

HM THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF PERU

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



HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Governor-General Mary Simon of Canada on the occasion of her being sworn-in as Canada's Governor-General. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of success to the Governor-General. His Majesty also wished the people of Canada further progress and prosperity, and the existing relations between the two countries to develop and grow further. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 106 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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MINISTER OF HEALTH INTERVIEW



Schools to reopen after students' vaccination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People who wish to take the second dose of their COVID-19 vaccine can register for the same from today, provided they have already been injected with the first dose at least 10 weeks ago, the Minister of Health, Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi has said.

In an interview with Oman TV, he added that ahead of the new school term, plans have been drawn up with the Ministry of Education to vaccinate 320,000 students between the ages of 12 and 18, with 96 percent of general diploma students having already been administered the vaccine.

"We hope that before the start of the school year, students from

the above sections have been given their second doses, so that they can return to school as normal," he said.

He added that there has been a 75 percent decrease in patients admitted to COVID wards and intensive care units in government and private hospitals, owing to several reasons, including people following precautionary measures and adhering to the rules of lockdowns.

"During the peak of this wave, we saw the highest single-day admission of 211 patients," said the minister, adding that as of Monday, 26 July, the numbers of inpatients in hospitals and ICUs had not exceeded 50 people, reflecting a 75 percent decline in hospital admissions. **>A6**

COMMENTARY

More talented athletes will surely help Oman shoot for gold at the Olympics



MOHAMED ISSA AL ZADJALI
Chairman
Muscat Media Group



The Tokyo 2020 Olympics have begun, the latest episode in this *summer of sport*, which has brought hope to many, amidst the uncertainties and gloomy headlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year the Olympics are rather unique: for one, the virus has led to their postponement by a year. Secondly, no spectators are allowed, amid efforts to minimise the spread of the disease. But the athletes taking part have shown what dedication, teamwork, and preparation can do to provide us inspiration.

Watching the Olympics, I must mention the shooting competition. I am surprised that Oman is only participat-

ing in one event under this category...what's more is that there is just one athlete taking part in this event, and he is a military man.

Compare this to the other countries, which have sent mostly civilian athletes to compete. Athletes who found passion in sport because they took it up as a hobby and have, over time, developed and honed their skills to become some of the best in the world.

I understand, of course, that many military personnel are skilled in shooting, and are therefore a good fit for the shooting events at the Olympics and other international tournaments, but Oman will benefit greatly from building private clubs where people can be

Swimmer Issa comes sixth in men's 100m freestyle heats **>A5**

encouraged to take up Olympic-style shooting as a hobby.

There are, unfortunately, no clubs of this nature to speak of right now.

Setting up such facilities have innumerable other benefits as well: they do not require much space or expensive infrastructure to operate, they will generate jobs for those who work there, as well as give rise to businesses that specialise in providing the equipment and supplies required by shooting clubs and their members.

Developing these clubs will

encourage people to pursue shooting as a hobby, which will naturally motivate them to get better and better, maybe even excel in skill compared to those who only choose to take it up as a job. Sports, after all, is fuelled by a dedicated pursuit of passion.

From a sporting perspective, shooting clubs will greatly help broaden the pool of athletic marksmen available to Oman, as well as the number of events at which they can readily compete.

They will help bring glory to our country, and enhance our standing globally. Let me give you an example: Iran's Javad Foroughi won the gold medal in the Men's 10m air pistol event on 24th July. **>A5**



HE WAS LOVED, ADMIRED BY ALL

31-YEAR-OLD EXPATRIATE TRAVELLED 200 KM TO GET VACCINATED, THE FLOODS GOT HIM INSTEAD

Sri Lankan envoy to Oman extended his deepest sympathies at the tragic incident

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tyron Thomas, a 31-year-old Sri Lankan national employed on Masirah Island, was so scared of what would happen to him, his wife, and young daughter

if he was infected with COVID-19 that he made a 200 km trip to Jalan Bani Bu Ali to get vaccinated.

He was travelling to the town with his public relations officer and his colleagues, when tragedy struck. Like many other vehicles,

the one in which Tyron's group was travelling also got caught in the furiously fast wadis, a result of the heavy rain lashing many parts of Oman. The Sharqiyah region, from where the group was returning, has borne the brunt of the adverse weather and flooding.

Raging waters

"Despite departing in a brand-new four-wheel drive, the vehicle was unable to withstand the floods," said a well-wisher.

Spotting the vehicle trapped by the surging waters, locals who

lived in the area rushed to help those inside, while a Royal Oman Police helicopter circled overhead to try and extract them to safety.

For a while, it seemed as if all would still be well: rescue personnel, at great risk to their own lives, had managed to rescue all of his colleagues... Tyron was mere inches from safety.

Before the police could get to him, however, the four-wheel drive was hurled forwards by the raging waters, taking Tyron along with it.

Although he tried his hardest to cling on to life, he succumbed

to the force of the wadi, and drowned. Later, the rescue people located his body.

The passing of Tyron was also mourned by the ambassador of Sri Lanka to Oman.

Tragic demise

Efforts are now underway to repatriate his body. "On behalf of the Sri Lankan community in Oman, I extend my deepest sympathies towards his tragic demise," said Ambassador Ameer Ajwad.

He also said, "He was on his way to get vaccinated, which showed

his sense of social responsibility. Our thoughts and prayers are with his bereaved family at the time of this irreparable loss."

Tyron is remembered as a dedicated and sincere worker by all those who knew him. Initially employed at the Ras Al Jinz turtle reserve, he returned to his native Sri Lanka, only to be recalled by his former employers, who wanted him back in the country for his excellent performance. He was posted to the Masirah Island Resort, where he served as a front office manager. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



SPORTS Al Harthy confirms return to British GT

Over five months since his last track outing in the final round of the 2021 Asian Le Mans Series, Ahmad Al Harthy will get back behind the wheel of his Oman Racing Aston Martin Vantage GT3 car next week. **>A8**

OMAN Dar Al Atta'a launches 'Together for Oman 3'

As part of its social responsibility towards the society, Dar Al Atta'a has launched "Together for Oman 3" initiative for houses affected by heavy rains in the Wilayat of Sur. **>A3**

MARKET Crude prices unfazed despite fears

Global crude prices remained well above the \$70 per barrel mark after 'datapoints' suggested sustained high near-term demand despite fears of new COVID-19 variants. **>B1**



URBAN PLANNING

Metro services planned for Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Plans are being drawn up for a rail network connecting Seeb in Muscat to Sohar, to help boost connectivity between the two cities.

The passenger railway is part of the Oman National Spatial Strategy (ONSS), a blueprint that looks at the planning of Oman's cities for the next 20 years.

The strategy is a framework to control and direct urban growth, to improve connectivity between cities, and maximise opportunities to invest in the potential of governorates.

The rail line will also feed directly into a metro, which has been planned for Muscat, where it is expected to ply from Muttrah to Seeb.

The upgraded transport facilities are part of the ONSS plan of developing "multiple means of



Picture for illustrative purpose courtesy Pixabay

transportation, and to encourage movement without using private vehicles," said a recent report.

"Muscat is an urban city of global importance with sustainable qualities, based on Omani values and culture," added the report, which said the capital will have an "urban pattern alternating between me-

dium and high density areas."

As part of the redevelopment of the capital, Ghala will be the centre of its commercial activities, with revitalisation for Muttrah and Ruwi also planned.

Areas that could be subject to these incentives include commercial areas such as the airport zone and Ghala, research facilities in places such as Al Khoud and Halban, and industrial zones in Misfah and Rusayl.

"Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out in different stages, according to the pace of economic and population growth in the various governorates," the ONSS report added. "Updates will be conducted every five years for governorates with growing populations and accelerating economies, such as Muscat, North and South Batinah, and Dhofar, and every eight to 10 years for the rest of the regions."



Times of Oman

VOL 9, NO. 22

MUSCAT, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1983 — SHAWAL 18, 1403

PRICE BAIZAS 200



The Royal Day

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos rides through Salalah on a tour to mark the 13th anniversary of his accession — July 23.

It was a memorable scene as crowds greeted their monarch when he rode by, accompanied by the Royal Guard Brigade Band and men of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

Receptions were held to mark the occasion and greetings poured in for His Majesty from his people and from abroad.

● CENTRE FOR HANDICAPPED

UN will help Oman plan

The United Nations International Children's Fund, will help Oman to set up a service and training centre for the handicapped.

The request for assistance was made by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour which is completing details of the project.

This was disclosed by Mr. Sabah Allawi, Unicef area representative in the Gulf, who was in Muscat this week to discuss with Omani officials progress on the existing programmes and new programmes to be launched with Unicef assistance.

by Muzaffar Mohammad

The centre will not only help in the rehabilitation of the handicapped but will also launch prevention programmes. Unicef will organise training of instructors and staff for the centre and the training will be on a Gulf-wide basis.

Mr. Sabah said Unicef was also considering to help the prevention of blindness programme to be launched by the Ministry of Health. Dr. Salem Hamdan, Under Secretary of Health, whom he met during the visit, has



Mr Sabah Allawi

expressed keen interest in more Unicef assistance in programmes of immunisation, health education and primary health care, the Unicef representative added.

Mr Salah, who is based in Abu Dhabi, also met Mr. Amer Shuain al Hosni, Under Secretary of Social Affairs and Labour. He said that Omani authorities have appreciated the Unicef role and they are keen to sign an agreement with Unicef for a long term plan of action.

He said Unicef was looking forward to provide more aid to

Omani programmes during the third Five Year plan starting from 1986.

Mr. Sabah said the activities of the Unicef sub-office Oman, which was set up last year, have vastly increased and it is hoped to upgrade it to a full office with an increase in number and size of the programmes.

He said the stability and the rate of progress in Oman has been tremendous and Oman has well used external aid including that from UN agencies.

Mr. Sabah disclosed that Unicef will shortly set up an information and communication centre in Abu Dhabi for the dissemination of information to the media in the Gulf.

The UN agency will hold a Gulf media conference in Sharjah on September 24 in which all the media representatives from the Gulf will be invited to discuss ways of publicising Unicef programmes.

Mirbat effort

Young people in Mirbat in the Southern Region launched a week-long social work campaign.

They helped to wash roads, clean up streets and repair roads

Worker dies in vain bid to save his employer

A young Pakistani worker died in a well in Ibri while trying to save his Omani employer who was overcome by fumes while repairing the well motor.

The employer Hamoud Musallam Marzouk al Shaaban also died in the incident on July 18.

The body of Nasser Mahmood, 26, who married last year was flown to Pakistan on Sunday.

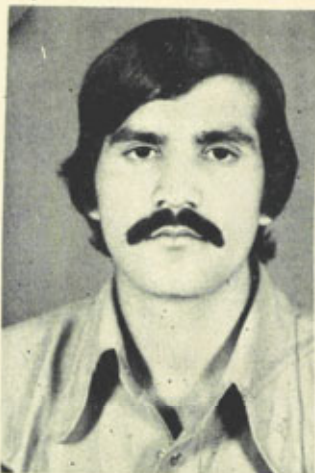
Hamoud Musallam became unconscious in the well after inhaling the fume.

Nasser rushed into the well along with his brother Khalid and put ropes round Hamoud to pull him out.

While getting out of the well Nasser was also overcome and fell back into the well.

A passer by heard a call for help from Nasser's brother and tried to pull them out but he also became unconscious.

Local people who had gathered at the well pulled the rescuer out.



Nasser Mahmood

Police arrived on the scene and prevented more people from going into the well. They called a rescue helicopter from Nizwa Police Academy.

Nasser and Hamoud were taken from the well and given oxygen but both died.

Back to school in Cairo

Thirty Omani students including four girls, were taken this week to Cairo to join their school after summer vacation.

