

MUSCAT DAILY

AN APEX MEDIA PUBLICATION

Wear a mask... always!



43°C/37°C

MONDAY, 02 AUGUST 2021
www.muscatdaily.com



Protect yourself. And others

GET VACCINATED

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY APEX MEDIA AND MHD-ITICS

Last update: 27 July 2021
TOTAL VACCINATED

2000072

Integrated vehicles complex to come up in Sohar Industrial City

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) is working on launching two major projects in Sohar Industrial City - an integrated vehicle hub called Madayn Vehicle Complex (Motcar) and the second, Plastic Industries Complex.

Hamad Humud al Qasabi, director general of Sohar Industrial City, said, "Madayn recently launched a tender for development of Motcar. The project aims to provide an integrated complex for car trading, spare parts, accessories, exhibitions, sales yard, workshops and related services."

With Motcar, Madayn wants to position the sultanate as a re-

Madayn recently launched a tender for development of Motcar. The project aims to provide an integrated complex for car trading, spare parts, accessories, exhibitions, sales yard, workshops and related services

HAMAD AL QASABI

gional centre for commercial services related to automobiles.

Regarding the Plastic Industries Complex, Qasabi said, "Madayn is cooperating with OQ and the Oman Vision 2040 Imple-



mentation Follow-Up Unit to complete the preparatory phase of the project. It will be built on an area spread over 1mn sqm within Sohar Industrial City. Preparations are currently under-

way to set the general framework of the project, products and services and incentives that will be offered to investors."

He noted that this complex will support the Liwa Plastic

Complex project, sultanate's biggest petrochemicals investment to date, with the aim of maximising output to feed the local market and export to neighbouring markets, as well as cre-

ate jobs.

Sohar Industrial City has seen an investment of more than RO2bn and employs 13,702 people - 4,686 Omanis and 8,792 expatriates. "Currently, there are 380 projects in the city, ranging from industries, services and commercial," Qasabi said.

Sohar Industrial City is divided into seven phases. Occupancy rate in the first four phases reached 100 per cent, while the fifth and sixth phases had an occupancy rate of nearly 70 per cent. In the seventh phase, occupancy rate is about 40 per cent.

"Work is underway to develop the seventh phase of the city and it will be completed in the first half of 2022, when it will provide integrated infrastructure and space ready to attract new investments," Qasabi said.

Royal Decree appoints CEOs, undersecretaries

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq issued Royal Decree No 52/2021 on Sunday appointing government officials reading as follows -

Article 1 appoints the following officials to the posts indicated along their names:

- Eng Khamis Mohammed Abdullah al Shamakhi, Undersecretary for Transport in the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.
- Basil Ahmed Amir al Rowas, Undersecretary for Sports and Youth in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth.
- Eng Nayef Ali Hamad al Abri, chief executive officer of Civil Aviation Authority.
- Dr Jokha Abdullah Humood al Shukaili, CEO of Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education.

Article 2 states that the decree will be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

ONA

NEWS BRIEFS

FIRES RAGE ACROSS SOUTHERN EUROPE, FORCING HUNDREDS TO EVACUATE

Ankara, Turkey - Dozens of villages were evacuated in tourist hotspots in southern Turkey on Sunday as wildfires that have claimed eight lives raged for a fifth day, while blazes also hit Greece, Italy and Spain.

Fanned by soaring temperatures and strong winds - with experts saying that climate change increases both the frequency and intensity of such blazes - this year's fire season has been significantly more destructive than the previous average, EU data shows.

Turkey is suffering its worst fires in at least a decade with nearly 95,000 hectares burnt so far this year.

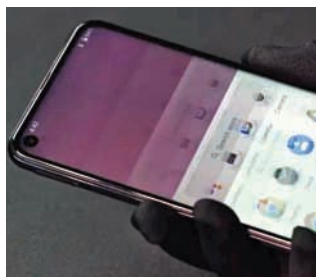
Made-in-Oman phone Mersal to hit market by the end of 2021

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Proving the promising potential of Omani talent in the field of information technology, Omani youths have designed a smartphone that will be commercially available before the end of 2021.

IT company Mersal has informed that the smartphone is the result of more than two years of dedication and painstaking work. Technical specifications of the device are now available on social media.

"The design and manufacture of the first Omani phone in Oman Makers Centre is a historic moment," said Eng Rashid Abdullah al Nasri, CEO of Mersal. The centre is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Finance, and serves as an open workshop for the manufacture of devices and the use of apps devised by students and



other Omani individuals.

"The phone has international specifications. Mersal is the first smartphone assembled in Oman by 100 per cent Omani staff. Mersal is proud of our young Omanis," Nasri said.

He informed that the smartphone is equipped with an Android 11 operating system, 128GB memory, 10" HD screen and weighs 215gm. "The phone is 4G compatible, but we are currently working on a 5G model. We have Omani youth trained to provide after-sales services."

Mersal also launched a tablet recently, Nasri informed.

RC JOCKEYS QUALIFY FOR 2022 ENDURANCE WORLD CUP



Three jockeys of Royal Cavalry (RC) have qualified for the 2022 Endurance World Cup Championship to be held in Verona, Italy, after preliminary races conducted by the International Federation for Equestrian Sport. Jockeys Hisham Saleh al Farsi and Ahmed Salim al Hamdani qualified after completing the 160km stages of the French International Endurance Race. Mahmoud Marhoon al Fori qualified for the 2022 World Cup Endurance Championship after a competition held in the Italian city of Pisa earlier (Supplied photo)

MoCIIP prohibits multi-level marketing to prevent fraud

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) has banned network marketing - popularly known as multi-level marketing (MLM) - in Oman.

Based on the Commerce Law promulgated by Royal Decree No 55/90, H E Qais bin Mohammad al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, has issued Ministerial Decision No 105/2021 to prohibit selling, advertising or promoting goods,

products and services through network marketing activities.

Article 1 defines network or hierarchical marketing as any method used by suppliers, advertisers or promoters to invite consumers to enlist other consumers to purchase a commodity or to get service in exchange of a benefit to be obtained by the first consumer. This is done

while placing all the targeted consumers in a hierarchical or network group, with the aim of collecting money from the largest number of subscribers of the network group.

Article 2 prohibits buying, selling, trading, advertising or promoting any good or service through MLM via any electronic or non-electronic means.

Article 3 stipulates an administrative fine of RO5,000 on anyone who violates the provisions of this decision, which can be doubled in case of repeat of the violation.

Article 4 of the decision stipulates that the decision will be enforced on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Mubarak bin Mohammed al Dohani, Director General of Commerce in MoCIIP, has stated that many countries have banned this type of commercial practice in order to reduce commercial fraud, and maintain

competition among enterprises and companies.

"The decision aims at preventing this type of trade. Selling, advertising or promoting goods, products and services through network marketing is considered a fraudulent commercial transaction and criminalised under the Omani Commercial Law and the Omani Penal Law promulgated by Royal Decree 7/74."

Dohani noted that this type of marketing has a harmful impact on the economy, as it is based on fraud and deception through exaggeration of the

benefits of the promoted commodity, or by tempting new subscribers with huge profits.

Explaining further, Dohani said network marketing activities begin with an individual or a company at the top of the pyramid, whose work is to persuade people to buy a product or to subscribe a service by paying a certain amount of money with a promise of giving him/her services or a symbolic profit if he/she can convince others to join his/her list, where the biggest beneficiary is the one at the top of the hierarchical group.

04



Grade 12 exam results to be announced tomorrow

15



India men in hockey semis at Olympics after 49 years



FLOATING TENDERS

Oman Airports Company announces the following tenders:

Tender REF. NO	TENDER TITLE	DOC's FEE OMR	Last date for DOC's DISTRIBUTION	TENDER SUBMISSION DATE
ITC-210711	Provision of Multi-Factor Authentication Licenses	100	10 th August 2021	25 th August 2021
PC-210713	Provision of Bitdefender End Point Security Support and License	100	10 th August 2021	25 th August 2021
PC-210712	Provision of cleaning, Pest Control and Waste Management at Sohar Airport	100	10 th August 2021	31 st August 2021

Tenders Collection: Specialized companies may obtain Tender Documents/ Specifications from Procurement Department upon receipt of complete payment of tender fees by credit card and receive scanned copy of deposit Receipt along with a copy of Company Commercial Registration Certificate to Email: (finance.oamc@omanairports.com) provided with company name, tender number & contact person as a mandatory.

OAMC Bank Account Details:

Account Name: Oman Airports Management Co. S.A.O.C.

Account No: 0423010849180012

Name of Bank: BANK MUSCAT

Branch: Corporate Branch, CBD Area, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

SWIFT Code: BMUSOMRX

Required Bond: All participating Companies must provide a bank guarantee, issued by locally registered bank, for the sum of not less than 1% of the Tender value, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, valid for 90 days from the date of submission of the Tenders.

Submission: All Bids shall be submitted as per the instructions mentioned in the Tender documents and late bids will not be entertained.

All Technical Queries shall be sent to:

oamctenders@omanairports.com

The committee is not bound to accept the lowest tender

Any payment received after last date of documents distribution will not be refunded

Headquarter Address:
Muscat International Airport
South Forecourt Building, First Floor
Oman Airports Management S.A.O.C
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Note: All Correspondence / Clarification / Enquiries send an e-mail:
oamctenders@omanairports.com

Send your comments to muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om

NATION

02 | MUSCAT DAILY | MONDAY, AUGUST 02, 2021

One COVID-19 death reported every two hours over 3 days; 978 new cases

Muscat - Oman recorded a COVID-19 related death every second hour over the three days from Thursday, while as many as 978 new cases were registered during the period, said Ministry of Health.

On Thursday, 392 new cases and ten deaths were reported, followed by 321 cases and 12 deaths on Friday and 265 cases and 14 deaths on Saturday.

This brings the total number of positive cases to 296,835 and deaths to 3,850, the Ministry of Health said, adding that 1,697 patients have recovered during the period, taking the total number of recoveries to 279,892. During the past 24 hours, the ministry said 39 people needed hospitalisation, which took the total number of inpatients to 550 with 232 being in intensive care units.

Second dose

The ministry on Sunday began administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines for those who have completed ten weeks since getting the first dose.

In the Governorate of Muscat, Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Sahil Health Centre in Quriyat saw a great turnout. The ministry emphasised the importance of booking appointments in advance before heading to vaccination centres.



Foundation Day: Bank of Baroda holds blood donation

On the occasion of 114th Foundation Day of Bank of Baroda, bank's Oman Operations conducted a Blood Donation Camp on Sunday, August 01.

After inaugurating the Foundation Day by cutting a cake, Mr Vipin Kumar Garg, CE, Oman Operations, opined that during these challenging times, celebrat-

ing the Foundation Day by a Blood Donation drive would be most appropriate.

For this noble cause, Ministry of Health - Department of Blood Banks Services team has visited the bank premises and collected 37 units of blood. Mr Aravinda K Shetty, Chief Manager & Branch Head of Greater Muttrah Branch, expressed

that the bank is grateful to the Ministry of Health for the supporting the camp.

Mr Amin al Zadjali thanked the Medical Staff Team without whom the event would not have been successful. The event was successful having collected the targeted units of blood in the camp which received good response.



UBHAR GCC FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

The Chairman's Report For June 30th, 2021

On behalf of the Investment Committee Members, I am pleased to present the financial results of Ubhar GCC Fund for the year ended June 30, 2021.

A brief summary of financial results is as follows:

Figure 1:	For the period ended June 30, 2021 (OMR)	For the period ended June 30, 2020 (OMR)
Total Income	173,498	199,840
Total Expenses	(86,288)	(80,030)
Profit (Loss) for the period	9,94,594	(594,133)
Profit (Loss) per Unit	0.197	(0.105)

Fund Performance:

For the year ended June 30, 2021 the performance of Ubhar GCC Fund is as follows:

Figure 2:	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
Net Asset Value (OMR)	6,030,912	4,670,916
Number of Outstanding Units	5,020,609	5,158,762
Net Asset Value per Unit*	1.201	0.905
UBGCC Fund Performance for the period	19.52%	-10.71%
Benchmark Performance for the period	22.35%	-16.06%

YTD Performance as of June 30, 2021

Figure 3:	Ubhar GCC Fund	S&P GCC Benchmark	+/-
3-Months	9.25%	9.34%	-0.09%
6-Months	19.52%	22.35%	-2.83%
9-Months	27.78%	29.58%	-1.80%

Market Performance:

During the first half of 2021, most of the GCC regional markets extended gains driven by higher oil prices. The Abu Dhabi and the Saudi Markets indices led the gains to rise by 35.48% and 26.13%, respectively. The Kuwait market index managed to close with 15.16% gains in addition to the Dubai and Oman markets indices closing higher with returns of 12.78% and 11.06%, respectively. The Bahrain market index closed higher with a 6.59%, followed by the Qatar market index that gained 2.82%. The S&P GCC Index registered gains of 22.35% during the period.

Figure A: Index Returns

The following table illustrates the performance of GCC indices for the year ended June 30, 2021

Index	YTD (June 30, 2021)
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange	35.48%
Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul)	26.13%
S&P GCC Index	22.35%
Boursa Kuwait	15.16%
Dubai Financial Market	12.78%
Muscat Securities Market	11.06%
Bahrain Bourse	6.59%
Qatar Exchange	2.82%

Second quarter of 2021 exhibited macro-economic led maneuvering across asset classes. Reflation theme was dominant, supported by stronger global growth expectations while inflation surprises were steep and on the upside. The World Bank also released its semi-annual Global Economic Prospect report during this period which estimated that the global economy will likely expand by 5.6% this year, up from its 4.1% forecast in January. It further mentioned that that this acceleration in growth will be led by a 6.8% expansion in the U.S. and by 8.5% in Chinese growth. While the expectations about firmer growth became more wide-spread amongst market participants on account of re-opening up of economies, inflation acceleration - both at the core and aggregate level- also became prominent in Q2. Sizeable prices rise were seen across the globe in house prices, container freight rates, commodity prices (in both metal and non-metals), and more specifically in the energy complex. Brent crude oil prices went up by \$12 per barrel to end at US\$75 in Q2, on account of sizeable incremental global demand as the economies continued to re-open post normalization of the pandemic.

Going forward, the assessment for Q3 appears to be more complex. In the near term, there is a possibility that global inflation has likely peaked in the near-term as is being currently highlighted by leading indicators - the 10-year breakeven inflation and the S&P GSCI commodity index. Additionally, there are still fears about the Delta variant and the associated rise in new infections although the death counts due to new cases has been remained low, thereby suggestive of strong vaccine efficacy. However, this macro uncertainty of rising global case counts is leading to a possibility of slower global

growth than what the World Bank estimates. Also, sharp appreciation in Yuan is likely to slow down Chinese growth relative to market estimates. EPS growth estimates in the US are expected to be revised downwards (where it has exceeded its previous high in 1999 of 19%); similar downward revisions in EPS growth are expected elsewhere. Such a "growth scare" scenario is now getting embedded via a rising dollar and declining global 10-year bond yields, which peaked around mid-May 2021 despite sharply higher inflation rates globally.

In such a scenario of slower growth and elevated inflation (which tends to be sticky even as growth moderates) - modest stagflation - positioning of the investment portfolio is likely to assume a modest defensive posture relative to Q2, as profit margins and EPS growth estimates peak. In the GCC, a similar portfolio bent could be looked at so as to provide better risk-adjusted returns and minimize volatility in the portfolio.

On behalf of the Investment Committee

Chairman

July 28, 2021

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For 30 June 2021

	Six Months Period Ended 30 June 2021 RO	Six Months Period Ended 30 June 2020 RO
Income		
Dividend income	159,909	148,821
Interest income	9,098	15,545
Other income	4,491	35,474
Total income	173,498	199,840
Net realised gain/(loss) on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	330,148	(363,496)
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on sale of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	577,236	(350,447)
Net investment income	1,080,882	(514,103)
Expenses		
Management fees	(41,755)	(37,986)
Administration fee	(3,340)	(3,039)
Custody fees	(12,411)	(12,090)
Transaction costs	(20,252)	(19,111)
General and administrative expenses	(8,530)	(7,804)
Total expenses	(86,288)	(80,030)
Profit and total comprehensive income Increase in net assets attributable to the unitholders for the period	994,594	(594,133)
Profit per unit	0.197	(0.105)

Statement of financial position As at 30 June 2021

	30 June 2021 RO	30 June 2020 RO
ASSETS		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5,807,753	4,020,565
Cash and cash equivalents	232,100	642,120
Other receivables	10,168	18,952
Total assets	6,050,021	4,681,637
LIABILITIES		
Payables and accruals	19,109	10,721
Net assets attributable to the unitholders	6,030,912	4,670,916
Total liabilities and net assets attributable to unit holders	6,050,021	4,681,637
Net assets attributable to the unit holders per Unit	1.201	0.905

For more information please contact:

Ubhar Capital SAOC, P.O. Box 1137, Postal Code 111 CPO, Sultanate of Oman

Tel: 24 949 032/030, Fax: 24949099, Email: ubhargccfund@u-capital.net, website: www.u-capital.net

TCL

Enjoy the football season with
TCL QLED TV ALN C815
Beyond Your Imagination
androidtv
Ok Google
Dolby Vision | 120Hz MEMC
65"

ONKYO
Soundbar

Genetco
GENERAL ELECTRIC & TRADING CO. L.L.C.

50
YEARS OF SUCCESS

MUSCAT
94108890, 96742452
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

C.R. No. 1009680
SALALAH
79011363

31 land plots allocated for investment in Musandam

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Musandam governorate is gearing up to attract foreign investment with 31 plots of land being allocated by the authorities, said Amna bint Ali al Shuhayh, director of Heritage Department in Musandam.

“Musandam is distinguished for its geography with varied terrain. The land plots have been allocated for investment in Musandam following the is-

suance of the Royal Directives for the implementation of the decisions aimed at developing the governorate,” Amna said.

“There are some other projects to be established on the land plots of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism; they will be announced soon.

“Musandam has ten hotels with a capacity of 512 rooms,” Amna explained, adding that the “ministry aims to increase the number of hotels and resorts within the tourism projects and



has distributed land plots for tourism projects”.

The ministry has signed usufruct agreements to set up three 3-star hotels in the wilayats of Madha and Bukha, she added.

“Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Musandam attracted 200,000 tourists annually. The number of visitors to Musandam’s castles reached 50,000 per year while cruise passenger arrivals reached 129,453.”

Talking about the upcoming projects in Musandam, she said,

“Omran has recently implemented the first phase of an adventure centre to set up a zip line covering a distance of 1,500m, which will begin at the top of a mountain at a height of 250m above sea level.”

She added that a visitor centre will be established at the archaeological site of Dibba, with funding from OQ company. The project will also include a museum.

