

HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh of Mongolia in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable on his country's National Day. In the cable, President Khurelsukh expressed his utmost appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan's greetings. He wished His Majesty good health and the Omani people further progress and prosperity. -**ONA**



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF SINGAPORE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Halimah Yacob of the Republic of Singapore on her country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Halimah and the friendly people of Singapore. -**ONA**



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NEW HIJRI YEAR

HM exchanges New Hijri Year greetings with world leaders

MUSCAT: On the advent of the New Hijri Year and the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) Hijra, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has exchanged greetings cables with leaders of the sisterly and friendly Arab and Muslim countries.

In his cables, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life for the leaders, praying to Allah the Almighty for the return of this blessed occasion on them and make the New Year, a year of peace and security for all peoples and achieve for the Islamic nation further progress, welfare and prosperity.

In their cables to the country's Monarch, the leaders of the sisterly



and friendly countries expressed their sincere greetings and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty the Sultan, praying to Allah the Almighty for the return of this blessed occasion on His Majesty for many years to come to achieve all aspirations of further progress, welfare and prosperity for his faithful people and all Muslims further welfare and blessings.

His Majesty the Sultan exchanged greetings on this occasion with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, King Hamad bin Issa al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Sheikh Tamim

bin Hamad al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir al-Sabah, Emir of State of Kuwait, King Abdallah II Ibn al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, President Kais Saied of the Republic of Tunisia, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Head of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, President Dr. Bashar al-Assad of the Syrian Arab Republic, President Mohamed Abdullahi Farnajo of the Federal Republic of Somalia, President Dr. Barham Ahmed Salih of the Republic of Iraq, President Mahmoud Abbas

of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Palestine Liberation Organisation, President Othman Ghazali of the Union of the Comoros, Dr. Mohamed al-Menfi, Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Field Marshal Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, Sultan Abdullah Ahmad Shah, King of Malaysia, President Dr. Ilham Heydar Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Dr. Mohammed Ashraf Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. >**A6**

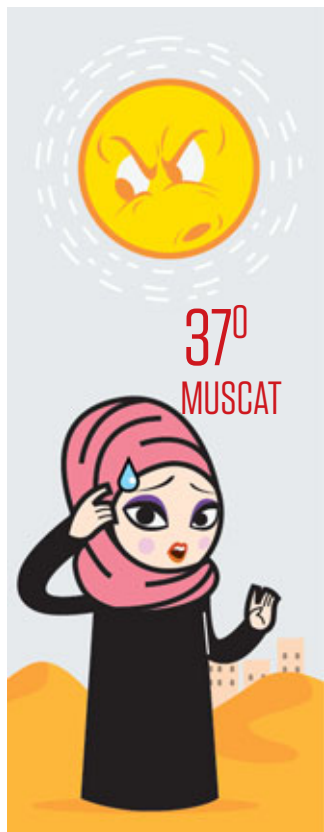
MUHARRAM

Hijri New Year holiday on Tuesday

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs announced that the moon of the month of Muharram 1443 AH was not sighted on Sunday and hence Monday will be the complementary day for the month of Dhul Hijja (30 Dhul Hijja 1442).

The Ministry said that Tuesday, tomorrow, would be 1 Muharram 1443 AH, corresponding to 10 August 2021, and will be marked as a holiday.

- ONA



Besides creating more jobs, crowdfunding products will enhance economic development and financial inclusion

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's first crowdfunding platform, which is likely to be licenced by the end of this year, will spur the economy forward and lead to the creation of more jobs.

The Capital Market Author-

ity (CMA) has approved the legislation required to set up crowdfunding platforms in the country, the body's Board of Directors said.

"These platforms are innovative financing instruments and financial techs enabling entrepreneurs, micro, and small and

medium enterprises (SMEs) to get more appropriate financing mechanisms," the CMA said in a statement. The board emphasised the importance of launching such products as financing options for SMEs in Oman to enhance economic development, creation of jobs and financial inclusion.

It is worth noting that crowdfunding platform regulations are in their final stages of preparation.

"The CMA will take into consideration, in setting out the rules, that they will not be transformed into lending institutions in the conventional sense and will post them for consultation

and feedback from the public," the statement said.

CMA's endeavours to launch and regulate crowdfunding platforms in Oman come from the government's efforts to provide financing facilities for SMEs and micro projects. It will also help in overcoming one of the key challenges facing the projects.

This includes among others, the banking sector's reluctance to fund such projects due to related risks and lack of proper guarantees to convince the banks to grant funding facilities beside the impact of the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic on the banking sector and the liquidity crunch. >**A6**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN 2022 FIFA World Cup packages soon

1 Football fans in Oman who want to travel to Qatar for next year's FIFA World Cup will be able to book travel packages later this year, when they go on sale. The packages include official match tickets, return tickets with the airline, and accommodation, a Qatar Airways senior official told *Times of Oman*. >**A4**

WORLD Thousands flee Greek island blaze

2 Thousands have fled their homes on the Greek Island of Evia as wildfires continued to rage uncontrolled on Sunday for a sixth day. While fires that had posed a risk to the northern suburbs of Athens in the last few days appeared to have died back, the inferno in Evia quickly spread into several fronts. >**A7**

MARKET Network marketing ban will curb fraud

3 The decision to ban selling, advertising, or promotion of goods and services through network marketing schemes will significantly help in limiting commercial fraud, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) said on Sunday. >**B1**

ENVIRONMENT

Blue Tiger Butterfly returns to Oman after 37 years gap

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Much to the delight of nature lovers in Oman, the migratory Blue Tiger Butterfly (*Tirumala limniace*) has returned to the Sultanate for the second time after a gap of more than 37 years.

The presence of Blue Tiger Butterfly was monitored at four locations in the Sultanate between July and August of 2020, according to a study by Diwan of the Royal Court.

This butterfly is classified as the second butterfly in the family of Danaidae, which includes the Plain Tiger Butterfly, the only recorded species of this family in Oman.

"East-West Asia is known as one of the original habitats of this butterfly, as indicated by many scientific studies. It is also famous for its migration in groups in the Indian subcontinent," the study added.



A recent scientific paper documented the return of this butterfly from the province of Gujarat in the northwest of India. Its presence in the wild area of Oman indicates that it has moved through the waters of the Arabian Sea to land in the Sultanate on a journey during which it travelled approximately 1,300km.

The scientific paper mentioned that the Blue Tiger Butterfly visited the Sultanate for the first time in 1983 under similar circumstances.

The study explained: "This reinforced the idea of the impact of the climatic conditions at that time on the process of the but-

terfly movement towards Oman via the sea. We find this in

Larsen and Pedgley's paper (1985), which mentioned the first recording of this butterfly between August 12 and August 23, 1983 in several locations in Masirah Island and Abu Dhabi, after a storm that hit the Arabian Sea and the Sea of Oman, the effects of which reached most of the Omani coast and Masirah Island.

This is similar to the case when the Blue Tiger Butterfly was registered in 2020."

"At the end of May 2020, a strong storm passed on the coasts of Oman (which greatly affected the Dhofar Governorate) after passing through the coasts of the Indian subcontinent, followed by the monsoon winds at the beginning of July 2020. This refers to the possibility of the transmission of this butterfly through winds to the Sultanate of Oman." >**A6**



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PRICE BAIZAS 200

● Head of new cardiac unit talks to the 'Times'

A strict monitoring of heart-beats and prompt treatment which could save the lives of many people who suffer from heart attacks is the principal aim of the Intensive Coronary Care Unit set up at the Department of Cardiology at Al Nahda Hospital.

Dr. Abdulla bin Mohammad al Riyami, the senior consultant, who heads the departments, said this week that medical care of such patients must start from the place of the attack.

There are plans to introduce an ambulance service where a patient could be attended to before he is brought to the coronary care unit.

The doctor, who is the first Omani heart specialist says the first 30 minutes after a heart attack are crucial for a patient. About 20 to 25 per cent of the patients never reach the hospital.

by Muzaffar Mohammad

Describing the nature of heart illnesses and treatment available at the Cardiology Department, Dr. Abdalla said the first symptom of a heart attack is often pain in the chest.

But not all patients with chest pain have heart attacks. About 70 per cent of the patients admitted directly to the Coronary Care Unit will have had cardiac disease. A few of these will have had angina, not a heart attack.

Danger sign

Giving statistics collected during the first month of operation of the unit, Dr. Abdalla said that of 36 patients admitted, 14 suffered from heart attacks. There were 12 cases of angina while 10 patients had complaints which had nothing to do with cardiac problems.

The basic function of the Intensive Coronary Care Unit is to see the danger sign in the form of abnormal heartbeats, and treat the patient before this abnormal beat turns into the "quivering" of the heart called fibrillation.

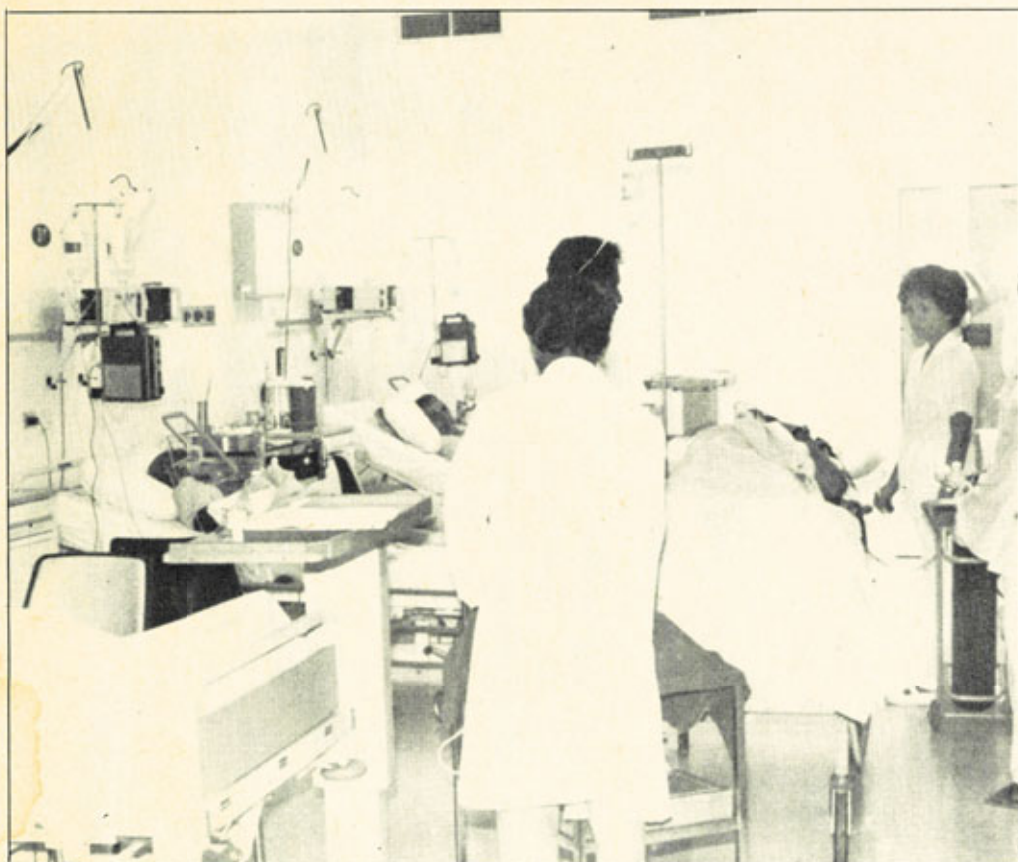
Dr. Abdalla said that while under intensive care, the patient's heartbeat is observed constantly and treatment is given to restore the normal rhythm. Drugs are given through intravenous injection and drips as well as through a special infusion pump which helps to control the dosage of the drug delivery.