The retarded students were escorted by a four-member team

Haj visas

The Saudi Embassy will start receiving visa applications from intending pilgrims from August 1.

A spokesman of the Embassy said on Tuesday that these people must complete all formalities with the Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs before they go to the Embassy.

Your TV and radio programmes are on page 22.



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OMAN

LONG LIVE THE KING

On the Auspicious Occasion of
His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn
Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua
Birthday Anniversary
28th July 2021
Royal Thai Embassy, Muscat



MUSSANAH



SAILING: The addition of this prestigious event means that the eyes of the sailing world will be on Al Mussanah Sports City towards the end of the year.

Oman Sail to host 2021 ILCA Radial World Championships

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail’s winter sailing season is set for an unexpected extension when 160 Laser Radial sailors arrive in Mussanah from 29 November to 6 December for the 2021 ILCA Radial World Championships.

Originally due to be hosted in Houston, USA, the event faced cancellation until the Sultanate stepped in to ensure the championships can take place and allow the top ranked female and male sailors from 50 nations an opportunity to compete to be the best in the world in their class.

The addition of this prestigious event means that the eyes of the sailing world will be on Al Mussanah Sports City towards the end of the year with the 49er, 49erFX, and Nacra 17 World Championships taking place from 16-21 November. The opening ceremony and first leg of the 11th edition of Sailing Arabia – The Tour kicking off on 24 November

2021 and the 50th Youth Sailing World Championships, one of the most significant competitions in the sailing calendar, starting on 11 December 2021.

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, “Oman Sail is honoured to be able to offer ILCA Radial sailors from around the world an opportunity to compete against the best in the world. Winter will be a busy time for sailing in Oman and brings with it a welcome socio-economic impact which will benefit the community in Mussanah and across the country as we begin the journey back to normality after a long period of downtime. We are excited to again show the capability of our nation to host a high-profile event and look forward to sharing our warm hospitality with the world once more.”

Andrus Poksi of the International Laser Class Association, said, “The Sultanate of Oman has a long and proud maritime history and has gained a strong reputation

as hosts in recent years. We are glad to be able to ensure the continuity of the ILCA Radial World Championships with the support of such capable hosts in Oman Sail and the ideal sailing conditions offered by the country in November.”

The 2021 ILCA Radial World Championships will be hosted at the Barceló Resort Mussanah, a five-star beachfront resort. Both men’s and women’s competitions will run concurrently with competitors enjoying a day of practice before the Championships officially start. Racing will take place each day before splitting the fleets to allow the leaders to compete for podium positions on the final day.

Registration for the event is open until 30 October 2021 through the International Laser Class Association website, <http://www.laserinternational.org>. Entry will be initially allocated based on ranking positions and is capped at 110 sailors in the women’s competition and 50 sailors in the men’s category.

Dar Al Atta’a to help renovate storm-hit houses

The charity organisation has launched ‘Together for Oman 3’ for maintenance of houses affected by the recent low pressure trough in the Wilayat of Sur

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its social responsibility efforts, Dar Al Atta’a Association has launched “Together for Oman 3” initiative for maintenance of houses affected by the recent trough of low pressure in the Wilayat of Sur.

The support is meant for maintenance of family homes affected by the low pressure trough in the Wilayat of Sur.

A specialised team from Dar Al Atta’a Association, under supervision of the engineer concerned, has already inspected the affected houses and registered a number of houses eligible to receive support.

Dar Al Atta’a Association has urged all establishments, companies and individuals to support the campaign and to donate through the application of Dar Al Atta’a, Thawani Application or through the e-portal for donation or by transfer of contributions to Bank Muscat Account No. 0315003966850059



CALL TO DONATE: Dar Al Atta’a Association has urged all establishments, companies and individuals to support the campaign and to donate.

The campaign comes as part of the Disaster Management Programme of Dar Al Atta’a, which provides support during the time of the natural disasters at the local as well as international levels.

Dar Al Atta’a had earlier launched campaigns for the support of those affected by Cyclone Gonu, Cyclone Mekunu and Cyclone Phet and the low pressure trough that hit the Governorate of North Al Batinah besides the campaign “Together in Hardship and Ease” for the support of those affected by the COVID 19 pandemic.

TRAGIC INCIDENT

<FROM A1 Loved and admired by all



On behalf of the Sri Lankan community in Oman I extend my deepest sympathies on his tragic demise. He was on his way to get vaccinated showing his sense of social responsibility. Our thoughts and prayers are with his bereaved family on his irreparable loss.

Ameer Ajwad
Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman



Our sincere condolences to the family of Tyron and our gratitude to the departed soul for his excellent services that will be always remembered. He was an integral member of the Omran family who set an example for others at work.

Hafidh Al Hadhrami
Asset Manager- Omran



Tyron will be remembered for a long time. He was an asset for us. We had great future plans for him ... unfortunately we lost him very soon. His dedication and passion for the job left many of our hotel guests impressed during their stay with us. The void he has left will surely be hard to fill.

Vijay Kumar Handa
Area General Manager, Omran

Vijay Kumar Handa, Area General Manager, Omran, said, "Tyron will be remembered for a long time. He was an asset for us. We had great future plans for him...unfortunately we lost him very soon. His dedication and passion for the job left many of our hotel guests impressed during their stay with us. The void he has left will surely be hard to fill."

to make visitors to the island feel at ease.

"He would stand before a map, and point to where we were, and would then provide us a step-by-step explanation of how we needed to get to our destination," she recalled. "We were there only about a couple of months ago, and were

understandably very saddened to hear of his passing.

"He was very dedicated when it came to organising guides, transportation, and telling us which areas we needed to see," she said. "He was the person we would go through to organise all of our trips while on the island."

BILATERAL RELATIONS



Oman, US officials meet to explore areas of cooperation

MUSCAT: An official session of talks between the Sultanate and the US was held at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

The session explored areas of cooperation between the two countries and reaffirmed their keenness to continue promoting them in various fields.

Matters of common concern

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional matters of common concern.

The Sultanate was represented by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs at the Foreign Ministry,

whilst the US was represented by Wendy Sherman, Deputy Secretary of State.

The session was also attended by the American Ambassador accredited to the Sultanate and a number of officials from both countries foreign ministries.

