

**OMAN EXPRESSES SYMPATHY
WITH HAITI OVER EARTHQUAKE**

MUSCAT: The Sultanate expressed sympathy with the Republic of Haiti in the wake of the earthquake that hit the country yesterday. In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry here on Sunday, the Sultanate expressed heartfelt condolences to the Haitian government and people, as well as families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. **-ONA**



**UAE ARMED FORCES CHIEF
ARRIVES IN THE SULTANATE**

Muscat: Lt General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces and his accompanying delegation arrived here on Sunday on an official several-day visit. The guest was received at A'Seeb Air Base by Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces and UAE's Ambassador to the Sultanate. **- ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN
**Global approval for
Omani institution**

1 An Omani education group that runs schools, nurseries, and early learning centres in the country has received global accreditation based on its efforts to encourage productive learning, meet the needs of learners, and show effective leadership. **>A2**

WORLD
**India celebrates 75th
year of Independence**

2 Addressing his country as India celebrates 75th year of its Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on all Indians to exert for the creation of a new India by fully utilising the country's capabilities to take it to new heights, in the 21st century. **>A7**

WORLD
**Afghan president
Ghani leaves Kabul**

3 Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani reportedly left for Tajikistan on Sunday, from where he will proceed to another country. The development came soon after Ghani left Afghanistan following the Taliban advance into Kabul, according to media reports. **>A7**



82 WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO
AND FROM SALALAH
OPERATED BY OMAN AIR

OCCUPANCY OF HOTELS IN
DHOFAR INCREASED FROM
50 TO 75 PER CENT



With the Khareef season currently underway, Salalah has emerged as one of the top popular destinations in the Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Domestic tourism is back with the national carrier, Oman Air announcing 82 flights a week between Muscat and Salalah, up from just 18 in July.

SalamAir has also introduced thrice-weekly flights from Sohar to Salalah, to keep up with increased demand.

Travel agents say while many are keen to go overseas, the constantly changing rules and quarantine measures many need to follow has made them prioritise local holiday spots.

With the Khareef season currently underway in Dhofar, Salalah has emerged as one of the top destinations in Oman.

"Salalah remains an extremely



A Magical Retreat in Oman >B5

popular domestic destination and our commitment at Oman Air is to provide travel flexibility for our valued guests with the convenience of extra flights when needed," said Adil Al Zadjali, Oman Air country manager. "Khareef season—and all the

visual splendour it offers—transforms Muscat to Salalah into one of our busiest routes."

"By progressively introducing 23 additional weekly flights in each direction, visitors to the region have been able to book their seats with full confidence," he said. "As domestic travel rebounds, our aim now is to develop a revised flight schedule that lets us maintain exceptional year-round frequencies to Salalah."

Area General Manager, Omran, Vijay Handa, said occupancy rates in the hotels have drastically improved – especially Sharqiyah and Salalah in the last few weeks. "We hope this will only grow," he said.

Travel agents said visitors are booking holidays to destinations such as Salalah, Khasab, and Ma-

sirah Island, leading to a large jump in domestic travel, as the pandemic continues to render international travel uncertain.

To create more capacity on Salalah route, Oman Air has also pressed its Boeing 787 Dreamliners into service on this route. Reflecting this increase in visitors, hotels in the Dhofar have also been permitted to operate at 75 per cent capacity, up from the 50 per cent rule which has been in place since the start of the pandemic.

While many do prefer travelling by air to the Dhofar to enjoy the Khareef, there are others who choose to go by road. As a result, the route linking Muscat and Salalah, particularly the stretch after Haima can see increased traffic during this time of the year. **>A6**

INDUSTRIAL AREA

One dead, four rescued in Sohar blaze



Times News Service

MUSCAT: An expat was killed while four others were rescued after a fire broke out at a factory in the Wilayat of Sohar, North Al Batinah Governorate, the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) said. "After strenuous efforts made by the firefighting and rescue teams at the CDAA department in North Al Batinah Governorate, they were able to manage and control a fire that broke out at a factory in Sohar Industrial Area. The team rescued four people who are in good health and recorded the death of an Asian expat," a CDAA statement said.



**Omani racing star
Al Harthy sets out
on road to Le Mans**

A8

EXOTIC FLORA AND FAUNA

**Island in Musandam to be
converted into nature reserve**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An island in Musandam is to become a nature reserve for exotic animals and birds in Oman, and plans to create such an area have been drawn up.

With Musandam rich in exotic flora and fauna, the region is home to many islands that are havens for migratory birds, and provide an amazing opportunity to bring ecotourists to this part of Oman.

Other natural attractions near the capital, Khasab, and other areas of the governorate include the colourful underwater coral reefs, and the rich variety of fish and other marine life, said Abdul-salam bin Hasan Al Kamzari, the acting director of the Environment Department in the Governorate of Musandam.

"The governorate enjoys fascinating biodiversity and varied natural beauty," he told the Oman News Agency. "His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has issued directives on developing Musandam Governorate through



establishment of projects that contribute to achievement of comprehensive development.

"The government accorded due efforts and significance to the ecosystem in the Sultanate in general and in Musandam Governorate in particular," he added. "The government has also worked on evaluation of environment assets

in order to comprehend the economic and financial value of environmental aspects such as trees, wildlife and endangered species."

Among the islands in Musandam is Umm A'Tiyour Island, a haven for birds migrating from Europe, as it hosts various species of fauna throughout the year. To bring attention to the importance this island plays to species from around the world, there is a proposal to transform this island into a natural sanctuary under the name Musandam Natural Park.

"Musandam Governorate has varied topography, which provides a haven for various plants and trees of nutritional and medicinal value," Al Kamzari went on to say. "Sustainable ecotourism is one of the resources which contribute to preservation of natural and cultural heritage."

"It will also shed light on the importance of environmental preservation," he said. "This will provide various advantages to the economy and boost tourism in the Governorate of Musandam."





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VACANCIES

Sl No	Positions Open	Work experience and Qualifications
CLINICAL POSITIONS		
Nurses		
a	Staff Nurse (Out patient, In Patient, Operation Theater, ICU, Cardiac ICU, NICU, Emergency experienced nurses will be preferred)	B.Sc degree with 5 Years of experience or Diploma with 8 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
Nursing In Charges		
b	Out Patient Nursing in charge	B.Sc degree with not less than 10 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
c	In Patient Nursing in charge	B.Sc degree with not less than 10 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
d	Operation Theater in charge	B.Sc degree with not less than 10 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
e	Midwives	Diploma / B.Sc degree with not less than 10 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
f	Medical Orderlies	High school certificate + first aid or medical orderly course certificate with 1-3 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
Doctors-Specialist and Medical officers		
a	Orthopedic Surgeon	(1) MMBS plus 2 years experience + American/Canadian board or equivalent or
b	Gynecologist	(2) MMS + 2 years experience + MRCS or equivalent
c	Internal Medicine	
d	Radiologist	+ 4 years experience in relevant field after membership OR (3) MBBS
e	Pediatrician	+ 2 years experience + MS/MD or equivalent
f	Cardiologist	+ 6 years experience in the relevant field
g	Anesthetist	
h	Medical officers	MBBS with 3-5 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
a	Biomedical engineer	Bachelors (Engineering) with 3-5 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
Technicians		
a	Radiology technician	Diploma / Bachelors with 3-5 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
b	Cath lab Technician	Bachelors with 3-5 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
c	CSSD Technician	Certificate in CSSD with 3-5 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
d	Operation Theater Technician	Diploma / Bachelors with 3-5 years of experience. Preferably in private hospital
NON CLINICAL POSITIONS		
Administration		
a	IT manager	Bachelor's degree in computer science, information science, or a related field, and 4 -5 years relevant work experience and strong problem-solving and project management skills.
b	Marketing manager	Bachelor's degree in marketing or healthcare management, preferably with diploma/certificate in medical coordinators or healthcare management system, and 4 -5 years relevant work experience in private hospital
c	Insurance manager	Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance or healthcare management, and 4 -5 years relevant work experience in private hospital
d	Reception / Front office manager	Diploma/Bachelor's degree healthcare management or healthcare information, and 4 -5 years relevant work experience in private hospital
e	Front office executives	Diploma in healthcare management or healthcare information, and 4 -5 years relevant work experience in private hospital
f	Telephone Operators	High secondary school certificate with English competence language certificate, and 4 -5 years relevant work experience in private hospital
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GLOBAL ACCREDITATION

Omani educational institution gets global stamp of approval

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Omani education group that runs schools, nurseries, and early learning centres in the country has received global accreditation based on its efforts to encourage productive learning, meet the needs of learners, and show effective leadership.

Global Education Services, the parent organisation of Al Shomoukh International School and Shomoukh Nursery, has been awarded the Cognia accreditation, one of the first hallmarks for academic accreditation and quality assurance in the country.

Cognia is a non-profit that provides quality assurance to schools, educational districts, and education providers.

“Cooperation accreditation as conferred by the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission provides Global Education Services, Al Shomoukh International School and Shomoukh Nursery nationally recognized mark of quality for our cooperation,” said Sheikha Janat Salim Hamood Al Hashmi, CEO of Global Education Services Company. “It demonstrates to our community our commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve.”

Earning accreditation from Cognia means that the cooperation is accredited, and that these education institutions are recognised across the nation as bodies that meet Cognia standards of quality, and maintains a commitment to continuous improvement.

To earn Cognia accreditation, organisations must implement a continuous process of improvement, and submit to internal and external reviews. A cooperation in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a five-year term.

Dr Mark A Elgart, president and CEO of Cognia, stated, “Cognia accreditation is a rigorous



ACCREDITATION: To earn Cognia accreditation, organisations must implement a continuous process of improvement, and submit to internal and external reviews.



key indicators that impact student learning,” he added.

Cognia is the parent organisation of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

Parents and interested community members can learn more about the Cognia Accreditation at www.cognia.org.

Cognia offers accreditation and certification, assessment, professional learning, and improvement services to institutions and other education providers.

The result of the merger of AdvancED and Measured Progress, two other education standards organisations, Cognia was formed to bridge the gap between school evaluation and student assessment.

As a global nonprofit working in over 80 countries, the body's 36,000 institutions serve and support nearly 25 million students and five million educators every day. Cognia serves as trusted partner in advancing learning for all.

process that focuses the entire school and its community on the primary goal of preparing lifelong learners in engaging environments where all students can flourish.”

“Global Education Services Company, Al Shomoukh International School and Shomoukh (Early Childhood Education) are to be commended for demonstrating that they have met high standards, is making progress on



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DEVELOPMENT

Nizwa Industrial City investment tops OMR425mn

NIZWA: The total volume of Nizwa Industrial City investments by mid-2021 stood at OMR426 million, a 15 per cent rise over the figure of the corresponding period in 2020, a senior official has said.

Omar Mohammed Muqaibil, Director General of Nizwa Industrial City, said that the facility garnered a good turnout from local investors wishing to get their projects localised. This interest was helped by the Industrial City's floating various investment opportunities, particularly in the commercial services zone and in the industrial city's area.

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) is implementing vital projects at Nizwa Industrial City, including the 1 million square metre Phase 3 and Phase 4 expansion project and the construction of a second entrance to the industrial city.

By the end of June 2021, the number of workers there stood at 5,707, of them 2,568 (45 per cent) were Omanis, Muqaibil said in a statement.

Out of 148 projects at Nizwa Industrial City by mid-2021, 128 have been completed, 10 were under construction and 8 were designated lands in the industrial city's over 3 million square metre area, said Muqaibil, noting that this stands for 74 per cent of the total area. Sanad Service Centre (Masar) was among projects accomplished in the first half of this year. The project offers a number of government services aimed to facilitate investor's obtaining permits, said Muqaibil. -**OMA**

75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Indian envoy leads community in Independence Day celebrations

INDIA@75: A flag hoisting ceremony was held in the Embassy in the morning in hybrid format, owing to COVID-19 restrictions.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: India's 75th Independence Day was celebrated in Oman with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour among members of the Indian community.

