



MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2021
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32°C/23°C

111,000 VISIT OMAN PAVILION AT EXPO 2020
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HM receives condolence cables from world leaders

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received condolence cables from a number of leaders, crown princes and senior officials of brotherly and friendly countries for the victims of tropical cyclone Shaheen.

In their cables, they expressed their heartfelt sympathies to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people. They prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed souls in peace in paradise, grant their families fortitude to bear the loss and protect the sultanate and its people against all harm.

His Majesty the Sultan received cables from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, President Dr Bashar al Assad of Syria, King Felipe VI of Spain, King Philippe of Belgium, Prince Mohammed bin Salman al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Meshal al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah, Deputy Emir and Crown Prince of Kuwait, and Sheikh Sabah Khalid al Hamad al Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait.

Efforts to provide relief continue

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Efforts are continuing across cyclone-affected areas in North and South Batinah with authorities and individuals working around the clock to make sure relief and aid reach flood victims.

The Royal Court Affairs (RCA), represented by its Volunteer Services Camp, received a convoy carrying aid sent by the Ahad Foundation on Saturday.

'The Volunteer Services Camp of the Royal Court Affairs in Seih al Rahmat in the wilayat of Suwaiq and Al Rahmat Square in the wilayat of Khabourah received a relief convoy sent by Ahad Foundation to support the affected families in the two wilayats,' a statement said.

On Sunday morning, additional manpower from Royal Oman Police's Special Task Force unit in Rustaq was sent to support the relief efforts. 'The dispatch of this cadre is part of the Royal Oman Police's support efforts for recovery from the tropical situation and ensure continuity in relief efforts,' ROP stated.

It continues to deploy its personnel to maintain law and order, organise and guide volunteers,



Over 90 per cent of work to restore electricity supply in North and South Batinah has been completed

and direct traffic of heavy vehicles and helicopters transporting supplies.

Meanwhile, over 90 per cent of work to restore electricity supply in the governorates of North and South Batinah has been completed, according to National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM).

'Subscribers are requested to contact call centres of the relevant electricity company if they have queries or complaints of electrical faults in their property,' NCEM stated.

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is building a temporary asphalt diversion to

divert traffic from a damaged section of the main road in Batinah in the Bidaya area of Suwaiq.

The quick response of the government, which helped reduce damages and alleviate suffering caused by the cyclone, has won accolades from officials and citizens alike.

'The damage is great and the destruction in affected areas is obvious but the efforts for a quick recovery is commendable,' said H E Sultan bin Salem al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

India looks to sign FTA with Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

India is looking to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman along with a number of other countries, the country's Commerce and Industry minister said on Saturday.

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, said that the government is negotiating FTAs with various countries and blocs, including the UK, UAE, Oman, Australia, Canada, EU, Russia and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), comprising Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, stated an official release from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Negotiations for the proposed FTAs with the UAE and Australia are "going full steam ahead" and officials of both sides are working on deadlines to conclude talks, Goyal said.

Last month, India and the UAE formally launched negotiations on the pact, officially called the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both sides have expressed desire to reach a mutually beneficial economic deal and aim to conclude negotiations by December 2021 and sign a formal agreement in March 2022.

India and Australia have also agreed to conclude the long-



pending FTA by the end of 2022 and an early harvest trade deal by as early as December. "We launched FTA negotiations with the UAE on September 22, and with Australia on September 30. Both are going full stream ahead," Goyal said.

According to the Indian Embassy in Muscat, bilateral trade between Oman and India during financial year 2019-2020 stood at US\$5.931bn, while bilateral trade in 2020-2021 (April 2020 to February 2021) was US\$4.63bn. There are over 4,000 India-Oman joint ventures in the sultanate with an estimated investment of over US\$7.5bn.

Oman, along with other GCC countries, is working to sign an FTA with the UK government, too. The UK on Friday started the process to sign a post-Brexit trade deal with the GCC countries.

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111,000 visit Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020



Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum (centre) at the sultanate's pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai

Muscat - As many as 111,706 people from different countries of the world visited the sultanate's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai over a period of nine days.

Besides viewing the investment opportunities available in the sultanate, visitors were treated to a marvellous visual display of modern technologies as well as the ancient heritage of Oman.

Visitors were treated to a visual display of modern technologies as well as the ancient heritage of Oman

Khalid Salim Zuhaimi, director of Oman's Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, said that the daily turnout stood at more than 12,400 and this, he said, is an excellent indicator during the first week.

Zuhaimi added that the num-

ber of visitors to the sultanate's pavilion may go up next month with improvement in the weather.

Some of the important personalities who visited Oman's pavilion include Dr Nayef Falah al

Hajraf, secretary general of the GCC, and his delegation, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, UAE, as well as a number of European dignitaries.

ONA



Sayyid Fatik receives chief of Saudi association for disabled

Muscat - Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar al Said received in his office on Sunday Dr Ammar Bogis, chairman of Al Erada Association for the Gifted and Disabled in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, Sayyid

Fatik conveyed the gratitude of His Majesty the Sultan to the guest for his sincere efforts in serving people with disabilities.

The meeting reviewed areas of cooperation and ways to enhance these between the authorities concerned in the sultanate

and Al Erada Association.

The meeting was attended by Laila Ahmed al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, Abdullah Saud al Enezi, Saudi ambassador to the sultanate, and members of the delegation accompanying the guest.

ONA

Oman, UK talk on free trade agreement

Muscat - H E Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received James Cleverly, Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa at the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, on Sunday who is currently visiting the sultanate.

The two sides discussed a number of existing areas of cooperation within the framework of the comprehensive agreement based on solid friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Both sides touched upon a number of joint economic and investment programmes and projects, in addition to cooperation in the field of public health



(Supplied photo)

and overcoming the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two sides expressed their keen interest in reaching a free trade agreement between the UK and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

At the regional and international levels, the two sides discussed efforts to end the war in Yemen, support humanitarian efforts, the situation in Afghanistan and the Iranian nuclear file.

FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Omantel along with Hutchison Ports Sohar and Huawei completes the first 5G smart port PoC in Middle East

The PoC involves utilising 5G in port operations for promotion of efficiency and security



Omantel, the leading integrated telecommunications services provider in the sultanate, has embarked upon a new package of smart ICT solutions that leverage the company's 5G capabilities and have the ability to revolutionise operations in Oman's oil and gas, logistics and transport sectors, which are vital for the country's sustainable economic growth.