- ONA

UBAR HOTELS & RESORTS SAOG																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
P.O. Box 1000, Nizwa, Postal Code 611, Sultanate of Oman, Tel: (968) 25431616, Fax: (968) 25431330 Email: info@goldentulipnizwa.com, Website: www.goldentulipnizwa.com, www.parkinn.com/hotel-muscat																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT		UBAR HOTELS & RESORTS SAOG AND ITS SUBSIDIARY PARENT COMPANY AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
Dear Shareholders, On behalf of the Board of Directors of UBAR Hotels and Resorts SAOG, it is our pleasure to present the Un-Audited Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the period ended 30th June 2021.		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th colspan="2">Parent Company</th><th colspan="2">Group</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>June 2021</th><th>June 2020</th><th>June 2021</th><th>June 2020</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>RO</th><th>RO</th><th>RO</th><th>RO</th></tr> </thead> </table>				Parent Company		Group			June 2021	June 2020	June 2021	June 2020		RO	RO	RO	RO																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Performance Review For the period ended till 30th June 2021, the Company has generated consolidated revenue of RO 1,071,339/- which is on a lower side by 13% as compared to the revenue generated for the last Year of RO 1,227,505/-. Last Year, the impact of Covid-19 was felt from the middle of March onwards and rest of the months, from Jan till the middle of March the Company had the regular business, this is the main reason why there is a drop of 13% revenues as compared to last year. For the same period, the Company has a net loss of RO 499,072/- against a net loss of RO 316,952/- of last Year. Last Year from the second quarter of 2020, the global COVID-19 pandemic had brought the travel and hospitality sectors to a halt. The calls to enact social distancing measures that restricted travelling or meeting friends at restaurants had devastating consequences. For airlines, hotels, events, restaurants, etc., some of the necessary measures announced by the authorities had brought down the hotel business to almost nil revenues. Management anticipated that the impact of the COVID 19 would reduce by the beginning of 2021, and all the countries will open their border for air travel. Still, unfortunately, the second wave of COVID 19 has globally hit the world once again. Most of the countries are going into lockdown with very restricted movements that directly impact the hospitality industry once again. Oman Government is also consistently monitoring the situation and taking strict measures to control the COVID effect. Going ahead, the hotel management continues to implement several steps to ensure guests' and employees' health and safety. These measures include a safe guest check-in process, social distancing, use of masks and gloves, and regular cleaning of the critical key points in the common areas of the hotel & all guest rooms. The safety measure taken against Covid-19 by both the properties has been independently verified by international Audit firms NSF & SGS and certification issued. Both the hotels are targeting the corporate segment and the local tourism. They have launched many promotional offers for the local citizens and residents of Oman and try to increase their daily Food & Beverage Revenues. In March, most of the hotels experienced very high demands but with very low ARR (average room rates) for the quarantine business, which helped the hotels achieve better results. All efforts have also been put in place to control the costs in every area to reduce the overall losses. Like, the last Year of 2020, the Year 2021 is also looking a very challenging period for the Hospitality and Travel industry, and we don't foresee the hotel occupancies improving till the end of 2021 unless IATA implements a Travel Pass for the travelers who have received the complete dosage of the Covid-19 vaccines and that allows them unrestricted movement between different countries.		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ASSETS</th><th>June 2021</th><th>June 2020</th><th>June 2021</th><th>June 2020</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Non-current assets</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Property, plant and equipment</td><td>1,903,061</td><td>2,040,793</td><td>10,199,501</td><td>10,592,187</td></tr> <tr> <td>Right-of-use asset</td><td>55,301</td><td>59,115</td><td>55,301</td><td>61,653</td></tr> <tr> <td>Investment in a subsidiary</td><td>4,104,906</td><td>4,104,906</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Deferred Loan Cost</td><td>41,698</td><td>4,550</td><td>41,698</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Loan to a Subsidiary</td><td>1,800,000</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total non-current assets</td><td>7,904,966</td><td>6,204,814</td><td>10,296,500</td><td>10,653,840</td></tr> <tr> <td>Current assets</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Inventories</td><td>74,678</td><td>72,880</td><td>102,655</td><td>107,144</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other current assets</td><td>28,458</td><td>27,797</td><td>73,339</td><td>86,305</td></tr> <tr> <td>Trade receivables</td><td>108,664</td><td>224,764</td><td>670,855</td><td>488,700</td></tr> <tr> <td>Due from related parties</td><td>1,515,791</td><td>2,162,365</td><td>715</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other receivables</td><td>4,550</td><td>4,550</td><td>5,550</td><td>14,550</td></tr> <tr> <td>Loan to a subsidiary</td><td>-</td><td>919,823</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cash and bank balances</td><td>112,398</td><td>226,832</td><td>150,656</td><td>274,979</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total current assets</td><td>1,844,539</td><td>3,639,011</td><td>601,166</td><td>809,180</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total assets</td><td>9,749,525</td><td>9,843,825</td><td>10,897,666</td><td>11,463,020</td></tr> <tr> <td>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>EQUITY</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Share capital</td><td>5,001,750</td><td>5,001,750</td><td>5,001,750</td><td>5,001,750</td></tr> <tr> <td>Legal reserve</td><td>759,398</td><td>759,398</td><td>983,531</td><td>944,382</td></tr> <tr> <td>Special reserve</td><td>508,515</td><td>508,515</td><td>532,294</td><td>529,903</td></tr> <tr> <td>Replacement reserve</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>952,935</td><td>916,942</td></tr> <tr> <td>Retained earnings</td><td>556,169</td><td>1,000,765</td><td>(86,183)</td><td>986,256</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total 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</tbody> </table>			ASSETS	June 2021	June 2020	June 2021	June 2020	Non-current assets					Property, plant and equipment	1,903,061	2,040,793	10,199,501	10,592,187	Right-of-use asset	55,301	59,115	55,301	61,653	Investment in a subsidiary	4,104,906	4,104,906	-	-	Deferred Loan Cost	41,698	4,550	41,698	-	Loan to a Subsidiary	1,800,000	-	-	-	Total non-current assets	7,904,966	6,204,814	10,296,500	10,653,840	Current assets					Inventories	74,678	72,880	102,655	107,144	Other current assets	28,458	27,797	73,339	86,305	Trade receivables	108,664	224,764	670,855	488,700	Due from related parties	1,515,791	2,162,365	715	-	Other receivables	4,550	4,550	5,550	14,550	Loan to a subsidiary	-	919,823	-	-	Cash and bank balances	112,398	226,832	150,656	274,979	Total current assets	1,844,539	3,639,011	601,166	809,180	Total assets	9,749,525	9,843,825	10,897,666	11,463,020	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					EQUITY					Share capital	5,001,750	5,001,750	5,001,750	5,001,750	Legal reserve	759,398	759,398	983,531	944,382	Special reserve	508,515	508,515	532,294	529,903	Replacement reserve	-	-	952,935	916,942	Retained earnings	556,169	1,000,765	(86,183)	986,256	Total equity	6,825,832	7,270,428	7,384,327	8,379,233	LIABILITIES					Non-current liabilities					Term Loan	1,800,000	-	1,700,000	-	Employees' end of service benefits	186,306	181,579	269,126	266,557	Deferred government grant	80,964	87,632	80,964	87,632	Deferred tax liability	80,870	126,963	80,870	163,198	Lease liabilities	54,585	56,833	54,585	58,833	Total non-current liabilities	2,202,725	453,007	2,185,545	576,220	Current liabilities					Term loan	-	918,623	-	918,623	Bank overdraft	137,419	756,138	137,419	756,138	Trade and other payables	268,427	246,715	670,855	488,700	Accrued liabilities	310,491	194,284	514,650	338,662	Lease liabilities	4,631	4,631	4,631	5,202	Income tax payable	-	-	239	239	Total current liabilities	720,968	2,120,390	1,327,794	2,507,567	Total liabilities	2,923,693	2,573,397	3,513,339	3,083,787	Total equity and liabilities	9,749,525	9,843,825	10,897,666	11,463,020	Net assets per share	0.136	0.145	0.148	0.168
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Future Perspective Government of Oman is driving its vaccination program very aggressively and has set up a target to immunize 70% of its target group by end of this year, currently it has already reached a target of 1 million vaccination, and moving forward to achieve a 2 million mark by end of July, which will definitely help in marketing Oman as a safe country, and then it can open its borders for tourist. The Board is hopeful that the current pandemic scenario will show some improvement in the coming period, and Oman will witness some influx of leisure tourists. It will continue to be a desired destination among travelers. The Board assures the shareholders that the Company shall drive and continue to achieve better results in the coming months with the proven, hard, and sincere efforts of Management and its staff. Conclusion, The Board looks forward to the continued growth of the tourism industry in the Sultanate of Oman. The Board of Directors on behalf of the Shareholders have a great pleasure to extend their profound thanks, loyalty, and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, God Bless Him, for His Majesty's inspiring leadership and wise policies, especially during these challenging and difficult times when the entire nation is fighting the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very confident that our nation will continue to walk on a path of progress and prosperity under His Majesty's able leadership. Thanking You, Chairman/Director		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>June 2021</th><th>June 2020</th><th>June 2021</th><th>June 2020</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>RO</th><th>RO</th><th>RO</th><th>RO</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Revenue</td><td>477,077</td><td>693,157</td><td>1,071,339</td><td>1,227,505</td></tr> <tr> <td>Operating costs</td><td>(714,009)</td><td>(744,463)</td><td>(1,486,108)</td><td>(1,490,155)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Operating (loss) / profit</td><td>(236,932)</td><td>(51,306)</td><td>(414,769)</td><td>(262,650)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Finance income</td><td>56,096</td><td>22,811</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Finance cost</td><td>(73,623)</td><td>(49,114)</td><td>(86,555)</td><td>(55,015)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other income</td><td>2,066</td><td>377</td><td>2,252</td><td>713</td></tr> <tr> <td>(Loss) / profit before taxation</td><td>(252,393)</td><td>(77,232)</td><td>(499,072)</td><td>(316,952)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Taxation</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Net and total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year</td><td>(252,393)</td><td>(77,232)</td><td>(499,072)</td><td>(316,952)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Attributable to:</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Equity holders of the Parent Company</td><td>(252,393)</td><td>(77,232)</td><td>(499,072)</td><td>(316,952)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Basic and diluted (loss) / earnings per share attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company</td><td>(0.005)</td><td>(0.002)</td><td>(0.010)</td><td>(0.006)</td></tr> </tbody> </table>				June 2021	June 2020	June 2021	June 2020		RO	RO	RO	RO	Revenue	477,077	693,157	1,071,339	1,227,505	Operating costs	(714,009)	(744,463)	(1,486,108)	(1,490,155)	Operating (loss) / profit	(236,932)	(51,306)	(414,769)	(262,650)	Finance income	56,096	22,811	-	-	Finance cost	(73,623)	(49,114)	(86,555)	(55,015)	Other income	2,066	377	2,252	713	(Loss) / profit before taxation	(252,393)	(77,232)	(499,072)	(316,952)	Taxation	-	-	-	-	Net and total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	(252,393)	(77,232)	(499,072)	(316,952)	Attributable to:					Equity holders of the Parent Company	(252,393)	(77,232)	(499,072)	(316,952)	Basic and diluted (loss) / earnings per share attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company	(0.005)	(0.002)	(0.010)	(0.006)																																																																																																																																																											
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GET READY

Cool your Summer with GENERALTEC



T3

Energy Saving R410a

5 YEAR WARRANTY

OMR 200 GSAC19-INV/ 18000 BTU
OMR 240 GSAC25-INV/ 22000 BTU
OMR 300 GSAC34-INV/ 27600 BTU
OMR 410 GSAC39-INV/ 33000 BTU



T3

Energy Saving R410a

5 YEAR WARRANTY

OMR 130 GSAC18-8S/ 18000 BTU
OMR 165 GSAC24-8S/ 22000 BTU
OMR 220 GSAC30-8S/ 27000 BTU
OMR 260 GSAC36-8S/ 30000 BTU



T3

Energy Saving R410a

5 YEAR WARRANTY

OMR 600 GSAC48-INV/ 48000 BTU
OMR 680 GSAC54-INV/ 54000 BTU



T3

Energy Saving R410a

5 YEAR WARRANTY

OMR 470 GSAC36EP11/ 36000 BTU
OMR 650 GSAC48EP11/ 43500 BTU



Duct Type Split Air Conditioner

Energy Saving R410a

OMR 500 GCAC36EP11/ 36000 BTU
OMR 680 GCAC48EP11/ 43500 BTU



Duct Type Split Air Conditioner

Energy Saving R410a

OMR 280 GDAC18E12/ 18000 BTU
OMR 330 GDAC24E12/ 23600 BTU
OMR 400 GDAC30E12/ 29320 BTU
OMR 480 GDAC36E12/ 34120 BTU
OMR 550 GDAC42E12/ 42680 BTU
OMR 665 GDAC48E12/ 47000 BTU
OMR 710 GDAC60E12/ 61500 BTU
OMR 780 GDAC66E12/ 69000 BTU

Muscat Branch
☎ 24811010

Salalah Branch
☎ 23136044

Sohar Branch
☎ 22511105

*T&C Applied | *Prices are inclusive of tax

Asset Management Bank Muscat Money Market Fund

(Daily subscription and redemption)



1 Year* 3.73%

*Annualized Return

Unaudited Statement of Comprehensive Income for 6 months ended 30 th June 2021		Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 30 th June 2021	
	30-June-21	30-June-20	30-June-20
	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000
Income			
Interest Income	756	558	
	756	558	
Expenses:			
Management fees	(86)	(65)	
General and administrative	(46)	(30)	
	(132)	(95)	
Net Profit for the period	624	463	
Earnings per unit	0.018	0.018	
Assets			
Fixed Deposits		28,827	17,691
Cash & Cash Equivalents		15,614	12,196
Accrued Interest		607	544
Total Assets		45,048	30,431
Liabilities:			
Creditors and accruals		(1,980)	(25)
Net Assets		43,068	30,406
Composition of net assets:			
Units issued		35,633	26,096
Retained Earnings		7,435	4,310
Net Assets Value (NAV)		43,068	30,406
Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)		1.2086533	1.1651507

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request. Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers.
Managed by Bank Muscat SAOG -Private Equity & Asset Management Division
PO Box 134, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.
Call +968 24768265 Fax +968 24704478 or email us at fundbackoffice@bankmuscat.com
Mutual funds are subject to market risk. Please read the offer documents before investing.



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TFMOman



OMAN



SHOOTING COMPETITION

<FROM A1 More talented athletes will help Oman shoot for gold not just at the Olympics

Out of curiosity, I wanted to see if this man had a connection with the military. He did, but not in a manner that influenced his shooting skills: he worked as a nurse at a military hospital.

At this point, I am sure there are many who might wonder what will happen if shooting enthusiasts are taught to be skilled at using rifles and pistols, which are exclusively for our security

forces. However, weapons used at the Olympics – and by extension at training facilities – are not military grade. They are mostly air pistols and rifles, often used for recreational purposes.

Omani culture, which encourages martial sports, is sure to motivate people to take up sports such as shooting and archery.

Let us provide our people the facilities they need to sharpen

their skills, so that they can show their talent to the world.

If each wilayat has a sports club of this nature, imagine the opportunities you are providing to people, imagine how this will help contribute to the economic and social benefits of the country.

A long-term commitment to this endeavour will help the country hit many targets...and not just at the Olympics.

TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

Omani swimmer Issa finishes sixth in Men’s 100m freestyle heats

TOKYO: Oman’s swimmer Issa Al Adawi ended his debut at the Tokyo Olympic Games after he came sixth with a time of 51.81 seconds in the preliminary qualification of Men’s 100m freestyle competitions on Tuesday at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre.



National swimmer
The national swimmer was assigned heat three.

His best timing has been 51.69s while Brazil’s Cesar Cielo holds the current world record of 46.91s

which was set in 2009.

In heat three, the first place went to Yemeni swimmer Mokhtar Al Yamani who clocked a time of 50.52s while swimmer Andrew Chetcuti (MLT) finished

as runner-up with a timing of 51.47s. Yousef Al Matroushi of UAE came third with a timing of 51.50s. The semi-finals will take place on Wednesday while the final will be held on Thursday.

FACILITY IN GHALA

3D printing

MUSCAT: A 3D printing with concrete facility in Ghala Industrial Area was established by PDO, Innotech and Galfar Engineering and Contracting.

The project comes within the framework of an agreement signed in May 2021 for R&D in 3D printing with concrete in Oman which will increase the local added value and boost the partnership between private sector institutions. – **ONA**



OMAN CRICKET CLUB (OCC)

Annual General Body Meeting

The Board of Management of Oman Cricket Club wishes to state that Annual General Meeting for the year 2019 & 2020 is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 26th August 2021 at 7:00 PM which will be conducted via face-to-face interaction or through online meeting depending on the COVID-19 situation and Supreme Committee restrictions. Any development in this regard will be notified accordingly.