India is celebrating this momentous occasion as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The Amrit Mahotsav was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2021 and it will continue till 15 August 2023.

The embassy building was lit up in tricolour on the eve of Independence Day. A flag hoisting ceremony was organised in the Embassy in the morning of 15th August in hybrid format, owing to COVID-19 restrictions.

Embassy officials and staff attended the event physically, and it was telecast live, enabling the Indian community to join the celebration virtually.

Global competition

Before the start of the main event, videos on Amrit Mahotsav, a global painting competition launched by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and an Odissi dance performance and patriotic songs were played.

The event started with the unfurling of the Indian flag by Munu Mahawar, the Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, followed by singing of the National Anthem. The ambassador delivered a speech and read out excerpts from the address of the President of India.

He greeted the Indian community in Oman and thanked them for their contribution in supporting India's fight against COVID-19. He encouraged everyone to be a part of India's growth story and the journey towards self-reliance and propagate India's message of peace and development.

Videos of patriotic songs and dance by students of Indian School Muscat (ISM) and Indian Social Club (ISC) were played after the speech by the ambassador, adding to the sense of pride and enthusiasm in the celebration.

A video of a message by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, and glimpses of the gala celebration organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on Amrit Mahotsav was played at the end of the event.

A patriotic poetry video blogging competition was organised by the embassy in the run-up to Independence Day, which saw overwhelming response from the Indian diaspora. The Indian community in Oman enthusiastically participated in the Rashtragaan to celebrate Amrit Mahotsav.

The embassy, in association with various community organizations, has organised several events since March 2021 to celebrate Amrit Mahotsav including quiz competitions, cultural events, art exhibitions, and panel discussions. The Malayalam wing of the ISC also organised a quiz competition on the theme of India@75, which was held on 13 August. A virtual art exhibition highlighting Indian culture was organised by the ISC Rangrez art group on 14 August.

The Board of Directors - Indian Schools in Oman, in association with the embassy, organised a grand virtual celebration on 12 August to launch Amrit Mahotsav across all Indian Schools in Oman. The tag-line 'My India, My Pride' and e-book containing 75 shades of Indian art depicting the rich cultural diversity of India was also launched during the event. A logo making competition, quiz competition, collage making competition on 75 iconic buildings in India, and a painting competition were organised by Indian School Muscat as part of launch of Amrit Mahotsav in Indian Schools.

Indian Social Club in association with the Embassy will organise a virtual mega cultural event in the evening of 16th August to celebrate Amrit Mahotsav. His Excellency Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Harthy - Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest for the event.

Special India week

A special India week is planned in January 2022 to celebrate Amrit Mahotsav. In addition, the embassy in association with Indian diaspora and friends of India, plans to organise several events in future to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in a grand way in Oman.

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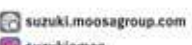
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ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OMAN



BLOCK 6 FINANCING: The funding will further support EDO in achieving its key objective of alleviating the Government's Block 6 funding requirements. – File picture

EDO successfully secures \$2.5 billion funding deal

MUSCAT: Energy Development Oman (EDO) has successfully secured a \$2.5 billion debt financing transaction, which attracted an overwhelming market response at very competitive rates.

The funding will further support EDO in achieving its key objective of alleviating the Government's Block 6 funding requirements. The company is also mandated to create growth; enhance efficiencies and governance in Oman's oil, gas, and new energies sector; and unlock value through diversification and value chain integration.

The deal was oversubscribed by more than 100 per cent which is a testament to investors' confidence in EDO and Oman's economy.

EDO Interim CEO Haifa Al Khaifi said: "The creation of EDO and the progress made since its establishment constitute a historic achievement for Oman, and it will serve as a vehicle for accelerated development and value creation. In particular, the successful execution of the syndicated deal is a major milestone for EDO and the country."

"The strong participation from local, regional and international banks is another sign of Oman's attractiveness for global investors and paves the way for fruitful and sustainable collaboration with international partners," he added.

EDO was established through Royal Decree (128/2020) following which the Block 6 Oil Concession was transferred (Royal Decree 21/2021) and a new Block 6 Gas Concession was granted (Royal Decree 43/2021).

Since then, EDO has made substantial progress in its journey to become Oman's energy champion and to support the Sultanate's economic diversification.

With a vision "to be a world-class partner for growth, driving a sustainable energy future", EDO takes inspiration from Oman's 2040 vision of transitioning to renewables, leveraging and maximising Oman's world-class development opportunities. – OMA



Port of Salalah

ميناء صلالة

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2021

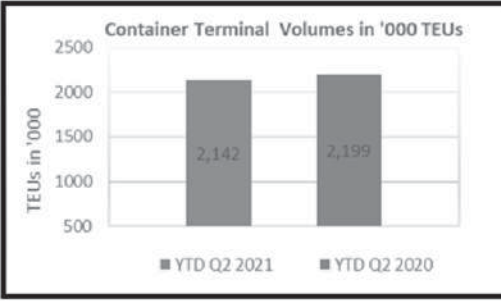
Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have pleasure in presenting the unaudited consolidated financial results of your company for the period ended 30th June, 2021 (H1 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our business environment and we all are facing uncertainty in fast-changing circumstances. Containment measures including restricted domestic and international flights, cancellation of events, closure /suspension of public services and remote working arrangements are having a worldwide impact. Our priority continues to protect the health and wellbeing of our employees, clients and communities and the Management is taking appropriate measures in this regard whilst keeping the business going.

Company Performance

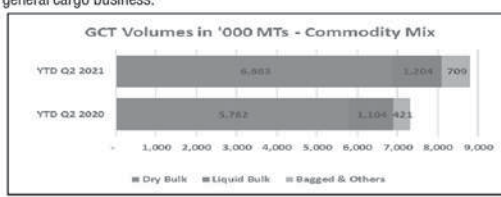
During H1, 2021 the Container Terminal (CT) handled 2,142 million TEUs – compared to 2,199 million mil TEUs in the corresponding period last year, a decrease of 3%.



Container Terminal Volumes in '000 TEUs

Period	Volume ('000 TEUs)
YTD Q2 2021	2,142
YTD Q2 2020	2,199

The General Cargo Terminal (GCT) has handled 8,798 million tons of general cargo during H1, 2021, recording an increase of 20% as compared to H1, 2020. The major commodities handled are limestone, gypsum, methanol and cement, which are exported from Salalah to nearby markets, and continue to drive the general cargo business.



GCT Volumes in '000 MTs - Commodity Mix

Commodity	YTD Q2 2021 ('000 MTs)	YTD Q2 2020 ('000 MTs)
Dry Bulk	6,865	5,793
Liquid Bulk	2,258	2,105
Bagged & Others	709	433

Financial Overview

Consolidated net profit for H1, 2021 was recorded at RO 2,619 million, as compared to the corresponding period last year at a profit of RO 11,076 million. Consolidated EBITDA was recorded at RO 8,239 million during H1, 2021, as compared to RO 18,427 million during the same period last year. This includes an insurance claim amount of RO 11,250 million. The underlying net result of H1, 2020 excluding insurance settlement was RO 2,818 million.

Total revenue from operations increased by 3% compared to same period last year mainly due to the strong volume development of the general cargo business. The general cargo revenue for volumes handled at Berth 31 has been included in the container terminal financials, as in the previous year, due to the historic conversion of the berth into a container terminal facility.

Direct operating cost increased by 5% as compared to the corresponding period last year mainly due to increase in systems and communication costs and costs related to COVID 19. Other operating costs decreased by 27% compared to the corresponding period last year mainly due to payment of higher franchisee fees in 2020 resulting from the insurance compensation received. However, there is no material change in administrative and general expenses.

Employee Development

Port of Salalah is steadfast in developing and enhancing employees' productivity as people are the primary asset of the company. Various safety, technical, management and administration training is imparted to staff.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Port of Salalah strongly believes in a CSR program that is aligned with the pillars of sustainability and volunteerism and it is fundamental to our business. Impacting the local Dhofar region and benefitting the larger segments of communities requiring support are the guiding posts of the company's CSR program.

Future Outlook

The International Monetary Fund expects a stronger recovery of the global economy with growth of 6% in 2021 and 4.4% in 2022. However, the reports show that there is a difference in the speed of how countries are recovering from the current COVID-19 crisis, which largely depends on how quickly vaccines are being administered.

The unpredictability of how countries impose restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 continues to impact the logistics industry. Ports in southern China had a period of shut down recently which disrupted the global shipping networks as well as aggravating the already challenging equipment shortages, driving freight rates further north. The cascading effect led shipping lines to cancel sailings, omit port calls and rearrange networks.

Hence the positive global market outlook as well as the challenging network, equipment availability situation are expected to last well into the second half of 2021 on the container side of business.

While the dry bulk demand has picked up after the slump in 2020 and continues to stay strong in 2021, there is the potential for shut down of key markets in the short to medium term. The situation has also resulted in higher charter hire rates for vessels including dry bulk, which prompted shippers to opt for bigger tonnage which are mostly gearless, leading to the need for reliable shore equipment capable of faster turnaround of ships.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Shareholders of the company, we record the sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, for his strategic vision, leadership, and his continued support, without which it would not have been possible to establish and maintain this world-class port.

We also thank our customers, investors, and partners at the Salalah Hub and Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, and members of the Government bodies we work together with.

We place on record our appreciation for the contributions of all our employees, who continue to perform with high distinction.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Braik Musallam Al Amri
Chairman
Salalah Port Services Co. SAOG

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 30TH JUNE, 2021

Parent Company		Consolidated	
Jun-2020 US \$ '000	Jun-2021 US \$ '000	Jun-2020 US \$ '000	Jun-2021 US \$ '000
148,184	140,637	148,445	140,865
30,762	26,814	30,853	26,894
311	276	311	276
312	546	-	-
179,569	168,273	179,609	168,035
5,271	6,407	5,271	6,407
4,408	5,340	4,408	5,340
27,476	24,590	27,476	24,590
3,293	2,789	3,293	2,789
26,000	32,500	26,000	32,500
87,666	80,873	87,666	80,873
154,114	152,499	154,114	152,499
900	-	900	-
155,014	152,499	155,014	152,499
334,583	320,772	334,623	320,534
46,758	46,758	46,758	46,758
7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666
15,584	15,584	15,584	15,584
108,966	113,800	109,538	114,329
178,974	183,808	179,546	184,337
-	-	202	-
178,974	183,808	179,748	184,337
28,162	25,291	28,258	25,378
9,464	9,417	9,464	9,417
14,190	12,013	14,180	12,002
51,816	46,721	51,902	46,797
4,716	4,716	4,716	4,716
45,048	39,640	44,215	38,795
48,671	44,532	48,671	44,532
5,358	1,355	5,371	1,357
103,783	90,243	102,973	89,400
155,609	136,964	154,875	136,197
334,583	320,772	334,623	320,534
1.00	1.02	1.00	1.03
ASSETS			
Non Current Assets			
Property and equipment			
Right of use of Assets			
Intangible assets			
Investments in Subsidiary			
Current Assets			
Inventories			
Other current assets			
Trade receivables			
Other financial assets at amortised cost			
Short term deposits			
Cash and cash equivalents			
Total current assets			
Non Current Asset held for Sale			
TOTAL ASSETS			
EQUITY			
Share capital			
Share premium			
Legal reserve			
Retained earnings			
Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent company			
Non controlling interests			
TOTAL EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Non Current Liabilities			
Lease Liabilities			
Employees' end of service benefits			
Deferred tax			
Current Liabilities			
Lease Liabilities			
Trade and other payables			
Contract liabilities			
Current tax liabilities			
TOTAL LIABILITIES			
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Net assets per share (US \$ / RO)			

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED AND PARENT STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR 6 MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

Parent Company		Consolidated	
Jun-2020 US \$ '000	Jun-2021 US \$ '000	Jun-2020 US \$ '000	Jun-2021 US \$ '000
82,669	85,581	82,790	85,620
(53,781)	(56,310)	(53,781)	(56,310)
(12,784)	(9,384)	(12,813)	(9,401)
(12,375)	(12,732)	(12,382)	(12,739)
(239)	264	(239)	264
(647)	-	(647)	-
1,267	140	1,267	140
4,110	7,559	4,195	7,574
(49)	-	(49)	-
29,250	-	29,250	-
1,527	1,391	1,527	1,391
(1,040)	(961)	(1,043)	(963)
33,798	7,889	33,880	8,002
(5,069)	(1,200)	(5,082)	(1,202)
28,729	6,789	28,798	6,800
-	-	-	-
28,729	6,789	28,798	6,800
-	-	-	-
28,729	6,789	28,797	6,800
28,729	6,789	28,798	6,800
0.16	0.04	0.16	0.04
Revenue			
Direct operating costs			
Other operating expenses			
Administration and general expenses			
Impairment Loss of Financial Assets			
Gain/(Loss) on sale/scrap property and equipment			
Other Income			
Profit / (Loss) from operations			
Cyclone related expenses			
Insurance Compensation			
Finance income			
Finance costs			
Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax			
Income tax			
Profit / (Loss) for the period			
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax			
Total comprehensive income for the period, net of tax			
Profit attributable to :			
Equity holders of the parent			
Non-controlling interests			
Total comprehensive income attributable to :			
Equity holders of the parent			
Non-controlling interests			
Basic earnings per share (US \$ / RO)			

The complete accounts of the company will be delivered or sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request.