In line with the MoU signed on March 10, 2021, Omantel along with Hutchison Ports Sohar and Huawei launched, under the patronage of H E Dr Ali bin Amur al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications in the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology the first 5G smart port PoC demonstration to showcase the result of first stage, aiming to provide highly reliable communication services and improve operational efficiency, accuracy, time management, and security, among other services.

Commenting on this, H E Shidhani said, "We are pleased to see the fruits of this cooperation between the three partners and the successful adoption of AI and 5G technologies in port operations. We are proud that the sultanate is leading the way in the Middle East and are confident that this will open the doors for future cooperation and adoption of 4IR technologies in different economic sectors in the sultanate."

Talal Said al Mamari, CEO of



Omantel, said, "We are very satisfied about PoC result in the 5G smart port which is also the first in the Middle East. Omantel's outlook is focused on

leveraging 5G infrastructure beyond network speed and efficiency. We believe 5G has a critical role in our economy and is key to our ongoing

economic transformation."

"Hutchison Ports is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator with a network of port oper-

ations in 52 ports spanning 26 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia. One of Hutchison Ports Sohar's strategic aim is to become fully automated and engage with customers, stakeholders, and the cargo in the safest and highly efficient manner, which required Hutchison to continuously invest in automated equipment's and technologically advanced systems and apps for constant service enhancements. This is a creative start to combine 5G and AI technologies with Omani industry. And it is the first 5G smart Port PoC in the Middle East," said Anacin Kum, chief executive officer, Hutchison Ports Sohar.

Robin Chen, CEO of Huawei Oman, noted, "Omantel and Hutchison Ports Sohar are both leading players in their respective industries. 5G network infrastructure is not only an evolution in the consumer segment but also drives changes and improvements in many vertical industries. We are very proud to be part of the tri-party cooperation, which is the first in GCC to demonstrate the advancement that

5G can bring to ports. We hope this can open doors to more opportunities in introducing 5G to reshape and upgrade vertical industries of Oman."

Under the first PoC, six functions were successfully tested by utilising 5G with artificial intelligence (AI). This will allow real-time surveillance of many parts of the port's operations, such as white/black list recognition, intrusion detection/loitering, crowd density and 4K monitoring. Other benefits include leveraging AI for HSE compliance and meeting future cost optimisation goals. These technologies can be deployed in other port operation management scenarios and crane management, etc.

Maintaining its position as the sultanate's most trusted ICT and digitisation partner, Omantel will use this PoC as a springboard to further build and diversify its 5G capacities.

The launch is a demonstration of Omantel's commitment towards its enterprise customers for enabling them to embrace Industry 4.0. And with the guaranteed success of the PoCs, Omantel creates a lasting customer relationship based on its superior ICT infrastructure and efficient service delivery.

Omantel is the sultanate's first and leading integrated telecommunications services provider, enabling the digital society to flourish, allowing new ways of doing business and delivering a world of information, news and entertainment.

While striving to ensure optimum customer satisfaction, Omantel plays a key social role to provide the required support and subsidy to all sectors of the Omani society.



Volunteers continue to support people of Batinah

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A massive effort continues to support the cyclone-hit people in the wilayats of Suwaiq, Khabourah and Mussanah.

Among many other efforts, the Barka Charity Team launched several initiatives to support the people of Batinah in which more than 400 volunteers participated. Speaking to *Muscat Daily*, Ibrahim Abdullah al Wahabi, head of Barka Charity Team, informed that on Friday, more than 200 volunteers and three trucks loaded with food and cleaning supplies headed to Suwaiq. "Volunteers offered food and water to victims of Shaheen and helped in cleaning homes inundated with floodwaters and mud," Wahabi said.

He added that on Saturday, 200 female volunteers headed to the Khabourah to support the women of the wilayat and offer them kitchen and household needs, including cooking utensils and diapers for infants.

"Barka Charity Team has launched another initiative to provide shelter to families who were affected by the cyclone in cooperation with a few businessmen in Suwaiq and Khabourah. The team currently has three rooms in a hotel and three apartments in a building free for any family in need," Wahabi said.

"The cyclone proved that we are one people united for whatever challenges our nation faces. Volunteers need to work hard in order to succeed."



(Supplied photos)



Habbat Dhofar

A campaign has been started in Dhofar to collect funds and essentials for those affected by the cyclone. Ali Akak, a citizen of

Dhofar, informed that people of the governorate - in cooperation with businessmen and private companies - launched an initiative called Habbat Dhofar on

Sunday. The campaign includes 70 trucks of food items and RO100,000 to buy electrical appliances for the people of Batinah.

Six electricians

A private company in Barka has launched an initiative to repair electrical appliances and provide support to the people of Khabourah and Suwaiq.

Al Mutasim al Maawali said, "We launched the initiative to support families in the affected areas. We are offering the assistance of six electricians to people in the affected wilayats. Any citizen who needs help to fix any appliance can contact us through 97888738."

School supplies

Adel al Ghilani, an official of a joint committee for volunteers in the office of the Wali of Sur, said, "We have launched three initiatives in cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development. On Wednesday, we sent four trucks loaded with food and water to the people of Suwaiq, Khabourah and Mussanah.

"On Friday, more than 200 volunteers headed to these wilayats to participate in clean-up activities to remove debris left behind by the cyclone."

Another campaign started on Sunday, Ghilani informed, focuses on helping school students. The four-day campaign will provide school supplies, including stationery and bags, for students in areas affected by Shaheen. "We will continue to support the people of Batinah. We call on everyone to continue to cooperate until life returns to normal in those areas."



H E Dr Laila bint Ahmed bin Awad al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, visited Suwaiq and Khabourah on Friday (Supplied photo)

238 people in two shelters; 1,000 shifted to apartments

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A total of 238 cyclone-hit individuals continue to avail the facilities of two shelters in the wilayats of Suwaiq and Khabourah, while over 1,000 have been accommodated in apartments according to Hamoud bin Mohammed al Mundhiri, spokesman of the Ministry of Social Development's Relief and Shelter Sector.

Speaking to *Muscat Daily*, Mundhiri said, "Around 5,300 people are registered in shelter centres in the wilayats affected by cyclone Shaheen."

According to Mundhiri, the Relief and Shelter Sector has shifted 1,074 cyclone-hit individuals of 225 families to apartments in the wilayat of Sohar.

Additionally, Relief and Shelter Sector teams are working around the clock to help those affected by Shaheen.

