



BREATHTAKING BEACH LAGOONS

From the top of the mountains in the north, through Al Batinah Coast and the shores of the Al Sharqiyah Governorate and ending at the coasts of the Governorate of Dhofar in the south, lagoons are spread along the coast in Oman. Most of these lagoons were formed at the estuary of large valleys. Sea water is usually the water source of this type of lagoon, in addition to the fresh water originating in the valleys.

>A4



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GLOBAL STAGE

Swimmer Issa aims for good show in Tokyo Olympics today

Times News Service

TOKYO: Oman's talented swimmer Issa Al Adawi will be eager for a solid show during his debut in the Summer Olympic Games – 2020, Tokyo as he will commence the national team's participation in the top Olympic event.

Al Adawi will begin his competition in the Men's 100m freestyle competition on Tuesday alongside top-ranking swimmers from different parts of the world. Despite the expected difficulty in the competition, Issa's hopes are high to accomplish a new record and advanced performance. His current best timing is 51.69s.

The 22-year-old was very close to securing a qualified record to the Olympics but he could not take part in many events and championships due to the ongoing pandemic. However, he managed to earn the Olympic invitation card



with other national athletes including runners Barakat and Mazon, shooter Ahmed Al Khatri and weightlifter Amur Al Khanjri.

Adawi is set for competing in the prestigious Olympic event after he completed his preparatory

programme for the Tokyo Olympics. The young swimmer was very keen to take part in any friendly and open tournaments in Japan during the last period. He managed to take part in a domestic swimming tournament in Japan last Febru-



ary in 100- and 200-metre freestyle swimming. He registered his best record of 50:17 in open swimming event in 100-metre freestyle swimming category in Japan. It is expected that he may register a new record during the Olympics.

Heat three!

The national swimmer Issa Al Adawi has been assigned heat three and will be in seventh line at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre among other eight competitors on Tuesday's race.

As many as 72 swimmers distributed into nine heats. The best 16 swimmers will advance to the semifinals.

Brazil's Cesar Cielo holds the world record of 46.91s which was set in 2009. Heat three will feature swimmers: Miguel Mena (NCA), Jean-Luczephir (LCA), Yousuf Almatrooshi (UAE), Stefano Mitchell (ANT), Andrew Chetcuti (MNT), Kledi Kadiu (ALB) and Danilo Rosafo (KEN).

Semis round will take place the following day while the finals is on Thursday, when the medals will be delivered to the top three winners. The domestic swimming star will seek to confirm his top show in

competing with other opponents from different parts of the world.

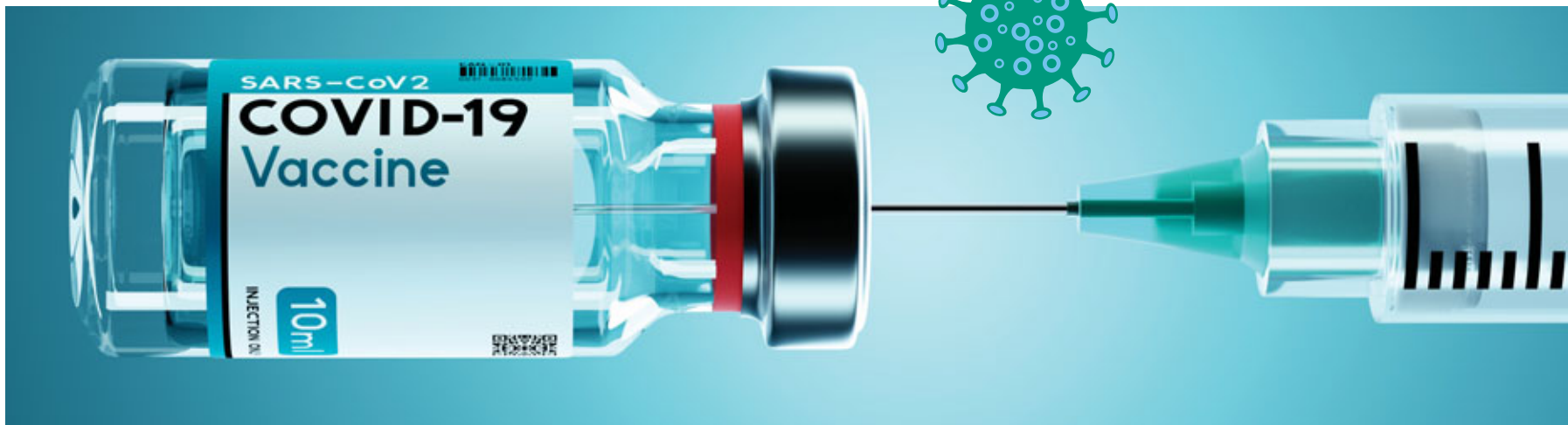
Kishry meets the swimming team

Secretary General of Oman Olympic Committee, Taha Al Kishry, met the national swimming team on Monday at the Olympic Village in presence of Kazem Al Balushi, Oman's Chef De Mission. During the meeting, Oman Swimming Association chief congratulated swimmer Issa Al Adawi and his technical staff on their debut presence in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

"We are confident that you will represent the Sultanate in an honourable manner and achieve positive and new records," he added.

The OOC Secretary General appreciated the support received from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth to secure Oman's presence in the top sporting event including the Olympics. >A3

NEARLY 2,000,000 PEOPLE VACCINATED



The number of people who have taken both the doses of vaccines stood at 338,523

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nearly two million people in Oman have been administered with the COVID-19 vaccine, since the start of the national immunisation campaign against the coronavirus.

1,926,307 people across the country have been vaccinated, representing 53 per cent of the

targeted population.

So far, 1,587,784 have been provided the first dose of the vaccine (about 45 per cent of the people in the target groups), while 338,523 people have been given both doses.

The highest numbers of vaccinated individuals are in the capital: 618,264 people have been administered the jab in Muscat Governorate, representing 55 per

cent of those vaccinated. In second place comes North Al Batinah (234,808, or 39 per cent), followed by South Al Batinah (153,277, or 45 percent).

Vaccination centres in Oman continue to see a good turnout of people, as was the case before the temporary halting of the immunisation campaign during the total lockdown associated with the recent Eid Al Adha holidays.

The vaccination drive resumed on Sunday, 25 July 2021, for people aged 18 and above. Vaccinations are currently being provided to those who book appointments in advance. To book an appointment, please visit the website [www.covid19.moh.gov.om](#), or

login to the Tarassud+ COVID-19 monitoring app. This will enable a smooth and orderly vaccination process across the country.

On entering the site/app, those who wish to register for the vaccination must first fill in the governorate and wilayat they live in, and are requested to provide their date of birth and ID card number. Once these details have been provided, people must sign a vaccine declaration form indicating their willingness to take the jab.

On subsequently receiving a one-time PIN, registrants will then be able to select a vaccination centre of their choice, and their preferred appointment date. They will be then sent an

appointment letter that they can bring with them on the day of their vaccination.

Figures released by the Ministry of Health show that 572 more people tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, 26 July, while 18 succumbed to the disease. This means that 294,526 people in Oman have contracted the virus since the start of the pandemic.

However, 723 more people have recovered from the disease, bringing the total number of recoveries to 276,483. 53 people have been hospitalised due to complications from COVID-19 over the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of patients in hospitals to 723. 292 of them are in ICUs.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

'Avoid entering water bodies filled by rain'

1 People who plan on taking a swim in wadis and bodies of water caused due to the recent rains across parts of the country are risking severe injury, the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority has warned. Dangers might lurk underneath a deceptively calm surface. >A3

SPORTS

Stunning race two victory for Al-Zubair

2 Al-Faisal Al-Zubair and Andy Soucek pushed the Lechner Racing Team's Porsche 911 GT3 R through the field to claim victory by 1.507 seconds in the pulsating race two of the International GT Open Championship at Italy's Imola circuit on Sunday. >A8

MARKET

Sohar International in home loan pact

3 Sohar International has signed an agreement with Al Hekmani Trading to provide preferential housing loan facilities to those interested in purchasing properties in the various projects developed by Al Hekmani Properties in key locations in Oman. >B1

MOCIIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Shopping malls to go cashless from 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Shops, businesses and other commercial activities will need to provide cashless payment options to customers, with effect from January 1, 2022, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP) has announced.

The move comes as part of the measures to reduce the amount of cash circulating in the market, and help boost digital transformation, under the plans of Oman Vision 2040.

The first phase of rolling out cashless payment options will cover all activities in industrial areas, shopping complexes, commercial establishments, gift stores, companies involved in the sale of food, jewellers, restaurants and cafes, fruit and vegetable shops, electron-



The CBO, in coordination with other banks and payment service providers, has issued POS devices for merchants, free of installation fees or monthly/annual charges

ics stores, shops selling construction materials, and tobacconists.

"To ensure this service can be easily provided, the Central Bank of Oman, in coordination with other banks and payment service

providers, has issued point of sale (POS) devices for merchants, without any need for an installation fee, or any monthly and/or annual charges for the same," said MoCIIP in a statement.

"However, merchant service fees due to the Central Bank of Oman will be applicable," added the ministry. "These fees will not be more than 1.5 per cent of payments made through debit cards,

up to a fee of OMR10, and not more than 0.75 per cent of transactions done through mobile phones using QR codes."

A number of banks and mobile phone operators already have cashless payment services in place. Mobile wallets help customers add money into their accounts, which can then be used to pay for services, or be sent to others. These also help them receive payments from others.

Such services are now regularly used in the country to pay for a number of every day essentials, as well as utilities such as rent, electricity, water, internet, and other fees. "Cashless payments make for very convenient options in store, particularly since a lot of people many not carry plenty of cash with them," said Said, an Omani national.





Dhuhr	12.18pm
Asr	3:41pm
Maghrib	6:57pm
Isha	8:16pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:12am

TIMES OF OMAN

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MUSCAT, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1978—SHABAN 22, 1398

PRICE BAIZAS 200

NATION CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF 23 JULY

TRIBUTES PAID TO WORK AND SACRIFICE OF HIS MAJESTY

The Sultanate on Sunday celebrated the eighth anniversary of the accession to power of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who became the leader of the country on 23 July 1970.

The celebrations were quiet, but sincere. They marked the tremendous advance which Oman has made in the past eight years under His Majesty's guidance.

It was an occasion on which the people of the nation renewed their pledges of allegiance to His Majesty the Sultan, and recognised with gratitude the sacrifices he had made for them during the eight years of his rule.

