With restrictions now lifted ...
we must not become complacent in controlling COVID-19.

Do Your Part by
Wearing a Mask in Public

maintain physical distancing
of 2 meters at all times
return with safety
Let’s all protect ourselves and each other.

Each employee plays a critical role in the company’s commitment to safeguard our people and operations.

Please help protect yourself and your colleagues by reviewing and utilizing these critical resources.

aramco.com/covid
87-COVID
(013 872 6843)
Aramco has always taken the proper procedures and steps to ensure the safety and efficiency of their operations and employees. The global pandemic has affected everyone, with almost every company and place of work adapting to new requirements, much of which has been having employees work remotely. For much of the late spring and summer, all but essential employees—those whose presence is critical for business continuity—were included in a work from home policy.

Over that time, the work environment has shifted significantly to ensure both smooth operations and that the safety of employees is being considered. Gradually, and successfully, we have shifted toward a “new normal.”

Starting this week, the company welcomed back many employees, with now 75% of the work force expected to be in offices and work places Kingdomwide—another step toward the new normal. Regardless, whether employees were working from home or working at the office, taking the necessary precautions collectively has helped us reach to where we are today.

The Arabian Sun talked to a few of the returning employees, to capture their thoughts and feelings about returning to the office.

**Shahad A. Al Turki** expressed her excitement about returning to work after working remotely.

“When I was sent home on March 22, I immediately started working,” she said, noting that she was initially afraid of being quarantined—“just like everyone else.”

Being with the company over the past two-and-a-half-years, she worried that a new lifestyle and pace of work would be difficult to adjust to, especially not being able to physically meet colleagues and participate in face-to-face meetings. Even not being able to go out to lunch with friends during the break proved concerning.

Like all Aramcons, though, Al Turki showed resilience in the face of great change and adjusted to working from home, remaining productive while learning new ways to communicate with supervisors and colleagues virtually.

Still, returning this week has also gone smoothly. “Even though it feels like a drastic change, it is still nice to get back to a regular work routine,” she said. And with new company procedures in place to impede the spread of the virus, Al Turki has enthusiastically embraced the practice of physical distancing, wearing a face mask at all times, and washing and disinfecting her hands regularly.

“While there are no big physical gatherings, it is still nice to get back to a regular work routine,” she said.

In five-and-a-half months of working from home, Sunil P. Dalal had everything he needed to be productive. As far as his job duties, it seemed little had changed. So when he returned to work this week, it was a bit of surprise that the workplace wasn’t how he remembered it.

“Now that I’m back, I can see things have changed. But it’s all based on the company’s core value of safety. They encourage physical distancing. Our desks are set at safe distances from each other. We use Skype for meetings to avoid gathering in conference rooms. And in our group, we have moved to a paperless office. Rather than printing and handing out paper reports, which can spread the infection person to person, we send each other files electronically,” Dalal said.

“For us, it’s really a sign that Aramco has taken precautions for our safety. So I feel confident about what the company has done for us to be safe in the workplace,” he added.

Dalal said he understood the absolute need to take COVID-19 seriously, and he’s grateful that the company has been consistent with its messaging so employees know what is required.

“It’s important that we maintain the same practices we have learned over the past five-and-a-half months, now that we are returning to the office,” he noted.

**Bashier O. Bazuhair** said that she was worried and nervous about working from home at first.

“I was thinking, ‘How is this going to work out? It is going to be strange,’” she said with a laugh.

Contrary to what she first believed, though, working from home felt good, especially when Bazuhair considered the prospect of being exposed to the virus as numbers continued to rise across the Kingdom.

Instead, it was when she first returned to work last month that felt somewhat alien to her. “It felt strange not being able to socialize with my colleagues like before,” Bazuhair said. “The office was quiet in the beginning.

Now, though, as the majority of employees are back at work in the department—many that never left as they were necessary to maintain business continuity—she says it’s good to see them back and committed to practicing physical distancing.

“People are plenty of hand sanitizer stations for employees to use throughout the department,” Bazuhair noted. “And of course, everyone is wearing masks.

“We believe this pandemic taught us to be prepared in case we have to deal with something similar in the future,” she added.

**Karam S. Yateem** has been adjusting gradually to working in the office. When his city was placed on lockdown, he worked from home. And when the lockdown was lifted, he performed his duties with a mixture of working from home and office—with the majority associated with the latter.

And now as he is joined by more people in the office, he can see the importance of the precautionary measures that have been into place, making him comfortable with the return to work.