OMAN



Times of Oman

VOL 10, NO. 25

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PRICE BAIZAS 200

Dependence on foreign medical staff decreases

Dependence on expatriate medical personnel has decreased in recent years with a substantial number of Omanis being recruited for jobs in all medical spheres.

As a result of efforts to Omanise medical services as quickly as possible the ratio is now 56 Omanis to 44 expatriates.

Seif bin Mohammad al Busaidi, deputy Director of Personnel of the Ministry of Health, said that

by Muzaffar Mohammad

the recruitment of expatriate medical personnel is essential for the Ministry which every year needs many trained people to run efficiently a large, expanding health network.

The need for many trained people cannot be met by the local manpower resources, he added.

However, with the recruitment of doctors, nurses and other medical staff from abroad, an emphasis is laid on training Omani personnel through courses both at home and abroad.

Of a total of 7,222 medical staff employed by the Ministry this year



Seif bin Mohammad al Busaidi 4,097 were Omanis, a percentage of 56.7.

The deputy director said that Omanis are now filling jobs in medical cadres, including those of senior doctors.

The total number of Omani doctors, working in Omani hospitals this year is 50 compared with 54 in the previous year. This is because some doctors have been sent abroad for post-graduate qualifications in preparation for the Medical Faculty of the Sultan Qaboos University.

boos University.

The number of Omani nurses has gone up to 169 this year, compared with 135 last year. The number of expatriate doctors has increased from 348 in 1982 to 509 this year.

The total number of expatriate nurses in the country is 1,405 (1,086 in 1982 and 1,299 in 1983).

The deputy Director said that recruitment of medical staff abroad is an annual feature — a Ministry delegation makes recruiting visits to other countries.

The traditional sources of recruitment are India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries. The Philippines is the latest addition to the list.

A Ministry delegation during a recent visit has selected 98 nurses and nine other medical staff from India, 23 doctors, 35 nurses and 40 other medical staff from Sri Lanka and 144 nurses, 60 doctors and eight other medical staff from the Philippines.

A delegation will soon go to Egypt to recruit medical staff for the public health sector and psychiatric sphere.

A new weather station

A new weather monitoring station has been set up in the Southern Region.

Jebel Dhofar reports are currently coming from Ahmed Al Busaidi who is temporarily operating the hill station for six hours a day.

Morning and evening reports on temperature, humidity, wind speed are provided as part of a 12 station network.

The new station is in Qairoon Hairitti and coverage is expected to be extended to 18 hours daily when a permanent "met man" is appointed.

He will be given training at the Seeb main office before taking up the post 50km from Salalah.

The ninth youth gathering

The Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Sayyid Faisal bin Ali, is to open on Saturday the ninth Omani youth gathering in Rostaq.

More than 100 universities students and secondary school graduates as well as a Bahraini delegation will take part.

The gathering will hold cultural, social and sports events as well as meetings with senior officials who are to brief the young people on the different stages of development progress.

The young people will also visit the Sohar Mining Plant and the new Widam Al Sahl Naval Base.

Eye teams at work in Interior

Under a programme to combat blindness, teams are examining the eyes of the people in Bahla, Rostaq, al-Masnaa, and Al-Hamra and their neighbouring village.

A Ministry of Health source said that the teams are also carrying out minor surgery.

The Ministry is taking measures to equip the operating theatre at the general health unit in Bahla along modern lines.

The Ministry urges people with eye trouble to contact the teams immediately for tests and treatment.

Banned

The Saudi Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has prohibited the display and sacrifice of animals in the streets and camps and called upon pilgrims to make sacrifices at slaughter houses specially designed for the purpose in Mina.

LATEST Olympics bomb drama

Thousands of people were evacuated from Los Angeles airport after security police found a bomb under the bus that was carrying the Turkish Olympic squad to the airport on their way home.

An Armenian terrorist group claimed to have planted the bomb. The claim was made in a telephone call to a news agency office in Paris.

The bomb was defused safely and no-one was injured.

The Turkish Olympic team was given special protection because of threats by the Armenians who had carried out a number of attacks on Turkish diplomats in recent months.

There has been a breakdown in discipline among troops fighting Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka. Soldiers are said to have gone on a rampage in and around a town on the north west coast, looting and burning shops.

They are said to have opened fire at random and a number of civilians are reported dead.

A senior officer has gone to the scene to try to restore discipline and a Government minister has also gone to the area.

The international operation to clear the Red Sea of the mines that have damaged several ships is gathering pace. Six naval vessels, four British and two French, are now sailing through the Suez Canal to start their work.

The Americans are also sending some mine-sweeping helicopters.

They expect to recover one of the mines quickly to discover who laid them. Egypt says it suspects either Iran or Libya. Both have denied this.

There are reports of severe flooding in south east Siberia near the border with China. Troops and heavy equipment have been sent to the area to evacuate people and to reinforce swollen dams.

Flood water was reported to be ten feet deep and in one settlement it was at roof-top level.

Haj mission

The medical team, accompanying Oman's National Haj Mission, called on the Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Health Dr. Salim bin Hamdan al-Akhzami.

The Under-Secretary urged the team to provide all the necessary services to the pilgrims.

The 90-member National Haj Mission, led by Sheikh Sulaiman al-Salmi, director general, Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, was due to leave for the holy places aboard a special aircraft early this morning.

2,000 new teachers coming

About 2,000 new teachers are to join Omani schools for the academic year beginning in September.

Said al Ghafri, acting Director of Personal said this week that of the new teachers 400 are Omanis.

He said the bulk of the new teachers come from Egypt. Their number this year will be over 1,200. There will be 200 new teachers from Jordan and about 170 from Tunisia.

The Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs has also recruited about 40 teachers from Sri Lanka to teach English in Omani schools.

Jeddah talks

An international conference is to be held in Jeddah to determine the Islamic way of slaughtering animals.

Scholars and experts from Muslim countries, delegates from non-Muslim states, owners of foodstuff manufacturing units, representatives of the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation will participate in the conference.

Haima hospital contract signed

A contract to construct hospital at Haima, about 550 kms from Muscat, was signed at the Ministry of Health on Tuesday.

The contract worth RO 2.4 million was signed by Dr. Salem bin Hamdan al Akhzami, Under Secretary of Health and Mr. Hamid Hussein, Manager of Gamon Pakistan Ltd.

The 46-bed hospital has been designed by Consult to have an out patient, casualty, nursing, surgical, obstetric and service wings.

Praise for Oman

Resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme, Tawfik Fikral has described Oman's Local Community Development Programme as one of the most successful in the Arab region.

He said that the success was mainly due to the unlimited support and co-operation shown by the Omanis.

The programme is currently involved in vital projects such as social development, agricultural guidance, educational planning, malaria control and industrial feasibility studies.

The hospitals will have residential quarters for senior and junior medical staff.

Mr. Hamid Hussein, told the "Times" after the signing ceremony that the hospital will be built to the finest standards.

He said work on the site will start immediately. It is due to be completed in 16 months.

This is the first job in Oman for the largest Pakistani engineering concern which opened its office in Muscat recently. But the firm has completed several large projects in Saudi Arabia.

Ceremony at Salalah

A ceremony was held at the Salalah Vocational Training Institute to mark the graduation of a new group of students from the institute. The Deputy Wali of Dhofar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Ali al Qatabi, was the chief guest, and presented certificates to the 39 students.

The Deputy Wali congratulated the youngsters and reminded them of the important role they had to play

Your TV and radio programmes are on page 18.



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CIVIL DEFENCE AND AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

< FROM A1

While on road, motorists advised to stop their vehicle if engine overheats

To prevent accidents on the route, the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) has issued an advisory for motorists to follow, both before they depart, and while they are on the road.

“Prior to starting your journey, ensure the safety of the vehicle, and observe the safety rules, including the vehicle's determined capacity,” said the authority, asking people to make sure their vehicles are properly maintained, before embarking on such a long journey: the trip from Muscat to Salalah is more than 1,000km long, and will require nearly 10 hours of continuous driving on the roads.

“Identify the locations of rest houses and vehicle service stations along the journey,” added the advisory. “Identify the locations and phone numbers of the emergency services and CDAA points on the journey.”

Those making the journey by



road are also requested to learn the basic operation of a fire extinguisher, as well as how to administer first aid in case of an emergency. While on the road, motorists are advised to stop their vehicle if the engine overheats, and avoid distractions while driving.

Smoking inside the vehicle, and following proper safety procedures at filling stations is also strongly advised. In case those heading to Salalah do witness an accident on the road, they will

need to stop their vehicle away from the scene of the collision, and use their hazard indicators to warn others. “Ensure the safety of the accident scene,” said the CDAA. “In case of fire in the vehicle, try to extinguish it using your fire extinguisher. Try to save any injured person and get them away from danger, if possible.”

The emergency services can be reached on 9999 or 24 343 666.

Visits to Khasab, in the northern Musandam Governorate, and Ma-

sirah Island off the coast of Oman have also increased, say people in the tourism sector in Oman, primarily because people want a break from everyday life, with many unable to leave the country since the start of the pandemic in February 2020.

“Normally, summer is the time when many go on leave, but people have been more or less confined to their homes for about 18 months now, following a rather monotonous routine of going to the office and returning home,” said a hotel owner in the country. “The pandemic regulations have also taken their toll on them.”

“Naturally, everybody wants a bit of a break now and then, but with overseas travel a hassle right now, we have seen good booking numbers for Musandam, Ras Al Jinz, Masirah, the Dayminiyyat Islands, and other locations popular with tourists,” he added.

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Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

PAST 3 DAYS

552 new coronavirus cases, 19 deaths reported in Oman

MUSCAT: As many as 552 new cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were registered in the Sultanate during the past 3 days, in addition to 19 new COVID-19-related deaths. This brings the total number of positive COVID-19 cases to 300,194 in the Sultanate. The total number of COVID-19-related death cases reached 3993, the Ministry of Health said.

The Ministry added that 1145 new cases have recovered, bringing the total number to 288,389 recoveries.

The Ministry also pointed out that 34 cases were hospitalised over the past 24 hours. — OMA

Muscat Gases Company SAOG

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

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

Dear Shareholders,

We hope all of our Shareholders are safe and request to Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.