SOCOTRA NAMED AS HAVEN FOR TERROR GANGS

International terrorism has found a haven in South Yemen under the supervision of Soviet experts, according to Cairo's weekly magazine *October*, quoted in *The Daily Telegraph*, London.

The magazine said that the ruling South Yemeni regime had turned the island of Socotra, at the entrance of the Red Sea from the Indian Ocean, into the "permanent headquarters" of international terrorist organisations led by the notorious Carlos "the Jackal."

The Japanese Red Army, Italian Red Brigades and the radical Popular Front for the Liberation Front, led by George Habash, were listed by the Cairo magazine, which the London paper described as close to the Egyptian authorities.

Messages of congratulation poured in to His Majesty from both home and abroad. Among those from whom cables were received were His Majesty King Khaled bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, and the President of the United Arab Emirates Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan.

Cables also came from the rulers of Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. They wished health to His Majesty and continued progress and prosperity to the Omani people under his guidance.

His Majesty's Personal Adviser and Governor of the Capital, Sayyed Thwaini bin Shehab was host at a Muscat dinner attended by many Royal Family members, ministers and others. In Salalah, the Minister of State and Wali of Dhofar, Shaikh Braik bin Hamoud al-Ghafri, was host at a dinner attended by many notables, including the Minister of Interior, Sayyed Mohamed bin Ahmed.



Sayyed Thwaini bin Shehab, Governor of the Capital, welcoming Sayyed Fahad al-Said, Minister of Information and Culture to the dinner to mark the eighth anniversary of The assumption of power by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

EGYPT REJECTS ISRAELI NOTE AS CONTAINING NOTHING NEW

Despite the Egyptian refusal to receive an Israeli message, because it contained no new proposals, American sources are optimistic about Middle East peace talk continuing.

The Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Atherton, continues his shuttle, with visit to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Israel on the itinerary. He is preparing for the visit next month of Secretary of State Vance, which, it is forecast, will bring about a meeting of Israeli and Egyptian leaders.

It is believed that this meeting may take place at the American observers' post in the Sinai. The two sides would be represented by their Foreign and Defence Ministers, with Mr. Vance assisting.

Background to the Egyptian rejection of the Israeli message is believed to have been President Sadat's desire for the return by Israel of Mount Sinai and the town of El Arish, as a unilateral gesture. The reaction to this of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, was to say that nobody gets anything for nothing.

Foreign Minister Dayan followed this up by saying that Israel was ready to consider "real proposal for territorial compromise".

Lebanon Shelling Leaves 50 Hurt

Comparative quiet had returned by mid-week to strife-torn Beirut after a weekend of shelling and firing. President Sarkis has been holding talks in an attempt to end the recurrent fighting.

The heaviest shelling took place on Saturday and Sunday. It was carried out by the largely Syrian-manned Arab Peacekeeping Force, and was directed at Hadath a Christian hillside suburb controlled by right wing militia.

Although residents took refuge in basement shelters and many shells fell on empty streets, six people were reported killed and about 50 wounded.

Syrian radio, reporting the fighting, spoke of the need to silence the right wing militia in Lebanon, calling them "criminal gangs".



The Egyptian Embassy celebrated the 26th anniversary of the Revolution on Saturday. Among the guests were Sayyed Thwaini bin Shihab, Personal Adviser to His Majesty and the Governor of the Capital. Here he is seen with the ambassador, Mr. Yahya Rifaat.



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Avoid rainwater filled wadis, pits

Flooding due to rains brings with it plenty of debris, including broken glass, rusted and jagged pieces of metal, which could cause injury to people who step on them

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People who plan on taking a swim in wadis and bodies of water caused due to the recent rains across parts of the country are risking severe injury, the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority has warned.

Although the water might look calm on the surface, it is a completely different proposition underneath.

The heavy flooding caused by the rainfall has brought with it plenty of debris, including broken glass bottles, rusted and jagged pieces of metal, which could hurt people who step on, or come into contact with them.

The waters also bring wildlife that could pose a threat. These include snakes, which are often difficult to perceive both above and below the surface, as well as many types of fish, which could be carnivorous, not to mention insects that might be poisonous.

This is in addition to the sharp



rocks littering the beds of many of these bodies of water, which could also cause injuries, serious bleeding, and other medical complications if not attended to on time.



HIDDEN DANGERS: The waters also bring wildlife that could pose a threat.

rains witnessed over the past few weeks.

“Many pools of water have been created by the rains, and wadis are now full, so please be careful not to swim in them, and monitor your children so that they do not accidentally drown in them,” said the CDAA in its advisory.

There is still heavy cloud cover over many parts of the Sharqiyah, Wusta, and Dhahirah governorates, as well as over the northern part of the Dhofar, which is currently experiencing the Khareef season.

“Fog and intermittent mist over the coastline and mountains of the Dhofar are likely,” said Oman Meteorology in its weather update.

“There is a spread of clouds over most of the northern and central governorates.”

Aerial images show that these clouds are moving inland from over the Arabian Sea, and bring with them the possibility of scattered rain.



National medical and paramedical cadres join ROP

MUSCAT: A new batch of qualified national medical and paramedical cadres joined the Royal Oman Police (ROP) on Monday.

This move comes within the context of the Royal Oman Police's plans in recruiting graduates of different medical specialities from various higher education institutions in coordination with the departments concerned. **-ONA**

NEW BATCH



TOKYO 2020

< FROM
A1

Matter
of pride

Historic participation

Swimmer Issa Al Adawi said that he is proud to represent the Sultanate in Tokyo 2020 Olympics for the first time. “Attendance in the Olympic Games is a great honour for any athlete. During the last period, we had an intensive plan to shape our readiness for my debut in Tokyo 2020. I hope to register outstanding results in this historic participation,” he added.

Issa's journey

Oman's most promising swimmer's journey began at an early stage when he was eleven years old. He has got the full confidence from the technical coaching staff at that time to start taking part in the official tournaments and championships. The national technical swimming panel recommended Issa at the GCC swimming championships. In 2012, Al Adawi had started his first official assignment abroad at GCC tournaments level. During the last eight years, he has secured titles in different categories and competitions including: U-13, U-14, U-15 and U-17 in the 50, 100 and 200 metre freestyle swimming.

After his remarkable results and solid shows at the GCC championship level, swimmer Issa went to participate at the regional and international levels. He took part in many different events and tournaments including the 2nd Asian Youth Games held in Nanjing, China in 2013, 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the last edition of the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia's Jakarta.

The top officials at Oman Swimming Association (OSA) were eager to involve talented swimmer Issa in the top aquatic sporting showpieces including South Korea World Swimming Championships along with his attendance at the 10th Asian Championship that was held in India two years ago.

Despite the current condition of the ongoing pandemic including its negative impact on sporting field, swimmer Issa was eager to participate in the tournaments held in Japan as he is a student in Chukyo University including the swimming championship in Japan hosted by the city of Tsuda beside to his recent participation in the Japan Open Swimming Championship and act as Olympic qualifier Tournament which was held last June in Tokyo.

INVITATION TO TENDER



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Scope	: Sale of Overhead cable washing Truck and miscellaneous metal scrap of Fume Treatment Centre (FTC) area of SA Smelter.

Tender No.	: RFP 21/014
Tender Title	: Provision of Stem Repair Services
Scope	: Sohar Aluminium Invites Service providers who can provide the complete services to carry out the Anode Stem Repair Services, a detailed scope will be issued to the interested bidders after validating their company profile and ability to perform the Services as per required standards.

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Story on Covid cases dropping in Oman

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2,083 VIEWS



Tokyo Games update video



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BREATHTAKING BEACH LAGOONS IN DHOFAR

From the top of the mountains in the north, through Al Batinah Coast and the shores of the Al Sharqiyah Governorate and ending at the coasts of the Governorate of Dhofar in the south, lagoons are spread along the coast in Oman.

Most of these lagoons were formed at the estuary of large valleys. Sea water is usually the water source of this type of lagoon, in addition to the fresh water originating in the valleys. Also known as Khawr, Dhofar is known for some of the breathtaking lagoons.

Khawr Al Mughsayl lies at the eastern end of Jabal Al Qamar in Dhofar. According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "The area of this lagoon is about half a square kilometre, its length is about three kilometres and its width 150 metres. The lagoon's importance lies in maintaining important species of indigenous and migratory birds which inhabit the lagoon due to the abundance of food throughout the year. Some birds migrate from Africa, some from Europe and others from India, while others are permanent residents of the lagoon."

Located at the western entrance of Taqah City in Dhofar is Khawr Taqah. The lagoon occupies about 2 square kilometres. Khawr Taqah is filled with places in which freshwater varieties of plants grow, as well as other plant types that



need a high level of salinity.

This contributes to the presence of an abundant marine life here, in addition to many types of birds.

While Khawr Awqad is located at the outskirts of the ancient Awqad city and is one of the sites frequented by birds nesting throughout the year, such as the egrets, herons and Abu Mahgl, amongst others, Khawr Al Baleed takes its name from the ancient city which lies on the banks of this lagoon. The lagoon flanks the city on the east and north. In ancient times, this lagoon was connected to the sea and used as a natural port due to its depth in some parts.

The region is currently on the World Heritage List and the khawr is protected. The importance of this place lies in its combination of archaeology, history and nature. The archaeological park is considered to be the first of its kind in the Sultanate, serving to protect natural resources, attract tourists to the site and inform people of this important ancient city in the Governorate of Dhofar.

Khawr Al Qurm Al Sagheer and Al Kabeer in Salalah have dense mangrove trees that cover the two lagoons. Khawr Sawli in Wilayat Taqah is amongst the most important lagoons regarding the number of plant, animal and micro-organisms that live in the lagoon.



HEAVY RAINS LEAD TO OVERFLOW OF WADIS, FORMATION OF WATERFALLS

Heavy rains have led to the overflow of wadis and also formation of waterfalls. These pictures are of the waterfall of Wadi Sharja in Jabal Al-Kur in the Wilayat of Bahla, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate.
— Pictures by: Shihab Al A'Shandoodi



NCSI DATA

Nearly 65,000 expatriates have left Oman in first seven months of 2021

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nearly 65,000 expatriates have left Oman between January and July 2021, according to data published by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).
The NCSI's population clock, which is updated daily, shows that on Sunday, 25 July 2021, there were 1,690,146 expatriates in Oman, down from 1,745,714 on the first of January this year.