Secretary of the Club
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Asset Management
Bank Muscat Oryx Fund

Investing in stocks on MENA markets
(Daily subscription and redemption)

10Years* 202.4%
*Absolute

Unaudited Statement of Comprehensive Income for 6 months ended 30 th June 2021			Unaudited Statement of Financial Position as at 30 th June 2021		
	30-June-21	30-June-20		30-June-21	30-June-20
	RO'000	RO'000		RO'000	RO'000
Income			Assets		
Dividends	839	796	Investments	41,128	32,705
	839	796	Debtors and Receivables	35	27
			Bank & Cash	346	149
Expenses:			Total Assets	41,509	32,881
Management fees	(373)	(322)	Liabilities:		
General and administrative	(229)	(368)	Creditors and accruals	(81)	(75)
	(602)	(690)		(81)	(75)
Net Investment Income	237	106	Net Assets	41,428	32,806
Fair value Gain or (Loss)	7,311	(64)	Composition of net assets:		
Realised Gain or (Loss) on sale	1,330	(7,790)	Units issued	18,193	20,771
			Retained Earnings	23,235	12,035
Net Profit for the period	8,878	(7,748)		41,428	32,806
Earnings per unit	0.488	(0.373)	Net Asset Value (NAV) per unit (Rial)	2.277	1.579

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any Unitholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within 7 days of receipt of request. Due to figures displayed in 000's, immaterial variance is likely with actual numbers.

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Job: To be responsible for Repair & Maintenance of Electrical jobs and also liasoning with contractors for execution of Facility Management works within residential buildings.

Qualification: Diploma holder in Electrical or Electronic Engineering from a recognised institute.

Age: 30-32 years

Experience: Over 5 years of experience in the above field, including experience in maintenance of Residential Complexes is a requirement. Previous experience in Facility Management company, executing similar jobs for Electrical & Mechanical works, will be an added advantage.

ELECTRICIAN

Job: To carry out and supervise all Mechanical / Electrical jobs in the residential building.

Qualification: ITI (2 Years – NCVT approved) with Electrical / Mechanical works

Age: 25-30 Years

Experience: 3 - 5 Years relevant experience

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Worldwide cases cross 194.8mn

LONDON: More than 194.89 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and 4,334,067 have died.

Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December 2019. — **WAM**

SEOUL ADEX 2021

Sayyid Shihab receives invitation

MUSCAT: On behalf of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary-General at the Ministry of Defence on Wednesday received a written message from Suh Wook, Minister of the National Defence of the Republic of Korea, inviting HH Sayyid Shihab to attend Seoul International Aerospace & Defence Exhibition, to be held in Seoul, during 19-24 October 2021. This came when Dr. Al Zaabi received Kim Chang-Kyu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed several matter of mutual interest. — **ONA**



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

<FROM A1> 50% of target population have been vaccinated

In this context, he added: “This shows us the feasibility of partial or complete closure. I do not think this is debatable, and only the ignorant will deny the same. The results we have seen are due to the partial closure, not the complete lockdown during Eid Al Adha, which requires about 10 to 14 days for us to know its results.”

“At the height of the pandemic, we had 530 beds in intensive care occupied by only COVID patients, but before that, there were no more than 150 beds in ICUs in the country,” he added.

“Our health system came close to collapsing when the number of ICU patients crossed the 500 mark,” he said.

“In the past few days, however, the number of people admitted to intensive care directly from their homes is very high, which shows us the severity and ferocity of this disease,” explained Al Saidi.

“Most of the infections are of the fast-spreading Delta strain, which affects all ages, and is unfortunately more severe than the previous variants.”

In this context, Dr Faryal Al Lawati, the head of the Contagious Diseases Unit at the Royal Hospital, advised people to remain cautious, saying, “there are currently infections among young people that we did not see during the first wave. Most of the drugs we currently use to treat COVID

patients are the ones administered to those with rheumatic symptoms.”

Paying tribute to the healthcare workers around the world who are helping in the fight against the disease, Al Saidi said, “the pandemic is still ongoing, its social and economic impact is clearly visible, and the burden borne by health sectors worldwide has exceeded all expectations.”

About 50 percent of the target population has been vaccinated so far, and three million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are expected in the next couple of months. More than 7.6 million jabs of the vaccine have been reserved for the country, the minister explained.

The Minister of Health asked people not to listen to rumours against vaccinations, pointing out that those who have died of the disease are mostly either people aged above 60, or those who are unvaccinated.

“Administering the second dose of the vaccine will start next week, and we soon hope to inject those above the age of 12,” he said.

During his interview, Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Saidi thanked His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik for his attention to the developments of the pandemic, and his directions to the Supreme Committee.

TUNISIA

EU calls for quick return to stability

BRUSSELS: The European Union's foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell issued a call for a speedy return to stability in Tunisia on Tuesday after the president sacked the prime minister and froze the parliament.

“We call for the restoration of institutional stability as soon as possible, and in particular for the resumption of parliamentary activity, respect for fundamental rights and an abstention from all forms of violence,” Borrell said in a statement.

His comments followed in the footsteps of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who urged Tunisian President Kais Saied in a phone call on Monday to “adhere to the principles of democracy and human rights,” according to a statement from the State Department.

Blinken had also “urged President Saied to maintain open dia-

logue with all political actors and the Tunisian people, noting that the United States would continue to monitor the situation and stay engaged,” the statement added.

A nighttime curfew, as well as a two-day suspension of public institutions, came into effect on Tuesday at Saied's behest.

The international attention came after Saied dismissed Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and closed down the parliament for 30 days — after months of anti-government protests, institutional conflicts and political instability. Michechi spoke late on Monday for the first time since being ousted from his position. He expressed his willingness to hand over power to whomever Saied picks as his successor.

Mechichi is not affiliated with any party, but had the support of the moderate Ennahdha party and the Qalb Tounes party. — **AW**



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DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

I have pleasure in presenting, on behalf of the Board, the unaudited Financial Statements of Oman Qatar Insurance Company S.A.O.G. (“OQIC” the company) for the half year ended 30th June, 2021.

Business Environment

We are witnessing the unprecedented challenges of COVID 19 pandemic spread worldwide since more than one year now and Oman has also been affected severely. The pandemic is taking heavy toll on the lives of individuals and the economy as a whole. Price correction in the Oman market and stiff competition from industry peers is having an impact on our growth to some extent. However, despite this we remained focused on protecting and growing our top and bottom line and had achieved a robust growth in current half year.

Performance of the company for the half year ended 30th June 2021:

- **Gross Written Premium increased by 14%** in H1 2021 compared to H1 2020. Major increase is contributed by Engineering, Energy & Travel business despite slow economic growth. GWP achieved RO 15.77 million in H1 2021 as against RO 13.86 million in H1 2020.
- **Net Underwriting Income has increased by 4%** with respect to H1 2020 (H1 2021: RO 1.62 million; H1 2020 RO 1.55 million). This increase is contributed by increased commission income and reduced claims incurred cost.
- Operating Income has decreased by 49% in H1 2021 against H1 2020. (H1 2021: 271K; H1 2020: 529K). This is majorly due to provision created for VAT expense on Unearned Premium Reserve estimated as non recoverable from clients of RO 200K.
- **We made strong investment income growth of 1645%** and it was RO 1.89 million in the H1 2021 as against loss of RO 122K in H1 2020 (due to impact of covid). This substantial increase is due to unrealised gain of RO 1.59 million in current half year as compared to unrealised loss of RO 843K in previous half year.
- **We have achieved a robust growth in Net Profit after tax of 732%** and in H1 2021 stood at RO 2.01 million compared to Net Profit after tax of RO 242K for H1 2020. The growth is contributed by high Investment Income and reduced claims incurred cost.
- **Commission Income has increased by 83%** and stood at RO 603K for H1 2021 as compared to RO 330K in H1 2020. Major growth is contributed by Medical & Travel Business.

Shareholders Returns

- The Market Capitalization has increased by more than 60% as compared to previous period and stood at 15 million as of 30th June 2021.
- Basic Earnings per share (EPS) stood at 20 baisa per equity share for the half year ended 30th June 2021 and has doubled from last quarter Q1 2020.
- Net Asset Value (NAV) per share stands at 196 Baisa as on 30th June 2021 on 100 million equity shares.

Outlook

- Overall Omani economy will remain challenging in the second half of 2021 due to impact of COVID 19 pandemic outbreak and significant changes due to transformational decisions and new economic measures taken by Sultanate of Oman. There may be reduction in premium rates in corporate products too which will pose challenges for insurance industry. However, company will remain focused on bottom line driven growth with prudent risk management and overall improvement in customer services.
- Company will further increase its motor business through putting more focus on additional marketing and branding activities which would enhance the volume growth and bottom line.

- In Life and Medical Business, we see growth opportunities especially with the introduction of mandatory health insurance scheme being mobilized in Oman. We will continue to develop this portfolio with right selection of profitable accounts. We have witnessed good growth in this portfolio during the Year 2020.

Appreciation

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to extend our sincere best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and we pledge our constant support and commitment for the economic development of the Sultanate under his leadership in this critical time.

We thank the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Capital Market Authority for their continued guidance and support. We also wish to record our gratitude to our clients for their valuable support, to our shareholders, to the Management and to the staff for their dedicated efforts.

May God Bless You All.

Musallam Mahad Ali Qatan
Deputy Chairman

Interim condensed statement of financial position as of 30th June 2021

	30 June 2021 (Unaudited)	31 Dec 2020 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,337,869	3,553,856
Bank deposits	16,647,371	17,039,900
Premiums and reinsurance balances receivable	10,010,793	5,637,192
Reinsurers' share of insurance contract liabilities	45,140,100	50,618,000
Other receivables and prepayments	330,676	449,436
Financial investments	14,075,778	12,751,282
Property and equipment	165,178	197,677
Right to Use Asset	126,385	182,484
Total assets	87,834,150	90,429,827
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	10,000,000	10,000,000
Legal reserve	1,207,123	1,207,123
Contingency reserve	5,145,436	5,145,436
Fair value reserve	(42,472)	(12,746)
Retained earnings	3,315,803	1,801,882
Total equity	19,625,890	18,141,695
Liabilities		
Liabilities arising from insurance contract	52,786,800	58,419,000
Due to reinsurers	3,812,400	5,009,456
Other liabilities and accruals	11,609,060	8,859,675
Total liabilities	68,208,260	72,288,132
Total equity and liabilities	87,834,150	90,429,827

Interim condensed statement of P&L and other comprehensive income for the period ended 30th June 2021

	30 June 2021 (Unaudited)	30 June 2020 (Unaudited)
RO	RO	RO
(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
15,771,928	13,857,413	
(12,109,451)	(9,653,066)	
3,662,477	4,204,346	
(645,700)	(641,213)	
3,016,777	3,563,133	
(7,770,906)	(4,746,595)	
5,647,907	2,797,241	
800,000	167,020	
(167,750)	(315,312)	
91,363	84,782	
1,617,391	1,550,269	
1,883,021	(130,140)	
7,988	7,777	
3,508,400	1,427,906	
(1,229,597)	(994,184)	
(140,882)	(42,832)	
2,137,921	390,890	
(124,000)	(148,863)	
2,013,921	242,027	
(29,726)	2,288	
1,984,195	244,314	
0.0201	0.002	

Note: The complete accounts are available with Muscat Stock Exchange. However, the same will be sent by mail to any shareholder, who requests them at the above address, in either Arabic or English, as requested within 7 days of receipt of such request.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



“I don’t know what to say. It’s a dream come true. I just want to say that we Filipinos are strong. We Filipinos can compete here at the Olympics. We can do it.”
Hidilyn Diaz, Weightlifter, Philippines



TOKYO 2020: OMANI ATHLETES TO ARRIVE IN TOKYO TODAY

ADIL AL BALUSHI

TOKYO: The Sultanate’s fastest sprinter Barakat Al Harthy and the only woman representative in Oman’s delegation Mazoon Al Alawi accompanied with national head coach Moahammed Al Hooti will arrive in Tokyo on Wednesday.