In cases where "quivering" is observed, a defibrillator is used to give a shock on the chest in an attempt to restore normal rhythm.

This is a very crucial moment, says Dr. Abdalla, for the staff which should be well trained in prompt action before the patient's heart stops and brain damage results. So the use of the defibrillator is one of the major pieces of life saving equipment at the coronary unit.

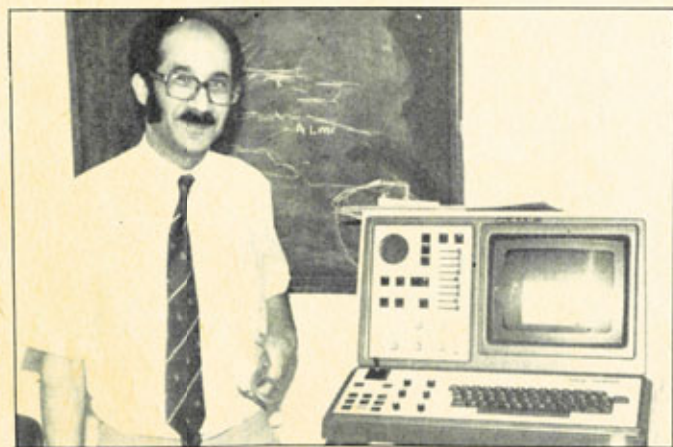
Medicine

After a three-day stay under intensive care the patient who does not show any sign of abnormal heartbeats, is transferred to a semi-intensive coronary care unit with a battery operated machine attached to his body. The machine is meant to record the heart beat for



The Intensive Coronary Care Unit.

Quick care for heart patients



The first Omani heart specialist, Dr. Abdulla bin Mohammad Riyami with an electro-cardiac machine.

24 hours. This machine is called a Holtameter.

The patients discharged from the hospital are still kept on medicine for at least six months to avoid any chance of re-occurrence of the heart attack which may cause sudden death.

Dr. Abdulla Riyami says people in the age group of 45 to 55 are prone to heart attacks. But among

the expatriate people there have been cases of heart attacks in younger age groups. He attributed this phenomena to a way of life characterised by habits such as smoking and that diets causing cholesterol build-up.

Among Omanis, the cases of heart attacks occur in older people who often also have hypertension and diabetes, Dr. Abdalla said.

'Holy Koran in every room' call to hotels

The Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Towns which met in Ankara recently has decided to ask the managements of big hotels in their cities to keep copies of the Holy Koran in every room.

The decision was one in a series to promote the Islamic religion and culture.

Oman was represented at the meeting by Essa bin Nasser bin Essa, Director General of Towns and Districts of the Municipality. He was accompanied by Abdalla bin Seif al Khalili, Director of Ruwi Municipality.

The Arab Towns Organisation at an earlier meeting had decided to advise hotels to show the direction of Qibla (the holiest Muslim shrine in Makkah) in every room.

The representatives of 42 Islamic towns also voted to allocate US \$570,000 to protect Islamic culture and heritage in Islamic cities.

The conference decided to grant membership status to the holy city of Madina in the Administrative Council, due to its religious significance.

The next meeting of the organisation will be in Cairo.

LATEST

Iraqi delegation arrives

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos received the Vice-President of the Iraq Revolutionary Commanding Council, Ezzat Ibrahim al Dawri who arrived in Salalah leading a delegation on a two-day visit. The Vice President brought a message from President Saddam Hussain.

The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of boosting them, the current situation in the Gulf and the latest developments in the Arab region.

The delegation was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence, Sayyid Fahr bin Taimur, Minister of Education and Youth Affairs Yahya bin Mahfudh al Manthary His Majesty's Adviser for Economic Planning Affairs Mohammed bin Zubair, first A.D.C. to His Majesty and President of the Palace Office Major General Ali bin Majid al Mamaari, Foreign Under-Secretary Saif bin Hamad al Battashi, Petroleum and Minerals Under-Secretary Salim bin Mohamed Shabaan and Communications Under-Secretary Salim bin Ahmed bin Khalfan al Burami and Deputy Wali of Dhofar Sheikh Mohamed Ali al Qatabi.

The Iraqi delegation includes Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid Ulwan, Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Abdul Rahim, Petroleum Under-Secretary Abdul Munim Hassan Ulwan and Iraqi Ambassador to Oman Mohamed Salim al Annaz.

The security forces in Sri Lanka have launched a big operation against separatist guerrillas in the northern state of Jaffna. They have imposed a new blackout and forbidden reporters to enter the area.

Naval gunboats have been used to shell what is described as terrorist hideouts and to destroy boats allegedly used to smuggle weapons and men from southern India.

Shipping has again come under attack in the Gulf after a break of about a month. A Greek oil tanker was hit by a missile after loading at Iran's oil terminal at Kharg Island, and caught fire. However, damage was slight and none of the crew was injured. The Iraqis say they were responsible.

Iran has praised those responsible for planting the mines which have damaged at least 12 ships in the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea.

Egypt has called on the help of Britain and the United States to clear the mines. The Americans have already sent out four helicopter mine-sweepers.

Your TV and radio programmes are on page 20.



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2022 FIFA WORLD CUP PACKAGES TO GO ON SALE BY END OF 2021

Qatar Airways has been flying to Oman since 2000, and the opening of the new office building in March 2019 marked a milestone in the airline's longstanding relationship.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Football fans in Oman who want to travel to Qatar for next year's FIFA World Cup will be able to book travel packages later this year, when they go on sale.

In an exclusive interview to Times of Oman, Ajay Jacob, the Qatar Airways Regional Manager for Oman, UAE, and the Caucasus, added that packages include official match tickets, return tickets with the airline, and accommodation.

Qatar Airways are an Official Partner and the Official Airline of FIFA. Further details on these packages will be shared closer to the end of the year.

During his interview, Jacob shed light on many operations concerning the airline, including their plans during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and new routes in the pipeline.

Having a long-standing relationship with Oman Air, Qatar Airways has recently strengthened it further by signing a new codeshare agreement. How is it going to impact both companies' operations?

Qatar Airways has been flying to Oman since 2000, and the opening of our new office building in March 2019 marked a milestone in our longstanding relationship. Being present on the ground allows us to better understand the market and be closer to our Omani customers.

Qatar Airways operates daily flights from Muscat and a weekly flight from Salalah, and connects passengers from Oman to more than 160 destinations across six continents via Hamad International Airport.

We have also recently expanded our strategic cooperation with Oman Air, who have been trusted allies for a long time, and strategic partners since December 2020. A new codeshare agreement we concluded in the end of May 2021 will offer Oman Air passengers an



FUTURE PLANS. Ajay Jacob, the Qatar Airways Regional Manager for Oman, UAE, and the Caucasus.

opportunity to book their travel to more than 80 destinations with Qatar Airways, including new gateways such as Atlanta, Abuja and Bodrum. The expansion of the agreement will provide more convenient and seamless travel options for both airlines' passengers.

Any plans of resuming flights to Sohar and Salalah?

We are currently operating 1 weekly flight from Salalah and daily flights from Muscat; we are also planning to increase frequency from Muscat and Salalah once the pandemic-related travel limitations are lifted.

After almost a year and a half of travel bans and the coronavirus still circulating across the globe, what are you doing to preserve travellers' onboard safety?

Qatar Airways has become the first global airline in the world to achieve the prestigious 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating by International air transport rating organisation, Skytrax. This follows Hamad International airport's recent success as the first airport in the Middle East and Asia to be awarded a Skytrax 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating.

Qatar Airways is also proud to have achieved Diamond Standard in the Airline Passenger Experience Association's (APEX) Health Safety Powered by SimpliFlying audit.

First in the world to operate the Honeywell's Ultraviolet (UV) Cabin System, Qatar Airways further advanced its hygiene measures onboard. We are now using the most advanced, 2.0 version of this cutting-edge solution.

Qatar Airways further increased its health and safety measures onboard by introducing

new personal protective equipment (PPE) for customers and cabin crew. Our aircrafts are regularly disinfected using cleaning products recommended by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Its aircrafts feature the most advanced air filtration systems, equipped with industrial-size HEPA filters that remove 99.97% of viral and bacterial contaminants from re-circulated air, providing the most effective protection against infection.

The linen and blankets offered onboard continue to be washed, dried, and pressed at microbial lethal temperatures, while its headsets are rigorously sanitised after each flight. These items are then sealed into individual packaging by staff wearing hygienic disposable gloves.

Cabin crew have received training on how to minimise their chances of contracting or spreading the infection, are thermally screened before the departure of flights and after their arrival and are quarantined and tested if any colleagues or passengers on a flight show any symptoms of infection or test positive for the virus.

Countries in Europe are fully prepared to welcome leisure travellers from the GCC. How does Qatar Airways make sure its passengers can travel with confidence, given the rapid manner in which situations can rapidly change right now?

At the onset of the current global pandemic, Qatar Airways focused on being flexible and in bringing customer centric policies and procedures to all travellers. As more and more people relied on Qatar Airways for international

travel than any other airline, we continued to ensure the safest and most reliable experience for our passengers and focused our efforts to resume flights to more destinations to help families get home, safely.

Furthermore, Qatar Airways' Privilege Club has extended its valued members' tier status in recognition that travel plans continue to be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic until December 31st, 2021.

Qatar Airways, in continuation with its Travel with Confidence policy, continues to offer all passengers unlimited date changes and free refunds for tickets issued before up to 31 August 2021 for travel completed by 31 May 2022.

For the student community, Qatar Airways has introduced the Students Club Programme powered by the airline's loyalty programme, Qatar Airways Privilege Club. Members of the Student Club can enjoy benefits, such as special fares on flights, extra baggage allowances, the flexibility to change the dates of their flight and complimentary Super Wifi onboard.

