depots with 88, followed by the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah with 74, South Al Batinah 52, the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah 51, Muscat Governorate 46, the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah 43, the Governorate of Al Dhahirah 42, the Governorate of Musandam 30, the Governorate of Buraimi 20, and the Governorate of Al Wusta 14.

LATEST RESEARCH

Global companies to reinvent office beyond pandemic

MUMBAI: International businesses are looking to their workplaces to revitalise corporate brand and culture after the pandemic which will see significantly improved amenities and services available for employees, according to the latest research from Knight Frank.

Knight Frank's second edition of its (Y) our Space report drew on responses from almost 400 international businesses with a combined headcount in excess of 10 million, providing a unique insight into the workplace strategies and real estate needs of global companies.

Strategic device

Despite over a year of restricted access to offices, businesses continue to identify their workplaces as an essential component of their corporate identity and vital for retaining and re-invigorating employees post-pandemic. Nearly 90 per cent of global occupiers surveyed said that real estate is a strategic device for their business.

Top priority

About 49 per cent of firms named 'corporate brand and image' as the top strategic priority fulfilled by their real estate, offices are also increasingly seen as a tool for improving employee well-being, collaboration, and talent attraction and retention with each of these categories referenced by 37 per cent of firms.

Among Indian occupiers, 'corporate brand and image' remained a prime strategic objective that is best supported by a real estate asset.

Though 'talent attraction and retention' found a close second to the corporate brand and image, what is peculiar is the citation of 'operational transformation and restructuring' as the third most preferred strategic category.

Changing needs

This can be best described as a result of changing needs of business operability influenced by the ongoing pandemic, said Knight Frank.

Around 67 per cent of Indian respondents opined that COVID-19 will influence the medium term (next three years) direction of the real estate strategy.

Though three-fourth of Indian respondents cited that real estate cost reduction targets have increased since the onset of the pandemic, 71 per cent of the Indian respondents expect to see an increase in their real estate portfolio in the next three years.

Globally, 77 per cent of survey respondents who have a publicly stated net-zero carbon target have a target date set before 2030.

Echoing similar thoughts, 50 per cent of the Indian respondents stated net-zero carbon emissions target with a majority of them citing the year 2030 as the targeted year. **ANI**

STOCK MARKETS

Asian shares slip on pandemic worries despite Wall Street rally

TOKYO: Asian shares were mostly lower Friday amid uncertainty about the prospects for a global economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, said AP.

The regional market dips came despite reports of strong economic growth in South Korea and moderation of the unemployment rate in Japan, despite a resurgence of the pandemic.

Major recent outbreaks and slow progress in vaccinations have added to worries about the pandemic in Asia, despite some nations such as Taiwan, South Korea and China faring relatively well in COVID-19 related illnesses and deaths.

Japan remains a poor performer on those fronts, with deaths now topping 10,000 in what experts are calling the fourth wave of infections. Tokyo and some other urban areas are under a government-declared state of emergency, but reports say people are still going out and travelling within Japan over the Golden Week holidays that last through next week.

On Wall Street Thursday, stocks overcame midday stumble to close broadly higher, driving the S&P 500 0.7 per cent higher to another record close.

Investors weighed the latest batch of company earnings reports and encouraging economic data. A report showing that the US economy grew sharply in the first quarter added to data pointing to recovery from the recession brought on by the pandemic.

The rollout of COVID-19 vacci-



RECENT OUTBREAKS: Major recent outbreaks and slow progress in vaccinations have added to worries about the pandemic in Asia, despite some nations such as Taiwan, South Korea and China faring relatively well in COVID-19 related illnesses and deaths. - **BNA**

nations, massive support from the US government and the Fed, and increasingly positive economic data have been driving expectations for a strong rebound for the economy and robust corporate profit growth this year. That's helped stocks push higher and kept indexes near their all-time highs.

