# Parablansun a weekly Aramco publication for employees

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## Aramco 2020 Traffic Safety Excellence Award

#### By Dalia Darweesh

The Traffic Safety Signature Program Division (TSSPD) has announced the winners of the 2020 Aramco Traffic Safety Excellence Award (TSEA).

Aramco exerts all efforts to promote safety as a corporate value on both business and individual levels. Contributing to these efforts, TSSPD has developed a number of traffic safety initiatives, including the TSEA, addressing drivers' behaviors.

Aali M. Al-Zahrani, vice president of Safety and Industrial Security, recognized and congratulated all winners as role models in traffic safety. Al-Zahrani emphasized that we are moving in the right direction with regards to traffic safety, and we need to sustain our current achievements and look forward to more efforts to further enhance the on- and off-the-job traffic safety performance.

#### Acknowledging safety

During the award ceremony, Abdullah S. Al-Rajhi, director of TSSPD gave his opening remarks at the ceremony. "We are gathered here to recognize and celebrate your commitment to the company's long-lasting legacy to safety."

#### **TSSP** awards

Highlighting Aramco employees, SMPs, and trainees throughout the



From left, Aali M. Al-Zahrani, one of the winners Ola M. Abazaid, and Abdullah S. Al-Rajhi.

Kingdom, the award promotes a safe driving culture and encourages participants to maintain a violation-free record inside and outside Aramco by recognizing employees and their de-

Winners based on their rank

#### 30-years-old and below:

Khalid A. Alyahya, Reservoir Description & Simulation Department; Ali R. Altowilib, EXPEC Advanced Research Center; Omar A. Almulhim, N.A. Production Engineering Department; Abdulrahman A. Alharbi, Western Region Terminal Department; Rashed M. Aldubayyan, NAOO Business Support Division; Abdulrahman I. Alnajdi, Inspection Department; Abdullah S. Bazarah, Loss Prevention Department; Turki F. Sheikhoon, Unconventional Resources Engineering & Project Management Department;

partments. The award has two categories based on age group, the first category is the 30 years and below, and the second category is above 31 years. Annually, 25 winners are chosen with

Faris H. Tulbah, EXPEC Advanced Research Center; Ayidh A. Aldawsari, S.A. Industrial Security Operations Department, Akram R. Barghouti, S.A. Production Engineering Department; Eyman A. Turkistani, Domestic JV Management Department; Ziad S. Badughaish (PMP), Gas Compression Projects Department; Ali A. Khamis, Ras Tanura Producing Department; and Hassan Y. Bazzaz, Shaybah Producing Department. Above 31 years old:

Khalid R. Shigager, Marine Department; Raed A. Alouhali, EXPEC Advanced Re-

the top five departments based on participation rates.

The award criteria gauges participants' personal commitments toward a safe driving culture, as having zero traffic violations for the past year, supported with a printout from ABSHER, in addition to having a valid driver's license, registration booklet, and a valid vehicle inspection.

More than 2,500 participants from 95 departments have registered for the 2020 TSEA, which is a 100% increase from the 2019 registrations.

The participants went through a rigorous selection process, including a theoretical and practical test in collaboration with the Industrial Training Department.

search Center; Abdullah A. Atiyah, Exploration & Oil Drilling Engineering Department; Ola M. Abazaid, Local Workforce Development Department; Mohammed A. Oqili, N.A. Technical Support Department; Feras M. Abbas, Abqaiq Plants Maintenance Department; Bandar S. Otaibi, Transportation & Equipment Services Department; Wessam A. Busfar, Upstream Business Support Department; Mohammed K. Mugharbil, S.A. Production Engineering Department; and Noor A. Awais, SAOO Manpower Development Division.

## Your voice



## Mmm ... I for one think oil industry numbers are all Greek to me. Or are they Roman?

Why are the suffixes "M" (= 1,000) and "MM" (= 1 million) not universally used? In other industries, thousands are often shown using the suffix "K," and millions using the suffix "M." I've asked this question a MM times and I've never received a good answer.

I hope this explanation isn't "all Greek" to you. My apologies to native Arabic speakers, as your equivalent phrase would be something like هل أنا , but this phrase doesn't work as well for my story.

Why are the suffixes "M" (= 1,000) therefore, see why 500 (half a thound "MM" (= 1 million) not universalused? In other industries, thousands numeral "D":

)

To show a number which is a factor of 10 larger, an extra circle would be used, so 10,000 (or 10 times one thousand) would be shown as the one thousand symbol with a second circle:



lions. For consistency, you would have thought a billion would be shown as "MMM" (a thousand thousand thousands). Unfortunately, the completely inconsistent first letter of the word billions, "B," is used.

The alternative system that most people use is Greek. "K" is for kilo (think "kilometers" for distance) and "M" is for mega (think "megajoules" for energy). Therefore, billions should be shown as "G" for giga (think "gigabytes"), shouldn't it? Unfortunately, billions are not shown using a "G" elsewhere. Everyone seems to use the "B" for billions.

By Bob Hawken Dhahran Robert.Hawken@aramco.com The "M" denoting thousands is ac-

tually the Roman numeral "M." Before the Roman numerals that we recognize today were used, putting a circle through a number multiplied that number by 1,000. So, one (the letter "I" in Roman numerals) thousand would be shown like this<sup>[1]</sup>:

ф 1,000

The circles eventually became brackets, so 1,000 would later be shown as:

## ()

The symbol now looks like the letter "M" to me. Meanwhile, half of a number would be represented by showing only one side of the brackets. We can, Extra circles would be added for progressively larger numbers. Eventually, a better way of showing much larger numbers was created. A bar on top of the number multiplies that Roman numeral by 1,000. So, 1 million should be written as 1,000 ("M") times 1,000 (the bar):

Typewriters didn't have this character, so someone decided that a thousand thousands, i.e., 1 million, would instead be "MM." In other words, "M" multiplied by "M." This can be confusing, as in standard Roman numerals "MM" actually means 2,000.

Our industry routinely deals in bil-

The best way of showing numbers is the way that doesn't lead to misunderstandings. After all, it would be embarrassing to be told to build a pipeline from here to Jiddah (about 1,000 km away) and mistakenly purchase enough materials for it to reach the moon and back (close to 1 million km).

I hope that the reason we use "MM" for millions is now not "all Greek" to you (or all هندي). It is, in fact, Roman. Sort of.