The COVID 19 virus represents a new challenge for us all and we are taking this global threat seriously and are closely monitoring developments. To this end, we have implemented numerous precautions and protective measures to safeguard our employees and to ensure uninterrupted supply of goods to our valued customers. We are committed to follow the Government instruction to protect the entire community and to overcome this serious global threat.

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2021.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 30th June 2021 is 7.897 million OMR compared with 8.207 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 4% mainly due to decrease in the project sales.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 30th June 2021 is 7.420 million OMR compared with 8.207 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 10% mainly due to decrease in the project sales.

At the group level, we made a net profit after tax of 107,642 OMR for the period ended 30th June 2021, compared with 169,607 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 37% mainly due to decrease in the project sales.

The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 30th June 2021 is 44,401 OMR compared with 169,607 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 74% mainly due to decrease in the project sales.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021		2020	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Sales	7,419,833	7,896,669	8,206,982	8,206,982
Cost of sales	(7,075,202)	(7,479,638)	(7,645,879)	(7,645,879)
Gross Profit	344,631	417,031	561,103	561,103
General and administration expenses	(433,998)	(438,447)	(384,606)	(384,606)
Investment and Other Income	141,603	148,053	115,251	115,251
Ptofit(loss) from the associate	-	-	(92,210)	(92,210)
Profit for the period before tax	52,236	126,637	199,538	199,538
Provision for Income tax	(7,835)	(18,995)	(29,931)	(29,931)
Net Profit for the period after tax	44,401	107,642	169,607	169,607
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	44,401	107,642	169,607	169,607
Earnings per share	0.001	0.004	0.006	0.006

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	30 June 2021		30 June 2020	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	2,640,055	3,010,056	3,202,008	3,202,008
Right of use assets	225,615	225,615	254,313	254,313
Investment	1,404,000	-	-	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	-
Trade Receivable	468,585	468,585	-	-
Total Non-current Assets	4,738,255	4,701,056	3,456,321	3,456,321
Current Assets:				
Inventories	1,001,077	1,020,477	229,452	229,452
Trade and other receivables	1,877,964	1,904,513	2,010,145	2,010,145
Cash and cash equivalents	2,514,066	2,617,349	2,335,885	2,335,885
Available for sale investment	-	-	1,757,182	1,757,182
Total Current Assets	5,393,107	5,542,339	6,332,664	6,332,664
TOTAL ASSETS	10,131,362	10,243,395	9,788,985	9,788,985
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	753,887	753,887	1,110,887	1,110,887
Retained earnings	46,129	109,370	190,864	190,864
Total Equity	6,257,083	6,320,324	6,758,818	6,758,818
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	66,635	66,635	59,499	59,499
Noncurrent portion of Term Loan	560,896	560,896	786,826	786,826
Noncurrent portion of lease liabilities	222,861	222,861	247,365	247,365
Deferred tax	148,520	148,520	195,624	195,624
Total Non-current Liabilities	998,912	998,912	1,289,314	1,289,314
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	2,523,845	2,561,477	1,403,623	1,403,623
Dividend payable	-	-	-	-
Bank overdraft	211,491	211,491	169,685	169,685
Current portion of Term Loan	107,537	107,537	126,159	126,159
Current portion of lease liabilities	12,256	12,256	11,455	11,455
Income Tax	20,238	31,398	29,931	29,931
Total Current Liabilities	2,875,367	2,924,159	1,740,853	1,740,853
Total Liabilities	3,874,279	3,923,071	3,030,167	3,030,167
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	10,131,362	10,243,395	9,788,985	9,788,985
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.209	0.211	0.225	0.225

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

India celebrates 75 years of independence

“From Ujjwala to Ayushman Bharat, the poor of the nation knows their (schemes’) strength. Today, government schemes have picked up the pace and are reaching their goals. Now we have to move towards saturation. 100 per cent villages have roads, 100 per cent households have a bank account, 100 per cent beneficiaries should have Ayushman Bharat card, 100 per cent eligible persons should have a gas connection under Ujjwala scheme,” he added. **ANI**

Haiti quake death toll crosses 700

Ashraf Ghani
leaves Kabul

Earlier, the Taliban in a statement assured residents of Kabul no to be afraid as they are not intended to enter the Afghan capital militarily and there will be a peaceful movement towards Kabul. -ANI



Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG
PO Box 533, PC 100, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel.: 24591055, Fax: 24591676

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Mohiuddin Mohamad Ali
Deputy Chairman

Notes: The Complete Financial Statements are available at Issue and Listing Department of Muscat Securities Market. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests them, in either Arabic or English, as requested, within seven days of receipt of the request at the Company's address: P.O. Box No. 533, Postal Code 100, Sultanate of Oman.

Omani racing star Al Harthy sets out on Road to Le Mans

Al Harthy last competed as part of a Le Mans 24 Hours weekend back in 2017 when he and then team-mate Tom Jackson scorched to a memorable, and faultless, double victory



MOTORSPORT: The Omani motor racing star will be partnered with American driver Michael Dinan.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Ahmad Al Harthy on August 15 officially confirmed the eagerly awaited news of his return to the biggest motorsport event in the world with participation in the prestigious 'Road To Le Mans' support races at the globally-renowned Le Mans 24 Hours.

Getting underway later this week at the Circuit de la Sarthe in France, with Road to Le Mans races on Thursday and Saturday, the Omani motor racing star will be partnered with American driver Michael Dinan in both 55-minute encounters.

Notably, the Omantel, OQ and Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth backed No.95 Aston Martin Vantage GT3 will be prepared and engineered by the official 'AMR' Aston Martin

Racing team for the event, which also forms the fourth round of the Michelin Le Mans Cup.

Al Harthy, of course, last competed as part of a Le Mans 24 Hours weekend back in 2017 when he and then team-mate Tom Jackson scorched to a memorable, and faultless, double victory in the Michelin Le Mans Cup.

Since then, the Omani has been dreaming of a return to the most prestigious race event in world motorsport, with a long-term ambition to one day compete as part of the twice-round-the-clock Le Mans 24 Hours itself. For now, though, his focus is solely on the Road To Le Mans races this week.

"I'm very excited to be heading to Le Mans", said a jubilant Al Harthy, "The 24 Hours of Le Mans is, by far, the biggest racing

event of the year worldwide, so for us to be present at the Road To Le Mans, which is one of the biggest support events for the weekend, is something I'm very proud of.

"I'm extremely delighted to be racing alongside Michael Dinan, who is partnering me in the Oman Racing car, and I am obviously very excited to be joining forces with Aston Martin Racing for this event with AMR running the car for us. I'm incredibly proud, as ever, to be representing Oman at such a prestigious event."

He added: "We had amazing results at Le Mans in 2017 and it's always a great opportunity to be able to race there. We'll give it our best, as always, and can't wait to see how we can progress through the event. It's going to be a long race meeting, we have a few testing

sessions, two qualifying sessions and then the first race on Thursday, the other on Saturday. I can't wait to get started on track."

All of the action for the Road To Le Mans will take place on the very same full 13.6-kilometre track on which the Le Mans 24 Hours itself will run - meaning all of the world-famous challenges await Al Harthy, such as Tertre Rouge, the Forest Esses, Indianapolis and, of course, the Mulsanne Straight.

Across two classes, GT3 - in which Al Harthy and Dinan will race - and also LMP3, organisers expect a huge entry of 46 cars for the coming week's action at the Circuit de la Sarthe. Oman Racing's Aston Martin will battle the likes of Porsche, Ferrari, Mercedes-AMG and Audi.

Welcome to UAE, Team Chennai Super Kings!



Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

CSK IS THE first IPL franchise team to land in Dubai for the conclusion of the 31 matches which were suspended in the beginning of May this year when a few players tested positive and it was a wise decision taken by the BCCI to suspend the IPL at that time in the interest and wellbeing of all players.

CSK were placed second with 10 points after the completion of their first leg with five wins and two losses with their net run rate being the best at 1.263 among all teams.

After a disappointing year last year in the UAE in the 12th edition where they failed to qualify for the plays off for the first time, they started well in the 13th edition and looked like one of the teams to beat as all their players looked in good form. The addition of Moeen Ali in their squad gave their team the right balance and impetus which was lacking last year. Moreover, the start provided by their openers Faf du Plessis and Rituraj Gaikwad was also very instrumental in the team getting off to a rollicking start in most of their games which the team had missed in the last edition. Moreover all their bowlers be it pace and spin, were on the money specially Deepak Chahar and Ravindra Jadeja.

They start their campaign

in Dubai on 19th September in Dubai with a mouthwatering contest against arch rivals Mumbai Indians.

The last time they met in the first leg of the tournament was a high scoring humdinger where Pollard pulled off an amazing win for Mumbai Indians chasing 218.

On a one to one chat with Michael Hussey, the batting coach of CSK, I had asked him what separates the CSK franchise from the rest, he said candidly that CSK franchise is like a family and everyone in the team from the players to the support staff are treated in the same way.

He has fond memories of CSK winning two back to back titles when they beat first Mumbai Indians in 2010 and then Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2011. CSK surprised everyone in 2018 when they won their third title beating Sunrisers Hyderabad when in that year they were called as the Dads Army. All eyes with be once again on their cool Captain MS Dhoni, who will be itching to take CSK to their fourth title in the UAE and prove that last year's IPL in the UAE was a blip.

Every franchise is popular in the IPL but CSK is one franchise which is loved by fans around the world because of one Man the Thala, Mahendra Singh Dhoni

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Oman Stallions, Majees, Muscat, AER score wins

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman pace spearhead Bilal Khan's superb 6 for 58 was the highlight of Oman Stallions' nail-biting 1-wicket victory against Renaissance at OC Ground 2 in Amerat on Saturday as Premier Division's 50-over League got off to a thrilling start with interesting results on Friday.

Aqib Ilyas struck an elegant 95 while Pruthvi Kumar Machhi contributed 46 in Renaissance's 244 all out. While left-arm pacer Bilal Khan was outstanding with the ball, his new ball partner Rafiullah was no less impressive, taking 3 for 56 in his 10-over spell.

Stallions recovered from being 33 for 3 to reach 107 thanks to a solid 74-run fourth wicket partnership between Prasad Sankata (62 off 94) and Karan Sonavala (39 off 48).

Mehran Khan's fluent 54 off 57 kept the chase on track before three quick wickets landed the Stallions in trouble. However, experienced all-rounder Shakeel Ahmed held his nerves to steer his side to a last-over win with a valuable 28 not out including a smartly-managed 17-run partnership for the last wicket with Mundhir Qader who remained unbeaten at 0 off the only ball he faced.



Majees thrash IAS

In the day's other game at OC Ground 1, new entrant Majees made its presence felt with a thumping 8-wicket win over IAS (Ibn Abdul Samad Engineering & Contracting), another new name in the Premier Division.

Majees's star-studded bowling attack was too hot to handle for IAS as it folded up for a lowly 54 in 26.4 overs. Left-arm spinner Yagnik Pandya bagged 3 for 3 while Nester Dhamba, Khawar Ali and Ahmed Fayyaz Butt all claimed two wickets each.

Khans help in Muscat win

Earlier on Friday, Muscat CT's mercurial Khans, Shoaib and Ayaan, powered their side to a solid 5-wicket win over Yalla Shabab at OC Ground 1. Ayaan's 3 for 23 was the main reason Yalla Shabab was restricted to 200 for 9 in 50 overs though Rana Naeem bowled

well too, taking 2 for 17 in 7 overs.

Muhammed Nadeem topscored with a typically stoic 58 off 70. Muscat's chase was led by Shoaib's brilliant 69 off 71 with Ayaan (33) and Suraj Kumar (46 not out) making useful contributions as Muscat overhauled the target in the 45th over, scoring 201 for 5. Sanuth Ebrahim picked up 3 for 37.

Sajeed, Zeeshan shine

In Friday's second Premier Division game at OC Ground 2, Sajeed Ahmed and Zeeshan Siddiqui were the stars of AER's comfortable 5-wicket victory against Arabian Region Travel and Tourism (ARTT).