Students in full- and part-time education aged between 18 and 30 years are eligible to join and can enroll in the programme at www.qatarairways.com/StudentClub

Qatar Airways has paid out over USD \$2 billion in refunds to almost 600,000 passengers since March 2020, demonstrating its commitment to honouring its obligations to passengers who need to change their plans due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are now at the peak of summer travel season, and many GCC citizens and residents are looking to plan their summer escapes. Which holi-

day destinations are served by Qatar Airways?

Qatar Airways has marked a significant milestone in the rebound of international leisure travel with the resumption of four weekly flights to the famed holiday destination of Phuket, Thailand, starting 1 July.

In addition to its 12 weekly Bangkok flights, the airline will operate a total of 16 weekly flights to Thailand, providing seamless connectivity for its passengers travelling from Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

Furthermore, the key holiday destination of Málaga returned to Qatar Airways' route network as Spain began to ease travel restrictions for tourists. Málaga is a firm favourite with holidaymakers around the world, and fully vaccinated travellers will be able to visit once again whilst enjoying Qatar Airways' award-winning hospitality and service.

In May, Qatar Airways also resumed regular flights between Doha and Mykonos, marking the beginning of a new travel bubble between Qatar and Greece where fully vaccinated holidaymakers no longer need to quarantine on arrival. Qatar Airways has maintained the route to the Greek capital city Athens throughout the pandemic and the daily service is currently operated by a Boeing 787 aircraft. The Mykonos route is serviced by an A320 aircraft with 12 lie-flat seats in business and 120 seats in economy.

Qatar Airways was launching new routes even during the pandemic. Which destinations have you recently launched, and how popular are they?

The global pandemic has created unprecedented challenges

for the aviation industry. Despite this, Qatar Airways never ceased operations and worked diligently to take people home safely and reliably throughout the crisis.

The airline has also added eight new destinations in the past 12 months, including San Francisco and Seattle in the U.S., Abuja, Accra, Abidjan and Luanda in Africa, and Brisbane and Cebu in Asia Pacific. Qatar Airways continues to strengthen its position as the leading international airline connecting Oman with United States, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The airline is proud to announce that it will expand its U.S. services to more than 100 weekly flights across its 12 gateways.

Qatar Airways will operate double daily flights to four U.S. gateways – Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington D.C. and increase flights to Dallas-Fort Worth to 12 flights per week, Boston, Miami, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle all growing to a daily service from Doha.

These increased services are in addition to the carrier expanding flights to several of its key global leisure destinations, including Cape Town, Maldives, Phuket, Seychelles and Zanzibar, providing more flexible summer holiday travel options via the Best Airport in the Middle East, Hamad International Airport.

How many flights is Qatar Airways currently operating, and when does the company plan to go back to the full service?

Qatar Airways continues to rebuild its network, which currently stands at over 140 destinations across the globe. With more frequencies being added to key destinations, Qatar Airways offers unrivalled connectivity to passengers, making it easy for them to change their travel dates or destination as they need to.

Qatar Airways will operate over 1,200 weekly flights to more than 140 destinations by the peak of the IATA summer season as a leading global connector. Passengers can enjoy seamless connectivity via the Best Airport in the Middle East, Hamad International Airport with the widest network of destinations. This will include 27 destinations in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 42 in Asia-Pacific, 41 in Europe and 23 in the Middle East, with multiple cities served daily or even more frequently. Qatar Airways has recently added Zambia and Zimbabwe to its list of destinations in Africa to start operating in early August, bringing its award-winning service to two important southern African destinations.

The new service to Lusaka and onwards to Harare is scheduled to be operated with a Boeing 787 Dreamliner. With these two new routes, the carrier will operate over 100 weekly flights in Africa.



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TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable tourism development projects coming up in Musandam

MUSANDAM Governorate is rich in tourism, historic and archaeological elements, thanks to the nature and geological formation of the area. Musandam is also rich in water courses, wadis and its famous strait. All these attractions represent promising investment opportunities in the field of tourism.

Amna bint Khadim bin Ali Al Shahi, Director of Tourism Department in Musandam Governorate said that the coastal line in Musandam Governorate is one of the fascinating scenes in the Sultanate. Musandam Governorate has a unique location and topography, where the sea meets with the surrounding mountains. She said that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism accorded priority to development and sustainable tourism development projects, in accordance with the Sultanate's tourism and economic comprehensive development strategy in direct coordination and cooperation with the Implementation Follow-Up Unit of Oman Vision 2040.

"Musandam Governorate does not need just tourism industry but also to create a tourism experience capable of attracting investments and investors," she said adding that before the pandemic, Musandam used to attract some 200, 000 tourists every year, including some 50, 000 visitors to forts and castles. The number of visitors coming



via cruise vessels amounted to over 129, 000.

31 lands have been allocated for tourism investment, following the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on implementation of the decisions on development of Musandam Governorate, including establishment of economic and tourism areas for investment, she said.

The Governorate has ten hotel establishments with a total of 513 rooms, she said adding that "the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is working on increasing the number of resorts and hotels and has allocated ten lands for establishment of tourism projects and signed agreements for establishment of three hotels, two in the Wilayat of Barka and one in Mad'ha".

The projects to be established in Musandam included

the Adventure Centre Project by Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN), which has recently executed the first phase of the project of the slide wire for a total area of 1500 metres at a height of 250 metres, she said adding that "there is also the Visitors' Centre which would be established at Dibba heritage site, one of the historic sites recently discovered and which would be financed by OQ". She also pointed to the historic landmarks such as the four forts, a museum in the Wilayat of Madha and the tourism villages, which the private sector and the local community should invest in. She said that there are proposals for establishment of environment camps at the sites of Sahasih, Jabal Khanzour, Mahas, Roubiah, Ras Al A'ala, Al Khalidiyah, Old Ghub, Shaisah, Khour Najd and Hablin.



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Second Position

A.Rahul Govindarajan, ISG

Third Position

Liza Andrea D SA, ISM

VidushiJagnani, ISWK

CLASS XII - HUMANITIES STREAM

First Position

Anjali Unnithan, ISM

Second Position

Anushka Saha, ISM

Third Position

Snigdha Suresh, ISM

CLASS X - TOPPERS

Krithyaa Vijayanand, IS Sohar

Sudiksha Hemant Katkar, ISG

Aroshish Pradhan, ISG

Somya Parida, IS Seeb

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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN

< FROM **A1** New year greetings

His Majesty the Sultan also exchanged greetings on this occasion with President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia, President Dr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan, President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Dr. Arif Alvi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, President Mohammad Abdul Hamid of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov of the Republic of Turkmenistan, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey, President Samia Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania, President Ali Bongo Ondimba of the Gabonese Republic, President Adama Barrow of the Republic of Gambia, President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal, President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, President Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of the Republic of the Maldives, President Mohamed Bazoum of the Republic of Niger and President Muhammadu Buhari of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. -OMA

SCIENTIFIC PAPER

< FROM **A1** Blue Tiger Butterfly

The butterfly was recorded in Manah, Sinaw (Al-Wafi), Al-Rustaq (Wadi Bani Awf), and Wadi Bani Kharus.

The paper also indicated the presence of a group of host plants preferred by the Blue Tiger Butterfly, which differ from one place to another.

Nevertheless, the Shakhar or Apple Of Sodom (Calotropis procera) plant is the host for this butterfly in Oman, as it finds in the leaves of this tree suitable nutrition for its larvae.

Six subspecies

In addition, the scientific paper indicated that there are about six subspecies that fall under the name of the Blue Tiger Butterfly, which differ from one place to another, but the type recorded in Oman is Tirumala limniace exotica.

Life cycle of butterfly

The paper stated that this butterfly has a life cycle that lasts between 21 and 28 days and can extend up to 60 days for an adult insect.

However, there is a set of hypotheses that revolve around the inability of this butterfly to settle and reproduce in Oman, including hot weather and the presence of natural enemies that limit the butterfly's ability to survive for several generations.

And there are approximately 80 species of butterflies, which are an integral part of the biodiversity of the Sultanate.

Butterflies have an important role in human life, as they are considered pollinators for flowers. They are also used for establishing butterfly gardens to attract tourists, in addition to being used as edible foodstuff.

Indian School students in Oman excel in the CBSE board exams

MUSCAT: COVID-19 pandemic was no bar for the students of Indian Schools in Oman; students of Classes 10 and 12 braved all odds to come out with flying colours in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) results announced recently.

The 2021 Results of the CBSE Board have set an all-time record for the Indian Schools in Oman with an increased percentage of high achievers as compared to previous years, thereby setting another benchmark of excellence in academics. Indian Schools in Oman have achieved 100% results this year both in Class 10 and 12. Class 10 had a total of 1,818 students whereas Class 12 had 1,724 students.

Class 12 Commerce stream had an all-time record this year. Arjun Amit Athalye of Indian School Muscat is the Oman topper with 99.4%; and in the second position is A. Rahul Govindarajan of Indian School Al Ghubra with 98.2%. The third position is claimed by two students - Liza Andrea D'Sa of Indian School Muscat and Vidushi-Jagnani of Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir - both scoring 97.6%.

The Oman toppers in Class 12 Science stream are as follows: Rahul Sriram of Indian School Muscat is the Oman topper with 99.2%; the second position is claimed by

two students - Indraneel Singh Solanki (Indian School Muscat) and AnushkaThumiki (Indian School Darsait) - with 99%; and the third position is also claimed by two students - Mohammad Khuroo (Indian School Al Ghubra) and Asfaq Jalal Mohamed Abbas Nisha (Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir) - both scoring 98.8%.

All three positions in the Humanities stream go to the students of Indian School Muscat - Anjali Unnithan (99%), AnushkaSaha (98.4%) and Snigdha Suresh (97.8%).

Class X results of Indian Schools have been phenomenal; the toppers in Oman are as follows:

FINANCING PLATFORM

< FROM **A1** Crowdfunding options will benefit SMEs as well as micro-enterprises

An official from the Capital Market Authority explained how crowdfunding would help small businesses, as well as the licensing changes the organisation undertook to bring such platforms into the country.

"These type of financing options will be of great benefit to SMEs, as well as micro-enterprises," he said.

Securing finances

"Crowdfunding will not need guarantees, as is often the case with the banking sector. Owners of companies of this nature often face challenges in securing finances, since banks often ask for



guarantees, and are unwilling to risk committing funds to them."

Crowdfunding will be open to all SMEs and micro companies registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

Once the platform is up, companies only need to register on it to be able to attract investors.