Omani population

During this time period, the Omani population has increased from 2,735,991 on 1 January, to 2,770,219.
More Omanis have entered the private sector this year as well: by April 2021, there were 255,012 locals employed by private sector companies, a slight uptick from the 254,754 at the end of last year. 47 percent of all insured Omanis working in the private sec-



tor earn between OMR 325 and OMR 500 a month, according to NCSI figures.
About a quarter for all privately employed Omanis work in the construction sector (53,731), followed by manufacturing (32,296) and mining and quarrying segments (28,911) of the economy.

About 6,000 Omanis work in the healthcare and social welfare sector, while 7,250 are employed in education.
From the end of 2020 to May of this year, 13,297 expatriate workers left the country.
Of them, 8,219 were in the private sector, about 1,967 were in government jobs, and another 3,111 were under the employ of families.
The construction sector is the largest employer of expatriates in the country, providing employment to more than 370,000 foreign nationals as of May 2021. The automobile industry employs more than 200,000, while nearly 175,000 people work in manufacturing.
The hotel and hospitality sector employs another 100,000 or so people, while the agriculture and fisheries sector has nearly 83,000 expatriates working in it. 66,000 are employed in administration and support services.

VACANCY

Designation:
Assistance Finance Manager (Omani National Only)

Key Roles and Responsibilities:

- Preparation of Monthly/quarterly/yearly financials/ insurance returns/investment returns/CMA compliance/MIS Reports/ Reconciliation and follow up with Reinsurers etc jointly with Sr Finance Manager
- Receivable's analysis, reconciliation and control, customer/ suppliers.
- Collating and preparing interpreting reports, budgets, accounts, commentaries, and financial statements.
- Undertaking strategic analysis and assisting with Strategic planning
- Monitoring income, cash flow and expenditure.
- Managing and monitoring budgets.
- Analyzing and managing financial systems/models
- Carrying out business modelling and risk assessments
- Supervising and Mentor Junior Staff, and train as necessary.
- Liaising with managerial staff and other stakeholders
- Liaising with internal/external auditors and banking partners
- Any other work allotted by the management.

Reporting to the Senior Finance Manager.

Minimum Requirements

Qualifications:

- ☐ Bachelor's degree Specialization Finance or Accounting.
- ☐ Full or Part Qualified ACCA/CIMA.
- ☐ 5+ years experience in Finance/Accounts (preferable minimum 2 years in Relevant Industry)
- ☐ IFRS Knowledge and experience is Desirable.
- ☐ Fluency In English is Essential.
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Required Competencies and Skills:

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UN warns of spike in Afghan civilian deaths

The UN said there was a particularly sharp rise in casualties in May and June, when US and NATO troops began their withdrawal and fighting escalated across the country

KABUL: More than 1,500 civilians were killed in the first six months of 2021, almost half of whom were women and children, the United Nations said in a new

report on Monday.

It is the sharpest documented increase in killings for those months since the UN began keeping track of Afghan civilian deaths and casualties in 2009.

Chilling trajectory

Deborah Lyons, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the UN mission in the country, said: "I implore the Taliban and Afghan leaders to take heed of the conflict's grim and chilling trajectory and its devastating impact on civilians."

"Unprecedented numbers of Afghan civilians will perish and be maimed this year if the increasing violence is not stemmed," she added.

Without a "significant de-escalation of violence," 2021 is set to be the most devastating year for civilian casualties in over a decade, the report said.

Of the 1,659 civilians killed and 3,254 wounded in the first half of 2021, 46 per cent were women and

children. Almost one-third were children, with 468 killed and 1,214 wounded. Women accounted for roughly 14 per cent, with 219 killed and 508 wounded.

The UN said there was a particularly sharp rise in casualties in May and June, when US and NATO troops began their withdrawal and fighting escalated across the country. In those two months alone, 783 people were killed and 1,609 were wounded.

In rural districts

Much of the violence has taken place outside of cities in rural districts. But the UN voiced concern that when the battles eventually reach cities, the consequences for civilians will be catastrophic.

An attack on the Sayed ul-Shuhuda school in the capital Kabul in early May resulted in 85 deaths and over 300 civilian casualties, most of them young girls. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

There has also been a resurgence of sectarian attacks on the

minority Shia Hazara community, resulting in 143 deaths.

Since the US and NATO began their withdrawal from the country, the Taliban has moved quickly to consolidate battlefield victories, overtake rural districts, and secure strategic border crossings.

The withdrawal is 95 per cent complete and slated to be accomplished by August 31.

Talks between the Afghan government and Taliban negotiators in Doha, Qatar have stalemated since last September, and diplomats and observers say the Taliban seeks a military victory. According to German news agency dpa, the group now controls over half of all districts in Afghanistan.

The UN report said that "the pursuit of a military solution will only increase the suffering of the Afghan people."

While the Taliban have said they do not want to monopolise power, they have also said there will be no peace until the current government and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani are unseated. — DW

TUNISIA

Tunisia President Kais dismisses PM

TUNIS: The head of Tunisia's largest parliamentary party, Rached Ghannouchi, held a sit-in protest outside the parliament building on Monday after the army barred him from entering.

The move came after President Kais Saied on Sunday said he would assume the country's executive authority after dismissing the prime minister.

The political escalation followed a weekend during which thousands of Tunisians took to the streets in anti-government protests that turned violent.

Supporters of Ghannouchi's moderate-Islamist Ennahda party and of President Saied hurled stones and bottles at each other outside the parliament on Monday, AFP reported.

Police also reportedly raided the offices of Al Jazeera in Tunis on Monday, the Qatar-based broadcaster said. Journalists working in the offices said they were told to leave and some reporters had phones and equipment confiscated.

After announcing the dismissal of Prime Minister Hicham Mechichi, Saied said he would take over executive power "with the help" of a government headed by a new chief that he would appoint. Saied had appointed Mechichi as non-aligned prime

minister in September last year.

The president also announced freezing the Tunisian parliament for 30 days and suspending the immunity of all deputies.

Saied claims his move is permitted in case of "imminent danger" under Article 80 of the country's constitution. "The constitution does not allow for the dissolution of parliament, but it does allow for its work to be suspended," Saied said.

Outside of Tunisia, Germany's foreign ministry expressed its concern over the suspension of the government and said it hopes the country would "return to the constitutional order as soon as possible."

Although the ministry avoided the term "coup," it called Saied's use of the constitution to suspend parliament as a "rather broad interpretation" of the law.

Hundreds of Tunisians flooded the streets in celebration after Saied's announcement. Local media reported that military vehicles surrounded the parliament building as crowds cheered.

Although Saied insisted that his move was constitutional, Parliament Speaker Rachid Ghannouchi accused the president of launching "a coup against the revolution and constitution." — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

COVID-19 CURBS TO BE RELAXED



Singapore to allow quarantine-free travel from September

SINGAPORE: Singapore is planning to allow quarantine-free travel from September, with the aim to relax COVID-19 curbs.

The country expects to vaccinate 80 per cent of its population by then, placing the nation in a solid position to move forward with the reopening, Bangkok Post reported citing Finance Minister Lawrence Wong. "While other countries may have come to terms with a certain level of COVID-19 cases and even deaths, this is not the choice we want to make in Singapore," Wong said.

He also informed that the gov-

ernment will not wait for everyone to get vaccinated before the administration begins the easing process.

"Waiting for 100 per cent population to get vaccinated would mean holding back the entire reopening timeline until much later in the year, which is not tenable," He added.

Infected patients who show no or mild symptoms can now be housed in community-care facilities rather than hospitals.

"That means that as many as 60 per cent of infected cases may recover in community-care fa-

cilities. The government aims to raise the number to 80 per cent, with some patients even recovering at home," Wong informed.

While easing the curbs, the government will closely monitor all the health outcomes, especially the hospitalisation and intensive care units in the country, Bangkok Post reported.

A few months back, Singapore surfaced a sudden spike of cases in April, most likely caused by undetected imported cases, causing the government to take a couple of steps back in its re-opening process. — ANI

COVID-19

India records 39,361 new cases

NEW DELHI: With 39,361 new COVID-19 cases in India in the last 24 hours, the daily positivity rate jumps up to 3.41 per cent from yesterday's 2.31 per cent.

For 34 consecutive days till yesterday, the daily positivity rate in the country was less than 3 per cent. Presently, the active caseload of India is 411,189.

416 deaths were also reported in the last 24 hours. The death toll of India now stands at 420,967.

As per the Union Ministry of Health, 35,968 patients recovered

during the last 24 hours, taking the cumulative recoveries in India to 30,579,106.

Recovery rate

Presently, the recovery rate is at 97.35 per cent.

Under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive, 43.51 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered so far.

As per the ministry, a total of 45.74 crore Covid tests have been conducted in India so far.

— ANI



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“I’m very, very delighted. Very happy to be an Olympic champion. I’ve never experienced that level of emotions. That was the best joy I ever had.”
Momiji Nishiya, Japanese skateboarder

MOTHERS AT TOKYO 2020

TOKYO: The Olympic Games is never short of thrilling scenes of athletes contending for glory, but warmhearted moments as well, including some athletes continuing their Olympic quest after returning from giving birth.

With the Tokyo 2020 Games underway, several mother-athletes are striving for excellence on the Olympic stage and becoming inspirations to billions of sports fans across the world.



Alex Morgan (United States, football)
Morgan, 32, is competing in her third Olympic Games and first as a mother. She welcomed her daughter Charlie with her husband Servando Carrasco in May 2020.

“I’m going to miss my baby girl so much this month. Charlie girl, I’ll make it worth it!” Morgan wrote on social media before departing for Tokyo.

“I feel physically stronger and fitter than before I was pregnant. I do feel a change in my body, and it’s a change for the better,” she told FIFA’s official website.



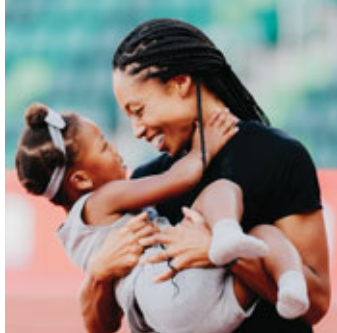
Wu Jingyu (China, taekwondo)
The two-time Olympic taekwondo gold medalist could not progress through the repechage in her fourth Olympic appearance on Saturday, but won respect from many fans, including the IOC president Thomas Bach.

Wu turns 34 in July. After finishing seventh at Rio 2016, she retired before giving birth to a daughter in 2017 and making a surprising return to her beloved sport half a year later.

“The first two months after my return was quite tough. My body felt like falling apart and even running was pretty difficult for me, let alone high kicks,” Wu recalled in an interview in 2020.

A teary-eyed Wu, told reporters after Saturday’s event, “I can accept my retirement in such circumstances.”