“There are proposals to establish sites for environmental

camps in several areas in Musandam governorate, such as Najd, Shamm, Al Hablain, Ghab Ali and Sahah among others.”

Among the historical monuments, Musandam has four castles and forts, in addition to a museum in the wilayat of Madha.

Investments in tourist villages will be done by the private sector and the local community in particular with the aim of achieving economic diversification, she added.

300-year-old baobab tree saved from boring bugs



Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Environment Authority (EA), in cooperation with volunteer teams, has carried out a campaign to protect the rare giant baobab trees of Dhofar governorate.

According to Dr Ahmed bin Abdullah al Saiari, director in Directorate General of Environment in Dhofar, EA did an inspection over three months in association with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and volunteers. During the inspection, wood-boring insects were found to infest some giant baobab

trees in Wadi Henna in the wilayat of Mirbat.

Ali bin Salim Akaak, head of EA’s Pest Control Team in Dhofar, said, “The joint team found the trunk of one of the baobab trees infested with wood-boring insects. Using a scientific and sustainable method, the trunk was cleaned and rid of the pests to save the tree. The 300-year-old tree was also sprayed with pesticide and coated with red clay.”

The governorate boasts of over 200 baobab trees. This species of tree grows to heights of up to 30m and the trunk diameter of full-grown specimen can be more than 2m.

RCA conducts tests for jobseekers in Salalah



Our Correspondent
Muscat

In implementation of the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the Royal Court Affairs (RCA) on Sunday began recruitment of jobseekers who applied recently.

Coordinating with the Ministry of Labour, RCA conducted the evaluation and screening tests for applicants for the positions of soldiers in Salalah, which were announced on June 9.

The first stage of screening will last for four days and applicants

will have to meet the eligibility requirements for the position.

Sheikh Saeed bin Hilal al Khalili, head of Planning and Human Resources Affairs, RCA, said, “The Royal Court Affairs is working to implement His Majesty the Sultan’s directives to accommodate a number of jobseekers according to the vacancies available in RCA. All stages of testing and evaluation are carried out in accordance with precautionary measures to limit the spread of coronavirus, and to provide a healthy and safe environment for applicants.”



شركة المها لتسويق المنتجات النفطية ش م ع ع

Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co. SAOG

P.O.Box: 57 , P.C: 116 , Mina Al Fahal , Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 24610200, Fax: 24610201, Website: www.almaha.com.om
VAT Registration No. OM1100015801

Chairman’s Report

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the unaudited Financial Statements for the period Jan-June 2021.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (RO’000)

	Jan - Jun 2021	Jan - Jun 2020	Inc /(dec)	Inc/(dec) %
Sales	171,690	170,561	1,129	1%
Cost of Sales	(160,830)	(161,332)	(502)	(0.3%)
Gross profit	10,860	9,229	1,631	18%
Other income	2,826	2,580	246	10%
Total expenses	(12,670)	(11,907)	763	6%
Net profit	1,016	(98)	1,114	1,137%
Earnings per share (RO)	0.015	0.001	0.016	1,137%

Total sales during the reporting period increased slightly by 1% from RO 170.6 million during Jan-Jun 2020 to RO 171.7 million in the Jan-June 2021, mainly due to increase sales volume mainly in the retail & commercial segments.

The international oil prices, which went below the cost during Apr-June 2020, has crossed the \$70 mark in Jan-June 2021, the highest during the last 2 years, has also impacted the increase in gross profit.

MARKETING PERFORMANCE

Retail segment, despite the all challenges, remains the main focus of the Company with renewed efforts on diversification programmes aimed at the growth of NFR segment that complements its growth.

Retail segment improved its performance during the period with many supporting businesses returning to normalcy by adopting necessary precautionary measures.

Two more new retail outlets have been opened to public, taking the total number of filling stations to 238.

Commercial segment too witnessed improved performance with increase in demand for our products as experienced by increased fuel consumption by our major customers.

Aviation segment continues to suffer with the continued restrictions on international travel.

Future Outlook

The continuing Covid-19 crisis & the resultant economic implications triggered by the frequent lock down restrictions to contain the pandemic, continues to be the major concerns affecting the growth of the economy. The increased vaccination programme is expected to bring the pandemic in control in the coming days and provide conducive environment for business growth.

Strategic economic transformation and diversified growth are highly essential not only to deal with the changing dynamics but also critical to achieve the strategic business objectives envisaged in the business plan. To support this diversification growth, we have identified key NFR areas that offers growth opportunities and focus our efforts on the development process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors and executive management, I take this opportunity, to express our most sincere gratitude and loyalty to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq** and his efforts in continuing the legacy of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos towards a prosperous Oman.

We thank our shareholders, customers, the officials of Capital Market Authority and Muscat Stock Exchange for their valuable support and co-operation. We also appreciate the dedicated and committed service of our staff members.

Dr. Juma Ali Juma Al-Juma
Chairman
28 July 2021

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

	Six months ended 30 June 2021 RO’000 (Unaudited)	Six months ended 30 June 2020 RO’000 (Unaudited)
Revenue from contracts with customers	171,690	170,561
Cost of sales	(160,830)	(161,332)
Gross Profit	10,860	9,229
Other Income	2,826	2,580
Salaries and other employee related costs	(2,798)	(2,728)
Operating and administration expenses	(6,232)	(5,587)
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	(1,865)	(2,031)
Depreciation on investment properties	(24)	(23)
Depreciation on Right of use assets	(469)	(558)
Finance costs	(1,045)	(996)
Profit / (Loss) before income tax	1,253	(114)
Income tax	(237)	16
Profit / (Loss) and total comprehensive income /(expense) for the period	1,016	(98)
Basic and diluted earnings per share (RO)	0.015	(0.001)

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	30 June 2021 RO’000 (Unaudited)	31 December 2020 RO’000 (Audited)
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	29,637	30,364
Investment property	564	588
Right of use asset	4,022	4,071
Contract assets	3,700	3,712
Deferred tax assets	2,562	2,387
Total non-current assets	40,485	41,122
Current assets		
Inventories	4,076	3,382
Contract assets	1,428	1,159
Trade and other receivables	53,334	42,301
Short term deposit	-	10,000
Bank balances and cash	40,782	31,234
Total current assets	99,620	88,076
TOTAL ASSETS	140,105	129,198
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Share capital	6,900	6,900
Legal reserve	2,300	2,300
Retained earnings	31,048	30,032
Special reserve	2,104	2,104
Total equity	42,352	41,336
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities - non current	3,024	2,946
Other payables - non current	1,556	2,222
Employees' end of service benefits	204	211
Total non-current liabilities	4,784	5,379
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	40,596	35,780
Bank borrowings	49,983	44,731
Lease liabilities - current	1,746	1,329
Contract liabilities	232	255
Taxation	412	388
Total current liabilities	92,969	82,483
Total liabilities	97,753	87,862
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	140,105	129,198
Net assets per share (RO)	0.614	0.599

Note:

The complete report is available in Muscat Stock Exchange website and Company’s website.

The complete report will be sent to any shareholder who requests them either in Arabic or English as required within 7 days of receipt of the request.

The request should be sent to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the above mentioned address.



P.O BOX 1882, P.C 114, Jibroo, Sultanate of Oman, Tel : +968 24853900, Fax : +968 24853999
E-mail : investorrelations@insurevic.com, URL: www.insurevic.com

Chairman's Report – June 2021

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Vision Insurance SAOG, I present the financial performance of your Company for the half yearly period ended on June 30th, 2021. The first half of 2021 has brought some good news on the global economy, indicating partial recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. Global industrial production has picked up significantly and prices of key raw materials, like iron and copper reached record level in second quarter of 2021. Crude oil prices climbed to a two year high above US\$ 70 per barrel in June 2021, assisted the S&P GCC composite index to rise by 22.35% till June 2021. With additional fiscal support in major economies and anticipated vaccine driven recovery in the second half of 2021, global growth is projected at 5.4 percent in 2021, moderating to 4.1 percent in 2022 as per World economic situation and prospect-July 2021 briefing of UN. However, uncertainty surrounds this outlook due to the unpredictable nature of path of the pandemic and the evolving of financial conditions.

Extreme softening in the premium rates for motor, shift from comprehensive to third party insurance and reduced economic activity led to a 13% contraction in the market Motor premium. The enforcement of tough price tariff led to drop in the Company's Motor portfolio by 29%. The absence of projects and loss of a major tender impacted the non-Motor premium at the gross level for the first half. Higher realized investment income and valuation gains due to improved performance of the regional markets contributed to improved comprehensive investment income during the first half.

Total Comprehensive income for the half year ended June 30, 2021 was RO 0.51 Million, against Total Comprehensive Loss of 0.43 Million in 2020. Profit after Tax for the period was RO 0.04 Million against RO 0.92 Million during the corresponding period in 2020.

Key Financial Highlights:

Key Financial Highlights are as presented below:

- Total Comprehensive Income for the half yearly period of 2021 was RO 0.51 Million against profit of RO 0.43 Million in 2020 due to gains from valuation of regional equities of RO 0.47 Million against Valuation loss of RO (0.47 Million) in 2020. Overall S&P GCC composite index was up by 22.35%, and Oman Index was up by 11.06%.
- Profit after Tax of RO 43K, against RO 912 K in 2020, signifying 95% drop.
- Gross Written Premium of RO 8.02 Million, lower by 40% over RO 13.28 Million of 2020. Higher tariff maintained by the company led to a drastic drop in the Motor Premiums by 29%. The loss of some large value tender and non-recurrence of projects impacted the non-Motor premium.
- Net Written Premium at RO 2.53 Million against RO 3.26 Million of 2020, mainly due to drop in motor premium on reduced car sales due to pandemic situation, enforcement of tough tariff and underwriting controls in the face of rate of softening.
- Underwriting Results decreased by 59 % to RO 1 Million from RO 2.45 Million in 2020.
- Realized Investment Income was RO 658K, higher by 134% over RO 281 K in 2020 due to regional equity markets posting positive performance in 1st half of 2021.
- Management Expenses for the half yearly period of 2021 was at RO 1.66 Million against RO 1.69 Million in the corresponding period of 2020.

Outlook for 2021:

With the latest changes in the executive management, our company is positioned now to move into its ultimate goals by maintaining the good performing business and allowing sustainable profitable growth across all lines of business. Driven by focus, transformation and customers experience, our company is building the ground for a healthy business environment in terms of Omansation, talent retention and development and customer centric organization.

With the increase in crude oil price to a two-year high exceeding US\$ 70 in June 2021, the overall GDP of Oman is projected to grow by 2.5% in 2021 as per IMF report of July 2021. The overall premium in the insurance sector during the remaining two quarters is expected to remain static with rate increased in non-motor segment offset by the softness in the motor segment. Based on the trend of results in the first half, Motor tariff has been adjusted to be more in tune with the market. The marketing and monitoring of performance has been scaled up. The Company expects to retain all the non-Motor renewals as they fall due in the second half. These combined efforts are expected to yield improved performance in the remaining part of 2021.

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of all Board Members, the Management and employees of the Company, I express our profound sense of respect, admiration and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik for his inspiring and visionary leadership for continued stability, growth and prosperity for Oman and the people of Oman. We remain thankful to Capital Market Authority and other regulatory authorities for their support. We greatly value the confidence and support extended to the Company by all our clients, business partners shareholders and our employees and we sincerely thank them all.

We join the people of our beloved country in wishing our revered leader His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik many more years ahead of good Health, Peace and Prosperity.

Ahmed Said Mohammed Al Mahrizi
Chairman
29th July 2021

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONAs at 30 June 2021

	30-June-2021 RO	30-June-2020 RO	2020 (Full Year Audited) RO
ASSETS			
Cash and bank balance	1,874,893	3,221,293	2,555,847
Deposits	13,805,835	13,204,872	15,104,872
Insurance and other receivables	6,729,007	8,849,932	7,848,449
Reinsurance assets	25,136,232	30,329,730	29,088,095
Available-for-sale investments	7,434,439	6,235,810	6,058,055
Property, furniture and equipment	287,378	406,708	343,947
TOTAL ASSETS	55,267,784	62,248,345	60,999,265
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Capital reserve	87,182	87,182	87,182
Fair value reserve	527,500	(267,420)	57,745
Legal reserve	1,185,149	1,072,832	1,185,149
Contingency reserve	2,916,685	2,550,258	2,916,686
Retained earnings	238,574	962,780	695,563
Total equity	14,955,090	14,405,632	14,942,325
Liabilities			
Insurance contract liabilities	30,919,114	36,225,480	34,811,741
Employees' end of service benefits	213,948	346,667	342,524
Trade and other liabilities	9,179,632	11,270,566	10,902,675
Total liabilities	40,312,694	47,842,713	46,056,940
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	55,267,784	62,248,345	60,999,265
Net assets per share (RO)	0.150	0.144	0.149

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the period ended 30 June 2021

	Unaudited 6 months Ended 30 June 2021 RO (Unaudited)	Unaudited 6 months Ended 30 June 2020 RO (Unaudited)	Unaudited 3 months Ended 30 June 2021 RO (Unaudited)	Unaudited 3 months Ended 30 June 2020 RO (Unaudited)
Income:				
Gross insurance premiums written	8,023,163	13,277,579	3,423,969	4,210,105
Reinsurer's share of gross insurance premiums written	(5,492,013)	(10,012,842)	(2,412,276)	(2,925,681)
Net insurance premium written	2,531,150	3,264,737	1,011,693	1,284,424
Change in unearned premium reserve ("UPR"):				
Gross change in UPR	2,159,958	(5,076)	3,091,875	23,678
Reinsurer's share of UPR	(2,195,263)	556,017	(2,895,151)	469,930
Net change in UPR	(35,305)	550,941	196,724	493,608
Net insurance premium revenue earned	2,495,845	3,815,678	1,208,417	1,778,032
Investment income, net	657,673	281,068	296,486	205,413
Other operating income	107,784	136,592	24,086	96,174
Other Income	45,272	51,484	29,706	38,914
	3,306,574	4,284,822	1,558,695	2,118,533
Expenses:				
Gross claims and loss adjustment expenses paid	4,571,960	5,763,704	1,852,145	1,867,120
Reinsurer's share of the gross claims and loss adjustment expenses paid	(2,431,563)	(3,039,862)	(808,603)	(965,936)
Gross change in insurance liabilities	(1,732,670)	(1,646,869)	(998,768)	967,077
Reinsurer's share of the gross change in insurance liabilities	1,756,600	1,565,667	931,823	(1,046,222)
Expenses on acquisition of insurance contracts (net)	(564,707)	(1,135,491)	(297,714)	(242,233)
General and administration expenses	1,659,234	1,697,251	851,315	806,756
	3,258,854	3,204,400	1,530,198	1,386,562
Profit for the year before taxation	47,720	1,080,422	28,497	731,971
*Income tax	(4,709)	(168,776)	(4,709)	(121,242)
Profit for the year after tax	43,011	911,646	23,788	610,729
Other comprehensive income that will be reclassified to the profit or loss				
Net change in fair value of available-for-sale investments	469,755	(475,491)	290,784	167,123
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	469,755	(475,491)	290,784	167,123
Total comprehensive income for the period	512,766	436,155	314,572	777,852
Basic and diluted earnings per share**	-	0.009	-	0.006
Total comprehensive income per share	0.005	0.004	0.003	0.008

World Breastfeeding Week activities begin

Muscat - Together with the rest of the world, the Sultanate of Oman has started observing the World Breastfeeding Week that began on Sunday.

In a statement issued on the occasion, the Ministry of Health (MoH) underlined the importance of breastfeeding, which it says 'provides the optimal nutrition for babies' and that 'it has a lots of benefits for infants' physical and mental health lasting right into adulthood, as well for the mothers' physical health'.

'Mother's milk has the right amount of nutrients, is easily digested, and is readily available,' the ministry pointed out.

Therefore, the MoH said that the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) had started to be celebrated globally from August 1-7 for raising awareness and taking actions on themes related to breastfeeding.

The WBW theme for this year is 'Protect breastfeeding: a shared responsibility', which will



focus on how breastfeeding contributes to the survival.

Oman introduced the Omani Code for Marketing Breast Milk Substitutes in 1998 to protect breastfeeding.

The Nutrition Department later updated the code, and it was issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion on 5/20/2021 and was named 'Omani Standard Specification for Regulating Classified Products for Infants and Young Children' to stop inappropriate marketing of breast milk substitutes.

Grade 12 exam results to be announced tomorrow

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The results of the 2020-21 General Education Diploma (GED) exams will be declared at 4pm on Tuesday, the Ministry of Education (MoE) said.

H E Dr Madiha bint Ahmed bin Nasser al Shibaniyah, Minister of Education, approved the results on Sunday, the MoE stated, adding that the students can SMS their exam seat numbers to 90200 via Omantel or Ooredoo to receive the results.

The MoE said it registered 132

violations during the exams. Success rate in the GED exams is 82.06 per cent. Students can apply for re-evaluation of up to three papers from August 4 to 8.

COVID-19 protocol

The ministry said 433 students could not sit for the exams in the first round either due to COVID-19 infections or because of close contact with someone infected.

The ministry will allow them to enter the exams in the second round and another (third) exam will be held for students who are unable to take the second one.

SEND YOUR REQUEST FOR

Birthday/Anniversary wishes to wish@apexmedia.co.om with your resident card copy (It's free of cost)



Fortified with **Zn** **Cu**
Zinc & Copper

Region's first **Zinc** and **Copper** fortified drinking water specially formulated to help boost your immune system. Get your daily dose of good health on the go with Immuno.

Available in leading outlets across Oman.



Bottled Drinking Water
CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
or GSM **9275 5522**

Buy Oman Oasis 1.5L or 500ML Carton. Scratch the coupon to find your unique code. Register the code at www.omanoasis.com/wingold

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222 or GSM: 9275 5522

Offer valid from 16th May 2021 to 15th August 2021. Conditions apply.

C.R.No: 1365452 MM No: 06/43/2021



Scan QR Code to Register

C.R. No.: 1365452

Oman's wide-ranging reforms pave way for sustained recovery

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The wide-ranging reforms implemented by the government in recent years have paved the way for Oman to diversify its economy and embark on a sustained post-pandemic recovery, according to a new research report produced by Oxford Business Group (OBG).

'While the pandemic was a severe test for Oman's macro-economic stability, the crisis spurred policymakers into enacting or accelerating much-needed reforms that should help the country on the path to long-term sustainable development,' the report titled 'Oman Covid-19 Recovery Roadmap' said.

With Oman's economy affected by weak demand and prices of hydrocarbons in 2020, an uptick in oil prices and the easing of restrictions on mobility and business operations should help the sultanate's economy stabilise in 2021, OBG said.

The report noted that Oman's recovery is supported by reforms and strategies intended to improve the business environment and address longstanding fiscal challenges.