Financiers can provide three types of crowdfunding: the first is one who takes a participating stake in the project, the second is one who loans money to the SMEs and micro companies, and the third type involves those who choose to act as benefactors.

Conditions for these criteria will be displayed soon.

There are four types of crowdfunding platforms available: those that work on donations, are rewards-based, equity-based, or offer peer-to-peer funding services.

"Often, investors in such situations are shareholders, co-financiers, or those who provide loans to such projects," said the CMA official. "Crowdfunding platforms are in compliance with Islamic Sharia, or can be traditional in nature."

Explaining the concept behind crowdfunding, he added: "this is a method in which small amounts of money are raised from large numbers of people or legal entities to finance certain businesses or projects. These may also be used for individual use, or for other needs. What is involved here is the use of internet-based platforms that link the users of funds to their financiers. In doing so, they bypass traditional financial intermediaries."

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4	Mechanical Technician -Diploma holder	3-4 Years (Oil & Gas/power plant)	20	6 months
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Thousands flee Greek island as blazes continue



WILDFIRES: Over 100 wildfires have broken out across Greece over the past few days alone.

Ferries were seen on standby for more evacuations after taking numerous residents of the island to safety by sea

ATHENS: Thousands have fled their homes on the Greek Island of Evia as wildfires continued to rage uncontrolled on Sunday for a sixth day.

While fires that had posed a risk to the northern suburbs of Athens in the last few days appeared to have died back, the inferno in Evia quickly spread into several fronts and ripped through thousands of hectares of forest land. Ferries were seen on standby for more evacuations after taking numerous residents of the island to safety by sea.

On Saturday, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis spoke at a briefing at the Fire Brigade's Athens headquarters where he expressed his gratitude to the personnel of the Fire Brigade, the Hel-

lenic Coast Guard, the police and the volunteers who have been battling the fires across the country.

"The situation is slightly better than what it was on Friday," he said, the Athens-Macedonian News Agency news agency reported.

Mitsotakis added that efforts must continue "with great intensity to contain all fires and prevent any further rekindling."

The Prime Minister said he wanted to "assure anew all those afflicted by the fires that their recovery will be my first political priority."

What's the latest on the fire situation?

Firefighters are currently battling at least 55 active fires, Civil Protection chief Nikos Hardalias said on Saturday afternoon.

The blazes outside the Greek capital Athens were partially brought under control overnight, with Hardalias expecting the fire to be contained by the end of Saturday — unless the winds pick up again.

"Last night was really hell, a nightmare. We have made tremendous efforts to prevent the fire from spreading to inhabited areas," Nikos Peppas, deputy governor of the Attica region, told Skai TV about the Athens fires.

While the situation improved in Athens, uncontrolled fires continue to rage in northern Evia, Greece's second-largest island, as well as portions of the

Peloponnese peninsula.

The blazes have prompted more mass evacuations. Overnight on Friday, some 1,400 people were rescued by ferry boats from the beaches on the island of Evia. In the Mani region of the Peloponnese, one official said the fires have destroyed around 70% of her town.

"It's a biblical catastrophe. We're talking about three-quarters of the municipality," East Mani Deputy Mayor Eleni Drakoulakou told state broadcaster ERT.

Devastation across Greece

Over 100 wildfires have broken out across Greece over the past few days alone, according to the Associated Press.

While many have been quickly contained, dozens of others quickly spread — fanned by scorching temperatures caused by a heatwave and strong winds.

At least 60,000 hectares (600 square kilometers, 232 square miles) of land have been burned so far, ERT reported, citing data from the Athens National Observatory.

At least one volunteer firefighter has died battling the fires, while another 20 are being treated for injuries in hospitals.

During a visit to the Athens fire department headquarters on Saturday, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis expressed "deep sadness" over the situation. **bw**

Taliban capture Afghanistan's third provincial capital Kunduz

KABUL: The Taliban have captured Afghanistan's third provincial capital Kunduz in the last three days but fierce fighting is still underway in the city, the terror group said on Sunday. The terror group captured the police headquarters, the governor's compound and the prison in the city, Al Jazeera reported quoting the Taliban. Earlier, the Taliban took control over Jawzjan province's capital Sheberghan and Nimroz province's capital Zaranj.

The terror group's aggressive offensive has killed many government forces and innocent civilians. Multiple reports have claimed that the group has been

looting innocent civilians after capturing multiple areas.

The Taliban's recent skirmish became aggressive soon after the US troops started leaving war-torn Afghanistan in large numbers under the new peace deal signed between Washington and the insurgent group in February last year. **ANI**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Institutions eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
04/2021	Providing cleaning services to the building of the Directorate General of Labour at Al Dakhileyah Governorate, Samael Labour Department and the office of the joint inspection team in Al Dakhileyah Governorate.	----	Sunday 05/09/2021 at 2:00 pm	Sunday 19/09/2021 at 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Monday 09/08/2021 at 07:30 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee for 1% of the total bid value issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee, provided that the original bank guarantee shall be submitted upon request by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Sunday 19/09/2021.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN





Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) "Electricity Service" invites reputable Manufacture / Dealer, Service Provider for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/E/Tender/2021/085
Subject	Overhauling of Crompton Greaves make 20 MVA, 33 / 11 kVTransformer No. 58 at Salalah - B PSS
Tender Fee	RO. 105,000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mentioned mail id's for tender document.
Pre-qualification & Experience	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The Tenderer must show Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) background previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past. The tenderer must be Transformer Manufacturing or Power Transformer Major Overhauling experience with Testing and commissioning background. They must know and Work to be carried out under Oman Electricity Standard (OES) Procedures.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 23 rd August 2021
Last date for seeking pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 26 th August 2021
Last date for providing pre-bid clarifications	03:00 PM on 31 st August 2021
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 7 th September 2021
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554 / 624, lawrances@dpcoman.nama.om; praveena@dpcoman.nama.om

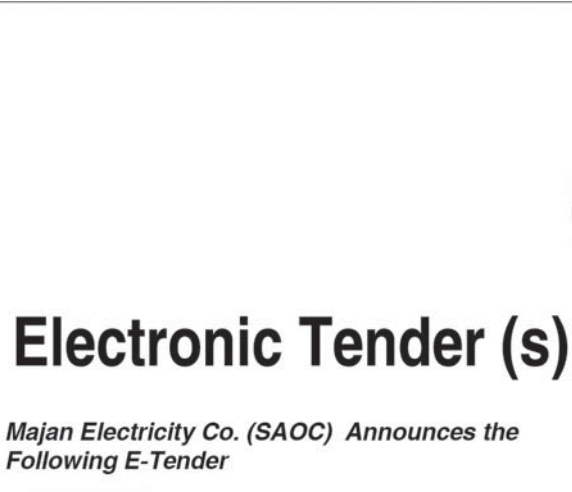
Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (2% of the quoted bid price and having 150 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.



شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة (ذ.م.س) الرمز البريدي: ٢٠١٩٦ شارع ٢٣/٢٤، بونيو خلف مركز صلاة العريضة، المصحة - صلالة - محافظة ظفار | الرقم المبحاني: ٨٠٠٧٧٧٠٠
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Electronic Tender (s)

Majan Electricity Co. (SAOC) Announces the Following E-Tender

Tender NO	Description	Grade	Last date for buying	Submission date	Tender price R.O.
75/2021 Re Tender	TESTING AND CALIBRATION OF METERS AT METERING WORKSHOP.	C	23/8/2021	31/8/2021	25 /=
85/2021	CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR GAP ANALYSIS AND COMPONENT COST ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY SUBSTATION (146) ASSOCIATED FEEDERS AND GRID ASSETS MJEC PORTION (19) IN ORACLE FA MODULE AND MAP WITH GIS/EAM SYSTEM	Specialized	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	25 /=
86/2021	SUPPLY OF NUMERIC RELAYS FOR PROTECTION FOR MAJAN STORE.	Specialized	24/8/2021	14/9/2021	42 /=
87/2021	SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT CAPACITY OF TRANSFORMERS 11/0.433KV Such as (315KVA, 500KVA, 1000KVA, 2000KVA) FOR MAJAN STORES. ,	Specialized	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	400 /=
88/2021	REPLACEMENTE OF DAMAGE LV ASSET AT SOHAR AREA IN NORTH AL BATINAH GOVERNORATE	D	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	25 /=
89/2021	MAINTENANCE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS (315 KVA 500KVA 1000KVA and 2000KVA) AT NORTH BATINAH DHAHRA and BURIMI GOVERNORATE	Specialized	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	28 /=
90/2021	REPLACEMENTE OF DAMAGE HT ASSET AT KHA BURAH AREA IN NORTH BATINAH GOVERNORATE GOVERNORATE	C	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	25 /=
91/2021	REHABITATION OF 11KV NETWORK AT SOHAR AREA IN NORTH BATINAH GOVERNORATE	C	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	25 /=
92/2021	REPLACEMENTE OF DAMAGE 9 MTR POLES AND DAMAGE CONDUCTOR KHA BURAH AREA IN NORTH BATINAH GOVERNORATEGOVERNORATE	D	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	25 /=
93/2021	SUPPLY OF NEW TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR CONDITION MONITORING DEPARTMENT	Specialized	26/8/2021	14/9/2021	83 /=

Interested Firm having relevant experience in the similar nature of services and registered with Tender Board and Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) for electrical work, may register and obtain the tender documents from **E-Tendering Site** <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against online payment of non-refundable fees mentioned above for each tender.

The Tenderers should enclose a copy of Bank Guarantee issued by any registered bank in the Sultanate of Oman for a value of (1%) of the submitted bid value valid for a period of (90) days from the date of Submission, and addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee .The original Bid Bond to be delivered in sealed envelope, and the tender number and title of project only are to be mentioned on the envelopes. The place of submission the original bond would be at **MJEC Contracts & tenders office at MJEC building in AL Sawari Center in Sohar or at MJEC Contracts & tenders office at Muscat in Al Mubailah- opposite to the industrial Area beside to Bank Suhar ,before 10 A.M.** according to the assigned date of submission of the tender. Any Submission of original tender bond after the time and date mentioned in the advertisement will not be accepted and tenderer offer will be rejected.

The Completed signed and sealed commercial and technical offer with all tender documents should be submitted and uploaded online into the above mentioned E-Tendering website .The Hard copies of the tender document are not accepted.

For more information please contact Tel no.:24051501- 26944266
For any technical assistance please contact
Helpdesk: +968-24166670
E-mail: etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Preference of awarding the tender will be given to those bidders who achieved a high percentage of purchasing from Local Products & and have a High level percentage of Omanization.