She also shared some words for her daughter: “Mom and dad always love you. Life is in your own hands. We hope you dare to do whatever you want.”



Allison Felix (United States, athletics)
Felix is set to appear at her fifth Olympic Games in Tokyo. The nine-time Olympic medalist could break or tie Carl Lewis’ record of 10 medals to become the most decorated American track and field athlete in history.

Felix welcomed her daughter Camryn in November 2018. She hopes that returning to the Olympics as a mother will prove that women can continue to break records in sports after having children.

“I want things to look different for those coming after me and so that means really pushing on certain issues and really standing up for ourselves,” she said.



Liu Hong (China, athletics)
Liu is no stranger to Wu’s experience, as she herself is also going through a journey of coming back to the race walking track as a mother of a three-year-old girl.

Liu, now 34, had planned to retire after the Tokyo Olympics, but the postponement of the Games in March last year put her in a dilemma because she was not sure if she could hold on for one more year.

However, a resilient Liu has proved that she can.

In March, Liu bettered the 20km race walk world record she set back in 2015 along with younger teammate Yang Jiayu.

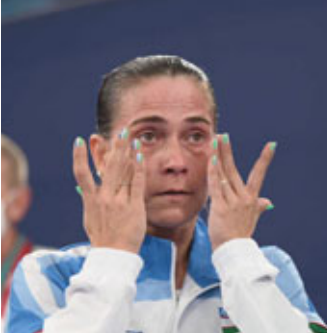
“Now I take Tokyo 2020 as something at a certain stage without thinking too much about the future,” she said.



Olufunke Oshonaike (Nigeria, table tennis)
Oshonaike made history by becoming the first African woman to compete at seven Olympics, as well as the first female paddler to join the exclusive “Club of Seven”.

“I’m the happiest woman in the world today, I still can’t believe it. It feels as if I’m still dreaming,” said the mother of two after securing her ticket to Tokyo 2020.

The 46-year-old Nigerian saw her Tokyo Olympics campaign end after losing to Liu Juan of the United States in Saturday’s preliminary round.



Oksana Chusovitina (Uzbekistan, gymnastics)
Chusovitina’s eight Olympic experiences started in 1992 when she competed on behalf of the Unified Team of the former Soviet Union, then representing Uzbekistan, before switching to German citizenship in 2006, and finally restoring her Uzbek citizenship in 2013.

When Chusovitina’s three-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002, she sold her possessions and competed frantically in the hope that the prize money would pay for his medical treatment.

She took German citizenship to compete in various world events for a higher income and better medical care. She brought Germany a silver medal in the women’s vault at the 2008 Beijing Olympics when she was 33. Her story of “I dare not grow old until you are well” has touched countless people.

After her son’s recovery, Chusovitina continued to compete, but this time it was the love for gymnastics that kept her going. At the age of 46, Chusovitina competed against gymnasts of her son’s age at Tokyo 2020.

After leaving the arena in Tokyo to a standing ovation from her rivals, Chusovitina said: “I cried tears of happiness because so many people have supported me for a long time.”

“I’m alive. I’m happy. I’m here without any injuries, and I can stand on my own!”

After Rio 2016, Chusovitina received a message from her son. “He said he was proud of me,” said Chusovitina.

Alisher, you must be even more proud of your mother this time in Tokyo. -Xinhua



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jamaica, athletics)
Six-time Olympic medallist Fraser-Pryce announced the birth of her son Zyon in August 2017.

“I am thinking about being the greatest mother, I can be with my biggest blessing and the promise God made me,” Fraser-Pryce wrote on social media.

As for Tokyo 2020, Fraser-Pryce said she is looking forward to standing on the podium in 100m and 200m events.



BRITAIN'S DALEY AND LEE WIN MEN'S SYNCHRONISED 10M PLATFORM AT TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

TOKYO: British divers Thomas Daley and Matty Lee claimed the men’s synchronised 10m platform gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games here on Monday.

The British duo began to build their leading position after the fourth dive and tallied 471.81 points, beating China’s Cao Yuan/Chen Aisen to second place at 470.58 points. Cao and Chen faltered in their fourth dive, scoring sixth-placed 73.44 points. -Xinhua

DO MORE

MEDALS TALLY

Top 30 as of 6PM (Oman time)

Rank		G	S	B	T	Rank		G	S	B	T
1	Japan	8	2	3	13	16	Austria	1	0	0	1
2	USA	7	3	4	14	16	Ecuador	1	0	0	1
3	PR China	6	5	7	18	16	Hong Kong, China	1	0	0	1
4	ROC	4	5	3	12	16	IR Iran	1	0	0	1
5	Great Britain	3	3	1	7	16	Norway	1	0	0	1
6	Republic of Korea	3	0	4	7	16	Philippines	1	0	0	1
7	Australia	2	1	3	6	16	Thailand	1	0	0	1
8	Kosovo	2	0	0	2	16	Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1
9	Italy	1	4	4	9	24	Netherlands	0	3	0	3
10	France	1	2	2	5	25	Chinese Taipei	0	2	2	4
11	Canada	1	2	1	4	26	Brazil	0	2	1	3
12	Hungary	1	1	0	2	27	Georgia	0	2	0	2
12	Tunisia	1	1	0	2	28	Czech Republic	0	1	1	2
14	Croatia	1	0	1	2	28	Spain	0	1	1	2
14	Slovenia	1	0	1	2	28	Indonesia	0	1	1	2

Tender Announcement

MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C WOULD LIKE TO THE INVITES INTERESTED COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING Re- AUCTION:

Auction No.	Description	Last Date of Participate	Available for Inspection	Date of Submission	Tender Price (R.O)
Refloate Auction No 1/2021	AUCTION TO SALE RETIRED PSSS AT MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY	05/08/2021	Mobella store 08/08/2021 to 09/08/2021 Rusail PSSs 10/08/2021	17/08/2021	36.750

The table below shows the instructions for participation: -	
Purchase timing	The amount specified above is including 5 % VAT. The amount specified above is Non-Refundable payment (Terms and Condition apply) Auction documents can be purchased at online, time between 08:00 – 13:00 hours You are kindly requested to communicate through email to Contract@medcoman.com
Fees	Against the amount specified above. Non-Refundable payment
Tender Submission	• Auction offer should be submitted in a sealed and stamped envelope addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CO. marked only with Auction number and the subject
Guarantee	• Auction offer should enclose a bank guarantee or a certified cheque issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman Unconditional and irrevocable and shall be disbursement as soon as it is submitted for the value of (3%) of the tender value valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days from the last date of tender submission and addressed to the CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE, MUSCAT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY S.A.O.C. • Any bid that does not meet the bank guarantee condition will not be considered
Terms and Conditions	• The bidder must adhere with MEDC QHSE safety rules. • The bidder must have No Objection Letter (Waste Management Activity) From Be'ah if the Scrap Lot consist of Hazardous waste materials (Transformer oil , Batteries) • The name of the bidder, other marks or any reference must not be specified on the envelope • Bids received after the deadline stated in the Invitation , including any extension thereof, for any reason whatsoever will not be considered • Inspection Days from 08/08/2021 to 09/08/2021, at Mobella store from the 8:30 am to 12:30 pm , for Rusail Industry Area inspection day 10/08/2021 from the 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
Bid Placement	should be deposited in the Tender Box No. 1 in the ground floor of MEDC Head Office building at Airport Heights, before 10 a.m. on the assigned date of Auction submission
Email/Tele No.	contract@medcoman.com 24588600 – Ext: 8674 or 8726

GT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Stunning race two victory for Al-Zubair, Soucek at Imola

Times News Service

IMOLA: Al-Faisal Al-Zubair and Andy Soucek delivered a sensational performance in race two of the International GT Open Championship at Italy's Imola circuit on Sunday. After qualifying in sixth place, they pushed the Lechner Racing Team's Porsche 911 GT3 R through the field to claim victory by 1.507 seconds in the pulsating one-hour race. Michele Beretta pushed Soucek hard in the latter stages of the 35-lap race in the Vincenzo Sospiri Racing Lamborghini and he and team-mate Frederik Schandorff secured second place and vital championship points to maintain their slender series lead. Loris Spinelli's Mercedes AMG came home in third place and Yuki Nemoto brought the second of the Lamborghinis home in fourth ahead of Marcus Paverud's Honda NSX. Al-Zubair said: "Qualifying for me didn't go the best. I qualified in sixth. But in the race, in the first stint, I overtook the Mercedes to go to P5 and there was a bit of contact ahead and made it into



MOTORSPORT: Al-Zubair ran for 10 laps in the Lechner Racing Team's Porsche 911 GT3 R in dry conditions and posted a best lap of 1min 41.436sec, which placed the Omani in sixth place on the grid.

P4. From there, I maintained the gap and came into the pit early for a nice pit stop for Andy to go on new tyres. "From there, Andy did a great job. I think we struggled for pace a little bit, relative to the Mercedes and the Lamborghini, but nonetheless to come with a third on Saturday and a first in race two was way more than we expected for the weekend. It was the best way to get into the summer break." Al-Zubair began the race from sixth on the grid and managed to push up to fourth behind Fred-

erik Schandorff, Loris Spinelli and Ollie Millroy after three laps. The quartet held station through the next 11 laps with the Lamborghini heading the Mercedes by 2.723 seconds heading into lap 16 and Millroy's McLaren by 7.227 seconds.

It was then that Al-Zubair pitted and was replaced by Soucek for the final 32 minutes with the Lechner Porsche now down in seventh place. Spinelli snatched the lead from Schandorff when the leading Lamborghini pitted for Michele Beretta to take over driving duties and Soucek climbed to fifth place heading into the remaining 29 minutes. Spinelli's pit stop enabled Millroy to snatch the lead and Soucek found himself in fourth behind the McLaren, Spinelli and Agostini's Audi R8. But the Spaniard took further advantage of his rivals' pit stop strategies and stormed into second place on lap 19 at the expense of Beretta and Spinelli. He now began to hunt down the leading McLaren into the final 25 minutes of the race and snatched the lead when Millroy pitted and was replaced by Brendan Iribe. It was now a straight fight to the finish with Soucek carving out a lead of 6.585 seconds heading into lap 20. The lead over Beretta was 5.78 seconds with 20 minutes of the race remaining after 22 laps and 4.669 seconds with a quarter of an hour to go.