“The return of people being present at the office is happening throughout the company. This week, I am taking a course at the Upstream Professional Development Center, and I can see the precautionary measures being taken to continue learning and education in a safe environment,” Yateem said.

“As a company, we are following the instruction of our medical service providers, as well as complying with all Ministry of Health requirements. In our department, we have taken courses with Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare to deepen our awareness on how to stay safe,” he said, adding that this kind of information has been very useful to share among families and society in general.

Probably the biggest challenge for Yateem was adapting to the use of Skype for Business and conducting virtual meetings.

“Initially, this was used solely for our team meetings, but it then led to the discovery that virtual meeting tools can connect us more broadly across the company. We have been working on innovation projects with a Central Province Department of the Downstream Business Line, and Skype has given us the opportunity to expand our viewpoint. We would not have thought it feasible until we started utilizing these tools,” Yateem said.

**Shahad A. Al Turki**, group leader for Operational Excellence, Health, Safety and Environment in the Northern Area Production Engineering Department — with a mixture of working from home and offices and work places Kingdomwide — were included in a work from home policy.

As employees companywide return to work, they are reminded to follow proper safety procedures such as wearing a mask at all times and maintaining physical distance, as well as conducting meetings virtually when possible.

*(Photo: Mosaed Al Qattani/MPD)*

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Being with the company over the past two-and-a-half-years, she worried that a new lifestyle and pace of work would be difficult to adjust to, especially not being able to physically meet colleagues and participate in face-to-face meetings. Even not being able to go out to lunch with friends during the break proved concerning.

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Since its foundation in 1933, Aramco has acted as an inspiring example of community empowerment and social progress. A project that reflects the company’s values — excellence, safety, integrity, citizenship and accountability — in line with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 is an initiative that seeks to catalyze the potential of the Kingdom’s young talent pool.

In 2017, Aramco built an 18-floor “Knowledge Tower” in Dhahran called The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (also known as Ithra). Ithra, which means “enrichment” in Arabic, reflects Aramco’s vision to help the Kingdom’s ambition to transform into a knowledge economy.

The Center has played a critical role in encouraging creativity and innovation through an array of programs that help young generations develop new kinds of skills. This includes a landmark volunteering program — the success of which can be seen in the 60,000 hours from 1,500 volunteers provided in 2019 alone. In fact, Ithra’s volunteer programs offer thousands of enriching opportunities that help meet approximately 80% of its staffing needs.

Ithra is just one example of how Aramco generates opportunities that help make a positive impact on people and communities.

Recently, the company’s Industrial Security Operations Department initiated a volunteer program that saw 70 participants uniting to provide over 1,000 volunteer hours. It included employees’ family members from 16 to 25 years of age and created a platform to encourage social responsibility among high school and college students.

The volunteers covered social events, such as ‘Id and Saudi National Day where they were responsible for serving as ushers, fielding questions from the public, and maintaining a safe environment for the attendees. Apart from contributing to society, such programs allow volunteers to cultivate social skills through interaction with people of different ages and of different backgrounds.

As the world’s largest company, Aramco is proud of such programs and endeavors to act with purpose by mobilizing its resources to empower the next generation.
Employee engagement doesn’t occur by accident; it takes work. Some 13 participants recently celebrated that work as they graduated from the Downstream Development Academy’s “Pathway to Employee Engagement Program.” The nine-month program featured three separate three-day workshops and four one-on-one coaching sessions with coach and program facilitator Abdelbasit Ayoub.

from classroom to the workplace
Promoting staff engagement is critical for all of Aramco’s leaders, as it makes for passionate employees who are committed to their work. What the “Pathway” program does is to focus on skills that encourage such passion and commitment — first in the classroom, then with real employees.

Ultimately, the program’s goal is to help leaders drive results, create and sustain change, and develop and coach their employees. It uses a number of techniques. In one part, leaders videotape themselves in action, applying what they learned in the classroom with employees. Then, they review the session, reflecting with the instructor on how they’ve applied what they learned by taking note of such aspects as body language.

"Before this program, the business demands drove me to ‘tell’ people rather than ‘ask’ them about challenges," said Matter F. Otaibi, superintendent of the HR Division in the Ras Tanura (RT) Cluster Shared Services Department. "The program equipped me with a better approach that empowers employees to take action and grow."

the proof is in the employees
But what makes the program truly unique is how it measures the behavior change on participating leaders over the four to six months after they complete the program. Using a post-program 180 degree behavior survey assessment tool, 51% had dramatic positive change, 45% had significant positive change, 4% had slight positive change, and 0% had no change or a change for the worse — all of this as judged by their employees.