The Company is not bound to consent the lowest Bid or any other Tenders.
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“It feels unbelievable. It is the first time India has won a gold in athletics, so I feel very good. It’s a proud moment for me and my country.”
Neeraj Chopra , India

TOKYO OLYMPICS CLOSE AS PARIS STARTS TO PREPARE FOR 2024

A near-empty stadium missing the vast majority of athletes provided a final reminder of the unusual nature of this delayed summer Olympics, as the closing ceremony unfolded on Sunday. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said more than 60 of the 206 nations and teams competing at the Games were no longer present for the ceremony, largely because coronavirus rules meant athletes had to leave no longer than 48 hours after their competition.

But International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach naturally instead chose to focus on the positives of a Games which had incredible athletic moments but was overshadowed by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

“In these difficult times you give the world the most precious of gifts: hope,” Bach said to athletes in his closing speech at the Olympic Stadium.

IOC President Thomas Bach and Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto

“For the first time since the pandemic began, the entire world came together. Sport returned to centre stage. Billions of people around the globe were united by emotion, sharing moments of joy and inspiration.

“This gives us hope. This gives us faith in the future,” Bach continued, speaking of “Games of hope, solidarity and peace.”

His words had been preceded by a light show, various dances from around the country and several musical performances, while Tokyo Organising committee president Seiko Hashimoto thanked everyone involved in making the Games possible, adding that “our journey isn’t finished yet” because the Paralympics follow from August 24.

Sunday also saw the Olympic flag passed on to Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo, whose city will host the next Summer Games in 2024. Meanwhile, a giant flag was shown at the Eiffel Tower while French astronaut Thomas Pesquet played the final chords of the French national anthem on a saxophone from the International Space Station.

The ceremony ended with the extinguishing of the Olympic flame and the word Arigato (Thank You) displayed on the screen using the same font as in the 1964 closing ceremony.

Bach officially ends 2020 Olympics
The IOC President Thomas Bach takes to the podium. He says the



athletes “amazed him”, sent a message of unity and were “remarkable” in facing the challenges of the pandemic. “You inspired us with this unified symbol of sport. And it was even more remarkable because of what you faced in the pandemic.”

He also thanks Japan for providing “the stage to shine” and the volunteers, who he says have “warmed the heart” before throwing in a few words of Japanese to a polite ripple of applause.

After the obligatory thanks to the sponsors and rights holders, he adds that “we did it together” before officially closing out the Games.

IOC President Thomas Bach and Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto

IOC President Thomas Bach and Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto

Flag transfer

After a long spell of various Japanese dance styles, the Japanese anthem is belted out on the stage now, with the singer underneath the Japanese, Greek and Olympic flags. The latter is lowered as he sings, symbolising the end of the Games. The Mayor of Tokyo passes the flag to IOC boss Thomas Bach, who then gives it

a bit of a wave and passes it to the Mayor of Paris, who follows suit. The Games is in the French capital in 2024.

Marathon medals

Unlike in previous Games, only the marathon medals are handed out at the closing ceremony this time round. Kenya did the double in the women’s and men’s event, and Thomas Bach, never one to miss a chance for positive PR, hands out the golds to Peres Jepchirchir before Eliud Kipchoge is handed his second successive Olympic gold.

Light show

The lights around the stadium drop and we see various patterns picked out in blue lights before the Olympic Rings blaze in the sky.

Then the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra take to the stage to provide the soundtrack to a dance routine that apparently is supposed to sum up a Sunday afternoon. That consists of juggling a football, bike riding and dancing, for the most part. Hopefully we’ll soon see the ‘having a coffee and watching TV’ section.

The light show at the closing ceremony for the Tokyo Olympics

ceremony for the Tokyo Olympics

Hosts arrive

Japan make their entrance in matching trainers. One way to celebrate your best ever performance in a Games I suppose. Plenty of dancing now, and as many selfies as medals. Oli Moody, from our Tokyo team, is in attendance.

US make an entry

The US team arrives loudly into the stadium.

And having topped the medals table again at this Olympics, winning 39 golds and dominating many events, they have a lot to shout about. A glimpse of Alys-son Felix too, who became the most decorated woman in Olympics track and field history, one of many great Olympics moments:

Parade begins

The flag-bearers enter the stadium. They are a combination of athletes and locals and have created a circle around the center of the field at the Tokyo Olympic stadium. The athletes file into the stadium to ruffled applause. Of course there are a shortage of athletes at this ceremony due to COVID regulations, which means they must return to their home country within 48 hours of their event ending.

What to expect

There are always a few surprises in these events but we do know a few things. Unlike in the opening ceremony, the remaining athletes will likely emerge all at once, rather than county by county. There will also be a series of speeches from various bigwigs, including IOC president Thomas Bach. A segment of the show will also be given over to Paris, who host the next Games in 2024.



DO

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MEDALS
TALLY



Rank		G	S	B	T	Rank		G	S	B	T
1	USA	39	41	33	113	48	India	1	2	4	7
2	PR China	38	32	18	88	49	Hong Kong, China	1	2	3	6
3	Japan	27	14	17	58	50	Philippines	1	2	1	4
4	Great Britain	22	21	22	65	50	Slovakia	1	2	1	4
5	ROC	20	28	23	71	52	South Africa	1	2	0	3
6	Australia	17	7	22	46	53	Austria	1	1	5	7
7	Netherlands	10	12	14	36	54	Egypt	1	1	4	6
8	France	10	12	11	33	55	Indonesia	1	1	3	5
9	Germany	10	11	16	37	56	Ethiopia	1	1	2	4
10	Italy	10	10	20	40	56	Portugal	1	1	2	4
11	Canada	7	6	11	24	58	Tunisia	1	1	0	2
12	Brazil	7	6	8	21	59	Estonia	1	0	1	2
13	New Zealand	7	6	7	20	59	Fiji	1	0	1	2
14	Cuba	7	3	5	15	59	Latvia	1	0	1	2
15	Hungary	6	7	7	20	59	Thailand	1	0	1	2
16	Republic of Korea	6	4	10	20	63	Bermuda	1	0	0	1
17	Poland	4	5	5	14	63	Morocco	1	0	0	1
18	Czech Republic	4	4	3	11	63	Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
19	Kenya	4	4	2	10	66	Colombia	0	4	1	5
20	Norway	4	2	2	8	67	Azerbaijan	0	3	4	7
21	Jamaica	4	1	4	9	68	Dominican Republic	0	3	2	5
22	Spain	3	8	6	17	69	Armenia	0	2	2	4
23	Sweden	3	6	0	9	70	Kyrgyzstan	0	2	1	3
24	Switzerland	3	4	6	13	71	Mongolia	0	1	3	4
25	Denmark	3	4	4	11	72	Argentina	0	1	2	3
26	Croatia	3	3	2	8	72	San Marino	0	1	2	3
27	IR Iran	3	2	2	7	74	Jordan	0	1	1	2
28	Serbia	3	1	5	9	74	Malaysia	0	1	1	2
29	Belgium	3	1	3	7	74	Nigeria	0	1	1	2
30	Bulgaria	3	1	2	6	77	Bahrain	0	1	0	1
31	Slovenia	3	1	1	5	77	Saudi Arabia	0	1	0	1
32	Uzbekistan	3	0	2	5	77	Lithuania	0	1	0	1
33	Georgia	2	5	1	8	77	North Macedonia	0	1	0	1
34	Chinese Taipei	2	4	6	12	77	Namibia	0	1	0	1
35	Turkey	2	2	9	13	77	Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
36	Greece	2	1	1	4	83	Kazakhstan	0	0	8	8
36	Uganda	2	1	1	4	84	Mexico	0	0	4	4
38	Ecuador	2	1	0	3	85	Finland	0	0	2	2
39	Ireland	2	0	2	4	86	Botswana	0	0	1	1
39	Israel	2	0	2	4	86	Burkina Faso	0	0	1	1
41	Qatar	2	0	1	3	86	Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	1	1
42	Bahamas	2	0	0	2	86	Ghana	0	0	1	1
42	Kosovo	2	0	0	2	86	Grenada	0	0	1	1
44	Ukraine	1	6	12	19	86	Kuwait	0	0	1	1
45	Belarus	1	3	3	7	86	Republic of Moldova	0	0	1	1
46	Romania	1	3	0	4	86	Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1
46	Venezuela	1	3	0	4						

GT CHAMPIONSHIP

Amazing feat from Ahmad Al Harthy seals pole on racing return

MUSCAT: Oman’s number one racing driver Ahmad Al Harthy delivered an absolutely remarkable qualifying performance on his Intelligent Money British GT Championship return at Snetterton 300 Circuit on Saturday, 7th August, to take an utterly dominant pole position for race one of the weekend.

In control throughout the first of the day’s two qualifying sessions, the Oman Racing star was at one stage almost 1.5 seconds ahead of the competition before ultimately ending the run 0.8 seconds clear with a time of 1m49.237 seconds (97.84mph).

During the race two session, ‘Pro’ team-mate Charlie Eastwood posted the sixth quickest time of 1m48.159 seconds (98.81mph) to ensure the TF Sport-engineered



entry has a fantastic chance of two very strong results in the pair of one-hour races at the Norfolk track later today.

“It’s great to be back in the car and obviously great to start the race weekend with P1”, said an elated Al Harthy, “Qualifying went

very well for me, the team did an amazing job over the week to make sure we were comfortable in the car and able to perform at a high level.

“The car felt absolutely amazing and I’m really happy to be back at this level straight away, after be-

ing away from the car for such a long time – more than five months. I think that’s what’s really driving me and motivating me. I’m really looking forward to having a clean and solid first race, the weather has been fluctuating over the last few days but, either wet or dry, I’ll do the best I can.”

From the outset in testing on Friday, 6th August, the exquisite Omantel and OQliveried No.97 Aston Martin Vantage GT3 was quick with Eastwood lapping second quickest in session one, Al Harthy fifth fastest in the second run and Eastwood ninth in the final outing. The day’s running was, remember, Al Harthy’s first competitive track time since the end of the Asian Le Mans Series in February.

Continuing their strong prepa-

ration, both free practice sessions on Saturday also went very well for the Oman Racing duo. Al Harthy lapped sixth quickest in the opening one-hour period with a time of 1m50.152 seconds (97.03mph). Heavy rain arrived before session two, giving teams a great chance to gather wet-weather data, and Eastwood was fifth with a time of 2m09.882 seconds (82.29mph).

Al Harthy took part in the race one qualifying session, which got underway at around 17:00 local time on a dry track, and on his first flying lap he rocketed to the top of the times – an excellent effort of 1m50.044 seconds.

Instantly setting the fastest first sector of all on his next lap, and then the outright quickest second sector, the Omani extended his

advantage with a stunning lap of 1m49.237 seconds which put him an incredible 1.4 seconds clear at the head of the timesheets.