[1] Universal History of Numbers from Prehistory to the Invention of the Computer, George Ifrah (1981)

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication. snown like

# Made in Saudi and iktva highlight achievements of products manufactured in-Kingdom

#### By Scott Baldauf

The Made in Saudi program, which was launched in early 2021, is fully aligned with Aramco's localization strategy and the In-Kingdom Total Value Add (iktva) program. In support of Saudi Vision 2030 and the ecosystem of local manufacturers, the Made in Saudi program will create brand recognition, trusted high quality standards, and a preference for local products.

Since the iktva program's inception in 2015, Aramco has delivered remarkable localization achievements while providing a powerful and supportive environment for the Kingdom's ambitious economic goals. To date, Aramco has attracted nearly 500 investments with a total investment value of more than \$6.5 billion. Some of these investments are already realized and manufacturing new and innovative products locally.

#### Profound impact on economy

Localization of manufacturing has already had a profound impact on the Saudi economy. Encouraging businesses to locate their manufacturing facilities in the Kingdom has created thousands of jobs for Saudi citizens, and new revenue streams to power the Kingdom's economic arowth. As government agencies and industrial partners, such as Aramco, continue to drive localization, the benefits of a sustainable local supply chain will expand even further, driving efficiency and resilience while creating jobs, reducing costs, and improving delivery times for goods and services utilized in Saudi Arabia's vibrant industrial sector.



Ahmad A. Al Sa'adi, senior vice president of Technical Services, visits a new production line of Yokogawa, one of many Aramco suppliers who have located their manufacturing plants in the Kingdom. By localizing our supply chain in the Kingdom, Aramco helps the Kingdom to generate new jobs, while making it easier for Aramco to get the supplies of key goods and services on a timely basis.

"At Aramco, we are proud of the local investment achievements realized by the iktva program and the full alignment with Vision 2030 and other government initiatives," said Abdallah B. Al-Thaaly, manager of the Industrial Development & Strategic Supply Department. "Because of the scale of Aramco's operations, we can have a dramatic effect on the localization of manufactured goods in the Kingdom. Today, tons of commodities and services have been localized in-Kingdom because of the efforts of Aramco. Many newly opened factories are manufacturing innovative products, which are now being made in-Kingdom for local and export markets."

#### Identifying future opportunities

"Localization benefits the company by reducing risks of shutdown if key parts are not available when we need them," Al-Thaaly said. The clearest example of this benefit came when the COVID-19 pandemic began, as localized manufacturing ensured that we had the goods and services we needed when shipping items was difficult, if not impossible.

"We are now starting to see our local supply chain mature and reach a sustainable critical mass," Al-Thaaly said. "The iktva program has transformed our interaction with suppliers by providing them with the confidence to proactively localize goods and services with an increasing level of complexity. As part of the iktva program, we are now identifying future opportunities and promoting investment in these areas. We look at our overall spend and how much we are To date, localization has produced the following results:

• 468 investments with \$6.5 billion in capital expenditure

• 170 opportunities with \$14 billion annual market size

• 93 realized investments from 19 countries, worth \$1.2 billion, resulting in the creation of 5,600 direct jobs.



able to purchase in the Kingdom, plus we focus on the gap, which is everything else that we historically purchase from outside the Kingdom. By identifying those gaps, we showcase investment opportunities for local and foreign investment in the Kingdom."

## Data science and machine learning program helps spur on Digital Transformation Strategy

#### By Eamonn Houston

A 10-week training program for data science and machine learning has been lauded as another step forward in Aramco's Digital Transformation drive.

Some 40 data scientists are attending seven modules covering topics such as machine learning model development, data analysis, model deployment, and practical approaches to data science projects.

#### tion Vision.

"One of the main goals of the Digital Transformation is to accelerate digital talent development, and we have been active in this by availing of relevant hosted programs, e-Learning, and programs like this one," Al Nuaim said.

"Machine learning has been identified as one of the most sought-after skills in the coming decades and by undertaking this training, I am sure you are not only benefiting Aramco's Digital Transformation journey, but also enhancing your career prospects." ny's skills inventory would help identify competency gaps. In AI technical concepts that can be found in any course,

"Success will be measured in terms of how adaptable we are to changes in the business environment," he said, "and how quickly we reskill, upskill, and deploy employees throughout the company.

#### **Developing capacity**

Abeer M. Almutlag, Training and De-

on AI technical concepts that can be found in any course, but it is also exposing us to valuable experiences, insights, and methods for managing AI and machine learning projects.

Mosaad A. Thokair, IT systems analyst: "Managing Machine Learning Projects has given me a bird's-eye view of machine learning projects' life cycle from inception to deployment and operation, while focusing on giving a hands-on experience.

The course has been designed and created by Aramco's Digital Transformation Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategic partner, Crayon.

Its objective is to expand online data science training while combining real-life practical scenarios.

In the first delivery of the program, students are taking part in a series of lectures, practical exercises, and coaching from experienced data scientists.

#### **Digital transformation**

Welcoming the Aramco students to the program, chief digital officer Nabil A. Al Nuaim said that it directly supported the company's ambitious Digital TransformaIt was in 2018 that Aramco's Digital Transformation Strategy was endorsed by the company's Strategic Counsel.

This included the setting up of an ambitious Digital Transformation Program with a vision to position Aramco as the world's leading digitalized energy company, thereby maximizing shareholder value and spearheading digital innovation in the industry globally.

#### Bridging competency gaps

Fahad Dossary, head of the Technical Services Professional Academy, said that a continuous reevaluation of the compavelopment consultant with Digital Transformation's AI & Analytics (DT AI&A), has been pivotal in the program's delivery.

"The training is part of a long-term plan to develop a strong data science capacity at Aramco. The plan is to have this training as an integral element of the future data science career development plans at Aramco," she said.

#### What the students think

Reham A. Yousef, engineer: "Throughout the past 10 months, I have been dedicating time to diving into AI, and I was lucky that my home department, DT AI&A, has partnered with Crayon and launched this three-month intensive AI training.

"The training is not only educating us

"This broad yet practical knowledge will elevate my engagement with corporate Admin Areas as part of my role in the IT Customer Relations Department. We partner with Admin Areas to identify solutions targeted to their strategic initiatives, especially with the growing role of machine learning in today's technology landscape."