"This program helped me and my team in conducting effective conversation in a broadminded way," said Fahad A. Al Hamidi, acting superintendent of Area Maintenance at RT Refinery.

"The program showed me how to foster trust with the team. One methodology that has helped me personally is feedforward, which allows employees to give feedback and express leader areas of improvement in a respectful way," said Hashim A. Ben Selim, a supervisor from the Power Systems Engineering Department.

Graduating participants created their Individual Development Plan for the next 12 months based on their 180 degree behavioral for change survey report.

support from the top
Support from leadership is critical for any program, but especially so when it comes to one promoting engagement. Members of management included Fawwaz I. Nawwab, acting admin area head of Domestic Refining and NGL Fractionation; Mohammad A. Al Hatlani, acting admin area head of Pipelines, Distribution and Terminals; as well as managers of departments from different business lines showed their support during a ceremony recognizing the 13 program graduations.

"The best investment we can make is building our front-line leaders skills to lead a modern industrial workforce through extended leadership development programs like this one," said Hamad M. Qahtani, manager of the RT Clustered Shared Services Department.

Stay Safe at Work

Wear a mask when going to work and keep it on when you are with others

Wash your hands for 40–60 seconds or sanitize your hands for 20 seconds frequently during the day

Make all meetings virtual if possible

Keep at least two meters between yourself and others

Disinfect the surfaces you touch frequently

Practice non-contact greetings such as waving or placing your hand on your chest

Avoid gatherings and crowded spaces such as busy elevators and coffee rooms

If you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, contact your medical provider and stay home
helping where it counts: Aramco’s helping hand spans the globe

From the Americas to the Netherlands, to Singapore, Indonesia and Mongolia, employees have consistently given their time to help less fortunate and diverse communities and improve the environments they live in. Their inspirational, selfless dedication and humanity continues to enhance Aramco’s reputation as a responsible energy company around the globe. Today, some of them tell us about their activities and what drives them.

Saudia Arabia

Daud AlRayes, a Procurement Planner, The Hague, the Netherlands, has been actively involved in volunteering since 2016. Notably, he partici...
an oasis in summer
al-Hasa farms a welcome surprise for Eastern Province visitors

by Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

Al-Hasa — The summer heat of Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Province doesn’t generally портend places full of lush vegetation, but al-Hasa is one of those rare exceptions.

An oasis flush with palm trees, it features many sources of artificial canal irrigation that reaches private plots of land dedicated to agriculture. Inside these small farms, rich plantations survive even the difficult summer season.

Crossing the threshold of these farms, you enter avenues that enjoy intense plays of light and shade created by the intersection of the leaves of tall palm trees and sun rays filtering through from above, nourishing plants and offering shade for shelter and relief.

to everything, a season and purpose

Here, everything is ordered. The land is organized in squares that separate each crop. Plants are grown to a seasonal rhythm — fruits, vegetables, herbs, and spices. The scent of lemons and limes is pervasive as these are being harvested and left to dry.

Many paths flank the irrigation canals, and precariously narrow wooden bridges to the plots test your balance.

Farmers also dedicate themselves to breeding a variety of animals, including pigeons, chickens, sheep, goats, and cows. Rare birds also appear to be highly sought after in this area and are bred for this reason.

The more their plumage is refined, curled, convoluted, colored, the more their selling price increases.

Another beautiful ancient site is the Al-Ja’alaniah Mosque, which is currently under renovation. Excavations are being carried out in the area in front of the arches that lead to the place of prayer. Here, interesting finds of carved and painted ceramics have been found.

Proof that this art is ancient and has been handed down from generation to generation, still to this day. In fact, one can find nearby more recently produced handcrafted ceramics for sale including containers, vases, jars, candle holders, and incense burners.

The pottery wheel is at the center of the activity, and you can personally observe the processing. There is no shortage of more elaborate pieces, such as the traditional perforated candle holders, from which the light is projected in complex geometric shapes.

a bounty of Hasawi rice and smiles

The ripe rice must eventually have to be stripped of its outer skin. After months in storage, it can be cooked as a precious ingredient for a delicious kabsa. Its flavor is delicious, similar to that of a crunchy cereal, and a precious ingredient for a delicious kabsa. Its flavor is delicious, similar to that of a crunchy cereal.