It said the government's Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (2020-2024) should help to stabilise public finances and generate diversified sources of



revenue through new taxation policies and the stimulation of private sector activity.

'Reforms to the legal framework should help to attract higher levels of foreign direct investment into strategic industries and generate more private employment opportunities for the country's young workforce,' the report said.

In tandem with the new revenue-raising measures, OBG noted, Oman is working to stimulate more local and foreign investment as part of its private sector development agenda.

'Towards this end, the country's investment framework has been enhanced by a series of laws passed in 2019 related to foreign investment, privatisation, public-private partnerships and bankruptcy - all of which now have their implementation regulations approved,' the report added.

Digital economy

According to the OBG report, the COVID-19 disruption forced businesses to adopt or expedite digital transformation strategies to strengthen their competitiveness, which could see some firms emerge from the pandemic in a better position to capitalise on new opportunities.

The report said that the adoption of digital solutions during the pandemic has helped to accelerate the growth of Oman's digital economy, which was previously lagging behind regional counterparts.

The sultanate, OBG said, is prioritising digital transformation and innovation to create sustainable and equitable economic growth.

'Vision 2040 includes a focus on building vital ICT infrastructure, introducing e-government services and strengthening national technical capabilities.'

Sohar International's profit rises 15% to RO15.2mn in H1

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Sohar International Bank has reported a 15.3 per cent year-on-year growth in its net profit for the six months period ended June 30, 2021. The bank recorded a net profit of RO15.2mn for the first half of 2021 compared to RO13.18mn in the same period of 2020.

In a press statement, Mohammed Mahfoudh al Ardhi, chairman of Sohar International, said, "The half-yearly financial results are a great reflection of Sohar International's vision and strategy in full gear. The sultanate has made commendable progress to counter the effects of the pandemic by adopting learning, implementation of agendas, thoughtful investments in key areas and an aggressive vaccination campaign. This, coupled with a rise in global oil prices, has in turn, helped us to continue operations in an improving economic environment that is more conducive to business growth."



He said, "With the ongoing commitment of the government to continue concentrating on infrastructure projects along with investments in the key sectors identified in the economic diversification plan, we expect to see sustained demand for financing in the near future, thus stimulating the country's banking landscape."

Sohar International's total assets increased by 12.5 per cent in the first six months of 2021 to RO4.031bn compared to RO3.584bn a year ago. Net loans and advances increased by 3.4 per cent to RO2.526bn as of June 30, 2021 from RO2.442bn a year ago. The bank's customer de-

posits increased by 2.8 per cent to RO2.304bn as of June 30, 2021 from RO2.241bn a year ago, reflecting the bank's strengthening funding and liquidity position.

Sohar International said its operating income increased by 13.9 per cent to RO54.22mn in the first half of 2021, driven by increases in other operating income streams including gain on sale of investment securities.

Ahmed al Musalmi, chief executive officer of Sohar International, said, "Sohar International entered 2021 with a great sense of optimism as it embraced its principles of more velocity, more value, and more vision in its strategic approach while embodying the attributes of being sharp, human and unstoppable. Our latest financial results reflect our strong position in the market and our ability to absorb and overcome challenges. Our focus for the year remains geared towards rewarding customers by creating opportunities to win while helping them achieve their goals."

Credit Oman backs exporters with RO26mn insurance in Q1

Muscat - Despite the ongoing economic challenges on a global scale, due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, international trade has continued to thrive. Accordingly, Credit Oman has committed to support Omani exporters and manufacturers grow their sales beyond borders since the start of the pandemic, through its diversified suite of credit insurance products.

In the first quarter of 2021, Credit Oman recorded over RO26mn in total insured business, covering local and interna-

tional trade, indicating a 14 per cent growth in business insured compared to the same period last year.

Moreover, the total approved credit limits in the first quarter of 2021 amounted to over RO103mn, which includes both domestic and export trade. Over RO31mn of the total was allocated to domestic trade (a 13 per cent growth compared to the same period last year) and over RO72mn to export trade.

The increase of domestic sales in Oman is attributed to the purchasing power and

growth in local transactions, as well as the diversity of Omani products of all kinds on the market.

The insured sectors covered by Credit Oman varied, with building materials topping the credit limit volume with a total value of over RO41mn.

This sector was followed by the food and consumer goods sector, with a value of over RO30mn.

Insured businesses in petrochemicals, packaging and fisheries were also high, indicating a steady growth in these sectors.



SULTANATE OF OMAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health - Directorate General of Health Services At Al Dhahira Governorate- invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tender: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Closing Time/ Day/ Date	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)
290/2021	Hiring of Buses for the Transportation Medicine at Al Dhahira Governorate	15/August /2021	Before 10 am on Thursday 09/September/2021	Specialized Companies registered with Tender Board	R.O 25,000 Per set

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to the Tender Committee in the DGHS before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the tender box in the directorate one day before the submission date for Tender.
- The DGHS is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

Any Clarification, you may contact via

Telephone: 24166670

Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Send your comments to muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om



Shell Oman Marketing Company SAOG

P.O. Box 38, Mina Al Fahal, Postal Code 116, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: 24570100 • Fax: 24570121 • www.shelloman.com.om

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

In its meeting held on 27th July 2021, the Board of Directors approved the Company's unaudited financial results for the period ended 30th June 2021.

SUMMARY FINANCIALS

In OMR'000	Quarter			6 Months		
	Q2/21	Q2/20	%	2021	2020	%
Revenue	92,093	71,690	28%	184,847	189,650	(3%)
Gross profit	7,123	5,674	26%	14,994	12,474	20%
Add: Other income	1,012	1,127	(10%)	2,155	2,600	(17%)
Less: Selling, distribution and administrative expenses	(7,143)	(6,448)	11%	(13,855)	(14,106)	(2%)
Less: Financing and taxation	(569)	(579)	(2%)	(1,268)	(1,073)	18%
Profit and comprehensive income	423	(226)	287%	2,026	(104)	2048%

- Six Months Revenues were at OMR 184,847 million, 3% lower than the same period last year.
- Six Months Gross Profit was at OMR 14,994 million, 20% higher than the same period last year mainly due to the impact of the inventory value stock movements as a result of the increase in petroleum product prices.
- Six Months Profit and Comprehensive Income was OMR 2,026 million. Higher than the same period in 2020 mainly due to the increase in Gross Profit and the Company's cost optimisation initiatives.
- The Company continues to monitor the pandemic and the parallel economic challenges closely and is proactively focused on safeguarding the interests of all its people, shareholders and stakeholders. Strategies and measures to handle the existing environment have been developed and are continuously reviewed given the rapidly changing situation while maintaining utmost commitment to HSSE and Ethics & Compliance.
- VAT was successfully implemented by the Company in Q2 2021.

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

Mobility Business: To meet the ever-growing demands and changes in our landscape, the Retail business have transitioned to be known as the Mobility business where we will continue to put the customer first, deepen the integration of products and services and grow in a way that increases Shell's financial resilience. Mobility remains the largest segment of the Company. Despite a downward impact on volumes as a result of mobility restrictions and limited commercial activities throughout the quarter, the business remained resilient. The focus continues to be the safety of people, including customers and frontlines by adopting best practices to minimise the spread of COVID-19; reaffirming the Company's care towards customers and the community at large. The Company carried on the journey of offering differentiated fuel by making Shell V-Power available for customers across Oman. Non-Fuel Retail (NFR) continues to be a key focus area for the business. An additional 2 Shell Select Stores were commissioned during the quarter and the range of products and services provided to customers was expanded for a better experience.

Fleet Solutions Business remained challenging as Business-to-Business (B2B) customers continue to deal with the impact of economic and financial challenges due to COVID-19. The overall volumes have remained stable year on year. Meanwhile, the focus remained on supporting customers with the acceleration of the digitalisation journey offering automation to promote a touchless experience and address evolving customer needs. In addition, the business continued to leverage the Cards Management System to enable a superior experience for fleets customers.

Commercial Fuels Business market conditions are still challenging due to the macroeconomic impacts. However, the focus continued primarily on new opportunities, operational excellence and quality service to retain key customers.

Marine Business volumes have been impacted as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, with limited activity due to cancellation of several scheduled commercial and cruise vessels at key ports. However, the Company continued to serve local marine customers without disruption while adhering to the highest HSSE and operational excellence standards. Additionally, the Company continues to explore new opportunities to expand its operations and add new ports to its portfolio.

Lubricants Business: Mobility restriction is still impacting the Lubricants Business volumes across various sectors. The partial closure of commercial activities in the franchise workshops, independent workshops and high streets shops resulted in lower volume consumption in the last three months. Another challenge to the business was the significant increase in base oil prices due to shut down of refineries resulting in a surge in production cost.

Despite these challenges, the business maintained close relationships with its customers and partners, ensuring continuous supply of Shell lubricants from Oman's only ISO 9001: certified lubricants blending plant located in Mina Al Fahal. In addition, the business has adopted a more dynamic pricing strategy to ensure it remains sustainable and competitive in the market. The business continued adapting to the new realities of the market and introduced online Shell Lubricants selling via our distributors, creating digital presence in addition to the high streets market by introducing new premium products, and conducting online technical trainings to our customers and partners.

Aviation Business While a substantial recovery in the Aviation sector was anticipated specifically in the second quarter, the industry continues to witness limited air travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volumes from both domestic and international travels continued to resemble those seen in 2020. The number of measures introduced on travellers to deal with the pandemic resulted in putting a lot of constraints on the Aviation industry. While the external environment was challenging, the Aviation business focuses on winning new contracts in the cargo sector and retaining key contracts related to international airlines at Muscat International Airport.

HEALTH, SAFETY, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Company ended the quarter with zero recordable Last Time Injuries (LTI) and zero recordable Loss of Product Containment (LOPC), a testament to our strong commitment to Health, Safety, Security and the Environment (HSSE).

The Company is invested in building people's competencies in HSSE by providing awareness campaigns and training on topics such as heat stress, mental health and emergency response. In addition to that, the Company launched a medical check-up and health risk assessment campaign extended for all the staff. The Company ensures continuous engagements with Shell employees, partners, and frontlines to promote a culture of learner mindset that will strengthen the safety behaviour and culture.

Shell Oman Marketing Company SAOG continues to respond to the evolving risks related to COVID-19, with safety as a key priority, through a vaccination program for employees and their family members and continue to enable employees to work from home. At the same time, additional safeguards have been put in place at the office, service stations and within various operations.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Despite continuous challenges and uncertainties during the first half of the year, the Company has remained committed to its proactive approach to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and the macroeconomic conditions on people. Meanwhile, continuous engagement plans were delivered by working together with stakeholders in the public and private sectors to extend support and ensure effective business continuity so essential mobility and energy supply remain undisturbed.

The Company continued with its annual tradition to share the spirit of giving to the society during the holy month of Ramadan by distributing ration packs to more than 450 families in collaboration with a number of charitable organisations and youth groups. In addition, the Company continued to explore various opportunities to support various initiatives in the society, with a focus on In-Country Value, Enterprise Development, Road Safety and Environment.

Shell Oman Marketing Company SAOG is committed to work with all stakeholders to reinforce its role and do its part in serving Oman and its people under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tank and to support His Majesty's vision for the Sultanate.

Walid Hadi

Chairman, Shell Oman Marketing Company SAOG

Muscat, July 27th 2021

Unaudited Financial Statements for the 6 months ended 30 June 2021				
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE 6 MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2021				
	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Jun 2021 OMR'000	Unaudited 6 months ended 30 Jun 2020 OMR'000	Audited 12 months ended 31 Dec 2020 OMR'000	
Revenue	184,847	189,650	367,090	
Cost of sales	(169,853)	(177,175)	(339,855)	
Gross profit	14,994	12,474	27,235	
Other income	2,155	2,600	4,927	
Selling, distribution and administrative expenses	(13,855)	(14,106)	(27,110)	
Operating profit	3,294	968	5,052	
Interest expense	(908)	(1,084)	(2,001)	
Interest income	10	15	26	
Profit before income tax	2,396	(101)	3,077	
Income tax expense	(370)	(3)	(493)	
Profit and comprehensive income for the period	2,026	(104)	2,584	
Basic and diluted earnings per share (OMR)	0.020	(0.001)	0.026	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 JUNE 2021			
	Unaudited At 30 Jun 2021 OMR'000	Unaudited At 30 Jun 2020 OMR'000	Audited At 31 Dec 2020 OMR'000
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	53,221	56,323	54,882
Right-of-use assets	28,819	31,116	29,755
Intangible assets	58	82	69
Deferred tax assets	74	156	0
Total non-current assets	82,172	87,677	84,706
Current assets			
Inventories	7,802	4,947	6,646
Receivables and prepayments	35,282	41,267	33,901
Cash at bank and in hand	15,632	12,111	4,607
Total current assets	58,716	58,325	45,154
Total assets	140,888	146,002	129,860
EQUITY			
Share capital	10,000	10,000	10,000
Legal reserve	3,587	3,587	3,587
Retained earnings	38,329	33,613	36,302
Total equity	51,916	47,201	49,889
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Long-term loans	3,333	10,000	6,667
Long-term lease liabilities	25,355	27,750	25,770
Deferred tax liabilities	0	0	51
Employee terminal benefits	277	289	301
Total non-current liabilities	28,966	38,039	32,789
Current liabilities			
Short-term loans	13,333	21,000	3,333
Short-term lease liabilities	3,049	2,886	3,375
Payables and accruals	43,025	36,725	40,003
Income tax payable	493	0	282
Provisions	105	150	189
Total current liabilities	60,006	60,762	47,182
Total liabilities	88,972	98,801	79,971
Total equity and liabilities	140,888	146,002	129,860
Net assets per share (OMR)	0.519	0.472	0.499

* The complete financial statements are available from the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).
* The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder on request, in either Arabic or English, within 7 days of receipt of the request. The request should be sent to the Chief Financial Officer at the address shown above.
* The previous year's figures have been reclassified to conform to the presentation adopted in the current year.

Big Tech profits surge even as lockdown living wanes

San Francisco, US - Big Tech go-liaths like Facebook and Amazon unveiled whopping profits this week, showing their dominance in lockdown lifestyles is on course to grow well beyond the pandemic.

"Tech wins the day, the week, and seemingly the year," Futurum Research analysts said of the surging revenues, driven by digital advertising, cloud computing, gaming and booming use of smartphones and e-commerce.

"The strength of tech is clearly untethered from COVID-19," they added.

Powerhouses Facebook, Apple, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet all reported higher revenues even as they face heightened scrutiny from antitrust regulators for their growing dominance of key economic sectors.

Amazon said Thursday that second-quarter profit jumped 48 per cent from a year ago to US\$7.8bn, even if that showing was below high Wall Street forecasts.

A growing number of consumers turned to Amazon during the pandemic to get everything from tofu to toilet paper, and its cloud computing division also grew to help businesses and consumers stay connected.

The Amazon results capped a series of earnings from the major



tech firms that benefited from successive lockdowns, but also the gradual lifting of restrictions. Earlier in the week, Apple said its profit in the just-ended quarter nearly doubled amid improving consumer spending and a 'growing sense of optimism' as pandemic lockdowns eased.

Revenue from iPhone sales jumped some 50 per cent and Apple posted increases for its services such as digital payments, music, streaming television and gaming.

Facebook reported its profit doubled in the recently ended quarter as digital advertising surged, but warned of cooler growth in the months ahead in an update which sent its shares sinking.

Google parent Alphabet reported quarterly profit that had

nearly tripled, as money poured in from ads on its search engine and YouTube video platform.

Techspontential analyst Avi Greengart told AFP that hybrid work, online entertainment and internet shopping are now facts of life.

"Those are overarching trends that got accelerated by the pandemic but aren't going away," he added. However, a gradual resumption of in-person activities, will require adjustments from Big Tech.

Amazon chief financial officer Brian Olsavsky said on an earnings call that a reason for missing revenue expectations appeared to be vaccines giving people the confidence to leave home.

"Not only shopping offline but also living life and getting out," Olsavsky said. "It takes away

from shopping time. It's a good phenomenon and it's great."

Alphabet chief executive Sundar Pichai credited long-term investments in artificial intelligence and cloud computing as powering the internet giant's performance.

Google's cloud computing business competes with powerhouses Amazon and Microsoft, poising them to vie for virtual terrain in an immersive online world.

Microsoft this week reported a jump in profits in the recently ended quarter, keeping strong momentum from accelerated gains in cloud computing during the pandemic.

Transition to relying on computing power and services in the internet cloud as well as working remotely are likely to last, playing to the strength of tech giants powering such platforms, according to Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives.

However, a global chip shortage has hobbled production of the wide range of devices enhanced with computing and internet capabilities, from cars to video game consoles.

And, as US tech titans gain clout and wealth, they are increasingly in the crosshairs of government regulators wary of monopolistic abuses and side-stepped taxes.

AFP



UAE to launch world's first solar project to extract water from air

Abu Dhabi, UAE - The world's first project to produce commercial volumes of an uninterrupted water supply from a sustainable source will be launched this month at Masdar City in Abu Dhabi.

The innovative pilot project will be run by the US-based water technologies company, AQUOVUM, in partnership with Masdar and Khalifa University of Science and Technology, as part of a three-party research and development (R&D) agreement, according to a joint press release issued on Sunday.

The project, which is beginning this month, will evaluate the performance of AQUOVUM's large format Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG) technology in combination with a renewable energy source, and its ability to be included in current and/or future sustainable water projects.

The AWG technology, which extracts water from the atmosphere using a renewable energy source such as solar energy, is another promising addition to the innovative sustainability-focused projects being run in Abu Dhabi's R&D hub, Masdar City.

The carbon-free technology will create access to clean water, a fundamental necessity in building a greener future, while contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The AWG technology will also contribute to a market that is expected to grow by a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 25 per cent worldwide and more than 30 per cent CAGR in the Middle East and Africa alone, according to Global Market Insights.

Abdulla Balalaa, executive director of sustainable real estate at Masdar City, said, "Water underlies all areas of human and environmental health and it is also essential to food and energy production.

Developing technologies that both protect and guarantee a constant and secure source of water, is therefore of utmost importance.

The AQUOVUM pilot will be installed at Khalifa University's Masdar Institute Solar Platform in Masdar City and will operate from 100 per cent renewable

power, a process that is completely carbon neutral."

"The project will positively contribute to regional and global water security in line with the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036. As the only planned and approved R&D cluster in Abu Dhabi, we are committed to facilitating R&D projects that bring ground-breaking new technologies to the world and contribute to building a more sustainable future for all," Balalaa said.

Robert Wood, chief technology officer of AQUOVUM, said, "To support and progress the global green transition and to ensure water security, we recognised that we must power our systems on 100 per cent renewable energy to provide a truly sustainable water supply. Our bleeding-edge technologies work with nature and are the way forward to deliver lasting, sustainable solutions."