## Dhahran Community, serving residents for more than 80 years



Living "on camp," as locals put it, is a rewarding and memorable experience. From backyard BBQs and early morning swims to games of tennis and tee times on the golf course, anyone who has lived in an Aramco community shares an extraordinary bond that comes from working and socializing together.

#### 80 plus years of experience

For over 80 years, Aramco has supported a vibrant lifestyle for families from all over the world in its unique, safe, and secure communities. From schools and recreation to dining and supermarket shopping, Aramco's goal has been to generate a sense of community for all, regardless of age or interest. The bedrock of this fantastic experience has been the high quality living standards Aramco has provided for its workforce.

The largest community is Dhahran, which, since it was first constructed in the 1940s, has grown substantially and now accommodates around 13,000 residents. This growth has been matched by Aramco's commitment to continually enhance the infrastructure and leisure







facilities enjoyed by employees.

Aramco has decades of experience to draw upon to make "on camp" living a safe, comfortable, and pleasurable experience. Residents can rest assured that their maintenance requests will be handled promptly and effectively. Requests are easily created by calling the 24-hour Community Services Customer Care Calling Center, which has achieved call-handling benchmarks, which exceed international standards. Furthermore, the Dhahran Maintenance Division recently won the company's Maintenance & Reliability award.

#### A modern lifestyle

Today, the Dhahran community is well equipped to deliver a modern and comfortable lifestyle for employees and their families. Children benefit from the first-class education facilities provided by Saudi Aramco Expat Schools and can

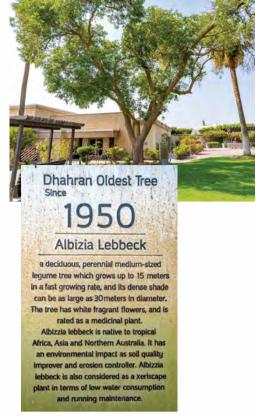


have fun at the many play parks dotted around the community.

There are numerous sports facilities within the community, including swimming pools, gyms, tennis and squash courts, baseball fields, soccer and cricket pitches, and a magnificent 18-hole golf course available all year round. Residents can enjoy pleasant walks among the beautifully landscaped green spaces, enjoy picnics at the duck pond, or explore the recently introduced hiking trail.

The shopping needs of residents are met by two large supermarkets and two mini-markets, complemented by other services such as the mail center, laundry service, barbershop, pharmacy, beauty salon, sports shop, florist, and gift shop. Dining needs are served by six restaurants, in addition to several concession food outlets, snack bars, and coffee shops.

Aramco also enables employees and their families to pursue their own hobbies and leisure interests. Resources are provided to support over 50 employee-run self-directed groups, from book clubs and quilt making to musical shows and cricket clubs. Moreover, Aramco encourages community involvement in environmental issues through the well-established recycling program and



hosting of energy and water conservation awareness events.

"Not only is the Dhahran community safe and secure, but the beautiful landscape also provides an enjoyable place to live, surrounded by friends and family that all share the same unique experience of being 'Aramcons' together," says Loay M. Maddah, administrator of the Dhahran Residential Services Division.

#### Leaping ahead

Looking forward, in mid-2021, Community Services will be inaugurating additional new recreation facilities at Jebel Heights, including sports fields, exercise gyms, a swimming pool, supermarket, and a community center.

Further ahead, more infrastructure improvements are planned, and the Smart City Program will harness technology to deliver even better customer-focused services. These new steps will ensure Aramco communities are fit for the future, providing a high quality lifestyle to all its residents for many years to come.

## Volunteers wade into water to restore Galveston Bay

By Susan V. Gonzalez

Galveston, TX — Aramco volunteers waded into the waters of Galveston Bay, the seventh largest estuary in the U.S., in late June to support hands-on restoration of the wetlands through the Galveston Bay Foundation's annual "Marsh Mania" event. erosion due to storms.

"We have supported the Galveston Bay Foundation for more than a decade and are pleased to join with them and others to make this event possible," said Nabeel I. AlAfaleg, president and CEO, Aramco Americas.



Aramco served as the lead sponsor, marking the event's 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in Texas, and provided the people power to help get the job done.

Approximately 40 employee volunteers, summer students and family members, worked throughout the day to plant marsh grass, vital to maintaining the bay's ecosystem.

The goal this year is to plant between 30,000 to 40,000 stalks of grass. Like trees, marsh grass is another natural tool found to help mitigate carbon emissions and has other environmental benefits such as helping to guard against beach Anna Armitage, a marine biology professor and researcher at Texas A&M University at Galveston was on-site to provide an orientation.

Armitage estimates 15,000 stems of plants can capture up to 10 tons of carbon dioxide every year. The compounding effects over the next 10, 20, and 30 years will be significant. This year's event focused on transplanting smooth cordgrass — a tall, hardy grass that grows in salt marshes in Texas.

Through the years, the Marsh Mania initiative has restored more than 214 acres of marsh habitat at 99 locations around Galveston Bay.

Aramco Americas volunteers plant marsh grasses in Galveston Bay along the Texas Gulf Coast in support of biodiversity conservation and protection.

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## Celebrating 'ld Communities and Ithra host 'Id activities







Aramco communities welcomed visitors during the recent 'Id celebrations. At Ithra, more than 5,500 visitors enjoyed the various offerings over four days as they took in the Hajj exhibition that celebrated routes and rituals related to Hajj, such as Zamzam water and the journey of the Ka'abah cover to Makkah. Ithra's events concluded with two sold out solo performances with Nasseer Shamma and two interactive family experiences in the Children's museum.







## Launch of Railway Service between al-Hasa and Abqaiq

Aramco has launched a new medium of transportation for employees commuting from al-Hasa to Abqaiq, utilizing the existing rails with a new scheduled trip, designated for Aramco employees.

The service, a collaborative effort between the Transportation & Equipment Services Department (T&ESD), Southern Area Oil Operations, and Government Affairs, started on July 25, 2021, and will continue for a trial period of three months.

"The newly introduced train transportation service is a more reliable, convenient, and an environmentally friendly alternative transportation method for Aramco employees at Abqaiq," said Fahad M. Alabdulkareem, Industrial Services executive director, during the launch of the service.