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Men enter the waters by breaking the stagnation and placing the plants inside. A small tropical kingdom has been transplanted in the shade of palm trees and grows dense and prolific.

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Traditionally, they sing as they are lined up in a row to start their work, the arid ground crossed by cracks and fissures gradually filling up with water, flooding, and dissolving all these cracks. The water creates natural pools on which the sunlight reflects and breaks.

Rest during the hottest hours of the day, resuming in the afternoon until the evening.

Yet the faces of those who work are smiling.

This time, the squares into which the soil is partitioned are filled with water where the rice will be planted. These tufts of leaves that are inserted into the ground grow rapidly and multiply, becoming very dense. Here a second step is necessary to thin out the crop, transplanting them nearby.

This work is hard, as the job requires planters to immerse their feet in the water and be bent over for many hours. Workers wake up early in the morning so they can rest during the hottest hours of the day, resuming in the afternoon until the evening.

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Ithra launches 2020 Saudi Film Festival

The Saudi Film Festival has become a major catalyst for the Kingdom’s burgeoning film industry. Featuring premieres, workshops, and discussions, original content, panels, and films sessions. This year, the festival, which began on Tuesday, Aug. 4, focuses on celebrating and showcasing the Saudi film industry. For the first time, the screening portion of the event will be completely virtual, allowing for 24-hour access to this year’s 25 films. The festival is being held virtually.

Ithra launches 2020 Saudi Film Festival

Ithra launches 2020 Saudi Film Festival

For more about the Saudi Film Festival, Ithra’s film programs, and movies at the Ithra Cinema, visit www.ithra.com.

coming to a screen very near you

Eagerly anticipated by the community during the summer break, the ‘Udhailiyah Golf Match Play Summer 2020 Tournament was held from July 1 to Aug. 12 at Wadi Al Saeed Golf Course. Organized by the new golf pro Nishar Sewshankar, the tournament saw 20 golfers participate in the seven-week tournament. Due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing large gatherings, the golf team developed innovative ways in organizing the tournament to make sure all proper regulations were in place. The match play format was introduced by Sewshankar to encourage participation and sportsmanship.

a catalyst for a burgeoning industry

Launched in 2008, the Saudi Film Festival has developed into a major catalyst for the Kingdom’s burgeoning film industry. And since its inception, Ithra has developed into one of the Kingdom’s leading venues for film production houses.

sportsmanship, camaraderie, game improvement

The “five holes of summer play” against each other helped golfers focus more on their play and also learn to play under pressure. This added to game improvement, sportsmanship, and enhanced camaraderie at the club and in the community. Golfers appreciated the efforts of the golf operation staff (golf pro, supervisor, assistant supervisor, and greenkeepers) as the course played well, and staff members were always on hand at the event to ensure that the browns and the course were maintained. Certificates were awarded to all players and prizes in the form of a golf hamper, and trophies were given to the top four.

Golfers appreciated the efforts of the golf operation staff (golf pro, supervisor, assistant supervisor, and greenkeepers) as the course played well, and staff members were always on hand at the event to ensure that the browns and the course was maintained. Certificates were awarded to all players and prizes in the form of a golf hamper, and trophies were given to the top four. The golf club thanked the Recreation Services for the opportunity and to promote progress of golf in Udhailiyah. Mallick Nabeel was awarded a certificate of most improved player, having just started golf recently. Nabeel has reduced a 33 handicap to a 15, working hard on his game to show that practice definitely pays off.

A special appreciation went out to all golfers for their willingness to brave the summer heat to compete. Thank you for all the efforts.

Officials also thanked Edwin Pinet and Winston Akanata for providing the additional support and making sure that the tournament was administered smoothly. Thanks also went to the green keepers for always keeping the course in high condition and to the green keepers for always keeping the course in high condition. Thank you for all the efforts.

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‘Udhailiyah beats the summer heat with match play tourney

One of Ithra's leading features is the 300-seat state-of-the-art cinema and screening venue. The Ithra Cinema regularly presents new and compelling films from Saudi Arabia’s blossoming film industry, as well as documentaries, movies for kids, and popular and historical films.

well-being
caring for your health and wellness

Suffering from indigestion?
here’s a few rules on how to make it stop

Nearby everyone has had indigestion at one time or another, that feeling of discomfort or burning in your upper abdomen. You may have heartburn or bloating, causing you to belch or even vomit.

And as there are many causes of indigestion, avoiding certain foods and situations may help prevent it. Also, not eating too much too fast, eating high fat foods, eating while stressed, smoking, using some medicines, or even fatigue can cause indigestion or exacerbate it.