In a forgettable start to the new season, ARTT was bundled out for a paltry 115 due to excellent bowling by Sajeed (3 for 25), Danish Mohammed (2 for 13), Aamir Kaleem (2 for 16) and Muzaahir Raza (2 for 33). Muhammed Moshin topscored with 32.

OLDEST OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS CLUB

Official Liverpool FC Supporters Club celebrates 10th anniversary

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Saturday coincided with the 10th Anniversary of Oman's oldest official football supporters club, Oman Reds the Official Liverpool FC Supporters Club in Oman.

The fan group has gone from strength to strength since starting with just 2 friends meeting at a house to watch the games and has now expanded to over 620 members, has English and Arabic sessions, and prior to the ongoing pandemic the supporters club met at 2 different venues on match days.

The Oman Reds do not only gather to watch games together. In 2013, fans travelled to Liverpool and played on the pitch at Anfield against other international supporters' clubs. In 2019 they travelled to Qatar for the Club World Cup and witnessed Liverpool FC winning it for the first time. Members can also get access to match day tickets and the club

has got tickets to various matches for their members throughout the past seasons.

Oman Reds members also get to go to Anfield for a black tie dinner with LFC legends every year. The group has also hosted ex-LFC players in Muscat such as Alan Kennedy, who scored the winning goals in 2 European cup finals and Gary McAllister who scored an unforgettable goal against Everton in the Merseyside derby vs Everton.

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BUILDING MARINE VESSELS

The KR Group, through its Marine Solutions business, has partnered with Asyad Drydock to build vessels in the modern shipbuilding and repairs facility in Duqm, Oman. This partnership also opens up opportunities to build and export marine vessels from Oman.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,019.42 points, up 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.42 per cent at 590.73 points. National Aluminum Product, up 5.41 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 7.46 per cent, was the top loser.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT - H1 2021



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present the unaudited accounts for Renaissance Services SAOG, for the six-month period ended 30 June, 2021.

COVID-19 IMPACT

The company remains profitable despite the pandemic's impact on performance, due to reduced revenues and increased costs. The company's response has kept our customers and people safe, enabled our clients to remain operational, and provoked a relentless drive on efficiency to maintain positive margins.

While this means we cannot achieve the levels of revenue and profitability that would be achieved without the effects of the pandemic, the company is able to meet all its financial obligations on time, remains ready to invest in growth and committed to our intention to pay regular dividends to shareholders.

The company is rolling out a country-wide programme to ensure all 8,800 employees and dependents are offered the vaccine free of cost.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE RS CONSOLIDATED

	Rial Million		USD Million	
	H1 2021	H1 2020	H1 2021	H1 2020
Revenue	53.0	54.8	137.7	142.3
EBITDA	11.4	11.4	29.6	29.6
Operating profit	7.6	7.7	19.7	20.0
Net profit after tax	5.4	5.4	14.0	14.0
Net profit after non-controlling interest	4.0	4.0	10.4	10.4

Performance is flat year-on-year. However, COVID-19 impact affected performance in just one quarter in the first half of 2020 compared with the entire half-year in 2021. This reveals a modest trend of underlying growth. We anticipate further improvement as the economy reopens.

25 YEARS SINCE RENAISSANCE IPO

Although the origins of the company date from 1982, June 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the initial public offering, when Renaissance became the first family business to list its shares on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX). As we celebrate this milestone, it is appropriate we consider the impact of the investments the company makes and the services it provides. This, in turn, allows us to consider future potential and future impact.



MSX CEO Haitham al Salmi, Renaissance Chairman Samir Fancy and CEO Stephen Thomas celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Renaissance IPO on the floor of the Muscat Stock Exchange.

IMPACT INVESTING

Renaissance looks for projects that deliver positive social and environmental impact while generating profitable financial returns.

The company has invested > RO 200 million (> USD 0.5 billion) in Oman, starting with the first Permanent Accommodation for Contractors (PAC) projects in the Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) oilfields up to the most recent investment in Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD). Shell conducted an independent Post Implementation Review (PIR) for PDO on the initial PAC projects. The findings remain relevant to all six of the Renaissance Villages we have created, where impacts include:

- International Labour Organization (ILO) worker welfare standards, required to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and international financing.
- Health, safety and well-being for blue collar workers, including those coming from the poorest of backgrounds.
- Higher standards at affordable costs through economies of scale.
- Greener outcomes, lower utility consumption, better waste management.
- Level playing field of standards and costs for competitive tendering.
- Medical facilities, healthy lifestyle, recreation facilities, nutritious food and good connections with home.
- Attracting Omanis to work in remote locations, plus safe facilities for females.
- Long-term investment in in-country value (ICV) maximises Omani jobs, goods and services, and development of local Small to Medium Enterprises (SME).
- Improved safety performance, higher productivity, lower downtime for sickness, better mental health and lower rates of attrition.
- Reputational dividend for country, client, contractors and community for providing international worker welfare standards as a basic human right.

Renaissance Village Duqm is a true example of Public Private Partnership (PPP). Private sector investing for the public good. The PDO PAC projects are an excellent example of clients outsourcing non-core activity over the long term. Backed by our sustainability agenda and > RO 5 million spend on corporate social responsibility, these impact investments sit well alongside our shorter-term contracts providing facilities management and services to hospitals, schools, military, ports, industry, residential estates, oil & gas fields and more.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

These impact investments improve the quality of life and economic well-being of all Renaissance stakeholders: clients, customers, shareholders, employees, service providers, suppliers and the communities in which we serve. This creates positive economic impact for over 8,800 employees and their families; and creates value for nearly 4,000 individual shareholders, pension funds and other institutional shareholders.

Renaissance is a responsible taxpayer, pleased to make our contribution to society and the government. We appreciate the government's fiscal prudence committing to the mid-term economic plan. We have successfully implemented VAT. We have absorbed increased costs of public services. We understand the need for government to raise more and spend less.

Renaissance is ready to invest in PPP projects, not limited to accommodation, where we may co-invest capital in opportunities that require long-term facilities management services. We also stand ready when government and private sector clients wish to outsource non-core services, ideally on a long-term Integrated Facilities Management (IFM) basis that enables investment in innovation and creates jobs for Omanis.

There is a corollary to this; PPP and IFM outsourcing require partnership. Both parties must play their part to ensure maximum mutual benefit. Capital will flow to the economies and opportunities which are most conducive for business and provide stability and long-term visibility. As shown in examples in other economies, PPP and other major outsourcing programmes succeed or fail based on the track record of trust and compliance of both parties.

RENAISSANCE VILLAGE DUQM

Impact investments like the RO 100 million RSVD require the investors and service provider to guarantee and deliver the minimum standards; government, authorities, client projects and Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contractors to enforce them; and employers and sub-contractors to comply with them.

Renaissance built RSVD to act as an enabler for Oman's vision of creating a smart city on its Eastern Seaboard. Every government minister and agency who visited has endorsed the project. It has added materially to ICV and SME development. The success of RSVD is a critical bellwether for investment in future PPP projects in Oman.

The enterprise acted as a buffer for food security and provided safe haven during the Hikka crisis; and helped keep the area safe in the pandemic through technology, Ministry of Health (MOH) protocols and vigilance. Half the Duqm workforce population resides in RSVD. The COVID control statistics are revealing:

COVID POSITIVE CASES COMPARISON

7-day rolling average
Duqm vs Renaissance Village Duqm (RSVD)



Control and suppression of the virus within RSVD, is because of compliance with the ILO standards for worker welfare set by Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) and OQ8 (Duqm Refinery), and the collaboration on COVID compliance measures between RSVD, Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), SEZAD, MOH, OQ8, EPC Contractors, Port of Duqm, Oman Drydock and others.

Yet, the project is plagued with some employers and contractors not complying with the standards set by SEZAD and OQ8, instead choosing to house their workforce crammed in portacabin compounds, and residential housing. The graphics of the poor conditions are shocking with zero concern for human dignity, health, sanitation, fire safety, food hygiene, medical care or recreation.

All the authorities are united in their desire to stamp out this malpractice. We appreciate the efforts of Ministry of Labour (MOL), OPAZ, SEZAD, OQ8, EPC Contractors and local authorities including HE the Wali, ROP and Duqm Municipality. Yet no single agency is fully empowered to cover every location or condition.

RSVD was built to deliver the minimum standards specified by SEZAD and OQ8, and all authorities are determined to ensure the entire project workforce in Duqm is cared for safely and with dignity. This requires no let up in the pursuit of those few employers and contractors who seek to gain perceived advantage on the backs of the most disadvantaged migrant workers. If this matter remains unresolved, future reporting shall include greater details of transgressors. Although we are assured by the authorities every effort is being made to bring these errant contractors into line.

OUTLOOK

The company is having success in retaining many cyclical contracts that are re-contested this year. The outlook for the second half of 2021 is primarily dependent on three major issues: How soon COVID-19 allows the economy to fully re-open; the outcome of the MOH services tenders, where we are defending a dominant market position close to 100%; and occupancy levels at Renaissance Village Duqm and PDO PACs.

At the start of the pandemic Renaissance Village Duqm occupancy fell to 10,500. During this year it rose to 14,500 but has since fallen back to < 12,000 (c. 65%). This shall improve when international flights resume. Some 6,000 new workforce is required to mobilise to serve existing projects. PDO PAC occupancy has risen from 79% to 83% and may receive a boost towards the end of the year dependent on the mobilisation of new contracts.

Longer-term outlook remains positive. We are mobilizing a waste services project for be'ah in the PDO concession area. We are creating new opportunities through outsourcing, IFM, and PPP. We are tendering to expand our utilities services. We have pre-qualified for major event catering opportunities in the region. We are awaiting the result of a 20-year Design, Build, Operate, Transfer project that, should we win, would have a transformational impact on long-term visibility.

RENAISSANCE 2.0

We are also working on what we call 'Renaissance 2.0'. This sets the template for the next generation of the company. The initiative includes improving benchmarking of our senior cadre of Omani leaders for growth and succession; and broadening capabilities to turbo-charge strategy implementation and modernisation.

Operational excellence delivers profit today. Innovation excellence delivers profit tomorrow. And not just profit: A modernizing, green, digital, innovative culture shall have a positive impact on customer experience, client efficiency, employee satisfaction, shareholder value and industry leadership. All this is at the heart of Renaissance 2.0. We shall keep you informed as we progress this initiative.

TRIBUTE

We express our thanks and support for His Majesty Sultan Haitham, His Majesty's leadership in implementing necessary measures to drive economic and structural reform, provides a platform for local and international investment in Oman's future, backed by the confidence and optimism of the 2040 Vision.