Beretta was slowly edging closer but Soucek managed to keep the gap to 3.111 seconds through lap 28 with 10 minutes of the race to run. The Italian kept up the pressure and Soucek headed into the last five minutes of the race, with 31 laps completed, defending a slender lead of 1.893 seconds. The Spaniard managed to hold on to pass the chequered flag and secure a thrilling victory for Lechner Racing by the margin of 1.507 seconds after 35 laps. Frederik Schandorff had qualified the Vincenzo Sospiri Racing Lamborghini in pole position for the second of the weekend's races with a best lap of 1min 40.121sec. Italy's Riccardo Agostini was second in the Audi Sport Italia R8 and Ollie Millroy settled into third place with a lap of 1min 40.648sec in the Inception Racing McLaren. Al-Zubair ran for 10 laps in the Lechner Racing Team's Porsche 911 GT3 R in dry conditions and posted a best lap of 1min 41.436sec, which placed the Omani in sixth place on the grid. Action resumes in the International GT Open series at Austria's Red Bull Ring in September.

British swimmer wins men's 100m breaststroke gold

Australia's world champion Ariarne Titmus edged world record holder Kathleen Ledecky of the United States to claim gold in the women's 400m freestyle



WINNER: Rio Olympic champion Adam Peaty defended his title.



400M FREESTYLE: Ariarne Titmus edged Kathleen Ledecky.

TOKYO: Rio Olympic champion Adam Peaty defended his title in men's 100m breaststroke on Monday, winning the gold medal in 57.37 seconds. The three-time world champion had a convincing lead over silver medallist Arno Kamminga of the Netherlands, who finished 0.63 seconds behind. The bronze went

to Italian Micolo Martinenghi. The 21-year-old touched home in 58.33. Margaret MacNeil of Canada touched home first in 55.59 seconds to win the women's 100m butterfly gold at the Tokyo Olympic Games on Monday. Fresh from winning a silver in women's 4x100m freestyle on

Sunday, the 2019 world champion edged China's Zhang Yufei by a close 0.05 seconds to win her maiden Olympic title. Zhang, finishing first in the semifinals, settled for a silver in 55.64 seconds. Australia's Emma McKeon, who finished 8th at Rio 2016, took a bronze in 0.08 seconds. Aus-

tralia's world champion Ariarne Titmus edged world record holder Kathleen Ledecky of the United States to claim gold in the women's 400m freestyle at the Tokyo Olympic Games. The Aussie beat Ledecky to second in the last 100m, winning in an Olympic record time of three minutes and 56.69 seconds.

Rio Olympic champion Ledecky took a silver in 3:57.36 and China's Li Bingjie bagged the bronze. Li set a new Asian record at 4:01.08, thanks to a 29.47-second final lap that saw her overtook Canadian Summer McIntosh. Her compatriot 17-year-old Tang Muhan finished fifth. -Xinhua

TOKYO OLYMPICS
Weightlifter Hou to be tested by anti-doping body
NEW DELHI: China weightlifter Zhihui Hou who bagged gold in the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday, will be tested by anti-doping authorities and if she fails the test, India's Mirabai Chhanu will be awarded gold. "She has been asked to stay in Tokyo and the test will be done. The test is definitely happening," a source in the know of developments told ANI. China's Zhihui Hou had bagged gold on Saturday with a total of 210kg and created a new Olympic Record. The rules clearly state, if an athlete fails the doping test, then the athlete who has won silver, will be awarded the gold. Mirabai Chhanu had opened India's medals tally on Saturday as she bagged a silver in the Women's 49kg category at Tokyo International Forum. Chhanu lifted a total of 202 kg (87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk) during her four successful attempts across the competition. China's Zhihui Hou created a new Olympic Record while Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah grabbed bronze. -ANI

MEN'S SKEET

Vincent Hancock wins his 3rd Olympic gold in men's skeet

TOKYO: Vincent Hancock of the United States won his third Olympic gold medal after a commanding 59-hit victory in men's skeet here on Monday. Together with Amber English's win, American shooters completed a sweep of skeet golds at the Tokyo Olympics. Denmark's Jesper Hansen bagged the silver with 55 hits and Abdullah Alrashidi won the bronze, which was also the first medal for Kuwait. Amber English of the United States survived the duel against Italian Diana Bacosi to win the women's skeet gold at the Tokyo Olympics here on Monday. Thanks to a more stable performance, English set a new Olympic record of 56 hits. -Xinhua



WINNERS: Gold medallist Vincent Hancock (centre) of the United States, silver medallist Jesper Hansen (left) of Denmark and bronze medallist Abdullah Alrashidi of Kuwait pose for photos after the men's skeet final at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

THIRD ARCHERY GOLD

South Korea dominate archery

TOKYO: South Korea eased past Chinese Taipei 6-0 in the final to claim the men's team gold at the Tokyo Olympics here on Monday. Kim Je-deok, Rio champion Kim Woo-jin and Oh Jin-hyek won South Korea's third archery gold in as many events, manifesting the country's dominance in the sport. This is also the second gold for Kim Je-deok, after 17-year-old

won the mixed team event with An San, who helped secure the country's ninth consecutive win in women's team. The remaining two golds on offer are from men's and women's individual events, where South Korean archers are undoubtedly hot favorites. Host Japan edged the Netherlands 5-4 for the bronze. -Xinhua



100

Tokyo 2020 allows temporary removal of masks on podium

TOKYO: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games has allowed athletes to have a physically distanced image on the podium without their masks on for 30 seconds, and a group photo with masks on the gold-medal step. According to a press release from the International Olympic

Committee, aligned with the requirements of the Tokyo 2020 Playbooks and scientific advice, the victory ceremony protocol has been adapted to allow athletes to have an image for the media that captures their faces and their emotions during a unique moment in their sporting career, as well as to

celebrate the achievements of all the medallists together. **New protocol** This new protocol started being implemented from July 25 and will continue to be put into practice in all venues over the coming days. -Xinhua



OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2021 reaching \$71.99, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil decreased by 72 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$72.71. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,005.91 points, down 1.12 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.97 per cent at 582.05 points. National Gas, up 0.71 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminum Product, down 9.63 per cent, was the top loser.

Sohar International signs pact to offer attractive home loan facilities

Sohar International will provide preferential housing loan facilities to those interested in purchasing properties in the various projects developed by Al Hekmani Properties



COLLABORATION: The Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Sohar International head office between Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Retail Banking Officer, Sohar International and Said Ali Salim Al Hekmani, Chairman of Said Al Hekmani Trading. - Supplied picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar International has joined hands with Al Hekmani Trading to provide housing loans for the real estate developers' properties in key locations in Oman. This in line with the bank's purpose of helping people 'win' by delivering banking for their ever-changing world as well as supporting Omanis

to achieve their dreams by making the right investments, enabling them to prosper and grow.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed recently at the Sohar International head office located at the Waterfront, Shatti Al Qurm, between Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi, Chief Retail Banking Officer, Sohar International and Said Ali Salim Al Hekmani, Chairman of Said Al

Hekmani Trading.

According to the agreement, Sohar International will provide preferential housing loan facilities to those interested in purchasing properties in the various projects developed by Al Hekmani Properties.

"Sohar International's home financing options are designed to offer personalised services that are tailor-made to the unique needs of our customers. Our home

financing options seek to support customers in making important investments and acquiring properties of their choice. By partnering with a reputable developer like Al Hekmani, we will provide our customers with a number of premium properties to choose from," said Khalil Salim Al Hedaifi. "Real estate development is set to play a major role in the nation's economic growth. By providing

thoughtfully created home financing solutions for customers, we are committed to helping every citizen acquire their dream homes while also helping in the growth of the real estate market."

With the MoU in place, Sohar International will provide an opportunity for Omanis to conveniently invest in one of the many housing project developments of Al Hekmani. A reputed developer with years of experience in the industry, Al Hekmani provides premium properties at affordable prices, with a number of properties located at strategic locations, including Al Buraimi Tower in Al Hail South, Al Hekmani Tower in Al Mawaleh and Sharq 2 in Bausher. Additionally, there are four properties in Al Khoud under the names Al Thuwara Tower, Nakhal Houses, Nakhal Towers 4 and Zuha Tower. In Mabela South, Al Hekmani owns three towers called Nakhal Towers 1, Nakhal Towers 2 and Numan Tower.

Emphasising on how the strategic association complements the housing needs of the buyers with appropriate financial assistance, Said Ali Salim Al Hekmani, Chairman of Said Al Hekmani Trading, said, "We pride ourselves in Al Hekmani Trading on having built

our organisation based on customer trust and confidence thereby providing Omanis with an opportunity to buy real estate and in the process becoming homeowners. Partnerships such as the one with Sohar International is an extension of our ongoing strategy enabling us to reach out far and wide in the market to the various customer segments making our products attainable to them through trusted financial institutions."

Offering end-to-end services Sohar International endeavours to support its customers every step of the way. The bank has been actively providing more and more innovative propositions to cater to customers' evolving needs. In addition to home financing, the bank also provides customers with a range of other financing solutions to meet their varying needs. Complementing its innovative products and services are Sohar International's dedicated team of experts who offer valuable advice and guidance to help make important financing decisions. Through various such initiatives, tie-ups and customer-centric offers, Sohar International has grown to be a leader in the segment and a preferred banking partner for corporate companies as well as individuals.

BLOCKS 3&4

Tethys Oil's June production in Oman reaches 342,446 barrels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of the production, before government take, from Blocks 3&4 onshore the Sultanate amounted in June 2021 to 342,446 barrels of oil, corresponding to 11,415 barrels of oil per day.

Oil production in Oman is currently subject to production limitations under the OPEC+ agreement. As a consequence, production from Blocks 3&4 is subject to limitations but is likely to fluctuate on a monthly basis.

The Official Selling Price (OSP) for Oman Export Blend Crude Oil for June 2021 amounts to \$63.10 per barrel. The OSP, as published by the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry



of Energy and Minerals, is the benchmark price for Tethys Oil's monthly oil sales excluding trading and quality adjustments.

Tethys Oil AB, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Tethys Oil Block 3 & 4, has a 30 per cent interest in Blocks 3&4. Partners are

Mitsui E&P Middle East with 20 per cent and the operator CC Energy Development (Oman branch) holding the remaining 50 per cent.

Tethys Oil is a Swedish oil company with a focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries.

The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58.

Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P reserves of 26.9 mmb and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 13.9 mmb and had an average oil production of 11,336 barrels per day from Blocks 3&4 during 2020.

The company's shares are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm.

REPORT

5G roaming subscribers to surpass 200 million by 2026

BASINGSTOKE: A new Juniper Research study has found that the global number of roaming subscribers using 5G services will increase from 4.5 million in 2021 to 210 million in 2026.