Employees and contractors who are already eligible to use the bus service to commute between al-Hasa and Abqaiq can ride the train by scanning their Aramco IDs at the boarding counter. Passengers will be able to utilize a designated car parking area in



Employees enjoy the morning time-saving commute to Abqaiq from al-Hasa on the new train service, which strives to enhance the environment, safety, and efficiency of transportation services.

al-Hofuf's train station, and are transported upon arrival to their offices in Abqaiq by bus.

#### Minimizing commute time

The train service minimizes the commute journey to approximately 35 minutes, saving an average of 40 to 60 minutes of total commute time. Passengers will board the train from the existing train stations in al-Hasa and Abqaiq. Free snacks will be offered to all passengers, provided by the Southern Area Community Services Department.

"We will be collecting feedback and data during the first three months of the service to gauge the demand, and use this data for service improvement," said Saad I. Alshamrani, T&ESD manager. T&ESD intends to expand the service to other areas upon successful utilization of train transportation. The newly introduced train transportation service is a more reliable, convenient, and an environmentally friendly alternative.

— Fahad M. Alabdulkareem

Offering rail service as a commuting option is part of T&ESD's mission of providing reliable, safe, cost-effective, and integrated transportation and equipment services while contributing to the local economy. Such service comes at a crucial time as the Kingdom just rolled out one of the Saudi Vision 2030 pillars, the National Transport and Logistics Strategy, targeting the expansion of railway transportation across the Kingdom.

## Hussain M. Al Haleimi retires after 43 years

Hussain M. Al Haleimi will be retiring from Aramco after more than 44 years with the company. His most recent position has been manager of Gas Drilling & Workover Operations.

Al Haleimi joined the company in 1977 as a trainee in the Industrial Training Center in al-Hasa. Shortly afterward, he went to the University of Tulsa, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering in 1986, and later, a Master of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering in 1990.

During his tenure at the company, Al Haleimi took field positions as a driller from 1992, and over the course of his four-decade career, he was involved in a variety of projects across the Kingdom, including the 'Uthmaniyah and Shedgum Gas project, the Shaybah Development project, the Hawiyah Gas Plant project, the Haradh Gas Plant project, the Offshore Gas Development Drilling project, the Northwest Unconventional Gas Exploration project, the Red Sea Exploration project, including deep water, and offshore gas field development drilling. In 2000, he became division head within the organization, and in 2007, he became manager of the department, a position he held until retirement.

Al Haleimi said that one of the highlights of his career was planning and executing the Red Sea deep-water exploration program. "It was exciting because this was the first time that Aramco had gotten involved in such operations," Al Haleimi said. "Despite the technical challenges of operating in deep water, the project started on time and was very successful without any operational glitches. This project presented a number of complications for the project team to face and resolve, most prominently the unique large bore well design. But as a team, we met these challenges and resolved them together."

In retirement, Al Haleimi plans to spend more time with his grandchildren, explore Saudi Arabia, read history, and contribute his time and experience as a volunteer in his community in Mubarraz, al-Hasa.

Al Haleimi can be reached by phone at 050-582-5406, or by email at *haleimhm@yahoo.com*.



Hussain M. Al Haleimi

## Chandresh Verma retires after more than 15 years with Aramco

Chandresh Verma, a drilling engineering specialist in the Workover Engineering Department, after more than 15 years of service in Aramco, will see his last working day with the company on July 31.



but Verma and his wife Mamta say that Aramco cared for their family from the moment they landed at the airport, through settling into housing, and onward into orientation. The Vermas describe Aramco to their friends and family members as "the company that cares."

Verma joined Aramco in 2006 in Drilling & Workover (D&WO), with 22 years of prior experience in onshore and offshore oil field operations, engineering, and contract. He worked in Aramco operations and engineering across various fields, including Qatif, Manifa, Midyan, Berri, Shaybah, Haradh, as well as Abu Hadriyah, Fadhili and Khursaniyah. Due to excellent project stewardship throughout, Verma was elevated to the position of a drilling engineering supervisor. He was one of the pioneer members of the first Lump Sum Turn Key projects in D&WO.

Verma has a number of accomplish-

From left, Chandresh; his wife Mamta; elder daughter, Nehel; younger daughter, Moushami.

ments from his tenure as lead engineer, including successful delivery of a 13-lateral open hole fishbone type well in the Shaybah field, the first of its size in Aramco and in the entire Middle East. He represented D&WO as a member for the Manara joint venture development between Aramco and Schlumberger, from various trial phases until successful final installation. He was also involved in trial phases and successful execution of intelligent completion systems in the Shaybah field. In addition, Verma is a coauthor of many papers for the Society of Petroleum Engineers. His accomplishments have been recognized with an award from the vice president of D&WO.

Leaving India to come to Saudi Arabia was a difficult decision to make, The Vermas have been active social members in the Aramco community. Among his hobbies, Verma was a dedicated Badminton player. Verma's two daughters, Nehel and Moushami, studied in Aramco schools and did their university education in the U.S. and the U.K.

The Verma family have thoroughly enjoyed their time in Saudi Arabia and are thankful to have been part of the esteemed organization, Aramco. They wish for success to all members of the Aramco community and the company.

## Aramco partnership with Women's Business Park driving women empowerment

Aramco has recently marked its fifth year in strategic partnership with the Women's Business Park (WBP), the Kingdom's first all-woman business and technology park headquartered in Riyadh. Since the inception of the initiative in 2016, Aramco has awarded over 1.2 million project hours to WBP. This has been a prime enabler for technically skilled Saudi women and has contributed to the recent overall surge of the Kingdom's female labor force.

WBP's principal service line has been engineering drafting through its As-Built Drafting Center. These efforts have resulted in the update or creation of over 500,000 engineering drawings and field verification of 1,500 onshore and offshore company facilities.

Abdulkarim A. Al-Ghamdi, Aramco's vice president of Project Management, voiced fulfillment with the success of the collaboration. "The partnership between Aramco and the Women's Business Park has not only provided essential technical support for the company's capital projects, but it also promotes the noble cause of empowering our local female workforce. We look forward to continued collaboration on various engineering, project management, and technology endeavors and expansion of this



initiative into new frontiers."

#### **Professional development** of Saudi women

Aramco's support of the WBP initiative has been a key driver for the professional development of the Saudi female workforce. The WBP has served as an incubator for new Saudi female graduates to learn new technical skills, refine those skills in real-world project environments, and eventually develop project management and business development capabilities that can be transferred across the Kingdom. Since inception, the Cen-

ter has trained approximately 100 new graduates annually, who in turn, boost the industrywide female talent pool with their new skills and project experience.