Also, sometimes it can be caused by digestive tract distress such as an ulcer.

Known as dyspepsia or having an upset stomach, indigestion isn’t a disease; it’s a group of symptoms. And though it is common, the way you experience it may be different than the way others do.

Some have symptoms daily, others only occasionally.

Symptoms
Indigestion may make you feel very full after a meal, and that fullness might last longer than normal. Or you may feel full after only eating a little bit.

Sometimes, people with indigestion also have heartburn — a pain and burning sensation in the middle of your chest. It may spread into your neck or back after or while eating.

Mild indigestion is usually not a cause for concern. Talk to your health care provider if discomfort happens for more than two weeks. Contact your health care provider right away if your pain is severe.

You should also contact your health care provider right away if your pain is accompanied by:
• Weight loss without trying or loss of appetite
• Repeated vomiting or vomiting with blood
• Black stools
• Jaundice
• Trouble swallowing that gets progressively worse.

Causes
Indigestion is most often caused by a person’s lifestyle, such as food and beverage choices. Other digestive conditions can also cause indigestion.

Indigestion is often caused by:
• Overeating
• Eating too quickly
• Fatty or greasy foods
• Spicy foods
• Too much caffeine
• Too much chocolate
• Too many carbonated beverages

Healthy lifestyle choices can help prevent mild indigestion. Eat smaller, more frequent meals. Chew your food slowly and thoroughly. Avoid triggers. If certain foods, beverages or behaviors trigger your indigestion, avoid them.

Maintain a healthy weight. Excess weight can put pressure on your abdomen. This pressure may push into your stomach and cause acid to back up into your esophagus.

Exercise can help you maintain a healthy weight and lead to better digestion. Try for 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity most days of the week.

Eliminate stress from your daily life, especially during meal time. Practice relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, and yoga. Spend time doing things you enjoy and get plenty of sleep.

Talk to your health care provider about medications you take to find out if any of them cause indigestion. With your health care provider’s approval, stop or cut back on pain relieving drugs that may irritate your stomach.

If lifestyle changes don’t help your indigestion, medications may help. Most are designed to reduce stomach acid, helping move food from the stomach to the small intestine.

Back in the office? Top tips on how to stay safe and protect yourself and others from COVID-19

Don’t pick up COVID-19 during your coffee break. Avoid resting your hands on countertops or tabletops in communal areas; germs can easily spread from a surface to a person.

Don’t make it awkward in the office. Be a responsible colleague; wear a mask at all times, and physical distance.

Crowded elevators put you and others at risk of infection. Adhere to the advised number of people per elevator, or avoid the elevator altogether and take the stairs for some exercise.

The average office desk is said to contain more germs than a toilet seat, meaning that many office workers could be at risk of sickness due to dirty desks. Keep your space and your hands clean.

When it comes to staying safe, a little distance goes a long way. Take the necessary precautions; stay 2 meters apart to ensure you and your colleagues are safe.

Holding on to a handrail when taking the stairs is an important safety measure. However, handrails are a “common area” surface and can easily spread germs. Avoid contact your hands above the railing, so they might ask you to do the same.

Don’t forget the 3 Ws to stop COVID-19 — wear a mask, wash or sanitize your hands, and watch your distance.


expanding in-person visits at JHAH

As a result of our ongoing assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic, Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) is pleased to offer more in-person care at its facilities. You can now choose your preferred type of visit, whether it’s a convenient video or telephone call, or a face-to-face visit in one of our clinics.

How can I book a Primary Care visit at JHAH?

You can book an in-person or video/telephone visit in MyChart, or by calling 800-305-4444 and selecting option 1 for appointments.

For more information on JHAH clinic visit options, visit jhah.com/appointments

As we continue to take precautions to protect against the spread of COVID-19, you will experience changes in how you book your visit with JHAH, and the preventive measures it takes at its facilities. Patients, staff and the community are JHAH’s highest priority, and it works tirelessly to do everything it can to keep them safe and healthy.

JHAH thanks you for helping maintain physical distancing in waiting areas and hallways.