Satisfied he had more than done enough to secure pole position for the first race of the weekend, which he undoubtedly had, Al Harthy backed off and ultimately sealed the top spot on the grid by just under a second. In the race two session for the ‘Pro’ drivers, which followed immediately afterwards, Eastwood went fifth fastest with a time of 1m48.335 seconds on his first flying lap and then produced a better time of 1m48.159 seconds to move within just three tenths of a second of pole position. In the end he was edged back to sixth in the session, 0.5 seconds shy of the top of the times.

NBC MEETING WITH SMEs

The National Business Centre (NBC), which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn, organised a meeting between officials representing Daleel Petroleum and the SMEs incubated at NBC.

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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,007.10 points, up 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index up 0.04 per cent at 586.92 points. Oman Cables Industry, up 3.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman & Qatar Insurance, down 4.91 per cent, was the top loser.

Ban on network marketing will curb commercial fraud in Oman



The decision will also help in protecting competition between institutions and companies, and prevent individuals from engaging in malpractices, MoCIIP said

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The decision to ban selling, advertising, or promotion of goods and services through network marketing schemes will significantly help in limiting commercial fraud, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) said on Sunday.

“The decision will help in protecting competition between institutions and companies, and protecting individuals from engaging in such practices,” MoCIIP said.

The Ministerial Decision No (105/2021), recently issued by the MoCIIP, aims at preventing such practices.

Commentating on the issuing of this ministerial decision, Dr Mohammed bin Rashid Al Badi, Acting Director of the Legal Department at MoCIIP said, “Network or hierarchical marketing activity begins with an individual

or by a company at the top of the pyramid, who persuade people to buy a product or subscribe into the group by paying a certain amount of money, with the promise of giving him services or a symbolic profit if he/she can convince others to join his/her list, where the biggest beneficiary is the one who is at the top of the hierarchical group.”

“It must be noted that there is a lot of confusion among the public regarding hierarchical or network marketing, as most of these concepts are different components of the concept of direct selling,” Dr Maha bint Khamis Al Balushi, Assistant Professor of Marketing and Identity at Sultan Qaboos University, said.

“Indirect sales marketing one sells at a fixed retail site. Despite the popularity of direct selling, there are many types of distributors with different motives. The multi-level marketing is considered as a part

of the network marketing and has a multi-level commission reward structure based on the volume of sales of products at competitive prices,” she further added.

Dr Maha Al Balushi emphasised that the decision to ban sales through the pyramid scheme helps to control these types of activities.

“While this decision contributes to regulating the direct sales marketing industry in Oman, as this industry also contributes to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). For example, the legitimate direct sales marketing industry has contributed to developing India’s economy with the major initiatives launched by the government such as Made in India, Skill India, Startup India etc,” she added.

Sameh bin Salem Al Adawi said, “The ministerial decision to ban the sale, advertisement or promotion of goods, products and services in Oman is a timely decision and coincides with Oman’s 2040 vision to develop Oman’s economy as well as reducing the movement of anonymous funds.”

“It will also contribute to limiting the exit of funds abroad, reducing the transfer of unknown funds through bank accounts, limiting the marketing of unapproved products, and will contribute to controlling the prices and quality of goods in the local market,” he further added.



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فولت أمب VOLTAMP VOLTAMP ENERGY SAOG P.O. Box 75, Rusayl, P.C. 124, Sultanate of Oman Phone: + (968) 24441202, Fax: 24448693, Website: www.voltampoman.com		Unaudited condensed interim consolidated statement of financial position at			
DIRECTORS' REPORT		30th June 2021	30th June 2020	31st Dec 2020	
Dear Shareholders,		RO	RO	(Audited) RO	
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to present the un-audited results of Voltamp Energy SAOG for the second quarter ended 30th June 2021.					
REVIEW OF OPERATIONS:					
Summary of performance of the Company (including Subsidiaries) is as follows:					
Particulars	Six months period ended 30th June 2021	Six months period ended 30th June 2020	% Increase / (decrease)		
	RO	RO			
Revenue	11,683,718	17,397,696	(32.84)		
Other Income	126,547	56,449	124.18		
Expenses	(12,199,812)	(17,461,136)	(30.13)		
Profit Before Tax	(389,547)	(6,991)	(5472.12)		
Provision for Income Tax	36,577	107,940	(66.11)		
Profit After Tax	(352,970)	100,949	(449.43)		
Basic earnings per share (Bz)	N.A.	1.240	N.A.		
Net assets per share(CMF)	0.244	0.256	(4.69)		
Paid-up share capital	8,140,275	8,140,275			
The variance is mainly attributable to the challenges in the manufacturing sector due to the steep metal price increase mainly for copper and electrical steel and the rise is phenomenally high where copper has reached its historical highest levels and disruption of supply chain globally. COVID-19 too has significant impact on customer approvals and reduction in production output where company's employees are affected.					
The company has vaccinated its employees to overcome any further impact on employees and production loss.					
Achievements					
One of the subsidiaries of the Company, Voltamp Power SAOG has achieved a major milestone in manufacturing its first 500MVA / 220 kV class transformer which is one of its kind and the largest to be manufactured in GCC region during the period. The transformer has successfully passed all the routine and type tests duly witnessed by customers and its consultants.					
Future Outlook					
The successful test passing and execution of the 220kV transformer has now put the company in the league of large Multinationals companies, the company will be able to serve the region's requirement of such transformers which at present are imported from European and Far eastern countries.					
This 500 MVA/ 220 kV rating of transformer in the product portfolio will have a positive impact on the company's revenues and open export prospects for such transformers.					
The company has received good amount of orders from Oil & Gas sector in both domestic and export market, however the abnormal increase in raw material prices recently are a cause of major concern. The company is keeping a close watch on the same and taking steps to minimize the impact.					
Despite the economic impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and the economic fluctuations of prices in the domestic and foreign markets, the company seeks to continuously improve productivity and improve competitiveness.					
The management of the company is keen in finding markets for exporting its products in the Middle East region after successfully supplying the products in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.					
Compliance					
The company is in compliance with the prevailing CMA and regulatory requirements.					
Thanks & Appreciation:					
The Board of Directors and employees of the company have the honor to pledge our loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (May Allah Protect him) reaffirming our commitment under his wise leadership in the continued and blessed renaissance founded by His Majesty Late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may his soul rest in peace.					
We pray to the Almighty Allah to bestow his blessings upon His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik as he continues to lead Oman and its people towards continued progress, prosperity and stability.					
The Board of Directors wish to register their sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion, Capital Market Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange Company SAOG and Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry.					
I also extend my sincere thanks to all customers and banks dealing with the company for their continuous support to the company. I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to the Shareholders of the Company for the confidence they have reposed in the Company and in its Board.					
For & on behalf of the Board of Directors Voltamp Energy SAOG Ayman bin Hamad Al Busaidi Chairman					
Unaudited condensed interim consolidated statement of comprehensive income		Quarter ended 30th June 2021	Quarter ended 30th June 2020	6 months ended 30th June 2021	6 months ended 30th June 2020
		RO	RO	RO	RO
Revenue		5,430,576	7,453,668	11,683,718	17,397,696
Cost of sales		(4,563,111)	(6,626,899)	(9,752,952)	(14,747,076)
Gross profit		867,465	826,769	1,930,766	2,650,620
Other income		50,754	54,361	125,675	54,830
Selling, administrative and general expenses		(976,099)	(1,061,448)	(1,932,508)	(2,209,563)
Impairment (loss) / reversal on trade receivables		(205,153)	(55,920)	(212,153)	(139,119)
Profit from operations		(263,033)	(236,238)	(88,220)	356,768
Finance income		474	972	872	1,619
Finance cost		(130,473)	(179,810)	(302,199)	(365,378)
Profit/(Loss) for the period before taxation		(393,032)	(415,076)	(389,547)	(6,991)
Taxation		38,239	123,225	36,577	107,940
Profit/(Loss) for the period after taxation		(354,793)	(291,851)	(352,970)	100,949
Basic earnings per share (Bz)				NA	1.240
Net income attributable to:					
Equity holders of the Parents		-	-	(320,187)	(28,621)
Non controlling interest		-	-	(32,783)	129,570
Total comprehensive (loss)/ income for the period, net of tax		(321,760)	(275,355)	(286,904)	(14,667)

FIRST HALF OF 2021

Salalah Port handles 2.1 million containers

MUSCAT: In the first half of this year, 2.1 million containers were loaded and unloaded at the Port of Salalah, which is considered a key economic site for commercial containers. Besides steady growth in operations and logistic services, the Port of Salalah also handled 8.8 million general cargo goods in the first six months of 2021.

Mohammed Oufait Al-Shanfari, Executive Manager of Salalah Port Company, told Oman News Agency (ONA), “Despite challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, the port had achieved positive growth in 2020. It made the largest volume of container handling ever — a record hit of 4.3 million containers, compared to 4.1 million in 2019.”

Al-Shanfari pointed out that Salalah Port achieved global records in the volume of container handling and operational efficiency. The two records were quoted by the World Bank in its Container Ports Performance Index issued by the World Bank’s international transport organisation.

Salalah Port came sixth among 351 ports worldwide. The index measures the operational efficiency shown by a port when receiving container vessels and handling them.

Al-Shanfari added that Salalah Port Company is embarked on developing two products: Flexible Storage (Flex Hub) and the



development of simultaneous sea and air transport via Salalah.

Flex Hub has been developed in cooperation with Maersk and support from Asyad and the Royal Oman Police (ROP) Directorate General of Customs. The aim is to cut down cargo handling time by 60 per cent to 80 per cent.