Still, some of the big risks to the market include rising inflation getting out of hand and any aspect of the virus pandemic worsening and throwing off the economic re-

covery, said Keith Buchanan, senior portfolio manager at Globalt Investments.

So far, company earnings for the first three months of the year are largely exceeding Wall Street's expectations and stoking bullish profit outlooks for 2021.

Facebook jumped 7.3 per cent after the social media giant reported stronger-than-expected results for the first quarter thanks to soaring ad revenue.

Amazon.com reported after the

close of regular trading that its profit more than tripled in the first quarter. Its shares jumped 4.2 per cent in after-hours trading.

Auto companies fell sharply after Ford warned that a worsening global computer chip shortage could cut its production in half during the current quarter. Ford fell 9.4 per cent and General Motors fell 3.4 per cent.

Ride-sharing and delivery service companies also dropped following a report that Labor Secretary Marty Walsh wants gig workers to be classified as employees. DoorDash fell 7.6 per cent, Uber lost 6 per cent and Lyft sank 9.9 per cent.

On the economic front, the Commerce Department said that the US economy grew at a brisk 6.4 per cent annual rate in the last quarter. That acceleration is expected to increase through the summer as more vaccinations are administered and COVID-19 cases continue to fall.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department said the number of Americans who filed for unemployment benefits fell again last week.

In energy trading, benchmark US crude fell 37 cents to \$64.64 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It picked up \$1.15 to \$65.01 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 31 cents to \$68.25 a barrel.

In currency trading, the US dollar fell to 108.76 Japanese yen from 108.93 yen. The euro fell to \$1.2118, little changed from \$1.2122. **-BNA**

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OIFC and ProgressSoft join hands for new mobile payment services

The move comes after OIFC received in-principal approval from the Central Bank of Oman to become a payment service provider in the country

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Investment & Finance Co. (Khedmah), one of the leading Investment and Services Company in Oman, has signed a new agreement with ProgressSoft to enhance its Khedmah application with value-added mobile payment services in Oman.

The move comes after OIFC received in-principal approval from the Central Bank of Oman to become a payment service provider

in the country. The agreement with ProgressSoft enables OIFC to have a technical partner for execution and subsequently launch the much-anticipated Khedmah E-wallet after fulfilling the requirements of CBO and acquiring the final approval.

Using ProgressSoft's Mobile Payments Platform, Khedmah will develop new systems to offer the existing and new customers of OIFC the ability to conduct numerous financial transactions including bill payments and international remittances, as well as person-to-person, person-to-business and person-to-government money transfers, using their smartphones.

Said Ahmed Safrar, Chief Executive Officer, OIFC, said, "At OIFC, we constantly innovate to provide new, technologically advanced ways for carrying out financial payments, thereby contributing to the national agenda of digitalisation. A strategic collaborative approach is at the heart of these efforts, and the partnership with ProgressSoft is a testament to the same."

"Moving forward, additional value-added financial and non-financial services will be announced with the launch of the new mobile

payment platform. We will continue to make the lives of our customers and the people of Oman easy and convenient through hassle-free payment options."

The platform promises to provide a convenient, cost-efficient and secure alternative to cash and card payment methods, as well as massively contribute to enhancing financial inclusion in Oman.

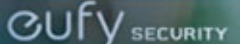
Modernised financial services

"Our grand achievement with OIFC is an exemplary model of modernised financial services that meet digital-first demands," noted ProgressSoft's Chief Executive Officer, Michael Wakileh, "and it is only the beginning of many more radical milestones in our strategic partnership and aligned vision for successful digital transformation in the Sultanate of Oman."

After thorough research and analysis, OIFC chose ProgressSoft as the preferred payment solution provider and technology partner for the expansion of Khedmah given its prominent presence in the Omani market and long-standing partnership with the Central Bank of Oman. The launch is scheduled to go live in the coming months.