Samir J. Fancy
Chairman

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021

	2021 Rial '000	2020 Rial '000
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	145,318	129,876
Intangible assets	1,966	2,023
Investments	5,102	3,710
	152,386	135,609
Current assets	75,055	71,739
Current liabilities	51,763	47,794
Non-current liabilities		
Term loans excluding current maturities	83,275	73,515
Non-current payables and advance	10,293	9,946
	93,568	83,461
Net assets	82,110	76,093
Equity		
Share capital	23,641	23,641
Treasury shares	(6,853)	(6,853)
Share premium	26,936	26,936
Legal reserve	8,574	8,343
Subordinated loan reserve	2,250	3,000
Other reserves	499	166
Retained earnings	6,713	2,895
	61,760	58,128
Non-controlling interest	20,350	17,965
Total equity	82,110	76,093

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2021

	2021 Rial '000	2020 Rial '000
Revenue	52,996	54,827
Operating expenses	(45,361)	(47,078)
Profit from operations	7,635	7,749
Net finance costs	(2,248)	(2,372)
Profit before tax	5,387	5,377
Tax	(14)	(7)
Profit for the period	5,373	5,370
Net profit attributable to:		
Shareholders of the Parent Company	3,977	4,039
Non-controlling interest	1,396	1,331
	5,373	5,370

- Notes:
- 1) The complete accounts will be sent by mail to shareholders within 7 days of receipt of request.
 - 2) The complete set of financial results can be accessed at www.renaissanceservices.com

MARKET

TILL JUNE 2021

Over 54,000 SMEs registered in Oman

MUSCAT: The total number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) registered with Riyada at the end of June 2021 stood at 54,726. According to the data released by the NCSI, this is an increase of 23.1 per cent compared to the same period of 2020. Among the governorates, Muscat topped the list with 18,460 SMEs registered with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Riyada). — **ONA**



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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,019.42	4,001.62	4,019.42	4,002.19	17.24	0.43
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,400.22	6,365.47	6,400.22	6,366.73	33.49	0.53
Industry Index	5,948.58	5,927.05	5,927.69	5,941.83	-14.14	-0.24
Services Index	1,718.50	1,711.71	1,715.45	1,714.26	1.20	0.07
MSX Shariah Index	593.23	590.73	590.73	593.23	-2.49	-0.42
MSX TR INDEX	4,826.47	4,805.09	4,826.47	4,805.77	20.70	0.43

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,538,507	2,008,401	504	21,624,830,182	12	12	17	41

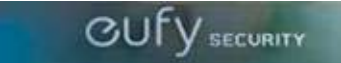
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001590..... MUSCAT FINANCE.....	2,105,813	133,763	77	0.063	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.063	0.001	1.587	0.063	0.063	0.064	0.100	19,657,365
OM0000001525..... OMAN INVST& FIN.....	1,804,418	233,369	47	0.128	0.130	0.128	0.129	0.127	0.002	1.575	0.129	0.128	0.129	0.100	30,573,000
OM0000002168..... ALANWAR CERAMIC.....	30,300	9,400	2	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.470	0.464	0.006	1.285	0.470	0.454	0.470	0.100	103,400,000
OM0000002796..... BANK MUSCAT.....	106,300	47,404	7	0.444	0.446	0.444	0.446	0.442	0.004	0.905	0.446	0.444	0.446	0.100	1,594,215,757
OM0000003224..... RENAISSANCE SER.....	703,184	323,265	43	0.460	0.460	0.458	0.460	0.456	0.004	0.877	0.460	0.460	0.460	0.100	108,748,600
OM0000001772..... ALANWAR INVESTMENT.....	640,000	77,440	7	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.001	0.833	0.121	0.119	0.120	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000001533..... OMINVEST.....	2,000	636	1	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.316	0.316	0.000	0.000	0.318	0.316	0.318	0.100	255,256,056
OM0000002200..... AHLI BANK.....	20,474	2,252	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.100	214,462,321
OM0000003036..... OMAN TELECOM.....	227,297	176,377	16	0.776	0.776	0.772	0.776	0.776	0.000	0.000	0.776	0.776	0.776	0.100	582,000,000
OM0000005005..... ALMAHA CERAMICS.....	174,500	74,337	17	0.426	0.426	0.426	0.426	0.426	0.000	0.000	0.426	0.424	0.426	0.100	23,430,000
OM0000001749..... OMAN CEMENT.....	17,586	4,011	8	0.229	0.232	0.228	0.228	0.229	-0.001	-0.437	0.228	0.230	0.238	0.100	75,438,978
OM0000001087..... OMAN UNITED INSUR.....	127,500	52,825	3	0.414	0.416	0.414	0.414	0.416	-0.002	-0.481	0.416	0.390	0.416	0.100	41,400,000
OM0000002176..... JAZEERA STEEL PROD.....	9,682	3,869	3	0.402	0.404	0.402	0.404	0.406	-0.002	-0.493	0.404	0.404	0.404	0.100	50,458,776
OM0000003077..... AL OMANITA FIN.....	20,000	2,400	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.121	-0.001	-0.836	0.120	0.000	0.120	0.100	35,032,221
OM0000001418..... RAYSUT CEMENT.....	10,000	2,610	1	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.265	-0.004	-1.509	0.261	0.261	0.268	0.100	52,200,000
OM0000002440..... AL SHARQIA INV.....	214,897	21,690	9	0.102	0.102	0.100	0.101	0.103	-0.002	-1.942	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	9,900,000
OM0000001400..... OMAN FLOUR MILLS.....	23,141	18,513	5	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.816	-0.016	-1.961	0.800	0.816	0.816	0.100	126,000,000
OM0000002226..... ALJAZEERA SERVICES.....	622,649	249,356	46	0.408	0.408	0.400	0.400	0.414	-0.014	-3.382	0.406	0.402	0.406	0.100	24,481,709
Total	18	6,949,421	1,433,577	295											
Parallel Market															
OM0000001319..... ALUMINIUM PROD.....	961,062	112,359	63	0.115	0.120	0.115	0.117	0.111	0.006	5.405	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.100	3,927,860
OM0000007407..... DHOFAR GENERATING.....	549,111	70,829	17	0.129	0.131	0.128	0.129	0.125	0.004	3.200	0.128	0.126	0.129	0.100	28,668,960
OM0000001681..... OMAN EMIRATES HO.....	141,386	10,240	15	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	8,775,000
OM0000002549..... BANK DHOFAR.....	100,000	12,300	3	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.120	0.003	2.500	0.123	0.118	0.123	0.100	398,551,227
OM0000001483..... NATIONAL BANK OMAN.....	502,322	94,437	5	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.186	0.002	1.075	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.100	305,677,915
OM0000004420..... BANK NIZWA.....	217,244	21,524	7	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	148,500,000
OM0000001152..... OMAN NAT ENG.....	60,000	5,520	11	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	11,960,000
OM0000001517..... HSBC BANK OMAN.....	6,693	635	3	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	190,029,715
OM0000001897..... MAJAN COLLEGE.....	4,500	720	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.158	0.158	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.156	0.160	0.100	14,230,000
OM0000002374..... UNITED FINANCE.....	204,500	12,160	11	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.060	0.100	20,599,520
OM0000003125..... GLOBAL INV H.....	44,074	2,969	6	0.068	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	13,600,000
OM0000003521..... GALFAR ENGINEER.....	362,483	29,045	19	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.075	0.080	0.100	16,238,916
OM0000003711..... SOHAR POWER.....	15,000	660	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.100	9,724,440
OM0000004735..... SEMBOCORP SALALAH.....	5,000	405	2	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.083	0.100	78,274,900
OM0000004768..... MADJAN TAKAFU.....	20,199	2,101	4	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000004925..... ALBATINAH POWER.....	36,903	1,882	5	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.048	0.051	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000004933..... AL SUWADI POWER.....	4,600	242	2	0.054	0.054	0.052	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.054	0.100	38,577,942
OM0000005963..... PHOENIX POWER.....	70,800	3,226	14	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	67,279,667
OM0000007910..... AMAN REAL ESTATE.....	10,000	900	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.096	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000007084..... MCT DESALINATE.....	21,000	1,764	2	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.088	0.100	13,068,234
OM0000003281..... TAGEER FINANCE.....	49,000	3,969	3	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.081	0.083	0.100	20,540,790
OM0000004248..... SMN POWER HOLDING.....	124,000	7,698	6	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.067	-0.005	-7.463	0.062	0.062	0.066	0.100	12,377,407
Total	22	3,509,876	395,614	202											

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MSX index ends marginally higher

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,019.42 points, up 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.42 per cent at 590.73 points. National Aluminium Product, up 5.41 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 7.46 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Muscat Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Renaissance Services were most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 504 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2 million, with more than 10.5 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded stocks, 12 advanced, 12 declined and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, local investors were net buyers for OMR361,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR243,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR118,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,400.22 points, up 0.53 per cent. Industrial Index closed at 5,927.69 points, down 0.24 per cent. Services Index was up 0.08 per cent, closing at 1,715.45 points. — **United Securities**



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info@new4thdimension.com
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جامعة التكنولوجيا والعلوم التطبيقية

University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Local Auction Announcement

The University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the auctions shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board	Document's Price	Last date for bid submission
01/2021	Management and operation of a restaurant at Shinas College of Technology	Companies and institutions specialized in this field and entrepreneurs / owners of SMEs Second Grade and above	RO 25/-	Monday 30/08/2021 at 10 a.m.
01/2021	Management and operation of the main restaurant of Nizwa College of Technology		RO 25/-	Monday 30/08/2021 at 10 a.m.
01/2021	Management and operation of the English Department restaurant of Ibra College of Technology		RO 25/-	Monday 30/08/2021 at 10 a.m.
02/2021	Management and operation of the main restaurant of Ibra College of Technology		RO 25/-	Monday 30/08/2021 at 10 a.m.

- Establishments specialized in the above-mentioned works can obtain auction documents from the first floor of the building of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences starting from Monday 16/08/2021 at 8:30 a.m.
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered.
- Bids shall be submitted, signed and stamped on the form prepared for this purpose and on the accompanying category table, in closed envelopes sealed with red wax, addressed to the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, bearing the auction number and subject with no indication to the name of the bidder.
- Bids must be placed in the sub-tender box in the office referred to above before 10 a.m. of the day specified in the table above. Bids submitted after this date will not be considered, regardless of the reasons for the delay. Preference will be given to companies or institutions whose bids include the biggest Omanisation and biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.

The University shall not be bound to accept the highest or any other bid

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ADMIN/HR

Wanted graduates within minimum one year experience for **Office Coordination works**. Candidates having NOC and available in Oman shall send CV to: vacancytel@gmail.com or WhatsApp to 98048695

Urgently required well experienced B.Com **Executive Secretary**. Email: kmyounes@hotmail.com

ENGINEER

Urgently required Site Engineer for a well reputed interior fitout company in Oman. Candidate should have gulf experience in interior fitout. Contact +968 24816994, Mob: +968 92802425

Project Electrical Engineer - Graduate in Electrical Engineering with 5 to 7 years' experience in electrical substation & networks (Candidates with experience in utility companies M.JEC, TANWEER, MAZDON are preferred).NOC must with required experience. (Currently available in Oman) Interested candidates send resume to: hr@aljoood-oman.com TEL: 72727795 Fax : 24437007

Required Sales Engineer with minimum 4 yrs experience in renewable energy/electrical construction related work. Interested candidates mail your resume to: advance@omantel.net.om

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With 6 years of experience (Oman) in Accounts, Audit, Taxation, VAT, Investment, Budgeting seek suitable placement.
Contact 79848875

HR & Administration Professional
With Executive Assistant exposure, well versed with Oman labour law, well experienced in office management, new office induction & administration, Indian male, with Valid Oman D/L, NOC available, seeks suitable placements.
Contact 94948676

ACCOUNTANT
Indian Male 39 years B.com having 14 years Gulf experience as Accountant looking for suitable placement. Having Oman driving license and NOC available.
Contact: 97998397
Email: salafcs@yahoo.com

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Senior Accountant, B.Com with MBA Finance, with 15 years experience in accounts in Oman seeks immediate placement. NOC available. Contact 78581435 or career.4727@gmail.com

Sr. Accountant Srilankan 20+ yrs Oman experience seeks suitable placement. Contact 99630192

Indian MBA Finance with 3 years Oman experience in accounting. NOC & D/L available. Contact 79396446. Email: sheroofsabu@gmail.com

Searching for **Accountant and Admin job** 6 years experience in KSA and 2 years experience as supervisor in Oman, with valid Oman D/L. Contact 7905 0920

Indian Male, 24, B.com having 1 year six month experience in accounts , seeking suitable post from reputed companies, NOC available. Contact 78167102.
Email: alexpsjoan@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Indian male having 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for **Hr/ Admin**. Contact 95425764

Lebanese Female, MBA, looking for an executive job, experienced in project coordination, management and logistics, bilingual Arabic, English, D/L. Contact 98103298

Indian Female, 8 years Exp. Exe. Secretary, Admin Asst, Coordinator. GSM 92243552/91190552