Abrar AlReshidi, a WBP project manager assigned to Aramco as-built projects, says the Drafting Center allows her and others to take advantage of opportunities to enrich knowledge and enhance skill sets. "My journey started three years ago as a drafter, I then advanced to Team lead, guality controller, and eventually to project manager for the Onshore Maintain Potential Projects Department asbuilt projects," AlReshidi said.

Engineering drafting was conceived as a "seed" service line that would provide an anchor for WBP and from which other opportunities and new businesses would develop. WBP is currently pursuing new initiatives beyond engineering drafting in the areas of information technology and business process outsourcing.

#### Strategic partnerships

WBP was launched through a strategic partnership between Aramco, the Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, and Wipro Arabia Ltd. In line with Saudi Vision 2030, it strives to increase the engagement, empowerment, and representation of women in the Kingdom's workforce. The objective of the WBP is to deliver cost-effective business services while providing sustained employment to Saudi women.

The 200,000-m<sup>2</sup> campus, located in the Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh, offers a supportive work environment that will serve as a showcase for women's empowerment in the region. Operational offices for WBP are currently open in the Riyadh and al-Khobar areas for services across the Kinadom.

## Ithra's Creative Solutions: Fresh Faces and New Ideas

#### By Daniel R. Kany

Ithra's latest new program, Creative Solutions, is giving people who have rarely worked on the cutting-edge of technology the chance to engage with the latest devices and interfaces. The program brings creative talents in art and culture face-to-face with virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) as well as haptics, to bring new experiences to audiences.

Creative Solutions is Ithra's annual innovation program in which multidisciplinary art, science, and technology professionals collaborate with experts on an idea-to-prototype journey. The 2021 theme is "Immersive Digital Content Creation." Earlier this year, Ithra invited individuals in the creative industries to submit their ideas for the digital content. Those whose ideas have been selected attend exclusive masterclasses in immer- she recalls, "but I got myself together. I Wheelchair rugby sive content storytelling, user experience design, immersive technologies, design research methods and immersive audio, as well as presenting and pitching ideas.



Aldajani is hoping to be one of Creative Solutions' five finalists whose projects are funded by SAR75,000 in grants and showcased in-Kingdom and internationally.

The next stage will see just five projects selected to continue to the development phase. The selected participants will take part in an intensive international boot camp and then progress to a more advanced development stage.

#### Inspired by the birds

In her final semester of studying art at university, Dhahran painter Naima Karim unexpectedly became paralyzed "from head to toe" due to Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare disorder in which the immune system attacks the body's nervous system. After five months, she could barely move. "I was depressed,"

had to walk again. I was inspired by the birds: My dream was running across a field of rain-wet grass looking up at the limitless sky. As I recovered. I focused on this."

Karim worked long and hard to regain mobility. When she could paint again, in 2015, she painted skies with the goal of having a solo exhibition, which she did a year later with 46 pieces. Her sky paintings have since been selected for four international biennials. Grateful for another chance. Karim was inspired to create "an immersive technology experience about rain. For me, rain means relief, but it means many things to different people."

Karim's proposal for Ithra's Creative Solutions program was accepted from among hundreds of applicants.

Ali Aldajani, president of the Saudi Rugby Federation, also had an idea. "As a clinical kinesiologist, I studied gait and motion analysis. Now, I want to find a way to bring people with disabilities to sports," he explains, "I think VR has untapped potential for introducing physically challenged people to all kinds of sports experiences — like wheelchair rugby. Saudi culture is now moving toward collaborative and out-of-the-box thinking and there is a huge shift toward inclusivity in the creative economy. When I saw that the 2021 theme of Creative Solutions was "digital immersive content, it seemed like a perfect opportunity."

With access to expert support and Ithra's immersive technology lab, including VR, AR, mixed realities, extended realities, immersive audio and haptics,

#### VR project

Abdullah Maghram was accepted to the 2021 Creative Solutions cohort with his proposal for a VR project about al-Ula, one of the Arabian Peninsula's oldest cities and home to Hegra, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Possibly the first Saudi with a master's degree in VR, Maghram explains: "Soft power is important for all countries, so I want to use immersive technologies to tell the story of Saudi Arabia to the rest of the world — either stand-alone or combined. like VR with artificial intelligence. This is the first VR program and the first immersive technology lab in Saudi Arabia. It is an incredible opportunity to be part of that."

## Aramco Expatriate Schools 2020–2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Honor Roll

#### **Abgaig School**

#### Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.00)

Seventh Grade: Leonardo Khouri, Janela Mariel Managa, Yusuf Melhem, Juan Carlos Minda Chiriboga, Mohammad Qasim Minhas, and Chadeeja Saar

**Eighth Grade:** Rumi Rayyan Abbasi, Gisele Caraballo, Hannah M. El Baradie, Ryan Kristjansen, Aleena Samah Malik, Juan Managa, Flavia Mata Di Girolamo, Layan Melhem, Ray Cyril M. Mercado, Zhaniya Primbetova, Abdur Rahman Rana, and Jeremiah Jacob Yates **Ninth Grade:** Wesam Basli, Kaosidinma Golden Onyekere, and Mohammad Talha.

#### High Honors (GPA: 3.5 - 3.9)

Seventh Grade: Mohammed Hassan Ahmed, Qusai Al Asal, Leen Al-Wardany, Christian Caraballo, Molly Diefendorf, Hafsa Imran, Grace Louise Janike, Ali Jawad, Joash Kondru, Ayaan Shaj Manjalivalapil, Mohammad Mohsin, and Fatmah Quraishi Eighth Grade: Adam Al Nabtiti, Harith Muham-

mad Bin Noraswad, Ayan Imran, Joel Kondru, Gyle Rafael Marinas, and Hasan Nadeem Ninth Grade: Saadi Salman Abbasi, Miranda Chirino, Calvin Bonaro Manalu, and Diego Marconi Rodriguez.