"The shelter centres cooperate with volunteer teams and the private sector in supporting people of the affected areas. The volunteer teams provide food and water, and remove debris of the

cyclone from inside the homes of citizens. The Ministry of Social Development has prepared teams to coordinate and assess the families affected by Shaheen and give them RO1,000 as immediate help," Mundhiri informed.

"Specialists from the Ministry of Social Development are visiting the homes of citizens to assess damages and obtain the identity cards of house owners and their bank details to process payments. Specialists also provide assistance to residents, including food and water."

The Relief and Shelter Sector has called on those whose homes have been affected by the cyclone to register their data via the link <https://www.mosd.gov.om/indexp.php/ar/shaheen>

Mundhiri noted that the people of the sultanate have proved that they stand united in solidarity with the ones affected by the cyclone. "People came from everywhere to support the people of Suwaiq, Khabourah and Mussanah. Volunteering is a humanitarian work that helps unite members of society."

Workshop conducted to boost industrial sector

Our Correspondent
Muscat

To stimulate the industrial sector and attract investors, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) began a workshop on Sunday.

The workshop aims to stimulate and develop the industrial sector, discuss the challenges facing the sector and find solutions to these, an official said.

"It also looks at exchanging experiences and ideas with the relevant authorities in the industrial sector. It will issue some recommendations to support the sector," he added.

Zahra al Siyabiya, director of the Industrial Development Department at MoCIIP, said Industrial Strategy 2040 discusses the industrial reality and identifies promising opportunities and sec-



(Supplied photo)

tors that would provide a strategic direction for the development of the manufacturing sector.

"The strategy has identified some of the challenges facing the industrial sector. The strategy, in cooperation with some responsible parties, has also developed some initiatives that will find a solution to the challenges facing the sector," she said.

Meanwhile, the number of

transactions completed by MoCIIP and submitted through the Invest Easy electronic portal during the second quarter of 2021 reached 166,775, up by 420 per cent, compared to 32,055 transactions in the same period last year.

The increase is due to the tendency of investors to conduct their transactions through Invest Easy, MoCIIP stated.

H E NU'AMANI RECEIVES BRITISH MINISTER



H E Gen Sultan Mohammed al Nu'amani, Minister of Royal Office, received in his office on Sunday James Cleverly, British Minister of State for Middle East and North Africa at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The meeting came within the framework of interest attached by the sultanate to regional and international issues. The guest expressed his appreciation of the sultanate for enhancing means of cooperation to achieve both countries' joint interests (ONA)



SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF HEALTH




Notice (Auction No.1/2021)

The Ministry of Health would like to invite sealed bids for the Lease for Cafeteria of Catering Services to all the Students and Staff at Oman College of Health Sciences in Al-Wattiyah, in Muscat Governorate. Offers should be submitted in sealed envelopes.

Specialized Companies and establishments may collect the documents and specifications of this Auction from the Directorate of Purchase & tenders at General Directorate of Financial Affairs at Ministry's Headquarters in Al Khuwair between 8.30am and 12.30 pm during official working hours on or before 13/10/ 2021.

A Bank Guarantee or a Certified Cheque valid for 90 days issued by a local bank for (1%) of the Auction Value addressed to Ministry of Health shall be enclosed with the bid as an auction bond that may be reimbursed to unsuccessful bidder. A bid unaccompanied by the auction bond will be rejected.

Offers enclosed in the sealed envelope duly signed and stamped in the original form shall be addressed to H.E. the Chairman of the Tender Committee providing the title of the auction Viz: "Auction No. 01/2021/RO – for the is clearly mentioned on it. Envelopes shall not bear any sign that refers to bidder's name or identity.

Offers shall be deposited at Purchase and Tender in Directorate of Financial Affairs by on or before **9: 00 am on Wednesday, the 20/10/2021**. Offers submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The Ministry is not bound to assign any reason for rejected bids

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Source: xe.com

BRIEFS

Samsung forecasts near-30% jump in Q3 operating profit

South Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics defied the global supply chain challenges to forecast a near 30 per cent jump in third-quarter operating profits.

The world's biggest smartphone maker said it expected its operating profits to reach around 15.8tn won (US\$13.3bn) in a regulatory filing, up 27.9 per cent year-on-year.

Samsung Electronics estimated sales for the July-September period at 73tn won, up 9 per cent year-on-year - a record for any quarter, a spokeswoman said.

Coronavirus-driven working from home has boosted demand for devices powered by Samsung's chips, as well as home appliances such as televisions and washing machines.

'GCC banks demonstrated resilience to COVID crisis'

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Banks in the GCC countries have demonstrated strong resilience to the COVID-19-related economic slowdown due to Gulf central banks' unprecedented interventions, according to S&P Global Ratings.

The global ratings agency in a report said that banks in the GCC region hope the worst is over as the economic recovery has started. 'We believe banks in the GCC have demonstrated resilience to the COVID-19-related economic shock and last year's sharp decline in oil prices. Western and local central banks' unprecedented interventions, which took the form of liquidity injections and regulatory forbearance measures, helped cushion regional banks from wider uncertainty and masked the true hit to their asset quality indicators,' S&P said.

A gradual recovery in private sector economic activity, supportive public sector demand for credit, and higher oil prices have also helped amortise the impact on GCC banks, S&P added.

The ratings agency noted that non-performing loan (NPL) ra-



S&P says 82 per cent of its outlooks on GCC bank ratings are stable at present, mirroring the banks' resilience to the COVID-19 shock and an improving macroeconomic forecast

tios increased only 20 basis points for the top 45 GCC banks between year-end 2020 and June 30, 2021.

'We expect the NPL ratio to rise in the next 12-24 months without exceeding 5-6 per cent, compared with 3.8 per cent at June 30, 2021, as forbearance measures are gradually withdrawn and the pandemic's impacts on weaker businesses are

laid bare,' S&P added.

After an improvement in the first-half of 2021, S&P expects GCC banks' profitability to stabilise in 2021-2022. 'Lower cost of risk and good efficiency will likely compensate for a lower but stable margin of 2.4 per cent over the same period. Return on assets will therefore also stabilise at 1.0-1.2 per cent, below historical levels but higher than

the 0.8 per cent for the top 45 banks in the region last year.'

'In our view, GCC banks will continue to leverage Fintech opportunities, move staff to cheaper locations, and cut physical branches to reduce costs,' the ratings agency added.