Senior Accountant, currently working in Oman with 15 years experience in Oman seeks a suitable opening in reputed organization. Ready to join within one month. Contact 78581435 or Email: career_@rediffmail.com

BTech, MBA with 2.5 years of work experience, presently working in Oman. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79556453

HR Manager with 10+ years of Experience in Recruitment, Welfare, Mobilisation, Policies & Procedures, Holding Oman D/L, Can Join Immediately, Contact 72828004

Experienced expat lady looking for secretary, HR/Admin assistant or any office jobs. Contact 94551898

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

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SALES MANAGER
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Email: taranrajpal@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT
Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, OOD, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available. Can join immediately.
Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

Senior Manager
Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience in Senior management role with international exposure in many countries including Europe, worked as HR and Admin Head of company in Qatar. Previously worked as Director of Admission and Administration at college in Bangalore seeks for Senior management role in company or educational institutions in Muscat. Presently in Muscat (family visa).
Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT
Indian male B.com, Accountant, 12+ years of experience in power plant O&M up to finalisation. Oman D/L & NOC available.
Contact: 96774266
Email: gexongorgep@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Civil Engineer with PMP having experience more than 21 years looking for a suitable job. NOC available. Contact 98522059, prakashrathi7707@gmail.com

MEP Mechanical Engineer, 9+ years GCC experience, with valid D/L (Oman & UAE) and NOC available. Can join immediately. Contact 96706269
Email: mirshanazee@gmail.com

Indian male B. Tech Civil Engineer with one year experience and holding Oman D/L is looking for a suitable opening. Contact 78066342

B.E Civil Engineer having 13 years Oman Experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Contact 91731098

B.E Civil Engineer having 14 yrs Experience in construction of building & Roads with Consultants and Contractor. NOC available immediate joining. Contact 94011294.
Email: adnanluky@gmail.com

B.TECH Civil Engineer, currently residing in Oman, experience in Oil and gas sector, residential and commercial buildings seeking suitable placement. Contact 78137481, (wsp) +91 7510100507.
Email: amalfais@gmail.com

B.E Civil Engineer having Oman exp looking for sub contracting jobs like plastering, false ceiling, tiling and so on. Contact 72132426

B.Tech Civil Engineer 25 yrs plus exp (18 yrs Oman) Buildings Multi-storied Commercial/Residential Complex, Infrastructure Waterline, Oil/Gas, Refinery. Valid Omani D/L, NOC is available - Seeking suitable placement. Contact 92671539
Email: pvmmani_2006@yahoo.com

Young Indian male, Civil QA/QC/ Materials Engineer having 6+ years of experience in Civil Engineering Industry looking for an suitable opportunity. NOC available. Contact +968-91631010
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rajugetme10@yahoo.com

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Purchasing and Marketing
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Contact: 90158051
junaidsalaahi@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

DRIVER

Looking for driving job with NOC. [Contact 97095200](mailto:Contact97095200)

Looking for light driver job. Contact 96588445

Looking for driving jobs, 3 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 94447012

South Indian driver looking for job. Visa release available. Contact 79896629

Oman experienced Indian L. Driver looking for a job. Contact 78552271

IT

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

MANAGER

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

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement. [Contact 71790238](mailto:Contact71790238)

Indian, male 40 yrs. MBA marketing 18 yrs experience in sales Oman and UAE, valid D/L, seeking suitable placement. NOC available. Contact 71771060

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

Indian male (30) MBA, 6 years' experience in Sales and procurement with D/L. Fluent in English, Hindi, Malayalam and Arabic. Contact 97291114.
Email: jawadazez123@gmail.com

6 Years Experience outdoor sales-man with driving in Oman.NOC available. Contact 91550548

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A magical retreat in Oman: Alila Hinu Bay

Far away from the humdrum of city life, here in the Sultanate's coastal town of Mirbat in the southern Dhofar region, a luxuriously sculpted artisanal hideaway lies perched amidst the centuries-old history and the plethora of unmarred natural wonders.

Alila Hinu Bay – stretching over 45 hectares of land is a jewel adorning the sleepy hamlet on the Omani seashore, with its architectural marvels and authentic fabrication. Reflecting traditional Omani auras, Alila is a heritage in itself, upping the ante in the tropical part of the country.

Carefully guarded and enfolded by the expansive blue sea, the endless horizon and the mighty unwavering heights of Jabal Samhan, Alila defines that classy getaway on all occasions.

An hour's drive from the Salalah city centre by car becomes even more comforting, once you experience the incomparable hospitality and uncompromised warm ges-

tures of the staff, no sooner than after your car is parked.

The lobby is a patchwork of contemporary styles, while still throwing a light on that which is exclusively and traditionally Omani. The colossal arcade ahead of the lobby displaying the typical Omani architecture is blissful and enticing.

The first heavenly sip of welcome drink offered to us – a karkade samba iced tea: an infusion of exotic tropical fruits, hibiscus, rosehip peel, apple bits, orange peel and flower petals served elegantly – was enough to revitalise our minds, bodies and souls.

Venturing into this sprawling paradise unveils an extravagance swaying in the lap of nature's solitude and a stunning aestheticism blooming at every step.

Running along the rich turquoise coastline of Arabian Sea, the sophisticated pool villas and deluxe pool villas offer guests a stunning panoramic view and an atypical splash of enthralling comfort and privacy.



The bedroom watching over the private pool is perfectly in sync with the surroundings. Wake up, take a plunge in the pool, and witness the waves kissing the shore with a gentle roar. Allow your feet to fondle the sand as you walk a few metres to their private beach. The brown stony hillocks embedded with emerald green seaweeds jut into the turquoise waters forming a vibrant canvas.

With the soothing oceanic melody, the soft sand and exotic seashells, your soul is steeped in ultimate bliss. The outdoor bathtub will only make you feel more in tune with nature, as you ponder over the blue waters and the infinite beyond, while simultaneously enjoying the ultra-modern luxury around you.

The lagoon dotting its course via sea by the hotel is a harbour to various nesting birds chirping endlessly. The rooms located by it echo the silent wilderness outside, displaying true elegance.

The spa therapists at Alila make sure they know you far better than you think you know yourself. An impressive frankincense tea comes as the showstopper

after a much needed relaxing spa treatment.

Sea Salt, as the name suggests, offers a lavish spread, with a mouthful of health and exact the right amount of genuine Arabic and international flavours. Indulge in the coastal dining experience with a view of the ocean and the lagoon, and savour some authentic delicacies. A perfect plating and ornamental garnishing makes the taste even more palatable.

From classic décor, fond greetings, rejuvenating spa experiences, sumptuous platters to escaping into the backwoods of the Darbat waterfalls, Jabal Samhan's viewpoint and the historic Khor Rori, indulge in this lavish boutique hotel expressing an extravagant uniqueness. The dolphin watching point within the hotel premise promises a spectacle to behold as nature's wonders swim through the sea, squeaking in delight.

It is no wonder if you have fallen in love with Oman's topography and heritage. At Alila Hinu Bay the wonders you experience will leave you speechless. - Times News Service



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Changan CS85 luxurious crossover available on low EMI of OMR205

A premium coupe SUV, the model stands out from its counterparts through its lustrous appearance, focus on high quality and application of the latest technology in the vehicle’s many features



MUSCAT: Changan CS85 Coupe is a sporty coupe designed SUV which reflects one’s personality. Redefining the definition of smoothness, the CS85 coupe SUV is outfitted with a turbocharged direct-injection engine that produces 224 HP and a maximal torque of 360 Nm, parted with 8-speed automatic transmission, while accelerating from zero to 100 km/h in just 7.5 seconds and four driving modes. Changan CS85 Coupe with elegant looks and characteristic dexterity is now available at EMI starting from OMR 205 for six years through Bank Muscat auto loan division(includes five per cent Value Added Tax (VAT)).

A premium coupe SUV, the model stands out from its counterparts

through its lustrous appearance, focus on high quality and application of the latest technology in the vehicle’s many features. A spokesperson for Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment said, “Changan CS85, the luxurious crossover coupe combines the dynamic handling of an SUV with the sporty aesthetics of a coupe to give owners the best of both worlds. Style and fashion will be the new constant in your life once you own this sporty coupe. Blue Core Powertrain Technology based on the principles of power, clean and quiet provides highly efficient and energy-saving performance.”

With all the vehicles’ key parts originating from the world’s leading suppliers, the CS85 Coupe offers

top-grade enjoyment from every angle - visual, tactile, auditory and safety - coming together to create the perfect driving experience. **Sporty style statement** With its wide body and muscular shoulders accentuated by horizontal contours that sweep through the sides, the CS85 makes a sporty style statement. **Slick designing** The slick exterior styling is matched by a luxurious interior crafted using high-quality materials and supported by hi-tech features. **Innovative technology** Equipped with innovative driving technologies, the CS85 keeps own-

ers at ease with everything under control when on the road. It has features including a 360° HD camera, blind area monitoring, forward collision warning, adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning. **Exterior** 19” Alloy Wheels, LED Headlamps with LED DRLs, auto headlamps, follow me home function, matrix fog lamps, roof rails, quad exhaust pipes in chrome, panoramic sunroof, electrically adjustable, folding ORVMs with heating and memory. **Interior** The overall interior style of Changan’s CS85 coupe is dynamic, elegant, and luxurious. The interior decoration of the car applies

double real stitching lines. It has sport seats in leather, 8-way and 4-way electrically adjustable driver and co-driver seat, seat heating and ventilation, lumbar support, seat courtesy function, 64 colour ambient lighting, illuminated door sills, parking simulation display, drive select mode (sports, economy, snow) and rear AC vents. **Safety** Its safety features include ESP (ABS +TCS)+ EBD, hill hold assist, electronic parking brake hill descent control, front, side & curtain airbags, front & rear sensors with screen & ic display, adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, 360° HD camera, forward collision warning, automatic emergency

braking, blind area monitoring, lane change assist, reverse lateral warning and TPMS. **Infotainment** A host of infotainment attributes includes a 10.25” LCD instrument cluster, 12.3” infotainment touch screen, navigation, Bluetooth, front & rear USB, mirror link, radio, 8 speakers, multi-screen interaction and memory card slot **Comfort** Cruise control, keyless entry, electric tailgate opening, vehicle control (forward and reverse) with remote control, the one-touch up-down movement for all four windows are some of the significant features of the vehicle.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO’s innovative Badeel travel card is ultimate companion on vacation



MUSCAT: With travel starting to return, there’s no better time to pick up a Badeel travel card. National Bank of Oman’s (NBO) innovative prepaid card comes with a whole host of unique benefits, is super simple to use, and supports multiple international currencies. Providing access to Schengen Approved Travel Medical Insurance, and a host of special offers and discounts through MasterCard, users can easily obtain, top up and manage it from their phones or at conveniently placed kiosks. Available for customers and non-customers, the Badeel Travelcard is the ultimate companion. Maha Al Raisi, Head of Products at NBO, said, “At NBO we are committed to empowering the people

of Oman through convenient digitally-led solutions and cutting-edge technology. “We introduced our prepaid cards in 2018 and since then have not stopped thinking about how we can make them better and more useful. Whether travelling for work or leisure, the Badeel Travel card offers a safe, easy, and cashless way to carry multiple foreign currencies in a single, re-loadable card, ensuring convenience and peace of mind.” Mastercard enabled and utilising 3D and Chip & Pin technologies, the Badeel Travel card lets users make purchases at millions of merchants worldwide while also being protected by state-of-the-art electronic security. The only card

in the market to offer nine currencies, customers can load the card with Omani Rials, US Dollars, Euros, British Pounds, UAE Dirhams, Saudi Riyals, Swiss Francs, Thai Bahts and Indian Rupees. What’s more, with its dedicated mobile app and self-service kiosks, customers can order, print out, renew and reload their cards at the touch of a button. Available for anyone holding a valid resident ID, with or without having an account with NBO, the Badeel travel card can be easily obtained through the NBO mobile app, Badeel Prepaid App, at any NBO branch, or Badeel self-service kiosks located at Oman Oil’s Ahlain Store on Ghala Expressway and NBO’s head office in Azaiba.