The weightlifting team represented by the teenage weightlifter Amur Al Khanjari along with his technical staff represented by coach Mazin Al Badri and admin member Yousef Al Hasani will be in Olympic Village on Wednesday.

With the arrival of both athletics and weightlifting teams, all of the Sultanate’s athletes are together in Olympic Village to play for the Sultanate in the 32nd Summer Olympic Games – 2020 Tokyo which is underway until August 8.

Mazoon Al Alawi will lead the second presence of Oman’s athletes in Tokyo 2020 Olympics as she will compete in 100m sprint at Olympic Stadium on Friday.

The youngster Amur Al Khanjari will be the next athlete who will make his debut in the weightlifting competitions in the 81kg category on Saturday at Tokyo International Forum.

In his third consecutive presence in Olympic Games, Barakat Al Harthy will be in action on



Saturday in the 100m race at the Olympic Stadium. Oman will conclude participation in Tokyo 2020 Olympics through shooter Hamed Al Khatri who will vie in the 50m rifle three positions at Asaka Shooting Range on Monday.

Amur in group B

The talented weightlifter, Amur Al Khanjari, is placed in group B for the 81kg category. As many as 14 top ranking weightlifters are divided into two groups while

group B features only four including: Erkand Qerimaj (ALB), Ramzi Bahloul (TUN), Cameron David McTaggart (NZL) besides Amur Al Khanjari (OMA).

The entry total for the Sultanate weightlifter is 320kg while it is 345kg for Erkand Qerimaj. Ramzi’s entry is 320kg while for Cameron David is 300kg.

The top three weightlifters will be selected who will have the total lift in both snatch and clean & jerk competitions. Each weightlifter



will have three attempts in each competitions. The top attempt in each competition will be added to get the total lift figure. Group B competition will take place on Saturday during the morning session while group A’s competition will get over in the evening session. The final results will be announced after the completion of both group competitions.

Exposure

Oman’s head coach of the weightlifting team, Mazin Al Badri, said that the first presence of weightlifter Amur is a significant participation for him as an athlete.

“We are working to introduce Olympic culture to our athletes and to determine how tough it is to prepare for the Olympic Games. It is essential that the athletes see and compete against the world

ranking weightlifters and have the right exposure with them. Taking part in these Olympic Games will award more confidence to the weightlifter to show his best in the forthcoming events,” he added.

The Iraqi coach affirmed that Amur has competed against top weightlifters in Asia.

“Olympic Games is different from any other sporting event. During the Olympics you will see all the weightlifters from different parts of the world. We are very keen to follow up the world ranking performance through youtube channels but this is the right opportunity to get closer with them,” he concluded.

Finals of Men’s 200 freestyle

Oman’s FINA (World swimming international governing body) board member, Taha Al Kishry, awarded the medals to the Olympic champions in Men’s 200 freestyle on Tuesday.

Swimmer Tom Dean from Great Britain won the gold medal while his teammate Duncan Scott claimed the silver medal. The bronze medal went to Brazilian swimmer Fernando Scheffer.

Shooting team begins training

The experienced national shooter Hamed Al Khatri began his train-

ing after their arrival late on Monday. He will be under the supervision of his national coach Sultan Al Rushaidi at Asaka Shooting Range until kick off on Monday.

Taha meets Mayor

The Secretary General of Oman Olympic Committee (OOC), Taha Al Kishry, met Olympic Village Mayor, Saburo Kawabuchi, on Monday.

During the meeting, Al Kishry expressed his great appreciation to the efforts made by the organising committee of Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 to organise this version of the Olympics under strict medical protocol which featured precautionary and preventive measures with the aim of ensuring the safety of the participants and athletes in the Olympic Games.

The OOC secretary general praised the various facilities and services provided by the Olympic Village to all athletes and administrators participating in the Olympics, including the restaurant, fitness halls, the medical centre, transportation services, the commercial section of the village, and other facilities.

On the other hand, the former president of Japan Football Association wished the best and good luck to all Omani athletes in Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



DO
MORE

MEDALS TALLY

Top 30 as of 6PM (Oman time)

Rank		G	S	B	T
1	Japan	10	3	5	18
2	USA	9	8	8	25
3	PR China	9	5	7	21
4	ROC	7	7	4	18
5	Great Britain	4	5	4	13
6	Republic of Korea	3	2	5	10
7	Australia	3	1	5	9
8	Canada	2	3	3	8
9	France	2	2	3	7
10	Germany	2	0	3	5
11	Kosovo	2	0	0	2
12	Italy	1	5	6	12
13	Chinese Taipei	1	2	3	6
14	Brazil	1	2	2	5
14	Switzerland	1	2	2	5

Rank		G	S	B	T
16	Slovenia	1	1	1	3
16	Serbia	1	1	1	3
18	Hungary	1	1	0	2
18	Tunisia	1	1	0	2
20	Austria	1	0	1	2
20	Croatia	1	0	1	2
20	Estonia	1	0	1	2
23	Bermuda	1	0	0	1
23	Ecuador	1	0	0	1
23	Hong Kong, China	1	0	0	1
23	IR Iran	1	0	0	1
23	Norway	1	0	0	1
23	Philippines	1	0	0	1
23	Thailand	1	0	0	1
23	Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1

FENCER PEREZ LOSES BOUT BUT ACCEPTS COACH'S MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

TOKYO: Argentina fencer Maria Belen Perez Maurice might have suffered a defeat in the women's sabre event on Monday in the Tokyo Olympics, but she had a reason to smile despite the loss. Her coach Lucas Guillermo Saucedo (who has also been her boyfriend for 17 years), proposed to her after the defeat, reported the Guardian.

The 36-year-old fencer was analysing her loss in an interview and it was then that Saucedo came up to her and proposed. Saucedo came up to her holding a note which read: “Will you marry me??? Please.”

Maurice then screamed in delight and accepted. “They [the interviewer] told me to turn around, and he had the letter. I forgot everything. I was like: Oh my God. We are very happy. We are very good partners. Of course, we have fights, but we enjoy each other's time. We love each other so much, and we want to spend our lives together. We are going to celebrate in Buenos Aires with a big barbecue,” the Guardian quoted Maurice as saying.

Tokyo Olympics: Number two seed Naomi Osaka knocked out

TOKYO: World number two Naomi Osaka was knocked out of the women's singles event in the ongoing Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday. Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova defeated Osaka in straight sets 6-1, 6-4.

In the first set, it seemed like Osaka did not turn up, and she was able to win just one game, and in the end, Vondrousova won it 6-1. The Czech maintained her charge in the second



set, and she did not allow the home favourite Osaka to come back. In the end, Osaka ended up losing the match in straight sets. Earlier on Sunday, Wimbledon 2021 champion Ashleigh Barty was knocked out of the women's singles.

Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo defeated Barty 6-4, 6-3 in straight sets to enter the next round. The entire match lasted for one hour and 34 minutes. -ANI

 مصانع مسقط للخيوط ش.م.ع.ع MUSCAT THREAD MILLS SAOG <i>The preferred source</i> P.O. Box 122, P.C. 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman, Ph. No. 24446806, Fax: 24446807			
UN-AUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021			
MANAGEMENTS' REPORT FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2021.	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT		
COVID-19 pandemic continued to have adverse impact on business throughout. Textile and apparel sector, being in non-essential segment, is getting more hit during the pandemic. Restrictions on cross border movement, specially by air, is also adversely impacting business while steep rising freight costs on sea routes, for inbound and outbound movement of goods, is adversely affecting margins. However, due to gradual opening of economic activities in Europe and USA, which have major base of apparel retailers, our business was comparatively better during the period. With the vaccination drive increasing in different parts of the world and resultant opening of economic activities, your company is optimistic of business prospects remaining, at least, stable during the year.	Amount in OMR		
	30-Jun 2021	30-Jun 2020	31-Dec 2020
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	701,340	750,675	698,619
ROU assets	15,714	27,914	21,814
Deferred tax assets	73,508	77,714	81,370
Total non-current assets	790,562	856,303	801,803
Current assets			
Inventories	932,019	885,738	857,402
Trade & other receivables	982,448	882,712	969,970
Bank and cash	67,833	137,874	213,007
Total current assets	1,982,300	1,906,324	2,040,379
Total assets	2,772,862	2,762,627	2,842,182
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	1,591,352	1,591,352	1,591,352
Legal reserve	201,450	201,450	201,450
Retained Earning	77,284	(88,299)	(7,599)
Total shareholders' equity	1,870,086	1,704,503	1,785,203
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Employees' end of service benefits	102,240	106,382	105,700
Non-current portion of term Loan	79,423	114,223	97,423
Non-current portion of lease liability			
ROU Assets	7,587	17,727	10,553
Total non-current liabilities	189,250	238,332	213,676
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	544,347	374,056	483,217
Bank borrowings	114,150	409,897	306,788
Current maturities of term loans	34,800	21,801	33,600
Current maturities lease liability ROU Assets	10,898	13,737	14,147
Income Tax payable	9,331	301	5,551
Total current liabilities	713,526	819,792	843,303
Total liabilities	902,776	1,058,124	1,056,979
Total equity and liabilities	2,772,862	2,762,627	2,842,182
Net assets per share	0.118	0.107	0.112
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED			
	Amount in OMR		
	30-Jun-21	31-Jun-20	
Turnover/Revenue	1,790,871	1,179,392	
Cost of Sale	(1,347,527)	(936,115)	
Gross profit	443,344	243,277	
Other Income	150	2,076	
Distribution expenses	(280,022)	(203,898)	
Administration & general expenses	(97,039)	(92,731)	
Provision for slow moving inventories	35,531	(26,953)	
Allowances for credit losses	15,798	(18,649)	
Profit from operations	117,762	(96,878)	
Finance expenses	(17,561)	(29,726)	
Profit/(loss) for the period before income tax	100,201	(126,604)	
Taxation	(15,318)	7,717	
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period	84,883	(118,887)	
Earnings per share	0.005	(0.008)	
The company does not have any items under other comprehensive income.			
Mithilesh Kumar Singh General Manager 26 July 2021			
Note: The complete accounts are available on MSX website. If required, the same can also be provided by email or post in Arabic or English, in seven days, on receipt of written request from the shareholder.			

MOTORSPORT

Al Harthy confirms return to British GT Championship

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than five months since his last track outing in the final round of the 2021 Asian Le Mans Series, Ahmad Al Harthy will get back behind the wheel of his Oman Racing Aston Martin Vantage GT3 car next week when he makes a welcome return to the Intelligent Money British GT Championship.

Oman's number one racing driver, who won the Silver Cup class crown in British GT in 2015, was scheduled to race a full season in the UK's premier endurance series last year before the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic halted those plans and led to Al Harthy spending a year on the racing sidelines.

Making a competitive return to action in the Middle-East based Asian Le Mans Series earlier this year, Al Harthy will now rejoin



RACING DRIVER: Joining Ahmad Al Harthy for the pair of one-hour races will be Charlie Eastwood.

British GT for the fifth event of the championship's season at the 2.97-mile Snetterton 300 Circuit in Norfolk over the weekend 7th

and 8th August.

Joining Al Harthy for the pair of one-hour races will be Charlie Eastwood, with whom the Omani

won the Pro-Am crown in the GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup in 2019 – a season where the Oman Racing team-mates took five podiums from five races and won the Pro-Am class at the world famous Total 24 Hours of Spa. Al Harthy, of course, also won the Pro-Am crown two years prior.

“I'm delighted to be back racing in the UK, back in British GT, with Oman Racing and looking forward to racing at Snetterton once again”, said Al Harthy.

“It is a very challenging year still with COVID-19 continuing to cause so many difficulties globally, but I'm very proud to be able to represent Oman in British GT once more and we would love to get some good results at Snetterton.