#### Honors (GPA: 3.0 - 3.49)

Seventh Grade: Mahum Khan, Milla Potts, and Qias Qaraqish Eighth Grade: Muaz Saood. Ninth Grade:

#### **Dhahran School**

#### Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.00)

Seventh Grade: Elijah Abraham, Laith Abu Tahoun, Majd Abu Tahoun, Mira Abu Tahoun, Kifayat Aghazada, Amina Ahmed, Rayan Akhras, Maria Al Syed, Joud Al-Megdadi, Anna Alderman, Aiza Ali, Talah Alomari, Aarav Anand, Pavitra Arun, Zad Ashkar, Abdullah Asif, Zohaib Awan, Ethan Axler, Grace Axler, Heidi Bahlmann, Faris Baig, Yusra Hatim Bakhit, Mohammad Abdul Rehman Bin Ammad, Malek Bkathria, Kiersten Taylor Blacker, Debdutta Boote, Annika Born, Hamza Bustami, Tyler Cassamajor, Lila Grace Chammat, Sarah Chaudhry, Noah Chung, Madeleine Ciputra, Hudson Cote, Skyler Cote, Tobin Cote, Jaiden Daniels, Victoria Davila, Elizaveta Dolgova, Chloe Dorward, Dominic Downey, Zaxen Downey, Elanur Dursun, Omar Ahmed El Deeb, Maryam Elhamri, Muhammad Hassan Farooqi, Huzaifa Farrukh, Addison Frost, Andres Guzman, Noah Haigler, Yousef Hajhussein, Jeonghyun Han, James Hanna, Eleanor Hawkins, Arjun Singh Lee Hayer, Omar Hedefa, Humza Imran, Anika Jain, Joon Young Jeong, Hana Yaser Kamel, Sania Kamran, Pranav Kandhaadai, Ammaar Khan, Marvam Khattak, Amina Khawaja, Xiangyu Sophia Kong, Ainsley Lamont, Dan Luo, Mennatullah ElSayed Mahrous, Leona Manu, Maria Alejandra Mosquera, Eva Murgia, Harshini Murugan, Kinana Mustafa, Kareem Nagy Magdy Mahran Kamaleldien, Ebosata Oziegbe-Ighodalo, Alisha Patwardhan, Sophie Anais Phillips Granados, Valeria Polo Solano, Zena Ramzy, Jose Alejandro Rivera Roa, Elios Sadek, Nadya Saraswati, Raziq Hakim Satria, Tatiana Sautkina, Maya Selfo, Krisha Sevilla, Jana Sherik, Nenzwirashe Kudzai Shoko, Soven Smith, Grigorios-Rafail Spyropoulos, Aadit Srivastava, Ava Swendsen, Zohair Haider Syed, Jai Prajna Tammana, Gavin Tibor, Isela Tolentino, Hauwa Tukur, Katherine Analise Twombly, Ella Workman, Sean Matthew Wuttke, Michelle Xu, and Adam Zhang Eighth Grade: Ahmed Abdelhamid, Minori Abe, Ifedayo Opeyemi Abegunde, Amara Abitrabi, Velysa Putri Ahmad, Faris Azim Ahmad Ridzuan, Sara Ahmed, Zahra Ahmed, Liyan Osama Ali Al-Omari, Alisha Alam, Taha Alam, Abdullah Bin Ammad, Mohammad Daiyan Ashraf, Ibsham Asif, Daniel Atie, Hannah Azam, Reem Bahadidah, Reema Basheer Gowi, Nayumi Basuel, Akos Benedek, Csaba Benedek, Sofia Cetkovic, Faizaan Chowdhury, Mohammad Daraiseh, Ethan Ding, Ebubechi Micaiah Ejim, Mehdi El Ouair, Nikolaos Fotiou, Janna Gomaa, Jordan Goth, Syed-Zarmaan Haider, Maria Khadijah Jabbar, Aanya Jain, Dilan Jose, Min Seung Kang, Asiwaju Kayode, Minaal Shahid Khan, Yelda Khanfar, Eshal Khattak, Saftar Kuliev, Alison Raquel Lopez, Satvika Mandhadi, Zamir Meah, Habiba Mohamed, Jamal-Udeen Momodu, Duaa Mushahid, Ryan Sami Mustafa, Daniya Muzaffar, Faraz Mohammad Nawaid, Jordan Rose Nelson, Wilbert Joel Oduro, Naomi Onasanya, Joshua Onwuama, Nicole Zi Yi Ooi, Areej Parvez, Maadhavan Prasanna, Margaret Ann Roberts, Hameeda Naaz Sani, Dean Zedrick Capulong Santos, Jenna Selfo, Kiran Shabbir, Seba Hafed Shadid, Tushar Shaji, Riddhima Singh, Aness Suleiman, Theanna Sullivan, Keisya Regina Suryantara, Lav Trgovcic, Chikezie Darlington Ugori, Sawyer Updike, Leira Gabrielle Duma Veras, Cholapurath Jovita Theodara Vishnu, Joyce Xiao, Haliimah Yazki, Rayyan Muhammad Yousaf, Zeina Zakzouk, Maryum Zaman, and Xinrong Zhong

Ninth Grade: Hassan Ahmed, Malak Amer, Abrar Ansari, Ghoufran Baba, Mariana Bulla Alarcon, Aminata Cisse, Shawn Cordeiro, Raisa Clare Villanueva David, Asmaa Elsayed Elshabshiri, Nathaniel Antonio Gotera, Jakub Gruszczyk, Krzysztof Gruszczyk, Jacquelyn Hall, Ryan Kanj, Chaitravi Dadasaheb Karande, Maleeha Khan-Niazi, Dalia Mahmoud, Nor Ellysha Mohd Raji, Zayd Iyad Nasir, Aya Osman, Annika Port, Michelle Shahzad Qureshi, Fatima Shaari, Atif Shakoor, Maryam Khawaja Siddiqui, Jae Tolentino, and Maya Workman.