RECOGNITION

National Life and General Insurance gets award for customer service

MUSCAT: National Life and General Insurance Company (NLG) won the Best Customer-Centric Life and General Insurance Company by The Global Economics. The Global Economics Limited is a UK based business and financial publication media house giving thoughtful insights into the financial sectors of various industries across the world. One of their highlights is the prestigious country-specific Annual Global Economics awards program where the best performers in sectors like finance, banking, real estate, insurance and energy are identified worldwide and honoured.

National Life, the first and only Omani insurance company with branches outside Oman, has been in the insurance industry for more than 25 years with a successful track record of business performance across various financial parameters. Today, NLG is the market leader and largest insurance company in Oman with branches in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. The company is one of the major players in the UAE also within a short span of time and growing fast in Kuwait. “At NLG, customer-centric approach has been at the centre of our business operations. We

are really glad to have this international award and thank The Global Economics for recognizing our efforts and initiatives in customer service. This is a testimony to our customer service by providing tailor-made insurance solutions as per customer needs as well as our easy and fast in-house claims management system,” said S. Venkatachalam, CEO, NLG. The company which is the number 1 in health insurance, achieved the top spot in motor insurance also based on total premium in 2021.

In a recent telephonic customer survey conducted by the company on the Motor Claims service, 97 per cent of the customers had responded positively. National Life & General Insurance has been a pioneering insurer with a wide range of insurance solutions, a large network of sales and service touchpoints across Oman managed by qualified and experienced staff to offer the right insurance solutions. NLG also has a very strong digital presence through which they offer their products and services like a website, virtual assistant chatbot, mobile app, online sales and WhatsApp, making insurance simple and easy.

COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION

Appeal to community to build Centre of Excellence for children with disabilities

MUSCAT: Sabah Al-Bahlani, member of the State Council and CEO of the Association for Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities, appealed to philanthropists, companies and institutions to donate towards the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Children with Disabilities that will benefit more than 300 children with disabilities. The Centre of Excellence is designed to provide comprehensive rehabilitation and disability-related services and training for different categories of people with disabilities. When ready, the centre will be used as a rehabilitation facility. To generate income the centre plans to rent the swimming pool, sports area and kitchen area. It will also have a space on the upper floor either to rent or operate as a non-profit office and as an event hall for any other leasing activities. Sabah Al-Bahlani confirmed that the centre had stopped construction and the inauguration was delayed due to the lack of funds needed to complete it. She said obtaining donations is critical because the construction of the building’s structure has been on hold due to the lack of funds. She said what the centre requires now is the necessary finishes, and



once it is ready, the centre will achieve financial sustainability by using accompanying facilities as a source of income. Al Bahlani added the centre’s vision lies in providing early intervention services continuously to each child while overcoming developmental challenges and reaching the maximum possible degree of independence and integration into society. This will help in achieving the highest degrees of independence, self-reliance and integration into society. Alizz Islamic Bank and The

Ministry of Social Development had earlier unveiled a crowdfunding website (<https://crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com/>) to raise OMR 2 million to build the Centre of Excellence for Children with Disabilities. The crowdfunding website aims to collect OMR 2 million from various segments of society by using innovative digital technology. This will allow all groups and segments of society to participate and contribute to building “The Centre of Excellence for Children with Disabilities” and help children with disabilities.

The donation process is transparent and reveals the amount donated. When entering the website, donors can notice the movement of the electronic meter, the number of donors and the amount remaining to reach the desired sum. Alizz Islamic Bank has facilitated the process of donating from anywhere in the Sultanate. All the donor has to do is enter the site and then follow the easy and flexible steps. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, via the Internet and social media. To finance a project that serves the community, the money is collected through a specialised platform that guarantees everyone’s participation in serving the nation and society. The act of donation establishes the role and responsibility of the Omani community, institutions and individuals, as a partner that provides services to Omani persons with disabilities. This plays an important role in the establishment of private rehabilitation institutions that contribute to the rehabilitation of these individuals alongside government institutions, as this synergy leads to collaboration in building society, each according to his role.

PAKISTAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

PSM students celebrate Independence Day of Pakistan

MUSCAT: 14th August 1947 marks a great day in the history of the sub-continent when Pakistan came into being. On this very day, the white and green flag sways in hands and eyes filled with tears of joy represent the happiness and importance of independence. The students of Pakistan School Muscat (PSM) celebrated the 75th Independence Day of their beloved country with great zeal and fervour. They decorated their homes with Pakistani flags, green and white lights and balloons. They expressed their passion and excitement online



by wearing various traditional dresses, singing national songs, making videos and paintings. Indeed this day flashbacks the sacrifices of our ancestors who laid down their lives for the establishment of Pakistan.

ROUND-UP

KR Group and Asyad Drydock to build Oman’s first indigenous marine vessel

Building the first modern ship with international standards demonstrates the world-class services and operations provided by the Asyad Drydock and it is a pivotal milepost for the logistics sector in Oman

MUSCAT: The KR Group, through its Marine Solutions business, has partnered with Asyad Drydock to build vessels in the modern shipbuilding and repairs facility in Duqm, Oman.

A full-fledged service company specialised in the design and construction of harbour-related infrastructures in addition to ship repair and maintenance, Khimji Ramdas Marine Solutions under the KR infrastructure cluster has grown rapidly since its inception in 2005. Undertaking its maiden project, the team has successfully built a 15m multi-cat vessel ‘Hulm Al Behar’ which has become the first marine vessel to be built in Asyad Drydock.

“The delivery of the first local project is indeed a defining moment in our growing partnership. This is indeed a monumental achievement for the KR Group Marine Solutions, together with Asyad Drydock, and this accomplishment will be the start of many new opportunities. While we are still celebrating the launch of the first-ever modern ship built in Oman, ‘Hulm Al Behar’, our focus will continue to remain on the growth and expansion capabilities while contributing to the nation’s economy. We have also commenced the building of our second vessel ‘MEFK Pearl’, a 24.0m high-speed aluminium crew boat, to facilitate anchorage support services in Port of Fujairah,” said Hritik Khimji, Director, of the Khimji Ramdas Group.

Dr Ibrahim Al-Nadhairi, Chief Executive Officer of Asyad Ship-



ping and Drydock, stated, “We are proud of this achievement. Building the first modern ship with international standards demonstrates the world-class services and operations provided by the Drydock and it is a pivotal milepost for the logistics sector in Oman.”

Al-Nadhairi pointed out, “Fulfilling our obligations towards our local and global partners and customers, in a safe, fast, and innovative manner indicates that Asyad Group continues implementing its global strategy and achieving its future aspirations, offering integrated logistics services and solutions.”

He also added that the completion of ‘Hulm Al Behar’, is a testament to Asyad Group’s empowerment of national talent. This project has been a significant opportunity for investing in the development of Omani talent in various engineering and managerial disciplines, and for providing Oman with a qualified human capital capable of leading and sustaining construction operations in the field of maritime ser-

vices and industries.

With a vision to showcase Oman’s capabilities on the world stage, as a nation equipped with the knowledge, expertise, and skills to construct its vessels, this partnership also opens up opportunities to build and export marine vessels from Oman.

“We are honoured to partner with Asyad Drydock for building ships and vessels in Oman for the very first time. The launch of the 15m multi-cat vessel in Oman’s water in Duqm is the start of many more accolades for the teams. The vessel is the product of the untiring efforts of both our teams to deliver world-class vessels built at the Drydock facility, second to none in the world,” said Ravi Kumar Dhulipala, Chief Operating Officer, Khimji Ramdas – Infrastructure Cluster.

Khimji Ramdas Infrastructure cluster, through its Marine Solutions business, is committed to meet the growing demand for building marine vessels and maintenance capabilities to cater

to a regional as well as a global market. The launch of the unique shallow draft, modular, truckable workboat (Multicat) will assist in dredging and marine construction works. This machine is capable of anchor handling, towing, and mooring installation, including inspection, maintenance, and other repair-related works. The twin-engine, twin-hull multi-cat class approved vessel built in a record time of five months is a significant milestone. Mirroring the same vision, the coordination and cooperation between the teams will deliver world-class products on the platform of proven designs.

In response to the growing demand for harbours and port related construction activities, maintenance of dredging in fishery harbours, and the consequent need for specialised, marine construction vessels, KR Group Marine Solutions has strategically acquired several marine vessels and equipment to enhance its capability and capacity to secure key marine pro-

jects along the coast of Oman.

The KR Group acknowledges the efforts of all stakeholders of Asyad Drydock & KR Marine Solutions and with the joint capabilities will build all types of vessels, from multi-cat, crew boats, fishing vessels, barges to floating pontoons. The teams will scale up their operational strength to build high-speed, class-certified vessels in the near future.

With Duqm occupying a strategic position at the crossroad of trade routes between Asia and Africa, it gives investors the leverage to penetrate high-growth markets. To enhance Duqm’s position on the map, KR Group Marine Solutions is actively involved in several shipbuilding activities with Asyad Drydock in Duqm. With significant progress made in this direction, Khimji Ramdas Group will continue to pave the way for bigger opportunities that will benefit the nation’s economy as well as its people. With national talent equipped with the expertise to offer

customers comprehensive and competitive maritime services, the projects will help in the diversification of the nation’s economy, as outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

Commenting on the national workforce, Hritik Khimji added, “We believe the new generation of young Omanis coming out of high school or university are looking for challenging opportunities and have the potential and mindset to excel, given the necessary training and exposure to international markets. We will be able to create a strong workforce that is skilled, competent, and reserves the capacity to spearhead change and propel the country forward.”

Always at the forefront of development, innovation, and change, KR Group Marine Solutions has proven its competence in shipbuilding and repair and will remain focused on leading the way for further first-of-its-kind ventures while ensuring it remains valuable contributor to the country’s economy.

E-PAYMENT PROMOTION

Excellent response to Bank Muscat’s ‘Fuel and Win’ at Shell service stations

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat’s ‘Fuel and Win’ campaign at Shell service stations continues to achieve great success in promoting e-payments in Oman, thanks to the excellent response from the customers.

The bank is offering all its Premier Banking customers a chance to win prizes of OMR20 each for using their debit cards to pay for transactions at Shell service stations across the Sultanate. All that they have to do is to make a single payment of OMR 10 or more to enter into the draw. Customers may note that the two-month-long promotion will soon conclude on August 20 and a total of 180 lucky customers will be rewarded for the entire campaign. Bank Muscat’s promotion offers its Private Banking, Asalah Priority Banking and Al Jawhar Privilege Banking custom-

ers a golden chance to win rewards for making secure e-payments instead of using cash. The bank has invited its customers to take advantage of this promotion period and get multiple chances to win prizes.

With e-payments now more popular than ever in the Sultanate of Oman, many customers prefer to use their bank cards rather than cash to make payments safely and securely at merchants and kiosks across the country. Bank Muscat’s “Just Tap” contactless cards are particularly useful in secure payments during the current challenge of social distancing and enhanced hygiene measures. Cardholders can complete their low-value point-of-sale (PoS) transactions with a simple tap of the card at a ‘Just Tap’ enabled point-of-sale (PoS) terminal with-

out the need to enter their identification number (PIN) for transactions up to OMR 40.

Contactless payments take only a few seconds and both the customer and the retail outlet benefit from faster checkout times and highly secure transactions, which are debited and credited respectively into their accounts. Bank customers receive alerts on their mobile phones for all transactions made using their debit or credit cards, thereby ensuring that transactions are highly secure and private. Going ahead, e-payments are all set to become the default payment option across the Sultanate thanks to their convenience and security and Bank Muscat cards with their numerous features are playing a major role in this digital transformation.





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