STRATEGIC: The platform promises to provide a convenient, cost-efficient and secure alternative to cash and card payment methods. - Supplied picture



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STRONG INVESTOR RESPONSE

Abu Dhabi Ports issues \$1 billion bond

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Ports, rated A+ (Stable) by S&P and A+ (Stable) by Fitch, has successfully issued \$1 billion 10-year bonds ("The Notes") under its recently established Euro Medium Term Note Programme (EMTN Programme), to be jointly listed on the London Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

The issuance was more than 4.5 times oversubscribed at its

peak. The Notes mature on May 6, 2031, and carry a coupon of 2.500 per cent per annum. Proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes and debt refinancing. The settlement of the offering is expected to occur on May 6, 2021, and is subject to customary settlement conditions.

Falah Mohamed Al Ahababi, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Ports, said, "We are delighted by the strong

global investor response to our first issuance under our recently established EMTN Programme, which reflects international confidence in the strength of our business and our strategy, as well as universal belief in the vision of the UAE's leadership and the stability of our economy. Since its establishment, Abu Dhabi Ports has been fully aligned with the long-term vision of the Abu Dhabi government."



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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

India's GST collections reach record high in April

NEW DELHI: The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in April was at Rs141,384 crore, touching the highest level since its introduction, the government said on Saturday.

Of this, central GST was Rs27,837 crore, state GST Rs35,621 crore, Integrated GST Rs68,481 crore (including Rs29,599 crore collected on import of goods) and cess Rs 9,445 crore (including Rs981 crore collected on import of goods).

COVID-19 pandemic

Despite the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic affecting several parts of the country, Indian businesses have once again shown remarkable resilience by not only complying with the return filing requirements but also paying their GST dues in a timely manner during the month, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance.

In line with the trend of recovery in the GST revenues over the past six months, the revenues for April 2021 are 14 per cent higher than the GST revenues last month.

Revenues from the domestic transaction (including import of services) are 21 per cent higher than in March.

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CONTACT: 99207840

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New SBR Twin Villa Al Hail North near Oman Oil station.

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Opposite Kims Hospital Al Falaj

Contact: 99657906 or 24702141

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Fully Furnished Apartment and Transport for Office also available

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Finance Manager - Minimum 10 years' Experience in FMCG/ Distribution Company as Finance Manager (GCC preferred) – CA/ACCA with MBA Regular Batch Graduate.

Country Manager (Distribution) - Minimum 5 years' Experience in FMCG/Distribution Company as Country Manager (Oman preferred) – MBA Regular Batch Graduate.

Purchase Manager - Minimum 7 years' Experience in FMCG/Distribution Company as Purchase Manager (GCC preferred) – MBA Regular Batch Graduate.

Showroom Manager - Graduate with minimum 4 years' Experience in GCC as Manager of Supermarkets or Hypermarkets.

HR Manager - Minimum 5 years' Experience in GCC as HR manager of FMCG/Distribution Company Should have good knowledge about Oman Labor law and HR policies of Hypermarket. MBA Regular Batch Graduate.

Purchase Coordinator - Graduate with minimum 3 years' Experience in FMCG/ Distribution Company as Purchase Coordinator (GCC preferred).

FMCG Pre Sales Executive - MBA Regular Batch Graduates with minimum 2 years' Experience in Spices and Pulses sales – Should hold a valid Oman or GCC Driving license.

Van Sales Executive - Graduate with minimum 2 years' Experience in Spices and Pulses sales.

Supervisor (Food, Nonfood, vegetable & Fruits) - Minimum 3 years' Experience as Supervisor in Hypermarket or Supermarket (GCC preferred).

Shelf Boy - Any one below the age of 30 with good presentation and selling skills can apply.

Send your CV to: fmcgomanjobs@gmail.com

All the above mentioned post requires FMCG Distribution experience in Sultanate of Oman.

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A reputed Facilities Management Company is looking to hire the following category with attractive salary

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- **Plumber**
- **Pump Technician**
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- **Cleaner**
- **Senior Site Supervisor**

Qualification: Minimum ITI / Diploma.