“We haven't been in the car since our last round in Asian Le Mans, although we have got some testing before next weekend so

hopefully we'll get back to speed very fast. I'm obviously really looking forward to teaming with Charlie [Eastwood] again as well, he's a great driver and knows our Aston Martin inside out.”

The No.97 Oman Racing Aston Martin Vantage GT3 will, as always, be prepared and engineered by top British squad TF Sport which is headed by Tom Ferrier. Along with the aforementioned success in GT World Challenge Europe, the successful partnership also won on its debut in the International GT open at Spa-Francorchamps last year.

“TF Sport have been in constant contact with us throughout these months where we've been working incredibly hard behind the scenes in Oman to put a programme together”, continued Al Harthy.

“These races in British GT are the first of several exciting out-

ings we're planning during the remainder of 2021. Watch this space for more announcements.”

Al Harthy last raced at Snetterton 300 Circuit back in 2015 in British GT where he qualified a mere 0.026 seconds shy of pole position, and challenged hard for race victory.

Unfortunately, contact from a GT4 class backmarker during the second half of the race – when then team-mate Alex MacDowall was at the wheel – ended genuine hopes of the win.

Opening practice at Snetterton for the British GT runners will take place at 09.25 local time on Saturday, 7th August, ahead of session two at 12.05 and qualifying at 15.55.

On Sunday, 8th August, after morning warm-up race one of the weekend will commence at 10.40 with race two getting underway at around 15.45.

NEW SEASON

Oman Cricket urges Senior Division teams to register before August 10

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Amid preparations to host ICC T20 Cricket World Cup, Oman Cricket (OC) has reminded the Senior Division teams to hasten the registration process for the new season along with the payment of tournament fees before the deadline expires on August 10.

Once the team registration and payment process is over, teams will be required to complete the player registration by August 15. All Senior Division teams must enroll a minimum of 15 players including at least one Omani national for the season.

“The Senior Division teams

must also physically submit a duly signed player consent form to Oman Cricket office before 5.30 pm by August 18. No scanned copies or emails will be accepted,” advised an OC official.

Holding the biggest pool of sides in any Division of Oman Cricket's League tournament, the Senior Division comprises teams from B Division downwards while Junior Division consists of various tiers of inter-school and cricket academy competitions across different age groups.

The 30-over B Division and 20-over lower Division leagues are likely to start simultaneously on September 13, all on astro-turf pitches across the capital.

INDIA AND SRI LANKA

Krunal tests positive for COVID-19, second T20I to be held today

NEW DELHI: The second T20I between India and Sri Lanka will be played on July 28, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed on Tuesday. All-rounder Krunal Pandya has tested positive for COVID-19.

Speaking to ANI, sources in the know of developments said Krunal has tested COVID-19 positive and that forced the two teams to go into isolation till reports come in of the rest of the players. “Krunal has tested positive and the T20I on Tuesday has been postponed and will happen on Wednesday if all the others test negative. The players are currently isolating,” the source said.

This puts a question mark on opener Prithvi Shaw as well as Suryakumar Yadav as they were set to travel to England as replacement for the Test series against England. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday informed that the All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Prithvi



Shaw and Suryakumar Yadav as replacements for the upcoming Test series against England as all-rounder Washington Sundar, batsman Shubman Gill and pacer Avesh Khan have been ruled out of the tour due to injuries.

As per the release, Sundar had taken an injection on his right-hand bowling finger during the three-day practice game against County Select XI. However, his recovery will take longer than expected. -ANI

Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown claimed the women's 100m backstroke gold in an Olympic record time of 57.47 seconds



STUPENDOUS EFFORT: Jacoby knocked off defending champion and US teammate Lilly King to reach the top of the podium.

TOKYO: Tuesday saw history made at the Tokyo Olympics as 17-year-old Alaskan Lydia Jacoby stormed to victory in the women's 100-metre breaststroke.

Jacoby knocked off defending champion and US teammate Lilly King to reach the top of the podium. She's the first swimmer from the Arctic circle to ever make the US Olympic swimming team, and the first Alaskan Olympic gold medallist.

Jacoby, still in high school, sat in third heading into the final turn, as the expected battle between favourites King and South African Tatjana Schoenmaker played out

in front of her.

But the teenager accelerated in the final 25 meters and surged past her competitors on the final two strokes. Schoenmaker finished in silver while King claimed bronze.

“I was definitely racing for a medal. I knew I had it in me,” Jacoby said. “I wasn't really expecting a gold medal, so when I looked up and saw the scoreboard, it was insane.”

Teammate King was gushing in her praise for Jacoby.

“I'm so excited for Lydia,” King said. “I love to see the future of American breaststroke coming up like this and to have somebody to go at it head to head in the country. I definitely knew she was a threat and saw a lot of myself in her effort.”

Kaylee McKeown

Australian swimmer Kaylee McKeown claimed the women's 100m backstroke gold in an Olympic record time of 57.47 seconds at the Tokyo Olympic

OLYMPICS

US gymnast pulls out

TOKYO: American gymnast Simone Biles has pulled out from the rest of the team final of the Tokyo Olympics.

The reigning champion will play no further part in Tuesday's final, reported Olympics.com. Biles' withdrawal is a major blow for the US team. Last week, Biles became the first Olympic athlete to have her own customized hashtag emoji on Twitter. Earlier, British tennis player Andy Murray withdrew himself from the men's singles event of the Olympics. -ANI

WOMEN'S TRIATHLON

Bermuda win first-ever Olympic gold medal

TOKYO: Bermuda's Flora Duffy won the Olympic women's triathlon in Tokyo on Tuesday, bagging the country's first ever Olympic gold medal and its first medal of any kind since 1976.

The 33-year-old endurance athlete finished the punishing long-distance swim, bike ride and run quicker than the competition. She was among a group of seven others who broke away from the pack at the start of the 40-kilometre cycling leg. -ANI



OLYMPICS

Japan, France grab judo golds

TOKYO: Takanori Nagase of Japan claimed victory in men's -81kg category, winning the host nation's fifth gold in judo at Tokyo Olympics, while French judoka Clarisse Agbegnenou dominated in women's 63kg on Tuesday.

In men's 81kg final, Nagase scored a waza-ari over Saeid Mollaei of Mongolia with a golden score, while Shamil Borchashvili of Austria and Matthias Casse of Belgium gained bronze medals in the category.

“I have experienced many setbacks in the past five years,” said Nagase, who settled for a bronze at Rio 2016. “Experiencing such setbacks made me improve and

grow. That was why I was able to gain the gold medal today.”

Agbegnenou won women's 63kg gold in a fast-paced final, defeating Tina Trstenjak of Slovenia by a waza-ari. The bronze medals went to Italian Maria Centracchio and Canadian Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard.

In Rio, Agbegnenou was defeated by Trstenjak in the final. After five years of waiting, the world champion won her first Olympic gold. “Tina, her judo was very difficult to understand. It took me years to grasp it, and that was why I had many setbacks,” the 28-year-old champion praised. -Xinhua

CRICKET

Australia defeat Windies in third ODI

BRIDGETOWN: Mitchell Starc's three-wicket haul and Matthew Wade's unbeaten 51-run knock helped Australia defeat West Indies by six wickets in the third and final ODI on Monday at the Kensington Oval.

With this win, Australia won the three-match series 2-1. Chasing 153, Australia got off to a bad start as the visitors lost two wickets with just 27 runs on the board. Josh Philippe (10) and Moises Henriques (1) failed to leave a mark with the bat. Alex Carey and Mitchell Marsh then put on 38 runs for the third wicket, but this stand came to an end in the 14th over as Sheldon Cottrell sent Marsh (29) back to the pavilion, reducing Australia to 65/3.

Matthew Wade then joined Car-



ey in the middle and the duo scored runs at a brisk pace, and West Indies seemingly had no answers. The duo put on 34 runs, but as soon

as Australia started to look firm favourites, West Indies came back as Hayden Walsh dismissed Carey (35). In the end, Ashton Agar (19*)

along with Wade (51*) took Australia over the line by six wickets and 117 balls to spare.

Earlier, a spirited bowling performance helped Australia bundle out West Indies for just 152 inside 46 overs. Mitchell Starc scalped three wickets while Josh Hazlewood, Ashton Agar and Adam Zampa took two wickets each.

No West Indies batter was able to stay at the crease for a long time and it was just Evin Lewis who showed some fight with the bat as he registered a knock of 55 runs with the help of five 4s and three 6s. Brief Scores: West Indies 152 all out (Evin Lewis 55, Darren Bravo 18, Mitchell Starc 3-43); Australia 153/4 (Matthew Wade 51*, Alex Carey 35, Alzarri Joseph 1-14). -ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by September 2021 reaching \$73.01, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.02 from the price of Monday, which was \$71.99. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,016.58 points, up 0.27 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.16 per cent at 581.10 points. United Finance, up 5.45 per cent, was the top gainer while Asaffa Foods, down 5.24 per cent, was the top loser.

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Oil prices unfazed by fears of higher supply as demand outlook brightens

Reports suggested that a bulk of the global economies are now expected to catch up with the US and China that witnessed strong growth earlier this year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Global crude oil prices remained elevated and well above the \$70 per barrel mark after 'datapoints' suggested sustained high demand in the near term despite fears of new COVID-19 variants and newer restrictions, a new report suggests.

"Demand for gasoline and diesel remained robust in the US as an increasing number of industries came online. This was evident from the elevated PMI numbers for July-2021 at 59.7, continuing the strong trend seen in June-2021," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest, an investment, strategy and research firm, said in its research report titled 'Oil Market Monthly Report - July 2021'.

Reports suggested that a bulk of the global economies are now expected to catch up with the US



RESEARCH REPORT: The increase in production by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) during June-2021 and the agreement to gradually increase output slowed down the surge in oil prices. - File picture

and China that witnessed strong growth earlier this year.

Nevertheless, the increase in production by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) during June-2021 and the agreement to gradually increase output slowed down the surge in oil prices. In addition, the unexpected increase in oil inventory in the US and a strong USD also made it difficult for oil to scale new multi-year highs. Moreover, oil demand remained uneven among

product categories.

An expected increase in jet fuel demand was further delayed as international travel restrictions continue to remain in place, whereas gasoline demand got a boost as domestic travel is expected to replace international travel despite higher prices.

Monthly data

On the demand front, monthly data from IEA suggested that oil demand increased by 3.2 million

barrels per day in June-2021 to 96.8 million barrels per day, 3 per cent below pre-pandemic levels. The IEA expects demand to pick up further during the third quarter of 2021 led by vaccination programmes in developed countries. The agency expects demand to increase by 3.3 million barrels per day quarter-on-quarter during the third quarter of 2021, which would be two to three times more than the normal seasonal increase in demand during the third quarter.

For the full year, the agency expects oil demand to increase by 5.3 million barrels per day to reach 96.4 million barrels per day in 2021 and further to 99.5 million barrels per day in 2022.

Meanwhile, Opec published its initial forecast for the 2022 oil market. The agency expects oil demand to grow by 3.3 million barrels per day and average at 99.86 million barrels per day in 2022, with the 100 million barrels per day mark expected to be reached by 2022 second half.

OECD demand is expected to grow by 1.5 million barrels per day next year while non-OECD demand is expected to grow by 1.8 million barrels per day.

On the supply side, the restrained production in the US resulted in the WTI-Brent spread reaching the highest levels since October-2020. According to reports, an increase in demand pushed inventories at Cushing to the lowest since March-2020.

Crude oil inventory in the US declined for eight consecutive weeks only to increase last week by 2.1 million barrels per day. Total inventory has dropped by 62.1 million barrels since April-2021 despite a steady increase in production since May-2021 to reach 11.4 million barrels per day for the week ended on July 16, 2021.

Opec producers also reported a broad-based increase, adding 0.6 million barrels per day month-on-month in July-2021.