#### High Honors (GPA: 3.5 - 3.9)

Seventh Grade: Lamar Abed, Mokojusoluwa Abegunde, Raheim Ahmed, Sami Alikhan, Amal Almasri, Asma Ansari, Shanza Azam, Ihsan Fawzan Azmi, Zunairah Badar, Alexandre Baggett, Johan Bahlmann, Muhammet Baki, Joud Alrahman Bakry, Amanah Laila Begum-Ali, Analy Bernal, William Buker, Daniel Castro, Fiona Katherine Chiam, Cody Coppage, Elise Crisi, Jazmin Cruz, Anika Dalal, Ariana Davila, Siara Daza, Aislyn Deutscher, Harsh Dilip, Marwan Elghafri, Catherine Paola Escalona Orellana, Marvam Farshad, Katherine Gieson, Inigo Granda, Laiba Habib, Joseph Beshara Hage, Joshua Haigler, Eilis Hall-Thompson, Emilia Hinojosa Lopez, Zain Husain, Ziad Jandali, Amina Javeed, Aiza Junaid, Muhammad Thawab Looni, Aldrin Ortiz Lopez, Malak Magnin, Abdul-Fatah Maida, Ahmed Mustafa Malik, Myla Jai Martin, Deborah Mayaki, Saskia Melver, Alisha Memon, Liam Santiago Menning, Hibah Mirza, Muhammad Hassaan Mirza, Alisha Mokhtarudin, Mason Montjoy, Ali Mushtaq, Saad Naveed, Kayla Otoo, Anton Piuneu, Haili Renee Richardson, Hla Haytham Rizk, Ronik Roy, Lavan Saffour, Danielle Salako, Haajra Sami, Khawla Shaari, Ali Shoier, Iyanuoluwa Samharry Sobowale, Adam Sori, Drew Steenblik, Omar Tareg, Gabrielle Witt. Hassan Yousaf, and Tameem Zuaiter **Eighth Grade:** Yusuf Abdelrahman, Omaya Abdulbaki, Nahla Adlouni, Blessing Agor-Pius, Nyle Ahmad, Adam Akkad Salam, Shahd Al-Megdadi, Varvara Alexeyenko, Aayan Mahmood Ali, Avman Aljundi, Matthew Ammons, Nadia Arab, Suleman Awan, Hisham Aziz, Samira Baikelova, Jorge Andres Ballen Graffe, Sienna Grace Belaire, Amenah Benzaoui, Eshan Brohi, Abeer Fatima Bukhari, Abubacarr Camara, Benjamin Catuccio, Brent Coppage, Carter Beau Dille, Ibrahim Elwi, Hamza Faisal, Yahya Farooq, Kavitha Farr, Amr Fayed, Alexandra Flynn, Adnane Gribi, Madelyn Elisabeth Hales, Nael Hammou, Momin Hassan, Jul Henry, Tawaab Ali Babiker Ibrahim, Paul Jacob, Nora Jacobs, Judy Jandali, Connor Johnson, Khizar Juma, Madeline Kaiser, Dawood Kaleemi, Samara Kamal, Muhammad Sulayman Khan, Shrey Khare, Omar Khasawinah, Sana Khawaja, Manahil Syeda Khurram, Isaac Kinard, Ailsa Siobhan Lobban, Ani Hallel Joy Lowrey, Tiana Lund, Amal Chadi Maarouf, Mohammed Malik, Isla Hinemoa Milostic, Matab Saifelislam Mohamed Elhassan, Radya Musa, Ahmed Nagy Magdy Mahran Kamaleldien, Aayan Nanawati, Iman Amani Noor Chozin Ali, Aisya Zahira Nugraha, Samuel Chukwuemeka Nwachukwu, Gilbert Jeron Oduro, Derek Owumi, Saeed Rahman, Hadia Haroon Rasheed, Hamza Rashid, Fernando Regueral, Gabriel Roti, Joshua Ruesch, Ali Shair, Ainul Hageem Shamshudin, Muhammad Hadiff Sharizan, Raghav Sharma, Umar Shekha, Syailendra Axel Sinathrya, Nolan Smith, Ethan Alexander Stewart, Ava Corin Swensen, Alishah Syed, Abigail Tamalunas, Sebastian Kamal Aridi Taylor, Jason Treakle, Olivia Van Stone, Simra Waheed, Allison Willden, and Richard Zhan

Ninth Grade: Sarah Asif Ahmad, Joseph Anthony Auchterlonie, Amal Walid El Hajj, Ali Fawwaz, Liam Augustine Graves, Samuel Gutierrez, Muhammad Haq, Yasakha Gneiss Putra Husni, Wania Kamran, Mohammed Usman Khan, Camilo Ernesto Libreros Rios, James Salvador Menning, Khodr Minkara, Saira Naeem, Anasteisha Nor Mansor, Osasenaga Oziegbe-Ighodalo, Salma Ramzy, Natalia Itzel Samano Santos, Jeriel Andrei Santos, and Nathan Sevilla.

#### Honors (GPA: 3.0 - 3.49)

Seventh Grade: Abiodun Eric Adebayo Adewuya, Yara Al Basha, Chizara Alaneme, Diego Arias, Ekenedilinna Raphael Ayadiuno, Imad Eddine Belaifa, Zachary Burch, Daniel Del Carmen-Ju, Shada El Hajj, Ty Ellis, Malak Fethiza Tedjani, Sara Hussain, Hibah Iftikhar, Nathan Johnson, Calvin Law, Hafsa Mankour, Rokaya Musa, Cheryl Ng Zhen Yi, Samuel Paz, Jayesh Potnuru, Zeyad Ibrahim Ramadan, Carolina Rodriguez, Fares Sargis, Kshirin Sethi, Rida Shabbir, Alma Sutton, and Zakaria Trevathan

**Eighth Grade:** Muhammad Gagarin Akbar, Issah Sher Ali, Ethan Correa, Fatimah-Zahra Dhariwal, Ahmed Diallo, Andrew Divine, Rowan James DuPont, Benjamin Kaiser, Mia Rose Lindsey-Hauptman, Aidan Mohd Hardy, Hisyam Baihaqi Muldi, Zainab Haniya Parwez, Alberto Rodriguez, Owen Rogers, Ali Shalaby, and Amelia Anandini Windiarto

Ninth Grade: Hanan Alali, Yahya Alsheikh Kassim, Mohamed Jamel Bkathria, Ayan Dalal, Zaid Dawd, Camilo Daza, Malik Hassoun, Rayyan Jamal, Liana Abdalla Manai, Faris Shehata, Menaal Syed, and Angelina Turner. Adithi Ponnambalam, Jeanna Retanal, Hafiza Malak Satra, Sevani Somu, Hyochang Son, Lydia Swets, Noor Ulhaq, Valeria Chiquinquira Ustiola, and Eishita Yadav

Ninth Grade: Afnan Mohammed Bantwal, Averielle Cordoves, Abigail Ruth D'Souza, Emmanuel Naum Ginoski, Rodge Nicholas Feniz San Luis, and Naiya Shah.