The candidate should have minimum 3-5 years experience in Maintenance projects.

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A leading construction company is looking for candidates for following position

PLANNING MANAGERS [1 no.] – 20 years' experience hands-on in Primavera, capable of handling multiple projects viz five-star hotels, commercial, residential, well versed in planning, scheduling, resource management, cost monitoring, EoT claims, report preparation including MIS reports, end-to-end coordination for successful project completion.

PLANNING ENGINEERS [3 nos.] – 10+ years' experience well versed in Primavera capable of handling one or more projects, preparing schedules, EoT claims, reports including MIS Reports, having worked in five-star hotels, commercial, residential well versed in planning, scheduling, daily reporting.

Eligible candidates may forward their resume to hrconstrcut@gmail.com

JOB VACANCIES

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

A leading company requires Account Assistant /Accountant/Audit – With experience in related field.Send the resume at: hr.mus18@gmail.com

Required Accounts Executive with 02 year's experience.
 Email: jobsmct4@gmail.com

ENGINEER

Sales Engineer (Mechanical), in Oman for repair and maintenance of equipment in oil, gas and water field. Kindly forward your cv to: nationalprojectscs@gmail.com
 Contact no: 93546654

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VB.Net Desktop Developer Required
 VS.Net Sql server, CR, telerik, HTML/ CSS Experience: Min. 2 Years in Vb.net. Bachelor/Diploma in computer Science, IT.
 Contact: 24701334 | 72827256 |
 Email: careers@buildingworldlcl.com

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Urgently required Nurse (2nos) & a Pharmacist Locum/Permanent for a reputed clinic . Candidates in Oman with MOH License/ Prometric may apply. Contact: 99048170, drsubualath@yahoo.co.in

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 Contact 99357612

Wanted a Indian GP doctor, urgently with/without MOH licence for a running clinic in the capital area.
 Contact 93807107
 Email syedyakub71@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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 Email: tech20.dxb@gmail.com

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Available vacancies for young and energetic **Salesman** in the field of textile trading for well reputed company to recruit urgently.
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URGENT REQUIREMENT

Sales Executive - Modular Kitchen (Male/Female)

Graduate with minimum 3+years of previous experience in a similar field can apply.

Candidate must have a valid Oman driving license, excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Interested candidate may forward their resume to vacancyahf@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

CRANE OPERATOR 25TON

Looking for Crane Operator with valid Oman license and NOC from current employer.

Contact: 99202640
hrjob191@yahoo.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED

A Reputed Construction Company in Muscat is looking for

Quantity Surveyor (1no)
 Min 5 years' experience in Oman as QS

Draftsman (1no)
 Min 3 years' experience in Oman as draftsman

Eligible candidates may forward their resume to hr@geinfra.co

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Sr Accountant, CMA US (part1), MBA fin, 18 yrs exp & SAP, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92539813

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

Indian male 29 yrs with 7+ yrs experience working in finance expertise in MIS, accounting, finalization, budgeting, VAT, advance excel & handling audits. Contact 94028831. Email financervd@gmail.com

40 yrs Indian B.Com graduate with 15 yrs of experience in accounts and finance in a excellent grade construction company as Sr. Accountant in Oman looking for full/part job with valid visa and D/L. Contact 93384382

5+Yrs Experienced Accounts Manager in Oman, Indian, Male, MBA Finance, Can handle upto finalization with DL & NOC & Visa looking for placement. Call/WA 97119783

Indian, male (24), BBA Qualified, certified management accountant (CMA) US. Contact 79173310, 78360051. Email mohammednafis.aps@gmail.com

Part time Accounts doing up to finalization seeking Job GSM : 79102100

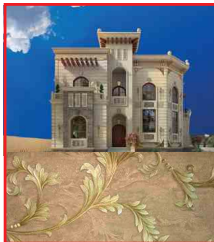
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 Contact 78149789.
 Email jeffeenajeffy@gmail.com