The green power needed for this project will be provided by the Azello AB (Sweden) demonstrator of 24/7 electrical thermal energy storage/stirling pilot, also located at the Masdar Institute Solar Platform. WAM



شركة زجاج مجان ش.م.ع. MAJAN GLASS COMPANY S.A.O.G.

P.O Box 17, Postal Code 327, C.R. No: 3/19456/6, Sohar Industrial Estate, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: +968 26751654/5/6, Fax: +968 26751658, E-mail: info@majanglass.com

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR PERIOD ENDED ON 30 June 2021

The Board of Directors of Majan Glass Company SAOG is pleased to present here-with Company's unaudited financial results for the period ended on 30 June 2021.

Performance overview:

Gross Sale's revenue amounted to RO 5.320 Million showing a marginal decline (7%) versus Previous Year Sales of RO 5.724 Million. This is also due to the company having a higher basket of Ex-works/FOB sales versus delivered Sales.

Exports amounted to 87.2% of sales as compared to 88.40% for the same period in the previous year.

The company faced some cost headwinds in Q1 given price increases worldwide in many commodities due to supply-demand mismatch given sudden increase in requirements in the developed markets, Covid-19 issues affecting manpower availability and logistics constraints.

Gross Profit for the period ended 30 June 2021 is RO 659K as against a Gross profit of RO 877K for the corresponding period in the previous year 2020.

The company achieved significant reduction in its Selling, General & Admin expenses and Finance cost expenses by 22% and 16% compared to the last year for the same period primarily due to more Ex-works/FOB sales.

The management estimated the impact of COVID at RO 178K for the period ended 30 June 2021

The company has not recognized savings on Deferred tax and the management decides to recognize the same after company start making profits

Net Loss after Tax for the current period remains the same before tax loss of RO 414K as against Net Loss after Tax of RO 505K for the same period in the previous year 2020. (Reduction in loss by 17.98%) EBITDA for the period ended 30 June 2021 is RO 400K as against an EBITDA of RO 358K for the same period in the previous year.

Future Outlook:

Covid-19 still continues to impact the business in multiple ways. The increased pace of vaccination and subsequent economic rebound given anticipation of faster re-opening in some of its key western markets has led to increased demand but logistics issues has played a dampener in the uptake. As per market estimates, Logistics issues may continue to play a major impact for the major part of the balance of 2021. The company is pushing for more Ex-works/FOB sales to mitigate the issue

GCC-Levant market is showing signs of lower to flat volumes given constraints (Covid-19, Currency devaluations (Lebanon/Iraq) resulting in reduced volumes. South-Asian Markets still continue to battle Covid-19.

The company's continues to grow in production for the food sector. The company remains cautiously optimistic of the volumes for the balance of the year subject to logistics constraints.

The company continues to take all necessary precautions to ensure unhindered operations. The Company considers the responsibilities of its employee's health seriously and follows the best practices under the Covid-19 guidelines. The company has vaccinated majority of its employees (first dose) and hope to complete the second dose by Aug 2021 (depending upon vaccine availability)

Acknowledgment:

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, I take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Bin Taimour and his Government for their continuous assistance and generous support extended to the industry. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bestow His Majesty with the best of health and long life to lead the country to the path of prosperity.

We would also take this opportunity to thank our front-line employees. They have been continuously reporting to work despite difficult circumstances and keeping the Company operations on-going, given that we run a continuous process plant, and we supply glass packaging for essential business-like food and beverages.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors,

Talal Issa Mohammed Al Harasi
Chairman
Dated: -29 July 2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income for Six months period ended on 30TH JUNE 2021 (UNAUDITED):

	30th June 2021 RO '000s	30th June 2020 RO '000s
Sales	5,320	5,724
Cash Cost of Sales	(4,026)	(4,150)
	1,294	1,574
Cost of Sales - depreciation	(636)	(697)
Gross Profit / (Loss)	658	877
Other income	53	15
Expenses		
Administration and general expenses	(917)	(1,181)
Finance charges	(190)	(227)
Depreciation	(18)	(23)
Profit / (Loss) Before Tax	(414)	(539)
Deferred / Income tax for current year	-	34
Net Profit / (Loss)	(414)	(505)

Statement of Financial Position as at 30th JUNE 2021 (UNAUDITED):

	30th June 2021 RO '000s	30th June 2020 RO '000s
ASSETS:		
Non-current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	4,242	4,830
Capital work in progress	-	-
Fixed Assets	4,242	4,830
Deferred tax asset	934	835
Total Non-current assets	5,176	5,665
Current Assets		
Inventories	4,407	4,446
Trade & other receivables	2,370	2,639
Bank balances & cash	226	527
	7,003	7,612
Assets held for sale	-	-
Total Current assets	7,003	7,612
Total Assets	12,179	13,277
Current Liabilities		
Term loan / Bank overdraft - current portion	3,174	2,878
Trade & other payables	3,178	3,123
Employees and Directors' Payables	614	573
	6,966	6,574
Non-current Liabilities		
Term loan	2,429	2,964
	2,429	2,964
Total Liabilities	9,395	9,538
Net Assets	2,783	3,739
Shareholders' equity		
Share capital	4,202	4,202
Statutory reserve	1,273	1,273
Retained earnings	(2,693)	(1,736)
Total shareholders' equity	2,783	3,739

Notes:

1. All amounts are in RO '000s;
2. Previous year figures are regrouped /rearranged wherever required.
3. The complete Financial statements of the Company would be made available to any shareholder or interested party on request in Arabic or in English within 7 days from the date of request. The request applications can be sent on the above mentioned address.



PO Box 46, Sohar Industrial Estate, P.C. 327, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 26751317, 26751350 Fax: 26751280, E-mail: ceosoc@ocoman.com

Board of Directors' Report for the period from January to June 2021.

Financial Results:

Financial results for the period from January to June 2021 are as follows:

	Jan - June 2021 (R.O.)	Jan - June 2020 (R.O.)	% of change
Revenue / Turnover	817,153	863,487	-5.37%
Net (Loss) / Profit	(298,130)	(319,708)	-6.75%

Marketing and Future Outlook:

Due to restrictions on international travel, we were unable to develop any new OEM market outside Oman since 2020 and export is limited only to existing customers. Manpower is also a constraint due to flight ban with Asian countries. Lower demand of the sanitary ware products in the local market has impacted the local sales during this COVID -19 Pandemic period. Demand continues to shrink due to lower construction activities, serious cash flow issues and ongoing COVID -19 Pandemic challenges.

Acknowledgement:

The Board of Directors and the Management of the Company wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, whose exemplary vision and dynamic leadership has put this country on a fast track of development and prosperity.

Saleh Nasser Al Riyami

Chairman of the Board

The complete financial statement of the Company would be made available to any Shareholder or interested party on request in Arabic or in English within 7 days from the date of request. The request for the applications can be sent on the above mentioned address.

Un-audited statement of financial position at 30 June 2021

	30-Jun-21 RO	30-Jun-20 RO
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	1,410,54	1,652,485
Intangible assets	5,235	12,895
Right-of-use asset	219,416	241,620
Total Non Current Assets	1,635,196	1,907,000
Current assets		
Inventories	472,443	1,143,408
Trade and other receivables	310,218	656,123
Cash and cash equivalents	7,989	5,862
Total current assets	790,650	1,805,393
Total assets	2,425,846	3,712,393
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity and reserves		
Share capital	1,892,196	1,892,196
Legal reserve	88,463	88,463
Special reserve	21,769	21,769
Accumulated losses	(8,395,825)	(2,452,093)
Net equity	(1,393,397)	(449,665)
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings and deferred		
Government grant	2,535,571	2,315,134
End of service benefits	62,221	78,374
Non-current portion of lease liability	224,843	246,592
Total non-current liabilities	2,822,635	2,640,100
Current liabilities		
Borrowings	560,494	938,348
Trade and other payables	400,448	568,885
Current portion of lease liability	35,666	14,725
Total current liabilities	996,608	1,521,958
Total liabilities	3,819,243	4,162,058
Total equity and liabilities	2,425,846	3,712,393
Net assets per share	(0.736)	(0.238)
Unaudited Profit and Loss Account for the 6 months ended 30th June 2021		
	30th June 2021 RO	30th June 2020 RO
Revenue	817,153	863,487
Cost of Sales	(814,266)	(823,391)
Gross Profit	2,887	40,096
General and administrative expenses	(232,474)	(275,057)
Other Income	371	9
Operating (Loss)/Profit	(229,216)	(234,952)
Interest Income	12	12
Interest cost and other finance charges-net	(68,926)	(84,768)
Total comprehensive (Loss)/income for the period	(298,130)	(319,708)
(Loss)/Earnings per share - basic and diluted	(0.158)	(0.169)

Alizz Islamic Bank celebrates with RO100,000 winner

Alizz Islamic Bank recently held a joyful reception at its branch in CBD to congratulate Abdullah al Wahaibi, the winner of RO100,000 in the Bushra Prize Savings account's half yearly draw.

Wahaibi was in for a surprise when he visited Alizz Islamic Bank on receiving a call from Mohammed al Ghassani, the AGM - acting chief consumer banking officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, to visit the branch as he had not yet revealed the happy news to the customer until he arrived.

Upon his arrival, Khalid al Zaabi, the bank's CBD branch manager, received him and conveyed the joyful news to him.

Upon receiving the news, Wahaibi expressed his astonishment and kept repeating the words, "This is not real, right?"

When it finally set in that he had really won RO100,000, Wahaibi said the good news had changed the course of his life.

Speaking on winning the Bushra Half yearly draw he said, "This is the first time that I have won a cash amount and for it to be such a significant amount is truly a dream come true. What gives me assurance and comfort is that the money of these prizes are Sharia'a compliant and a gift from the shareholders' funds. I am overjoyed that my Bushra account has brought good tidings."



He added, "I had to previously postpone many plans, and praise be to Allah that I can now achieve everything I was striving for because of the bountiful blessing. I am very grateful to

Alizz Islamic Bank for its products and service that are supervised by a legitimate Sharia'a body that gives all of us customers comfort and reassurance."

As part of its efforts to reward its loyal customers, Alizz Islamic Bank conducted the Bushra Prize Savings account half yearly draw in the middle of July.

Cash prizes were allocated with a financial value of more than RO120,000, which is a donation from the shareholders' funds. Nineteen winners who saved in a Bushra account and doubled their chances of winning by doubling their balance won at the draw.

The half-yearly prize amounting to RO100,000 was allocated to one winner. A total prize value of RO30,000 was distributed among three 'Tharwa' customers with each winner receiving RO10,000.

Employees of the Ministry of Education who have a Bushra account had an exclusive draw in which an amount of RO1,500 was distributed among three winners who received RO500 each. In appreciation of the roles of the employees working in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health, Alizz Islamic Bank dedicated special draws for both sectors with three winners from the Ministry of Defence and three winners from the Ministry of Health winning RO500 each.

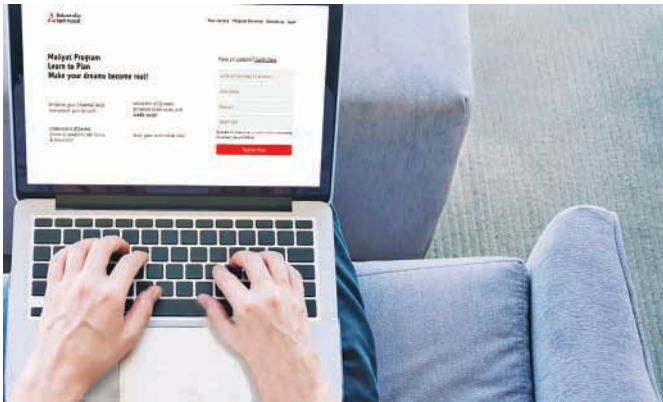
Valuing the pioneering roles played by the employees of the Royal Oman Police, Alizz Islamic Bank conducted special draws for them with three winners receiving cash prizes of RO500 each.

Pensioners also got a chance to win with a special draw held exclusively for them where three of them won RO500 each.

Alizz Islamic Bank's Bushra Prize Savings Account has brought joy and happiness to a variety of customers who have won earlier and the account has brought good tidings and relieved the stress of many of them.

Bank Muscat's free Maliyat programme launches upgraded financial literacy website

In line with its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the sultanate, has announced the launch of an upgraded website (<https://maliyatbankmuscat.com>) for its free Maliyat financial literacy programme.



First launched in 2019 by the bank to equip citizens and residents in Oman alike with the essential skills they need to better manage their finances and take prudent decisions, Maliyat has been seeing a steady rise in the number of online enrollments. With well-structured programme content that caters to the needs of all age-groups, the key aspects of the training include defining personal financial goals and financial planning to achieve one's goals.

The online self-learning programme covers important financial topics such as personal budgets, fiscal responsibility, how to manage income and expenditure as well as general economic outlook and macro-economic policies.

The course will greatly help people understand personal finance management and budgeting in their daily lives. They will be able to better understand financial concepts like personal budgets, loans, insurance, and calculation of interest.

It will help them plan for their future so as to be able to respond effectively to any life-changing event like an economic downturn or job loss.

Financial literacy is now more important than ever in today's

dynamic environment. It is an essential element in constructing a solid foundation for future economic growth and prosperity of the nation. Hence, Maliyat was conceptualized as a key component of the bank's sustainability strategy. Its curriculum comprises macro-economic theory, age-appropriate financial best practices as well as an educational process that validates and reinforces the financial best practices learnt during the course.

Participants in the course will also be able to choose various financial products like insurance and loans in the future based on their actual needs and financial capabilities. To encourage participants, digital certificates will be awarded on the completion of each module. The bank hopes to encourage everyone, both Omanis and expatriates, to use this online financial literacy course to enhance their understanding and practical knowledge of financial concepts so as to help them realise their dreams for the future.

Bank Muscat brings a wealth of financial expertise to the table with different financial literacy, awareness and coaching programmes. The bank's free Irshad financial coaching programme helps SMEs, startups, and individuals learn how to manage their finances and plan ahead for the future.

Some of the important topics covered by this free mentoring programme include understanding how to set up a new business, personal finance and managing expenses, retirement planning and Islamic financing concepts.

Outward Bound Oman appoints Zadjali as its chief operating officer

After 12 years of outstanding service, during which he has worked in almost every role within the organisation, Outward Bound Oman has announced the appointment of Mohamed al Zadjali as chief operating officer. Initially appointed as Outward Bound Oman's first instructor in 2009, Zadjali, originally from Musannah, has progressively worked his way up the ladder, becoming senior instructor, and then head of Operations and deputy general manager over the past 12 years.



Outward Bound Oman is part of an international network of 35 not-for-profit centres, and Zadjali has represented Oman at conferences and events in South Africa, Singapore, North Carolina in the US, as well as the UK.

At the 2014 Outward Bound International Conference in Germany, Zadjali received the Outward Bound International Award for Innovation. In 2016, along with Amor al Wahaibi from Bidiyah, he became the first Omani for 85 years to cross the

largest sand desert on earth, traveling on foot and by camel from Salalah to Doha in 49 days, retracing the first-ever crossing of the Rub al Khali that took place in 1931.

Outward Bound Oman executive director Mark Evans stated that a priority at Outward Bound Oman is to develop the national talent of Oman to help make Vision 2040 a reality, so the deserved appointment of Zadjali to

COO is justified reward for 12 years of outstanding performance. "He is exactly the right man to play a key role in the sustainable evolution of Outward Bound in Oman to ensure as many people as possible benefit from the Outward Bound experience in the years to come."

Zadjali added, "From my early years working as an instructor on our courses in the mountains and the desert, I have seen first-hand the impact that Outward Bound has on participants. Be they emerging talent from leading companies, or unemployed job-seekers, the impact is immense. Without doubt, Outward Bound Oman changes lives, and I am deeply honoured to be given the opportunity to play a leading role in the continued growth of Outward Bound here in Oman."

Outward Bound Oman's third national training centre is due to open on Jebel Akhdar before the end of 2021, increasing the organisation's capacity to shape the lives of more people in the years ahead.

Unlimited national calls in Oman for 7 days

RO3.150

7 Days

UNLIMITED

Chat for hours with Ooredoo

Chat for hours without worrying about running out of credit or about extra charges, with Ooredoo's unlimited voice plan.

Available for all new and existing prepaid and post-paid customers for only RO3.150 and valid for a whole week, subscribers can stay connected to family and friends on any network without the fear of racking up a hefty bill. With a wide range of plans that fit perfectly into every customer's needs and budget, Ooredoo plans are the perfect mix of flexibility, great value, simplicity and most of all, convenience.

Ooredoo continues to launch a variety of promotions and initiatives to meet and exceed its users' telecoms needs.

To activate the unlimited voice plan users can simply head to the Ooredoo app or subscribe by dialling *555*999#.

Shaza Hotels maintains ambitious growth plans in ME

Shaza Hotels maintains ambitious growth plans in the Middle East with various properties to open in the coming years in Jeddah, Dubai, Salalah and Doha. The expansion plans include Mysk Jeddah, Mysk Kuwait, Shaza Salalah, Shaza Doha and Mysk The Palm, on Palm Jumeirah in Dubai that is to open its doors in time for EXPO 2020 Dubai.

Another dazzling destination in the pipeline is The Mysk Moon Retreat, settled amidst the sandy desserts of Mleiha region in Sharjah, it is set to open in 2021, offering luxury glamping tents with private pools and unique service standards unheard of the region

In Saudi Arabia, Shaza is already a household name in the hospitality sector as it operates three luxury hotels in three prime locations: Shaza Makkah, one of the first in line hotels in Jebel al Ka'abah overlooking Al Masjid al Haram, Shaza Madinah, right next to Al Masjid al Nabawi, and Shaza Riyadh, in the buzzing heart of the capital next to Al Rajhi grand mosque.

Shaza also operates Mysk by Shaza al Mouj Muscat, overlooking the vibrant marina of Al Mouj in Muscat, and the four retreats of Sharjah Collection by Mysk including Mysk al Faya Retreat, Mysk Kingfisher Retreat, Mysk al Badayer Retreat, and the soon to be opened Mysk Moon Retreat at Sharjah.

Each of these retreats offer a unique perspective of glamping



atmospheres, service rituals, and guest experience that are unheard of in the region, making them serene, luxury, contemporary, and bespoke retreats.

Shaji Abu Salih, corporate director of Business Development at Shaza Hotels, said, "The Middle East and GCC in particular make the key feeder markets for Shaza Hotels. We aim to become a true embodiment of the authentic Arabian hospitality that is synonymous to this region, focusing on delivering the highest hospitality standards that our guests truly deserve."

"Travelling and the love of travel have always been a core value of everything that we do at Shaza, and our expansion plans are no different. You can see that in our interiors, in our hospitality, and our business as well. Like those true explorers of the past, we love travelling and we seek the adventure of a new place," he added.

Salih also commented on the groups expansion plans within Saudi Arabia.