S&P noted that 82 per cent of its outlooks on GCC bank ratings are stable at present, mirroring the banks' resilience to the COVID-19 shock and an improving macroeconomic forecast.

'Downside risks include a lower oil price than we expect, an escalation of geopolitical risks, and new pandemic concerns such as the emergence of more contagious or vaccine-resistant variants,' it said.



OPAZ launches electronic land selection service

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has announced the launch of an electronic land selection service for investors in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

Introduction of the new service reflects OPAZ's efforts to facilitate and expedite procedures for investors in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, reduce the time and effort, and ensure transparency and fairness for all investors in the zone.

OPAZ is also planning to extend this service during the coming period to include other free zones, according to a press statement.

The electronic land selection service allows investors to select the plot of land directly as soon as an investor determines the type of project and the required space of the plot. Based on the application's details, the system displays the vacant plots in the masterplan for investors via the Geographic Information System (GIS), which has become one of the modern technologies used in

achieving governance of procedures.

The new service assists the investor to easily make the investment decision by selecting the appropriate location of the land while providing a spatial description that reinforces the decision.

Moreover, the e-service is distinguished by allowing investors to select the plot of land in interactive maps for more than 800 different economic activities. It also brings other features, including: The possibility of measuring the distance between the selected land and the key landmarks in SEZAD, providing accurate information about the level of land's altitude above sea level, merging joint lands, getting full measurements of lengths and spaces, determining the geographical location coordinates, and sharing the approximate distance of the land from the nearby utilities such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and roads.

Investors can access the newly launched service through the digital portal (eoss.duqm.gov.om) from all over the world.

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Please email your listing to dailyclassifieds@apexmedia.co.om or call 99104346



CBO and NCFI sign cooperation programme

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and the National Center for Financial Information (NCFI) have signed a cooperation programme to collaborate on significant aspects of Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT) laws.

The programme was signed by H.E. Tahir Salim al Amri, executive

president of the Central Bank of Oman, and Lt Col Abdulrahman Amer al Kiyumi, executive president of the National Center for Financial Information, the CBO said in a statement on Sunday.

The cooperation arrangement aims to enhance collaboration between the two entities on matters related with exchanging of AML-CFT information, and ensuring effective implementation of AML-CFT laws in Oman.

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OECD hails 'major victory' as global tax holdouts join reform

Paris, France – A global push to enact a minimum international tax on big corporations moved closer to reality on Friday and Saturday as one of the last holdouts, Hungary, agreed to join a reform that now counts 136 countries.

The OECD-brokered deal, which sets a global tax of 15 per cent, is aimed at stopping international corporations from slashing tax bills by registering in nations with low rates.

"Today's agreement will make our international tax arrangements fairer and work better," said OECD secretary-general Mathias Cormann. "This is a major victory for effective and balanced multilateralism."

Hungary's announcement came a day after another key opponent, Ireland - whose low tax rate has attracted the likes of Apple and Google - relented and agreed to join the global effort.

With Hungary, 136 countries representing 90 per cent of global gross domestic product have now signed up, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said. Estonia also joined the reform on Thursday.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday also hailed



People pass the offices of Google in the business and financial sector of Dublin City Centre, Ireland (AFP)

the 'historic' agreement of 136 countries on setting a minimum tax rate for multinationals as a major advance in fiscal justice.

"For four years, we have been working for fair taxation of multinationals and digital giants," Macron said on Saturday.

"The tax agreement reached at the OECD is historic. Every multinational company will have to pay a minimum of 15 per cent tax. This is a major step forward for tax justice," the French President tweeted.

The OECD said Kenya, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are the last holdouts among 140 countries that have negotiated the tax. Pakistan had been on a previous list of signatories.

The organisation said countries are aiming to sign a multilateral convention in 2022, with an eye on implementing the reform in 2023.

'Historic moment'

The years-long talks received a boost earlier this year when the

administration of US President Joe Biden backed a global minimum tax rate of at least 15 per cent.

The pandemic added urgency to the reforms as countries need new sources of revenue to pay for huge stimulus programmes that were deployed during last year's global recession.

"Today's agreement represents a once-in-a-generation accomplishment for economic diplomacy," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said.

"As of this morning, virtually the entire global economy has decided to end the race to the bottom on corporate taxation," Yellen said.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen called it a 'historic moment', saying 'all companies have to pay their fair share'.

The Brussels-based Computer and Communications Industry Association welcomed the deal.

It was a step 'to ensure that the international tax rules reflect today's global economy', the CCI's vice president Christian Borggreen said in a statement.

Facebook said it was 'pleased to see an emerging international consensus'.

The Hungarian government said in a statement that it agreed to join the global tax after securing concessions including a transitional period of ten years for a special rate to remain in place.

Hungary has a 9 per cent tax rate, even lower than Ireland's 12.5 per cent.

"A compromise has come about that we are able to join wholeheartedly," Hungarian Finance Minister Mihaly Varga said. AFP

MSX rises 0.17%; volumes surge

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The benchmark index of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) rose 0.17 per cent to close at 3,969 points on Sunday.

Trading activity improved from the previous session as turnover jumped by 895.49 per cent to RO9.31mn and volumes surged 237.77 per cent to 19.92mn shares.

While Services index fell 0.63 per cent, Financial and Industrial indices rose 0.21 per cent and 1.69 per cent, respectively. The MSX Shariah index closed up by 0.6 per cent at 580.93

points.

Market breadth remained positive as 16 companies closed up, while 11 companies closed down. The rest 17 traded stocks closed flat for the day.

Top gainers were Al Jazeera Steel Products (8.05 per cent), Galfar Engineering & Contracting (5.26 per cent), Oman Flour Mills (4.21 per cent) and Oman Cement (3.03 per cent).

Top losers were Al Hassan Engineering (-16.67 per cent), Vision Insurance (-4.94 per cent), Renaissance Services (-2.56 per cent) and Taageer Finance (-2.5per cent).

Reliance buys REC Solar

Mumbai, India - Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani's Reliance conglomerate has bought Norway-based REC Solar from China National Bluestar for US\$771mn, the firm said as it expands into the green energy sector.

The oil-to-telecom giant pledged in June to invest US\$10bn in renewable energy over the next three years - one of several big firms moving into the industry as the South Asian giant

pushes to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Reliance said the purchase would open up opportunities in key green energy markets such as the United States, Europe, Australia and Asia.