Well experienced Indian female English Teacher having thorough knowledge of modern teaching methods seeks suitable position.
 Contact 98445587

HOSPITALITY

Indian/male (29)/bachelor's hotel management/5+ years' experience as Chef multicuisine/available for immediate joining. Contact 96384048

BSc Hospitality Management Graduate from Sunway University, Malaysia. Hospitality experience in Oman and Malaysia. Looking for a suitable long term placement in the Hospitality Industry.
 Contact 94575782
 Email dhruvatul58@gmail.com

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ENGINEER

Omani Mechanical engineer with 4 years experience in projects and sales, Bachelor's degree and MBA. PMP certified. GSM: 95851970

BE Civil Engineer, having 8 yrs of Oman experience in all types of building constructions & having Oman D/L & NOC available. Ready to join immediately. Contact 71267309, 96742402 (whatsapp), Email vmanand92@gmail.com

Mechanical Diploma Engineer with 23 years of Gulf Experience in Cranes/ Instrumentation/ Office Coordination and Technical support with LMV Driving License on employment visa is looking for suitable job, NOC Available. Can Join immediately. Email: krishbaghel@gmail.com
 Contact 97520825

Electrical Engineer (Release available) for substation/OHL Tendering & Procurement, Available to Join. Contact +968-78341141.
 Email: sahusirsananda95@gmail.com

MEP QS, Indian Male, BE(EEE) Construction Exp.11yrs (7GCC+4India). Seeking from India.
 Contact: 9344206100,
 Email: ermddeva@gmail.com

MEP Engineer, Indian Male DEEE. Exp 18yrs(12GCC+6India) Building Construction. Visa Transferable. With D/L. GSM:79305045. Email:renga4582@gmail.com

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Contact: 93843068; mabcoman@yahoo.com

Administration

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Contact 79285929

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

31 years Experienced Civil Engineer in which 20 years in Oman with valid driving license and NOC looking for suitable placement.

Contact: 95538353
Mail: camudhan38@gmail.com

HR & Administration

Indian Female MBA (HR), PGDBM, B.E. 7 Yrs. of experience in HR & Administration (5 yrs in Oman) with Omani D/L Looking for suitable placement.

Contact 92474376

BE CSE. 10yrs IT exp. Seeking a job in IT (Implementation & Support, Testing), Admin, Office Assistance, Management, HR, Tally or any suitable post. Immediate joining.

Contact: 79865604, 97164823 csekashif@gmail.com

Project Director / Contracts Administrator

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

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Contact 97464768

CIVIL ENGINEER

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Contact 95092523, 92438505, 00919595872774
Wts- 00919595872774 mmohdismail1@yahoo.com

Sales & Marketing

Indian male, professional in media ad sales and marketing, experienced in business development and planning and rolling out offline & online product promotion campaigns, organising product launch events & other BTL programs, looking for a suitable opportunity.

Contact 78060507 / kerdel2008@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Sudanese, PMP Certified, 8 years experience in Manufacturing, Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant and pipeline. Seeking for Good Opportunity.

aminol2424@gmail.com
79417515

Logistics and Operations

Indian female presently in Muscat having indian experience in Operations and logistic management, Customer relation and data entry seeking suitable jobs.

Contact: 79639093
Email: gokulah1993@gmail.com

SR. MECHANICAL / MEP ENGINEER / MEP MANAGER

Filipino, with over 21 years of experience (airport, seaport, infra, buildings) Working as a consultant since 2010 Having Oman D/L and NOC.

Contact: +96871180492
allirod1975@gmail.com

Indian male, bachelor's degree, Graduate (B.Com, B. Ed) looking for secretary, exec assistant, office administration jobs, 18 years experience, 7 years in Oman.