"As we expanded our successes to the region, we are also planning on retrieve some of those successes back to the Kingdom, especially with the opportunities brought by Vision 2030. Our next focus in Saudi is on eco-retreats and glamping experiences with Mysk By Shaza brand, which is quite successful in UAE with our retreats."

While other brands may take pride in the cultural representation of their nations or locations, Shaza hotels took a different holistic approach of celebrating an integral part of the history of global civilisation; the silk route.

Shaza hotels offer their traveller guests a continuation of their journey within the hotel itself, through curated experiences set in contemporary-luxury spaces, designed for those who seek to explore and delight in the lavish elements of the bygone Eastern roads of trade.

ATTENTION

Majan Electricity Company announces amendment in the Period Buying in the following tender below:

TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION	GRADE	LAST DATE FOR BUYING	SUBMISSION DATE	TENDER PRICE R.O.
80/2021	Supply of drinking water for MJEC offices in (North Al Batina and Muscat) governorates for two years contract.	Specialized	5/8/2021	17/8/2021	25 /=

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

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

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

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

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

The Company is not bound to consent the lowest Bid or any other Tenders.
"WITH ELECTRICITY WE PROGRESS PLEASE AVOID EXTRAVAGANCE IN CONSUMPTION"

شركة مَجَان كهرباء
Majan Electricity Company (S.A.O.C)
الجهة المسؤولة عن الكهرباء
Member of Nama Group

Majan Electricity Company S.A.O.C
P.O Box 286, Sohar
PC 311, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 2694 4444 | Fax: +968 2694 4222
Information@majanco.nama.om | www.majanco.co.om

Life's most important investments made easy with NBO's Muzn

Providing personalised banking solutions that keep its customers' values in mind, Muzn, National Bank of Oman's (NBO) Islamic banking window offers a range of consumer financing facilities that tick all the boxes.

From Home, Auto, Education, Travel and Goods financing, each comes with an easy application process, fast processing and competitive monthly instalments, while the bank's distinguished Sharia'a Supervisory Board ensures complete Sharia'a compliance.

Salima al Marzouqi, Chief Is-



Islamic Banking Officer (CIBO), said, "At Muzn, we believe that banking should be made simple

for everyone. That's why we offer innovative, competitive and quality Islamic banking products and services that meet the distinctive needs of our customers. Backed by our dedicated customer service, they can fulfil their life goals without compromising their values."

Open to Omani nationals and residents, Muzn Education Finance is based on the concept of Services Ijarah which offers financing to get educational facilities from institutions inside and outside Oman.

Home Financing is available to

Omani nationals and is based on the concept of Ijarah and Diminishing Musharakah. Customers have the option to buy a new home, get their dream home constructed or convert their existing financing to a Sharia'a-compliant facility. The Car Financing and Consumer Goods Financing facilities are based on the concept of Murabaha, offering flexible tenures for all the citizens and residents between the ages of 21 and 60.

To find out more about financing facilities, call 24770001 or visit www.muzn.om.

Al Harthy 'delighted' with renewed Omantel support

Omantel, the first homegrown telecommunications services provider in Oman, will continue its long-standing support of multiple motor racing champion Ahmad al Harthy throughout the second half of 2021 as the Aston Martin Vantage GT3 driver makes his eagerly awaited track return.

Almost five months since he was last in action, during the Middle East-based Asian Le Mans Series, the sultanate's most successful racer is absolutely delighted to make his first partner announcement ahead of his just announced return to the Intelligent Money British GT Championship next month.

In its position as the leading telecommunications provider in Oman, Omantel is focused on fulfilling the needs of its many customers - both business and personal - with first class services and the highest standards of professionalism.

Sustainability is at the core of the business model with a vision focusing on three key areas, namely digital inclusion, responsibility and innovation. With regard to the latter, Omantel is forging forward with its rollout of 5G across the sultanate - bringing immense benefits to the people of Oman.

Omantel has a very strong and successful history of supporting the best Omani talent in many fields, not least in sporting endeavours, and the company



has been an integral part of Al Harthy and Oman Racing's winning partnership portfolio since the beginning of his motorsport career.

"I really am so delighted to be able to confirm the continued support of Omantel this year for our upcoming race programme, our partnership is a long-standing and very successful one and it's an honour for me to continue representing Omantel on and off track," said Al Harthy.

"We've just announced our return to British GT next month, and have more exciting announcements to come with regard to additional races this year. It's been a very long five months since the Asian Le Mans Series, so I can't wait to be back on track. Of course, it's been a very challenging time since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year so I am incredibly grateful for the amazing support of Omantel."

On behalf of Omantel, Saba al

Busaidi, senior manager Corporate Affairs, commented, "Ahmad al Harthy has been Oman's pride on the racing circuit. Omantel is always keen to associate itself with, and stand behind, outstanding Omani talent with its support. The company has been partnering with Ahmad since 2016 and welcomes his return to the track.

"This partnership also embodies leadership position, speed, talent and the ability to conquer all challenges - qualities that both Oman's favourite racer and Oman's favourite telecom company share. Omantel is sure that Ahmad will keep making Oman proud."

Just before the world changed in March 2020 when the global coronavirus outbreak took hold, Al Harthy was scheduled to make a full-time return to the Intelligent Money British GT Championship but the pandemic halted any racing activity for the Omani until October last year.

Suhail Bahwan Automobiles begins vaccination drive

To safeguard the health and safety of its employees and customers against the spread of COVID-19, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) has initiated a vaccination drive for its employees across the organisation.

The vaccination drive was initiated as per the Oman government's guidelines and protocols.

So far, nearly 500 employees have been immunised with the COVID-19 vaccine and 95 per cent of these employees have received both the doses as per

norms set by Ministry of Health.

A spokesperson for Suhail Bahwan Automobiles said, "Vaccination is a proven way to successfully reduce the risk of spreading the virus, safeguard health and help provide a safe purchase environment across our workshops and showrooms. Through this initiative, we aim to protect our employees from COVID-19 as well as contribute towards the nationwide immunisation efforts. We are confident that with adequate safety meas-

ures and vaccination drives, we shall overcome this challenging situation."

'Nissan Safe & Clean' certification

Nissan recently received the coveted 'Nissan Safe & Clean' certification from Nissan Middle East FZE (NMEF) for complying with the sales and service COVID-19 protocols established as per the programme.

Designed to maintain high levels of health and safety meas-

ures across authorised Nissan dealers in the region, Nissan Middle East FZE (NMEF) 'Safe & Clean' certification programme requires partners to abide by set preventive and safety measures. Keeping in mind that the safety of its customers, associates, employees, and community is of upmost priority, NMEF had prepared a set of guidelines in the region on safety procedures which covers customer safety, employee safety at workplace and facility network.

NBC organises workshop on digital marketing

The National Business Centre (NBC), which pertains to the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, organised a workshop on the fundamentals of digital marketing for companies. Organised in cooperation with Rumoz Company at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat, the workshop highlighted the elements of an effective marketing plan, key marketing platforms, digital marketing methods, in addition to an implementation of practical exercises to enrich knowledge and expertise of the participants.

NBC holds a series of events and discussion sessions for the entrepreneurs to exchange



knowledge, views and expertise in several major topics to con-

tribute in developing and advancing their projects. The Na-

tional Business Centre was launched by Madayn to offer promising Omani entrepreneurs a platform to develop their business ideas and advance them into growing ventures.

NBC aims at facilitating, supporting and contributing to the growth of investable ideas into successful businesses; building entrepreneurial skills through dedicated and focused training, coaching and mentoring; and providing business support facilities from office space, administrative support, financial support and consultancy services that are crucial in ensuring the success and survival of new ventures.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP HELD IN NIZWA

We Help Blood Donors Oman, in association with Maithri Nizwa and Nizwa Hospital, conducted a blood donation camp on Friday. Twenty-seven people donated blood

ISM achieves new milestone as students excel in CBSE Class XII exams

Indian School Muscat (ISM) excelled in the CBSE Class XII examinations; with their remarkable achievement, the students of the Science, Commerce and Humanities Streams have effectively established their school's status in the league of extraordinary educational institutions. By having all of the stream toppers come from Indian School Muscat, the school has achieved a new milestone.

Dr Rajeev Kumar Chauhan, principal, congratulated all stakeholders for achieving 100 per cent results and outstanding records set by students despite the challenges they experienced owing to the pandemic that began at the start of the school year.

Three students from Indian School Muscat topped the Oman list, Arjun Amit Athalye was the school and Oman topper in the Commerce stream with 99.4 per cent, Rahul Sriram was the school and Oman topper in the Science stream with 99.2 per cent, and Anjali Unnithan was the top Humanities student with 99 per cent. ISM expressed delight in the performance of its students.

Indian School Muscat is ec-



Arjun Amit Athalye



Rahul Sriram



Anjali Unnithan



Indraneel Singh Solanki



Liza Andrea D'Sa



Anuska Saha



Adithya Sainath



Jayden Christopher Fernandes



Sanshikha Satpal Mamotra



Snigdha Suresh

static, claiming that their students have performed higher than competitors. 11 per cent of students received an A1 in all disciplines which is a phenomenal record. Out of the 407 students that took the exam, 48.6 per cent obtained scores ranging from 90 to 100. It is very note-

worthy that 84 per cent of students got an 80 per cent or higher in various disciplines, with 15 individuals receiving a perfect score of 100.

This year's exceptional performance showed the school's commitment to be unsurpassed in academics.

Stream toppers

Arjun Amit Athalye topped the Commerce stream with a staggering score of 99.4 per cent, which is the highest percentage of marks ever achieved by a student in the sultanate. In the Commerce stream, Liza Andrea D'Sa came second with a score

of 97.6 per cent, while Sanshikha Satpal Mamotra came third with a score of 97.4 per cent.

In the Science stream, Rahul Sriram took first place with a score of 99.2 per cent, closely followed by Indraneel Singh Solanki in second place with a score of 99.0 per cent, and

Adithya Sainath and Jayden Christopher Fernandes jointly share the third place with a score of 98.4 per cent.

In the Humanities Stream, Anjali Unnithan scored 99.0 per cent and topped the stream, while Anuska Saha, who scored 98.4 per cent stood sec-

ond and Snigdha Suresh who scored 97.8 per cent secured the third position.

Centum scorers

The most noteworthy highlight of result is that 15 students scored a perfect score of 100 in various subjects making their alma mater extremely proud.

Rahul Sriram and Arjun Amit Athalye both scored three centums while Indraneel Singh Solanki and Jayden Christopher Fernandes each earned two centums. Kritvi Sharma, Janhavi Rao Kaza, Ardra Salil Bhaskar, Catherine Naveen, and Ananya Kulkarni, who scored a flawless 100, were the other centum achievers.

On behalf of SMC, Sachin Toprani, president, congratulated and appreciated all students, teachers, and parents for their exceptional performance in the class XII Board Examination. He also thanked principal, vice principal, Senior Section, assistant vice principal, heads of departments and the whole Senior Section faculty members for their dedication and unstinted endeavor in mentoring the students to achieve such stupendous results.

Fresh elections in two years, assures Myanmar junta chief

Yangon, Myanmar - Myanmar's junta chief said on Sunday that elections would be held and a state of emergency lifted by August 2023, extending the military's initial timeline given when it deposed Aung San Suu Kyi six months ago.

The country has been in turmoil since the army ousted the civilian leader in February, launching a bloody crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 900 people according to a local monitoring group.

A resurgent coronavirus wave has also amplified havoc, with many hospitals empty of pro-democracy medical staff, and the World Bank has forecast the economy will contract by up to 18 per cent.

In a televised address junta leader Min Aung Hlaing said the military would 'accomplish the provisions of the state of emergency by August 2023'.

"I pledge to hold multi-party elections without fail," he added.

The general's announcement would place Myanmar in the military's grip for nearly two and a half years - instead of the initial one-year timeline the army announced days after the coup.

The State Administration Council - as the junta calls itself - also announced in a separate statement that Min Aung Hlaing had been appointed as the prime



This file photo shows Myanmar armed forces chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing saluting during an annual parade put on by the military to mark Armed Forces Day in the capital Naypyidaw on March 27 this year (AFP)

minister of the 'caretaker government'.

The army has justified its power grab by alleging massive fraud during 2020 elections won by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) in a landslide, and has threatened to dissolve the party.

Last week the junta cancelled the results of the polls, announcing it had uncovered more than 11mn instances of voter fraud.

Suu Kyi has been detained since February 1 and faces an eclectic raft of charges, from flouting coronavirus restrictions to illegally importing walkie talkies, which could see her jailed

for more than a decade.

ASEAN special envoy

International pressure, including sanctions targeting the military, has done little to knock the junta off course.

The regional ten country Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has tried to negotiate with the regime - though critics say the bloc lacks diplomatic clout and unity.

ASEAN leaders in April called for an 'immediate cessation of violence' and a visit to Myanmar by a regional special envoy, an agreement that was later walked back by Min Aung Hlaing.

Sunday, six months after soldiers launched the coup with pre-dawn raids ending a decade-long experiment with democracy.

Protesters in the northern town of Kale held banners reading 'strength for the revolution' while demonstrators let off flares at a march in the commercial capital Yangon.

Tens of thousands of civil servants and other workers have either been sacked for joining rallies or are still on strike in support of a nationwide civil disobedience campaign.

"In the six months since the coup, the people of Myanmar have demonstrated remarkable courage and conviction in the face of widespread violence," said the US Embassy in Myanmar on its official Facebook page Sunday.

"The United States remains firmly committed to supporting the people of Myanmar in their aspirations for a democratic, inclusive future of their own choosing."

The NLD saw its support increase in the 2020 vote compared with the previous 2015 election. In a report on the 2020 polls, the Asian Network for Free Elections monitoring group said the elections were 'by and large, representative of the will of the people'.

AFP

Israel accusations over ship attack baseless, says Iran

Tehran, Iran - Iran on Sunday rejected Israel's 'baseless accusations' of being behind a deadly tanker attack off Oman, vowing to defend its interests after its arch-foe pushed for UN action against Tehran.

The *MT Mercer Street*, managed by prominent Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, was struck on Thursday off the coast of Oman, in an incident Israel has blamed on Iran.

Two crew members were killed, a British security guard and a Romanian crew member, in what the US military and the vessel's operator Zodiac Maritime said appeared to be a drone strike.

On Friday, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said he had ordered the nation's diplomats to push for UN action against 'Iranian terrorism'.

But Iran dismissed the claims. "The Zionist regime ... must stop such baseless accusations - and it is not their first time to direct such accusations at Iran," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters in a televised press conference.

"Iran will not hesitate for a moment to defend its... interests and national security," Khatibzadeh added.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to Lapid and agreed to work with

other allies 'to investigate the facts, provide support, and consider the appropriate next steps', according to a State Department statement.

Maritime industry analysts Dryad Global said the attack was the fifth against a ship connected to Israel since February.

The oil products tanker was travelling from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates with no cargo aboard when it was struck, Zodiac Maritime said.

Tit-for-tat attacks

In recent months, there have been several reported attacks on Iran's shipping fleet, that Tehran has linked to Israel.

In March, Iran's Foreign Ministry said it was 'considering all options' in response to an attack on a cargo ship in the Mediterranean it blamed on Israel.

And in April, Tehran said its freighter *Saviz* was hit by an 'explosion' in the Red Sea, after media reports said Israel had struck the ship.

The *New York Times* reported at the time that the *Saviz* had been targeted in an Israeli 'retaliatory' attack after 'Iran's earlier strikes on Israeli ships'. It came at a time of heightened tensions between the foes, with reports of a series of tit-for-tat attacks on shipping since early March.

AFP

Demand for probe after deaths of indigenous children in Canada

Montreal, Canada - Hundreds of protesters in Canada's capital called on Saturday for a probe into a boarding school system for indigenous children, as outrage built after the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves at several of the facilities.

Until the 1990s, some 150,000 indigenous, Inuit and Metis youths were forcibly enrolled in the schools, where students were physically and sexually abused by headmasters and teachers who stripped them of their culture and language.

'Indigenous Peoples need truth and justice,' MP Mumilaq Qaqqaq wrote on Instagram.

'That means a special prosecutor and a fully-funded independent investigation, with international observers present, into Canada's crimes against Indigenous Peoples,' she added,



A file photo of Nunavut MP Mumilaq Qaqqaq

calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Justice Minister David Lametti 'to stop making excuses' and launch a probe.

The demonstrators gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa after two lawmakers called for a protest.

Since late May, over 1,000 unmarked graves were found near former residential schools - discoveries that have outraged the country. Thousands died at the schools, and many were subjected to abuse.

AFP

Firefighters, water bombers battle to extinguish forest blaze

Ziria, Greece - Nearly 300 firefighters, two water bomber planes and five helicopters were battling on Sunday to put out a forest fire in Greece that has so far destroyed around 20 homes and injured eight people, authorities said.

Five villages have been evacuated and eight people hospitalised with burns and respiratory problems since the fire broke out early on Saturday near Patras, in the Peloponnese, about 210km west of Athens, the firefighting service said.

The mayor of nearby Aigialeias, Dimitris Kalogeropoulos, called it 'an immense catastrophe'.

"There has not yet been an official assessment of the damage, but around ten houses in the area of Ziria have burnt down, as well as farming sheds and animals stables, which is a lot for



Firefighters battle a wildfire in Labiri, near Patras, on Saturday (AFP)

the residents of the region who make their living from agriculture," he told the ANA news agency.

Aigialeias' town hall provided emergency accommodation on Saturday for people who had to flee their villages.

The local newspaper, Patrastimes, reported that around 30 houses, farming sheds and stables were consumed by

flames in the villages of Ziria, Kamares, Achaia and Labiri.

"We slept outside overnight, terrified that we would not have a house when we woke up," a Labiri resident told Greek TV station Skai.

The seaside resort of Loggos was also evacuated, with nearly 100 residents and tourists sent to the nearby city of Aigio.

AFP

THE FINANCIAL CORPORATION Co. SAOG AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Board of Directors' Report

Dear Shareholders,

We present the unaudited financial results of The Financial Corporation Co. SAOG (FINCORP) (The Group) for the six-month period ended June 30, 2021.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Group earned a total operating income of RO. 126,505 which, combined with realised and unrealised gain amounting to RO. 491,633 and dividend income of RO 83,622, resulted in Total Income of RO. 701,760 compared to RO. (149,036) during same period last year. Net Profit for the period stood at RO. 716,951 compared to a Net Loss of RO. (745,260) during the same period last year. A summary of the financial results is tabulated below.