As the international travel industry recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, it recommends that operators must now focus on increasing 5G roaming support to accommodate the future rise in demand for data when roaming over 5G networks.

The new research, 5G Roaming Strategies: Future Outlook, Opportunities & Market Forecasts 2021-2026, urges roaming vendors to develop 5G-enabled roaming features such as:

1. Roaming analytics
2. Sponsored roaming
3. Steering of roaming

These services will support the management of an increasing number of 5G roaming connections, the rise in demand for 5G roaming data, and help operators to maximise 5G roaming monetisation.

The report predicts that, as 5G roaming proliferates, vendor competition around the 5G-enabled roaming services mentioned above will intensify. Subscribers will expect comparable levels of bandwidth and latency when roaming over 5G to home network connectivity, and roaming vendors must accommodate this demand via value-added services.

The study projects that global roaming data traffic from 5G subscribers will increase from 2.6 PB in 2021 to 770 PB by 2026.

SECOND SET

CMA set to organise introductory workshops on XBRL from August

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) will conduct trial sessions in preparation for the launch of the XBRL portal for filing financial and non-financial information in August.

Thus CMA will organise the second set of introductory workshops on the XBRL from August 3-5 to ensure the representatives of the targeted companies are aware of the system and will be acquainted with detailed knowledge on how to enter and file the data and reports.

The workshops will be conducted for listed companies and funds who disclose their financial statements through the website of Muscat Stock Exchange, and insurance companies, brokers and reinsurance companies not listed on the stock exchange as well as the companies operating in the field of securities and investment funds who disclose their financial data through the CMA's portal. The workshops will be conducted via video conferencing.

XBRL is considered the standard language used globally for disclosure of both financial and non-financial information and data of the listed companies and funds, which would reflect positively on the standards of

XBRL portal would provide safe and fast technology for disclosure reports as it standardises the concepts of financial information and disclosure elements

transparency and efficiency of the financial markets and consequently enhancing the confidence of participants inside and outside Oman.

The XBRL portal would provide safe and fast technology for disclosure reports as it standardises the concepts of financial information and disclosure elements for easy access by all the parties to furnish accurate, reliable and timely financial information providing the ability to conduct the required comparison, studies and analysis in an efficient electronic way. XBRL transfers financial statements and data using IFRS Taxonomies and coding readable by both reader and computers for easy access to the information therein and to compare the contents.

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

National Gas, up 0.71 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminum Product, down 9.63 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,005.91 points, down 1.12 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.97 per cent at 582.05 points. National Gas, up 0.71 per cent, was the top gainer while National Aluminum Product, down 9.63 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman Investment & Financials were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 620 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.2 million, with more than 13.8 million shares changing hands. Out of 49 traded stocks, 1 advanced, 32 declined and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, local investors were net sellers for OMR60,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR54,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR6,000 worth of shares.

6,404.88 points, down by 1.12 per cent. Prices of Global Investment Holding, Oman & Qatar Insurance, Oman Arab Bank, United Finance and Al Sharqia Investment were down 4.29 per cent, 4.14 per cent, 3.65 per cent, 3.51 per cent and 2.91 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,741.61 points, down 1.22 per cent. Prices of National Aluminum Product, Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy and Oman Cement were down 9.63 per cent, 3.80 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.90 per cent and 2.04 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 1.12 per cent before closing at 1,707.86 points. The price of National Gas was up 0.71 per cent while Phoenix Power, Renaissance Services, Sohar Power, Ooredoo and Al Jazeera Services were down 4.26 per cent, 3.21 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 2.01 per cent and 2.00 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

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EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,051.22	4,005.91	4,005.91	4,051.09	-45.18	-1.12
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,478.13	6,404.88	6,404.88	6,478.13	-73.25	-1.12
Industry Index	5,405.04	5,741.61	5,741.61	5,812.72	-71.11	-1.23
Services Index	1,729.30	1,707.86	1,707.86	1,727.31	-19.45	-1.13
MSX Shariah Index	586.60	582.06	582.06	587.74	-5.68	-0.97
MSX TR INDEX	4,864.65	4,810.24	4,810.24	4,864.49	-54.26	-1.12

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
13,827,590.....	3,270,974.....	620	21,527,608,745.....	1	32	16	49

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JULY 26

IDN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (R)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PERV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000000116	NATIONAL GAS	266,650	37,927	23	0.143	0.144	0.138	0.142	0.141	0.001	0.709	0.138	0.138		0.138	0.100 12,070,000
OM0000000187	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	4,873	1,959	2	0.402	0.402	0.402	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.402	0.402	0.402	0.402	0.100 42,000,000
OM0000000155	OMAN INVSFT FIN	2,645,100	357,038	59	0.119	0.119	0.127	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.127	0.127	0.128	0.128	0.100 30,000,000
OM0000000137	AL WAKAT	1,800	565	1	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.000	0.014	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.314	0.100 3,540,510
OM0000000189	MUSCAT FINANCE	462,809	28,058	24	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.100 17,875,926
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	14,000	5,488	3	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.000	0.000	0.392	0.392	0.410	0.410	0.100 48,860,000
OM0000000026	OMAN STEEL	173,214	135,042	17	0.730	0.730	0.776	0.780	0.780	0.000	0.000	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.100 585,000,000
OM00000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	83,067	38,211	7	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.464	0.464	0.004	-0.862	0.460	0.460	0.470	0.470	0.100 150,000,000
OM00000002796	BANK MUSCAT	422,283	190,713	28	0.458	0.458	0.448	0.452	0.458	-0.006	-1.300	0.448	0.442	0.450	0.450	0.100 1,615,626,000
OM00000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	80,180	91,927	32	0.115	0.115	0.113	0.115	0.117	-0.002	-1.709	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.100 23,000,000
OM00000002200	AHI BANK	771,250	82,057	18	0.108	0.108	0.103	0.106	0.108	-0.002	-1.852	0.107	0.107	0.112	0.112	0.100 266,863,891
OM00000002235	AL JAZEERA SERVICES	174,190	89,229	19	0.390	0.390	0.392	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.392	0.392	0.410	0.410	0.100 23,960,775
OM00000003968	OOREDOO	439,590	192,954	27	0.392	0.394	0.388	0.390	0.398	-0.008	-2.010	0.390	0.390	0.400	0.400	0.100 253,868,250
OM00000000055	ALMAHA CERAMICS	9,186	3,587	5	0.392	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.398	-0.008	-2.010	0.390	0.390	0.392	0.392	0.100 214,400,000
OM00000001749	OMAN CEMENT	347,900	83,303	10	0.242	0.242	0.240	0.240	0.245	-0.005	-2.041	0.240	0.238	0.240	0.240	0.100 749,450,450
OM00000003386	SOLAR CEMENT	680,000	63,292	9	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.092	0.092	0.096	0.096	0.100 42,000,000
OM00000006920	VISION INSURANCE	20,000	1,600	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.082	-0.002	-2.439	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.080	0.100 8,000,000
OM00000004440	AL SHARQIA INV.	337,000	33,711	28	0.102	0.102	0.099	0.100	0.103	-0.003	-2.913	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100 9,000,000
OM00000003224	RENAISSANCE SEC	693,500	293,320	17	0.438	0.438	0.420	0.432	0.438	-0.014	-3.211	0.420	0.420	0.434	0.434	0.100 96,765,020
OM00000004116	RAVUST CEMENT	445,570	116,572	9	0.262	0.268	0.260	0.261	0.270	-0.009	-3.333	0.261	0.260	0.261	0.261	0.100 52,200,000
Total		20			8,848,762	1,805,732		376								

Parallel Markets

OM0000001186	NATIONAL BISCUIT	7	28	1	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	0.000	0.000	3.960	3.960	0.000	1.000	3.960.000
OM0000001898	SALAHAL MILLS	5.000	4.040	1	0.808	0.808	0.808	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.808	0.808	0.000	1.000	39.970.451
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MNR	5.000	4.640	1	0.928	0.928	0.928	0.924	0.924	0.000	0.000	0.928	0.928	0.000	1.000	37.750.000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAI	250.000	31.450	3	0.126	0.126	0.125	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.116	0.000	1.000	87.540.281
OM0000002600	OMAN OIL & MARKETING	15.000	14.100	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.040	0.000	1.000	0.048.000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCOR SALAHAL	31.000	2.573	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.000	1.000	7.229.472
OM0000006912	ALIAH INSURANCE	5.000	1.650	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.300	0.000	1.000	33.000.000
OM0000007410	OMAN PETRO	30.000	2.790	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.000.000
OM0000007407	DHOFAI GENERATING	120.500	15.288	16	0.129	0.129	0.125	0.127	0.128	-0.001	-0.781	0.125	0.125	0.000	1.000	28.224.480
OM0000001517	HSDC BANK OMAN	81.000	9.015	3	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.100	0.098	0.000	1.000	188.030.000
OM0000004420	BANK OF OZCW	100.000	8.800	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.000.000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	39.912	3.273	3	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.081	0.000	1.000	20.794.280
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	76.400	4.126	5	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.055	-0.001	-1.818	0.054	0.054	0.000	1.000	35.877.942
OM0000004805	ALBANDAR POWER	390.000	10.885	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.054	0.000	1.000	10.885.000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	1.873.827	195.181	67	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.104	0.000	1.000	18.200.000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	113.500	10.896	5	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	-0.002	-2.041	0.098	0.094	0.000	1.000	9.600.000
OM0000003071	SOHAR POWER	18.510	7.26	4	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.044	0.044	0.000	1.000	9.724.440
OM0000003075	OMAN EMILITES HOV	18.000	2.639	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.000.000
OM0000003661	VOLENT ENERGY	65.001	8.710	2	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.138	-0.004	-2.899	0.134	0.126	0.000	1.000	10.907.969
OM0000003274	UNITED FINANCE	205.400	11.343	16	0.057	0.057	0.055	0.055	0.057	-0.002	-3.509	0.055	0.053	0.000	1.000	19.202.343
OM0000003592	OMAN ARAB BANK	5.171	95.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.185	0.000	1.000	95.185.000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	370.400	28.186	17	0.079	0.079	0.075	0.075	0.078	-0.003	-3.979	0.076	0.076	0.000	1.000	15.426.870
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	100.000	16.200	2	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.169	-0.007	-4.144	0.162	0.162	0.000	1.000	16.200.000
OM0000005463	AMALGAMAL	7.000	6.577	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.000	1.000	6.577.000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	380.500	17.123	13	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	0.047	-0.002	-4.255	0.045	0.045	0.000	1.000	65.817.000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	612.903	41.332	36	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.070	-0.003	-4.296	0.067	0.066	0.000	1.000	134.000.000
OM0000003139	ALUMINIUM PRO	76.300	3.321	9	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.122	0.135	-0.013	-9.690	0.122	0.123	0.000	1.000	4.095.000
Total			4.973.331	464.874	240											

ECONOMIC CONTRACTIONS

Pandemic debt impact varies widely across Asia Pacific sovereigns: Fitch

HONG KONG: Pandemic-induced fiscal responses and economic contractions have led to a sharp rise in public debt among rated sovereigns in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region but there is significant variation between individual sovereigns' perfor-

mance, according to Fitch Ratings.