Call 97015841
Email: khalid.bin.umar@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer

Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 5+years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibbusman313@gmail.com

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

Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

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Whatsapp: 98190314
E-mail: richy348@rediffmail.com

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E-Mail: waqasmehar1@gmail.com

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SALES / MARKETING

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26, Indian male with 3 yrs of experience having valid D/L looking for suitable placement in Sales/marketing field. Contact 95858181

Indian Male 32, 5+yrs Exp in Oman, Property Asst Manager, In Real Estate, VLD D/L, Looking for suitable opening. Contact 92686168

BM, with 26 yrs fmcg exp, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. Contact 90925520

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Logistic officer with 15 yrs experience in oman seeking for immediate placement.NOC/local release available. Contact 95271413

MANAGER

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MECHANIC/TECHNIC

FOC Splicing Network Supervisor. Indian, Male. Exp10 yrs in GCC, seeking from India. Contact +91 87787 26083. Email: jeninkumar34@gmail.com.

Indian 2.6 yrs experience in fiber telecommunication as field technician, monthly salary 400. Oman license. Contact 79172708 Email greesh.gk@gmail.com

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Indian male procurement, purchase officer having Bachelor degree in Mechanical engineering, 5 yrs experience in UAE in Electrical & Construction company & having UAE D/L. Looking for suitable job. Contact 98227904. Email: nrangra@rediffmail.com

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CONTACT: 91720776

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Contact no: 95516352
Email: jerry_4985@yahoo.com

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GAC R&D Centre has established a rigorous and well-organised automobile development man-

agement system with the vehicle design and development control programme as its core components, major system standardisation development process as an extension, and supported by standardisation of management process in each stage of vehicle development.

It has passed the examination of ISO:9001 Quality Management System for certification review and approval. GAC R&D Centre has worked with world-famous partners many times in thorough and complete chassis performance optimisation. A joint effort was also made in testing and tuning in different road conditions and/or under various temperatures on major proving grounds home and abroad.

GAC Motor has blazed a development path that is high-end focused, quality-first and innovation-driven with its development speed and profit level being among the best.

In Oman, GAC Motor vehicles are distributed by New World Autos and backed by Saud Bahwan Group.

SUPERIOR SERVICES

Lulu Exchange relocates its Ruwi branch to Lulu Souq

MUSCAT: Lulu Exchange – the Sultanate's leading payments provider, has opened its newest branch in the area at the centrally located Lulu Souq Ruwi Mall.

Offering superior, affordable and world-class cross-border remittances and currency exchange services, the relocated branch was inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali Al Ghazali, Director, Lulu Exchange, in the presence of Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Group and several other senior management, in a grand virtual opening ceremony.

Adeeb Ahamed congratulated the team for expanding the company's network amidst the many global challenges at play, and said, "The relocated branch at Lulu Souq is a continuation of our strategy to be where our consumers need us the most and re-affirms our commitment to the country and its economy. The relocated branch will also house the banknotes department, and as a consumer-centric financial services organisation, we promise to provide our consumers with a world-class payments experience, in line with our vision to innovate value



and inspire experiences."

Lulu Exchange, which is a part of the Lulu Financial Group, is among the leading and most trustworthy financial service providers in Oman. The ISO:9001 certified company has a reputation for providing the highest quality service for customers looking to conduct their personal and corporate cross-border trans-

actions at the most competitive rates. The company's mobile app, Lulu Money, is highly rated for its superior features and ease of use.

Lulu Exchange has strategic partnerships with global payment networks and caters to countries the world over with direct online remittance arrangements to countries in the Mena, Indian sub-continent and APAC markets.

FESTIVE SEASON

'Gold Promise' – Get assured gold coins at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of 250 outlets spread across the globe has announced the much-awaited festive season offer, 'Gold Promise' giving customers a chance to get assured gold coins on their Gold & Diamond Jewellery purchases.

This offer will be valid across all stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds from April 29 to May 15. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled the Festive Jewellery collection, featuring the most eye-catching and unique trends in gold, diamond and precious gem jewellery, bound to captivate jewellery lovers at the best price in addition to a 'Heritage Jewellery Collection' featuring unique and one-of-a-kind pieces. These are exquisite designs that were once adorned by the royals and is sure to make customers look splendid on special occasions.