#### High Honors (GPA: 3.5 - 3.9)

Seventh Grade: Ahmad Abbasi, Juno Barnes, Nathalia Barrero, Aaron Flores Burgos, Christian Angelo Castro Casilla, Manasa Ganugapenta, Aaryan Garg, Taekyu Hwang, Hangyul Mason Jo, Ayaan Khan, Sofia Alexandra Manzano Coronel, Esther Grace Maples, Maryam Masood, Yosif Mustafa, Halit Ozoktem, Abdul-Hadi Rana, Hamza Soliman, and Arham Zaheer

**Eighth Grade:** Kurtis Owen Brewster, Leo Guerrero, Haya Hijazi, Deekshita Imandi, Michael Alexander Laszlo, Dean Geoffery Maggs, Roxanne Meder, Maryam Motunrayo Olatunde, Ibrahim Muhammad Qureshi, and Nikole Tatiana Uribe Barrera

Ninth Grade: Muhammad Abdullah Abbasi, Thea Abi-Habib, Brooke Bachman, Heidee Grace Borbe, Lindokuhle Letsoko, Vin Mico Visaya Medina, Nile Angelo Manalac Montes, Miriam Morales Garcia, Rirhandzu Ngobeni, Anna Isabella Rebl, and Zakariya Sakhri.

#### Honors (GPA: 3.0 - 3.49)

Seventh Grade: Salma Agha, Mairdel Sameer Al Afghani, Jack Bachman, Tejavath Anushka Balaji, Jember Mae Hiwot Chaney, Tomas Giraldo Huertas, Larysa Hoffman, Mohammad Khurram, Michael Alexander McDaniel, Ibrahim Pena, and Muhammad Hassan Qamar

**Eighth Grade:** Mary Mabel Margaret Conzemius, Myles Charles Drummond, Torty Chinenye Kalu-Ulu, Evan Jacob Most, and Seyma Ozoktem

Ninth Grade: Alejandro Garcia Vera.

#### 'Udhailiyah School

#### Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.00)

Seventh Grade: Nadeen Abdulrahman, Jack Ashby, Fathir Atqia, Noora Haffejee, Akmal Mazlan, Sam McGuinness, Temitope Ogundare, Ishana Raj, Shashwat Rao, Ayaan Saad, Binita Shaw, and Arya Shirsat

**Eighth Grade:** Rianne Alghazali, Mostafa Donia, Krishna Dwarika, Fayez Farhan, Anais Giannopoulos, Samansa Hanabusa, Basma Jama, Savannah Jensen, Noah Olson, Mentallah Ibrahim El Sayed Salem, and Sharifah Mayada Syed Haizir

Ninth Grade: Antonina Jaromin.

High Honors (GPA: 3.5 - 3.9)

Seventh Grade: Maryam Mahomed, Rocio Oubina, and Luca Roetter Gresback

#### **Ras Tanura Middle School**

#### Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.00)

Seventh Grade: Rawan Mohamed Ahmed Ali, Hashem Al-Omari, Muhammad Abdurrehman Arshad, Ashbah Mohammed Bantwal, Rylie Bick, Dasiana Cioroba, Adam Dammad, Syed Huzaifa Hussain, Kyujin Jeon, Joon Hee Lee, Niamh McKeown, Rhiane Macapagal Padua, Maxwell Peach, Lojin Salem, Shruti Sutar, and Devadas Vinod

**Eighth Grade:** Adeeva Alli, Muhammad Hashim Arshad, Hannah Lynn Batiste, Brian Jesus Blanco, Max Breuer, Nathan Flores Burgos, Aria Carscadden, Sooyoung Choi, Akif Daniyal Choudhary, Ain Chung, Haiqa Ghaffar, Dhruvi Gohel, Zaid Goraya, Ashwanth Guru Raja, Rayan Khan, Aeesha Jeanne Saldivar Mayor, Howard Enhao Mei, Mahi Nanda, Isha Patel, **Eighth Grade:** Kanza Malik **Ninth Grade:** Camila Alfonzo and Salma Bilqish.

Honors (GPA: 3.0 - 3.49) Seventh Grade: Joaquin Sanchez Eighth Grade: Jacob Rowland Ninth Grade: Christllyan Tabas.

#### SAES Online School

Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.00) Seventh Grade: Ahmed Shadid Eighth Grade: Ana Sofia Garcia Mendez and Salihah Ayotomiwa Salu.

High Honors (GPA: 3.5 - 3.9) Seventh Grade: Jad Abu Agil, Muhammad Hayqal Sharizan, and Benjamin Weight Eighth Grade: Megan Diane Kenyon and Ibrahim Hisham Takkoush.

Honors (GPA: 3.0 - 3.49) Seventh Grade:

Eighth Grade: Abdullah Baig.

# garabian



Dhahran Community, serving residents for more than 80 years

see page 4

## Together we can end the pandemic: **Important COVID-19 vaccination update**

In line with the Ministry of Health (MOH) directives, Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) is pleased to offer second dose vaccinations to all vaccine eligible age groups of Aramco employees and their eligible dependents who have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at JHAH.

### Information about the second dose

#### How do I book an appointment for the second dose of the vaccine?

You can book your appointment using MyChart if you are registered for care at JHAH. You can also contact our call center at 800-305-4444 to book an appointment.

#### I want to know more

You can learn more about the COVID-19 vaccination and second dose appointments at: JHAH.com/CV19-Vax.





## The Dhahran Cricket Association announces activities



 As society begins to open up, through the Kingdom's successful rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and other health and safety measures, the Dhahran Cricket Association (DCA) is preparing to embark on an exciting set of sports and social activities for members of the Dhahran community.

have some fun. DCA hosts a wide planned an exciting array of ac-

dom and has plans to reach out which is fast-growing under the patronage of HRH Prince Saud Bin

Contact a member of the DCA board if you want to learn mor about DCA's activities. The DCA get further updates on DCA and by visiting www.dca4u.com. Any ban.thettu@aramco.com.

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With its vision to transform cricket within the Aramco community and beyond, the DCA invites all community members to come out and join the DCA family.

know that DCA provides a broad

- Beach/Desert BBQs

It is also worth noting that DCA



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