"It (buying REC Solar) will enable India to become a world leader in green energy transition to overcome the climate crisis," Ambani said in a statement. AFP

TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) Announce the following Tender:

Sr.No	Tender No.	Tender Name	Last Date for Obtaining Tender Documents	Closing Date	Grade	Tender Document's Fees (Including VAT) (RO)
1	52/2021 (Extended)	Provision of Website Hosting of (www.omangrid.com) with AMC for 3 Years	14/10/2021	09/11/2021	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	105,000

Participation:	Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity of sending a valid Tender Board certificate in the same required field.
Buying the Tender:	The documents required for the purchase of the tender are sent by e-mail to the Tenders, Procurement and Contracts Department, to ensure the authenticity of the documents before purchasing the tender through the official working days of the hour from 8.00 am - 01.00 pm .
Fees:	Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document.(Payment Through Bank Transfer)
The deadline for clarification:	Before (21) Days from closing date.
Submission:	Each bid should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope addressed to The Chairman of tender committee mentioning Tender Number and Name on the top of the envelope.
Terms and conditions:	- No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope. - The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from closing date. - The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from closing date, addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC). - Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted. - OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.
Offer:	The complete bid documents should be deposited in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.
Company Address:	Muscat - Al Mawaleh Road No: 2153 - Building No. 423 O Block No: 321 - Contact Details: 92217856
Email Website:	tenders@omangrid.com www.omangrid.com



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P.O. Box 1389, Al Khoudh, PC 132, Sultanate of Oman
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إعلان طرح مناقصات

تعلن الشركة العُمانية لنقل الكهرباء عن طرح المناقصة التالية :

م	رقم المناقصة	عنوان المناقصة	آخر موعد للحصول على مستندات المناقصة	آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات	الدرجة	لنقل الكهرباء
١	٢٠٢١/٥٢ (تجديد)	توفير خدمة استضافة الموقع الإلكتروني (www.omangrid.com) مع عقد صيانة لمدة ثلاث سنوات	٢٠٢١/١٠/١٤	٢٠٢١/١١/٠٩	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول	١٠٥ / ٠٠٠

الاشتراك	يمكن للشركات والمؤسسات المتخصصة الحصول على مستندات المناقصة مع ضرورة ارسال شهادة مجلس المناقصات سارية المفعول وفي نفس المجال المطلوب .
طريقة الشراء	يتم إرسال المستندات المطلوبة لشراء المناقصة عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني إلى دائرة المناقصات والمشتريات والعملاء . وذلك لتأكيد من صحة المستندات قبل شراء المناقصة وذلك من خلال أيام العمل الرسمية من الساعة ٨:٠٠ ص - ١:٠٠ م .
الرسوم	مقابل دفع المبلغ المحدد أعلاه للنسخة الواحدة - لا ترد (الدفع عن طريق التحويل البنكي)
آخر موعد للاستفسارات	قبل (٢١) يوم من تاريخ آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات
تقديم العروض	تقدم العروض في مغاريب مغلقة ومعنونة بإسم رئيس لجنة المناقصات مع تحديد رقم وعنوان المناقصة فقط
الشروط و الضمانات	- عدم تحديد اسم صاحب العطاء أو ما يشير إليه على المظروف. - أن تكون العروض سارية المفعول لمدة لا تقل عن (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ تقديم العطاء . - إرفاق تأميناً في صورة ضمان مصرفي من أحد البنوك العاملة في البلاد قدره (1٪) من قيمة العطاء ساري لمدة (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ تقديم العطاء . ومعنونة بإسم الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء . - كل عطاء لا يستوفي التأمين المطلوب لن ينظر فيه . - الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء غير مقيدة بقبول أقل العروض أو أي عطاء آخر.
العرض المقدم	يجب وضع العروض في صندوق المناقصات رقم (١) بمبنى الشركة قبل الساعة ١١ صباحاً من التاريخ المحدد لتقديم العطاءات.
عنوان الشركة	عنوان الشركة: محافظة مسقط - الموالح رقم المسكة ٢١٥٣ - مبنى رقم ٤٢٣ - تفاصيل التواصل: ٩٢٢١٧٨٥٦
البريد الإلكتروني	tenders@omangrid.com
الموقع الإلكتروني	www.omangrid.com



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Alizz Islamic Bank launches Sharia'a awareness inititiative

In continuation of its pioneering role in launching initiatives that serve the community, Alizz Islamic Bank has announced the launch of the 'Manar Alizz' Sharia'a awareness initiative, on October 12, at the Grand Millennium Muscat Hotel, under the patronage of Taher bin Salem bin Abdullah al Omari, executive president of Central Bank of Oman.

The ceremony will be attended by their highnesses and excellencies, CEOs of various companies and institutions in Oman, members of the bank's Board of Directors and the Shari'a Supervisory Board.

The launch of the 'Manar Alizz' initiative comes as an umbrella programme for Alizz Islamic Bank for cultural awareness of Islamic economics and the Islamic banking sector services.

This initiative constitutes one of the roles of Alizz Islamic Bank to enhance the bank's sustainable and strategic knowledge, which aims to serve different segments, whether from inside or outside the sultanate, such as researchers conducting research studies, university students, educational institutions, various entities, and the public in general.

'Manar Alizz' initiative aims to spread awareness about the Islamic economy and its developmental role, introduce the role of Islamic banks in the sustainable economy, and provide researchers and scholars with important knowledge related to the Islamic banking industry overall and the Omani experience with regards to Islamic banks.

It also invites researchers and



scholars from outside the sultanate to get acquainted with the Omani experience of Islamic banking, educating the various segments of society with Islamic banking products, urging banking innovation, and enabling the bank's experts to contribute knowledge, each in its specialisation, and other objectives that stem from achieving benefit mainly for the community.

Commenting on this upcoming event, Sulaiman bin Hamad al Harthi, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, said, "It is customary in all situations to distinguish between theory and practice. Since application requires immediate and direct action, this is what we seek by launching this initiative. As we all participate in performing a great service for this dear country and continue to persevere in strengthening the relationship between Alizz Islamic Bank and the various segments

of society, we aim to achieve the maximum benefit and broadcast awareness about Islamic banking and the services and products accompanying the sector. What matters is not the names, but the goals that we will all achieve, God willing, through 'Manar Alizz'.