Through the 'Gold Promise' by Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers can get a free 1 gm gold coin on purchase of Diamond and precious gem jewellery worth OMR 400 and half gm gold coin on purchase of Diamond and precious gem Jewellery worth OMR 250.



ACADEMIC YEAR

Admission, registration open at National University for 2021

MUSCAT: The National University of Science and Technology has announced the opening of admission and registration for the academic year 2021/2022.

The study will begin in September 2021 in the various programmes of engineering, pharmacy and medicine including Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor pharmacy, Bachelor of Engineering programmes in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Power Engineering, Process operation and Maintenance Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying and Cost Management, and Bachelor of IT Management for Business (ITMB).

The National University also announced several master pro-



grammes that are being offered in cooperation with Glasgow Caledonian University, United Kingdom and the University of South Carolina, United States. These programs include Master in Asset and Maintenance Management, Master in Construction Management, Master

of Science in Supply Chain Management and International Operations, Master of Science in Process Engineering, Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Information Technology with three sub-disciplines: Cloud Computing, Big Data and Internet

of Things, Advanced computer networks and cybersecurity.

On behalf of the family of the National University of Science and Technology, Dr Ali Al-Bimani - Vice Chancellor of the University, stated, "We are very pleased and looking forward to welcoming our

new students in September 2021 at the National University who are going to enrol in the NU academic programmes in medicine, pharmacy, health sciences and engineering at its various branches, as well as in master programmes."

Dr Ali Al-Bimani said that the NU is distinguished by its focus on postgraduate studies programmes and scientific research in many fields in where the university emphasis on pursuing scientific research is driven by development plans in the Sultanate which coincides with Oman 2040 Vision aims to achieve the maximum scientific research possible support. The National University accorded high priority to the field training, qualify students for the labour market and prepare them for professional

life systematically and accurately. Indeed, we are working hard to encourage entrepreneurship through the entrepreneurship club at the College of Engineering.

Dr Salim Al-Arimi - Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University said, "We hope that the new academic year will be a wonderful year free of the corona, and we will work hard to provide every effort for a safe study environment free from any difficulties." Dr Salim also emphasised that every student should strive to choose the appropriate programmes for his/her future and the university has provided an integrated work team in the Admission and Registration Department to cover all the student needs in terms of information and support.

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ROUND-UP

Renault’s Ramadan offer, test drive promo gets overwhelming response

The Renault Ramadan promotion, which has already begun, will go on till June 6

MUSCAT: The exclusive Ramadan promotion announced by Renault Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles has received a great response. Renault Oman’s unique Ramadan offer boasts of a host of benefits for patrons purchasing their top-selling models as well as their latest models.

The winners of Renault Oman’s test drive promotion, in which all prospective customers who test drive any of the Renault vehicles are eligible to enter a raffle draw, have been announced. And the winner is going to receive one UV Steriliser and wireless charger soon. Social media users who participate in the Ramadan promotional campaign will also be eligible for attractive prizes.

The Renault Ramadan promotion which has already begun will go on till June 6.

A spokesperson for SBA said, “We are extremely pleased with the response we have received to the campaign so far. We are pleased to pass on the benefits to our customers who want to buy the innovative and fuel-efficient Renault vehicles. The test drive promotion has received a great



response from the customers, and we encourage more customers to register for the test drive.”

All customers purchasing any variant of 20MY Megane, Duster and Koleos will be eligible for 0% (Rate of Interest) up to three years or 1.99% (rate of interest) for four years or 2.49% (rate of interest) for five years or 2.99% (rate of interest) for six years. Customers can opt for only one of the Interest rates options. The special interest rate benefit will be applicable for customers opting to avail of vehicle loan through select finance companies.