DETAILS	30 June 2021 RO.	30 June 2020 RO.	Change %
Operating Income	126,505	197,062	(56)
Investment Income	575,255	(350,161)	161
Income from associate (Al Amal Fund)	233,597	(338,348)	245
Net Income	935,357	(491,446)	153
General & Admin Expenses	(246,728)	(291,709)	18
Profit/(Loss) before tax	688,630	(783,155)	214
Taxation	28,321	37,896	(34)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period	716,951	(745,260)	204
Profit/(Loss) per share	0.010	(0.011)	204

MARKET OUTLOOK

Going into the second half of 2021, improving vaccination rates will enable gradual return to normalcy. The IMF has raised its global growth forecast to 6% for 2021 supported by fiscal stimulus and improving business environment. Investor sentiment remains largely positive towards equities supported by earnings recovery and low interest rate. However, stretched valuations in some markets, concerns about monetary policy tightening and inflation worries could dampen investor sentiment. Over the coming quarters, European and emerging markets could do well given that they have lagged in performance. GCC markets remain well positioned amid strong support from energy prices. That said, the emergence of new virus variants remains a risk for global equity markets.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq for his wise leadership and progressive vision that continues to lead the country along the path of growth and prosperity.

We wish to extend our appreciation to all officials and staff of the Muscat Securities Market, Capital Market Authority and Muscat Clearing and Depository Company for their valuable co-operation and support.

Finally, we wish to thank all our staff for their spirited contribution for holding on during these times, shareholders for their faith, and our esteemed clients for the confidence, trust and support extended to FINCORP.

Mohamed Darwish Al Khoori
Chairman of the Board

Complete accounts for the group/parent company will be sent to any investor/user of this financial statements upon request within 7 days from the date of receiving the request

P.O. Box 782, Postal Code 131,
Sultanate of Oman,
Phone: (968) 24822354, Fax: (968) 24822390
E-mail: alamin@fincorp.org
Website: www.fincorp.org



شركة المركز المالي ش.م.ع. The Financial Corporation Co. SAOG
ادارة الاصول | واسطة | تمويل الشركات والاستشارات | بحوث
Asset Management | Brokerage | Corporate Finance and Advisory | Research

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Israeli company developing oral vaccine

Washington, US - Imagine a COVID-19 vaccine that came as a pill: No needles, no medical professionals required to administer it, potentially delivered directly to people's homes.

Israeli pharmaceutical Oramed is attempting to accomplish just that, and is poised to start its first clinical trial in early August, CEO Nadav Kidron told AFP in an interview.

With just 15 per cent of the world's population fully vaccinated, the global fight to end the pandemic is far from over.

Oral vaccines are particularly attractive for the developing world, because they reduce the logistical burden of immunisation campaigns, said Kidron.

But they could also increase uptake in wealthy countries where needle aversion is an often missed factor in hesitancy.

A recent survey found nearly 19mn Americans who decline vaccines would take them if they had a pill option.

"In order for the vaccine to really work well, we need as many people to take it as possible," said Kidron. Other benefits include reduced syringe and plastic waste, and potentially fewer side effects.



A medic performs a coronavirus swab test on a child, in Jerusalem on Sunday (AFP)

Challenges for oral delivery

Despite many theoretical advantages, there have been few successful oral vaccines because the active ingredients tend not to survive the journey through the gastro-intestinal tract.

Exceptions include vaccines

for diseases that are themselves transmitted through the mouth and digestive system - for example there is an effective oral polio vaccine.

Oramed, which was founded in 2006, believes it has overcome the technical hurdles by designing a capsule that survives the highly acidic environ-

ment of the gut.

It invented its technology for a previous product, an experimental oral form of insulin, the lifesaving drug required by diabetics that has until now been only administered by injection.

Developed with Nobel Prize winning biochemist Avram Herskho who is on Oramed's scien-

Israelis protest as rising cases trigger new rules

Tel Aviv, Israel - Several hundred Israelis demonstrated on Saturday in Tel Aviv against new coronavirus restrictions and vaccines as positive cases and hospitalisations rose to levels not seen in months.

The Health Ministry reported on Saturday that 2,435 new COVID cases had been recorded the day before - the highest number since March - driven by the more contagious Delta variant.

There were 326 hospitalisations, the highest since April, although well below the January peak, when more than 2,000 people were being hospitalised daily.

Israel has in recent days rolled out a booster vaccine shot for older citizens, reimposed mask requirements indoors and restored 'green pass' restrictions requiring vaccine certificates for entering enclosed spaces such as gyms, restaurants and hotels.

The rise in infections is a step back after Israel's world-leading vaccine campaign drove down new COVID-19 cases from 10,000 a day to fewer than 100. Protesters on Saturday flew a banner that read, 'There's no pandemic, it's a con'.

They even held up placards to denounce vaccines.

oral insulin product and uses it for an oral COVID-19 vaccine.

Virus-like particle

To evoke an immune response, the company's scientists have designed synthetic coronavirus-like particles.

These mimic three key structures of the pathogen: The spike protein, the envelope protein and the membrane protein.

Most currently authorized vaccines, like Pfizer or AstraZeneca, are based on the spike protein alone, making them less protective over time as the spike protein of the coronavirus mutates.

By targeting multiple parts of the virus, including structures that mutate less, the Oravax vaccine could be more variant-proof, Kidron said.

The company has applied to begin trials in multiple countries and expects to begin its first in Israel within weeks, pending approval from the health ministry.

Kidron said he foresaw a role for the vaccine initially in developing countries which haven't yet bought up enough supply of current vaccines - before eventually developed markets.

AFP

China test millions as cases surge

Beijing, China - Chinese cities rolled out mass testing of millions of people and imposed fresh travel restrictions as health authorities battled on Sunday to contain the country's most widespread coronavirus outbreak in months.

China on Sunday reported 75 new coronavirus cases with 53 local transmissions, with a cluster linked to an eastern airport now reported to have spread to over 20 cities and more than a dozen provinces.

The outbreak is geographically the largest to hit China in several months after the country's successes in largely snuffing out the pandemic within its borders last year.

That record has been thrown into jeopardy after the fast-spreading Delta variant broke out at Nanjing airport in eastern Jiangsu province in July.

Authorities have now conducted three rounds of testing



A woman gets a nucleic acid test done for the COVID-19 coronavirus in Zhengzhou, in China's central Henan province on Saturday (AFP)

on the city's 9.2mn residents and placed hundreds of thousands under lockdown, in an effort to curb an outbreak Beijing has blamed on the highly contagious Delta variant and the peak tourist season.

They are also scrambling to track more than 5,000 people nationwide who attended a theatre festival in Zhangjiajie, a tourist city in Hunan province which has locked down all 1.5mn

residents and shut all tourist attractions after four visitors tested positive.

Health officials say the mini-outbreak in Zhangjiajie was sparked by travellers from Nanjing and has helped spread the disease to more than 20 cities.

"Zhangjiajie has now become the new ground zero for China's epidemic spread," virologist Zhong Nanshan said.

"We must cast the net wider

when tracing close contacts of the Delta variant."

Beijing on Sunday reported three locally transmitted infections - a family living on the outskirts of the Chinese capital that had returned from Zhangjiajie, the local health bureau said.

Beijing has cut all rail, bus and air links with areas where coronavirus cases have been found.

The Chinese capital has also closed its doors to tourists during the peak summer holiday travel season and is only allowing 'essential travellers' with a negative nucleic acid test to enter. Fresh cases were also reported Sunday on Hainan island - another popular tourist destination - as well as Ningxia and Shandong provinces, authorities said.

The country is also battling a separate rise in cases in the flood-ravaged city of Zhengzhou in Henan province.

AFP

Cambodia begins jabs for teenagers

Phnom Penh, Cambodia - Cambodia began a roll out of vaccinations for teenagers in its capital Phnom Penh and three provinces on Sunday, with Premier Hun Sen's grandchildren among the first to get the jab.

Several countries in Southeast Asia are currently experiencing a deadly COVID-19 resurgence largely driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, which has set back the region's successes last year in curbing pandemic tolls.

While Cambodia appeared to have escaped the brunt of the virus last year, an outbreak first detected in February has steadily driven up the caseload to nearly 78,000.

On Sunday, the kingdom began vaccinating children between the ages of 12 to 17, starting the campaign in its capital Phnom Penh, as well as in the three hardest-hit provinces of Kandal, Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk.



A youth receives a vaccine at a clinic in Phnom Penh on Sunday (AFP)

"The vaccination for children today is a key step to herd immunity in communities," said the Cambodian leader.

"Children are like bamboo shoots. If the health of children is damaged now, we won't have good bamboos."

Earlier in the day, he watched as doctors administered the Chinese-made Sinovac to his grandchildren. They will be among the two million teenagers expected to be vaccinated, Hun Sen said, adding that

the kingdom is mulling inoculating children aged ten and eleven.

Several countries in Europe-like Denmark, France and Lithuania - have begun vaccinating children in a bid to faster reach herd immunity.

Hun Sen said Sunday authorities will also soon begin administering booster shots to adults who are fully vaccinated, and will take a page out of neighbouring Thailand's book by mixing vaccines.

AFP

Afghan forces battle to thwart Taliban assaults on key cities

Kandahar, Afghanistan - Afghan government forces struggled against Taliban assaults on several major cities on Sunday as the insurgents stepped up a nationwide offensive that saw a key airport in the south come under rocket fire overnight.

Hundreds of commandos were deployed to the western city of Herat while authorities in the southern city of Lashkar Gah called for more troops to rein in the assaults.

Fighting has surged across the country since early May when US-led foreign forces began a final withdrawal from Afghanistan that is now almost complete. After seizing large tracts of rural territory and capturing key border crossings, the Taliban have started assaulting provincial capitals with gruelling onslaughts.

Flights out of Kandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city and the former stronghold for the insurgents, were halted after rockets struck the airport before dawn.

Airport chief Massoud Pash-

tin said two rockets had hit the runway and repairs were underway with planes likely to resume service later on Sunday.

The facility is vital to maintaining the logistics and air support needed to keep the Taliban from overrunning the city, while also providing aerial cover for large tracts of southern Afghanistan.

The attack came as the Taliban inched closer to overwhelming at least two other provincial capitals, including nearby Lashkar Gah in Helmand province.

"Fighting is going on inside the city and we have asked for special forces to be deployed," Ataullah Afghan, head of Helmand provincial council, said.

Afghan security forces have increasingly relied on airstrikes to push the militants back from cities even as they run the risk of hitting civilians in heavily populated areas.

"The city is in the worst condition. I do not know what will happen," said Halim Karimi, a resident of Lashkar Gah, a city of



An Afghan National Army commando stands guard on top of a vehicle along the road in Enjil district of Herat province, as skirmishes between Afghan National Army and Taliban continues on Sunday (AFP)

200,000 residents.

"Neither the Taliban will have mercy on us, nor will the government stop bombing."

Further west in Herat, fighting continued on the city's outskirts overnight with airstrikes targeting Taliban positions, following another day of dramatic clashes between the insurgents and

Afghan security forces bolstered by local militia fighters.

Herat provincial governor's spokesman Jailani Farhad said around 100 militant fighters had been killed in the attacks.

Both the Taliban and government forces tend to exaggerate their claims of casualties inflicted on the other's forces and true

counts are difficult to independently verify.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Defence said that hundreds of commandos had been sent to Herat to help beat back the insurgent assault. 'These forces will increase offensive operations and suppress the Taliban in Herat,' the ministry tweeted.

Increasing pressure

As fighting raged, President Ashraf Ghani again slammed the Taliban for failing to marshal their negotiating power to reach a peace deal.

"We want peace but they want us to surrender," Ghani said at a Cabinet meeting.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) also took issue with the Taliban, demanding the insurgents 'provide answers' for the rocket attack on its office in Herat on Friday that killed an Afghan guard.

In a tweet posted on Sunday, UNAMA indicated there were also 'violent occurrences at the Herat base' on Saturday, without offering further details.

For months, the Taliban's rapid territorial gains during the final stages of the US military withdrawal have largely been in sparsely populated rural areas.

But in recent weeks they have brought increasing pressure on provincial capitals and seized key border crossings.

The capture of any major

urban centre would take their current offensive to another level and fuel concerns that the army is incapable of resisting the Taliban's advances.

The government has repeatedly dismissed the militants' steady gains over the summer as lacking strategic value but has largely failed to reverse their momentum on the battlefield.

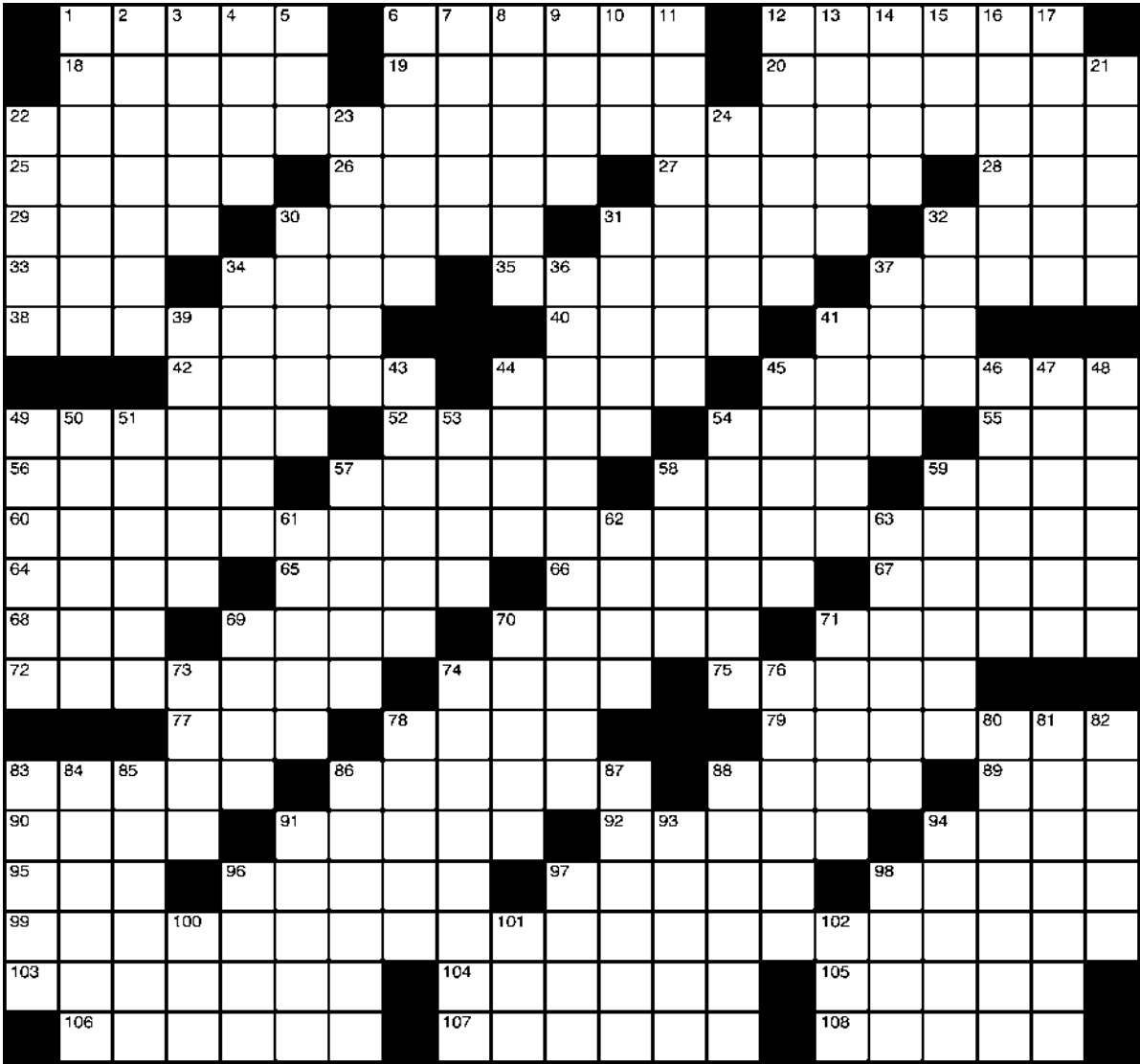
The Taliban have seized Afghan cities in the past but have managed to retain them only briefly.

The insurgents overran the northern city of Kunduz in 2015 and 2016, and briefly held control of Ghazni after setting ablaze key government buildings and destroying telecommunication towers.

Top US officials and generals have acknowledged that in recent weeks the US military, despite being in its final stages of withdrawal, has carried out air strikes against the Taliban to help the Afghan forces keep the insurgents from overrunning urban areas.

AFP

DAILY CROSSWORD



©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All rights reserved

ACROSS

- 1 Clean the board
- 6 Llama's cousin
- 12 Greek piazzas
- 18 Of mixed heritage: Fr.
- 19 "___ in"; Land that fish!
- 20 Crown's shape
- 22 Source of meaningful sayings
- 25 Factory
- 26 Vast, old style
- 27 Rifles
- 28 George's brother
- 29 River from Switzerland to the Rhine
- 30 Of the skull: prefix
- 31 Fork-tail sea birds
- 32 Active one
- 33 One on Soc. Sec.
- 34 Drones
- 35 Marble variety: pl.
- 37 Obligates
- 38 Mosaic piece
- 40 Bullring chants
- 41 "Altar" constellation
- 42 Pollute
- 44 Exclamations of surprise
- 45 Alloy with tin, e.g.
- 49 On the sand
- 52 Samson, for one
- 54 Make the first play

DOWN

- 55 ___ de la Paix
- 56 Goes fast
- 57 Settle the account
- 58 Offers
- 59 Congress persons: abbr.
- 60 Proceed resolutely
- 64 Seine sights
- 65 Aid partner?
- 66 Hilo honkers
- 67 Sandy's musical
- 68 Female of the ruff
- 69 Burden
- 70 African Gold Coast today
- 71 Shut up
- 72 O'Brien namesakes
- 74 Spoken
- 75 Not so prevalent
- 77 Tunisian ruler
- 78 "You could hear ___ drop"
- 79 Protective wall
- 83 The reel things?
- 86 Make ___: apologize
- 88 Willowy Kate
- 89 Broad St.
- 90 "___ Well ..."
- 91 Scottish family groups
- 92 Veggie skins
- 94 Mimic
- 95 Critic Lindstrom
- 96 Kind of millionaire
- 97 ___ Sea: WWII

- battle site
- 98 Small brownish songbirds
- 99 Very quickly
- 103 Florida settler?
- 104 Hockey player
- 105 Mountain ridge
- 106 Forsake
- 107 File clerk
- 108 Adjust
- 1 Rival successfully
- 2 Hinders
- 3 Redress
- 4 Examine closely
- 5 Atlanta time zone
- 6 Boxing centers, e.g.
- 7 Dud
- 8 City on the Illinois
- 9 Grad
- 10 Member of a state or nation: abbr.
- 11 Olympians
- 12 "Haven't seen him in ___ age:"
- 13 Presents
- 14 Spheres
- 15 Defunct electronic co.
- 16 Britain, in literature
- 17 Become angry
- 21 Russian emperors
- 22 1960s painting movement

- 23 Band-leader
- Woody
- 24 Painful areas
- 30 Famous name in radium
- 31 Long curved claw
- 32 Radio
- appurtenance
- 34 American castle owner
- 36 Be humble
- 37 Small paper fastener
- 39 Puts away
- 41 Accumulate
- 43 Ancient capital of Egypt
- 44 Elide
- 45 Genus of mosquitos
- 46 Spinach leaves, among others
- 47 "___ Mame"
- 48 Fitted together smoothly
- 49 Array
- 50 Closed tight
- 51 Hall of Famer Olajuwon
- 53 Exude
- 54 One dimensional
- 57 Picture puzzle
- 58 Beethoven's birthplace
- 59 Madrid matron
- 61 Versatile
- 62 Patricia, of films

- 63 Old German coins
- 69 Washington bills
- 70 Shows pleasure
- 71 Tasteless
- 73 Pindar specialty: pl.
- 74 Previews
- 76 God of light
- 78 Cremona string king?
- 80 Tahitian city
- 81 Still
- 82 Succinct
- 83 South American swinelike animal
- 84 Straightened: var.
- 85 Missouri tributary
- 86 Totally mistaken
- 87 Ruined
- 88 Inadequate
- 91 Prettier
- 93 "Sesame Street" roomie
- 94 English composer's family
- 96 Of small account
- 97 Goodman's instr.
- 98 Word with hard or house
- 100 Towel word
- 101 Actress ___ Stark
- 102 Distant

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Seeing your family members in this type of mood is a rare occurrence. They're fiery, assertive and willing to say anything that crosses their minds -- except when it comes to exactly what they're up to. You can tell something is going on, but no one will give you even the tiniest of clues. They're keeping quiet, and they're proud of it. They might be trying to keep a surprise from coming out?