Harthi added, "We always strive to facilitate customer needs, and to overcome what is difficult, by innovating various methods, systems and initiatives that achieve benefits for the community before the bank, and we will not stop here. By extending its services and products to people wherever they are, at Alizz Islamic Bank we are committed to supporting the growth and prosperity of our communities. We believe that we have a responsibility to give back and bring about positive change in the communities in which we live and work, recognising that when communities thrive, so do individuals and businesses."

The 'Manar Alizz' programme is an awareness initiative that is based on diversifying its activities between conferences, workshops, meetings and lectures; and hosting researchers, scholars and university students locally and internationally. Both directly and indirectly, the role of Sharia'a contracts is to enrich the Islamic banking experience and other topics related to Islamic banking.

Alizz Islamic Bank seeks to provide innovative products and an enriching experience, whether for the bank's customers or the community in general, and providing an exceptional customer experience remains the main focus of the bank's strategy.

Self-employed insurance provides occupational stability

It is noticeably that self-employment and entrepreneurship system has received the attention of individuals and stakeholders; considering the benefits and the rapid economic progress that this sector have, which support other sectors to contribute in production and commercial competency in the country. The Social Insurance Scheme for Self-Employed Omanis and Alike issued as part of the strenuous efforts to expand insurance coverage and provide occupational stability for insured person in the sector. Where this scheme is a complement to the insurance schemes and programmes applied in the social insurance system, and registration in this scheme is optional. Kawthar Ali al Rumhi, registration supervisor at the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), talks more in details about this scheme and its importance.



law, and participation in it is optional and not compulsory.

Covered risks

Once participating in this scheme, the insured person is covered against the risks of old age (retirement age), disability and death that the insured is exposed to during his life. Otherwise, this scheme does not include insurance against risks such as work injuries and occupational diseases in the meantime, due to the difficulty of proving work injury for this type of risks because the business owner practices business in his way. However, we do not exclude that the law shall cover work injuries if there is the possibility of doing so at a later stage of application of the scheme.

The scheme

The scheme of self-employed Omanis and alike came along with the insurance coverage expansion phase. It is a social insurance scheme issued by Royal Decree No (44/2013), and its provisions apply to self-employed Omanis and their alike, in the sultanate. The scheme directly contributes to providing a socially secure environment for insured person from the category of business owners and professionals, which is one of the fundamentals that guarantee individual's right to reach the stage of eligibility for insurance benefits in order to serve as a social protection that contributes to the stability of both individuals and community.

Entitlement conditions

To register in the scheme, there are conditions that must be met by the business owner, including what was stated in Article (6) and Article (22) of the Social Insurance scheme for Self-Employed Omanis and Alike. First, the provisions of this scheme do not apply to the insured person benefiting by the pension and social insurance laws and schemes already promulgated by Royal Decrees. Second, the age of the insured person must not be less than 18 years, and not more than 60 years on registration in this scheme. Moreover, the procedural condition for registration is the medical fitness of the insured person to work and proven that by submit a recent and certified medical certificate from authorized centers of the Ministry of Health.

The insured person is eligible to apply for a retirement pension if the insured male reaches the age of 60, or the insured female reaches the age of 55 and they have a contribution period of no less than 180 months for men and 120 months for women. Indeed, it is eligible also to apply in case the activity of the insured persons ends before they reach the retirement age, and they have a contribution period in this scheme.

The scheme includes businessmen, lawyers, doctors, engineers, accountants, auditors and those practising other private professions. As well as, those who practise trade, industry, economic or financial activity, and others who carry out business or services on their own, and must be registered under the Commercial Register Law. Except for public shareholding companies, and those who practise trades on their own such as fishing, farming and public service car driving.

Optional scheme

The social insurance scheme for self-employed Omanis and alike, is a complementary scheme to the insurance schemes and programs applied in the social insurance

Renaissance launches next-gen leadership programme

Renaissance Services, Oman's leading services solutions company, has introduced the Renaissance Accelerated Learning Initiative (RALI), an intensive programme aimed at grooming talented young Omanis as future managers. RALI was launched on September 20 at the company's head office with CEO Stephen Thomas introducing the inaugural batch of 11 trainees to the company's operations and values.

As a responsible private sector entity focused on Omanisation and ICV, Renaissance has aligned RALI with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 which emphasises driving positive local impact and creating an indirect value chain by enhancing the skills and employability of young Omanis.

Welcoming the trainees on board, Stephen said, "Good or

organisations will always value the fresh ideas, energy, innovations, and disruptive approach that young talent brings with it. RALI is also aligned with Renaissance 2.0, a move towards grooming the next generation of leadership, and young Omanis like these will lead the company to greater heights."

Under the eight-month intensive programme, this group will be equipped with essential skills along with on-the-job experience through rotational deputation in Renaissance's various departments and its sites of operation across Oman, including Renaissance Village Duqm.

Renaissance partnered with Competence HR, a leading HR and management development consultancy, to invite, screen, select and train candidates for this initiative. The benchmarks for



selection were excellent communication skills, passion to achieve, desire to learn, and willingness to be part of a continually growing and evolving organisation. The RALI trainees were shortlisted from a pool of over 1,000 applicants after a rigorous, multi-layered selection process.

Munir al Lawati, senior manager - Human Resources, added,

All-new MINI Hatch and Convertible now available at AJIA

Al Jenaibi International Automobiles LLC (AJIA), the official importer of BMW Group in Oman, announced the arrival of the all-new MINI 3 door Hatch, the MINI 5 door Hatch, and the MINI Convertible: faster, feistier, and more fun than ever before.

With individual style and character at the forefront of the MINI brand, the new MINI Hatch and Convertible models offer more variety, alongside an enhanced level of customisation underlined by the three model variants. This includes the Cooper, offering the classic MINI appeal for the everyday driver, the premium Cooper S, and the John Cooper Works, which provides racetrack level performance to the iconic MINI.

The new MINI Convertible pairs the inimitable spirit of the original Hatch with the excitement of a soft top. MINI have embraced the elements and windswept hair, by taking the iconic design and refining it with simpler lines for a more sophisticated and sleeker finish.

A new exterior design language now puts the unmistakable appearance of the MINI in a decidedly purist light. Above all, the enhanced aesthetics ensure that the central design features of the MINI become even more apparent and modern by means of reduction.

The front view of the MINI Hatch and MINI Convertible are



particularly expressive. It is dominated more than ever by the characteristic radiator grille, the hexagonal surround of which now takes up significantly more space, and by the round hallmark MINI headlights. The position lights are replaced by vertical air inlets placed far to the outside, which serve as an opening for the

air curtains to optimise aerodynamics.