Customers opting for Automotive Loan other than the above will be financed as per terms of the respective bank/finance company. Customers purchasing in cash, LPO, a credit will not be eligible for special interest rate benefit. For all tenures beyond six years, normal

interest rates (as per the existing bank/finance company scheme) will apply for the full tenure of the loan. This rate is applicable for individual purchase with private registration only and is subject to finance/credit approval.

Customers who purchase Renault vehicles will be entitled to receive assured cash gift ranging from OMR 1150 to OMR 3500 varying from model to model, variant to variant. An assured cash gift is applicable on Renault model/variant purchases. The cash gift can be adjusted in the down payment of the car if the customer opts for it.

All customers purchasing Renault Symbol, Megane, Duster, Koleos during the promotion period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle insurance (Oman and UAE only). The insurance amount is applicable for private registrations

only. For commercial registration, an additional amount needs to be borne by the customer.

All customers purchasing Renault Symbol, Megane, Megane R.S. Trophy-R, Duster, Koleos, Dokker Van and Master Van during this scheme period will be eligible for free first-year vehicle registration. Applicable to the extent of private registration only. For commercial registrations, an additional amount including passing needs to be borne by the customer.

All customers purchasing Renault Symbol, Megane, Megane R.S. Trophy-R, Duster, Koleos, Dokker Van and Master Van during this scheme period will be eligible for a free periodic maintenance service package for three years/60,000 km (whichever is earlier), limited to six services. This offer includes only the service

intervals of 10,000 km.

All customers purchasing Renault Symbol, Megane, Megane R.S. Trophy-R, Duster, Koleos, Dokker Van and Master Van during this scheme period will be eligible for three years/ 100,000 km mileage warranty (whichever is earlier).

All customers purchasing Renault vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for OMR 100 worth gift vouchers. These vouchers can be redeemed for Nexfil Window Film or Renault Ceramic Glass Coat at SBA Service Centres. The vouchers are not transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash.

Social Media users who participate in the Ramadan promotional campaign and other online challenges on Renault Oman Instagram will get a chance to win a fuel voucher worth OMR50 (three numbers), PS5 wireless

headphone (one number) and Moulinex blenders (four numbers). Kindly follow Renault Oman Instagram page on @Renaultoman for all the exciting contests and prizes to be won.

During the scheme period, all prospective customers who test drive any of the Renault vehicles will be eligible to enter a raffle draw to win a UV Steriliser and wireless charger every week (eight numbers). This scheme will only be applicable at the following locations – Qurum, Mabella, Barka and Sohar.

Winners will be picked every week by the ministry official at the Renault Qurum showroom on April 29, May 6, May 11, May 20, May 27, June 3 and June 10 at 12:30 pm. The winners will be directly contacted by the Renault team and will have to collect their prize from the Renault showroom.

HOME TEST DRIVE

Nissan Oman launches ‘book a home test drive’ service for all its models

MUSCAT: Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), is extending a ‘book a home test drive’ service for its prospective customers. The service enables potential customers to schedule their test drive online at their convenience.

The ‘book a home test drive’ service is applicable only in the Muscat governorate. While customers will be charged OMR 5 for home test drive service, upon sales conversion a sum of OMR 10 will be passed on to them as a cash gift.

A senior official of Nissan Oman said, “Nissan is committed to extending outstanding pre-sales services to its customers. This is yet another unique move from our side to make the experience of buying

Nissan cars more convenient. To avail our home test drive service, customers have to just let us know what vehicle they are interested in and we will take it to their homes.” He added, “We are offering the test drive at home to customers after following all the COVID 19 safety protocols. All test-drive vehicles are completely sanitised before delivery at customers’ homes for test drives.”

An interested customer can schedule a test drive of Nissan models from the comfort of their homes simply by logging on to the official SBA Nissan Oman website on the link <https://en.nissanoman.com/services/book-home-test-drive.html>. A home test drive can be booked through customer service toll-free number 80050011 as well.





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