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Subtlety has never been your strong suit -- but then, you've never wanted it on your list of favourite qualities, so that's not a problem. You much prefer being known for your ability to cut to the chase and your very strong intuition when it comes to reading other people's faces. So when whatever you're thinking emerges immediately from your mouth, you won't be all that upset about it.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

If anyone can mingle, it's you. You can chat with anyone about anything, mostly because you know just enough about almost everything to carry on a convincing conversation. So if you're out with friends and you know that the person you've been introduced to thinks you're a doctor, a scientist or an author because of the vocabulary you're flinging around, have some fun.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

It's time to stand up for yourself, which has never been something you've shied away from. You'll be more determined than ever to ensure no one takes advantage of you. Your mission is to resist letting your feelings show in the meantime. It might not be easy, because your feelings go very deep. But if you want to emerge victorious, a little bit of sugar goes a long, long way.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Every now and then, you need to spend some time alone, thinking about what's really important to you. Take that time now -- you really shouldn't let anyone convince you otherwise. Cancel your appointments and sit down quietly in a place you know you won't be disturbed. Take your time. When you're done, you'll want to share your thoughts with the ones you love.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

Better keep a box of tissues handy, because you're about to become unusually sentimental. Nostalgic, even. And maybe in the mood to reminisce. Whatever you're feeling at the moment will emerge, regardless of whether you're comfortable with letting others see it. So if you've been trying to hide your feelings for a certain someone, you should forget about that.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

You've always been drawn to strong, fiery people -- the kind who make exciting company simply because you're never quite sure what they might say or do next. Just that type -- your type -- could be along shortly. But if you don't give yourself some time off from that caretaking job you've taken on, you'll never know. At least give yourself a couple of evenings off.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You're ordinarily far more concerned with home and family matters than with anything that involves your outer life. But right about now, you really will be thinking about only one thing: how to let the powers that be know you're entirely capable of getting the job done. Fortunately, you've been working so hard lately, the higher-ups can't help but see your efforts. Give yourself a break.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Enough is enough. It's time to break your routine in a very big way. You're thinking that even if you have to look elsewhere, it might be worth it -- and 'elsewhere' might mean another city, state, coast or even country. If a long-distance move has been in the back of your mind for a while, then start doing more than just thinking about it. Make sure your passport is current.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Throughout your life, pleasing the one you love has always been at the very top of your priority list. You need to find some time for yourself right now, however. After all, you really need to tend to a personal matter. And while it may end up being a balancing act -- not an easy one either -- if anyone can manage, it's you. Now how about sharing your secret with the rest of the world?



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

If you're single, it's going to be a bumpy night. The last person on earth you'd ever expect to reveal secret feelings to you will be the first one who'll do it. Of course, you've been trying to tell yourself those suspicions you've had were wrong; at this point, you need to buckle down and admit they were right on. And if you think about it, how could you possibly blame them?



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Life is working out just fine at the moment. When things go along this well, it's usually because two particular areas are as close to perfect as possible, and those areas are love and money. If that's the case, how about letting everyone else in on your secret? The rest of the planet would just love to know how to get both those departments working smoothly at the same time.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Bromine is a

- a. black solid
- b. red liquid
- c. colourless gas
- d. highly inflammable gas

2. The hardest substance available on earth is

- a. Gold
- b. Iron
- c. Diamond
- d. Platinum

3. Tetraethyl lead is used as

- a. pain killer
- b. fire extinguisher
- c. mosquito repellent
- d. petrol additive

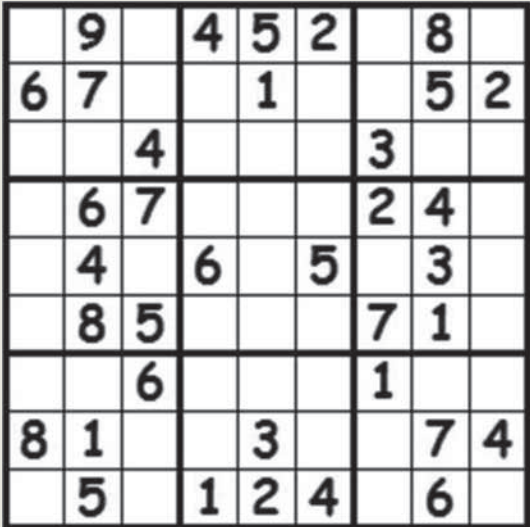
Answers: 1.b 2.c 3.d

KIDS COLOURING



DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 and only one instance of each number



BOGGLER



Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.

Solution 20-25 words: Excellent, 15-20 words: Very good, 10-15 words: Good, 5-10 words: Average

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER



DAILY CROSSWORD ANSWERS (AUGUST 01)



WORD BUILDER

You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count





Beyond Tokyo

Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO) calls on tourists to explore Japan beyond Tokyo – one of the world’s largest metropolises. During the summer months, hardcore adventurers can tackle the beautiful mountains, especially Mount Fuji, while for those who want to immerse themselves in more relaxed outdoor activities, there are plenty of options. With Japan’s rail system being highly efficient and affordable, jumping on the train to access the neighbouring prefectures is a breeze, it says. **As of now, there is a ban on entry of foreign nationals from a host of countries, including Oman, due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, it is worthwhile to make your plans for a visit after the Olympics, when things open up. Here are some options to consider:**



Hitachi Seaside Park

Just an hour and a half northeast of Tokyo lies the Hitachi Seaside Park famed for its year-round fields of flowers. Spanning a total area of 350 hectares, the park is a riot of colour at any time of year but plan your trip to coincide with your favourite flowers and you’re in for a treat. July sees the arrival of delicate orange native Japanese sukashiyuri lilies, followed by a riot of colour as 350,000 zinnias flower. A burst of sunshine takes over the park in August with 30,000 bright yellow sunflowers standing tall against the clear blue skies. And in mid-October the park turns scarlet as 32,000 kochia plants bloom, a dramatic contrast to the evergreen pines that cover the hillsides.



Tokyo's Metropolitan Mountains

Not a lot of people know that Tokyo is home to lush forest, dramatic mountain scenery and plenty of outdoor activities, even within the metropolitan city limits. One of the most easily accessible mountains is Mount Takao with hiking trails, a chair lift and a funicular railway providing access to the mountaintop for everyone. It takes around an hour to reach Takaosanguchi station by train from Shinjuku or Tokyo. Once there, those who want to stretch their legs and fill their lungs with fresh mountain air can set off on one of the numbered hiking trails, with varying levels of difficulty to satisfy all types of hikers. For visitors of determination, small children, and those who just prefer to take it easy, the funicular offers a highly scenic journey and panoramic vistas.



Forest Adventure Mishima Skywalk

Head to Shizuoka Prefecture southwest of Tokyo for a thrilling eco-adventure as you zipline alongside Japan’s longest suspension bridge at Forest Adventure Mishima Skywalk. The park combines a number of different aerial courses spread throughout the forest canopy, suitable for all the family. Grown-ups can tackle the treetops on the Adventure Course with climbing challenges, ziplines and more that are sure to get the adrenalin pumping. Younger family members can swing through the Canopy Course. The highlight is the 300-metre zipline running alongside Japan’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge – Mishima Skywalk – with Shizuoka’s spectacular natural scenery and views of Mount Fuji creating a breathtaking backdrop. A truly unforgettable experience!

Heatwave hits Olympic marathon site

Japan’s northern Hokkaido region was supposed to offer cooler climes for next week’s Olympic marathons and race walks, but now the area is battling a heatwave.

Olympic organisers moved the two events from Tokyo in 2019, worried that even shifting the start times to dawn would not be enough to keep athletes safe from the heat.

The summer temperatures in Hokkaido’s Sapporo were expected to be kinder – around five or six degrees Celsius cooler than Tokyo – the International Olympic Committee said. However, in the last week, temperatures in Sapporo hit over 34 degrees Celsius (93 degrees Fahrenheit), and they are forecast to hover between maximums of 31 and 34 degrees over the next week, when the race walks and marathons will take place.

The mercury has surged even higher elsewhere in Hokkaido, with one town in the region becoming the first place in Japan this year to record temperatures over 38 degrees.

The men’s 20km race walk takes place in the region on Thursday, followed by the women’s race and the marathons for men and women over the next few days. Temperatures in Tokyo over the coming week are forecast to range from maximums of 30 to 34 Celcius.

Heat has been a persistent concern for organisers, with a raft of counter-measures drawn up including misting stations and ice jackets.

In its bid for the Games, Tokyo argued that its summer included “many days of mild and sunny weather” and would offer “an ideal climate for athletes to perform their best,” but many competitors and volunteers have struggled with the conditions.

AFP

OCON TRIUMPHS

Hamilton fights back from last to third, takes overall lead

FORMULA ONE

HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX

Budapest, Hungary - Lewis Hamilton missed the chance to chalk up his 100th victory but did take over the lead in the world championship as France's Esteban Ocon steered his way through a chaotic Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday to collect his first ever win.

After a tactical error dropped pole-sitter Hamilton to last place, the Briton picked his way through the field, finally clawing his way past Ocon's Alpine teammate Fernando Alonso, to finish third behind the Frenchman and Sebastian Vettel in the Aston Martin.

For 24-year-old Ocon, who controlled the race from the front, it marked a maiden win in his 78th Grand Prix and a first victory for the new-look Alpine set-up. "What a moment! It feels so good!" said Ocon.

"It's fantastic, what can I say? Congrats to Fernando (Alonso) as well, I think the win is also thanks to him with the fight that he did. Max Verstappen's Red Bull was damaged in a first lap crash, which took out five cars, and he eventually finished tenth, leaving Hamilton to take a six-point lead in the championship.

"Congratulations to the Alpine team and to Esteban for his first win - he's been a shining star for a long time," said Hamilton who was booed again during his post-race interview by a section of the packed crowd



French driver Esteban Ocon celebrates on the podium after winning the F1 Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday

who blame him for the crash at the British GP two weeks ago which took out Verstappen.

"Today was definitely tough, we always make it difficult for ourselves. "Crazy to think we were the only ones on the grid at the start, but these things happen and we learn from them. I gave it everything and I have nothing left in the end."

Two weeks after the controversial collision between Hamilton and Verstappen on the opening lap at Silverstone, there

was early trouble again at the Hungaroring, this time prompted by Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas.

With the rain coming down, the Finn triggered a series of collisions on the opening turn which not only took him out of the race but accounted for Red Bull's Sergio Perez, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, the Aston Martin of Lance Stroll and the McLaren of Lando Norris.

Bottas acknowledged he was at fault after being given a five-place penalty on the grid for the

next race, the Belgian GP at Spa at the end of August.

"I think that's fair enough," said Bottas.

"I had a bad start and I lost the momentum. I misjudged the braking point and locked the wheels.

"I was responsible for hitting Lando and that meant he cut people off in front of him.

"It's not great for me and not great others. It's not like I did it on purpose."

AFF

Advocaat is new Iraq coach

The Hague, Netherlands - Veteran Dutch coach Dick Advocaat was on Saturday handed the task of guiding Iraq to the 2022 World Cup finals.

The Iraq football federation said the 73-year-old, who succeeds Streshko Katanic, was chosen on the basis of 'his track record, both with clubs and national teams', Dutch news agency ANP reported, citing the federation's board of directors.

Advocaat has managed the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Russia and Serbia. At club level, he has coached PSV Eindhoven, Borussia Moenchengladbach and Zenit Saint-Petersburg with who he won the 2008 UEFA Cup.

AFF



Former England defender Cooper dies

London, UK - Former Leeds and England defender Terry Cooper has died at the age of 77, the English Premier League club announced on Saturday.

Left-back Cooper won 20 caps and played at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico where defending champions England were defeated by West Germany in the quarterfinals. He also played 351 times for Leeds between 1964 and 1975, scoring 11 times. One of those goals was the winner in the 1968 League Cup final against Arsenal.

AFF



Jason Holder (R) of the West Indies congratulates Shaheen Afridi of Pakistan after the visitors won the second T20I match on Saturday

Pakistan beat WI by seven runs

WEST INDIES VS PAKISTAN SECOND T20I

Providence, Guyana - Pakistan's versatile bowling attack did just enough to restrain a rampant Nicholas Pooran and come away with a seven-run victory over the West Indies in the second T20 international of the four-match series at the National Stadium in Guyana on Saturday.

Pooran's explosive unbeaten 62 off 33 balls with six sixes and four fours kept the West Indies in with a chance of overcoming the lethargy of much of their innings, even to the final over when 20 runs were required to overhaul Pakistan's total of 157 for eight.

However Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed the wicket of captain Kieron Pollard and then denied the rampant Pooran at the next three deliveries to ensure the visitors came away with the win.

West Indies were again undone in their run chase by the number of scoreless deliveries, 47, in their innings, although nothing could take away from the outstanding bowling effort of Mohammad Hafeez. Bowling the first over of the innings, the vet-

eran off-spinning all-rounder bowled Andre Fletcher with his second ball and conceded just six runs across his four overs.

West Indies suffered a setback when opening batsman Evin Lewis retired hurt on 35 midway through the innings.

It was Jason Holder and Dwayne Bravo who combined to put the brakes on the Pakistan scoring rate. Holder returned the excellent figures of four for 26 while Bravo claimed two for 24 as the tourists squandered a solid platform provided by Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan.

Babar's polished 51 off 58 balls with two sixes and four fours was the top score of the innings. He put on 67 runs for the third wicket with Rizwan after Sharjeel Khan and Rizwan had set the stage for a challenging target in putting on 56.

BRIEF SCORES:

Pakistan 157-8 (Rizwan 46, Azam 51; Holder 4-26, Bravo 2-24) **beat West Indies 150-4** (Lewis 35 retd hurt, Pooran 62 n.o.; Hafeez 1-6, Afridi 1-44, H Ali 1-32, M Wasim 1-32).

AFF

CLASSIFIEDS

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat **9014 6672, 9679 0684**
Sohar **9731 6218 | Salalah 9429 9325**

www.orbit-oman.com

- Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
- Choose from a wide range of brands & models
- PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
- Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربيت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

AL AZOON UNITED PROJECTS
FOR ALL TYPE OF MAINTENANCE
PAINTING WALL PAPER, WALL DESIGN, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING TAIL FIXING, SAILING, A/C REPAIRING, DECOR.
CONTACT: AMIR ALI 96609857
www.alazoonunited.com

MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCES

Proposals are invited for a very pleasing Muslim boy. He is 27 years and 179cm tall. He is qualified in MBA-Marketing from Mumbai University. He is employed in Ruwi, Oman. We are looking for a Muslim girl, under 25 years of age, speaking Hindi/Urdu. She should be employed in Oman. Contact: 99762681

نوراء مسقط للتجارة والمقاولات
Nawara Muscat Trading & Contracting

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR LIFE
we offer special rates
specialized sterilization services for places and sites where cases of coronavirus appear

our services includes
COMPANIES- HOME- SHOPS

phone: 96691225 - 97722215 - inst: @nawara_muscat_cleaning
email: info@nawaraco.com - web: www.nawara.com

EDUCATION FURNITURE

LABOUR CAMP FURNITURE

OUTDOOR SHADES

uniQue CITY TRADING

Contact: 9611 5353 / 9611 5252 Email: mybusinessoman@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY

Reputed company looking for skilled manpower for Steel Fabrication & Painting Works

- Industrial Coating Foreman /Supervisor - 1 No.
- Vessel Fabricators - 6 Nos.
- 3G/6G Arc Welders - 6 Nos.
- SAW Welders - 2 Nos.
- Grinders - 6 Nos.

WhatsApp Number: 94910091

Send your request for
Birthday/Anniversary wishes to
wish@apexmedia.co.om
with your resident card copy **(It's free of cost)**

TOKYO 2020



MEDALS TABLE

(Only selected nations)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	24	14	13	51
USA	20	23	16	59
Japan	17	5	9	31
Australia	14	3	14	31
ROC	12	19	13	44
Great Britain	10	10	12	32
France	5	10	6	21
South Korea	5	4	8	17
Italy	4	8	15	27
Netherlands	4	7	6	17
Germany	4	4	11	19
New Zealand	4	3	4	11
Czech Republic	4	3	1	8
Canada	3	4	7	14
Switzerland	3	4	5	12
Croatia	3	2	2	7
Chinese Taipei	2	4	4	10
Brazil	2	3	5	10
Hungary	2	2	2	6

(ROC* - Russian Olympic Committee)



Xander Schauffele celebrates with his gold medal in Kawagoe on Sunday

Gold in golf! Schauffele hails his dad

GOLF

Kawagoe, Japan - Xander Schauffele paid tribute to his father - whose own Olympic dreams were shattered in a car accident - after winning the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 men's golf tournament on Sunday.

Schauffele won by a shot from surprise silver medalist Rory Sabbatini of Slovakia after holing a knee-knocking four-foot putt at the 72nd hole at Kasumigaseki Country Club. He was immediately embraced by his tearful father Stefan, who is also his swing coach and mentor. "I knew he was going to be there crying, luckily he had shades on, but it was really cool," said Schauffele. "This whole experience has been really special and to have him here is even better." The American world No 5 finished on 18-under par 266 after carding a 67 while veteran Sabbatini, 45, shot a stunning, course-record ten-under par final round of 61 to snatch a shock medal.