You should also contact your health care provider right away if your pain is accompanied by:

• Jaundice
• Repeated vomiting or vomiting with blood
• Too many carbonated beverages
• Too much chocolate
• Too much caffeine
• Too much caffeine
• Overeating

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• Don’t pick up COVID-19 during your coffee break. Avoid resting your hands on countertops or tabletops in communal areas; germs can easily spread from a surface to a person.
• Don’t make it awkward in the office. Be a responsible colleague; wear a mask at all times, and physical distance.
• Crowded elevators put you and others at risk of infection. Adhere to the advised number of people per elevator, or avoid the elevator altogether and take the stairs for some exercise.
• The average office desk is said to contain more germs than a toilet seat, meaning that many office workers could be at risk of sickness due to dirty desks. Keep your space and your hands clean.
• When it comes to staying safe, a little distance goes a long way. Take the necessary precautions; stay 2 meters apart to ensure you and your colleagues are safe.
• Holding on to a handrail when taking the stairs is an important safety measure. However, handrails are a “common area” surface and can easily spread germs. Avoid contact your hands above the railing, so they might ask you to do the same.
• Don’t forget the 3 Ws to stop COVID-19 — wear a mask, wash or sanitize your hands, and watch your distance.


expanding in-person visits at JHAH

As a result of our ongoing assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic, Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) is pleased to offer more in-person care at its facilities. You can now choose your preferred type of visit, whether it’s a convenient video or telephone call, or a face-to-face visit in one of our clinics.

How can I book a Primary Care visit at JHAH?

You can book an in-person or video/telephone visit in MyChart, or by calling 800-305-4444 and selecting option 1 for appointments.

For more information on JHAH clinic visit options, visit jhah.com/appointments

As we continue to take precautions to protect against the spread of COVID-19, you will experience changes in how you book your visit with JHAH, and the preventive measures it takes at its facilities. Patients, staff and the community are JHAH’s highest priority, and it works tirelessly to do everything it can to keep them safe and healthy.

JHAH thanks you for helping maintain physical distancing in waiting areas and hallways.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER. All health and health-related information contained in this Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare company material is intended to be general in nature and should not be used as a substitute for a visit with a health care professional. The advice is intended to offer a general basis for individuals to discuss their health and medical conditions with their health care provider. Your health care provider should be consulted regarding matters concerning the medical condition, treatment, and needs of you and your family.

Become a patient at Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH)

Eligible Saudi Arabian employees and their dependents are invited to register for health care at JHAH.

For more information on how to change your registration, contact your local HR Service Center or visit HR Online, or speak the HR line below for detailed information.

HR line: 016000000

Abqaiq — To promote community spirit and creativity through art in Abqaiq, the Abqaiq Residential and Recreation Services Division (ARRSD) encouraged community residents to show their face painting skills and submit a photo of their masterpiece.

A variety of bright and colorful submissions were received, with two community residents being selected by ARRSD management as the competition winners. Recreation supervisor Mark Khoury presented gifts to Erum Rizvi and Marciel Managa for these joyful images of children in face paint.

Abqaiq school preparing for an activity called “You Oughta Be In Pictures” in 1983, which gave them a chance to produce their own commercials. The students wrote their own scripts, made their own props and did their own camera work.
Avast! There she goes ...

Furan Qidwai took this photo of a “miniature” Lego ship while visiting a Lego Land in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, with his family in 2018. Qidwai used his Canon EOS 2000D DSLR camera with default settings. Qidwai, who lives and works in Dhahran as a 3-D animation and graphic artist in the Media Production Department, has been with the company seven years.

Revisit the beauty of al-Hasa

From Al Fakhria Palace to the Al Ja’alaniah Mosque to the expansive rice plantations, the oasis of al-Hasa provides a bounty of surprises for visitors.

not exactly by the book

virtual story time popular in Abqaiq

by Masud Rana and Zoe Chipilin

Abqaiq — A young person’s love of reading and listening to stories cannot be deterred by COVID-19 restrictions. At least not in Abqaiq. The Abqaiq Residential and Recreation Services Division (ARRSD) has been conducting a regular online story telling program for dependents, hosted by the staff of Abqaiq’s Library. Story time takes place every Tuesday and Friday in both English and Arabic.

This virtual story time initiative looks to engage with community members while ensuring all precautionary measures are adhered to. The program has proven very successful with high participation and positive feedback. The library looks forward to welcoming its audience back to the library in the future, when it is safe to return.

In the meantime, the online sessions continue, and residents can visit the library reception to collect pre-reserved books to enjoy at home.

Library staff have worked hard during the pandemic to ensure that children’s love of reading and stories doesn’t wane with regular virtual story time sessions. Held in both Arabic and English, the library hosts the virtual story time every Tuesday and Friday, with hopes of welcoming back the audience to the library when it is safe to return. (Photo: Masud Rana)