The second product (development of simultaneous sea and air transport via Salalah) minimises logistics cost, the period of handling goods (that have added value or are perishable or brittle) when transporting them to markets in Europe, the United States or African states. Both products have been developed after passing the trial periods, now over. -ONA

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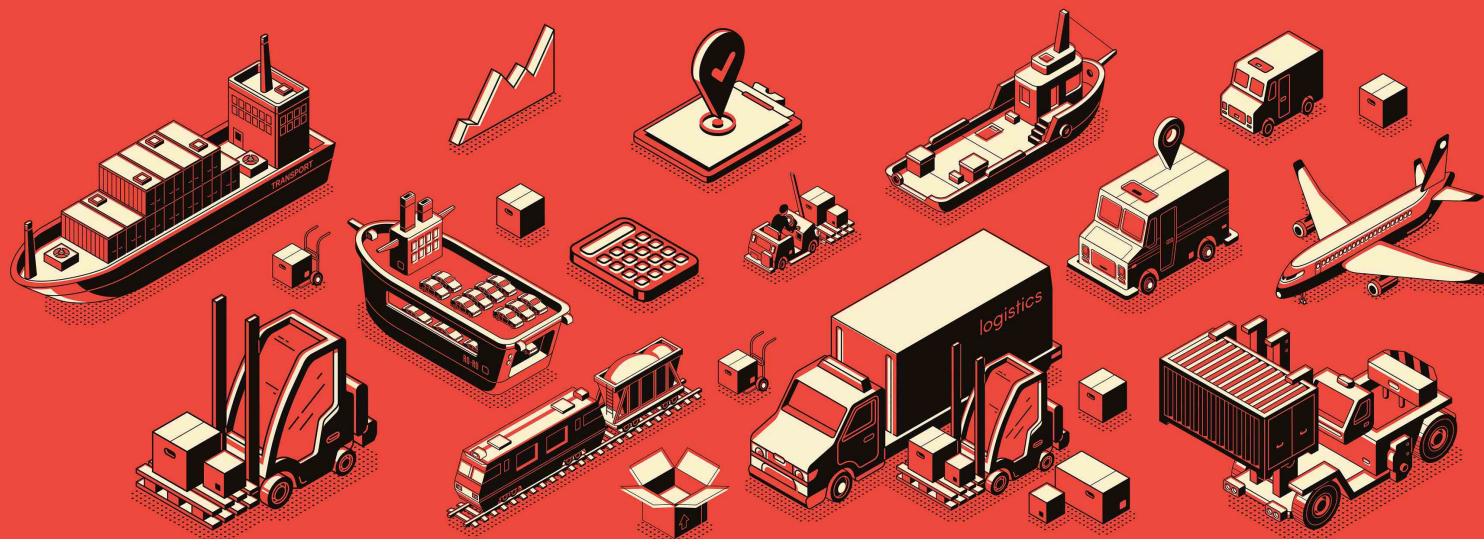
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Contact 94948676

Senior Manager

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

Contact: 94326527
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Email: naseem.sulthaan@gmail.com

Project Manager/Engineer (Electrical) with 10 Years Experience in Oman at (Primary & Distribution Substations and OHL) Tendering , Estimation and Execution, Oman Driving License & NOC available. GSM: 99092164
E-Mail: awiloooo18@gmail.com

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

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Finance Manager Indian 22 Yrs experience (UAE & Oman), looking Job Change. Contact 90473368

MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

SALES/MARKETING

Indian Female holding Oman D/L, 20 years experience at all levels of retail sales, reputed International brands and trained in many countries. Seeking suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 95183213

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

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

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

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

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PROTECT YOUR HEARING WHEN LIFE GETS LOUD

Sound surrounds you every day. Traffic, TV, sporting events, and music are just a few of the sounds you know so well. Entertaining sounds bring pleasure, and warning sounds (like a car horn) can help you stay safe. But some sounds can damage your hearing-sometimes instantly, and often permanently.

Results from hearing tests suggest that nearly one in four adults ages 20 to 69 years may have noise-induced hearing loss in one or both ears. One way noise-induced hearing loss happens is when tiny hair-like structures (called "stereocilia") that sit on top of sensory hair cells in your inner ear are damaged by noises that are too loud and/or last too long. When the stereocilia are damaged, they can't accurately relay information about sound to your brain.

The louder the sound, the more damage it can cause to your ear, and the faster the damage can happen. Hearing loss may not be noticeable at first, but it can get worse over time. For example, you may notice words sounding muffled and harder to comprehend.

The good news is that noise-induced hearing loss can be prevented. Recognising noise hazards can help you protect your hearing-and help you safeguard your family's hearing health.

The best way to protect your hearing and prevent noise-induced hearing loss is to avoid loud sounds and noisy activities whenever possible. You can also turn down the volume on the TV and on music players and move away from the noise when you can. When loud noise is unavoidable, use earplugs or protective earmuffs to protect your hearing.

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) in the US, offers helpful tips for protecting your hearing. The video Hearing Protection: How to Use Formable Earplugs, shows the right way to insert inexpensive foam earplugs. The video Hearing Protection: How to Use Pre-Molded Earplugs, can help you correctly use pre-moulded earplugs, which are great for concerts and other times you want to protect your hearing without losing sound quality.

Protective earmuffs are another easy-to-use type of hearing protector, but they might not work as well for people who wear glasses or have hairstyles that create gaps where sound can enter the ear. Protective earmuffs may be a good choice for protecting children's hearing because they can be easier to use than earplugs.

Wearing protective earmuffs and earplugs together can reduce sound even more-a smart choice for very noisy environments like woodshops and sport-shooting events.

It's easy to buy ear protection because many stores, especially home and garden centers, now sell both earplugs and protective earmuffs. Both types of protection are also easy to find online.

To help identify harmful sounds, use a free decibel meter app to measure the sound levels in your environment. The Sound Level Meter app was developed for iOS devices by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US.

Keep your hearing healthy and enjoy all the sounds of life. - **BPT**



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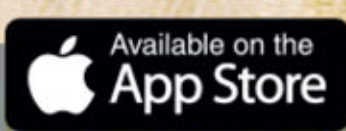
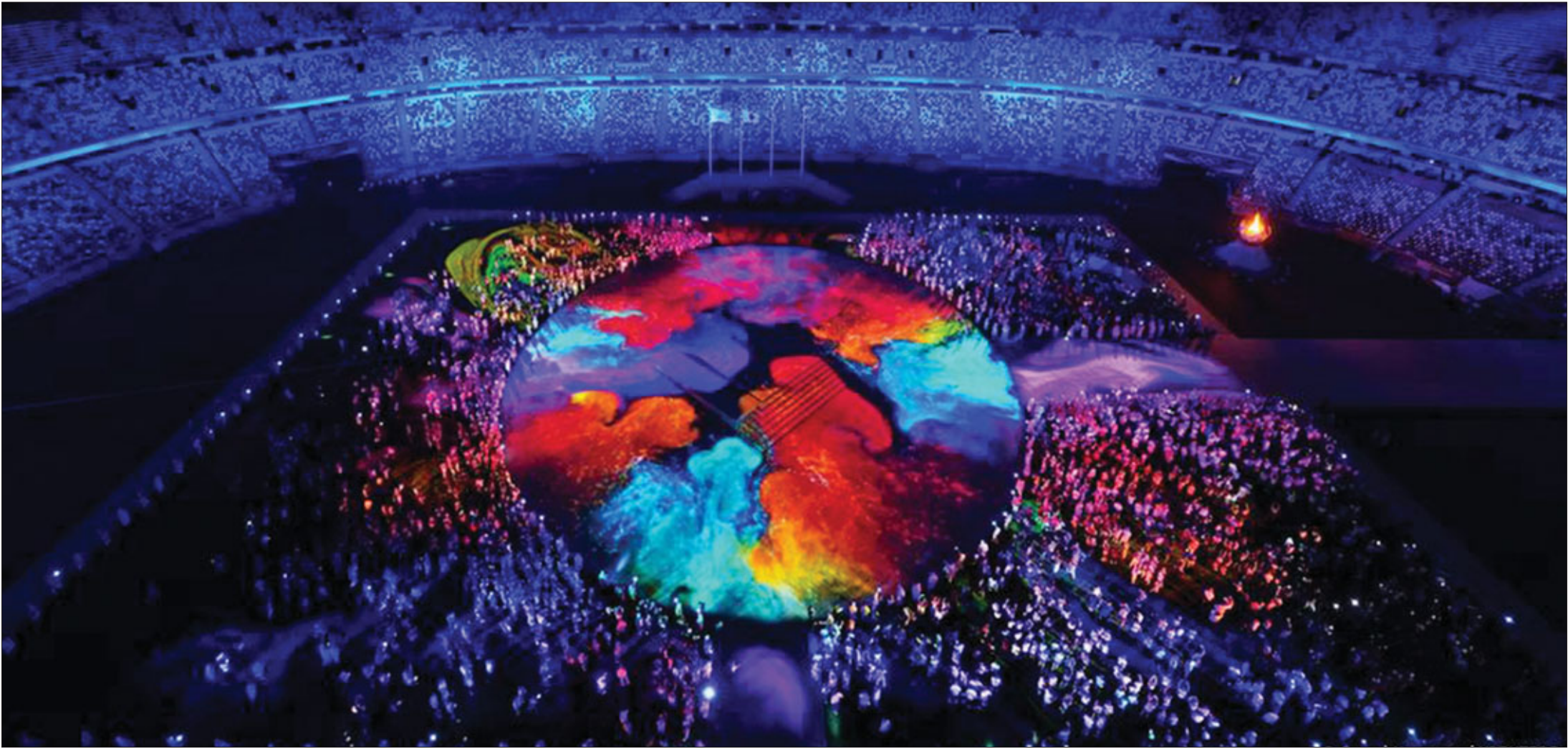


PHOTO-FEATURE



THE CURTAIN FALLS
ON TOKYO OLYMPICS



A year later than originally scheduled the 2020 Olympics officially ended on Sunday, with the traditional closing ceremony. After 16 days and 339 medals across 33 sports, Tokyo will hand over to Paris, though the Paralympics start in Japan on August 24.

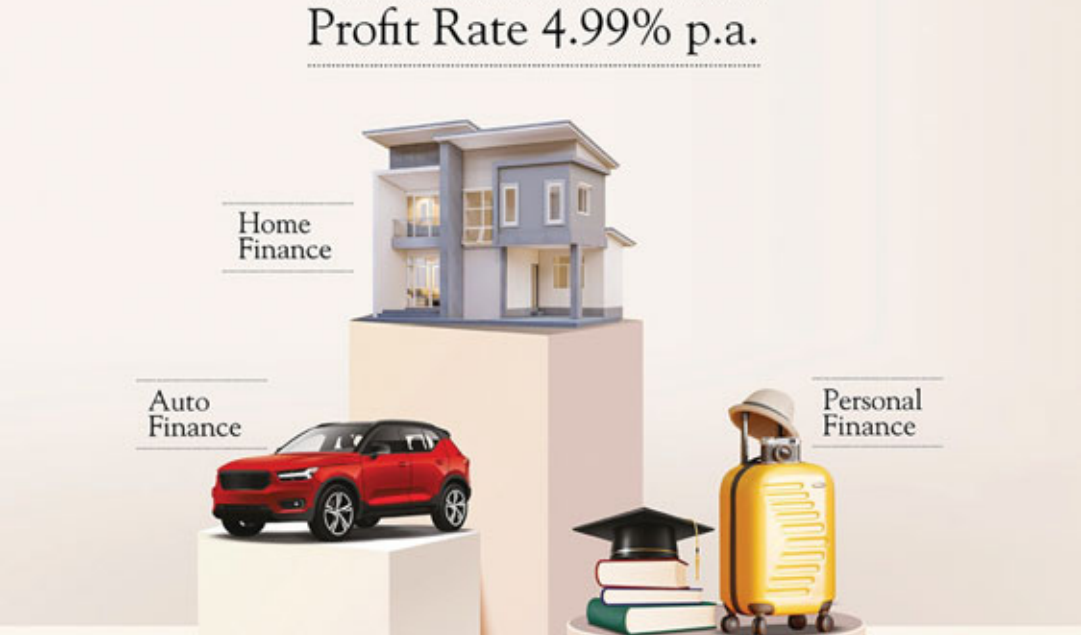


ROUND-UP

Enticing offers on Bank Muscat Meethaq’s retail financing facilities

The offers, which are available till September 30, include Meethaq home finance, auto finance and personal finance at highly competitive profit rates