The redesigned interior of the MINI Hatch and MINI Convertible is sophisticated, modern, and

of particularly high quality. New to the range are sports seats in the Light Checkered colour variant, which perfectly complement the Zesty Yellow exterior paint finish. The familiar Black Pearl fabric quality is given a new, expressive check look in hallmark British MINI style. The seams at the transition to the black imitation leather of the seat bolsters feature a colour scheme that matches the fabric of the seat surfaces.

Muna al Busaidi, MINI brand manager of Al Jenaibi International Automobiles LLC added, "MINI's iconic style has been evolving since its inception and the new MINI Hatch and Convertible highlight the latest brand evolution. While, sporting their new look the models still emphasise all those things that make MINI what it is: quality, modernity and identity."

Changan CS75 Plus crossover launched in Luxury, Sport variants

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE), which is a part of Bahwan International Group, has launched compact crossover Changan CS75 Plus in Luxury and Sport variants.

With its premium design, comfortable automotive interior, and highly intelligent configuration, Changan CS75 Plus offers a host of special features.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, “We are pleased to launch Changan CS75 Plus 2022MY in the Oman market. Changan CS75 Plus is impressing car enthusiasts for its promising quality of innovation, aesthetics, functionality and stability. The compact crossover is guaranteed to make a mark in the Omani market. The SUV that makes driving feel like winning with its stunning design, premium interior and intelligent features. The CS75 Plus is loaded with smart and innovative features that aim to elevate the confidence and sophistication in every drive.”

An upgraded version of the CS75, the 2WD Changan CS75 Plus features a more sloped roofline and more power. Under the hood, it has a 2.0lt turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, mated to an 8-speed automatic transmission with a power of 224 hp and torque of 360 Nm. With a wheelbase of 2710mm, and it measures 4700mm in length, 1865mm in width and 1710mm in height.

Standard features in the CS75 Plus include power windows, central locking, cruise control, dual-zone auto A/C, 8 speakers, multifunctional steering wheel, USB+AUX ports, 12-inch screen, Bluetooth, 360 camera, leather ventilated seats, sunroof, fog lamps, parking sensors LED headlamps, panoramic roof, keyless entry and start, and 19-inch wheels. Safety features includes dual front, side and curtain airbags, ABS, and hill assist.



Its Blue Core Powertrain Technology, based on the principles of power, clean and quiet, provides owners a highly efficient and energy saving performance.

Futuristic design

CS75 Plus features a more streamlined body with flowing lines and geometric patterns, creating the overall appearance of a vehicle from the future.

Advanced Safety and Technology

To instill the confidence and sophistication in every drive, CS75 Plus offers a range of intelligent driving technologies and advanced safety features.

Elevated extravagance

To create a premium drive experience,

CS75 Plus seamlessly integrates luxurious interior with high-tech convenience features, coupled with ample space.

Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T B AT Luxury

Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T B AT Luxury includes the features of CS75 Plus 2.0 T 8 AT Sport features.

Its exterior boasts of piercing front position headlamp, adaptive high and low beam, ORVM with memory and puddle lamps. Its interior features multi colour ambient lighting, front seats ventilation, driver seat with memory and luggage cover.

Its safety attributes intelligent adaptive cruise control, 360 Camera (HD) with 3D View, blind spot detection, rear approaching alarm, reverse auxiliary alarm, lane departure

warning, rain sensor wiper and seat belt pretensioners.

Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control

Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control provides a safer and more pleasant driving experience. IACC facilitates smart driving features including heavy traffic assisted driving, lane keep assist, automatic deceleration during turns, intelligent speed limit assist, and voice-activated cruise speed setting.

360 degree camera HD with 3D view

The 12 inch LCD touch screen in the middle displays a 360 degree camera view around the car.

When the option is clicked a 3D model of the car is shown and within the screen itself you may rotate the car and view the surroundings.

Reverse alarm

The model can avoid or ease the collision by alarm and auxiliary braking. The car detects blocks and sends a visual and an audible alarm to notify you.

Rear approaching alarm

In a scenario where you brake suddenly and the car behind you is unaware of this and is approaching you with speed. Your car detects the challenge and alerts you in the screen in front of you and the rear lights of your car start blinking/flashing in order to capture the driver's (Behind) attention.

Automatic parking

There are two options for this, the driver either sits in the car or

he leaves the car. Under both the options the car parks itself by using sensors and by scanning the nearby areas.

Infotainment showcases full LCD IC, eight Speakers, trip recorder with SD Card Slot and Qibla. Comfort factors include seat belt height adjustable remote key - window close, all windows - one button up down, auto IRVM and dual zone AC.

Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T 8 AT Sport

The exterior features of Changan CS75 Plus 2.0 T 8 AT Sport includes 19" dual tone alloy wheels, LED headlamps, front fog lights with cornering, panoramic sunroof, ORVM - electrically adjustable, folding and heating, rear led taillamps, quad exhaust pipes.

The interior has sport seats

with two tone interior (black & red), electrically adjustable front seats, drive mode (normal, eco, sport), leather steering wheel, soft leather dashboard, multifunction steering wheel.

Safety features include front and curtain airbags, ABS, E80 +TCS+ESC+HHC, hill descent control, auto hold, TPMS, 360 camera, adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency brake, front collision warning and electronic parking brake.

Infotainment element has 7-LCD instrument cluster, 12" infotainment screen, high performance audio system with 6 speakers, navigation, mirror link - Android & Apple.

The model offers electric tailgate, remote control engine start/stop, push button start/stop, rear air vents, keyless entry and auto AC.

Oman Air Holidays launches ‘Stopover in Oman’ packages

Bespoke packages offer assortment of experiences for Oman Air transit passengers, whether stopping for 12 hours, overnight or several days, and include second night free and discounted additional nights with 25 per cent off food and beverage

Oman Air Holidays announced the launch of Oman stopover packages giving Oman Air-ticketed passengers the flexibility to discover some of the most desirable tourist spots in and around Muscat: the capital Muscat, Nizwa, Jebel Akhdar, and Mussanah. Also available is a fully bespoke eight-hour Muscat city day tour stopover.

Recently reopened for vaccinated travel, Oman is an alluring and desirable destination among discerning global travellers and offers an abundance of attractions.