Healthcare expenditures among APAC sovereigns have increased and to varying degrees authorities have spent heavily to mitigate the shock to household and corporate balance sheets associated with the

crisis on measures ranging from furlough schemes to stimulus payments. Fitch said revenues have meanwhile been hit by the pandemic-driven drop in economic activity along with temporary tax cuts and deferrals. **-ANI**

NATIONAL LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE

National Life to provide motor insurance at Omantel self-service machines

MUSCAT: As part of digital transformation and introducing the latest digital technologies to insurance, National Life and General Insurance Co. (NLGIC) has tied up with Omantel to provide motor insurance through Omantel self-service machines (kiosks) at various locations across Oman.

Omantel is the topmost telecom company and NLG -the market leader and largest insurance company in Oman is also the number 1 in motor insurance based on total premium in 2020.

This collaboration between the top companies in their respective sectors has been very well appreciated and is a pioneering step in providing collaborative technological solutions for adding value and provide better customer service. This is being viewed as a significant step in the insurance industry as such.

“We are constantly working upon enhancing our digital capabilities to provide ease and



simplicity for our customers to get insurance. NLGIC has a long-standing relationship with Omantel and we are together going to the next level with this partnership and leveraging our technological capabilities for enhancing customer service by providing easy, simple round the clock, 24 x 7 insurance solutions," said S. Venkateshram, CEO, NLG.

Currently, this tie-up aims to provide insurance through Omantel kiosks at 15 locations across Oman wherein the cus-

tomers can get motor insurance. Customers can visit these kiosks and get a motor insurance quote, make payment and get a policy instantly. Especially in the current pandemic situation, this facility would help customers to visit any kiosk at their convenient time and get motor insurance.

Going forward both the companies are looking at working together to expand this facility to more locations across Oman and also look at enhancing product range offerings through kiosks.

INDIAN BANKS

Asset risk trends for emerging market banks to diverge: Moody's

SINGAPORE: Indian banks will benefit from their conservative underwriting ahead of the pandemic, Moody's Investors Service said in its latest credit outlook report released on Monday.

However, the severe second coronavirus outbreak in India will delay expected asset quality improvements keeping banks' asset risk stable. Moody's said the problem loans to gross loans will remain unchanged in China and increase by 90 basis points in Chile and India. Banks in China and Chile have high problem loans coverage of 184 per cent and 218 per cent respectively.

Loan performance will diverge widely across emerging markets as some countries struggle with new variants of coronavirus while others rebound. The crisis is proving longer-lived than expected in many parts of the emerging world and economic recovery will be uneven across countries and sectors. Pandemic-induced business disruption will leave many borrowers struggling to keep up with loan repayments, particularly as government and central bank support measures unwind this year.

Moody's said it has identified asset risk trends across 13 of the largest emerging market banking systems. **-ANI**




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Contact 96998665, 79744741.
Email roychancres55@gmail.com

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Indian, MBA Finance with 14 + years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 99510161
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Contact 97002240

IT

Female, MCA, Working as software professional in MNC, seeking suitable job. On a visit. Contact 78037607

MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL

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

SALES/MARKETING

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

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

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Contact.95752101

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Email: jamal_rangun@yahoo.com

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

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Email: pvmami_2006@yahoo.com

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Please contact - 78022980

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Contact on Tel : 95803522

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Contact 79848875

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Email: taranrajpal@gmail.com

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with 20 yrs+ experience seeks suitable placement

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Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTANT

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Contact: 96774266
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ROUND-UP

MG cars now available with reasonable EMIs

Adventure, lively and capable - the MG 5 is one of the most exciting sedans around

MUSCAT: The British-born MG Motor has come up with irresistibly low EMI options on some of its leading models. Until the end of August, MG Motor Oman customers can own the lively and capable MG5 sedan at starting EMI of OMR 62 only.

If they are looking at SUV options, the dynamic and reliable MG HS is available for EMI of OMR 130 and the bold seven-seater MG RX8 can be owned for OMR 155 only. With such competitive prices, the car aficionados can look forward to enjoying class-leading performances, top inline features and the



Do More experiences offered by the vehicles of this historic brand.

A senior spokesperson of MHD – the exclusive distributors of the MG Motor vehicles in Oman – opines, “We are thrilled to be offering some of our leading models at such a price range. MG5, MG HS and MG RX8 are stylish, exceptionally well-equipped and great value cars. They are equipped with 5-star safety features and the finest automotive technology available. Our endeavour is to bring the best of products and services to

our customers and our customers also look forward to being a part of the MG family.”

Adventure, lively and capable - the MG 5 is one of the most exciting sedans around. Whether for work or pleasure, you can be confident that the vehicle is always looking to do more to excite, with the three trim levels - STD, COM, and DEL for superior performance. Embracing the design concept of X-Motion, the dynamic MG HS is reliable and fun to drive, with some of the best technology

providing a fully engaging motor-ing experience and a sense of adventure. It is equipped with 2.0L high-efficiency Turbo Engine, best in class panoramic sunroof, 5-star EURO NCAP safety and Super-Sport and Eco driving modes. The seven-seater MG RX8 is a bold and capable SUV built to be noticed. The vehicle provides incredible style with off-road capability and luxurious comfort. All these cars come with a best-in-region manufacturer warranty of six years or 200,000km.

COOPERATION

Zubair SEC, FAO conduct consultative meeting

MUSCAT: In line with enhancing cooperation between both parties, the Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations held a consultative meeting to discuss aspects of their cooperation.

The meeting sought to enhance the capabilities of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) active in the fields of agriculture and food industries, entrepreneurship, and administration and finance.

The meeting was attended by Nora Ourabah Haddad, FAO representative in Oman and Said Salim Al Sahib, Director of Zubair SEC, alongside the presence of advisors from both parties.

Each entity expressed their satisfaction regarding the level of co-operation that currently exists and the proposed initiatives to enhance food security in the Sultanate. The role played by Zubair SEC to support the directions of the FAO in this regard was also highlighted.

During the session, several key themes were reviewed including topics related to the sustainability of food ecosystems in Oman, methods to strengthen relations and establish channels of commu-

nication between various sectors in the fields of agriculture and food industries and working on developing programmes to support the role of small enterprises in the agricultural and fisheries sector.

Commenting on the meeting, Nora Ourabah Haddad said, “SMEs active in the food sector, along with associations of farmers and fishermen and other similar entities, are active contributors to the sustainable development of food ecosystems. They are considered vital stakeholders across the value chain in the Sultanate.”

“We consider Zubair SEC as a strategic partner. We continuously and effectively communicate with them on programmes and activities that support small farmers and small enterprises, working together to achieve food security and sustainable development goals. We look forward to furthering partnerships and towards enhancing this fruitful cooperation during the upcoming period,” she added.

From his side, Said Al Sahib said, “Since its establishment, Zubair SEC has aligned itself with the objectives of the Oman Vision and the national strategy for sustainable development. The Center always

focuses its efforts to enhance its economic and social impact sustainably. In this context, the importance of food security is a key area that we can work on to enhance the presence of small enterprises within this significant sector.”

Working hand-in-hand

“We are proud of our cooperation with FAO to empower small enterprises and small farmers to enhance their performance and increase their contribution to the national GDP. In addition, we work hand-in-hand to discover potential opportunities in the respective sector and identify the challenges facing its workers at every stage of production. This way, we are in line with the Sultanate’s national approach aimed at raising the level of food security and sustainability. We are keen to work with all the stakeholders who were a part of this discussion, to follow up and implement the recommendations that were made during the consultative meeting. Moreover, through the study presented by the Center, we can collectively empower and activate the role of these institutions across various supply chains. We also look forward to the contin-

uation of this robust cooperation between both of our entities, especially within the new programmes and initiatives,” he added.

Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) is one of the most important initiatives emanating from the strategic vision of the ‘Zubair Corporation’ for its social responsibility, which reflects the corporation’s belief in the importance of small enterprises in advancing the national economy and contributing to sustainable economic and social development. Established in 2013, Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (Zubair SEC) is a professional body that capitalises on its high professionalism, diversified offered knowledge, a wide range of accumulated expertise and its own global and local network and strategic partners. The Centre provides a wide range of services which include clinical solution-based advisory, capacity building, networking platforms, business development, and a yearly programme that selects ten winners who receive a financial grant, as well as intensive advisory services, branding, packaging, product stabilisation, as well as business development.

CELEBRATION

INFINITI Oman conveys warm wishes for Eid Al Adha



MUSCAT: INFINITI Oman has extended greetings to its customers and members of the community on the occasion of Eid Al Adha, one of the most important festivals in the Islamic calendar

A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman, said, “We hope this festival brings health, peace, harmony, and happiness in the lives of all our customers and community. We wish everyone a jubilant celebration while following the precautionary pandemic guidelines issued by the public health authorities.”

He added, “This Eid Al Adha we would like to reiterate Infiniti Oman will remain committed to providing premium vehicles and quality service to its customers Delivering a truly exceptional luxury experience – from the moment a customer walks in the door, throughout the entire ownership cycle – is our top priority. We take this opportunity to convey our deep gratitude and appreciation to our customers for their dedication to the brand.”

QITAF DRAW



Ahli Islamic conducts 2nd quarterly draw rewarding prizes worth OMR100,000

MUSCAT: Ahli Islamic has celebrated the opening of its new branch in the Wilayat of Al Amerat, by conducting its second quarterly Qitaf prize draw, and rewarding one lucky customer.

Qitaf is ahli Islamic’s popular Sharia-compliant Prize draw account, that offers a host of benefits and savings products to those looking for financial services under the Mudharba principles. The draw was held on Wednesday, July 7, under the auspices of Sheikh Mohammed bin Humaid Al Ghabshi, Wali of Al Amerat, and the presence of a limited number of bank officials and limited invitees, taking all precautionary measures under the current circumstances.

The event was streamed live on the bank’s official social media pages. Munira Hamood Al Battashi, Branch Manager of Al Amerat branch, delivered a speech in which she spoke about the many benefits of Qitaf prize scheme and welcomed all guests and audience of the event held at the new Ahli Islamic branch in Al Amerat.