MUSCAT: In line with its vision ‘To serve you better, everyday’, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat has launched enticing offers on a number of financing facilities for its customers. The offers, which are available till September 30, include



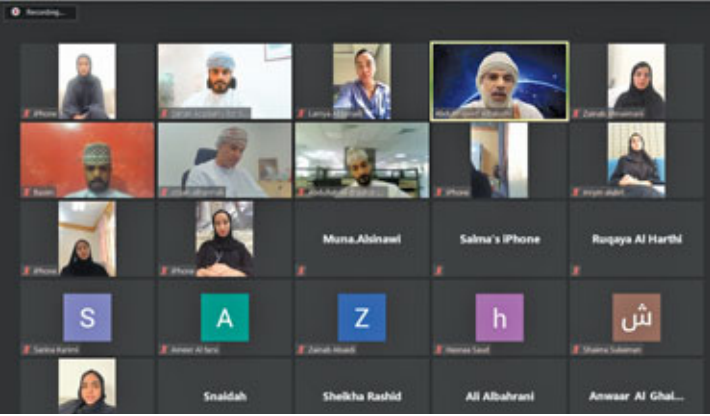
Meethaq home finance, auto finance and personal finance at highly competitive profit rates. In addition to this, Meethaq is also offering a special fee waiver on all primary and supplementary credit cards for the first year as part of this special campaign. Meethaq’s financing facilities come with the advantage of simple documentation and fast processing that help its customers get financing at an affordable price and helps them meet their aspirations. At present, Meethaq offers 4 different credit cards to its customers including the Hafawa Visa Signature credit card, the Titanium

MasterCard credit card, Meethaq - Lulu co-branded credit card and the Standard MasterCard credit card. The waiver on 1st year annual fees is also available for supplementary cards. Existing Meethaq credit card holders can enrol their family members for new supplementary cards. Meethaq credit cards are a big hit with customers thanks to some of the best deals and rewards available in the country. They provide customers with convenience and flexibility in making day-to-day transactions at shopping malls, restaurants or international destinations. The special offers during the campaign period are valid for all new and existing Omani customers working in government, semi-government institutions and Tier 1 and Tier 2 companies. Customers may also note that a special Takaful rate of 0.234 per cent will be applied on Home Finance and 0.145 per cent for Auto Finance and Personal Finance. Meethaq Islamic Banking continues to maintain its industry-leading position in terms of asset size, deposit base and profitability as well as branch network and distribution channels. With 24 branches and over 40 ATMs and CDMs spread across the Sultanate, Meethaq is the leading Islamic financial services provider in the Sultanate, catering to the varying needs of individuals and corporates. Meethaq extends support to all key economic sectors with innovative Sharia-based products. It is well-positioned to provide Islamic financial expertise to all segments and thereby promote the good of society as a whole. Meethaq Islamic Banking, which has been recognised as the Best Islamic Bank in Oman in 2019 by Islamic Finance News, has adopted the best practices in Islamic banking and finance. Every Meethaq product goes through the process of Sharia-compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman. Meethaq plans to continue expanding its services and products in response to customer needs and continuous feedback.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO’s Innovation Incubator begins

MUSCAT: Concluding a highly successful selection process, the National Bank of Oman’s (NBO) Innovation Incubator has officially begun. **CSR programme** Thirty young graduates, who were chosen from over 1,500 applicants, have now started their journey through the three-month-long programme, which is part of the bank’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, in collaboration with the SME Development Authority, Oman Academy for SMEs, and Paradigm Consulting. Coached by 15 of the bank’s specially-trained employees, the young men and women will go head-to-head to design their Fin-Tech start-up. Only three will



emerge as winners and have the opportunity to pitch their ideas to potential investors. Sherifa Al Maskari, Head of Brand at NBO, said, “At NBO we are committed to nurturing Oman’s future leaders and championing innovation. The Innovation Incubator is among a range of youth-centred initiatives we

have run, which provide valuable business skills and knowledge. We wish all of the participants the best of luck and look forward to seeing them put their ideas into action.” NBO’s role does not stop at offering innovative banking solutions but extends through its values as a community-focused organisation. Outward Bound Oman, the Youth Awards, and the Hackathon are all initiatives that demonstrate the bank’s commitment to inspiring innovation in the Sultanate’s young people. By continuing to foster partnerships between the private and public sectors through a range of educational and youth-led programmes, the bank is fulfilling its goals to empower local talent and position Oman as a future-ready economy.

EXPANSION

Malabar Gold & Diamonds opens 2 new stores in India

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 260 outlets spread across 10 countries, inaugurated 2 new showrooms in Express Avenue Mall, Chennai and Hazratganj, Lucknow, India. This is part of the brand’s expansion plan to launch 56 stores globally, 40 across India and 16 internationally in the FY21-22 to further boost its retail presence across the country, with an overall investment of \$220 million and generation of 5,000 new jobs. The new showroom in Chennai is the 4th showroom of the brand in the city and 17th in Tamil Nadu. The spacious flagship showroom at Hazratganj is the

second Malabar Gold store in Lucknow. It is also the group’s 5th store in Uttar Pradesh, bringing the number of showrooms in the northern region to 13. Both the showrooms were virtually inaugurated by M.P. Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group in the presence of key Malabar Gold & Diamonds dignitaries including Dr P.A. Ibrahim Haji, Co-Chairman, Malabar Group; K.P. Abdul Salam, Vice Chairman, Malabar Group; O Asher, Managing Director, India Operations; Shamal Ahammed, Managing Director, International Operations, C. Mayin Kutty and K. P. Veeran Kutty, Executive Directors, management team members and well-wishers.

FINANCE CAMPAIGN

Customers praise Alizz Islamic Bank’s ‘You Choose’ campaign

MUSCAT: The “You Choose” campaign, launched by Alizz Islamic Bank last month, has received a wide response from various segments of society. The ‘You Choose’ campaign gives the customers the flexibility to choose from a range of specially designed offers, once they transfer their current finances or avail new financing from Alizz Islamic Bank or transfer their salaries to the bank. The #YouChoose campaign gives the customers the freedom of picking one of the many benefits that fit their requirements and needs, such as, a combo offer for customers to enjoy a new Credit Card free for the lifetime of the financing tenors upon availing new financing from the bank. One can also enjoy special rates on new financing at a rate of 4.75 per cent for home finance and 4.99 per cent for auto and personal finance or they can avail themselves of a 3 months’ moratorium period for their new finance. Customer can also transfer their salaries to the bank and enjoy 10 per cent cashback on the first salary credited during the campaign period. They can also avail a zero prof-



it Qard Hassan facility of up to OMR1,000 upon transfer of their salaries to the bank. The detailed information along with the terms and conditions are available on the bank’s website. Customers can also visit the nearest branch or contact our 24/7 call centre for more details. Alizz Islamic Bank strives to fulfil our customers’ dreams through flexible products and financing offers that will support them in their financial plans. The bank has been focusing heavily on improving its services and products by listening to the

recommendations put forward by customers and in response, the bank has launched this campaign to provide our customers with a basket of benefits to choose from. At Alizz Islamic Bank we take pride in putting our customers at the forefront of our product development cycle with a focus on exceptional customer experience. We firmly believe that exceptional services and products go hand in hand, and we strive to ensure that we have new and innovative offerings for all our customers. The #youchoose campaign will allow each one of the bank’s customers to pick the best benefit that fits their requirements and will cater to everyone’s tastes. Since its inception in 2013, Alizz Islamic Bank has bridged the gap between customers and the bank by using the latest technology solutions built on solid infrastructure. The bank is committed to providing its customers with innovative financial solutions and responsive customer services via its corporate website, online banking, mobile banking, short message service, call centre, ATM, ITM, and branch banking.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Omantel playing a leading role in nation’s fight against COVID-19

MUSCAT: Omantel has sustained its efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic through community initiatives that support various organisations in the Sultanate to limit the spread of the virus. Continuing its work towards the nation’s health, Omantel is lending its resources to the national vaccination campaign being held in cooperation between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). More than 20 Omantel employees are volunteering for the MoH vaccination campaign. Apart from this, to ensure the health and safety of its employees against COVID-19, Omantel has been running a vaccination campaign for staff and their families, in a smooth and orderly manner, using its own developed internal system “Hassin”. Laila bint Mohammed Al Wahibi, CSR Manager at Omantel said: “As part of its CSR initiatives the company is extending its support to the national vaccination campaign, which is of high importance for Oman’s overall health and safety in these chal-



lenging times. Twenty members from Omantel’s ‘Together’ volunteer team have participated in the national campaign, which was launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and OCEC. This contribution complements the company’s efforts to support different initiatives to fight COVID-19 in Oman.” Commenting on the internal campaign, Thamir Al Kathiri, General Manager of Personnel Services at Omantel’s Human Resources Unit said, “We have joined hands with Ministry of Health to run an internal cam-

paign for vaccinating the company’s employees and their families. This campaign complements the national efforts made by the ministry and other concerned authorities to limit the spread of the virus. Omantel’s widespread campaign has already covered all outlets across various governorates. Our employees are also participating as volunteers at the national vaccination drive.” Omantel gives a high priority to employee vaccination as it believes that it is the company’s duty to make an effective contribution in the fight against COVID-19. Before this campaign, Omantel carried out a field survey of staff to collect basic information on the number of employees who have already been vaccinated and those who had tested positive for COVID-19. To avoid crowding and to save time, Omantel has launched the “Hassin” system to book vaccination appointments. The first phase covered staff while the second covered their families, with the “Hassin” system making the procedures smooth and hassle-free.

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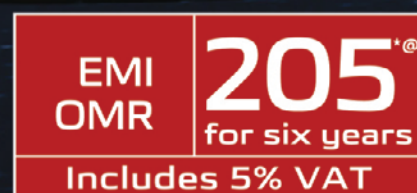
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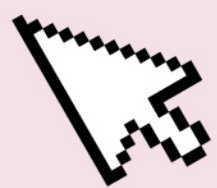


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