Crude oil prices witnessed one of the biggest single-day declines on 19-July-2021 as market watchers feared the rise of the new vari-

ant of COVID-19 would derail the oil market recovery.

The Opec+ decision to increase production starting from August-2021 further added to the downward sentiments resulting in the biggest single-day decline in prices in four months.

However, prices showed a swift recovery for the rest of the week on expectations that supply would remain restrained for the remainder of the year.

The surge in crude oil demand as several economies reopen has resulted in speculations that oil exports from the US would be curbed and imports would increase to meet local demand. An announcement on similar lines was made by Russia's Energy Minister who said that the country may start the process of banning gasoline exports starting next week if fuel prices in domestic exchanges stay at current levels. On the other hand, in China, the government is selling oil from its strategic reserve to keep a lid on local prices.

The surge in crude oil prices came despite news that the Delta variant of COVID-19 is now the dominant strain worldwide and Australia is going in for stricter lockdowns.

Crude oil benchmarks averaged above the \$70 per barrel mark in June-2021 for the first time in 26 months. Brent crude oil basket averaged at \$73 per barrel, after increasing by 6.5 per cent month-on-month during June-2021. The increase in Opec crude and Kuwait crude grades was much stronger at 7.4 per cent to average at \$71.9 per barrel while Kuwait crude grade averaged at 72.5 per barrel.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



Treasury bills worth OMR95 million issued

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR95 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from July 28 until October 27, 2021.

The average accepted price reached 99.806 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.805 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.77687 per cent and 0.77837 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent. The treasury bills are short-

term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **OMA**

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Services Index was down by 0.16 per cent before closing at 1,705.13 points. — **United Securities**

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.....	Up.....	Down.....	Equal.....	Sec. Traded
24,951,962	3,687,087	1,177	21,534,505,140	20	8	16	44

[illegible]

OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	797,717	-57,062	43	0.057	0.060	0.057	0.058	0.055	0.003	5.455	0.060	0.059	0.090	0.100	20,250.376
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	505,370	40,600	33	0.077	0.081	0.077	0.080	0.076	0.004	5.263	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.100	16,238.916
OM00000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	586,128	-41,258	37	0.067	0.072	0.067	0.070	0.067	0.003	4.478	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	-8,531.250
OM00000003125	GLOBAL INV FUND	1,988,117	138,210	104	0.068	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.067	0.003	4.478	0.070	0.070	0.073	0.100	-14,000.000
OM00000001436	TAKARA FINANCE	201,000	16,822	103	0.082	0.084	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.003	4.583	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.100	10,457.970
OM00000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	690,662	69,066	19	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.100	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	200,200.375
OM00000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,322,191	-348,933	102	0.105	0.108	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.105	0.107	0.100	-13,975.000
OM00000001152	OMAN NAT ENCL	30,000	2,800	3	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.092	0.100	0.100	-12,650.000
OM00000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	2,000	1,200	2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.300	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	68,500.000
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	15,297	2,830	2	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.182	0.185	0.100	300,800.0076
OM00000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,875	141	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.083	0.100	-9,750.000
OM00000001889	SALAFI MILLS	693	554	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.800	0.812	0.800	0.800	0.100	-970.451
OM00000002297	GULF MOUNTAIN CO P	590	113	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.031	0.028	0.001	0.251	0.028	0.028	0.100	0.100	10,442.329
OM00000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	13,511	12,700	3	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.000	0.000	0.940	0.920	0.940	0.100	57,598.500
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	174,499	17,117	7	0.098	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.100	0.100	147,000.000
OM00000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	153,316	9,076	6	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.050	0.053	0.100	-33,769.004
OM00000004953	AL SUWADI POWER	230,303	6,497	9	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.055	0.055	0.003	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.100	57,772.443
OM00000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	670	124	1	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.185	0.185	0.000	0.100	308,840.850
OM00000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,595,734	72,379	61	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	65,817.006
OM00000007407	DISCO POWER GRATING	135,020	16,442	124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.125	0.127	-0.002	-1.575	0.125	0.126	0.100	0.100	-27,780.000
OM00000005249	BANK DHOAF	15,658	15,600	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.122	0.002	1.587	0.123	0.124	0.100	0.100	17,127.587
OM00000001319	ALUMINIUM PROF	2,306,797	273,545	118	0.110	0.128	0.110	0.119	0.122	-0.003	-2.459	0.125	0.124	0.126	0.100	

Venture capital investments in India surge in second quarter of 2021

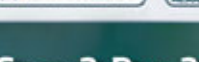
cal grocery delivery, video-sharing and gaming, said professional services firm KPMG. Investors continued to pour money into edtech companies including Byju's which raised a \$1.5 billion funding round this quarter. **-ANI**

ahlibank, Dhofar Insurance to offer comprehensive insurance solutions

Omar Ahmed Al Sheikh, Deputy CEO, Dhofar Insurance Company, said, "We thank ahlikbank management for expanding the insurance agreement between the two sides, through which we aim to provide services and solutions that meet the various needs for a safe life for customers, by providing multiple solutions and financial support to address their moments of crisis."

Airlines cite concerns about fuel shortages at some airports

Southwest said the fuel situation hasn't affected its flights, but it has added more fuel on some planes to limit the amount needed at airports with shortages. **-BNA**




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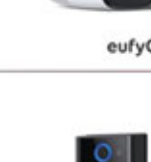

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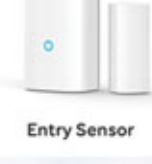


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Mercedes-Benz Oman launches Actros health check packages

Carried out by certified technicians, the comprehensive package is available between August 8 and 12 for Actros trucks in Muscat, Haima, Sohar and Salalah

MUSCAT: Continuing to provide optimum ride comfort, exemplary safety and outstanding reliability for every long-haul journey, Mercedes-Benz Oman has announced its latest service week, offering

Health Checks for Actros trucks in Muscat, Haima, Sohar and Salalah. Specifically targeting those components that are prone to wear and tear, the customised service is available for 6-cylinder engines for just OMR 103 including VAT and 8-cylinder engines for just OMR 111 including VAT. Carried out by certified technicians, the comprehensive package is available between August 8 and 12 and includes a range of maintenance checks to ensure that both businesses and drivers have complete peace of mind. “As our flagship Mercedes-Benz truck, the Actros is a vehicle fit for the future, with a reputation for being one of the most efficient, safe and comfortable heavy-duty vehicles in the market. Our Health Checks aim to keep it that way. Performed by our certified technicians and backed by our absolute commitment to aftersales care, they will leave the service centre in peak condition and ready to go,” said Gary Brown, General Manag-

er of Mercedes-Benz Oman. The Health Check package is equipped to ensure that each truck remains in peak mechanical health, and includes engine oil (mineral oil) and filter change, replacement of diesel filter, checking for oil leaks on major components, checking and adjusting fluid levels, diagnostic check-up of vehicle electrical system, engine compression test with a diagnostic tool that gives an indication on engine condition, multi-point inspection, retightening of lug nuts on two/three axles, and vehicle washing and greasing. With a rigorous prioritisation of providing all customers with the very best customer experience, Mercedes-Benz Oman Commercial Vehicles offers an unrivalled range of tailor-made and reliable transport solutions, local service and parts supply throughout the wide national network of Mercedes-Benz branches, as well as expert technical and driver support.



AL MAZYONA MID-YEAR DRAW

Two Bank Muscat customers from Al Mudhaibi and Madinat A’Sultan Qaboos branches win OMR500,000

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, conducted a special Al Mazyona Mid-year draw and gave away over OMR1.5 million in high-value prizes to be given away to 92 lucky winners. The lucky winners included two customers from the Al Mudhaibi and Madinat A’Sultan Qaboos branches who won a total of OMR500,000 in the 2 top prizes. The draws under the Al Mazyona scheme, which is Oman’s biggest prize draw scheme, was live-streamed across the bank’s social media channels on Instagram, Twitter and YouTube keeping in mind the keen interest of the bank’s customers and the general public. The mid-year draw rewarded Asalah and Al Jawhar customers as well as those from all the governorates of the Sultanate and was held in the presence of Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, Bank Muscat and Dr Fatma Al Hajri, Behavioral Economics Expert. Two lucky winners won OMR 250,000 each in the special mega prizes, which were given away during the prize draw. All customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR 30,000 in their Al Mazyona accounts were automatically entered into the draws to select the two top winners in the Mid-year draws. Similarly, high savings Asalah Priority Banking customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR 30,000 were entered into the draws for 10 Mid-year prizes of OMR 50,000



each for a total of OMR 500,000 in prizes for Asalah customers. In the Al Jawhar Privilege Banking segment, 10 lucky customers won prizes of OMR 20,000 each adding to a total of OMR 200,000. All Al Jawhar customers maintaining a minimum balance of OMR 10,000 were automatically entered into the draws for these high-value prizes. Also, 70 winners were chosen from amongst customers across all governorates in the Sultanate having a minimum balance of OMR 1,000, with each winner getting OMR 5,000 in the prize draw for a total of OMR 350,000 in prizes. Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, Deputy General Manager – Institutional Sales and Product Development, Bank Muscat said: “We are delighted with the excellent response and feedback from our customers and congratulate all the winners for their wonderful savings habit. Since its launch, the Al Mazyona prize draw scheme has been going from strength to strength and the bank will continue to develop this scheme to further promote the concept of savings in the Sultanate.” On his part, Abdulnasir Al Raisi, Deputy General Manager - Premier Banking, Bank Muscat, spoke about the high-value prizes are an extra incentive for Premier Banking customers in successful financial planning and achieving their dreams. He said: “Through continuous innovation and response to customer feedback, the 2021 scheme has further increased the number of prizes available. The bank will continue to meet the aspirations of our customers while also promoting a good savings habit in the country

with these special prizes.” During the event, Dr Fatma Al Hajri, Behavioral Economics Expert, explained the importance of savings and financial planning from the perspective of behavioural economics. She said that even if individuals have sufficient information and know the best options for themselves, there can still be many reasons why they are not able to make a decision or stick to their savings plan. It is here that behavioural economics can help people commit to their savings plan and provide clarity on their future. Behavioural economic models can help answer important questions like: “How will my life be like in the future? Can I achieve financial stability and comfort? Will my financial plan help me achieve my desired lifestyle?” Through optimal financial planning, individuals can better their prospects. Bank Muscat’s Al Mazyona savings programme is an important tool in one’s finance management. This year, Al Mazyona is giving away a record 7,470 prizes compared to 6,677 in 2020, a 12 per cent increase in the number of winners, with special prizes reserved for high-saving Asalah and Al Jawhar customers as well as in the regional, women, youth, children and salary-transfer categories. The 2021 scheme features several special draws including the Eid Al Fitr draw, a National Day draw, the Mid-year draw and an End of Year draw apart from the regular monthly draws for different customer segments.

DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

MHD adds Blackline Safety’s G7 connected safety wearables to line card

MUSCAT: To help keep workers safe through connected safety wearables and gas detection, Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD) announced that it has entered into a distribution agreement with Blackline Safety. Armed with Blackline’s lineup of G7 safety wearables that feature a modular approach to gas detection, Union Supply makes it easy for businesses to adopt the latest in connected worker technology. “Employees and workers are an integral part of any company and their safety is a top priority. Our tie-up with Blackline Safety will ensure that our clients get the best possible safety solutions for the well-being of their staff,” said Mohsin Al Bahrani, CEO – MHD ACERE, “This distribution agreement with Blackline Safety is a natural extension to our portfolio of services. By expanding our focus on safety solutions, we are helping businesses elevate their safety program through practical and easy to manage cloud-connected safety technologies.” “Combining MHD’s expertise with our cloud-connected safety technology, we are making it easy for businesses to modernise their



approach to gas detection,” said Samy Karam Gerguis, Regional Sales Manager with Blackline Safety. “We’re also increasing their competitiveness through automated compliance reporting and the option for affordable team collaboration with push-to-talk built into each of our G7 safety wearables.” Blackline Safety’s G7 lineup of cellular-connected safety wear-

ables automatically connects to the Blackline Safety Cloud, allowing businesses to monitor the wellbeing of field and facility personnel easily and seamlessly, including lone workers. Should an incident occur – a gas leak, health event or injury – cloud-hosted emergency response management software makes it easy for a control room or Blackline’s in-house 24/7 Safety

Operations Center to respond to any incident in seconds. As businesses transform digitally through the adoption of connected technologies, Blackline’s G7 gas detection lineup automates regulatory compliance reporting through online, interactive reports. Adding further value, Blackline’s G7 wearables connect teams through push-to-talk that includes 100 channels of communication, working as traditional two-way radio. One G7 safety wearable converges three devices into one – a traditional gas detector, a lone worker monitor and a walkie-talkie. The origin of Mohsin Haider Darwish dates back to over half a century. The family proprietary business was converted to its present form of a corporate entity in 1987. Since then, the Group has grown to be one of the largest and most successful privately-owned business houses in the Gulf region. Over the years, the conglomeration has expanded to include products and services spread over automotive, tyres & batteries, computers, office automation & telecom, engineering products, oil & gas products, electrical & electronics, building materials, gases & medical equipment.

SOPHISTICATED



Nissan X-Terra amazes customers with its ‘Go Anywhere’ capabilities

MUSCAT: Nissan X-Terra, the vehicle specially designed for adventure and the outdoors has received a terrific response from customers in Oman. The model, which empowers owners to go anywhere, has impressed customers with its robust yet sophisticated look. They have defined the vehicle as an ideal partner for customers seeking exciting outdoor adventures. Powering the all-new X-Terra is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine with a seven-speed automatic transmission. The petrol engines deliver 124kW/165 hp and 241Nm of torque that ensures an exciting drive of speed and acceleration. Created for adventures, with a roomy interior and advanced technologies Nissan X-Terra ensures safety and comfort. Nissan Intelligent Mobility features add to its attraction. A spokesperson for Nissan Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), said, “The seven-seater, spacious, comfortable X-Terra is a catalyst for new experiences, allowing owners to connect with the people in their lives, and to confidently ‘Go Anywhere’ together. It addresses a variety of needs and all types of terrains as it is both, good for city use and great for an adventure with family and friends. Developed in line with the “unbreakable” frame vehicles design philosophy, it combines masculine solidity with sleek and modern execution.” The all-new X-Terra delivers a robust four-wheel-drive system, including a four-wheel lock, brake limited-slip differential and electronic locking rear differential – while leading the class in interior room and comfort. Built on 70 years of unmatched Nissan SUV expertise, the all-new Nissan X-Terra 2021 reflects the evolution of four-wheel adventure travel and a growing consumer desire for connection. It effortlessly combines impressive strength with bold new design and built-for-comfort roominess. Underlining this is breakthrough engineering and a suite of cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility (NIM) technologies to offer a superior driving experience and adventure-ready confidence for

drivers to explore new places. The SUV’s rugged frame facilitates its durability and practicality, while the future-forward aesthetics are exhibited in the quad-LED projector lamps and a bold new V-motion grille. The revised rear and new LED taillights add to the all-new X-Terra’s athletic look, reflecting the Nissan Design team’s dynamic and modern philosophy. **Styling stands out** The styling of the all-new X-Terra was developed at the Global Design studio in Japan. At 4.9m in length, 1.9m in height and just over 2.1m in width – with a ground clearance of 243 mm – the X-Terra looks right at home next to its bigger sibling, the Patrol, and borrows some design elements. The front face resembles the Patrol with the powerful new V-motion grill, with its thick frame contrasting with the refined horizontal chrome bars within. The proportions of the all-new X-Terra are strong and bold. The hood is tall and horizontal, the body is muscular, and the driver sits up high for a commanding road presence. The overall image is imposing and rugged, but designers have also added expressions of sophistication and technology. This is underlined by the unique C-shaped LED signature headlamps, similar to those of the Patrol, but evolved and interpreted in a new way for the all-new X-Terra. The quad LED projector lamps, like ice-cubes, have a high-tech vibe. Each one is intricately framed in its bezel, showing off an attention to detail. The front bumper with its unique layers overlapping each other creates an overall protected, yet sophisticated feeling. Combined with sleek, high tech headlamps and a powerful grill create a distinctive front face that looks tough, modern and upscale. In the rear, the width of the vehicle is highlighted by the strong horizontal movement of the tail lamps. The wide LED signature rear lamps and the characteristic chrome centre finisher further emphasize its strength and width. Like its Patrol sibling, the rear bumper uses squared-off shapes to show that the all-new X-Terra is well protected.



ROUND-UP

NBO launches employee-focused HiPotential Identification programme

The HiPotential Identification programme is one of many strategic interventions that are being launched as part of the bank's commitment to create and sustain a strong performance-based culture

MUSCAT: In line with its vision and mission to create a market-leading workforce, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has launched its new employee-focused HiPotential Identification programme.

The first phase of evaluations under the programme has been completed through an assessment centre, where bank employees including its Islamic banking window, Muzn, were taken through a series of online assessments and interviews. Out of their results, a pool of 'Hi-Potential' candidates

has been identified, who will then be provided with customised development plans that will chart out their ongoing progression and upskill them for professional growth. In the next batch of assessments, the bank will target additional employees.

"Our people are at the heart of what we do and are our most important assets, and as such, we have always strived to help them reach their development goals. The Assessment Centre has been designed using industry-leading

practices and strengthens our endeavours to identify, groom and grow a leadership pipeline from within," said Nasser Al Hajri, Chief Operating Officer at NBO. "We have a huge pool of talent at the bank and we are committed to equipping them with the tools and techniques to be able to contribute to a self-reliant, engaged, and future-ready workforce, while opening up greater opportunities for them in the future."

The HiPotential Identification programme is one of many strategic interventions that are being launched as part of the bank's commitment to create and sustain a strong performance-based culture. Recently, the bank also joined the nationwide Etimad initiative to train Omanis for middle and senior management positions. Meanwhile, its in-house training arm, the Academy of Excellence, has been helping its employees meet their professional goals for more than 10 years, with a number of training courses, programmes, and internship opportunities.



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Nasser Al Hajri
Chief Operating Officer at NBO.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Taiba Pharma enhances operations with SAP ByD powered by Indus Novateur



MUSCAT: Taiba, a leading healthcare marketing, distribution, and retail pharmacy group in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the digital transformation with SAP ByD to streamline its processes and continue to make positive market changes. Thanks to the support and consulting of its technology partner, Indus Novateur.

The primary area of its focus has been the marketing and distribution of niche disease medications, particularly for hematologic and genetic disorders. Its pharmaceutical line also caters to other therapeutics in fields like oncology, cardiology and nephrology. Furthermore, its product ranges for hospital disposables, surgical and medical devices, and lab products, are all aimed at enabling and driving the healthcare industry of Oman to cater for the needs of society at large.

It became crucial for Taiba to find a way to competently and comprehensively oversee the company functions in line with the

pharma international standards enabling it to assist in constantly improving the way it serves the community. Also further while deciding on an ERP system the long term continuity with support of a global system have been considered. Thus it has ended up with an apt decision to implement the SAP ByD a cloud-based ERP system.

"With the adaptation of SAP we intend to gain a complete overview of our various processes, tracking inventory with batches, making our supply chain & distribution more efficient, expanding supplier and customer good relation, and strengthening internal standards as narrated by the visionary," said CEO of the Taiba Group, Saif Al Hasani.

"Taiba will now leverage the SAP Business ByDesign (ByD) suite, enhanced and ably supported by Indus Novateur, to greatly ease manual workflows and reduce man-made errors. Data management pushes us to track and simplify stock processes, monitor



expiry dates. Automating financial operations using the Finance module is now made feasible. Sales, accounting, and billing tasks are also automated, in addition to the real-time analytics that we use to gain to predict and optimise operating costs," said COO, Khalid Al Zadjali.

Indus Novateur, an award-winning SAP gold partner was selected as our technology partner after due diligence appreciating their expertise in implementing all SAP solutions, specialisation in SAP ByD, local presence in Oman coupled with their presence across GCC, India and USA. We look forward

to the continued engagement with Indus Novateur who will provide ongoing support to ensure the availability and performance of the SAP platform, to realise our vision and mission.

SAP ByD will further streamline its human resource management and support employee self-service, in addition, to oversee our payroll and regulation. It strives to continue leading the charge in the pharmaceutical distribution industry to improve the quality of life of patients by providing high quality, innovative products through healthcare organisations.

HEALTHCARE

Pregnancy care during COVID-19 pandemic

MUSCAT: Pregnancy reduces women's immunity and becomes less resistant to diseases such as the coronavirus. Dr Rehab Morsel, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Syrian Board in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who has a Master's Degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and works with Basmath Al Amal Medical Complex, Bahla shares the most important tips that a pregnant woman should follow during this pandemic to protect herself and her fetus.

- Avoid gathering places as much as possible.
- Social distancing: When entering places where human gatherings, where it is recommended to keep a distance of at least two meters between people.
- Commitment to sterilisation: A pregnant woman may have to touch things that others touch, such as shopping carts, toilets and doorknobs, so she must wash hands with soap and water for no less than 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based rub.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- Wearing a mask: Wearing a mask reduces the infection rate, provided that it is not removed until you leave the gathering places.
- Eating a healthy diet strengthens the immune system. Eat adequate amounts of vegetables and fruits because they contain various minerals and vitamins. Eat adequate amounts of proteins such as chicken, fish, meat and legumes. Eating foods rich in



- unsaturated fats such as omega-3 found in fish and nuts, where omega enhances the body's immunity and helps the development of the nervous system of the fetus. Avoid foods rich in carbohydrates such as sweets.
- Avoid fast food and smoking.
- Cut back on caffeine, such as coffee and tea.
- Expose yourself to the sun on daily basis to get vitamin D which has a major role in strengthening the immune system.
- Exercising regularly before and during pregnancy according to the instructions of the obstetrician and gynaecologist for its role in revitalising the body and enhancing immunity.
- Stay away from anxiety, stress and bad news.
- Sleep adequately for at least 8 hours a day, organise sleep and waking up times, and adopt continuous sleep.
- Drink enough water, at least eight glasses a day.

STYLISH DESIGN

Ascend to new heights in Toyota Corolla Cross SUV



MUSCAT: The Corolla Cross makes a fine mark with its powerful performance, stylish design and exciting driving dynamics.

It combines key elements like strength and functionality taking centre stage with its stunning looks, high ground clearance, roomy interiors and occupant focussed detailing. The Corolla Cross SUV is built from the ground up with a TNGA platform,

to encourage you to ascend to new heights. And to 'live elevated'.

Sporting a bold profile, the Corolla Cross is powered to amplify arrivals. With a 1.8L engine paired to an electronically controlled CVT transmission. This hybrid electric vehicle produces dynamic acceleration and world-class fuel efficiency. A wide and tough stance is emphasised by the front grille resulting in a mature front

expression. Together with the bumper, the double trapezoid form expresses a bold and stable design. The angular and wrap-around design of the headlamps integrated with daytime running lights, flow outwards from the grille.

Highlighting its dynamic looks and bolder stance. Sleek defined lines run along the side, culminating at the front of an aerodynamic cabin exuding a sophisticated im-

pression. A muscular wheel arch adds to the sturdy looking lower body.

A comfortable driving experience is made possible by the TNGA platform and is complemented by the large 17" alloy wheels. The solid forms of rear fenders are fused to the body, contrasting with the aerodynamically tapered cabin, which expresses an imposing stance.

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