The bank is always committed to providing outstanding offers and services to customers, and to rewarding them for their loyalty. During the event, the bank announced the lucky winner of the second quarterly Qitaf draw, wherein Fatema Al-Wardi of the Bahla branch walked away with a cash prize worth OMR100,000.

Yousuf bin Salim Al Rawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of Ahli Islamic, said, “We recognise the importance of continuous innovation in our Sharia-compliant products, and in making these available to the people of Oman. We are pleased to open our 14th branch in Al Amerat, which reflects our undeterred network expansion approach that contributes to the bank’s larger objective of bringing banking closer to our customers. Our strategic growth initiatives for Ahli Islamic further the bank’s reach to far-flung areas of the country, offering comfort and accessibility to them. Today, our bumper quarterly Qitaf draw doubled the celebrations of the opening of the new branch in Al Amerat.”

GOING DIGITAL

Al Ahlia Insurance launches new online motor insurance platform

MUSCAT: Continuing its commitment to digital excellence, Al Ahlia Insurance Company has launched its online motor insurance platform, which is set to simplify the way people conduct everyday business and make purchasing or renewing your insurance policy simple.

Introduced on the heels of its renewed purpose - captured in the tagline “Together, we go further” - Al Ahlia recently unveiled the latest addition to its digital bouquet in an online ceremony.

Highlighting the significance of this new platform, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of Al Ahlia, pointed out that it fulfils the need of the hour, as the ongoing pandemic has placed the onus on companies to stay ahead of the game through digitisation. “On-going digital transformation has set the tone for both old and new companies around the world. And as is perceptible, traditional retail modules have, for a while, been disrupted by the advent of digital technology. Although the pandemic has brought along its own social and economic challenges, it has, in a way, orchestrated the demand for digitisation. It has not only thrown the spotlight on the importance of digital adoption and augmentation, but it has also bolstered confidence among customers in Oman to adopt digital as a safe and convenient option,” he stated.

Speaking to media personnel on the occasion, Praveen Kumar, CEO of Al Ahlia, stated that the

PROGRAMME



OAB conducts virtual graduation of ‘LEAD 3’

MUSCAT: OAB recently celebrated the graduation of the third cohort of the ‘LEAD 3’ programme under the patronage of Sheikh Nasr bin Amer Al Hosani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour.

The graduation ceremony was held via an online platform, where graduates were presented with their graduation certificates. The ceremony was attended by Rashad Mohammad Al Zubair, Chairman of OAB, Rashad Ali Al Musafir, CEO of the bank and saw the presence of several executive members and guests.

Commenting on the graduation ceremony, Rashad Al Musafir noted, “Today’s celebration of the ‘LEAD 3’ graduation is a testimony of OAB’s commitment to empowering its employees to become future leaders. The previous LEAD graduates have assumed management and leadership positions across various departments and divisions of the bank. Today, they are joined by their colleagues and have been prepared to be leaders, within each of their respective fields. This approach affirms our long-term vision to localise knowledge resources and provide opportunities for national talent to take charge of the future.”

On behalf of LEAD 3 graduates, Maytham Al Zadjali said, “It was an exceptional opportunity for each of us to develop and enhance our skills and knowledge, as well as to apply it practically. I am confident that all our learnings will contribute towards delivering a positive impact on the overall experience that Oman Arab Bank is keen to extend to all its customers across the Sultanate. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the OAB management for giving us this great opportunity that will reflect positively on every stage of our career.”

Ayman Al Shehi, representative of the HRD, the supervisor of the programme said, “On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Executive Management of Oman Arab

Bank, I would like to congratulate each of the 20 graduates of LEAD 3 programme Together with the graduates of previous cohorts, they form an integral and efficient part of human resources division that is core within the banking sector. On behalf of the Human Resources Division, I wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them assume new responsibilities in their new roles.”

The LEAD Programme provides a great opportunity for the Bank’s employees to demonstrate their leadership capabilities and their willingness to take on greater positions and responsibilities within the executive management hierarchy. Each candidate is selected based on the employee ratings within the bank, through which the most talented Bank employees are identified. They are then accepted into the programme after undergoing a comprehensive 360-degree programme in addition to a special questionnaire on strengths and how to enhance them. In the first module, participants join a workshop on socialisation, which qualifies them to work with some of the best motivational experts in Oman who specialise in leadership development. This will ultimately improve their leadership skills and behaviours that will ensure the development of leadership qualities in the years to come.

The ‘LEAD’ programme has been designed in cooperation with Inspirational Development Group (IDG) and is facilitated by a team from IDG, globally renowned leadership and management performance consultancy. The company has channelled its long history of experience delivering high-quality and intensive work programmes to some of the most prestigious organisations in the world. Closely affiliated with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, IDG has worked with some of the most important public and private sector companies in the region from its Middle East office based in Muscat.

ROUND-UP



FOTON AUMAN - MEDIUM DUTY TRUCK

NOW AVAILABLE TO ACCELERATE BUSINESS



Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck boasts of a 6.7 litre engine with 245 horsepower. Its Cummins engine features high burst pressure and strong power, with the maximum power output at 210ps and the power per litre in excess of 34kW/L

MUSCAT: Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck, which is known for its legendary performance, reliability and durability, is now available on a low EMI rate of OMR425 for six years. The offer is inclusive of the five per cent value added tax (VAT).

A spokesperson for GGS said, “We are pleased to offer low EMI on Auman EST-M which is powered by the latest generation Cummins ISDe 245 30 engine, which provides 245 hp@ 2500 rpm and 950Nm of torque. Turbocharged and intercooled, this engine provides the Auman with a premium powertrain that is not normally found on medium-duty trucks. It has an eight-speed manual transmission.”

Foton Auman Medium Duty Truck boasts of a 6.7 litre engine with 245 horsepower. Its Cummins engine features high burst pressure and strong power, with the maximum power output at 210ps and the power per litre in excess of 34kW/L. This 1,000,000km overhaul-free engine is manufactured strictly in accordance with the Cummins global quality system and manufacturing standard and passed the 2,000,000km stringent road reliability and du-



reability test. The vehicle took the lead to pass the stringent German DEKRA test, with the accumulative test mileage.

A medium-duty truck that looks and feels like a heavy-duty truck, the Auman EST-M has a road presence that other trucks aspire to. The Auman EST-M is much more than a good looking truck with a Cummins engine; it incorporates the latest design and technology, providing a distinct and refined driving experience.

Specification
Cab Type-Single Cab; Driving System-4x2, Chassis Dimension (LxWxH) mm: 8560 x 2468 x 2780, Wheel Base mm: 4800; Engine -Model: Cummins ISDe 245 30, Type: In-line, Four-cylinder, Water Cooling, Four-stroke, DI, Turbocharging, Intercooling, Diesel Engine, Displacement (cc): 6700,

Max. Output: 245 hp @2500 rpm, Max. Torque (Nm/rpm): 950; Transmission - Model: Fast 8 MT, Safety: ABS; Fuel Tank Capacity: 200 LT; Comfort- Windows: Power, Aided Driving: Reverse Parking Sensor, Media Equipment: Radio FM/AM/ MP3/ USB/ Bluetooth, Driver Seat: Air Suspended; Tyre -Size: 22.5 inch and Quantity: 6 + 1.

Gulf Great Sands and Foton
Partnering with Foton Motor Group, one of the world's largest manufacturers of commercial vehicles, Gulf Great Sands (GGS) recently launched a full range of commercial vehicles in Oman. Through this exclusive distribution partnership, Gulf Great Sands has commenced the supply of a range of Foton's commercial vehicles in Oman including the Foton Aumark - Light Duty Trucks, Medium Duty Trucks, Pickups, Mini-

buses, Panel vans, and SUVs.

A global automotive legend with an extensive history, world-class rankings and impressive joint ventures with internationally reputed companies, Foton has successfully positioned itself as a comprehensive commercial vehicle manufacturer. Gulf Great Sands (GGS) is a part of the Bahwan International Group (BIG), an exclusive distributor for many reputed international automotive brands in Oman.

Cumulative sales volume of 9 million vehicles since inception: With a business scope covering a full series of commercial vehicles, Foton has a record of an accumulative production and sales volume of approximately 9 million vehicles since being established in 1996.

With a brand value that has been evaluated as about US\$ 16.6 billion, Foton has been ranked num-

ber one for 13 consecutive years in China's commercial vehicle arena.

Foton, which has a partnership with Daimler of Germany, ZF and Cummins of USA, is eyeing a significant share of the Oman market through this partnership. Daimler provides technology supremacy in Medium and Heavy-duty Trucks. Cummins Diesel Engines are renowned for their longevity, performance and economy.

Foton is also partnered by Getrag (Germany), Aisin (Japan) and BorgWarner (USA) for transmissions, Bosch (Germany) for electronics and Dana (USA) for axles and differentials.

Foton products and services are available in 110 countries all over the world. Foton has five major warehouses internationally, including a regional parts centre in Dubai. Foton has joined hands with several well-known worldwide en-

terprises such as Cummins, ZF, CEVA Logistics, Faurecia, Wabco, Continental Electron, TUV Rheinland and others to establish “Foton Global Innovating Alliance”, aiming to make breakthroughs in science and technology, and produce energy-saving, environmentally friendly and intelligently interconnected automobile products.

- Drive Your Business with Foton
- No. 1 commercial vehicle brand in China for the last 13 years
- Exports of commercial vehicles from China for the last 6 years
- 9 million vehicles sold worldwide
- Present in over 110 countries
- Fortune 200 company
- Strategic Alliance Daimler, Cummins and ZF
- World's leading technology partners
- Regional parts centre in Dubai
- Strong local partner - Gulf Great Sands part of BIG.

Foton models in Oman
Foton Aumark Light Duty Truck (3.8L Turbo Diesel Engine); Foton Tunland Pickup (D/cab 2.0L Turbo Engine 4WD; 2.4L DC 2WD; 2.4L Pickup SC 2WD, All Gasoline only); Cargo/Panel Van and Minibus (Cargo Van Wide Body & Narrow Body 2-seater, Mini Bus Wide & Narrow Body 13/ 10-seater) and Foton Sauvana SUV (2.0L Turbo, 4WD, 7-Seater)

Gulf Great Sands has a state-of-art service centre in Ghala, Muscat, spread over more than 2900 square meters to provide after-sales services to customers. GGS has already tied up for Periodic Maintenance Services in key cities including Salalah and Sohar.



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