Schauffele's father was a top German decathlete when his car

was hit by a drunk-driver nearly 40 years ago on his way to Olympic training, and suffered multiple injuries including the loss of sight in his left eye.

"My dad dedicated a big chunk of his life for quite some time to obtaining a medal and that was taken away from him. I'm just really, really happy and fortunate to be sitting here.

"He's been my only swing coach, and as the mentor you sort of feed off your personal examples to give to someone younger than you or older. And his were all Olympic-related. He put all his eggs in one basket for quite some time to compete as a decathlete in the Olympics. It was swiped away from him, but he saw potential in me to become a good golfer."

Taiwan's C T Pan won bronze after seeing off stars such as Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama, four-time major winner Rory McIlroy and British Open winner Collin Morikawa during an epic seven-man playoff which stretched over four extra holes.

AFP



Germany's Alexander Zverev poses with his gold medal during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic men's singles tennis medal ceremony at the Ariake Tennis Park in Tokyo on Sunday (AFP)

TENNIS

Tokyo, Japan - Alexander Zverev said that 'nothing is bigger' than winning an Olympic gold medal after brushing aside Karen Khachanov to take the men's singles title in Tokyo on Sunday. The fourth seed, who ended Novak Djokovic's Golden Grand Slam bid in the semifinals, produced a dominant display to win 6-3, 6-1 after just 79 minutes at the Ariake Tennis Park.

"There is nothing better than this," said Zverev, who fell to the ground in celebration after

clinching the win. The world No 5 becomes only the second German to win an Olympic singles gold after Steffi Graf in 1988, while Boris Becker and Michael Stich took the men's doubles crown four years later.

Zverev is still waiting for a maiden Grand Slam title after several near misses, including when he blew a two-set lead to lose to Dominic Thiem in last year's US Open final. "To be honest, I don't want to talk about the next Grand

Slam right now," he said when asked if his Olympic success could help him go one better at Flushing Meadows next month.

"I just won the Olympic Games and I think there's nothing bigger than winning the Olympic Games."

The 24-year-old said this victory trumps his 2018 ATP Finals triumph and his four Masters titles. "I can't compare it because this is so much bigger than anything else in sports, especially in ten-



Britain's Worthington claims inaugural BMX freestyle gold



Charlotte Worthington competes at the Ariake Urban Sports Park on Sunday

BMX FREESTYLE

Tokyo, Japan - Britain's Charlotte Worthington won the inaugural BMX freestyle Olympic title on Sunday by landing the first-ever 360 backflip in women's competition. Worthington scored a huge 97.50 points to take the lead and could not be caught,

with favourite Hannah Roberts of the United States taking silver (96.10) and Switzerland's Nikita Ducarroz bronze (89.20).

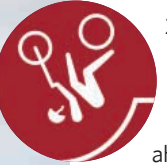
The British rider was working full-time in a restaurant just three years ago but found out that BMX freestyle was on the programme at the Tokyo Games.

"In 2018 I went to a couple of events and contests and got speaking to people and found out about BMX being in the Olympics, and British cycling putting together a team," she said.

Australia's Logan Martin, 27, won the men's competition at Ariake Urban Sports Park with a score of 93.30, finishing ahead of Venezuela's Daniel Diers (92.05) and Britain's Declan Brooks (90.80).

Landing tricks such as a triple opposite tailwhip, 720 barspin and a flair opposite downside tailwhip, the world champion kept his cool on a day when most of his competitors were showing nerves. "I've had so many highs in my career, but I've never, ever gotten teary, so that just shows how meaningful this one is to me," Martin said. "It's the biggest stage of them all, the gold medal, to bring that home and show my son. It's amazing."

AFP



France's Mourad Aliev during the sit-in protest on Sunday

French boxer stages ringside sit-in protest

BOXING

Tokyo, Japan - A French super-heavyweight boxer lashed out at an 'injustice' and sat in protest on the side of the ring after he was disqualified for headbutting in the quarterfinals on Sunday. In what was the first major controversy in the boxing in the Tokyo Olympics, Mourad Aliev was disqualified in the second round against Britain's Frazer Clarke.

The 26-year-old Aliev sat beside the ring ropes afterwards, seething, and claimed that officials had admitted they had made a mistake.

"I sat down to protest against the unfairness for me," he said. "I prepared for these Games for four years... I really wanted to fight against the injustice, so that was my way to show that I don't agree with that decision."

AFP





CHOCOLATES
VALOR
• 1881 •

PREMIUM CHOCOLATE
GLUTEN FREE
SINCE 1881

VALOR
SUGARS FREE
85% CACAO
SUPREME DARK
GLUTEN FREE

VALOR
SUGARS FREE
70% DARK
CHOCOLATE
GLUTEN FREE

VALOR
with No added sugars
MILK
chocolate
GLUTEN FREE

VALOR
with No added sugars
Creamy
MILK
chocolate
GLUTEN FREE

VALOR
82% CACAO
SUPREME DARK
GLUTEN FREE

VALOR
70% CACAO
with an intense taste of MINT
GLUTEN FREE

Distributed by:
CATERING SOLUTIONS TRADING LLC
Please contact: +968 22060236/237



TOKYO 2020

INDIA IN SEMIS AFTER 49 YEARS

MEN'S HOCKEY

Tokyo, Japan - India beat Great Britain 3-1 in the quarterfinals of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics men's hockey competition on Sunday to qualify for the semi-finals at the Games after 49 years. The eight-time Olympic champions scored three field goals through Dilpreet Singh (seventh minute), Gurjant Singh (16th) and Hardik Singh (57th) to seal the victory. The lone goal for Great Britain was scored by Sam Ward in the 45th minute.

Even though India's last of the eight Olympic gold medals came way back in 1980 Moscow Games, there were no semifinals in that edition as only six teams participated in the event. The last time India featured in the semifinals of the Olympics was in 1972 Munich Games where they lost 0-2 to arch-rivals Pakistan.

India will take on world champions Belgium in the semifinal on Tuesday. Belgium defeated Spain 3-1 in another quarterfinal. Germany and Australia will take on each other in the other semifinal on Tuesday after winning their respective quarterfinal matches. Germany ousted defending



India's Hardik Singh (C) celebrates with his teammates after scoring against Great Britain on Sunday

champions Argentina 3-1 while Australia edged the Netherlands 3-0 in a shoot-out after the teams were locked in a 2-2 stalemate.

India opened up a two-goal lead in the contest through field goals from Dilpreet and Gurjant, with Great Britain guilty of some sloppy defending on both occasions to trail 2-0 going into half-time.

Great Britain were the better

team in the third quarter but found a breakthrough hard to come by, as India successfully defended a string of penalty corners. The pressure eventually told with the final play of the period, with Ward squeezing a penalty corner flick into the goal. Ward's strike gave Great Britain a huge boost in confidence, as they went into the fourth quarter. Their cause was enhanced further when

India captain Manpreet Singh received a yellow card five-minute suspension. However, a rapid India break-away proved to be the killer blow, with Hardik Singh firing into the right corner to seal India's semifinal berth.

"We are so happy because after a long time we are reaching a semifinal", said skipper Manpreet. "Still, the business hasn't finished yet. Still we have two more games so we need to focus, we need to have our feet

on the ground and we need to focus on the next match."

Pool B winners Belgium were given a huge scare by a Spanish team as they took a 1-0 lead before the reigning world champions and Rio 2016 silver medallists fought back to claim a 3-1 win. Tournament top-scorer Alexander Hendrickx scored twice to take his personal tally to 11 in Tokyo.

Pool B runners-up Germany booked their fifth successive Olympic semifinal appearance with a fine win over Rio 2016 gold medallists Argentina, with exquisite penalty corner goals from Lukas Windfeder (2) and Timm Herzbruch.

Pool A winners Australia were pushed all the way by the Netherlands. Australia took the lead when Tom Wickham forced home a close-range field goal in the first half. The Oranje snatched a deserved equaliser early in the third period when Mink van der Weerden off a penalty corner. However, the Australians took lead again through Wickham. The Dutch again hit back thanks to a penalty stroke from Jeroen Hertzberger ten minutes from time setting up a shoot-out.

Agencies



India's P V Sindhu poses with her women's singles bronze medal on Sunday

Sindhu hopes bronze can inspire youngsters

BADMINTON

Tokyo, Japan - Indian badminton star P V Sindhu hopes she can inspire a new generation after adding Tokyo Olympic bronze to her 2016 silver medal on Sunday.

The world champion beat China's He Bingjiao 21-13, 21-15 to add another prize to her collection, five years after finishing second at the Rio Games.

Now she hopes the world's second-most populous country can use her achievement as a springboard for more badminton success. "I'm sure a lot of youngsters and others will get motivated to work hard and come up," she said. "I'm sure we can do this. If I can do it, everybody can do it."

Sindhu followed up her 2016 Olympic silver becoming the first Indian women to win two individual medals at the Olympics.

Later in the evening, China's Chen Yufei won the women's gold in a thriller against world

No 1 Tzu-ying in the final. Yufei won 21-18, 19-21, 21-18 to deny Chinese Taipei a second straight night of success in the sport.

Chinese Taipei had bagged its first-ever Olympic badminton medal on Saturday with gold in the men's doubles competition.

Axelsen to face Chen in men's final

Denmark's world No 2 Viktor Axelsen overcame a nervy start to move into the men's final on Sunday, ending Guatemalan underdog Kevin Cordón's unlikely tilt at the title, winning their semifinal 21-18, 21-11.

The Dane will face China's defending champion Chen Long in Monday's final. Chen has the chance to emulate Chinese legend Lin Dan in winning consecutive Olympic titles, after beating Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting 21-16, 21-11 in the other semifinal.

AFP



Five-star Dressel and McKeon shine

SWIMMING

Tokyo, Japan - Caeleb Dressel banked two more titles to end his Tokyo campaign with five golds on Sunday, as Australia's Emma McKeon became the first women swimmer to win seven medals at a single Olympics.

The American machine earned the title of world's fastest swimmer with a lightning 21.07 seconds in the 50m freestyle before helping the US men shatter their own world record in the 4x100m medley relay. "I'm proud of myself, I think I reached what my potential was here at these Games and it was just really fun racing," said Dressel.

The unassuming McKeon was just as impressive, blasting through the 50m in 23.81 to win then spearheading Australia to the women's medley relay honours on the final day of action. It boosted her medal tally to seven - four gold and three bronze - surpassing the six won by East German Kristin Otto (1952) and American Natalie Coughlin (2008). McKeon also matched the record for the most decorated women athlete at a single



Caeleb Dressel celebrates after winning gold in the final of the men's 4x100m medley relay on Sunday



Australia's Emma McKeon waves after winning the women's 50m freestyle in Tokyo on Sunday (AFP)

Games ever, tied with Russian gymnast Maria Gorokhovskaya (1952).

McKeon snared gold in the 50m and 100m freestyle, 4x100m relay and the medley, along with bronze in the 100m butterfly and two further relays.

Like McKeon, Dressel took out the 50-100 free double, but

also powered to the 100m butterfly title in world-record time, while adding 4x100m free and medley relay to thrust himself into rarefied company. He joins Americans Michael Phelps, Mark Spitz and Matt Biondi, and Otto, as the only swimmers to win five or more golds in one Games.

Nine gold for Aussies

Once again the superpowers dominated the nine-day meet, where six world records fell. South African Tatjana Schoenmaker joined Dressel with an individual mark when she crushed the long-standing women's 200m breaststroke best. New benchmarks were also set in the women's 4x100m relay (Aus-

tralia), women's 4x200m relay (China), mixed 4x100 relay (Britain) and by the US in Sunday's men's medley.

While the US again topped the medal table with 30, including 11 gold, second-placed Australia made serious inroads. Among their 20 medals were nine golds - their highest number at an Olympics.

Both Dressel and McKeon returned for the event-closing relays with Dressel delivering a storming butterfly leg to steer the US to a world-record 3:26.78. It crushed their own mark of 3:27.28 set at the 2009 worlds, with Adam Peaty's Britain taking silver ahead of Italy.

In the women's relay, McKeon swam the fly for Australia, leaving Cate Campbell to bring them home in an Olympic-record 3:51.60 to upset the American two-time defending champions. Canada were third.

Meanwhile, America's Robert Finke overcame fatigue to secure the Olympic distance double by winning the men's 1,500m gold medal to go with his 800m title. AFP

ONLY
PURE
WATER

AND
PERFECT
TASTE



ONLY
WHAT'S
ESSENTIAL



Every day, all day!



TOKYO 2020



JACOBS CROWNED MEN'S 100M CHAMP

Italy celebrate golden double; Qatar's Barshim shares gold in high jump with Italy's Tamberi; Rojas breaks world record in triple jump

ATHLETICS



Tokyo, Japan - Lamont Marcell Jacobs stormed to a shock victory in the Olympics 100m final on Sunday to cap a golden double for Italy on a dramatic day of athletics action at the Tokyo Games.

Jacobs became the first Italian in history to be crowned champion in the blue riband event of the Olympic track and field programme after powering home in a blistering 9.80sec.

Fred Kerley of the United States took silver in 9.84sec and Canada's Andre de Grasse bronze in 9.89sec.

The 26-year-old Jacobs erupted as he crossed the finish line and leapt into the arms of compatriot Gianmarco Tamberi, who only moments earlier had clinched a rare shared gold medal for Italy in the high jump after a duel with Qatari world champion Mutaz Essa Barshim.

It was the final act of a pulsating day three of track and field at the Olympic Stadium which also saw a brilliant world record-breaking gold medal victory in the triple jump for



Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs celebrates after crossing the 100m finish line for the gold on Sunday (AFP)

Venezuela's two-time world champion Yulimar Rojas.

But the undisputed headline-grabbing performance of the night belonged to Italy's Jacobs, who had never previously gone under ten seconds before the 2021 season.

The muscular El Paso, Texas-born sprinter had only finished third in his semifinal earlier on Sunday, clocking 9.84sec behind China's Su Bingtian and Ronnie Baker of the US to qualify for the final as one of the two fastest losers.

Golden dream

But in the final he roared from the blocks, hit the front at around the 50m mark and then held on to become the first Olympic 100m gold medallist of the post-Usain Bolt era.

"It's incredible," Jacobs said



Mutaz Essa Barshim (L) of Qatar and Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy celebrate after sharing the gold in the high jump event on Sunday (AFP)



Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas celebrates after winning the women's triple jump

afterwards. "My dream was to arrive here and run a final. We run a final and we win a final."

Jacobs said his dramatic improvement in times this season had been down to improvements in training, diet and mentality.

After crossing the line Jacobs

was greeted by high jumper Tamberi, who had clinched a share of the gold medal with Barshim minutes earlier. Both men hugged after settling for gold having both recorded a best clearance of 2.37m.

"This is a dream I don't want

to wake up from," said Qatar's Barshim. "But we are here today sharing this moment and all the sacrifices. It's really worth it now in this moment."

Barshim gave Qatar its first Olympic track and field title. Maksim Nedasekau of Belarus also cleared that height to set a national record. He though missed out on a share of the gold because of an earlier failure.

The jubilant duo declined the chance of winning the title outright by turning down a jump-off.

For Barshim, 30, it completes a full house of Olympic medals having taken bronze in London in 2012 and silver in 2016 Rio.

In the triple jump meanwhile, Rojas did her best to electrify a largely empty stadium with a scintillating world record with her last leap of 15.67m, smashing the previous best of 15.50m set by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets 26 years ago. "I am lost for words, I can't describe this feeling and this moment," Rojas said.

Portugal's Patricia Mamona won silver with a national best of 15.01m, while Spain's Ana Peleteiro jumped 14.87m.

Earlier Sunday, China's Gong Lijiao claimed gold in the women's shot put. Gong sealed her win with a personal best of 20.58m on her sixth and final attempt having led from her opening effort of 19.95m.

American Raven Saunders took silver with 19.79m, while New Zealand veteran Valerie Adams, in her fifth Olympics, was delighted as she claimed bronze with 19.62 to go with golds in 2008 and 2012, and silver in 2016. It marked the end of a long journey to gold for the 32-year-old Gong, a bronze medallist at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and a silver medallist four years later in London.

AFP

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE شركة برشوتم كنجي للصرافة

SEND MONEY TO UAE TO BANK ACCOUNTS

Corporate and Individual

99101314, 99849289 customersupport@pkexchange.net
www.pkexchange.com pkexch @pkexchange1

OMAN AT OLYMPICS

Khatri hopes for a good show

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will conclude on Monday when Hamed al Khatri will compete in the men's 50m rifle three positions at the Asaka Shooting Range.

The experienced marksman, who is participating in his second successive Olympics, is hoping to better his own individual best score (1,176) in the competition. His current score is also an Arab record.

The 50m rifle three positions qualification event will witness a world-class field of 50 shooters in fray, including world and Olympic champions, and only the top-eight will advance to the final, which will be held also on Monday.

Trained under national coach Sultan al Rushaidi, Khatri's best display so far has been a gold at the Arab meet in Egypt last year.

Speaking ahead of his competition on Monday, Khatri said, "I am happy to com-



Hamed al Khatri

pete at the Olympic Games for the second consecutive time. To represent the nation at the world's biggest sporting stage is an honour for any athlete. I am looking forward for a good display tomorrow.

"My goal is to improve my personal best score and I am hopeful of achieving it."

At the Rio 2016 Olympics, the 36 year old Khatri, who was the sultanate's flag bearer in the Rio opening ceremony, had recorded a total of 1,138 (374- kneeling, 397-prone, 367-standing) to finish 43rd among the 44 competitors.

However, at the 2020 Arab Shooting Championships in Egypt in January, 2020, Khatri did the sultanate proud when he clinched a gold among a field of 38 shooters.

Currently ranked 68th in the world, Khatri had in the past represented Oman at the World Championships in Granada, Spain in 2014 besides competing at the Asian Games in 2018 and the Asian Championships in Doha, Qatar, in 2019.

He has also participated at the World Cup regularly from 2017-2019.

Biles withdraws from another Olympic final

Tokyo, Japan - Gymnastics great Simone Biles has withdrawn from the Olympic floor final, leaving the American with just one more chance of competition at the Tokyo Games, USA Gymnastics (USAG) said on Sunday. "Simone has withdrawn from the event final for floor and will make a decision on beam later this week. Either way, we're all behind you, Simone," USAG tweeted.

Biles, the four-time Olympic champion widely considered to have pushed the sport to new limits, has said she is struggling with the 'twisties', a condition where gymnasts lose the ability to orientate themselves in mid-air. The 24-year-old came to Tokyo seeking five gold to equal the Olympic all-time gymnastics career record of nine, but withdrew during her first event, the women's team competition.

AFP