The 'hidden gem' of the region, the country offers a vibrant palette of nature, climate, leisure, culture and history, and Omanis are renowned the world over for their authentic hospitality and shared sense of openness and respect.

"Oman discovery stopovers combine convenience, diversity and affordability for anyone who wants to experience more Oman on their next trip," explains Mundher al Shaikhani, senior manager Oman Air Holidays.

"Each package is designed to



offer visitors a distinct taste of some of our leading tourist spots, whether on a quick overnight escape or an immersive week-long excursion, and are priced for value with discounted rates and exciting add-ons."

Enabling the country's flourishing tourism potential is something Oman Air Holidays does exceptionally well, and the launch of stopover packages adds to Oman's growing inventory of custom stays and experiences. Oman Air Holidays' five stopovers can be further customized to include local tours and excursions, type of transportation, and flexible length of stay.

Muscat Discovery Stopover

The captivating capital of Oman, Muscat is a favourite stopover with its characteristic low-rise cityscape and meandering coastline. Hotel package includes free second night and discounted additional nights. A 25 per cent discount

on food and beverage applies throughout the stay.

Nizwa Discovery Stopover

Located just over a one-and-a-half-hour drive from Muscat, Nizwa is best known for Nizwa Fort and its adjoining marketplace. Hotel package includes free second night and discounted additional nights.

Jebel Akhdar Discovery Stopover

Nestled in the Al Hajar Mountains, Jebel Akhdar offers visitors a welcome respite from the heat and serves up spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. Hotel package includes free second night and discounted additional nights.

Mussanah Discovery Stopover

Only an hour's drive from the capital, Mussanah is a coastal resort town popular with tourists and locals alike.

Hotel package includes free second night and discounted additional nights.

A 25 per cent discount on food and beverage applies throughout the stay.

8-hour Muscat City Day Tour Stopover

Package includes saloon car transportation, lunch and lounge access at Muscat International Airport, and is available for RO90 for one person, RO50 for two, and RO37 for three.

Oman Air Holidays stopover packages are an integral part of Oman's broader Vision 2040 strategy to increase inbound tourism to the sultanate, and come at a time when demand for travel shows significant signs of improvement.

With parent company Oman Air connecting travellers to Oman from its international network, Oman Air Holidays now offers end-to-end discovery experiences available for booking at holiday.omanair.com

Both Oman Air and its Holidays division proudly display the Safe Travels Stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), and in March this year, the airline received the Skytrax 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating and Skytrax 5-Star COVID-19 Lounge Safety Rating at Muscat International Airport.



Rediscover Opportunities
Invest in Oman's first and only reinsurance investment opportunity.
Oman Reinsurance Company SAOG
(Under Transformation)



CORRIGENDUM - PROSPECTUS

Reference to the Statutory Advertisement for Oman Reinsurance Company SAOG (Under Transformation) for the IPO released on 26th and 27th of September 2021.

There was an inadvertent error in shareholding percentage Post - IPO capital under the table in section 6.5. Post Offer Equity Structure, in the Prospectus. The same should be read as below:

S. No.	Name of the shareholder	Nationality	Number of Shares held	Aggregate value (RO)	% of post-IPO capital
1	Zawawi Trading Co. LLC	Omani	28,500,000	2,850,000	6.82%
2	Muscat Insurance Co. SAOG	Omani	3,000,000	300,000	0.72%
3	Omar Al Zawawi Establishment LLC	Omani	46,500,000	4,650,000	11.13%
4	Murthadha Mohamed Jawad A. Ibrahim Al Lawati	Omani	500,000	50,000	0.12%
5	Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. SAQ	Qatari	73,750,200	7,375,020	17.66%
6	Alsari Trading Co.	Qatari	16,100,000	1,610,000	3.85%
7	ZERETIA HOLDINGS LIMITED	Cypriot	11,733,100	1,173,310	2.81%
8	ZILJANO INVESTMENTS LIMITED	Cypriot	30,000,000	3,000,000	7.18%
9	Trust International Insurance & Reinsurance Co. BSC	Bahrain	89,916,700	8,991,670	21.53%
Sub-total			300,000,000	30,000,000	71.83%
10	Public		117,647,059	10,000,000	28.17%
Total			417,647,059	40,000,000	100.00%

All other contents remains the same.

Elderly vote, young boycott Iraq's poll

The streets of Baghdad, adorned with election banners, were deserted, a reflection of the low turnout

Baghdad, Iraq - Issam Shukr (70) voted on Sunday at Al-Amal School in Baghdad. It means 'hope' in Arabic, but there is little of that among the country's overwhelmingly youthful population. For them the parliamentary election didn't generate much enthusiasm.

Leaning on his cane but looking good for his age, Shukr said he was 'proud' of having cast his ballot.

With many of the country's eligible voters boycotting, Shukr was among a minority who voted.

Sixty per cent of Iraq's population is under 25. For them, the ballot is about the same old faces who are unable to fix a country rich in oil but replete with problems, including a youth unemployment rate of around 40 per cent.

The streets of Baghdad, adorned with election banners, were deserted, a reflection of the low turnout expected among Iraqis fed up with the country's political class.

Virtually the only people visible were soldiers and police, deployed to safeguard the democratic process in a war-scarred country where cells of the Islamic State (IS) group extremists are still active.

Authorities also feared there could be anti-government protests.

Overhead, two warplanes patrolled in a sunny sky.

Torn posters

Back on the ground Shukr aimed, as he does every election, to be the first to cast a ballot. These are the fifth elections since the dictator Saddam Hussein was



Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission to Iraq, Viola von Cramon (top), visits a polling station in the Iraqi capital Baghdad during early parliamentary elections on Sunday; two elderly Iraqis (right) show their inked fingers after voting at a polling station, in Baghdad on Sunday (AFP)

overthrown in 2003 and Shukr hoped for 'improvement of the situation' in his country gripped by a political, social and economic crisis.

The election is being held early in a rare concession to the unprecedented youth-led protest

movement that broke out two years ago. Tens of thousands took to the streets to vent their rage at corruption, unemployment and other problems. Hundreds lost their lives in protest-related violence.

Like Shukr, Jassem Mo-

ammed Sultan (53) was among members of the relatively older population who said voting is a means to improving things in the country.

"We should all participate to choose the most suitable" to govern, the day labourer said in

Mosul, Iraq's second city which IS occupied from 2014 to 2017.

In a symbol of the disinterest among many younger Iraqis, election posters of various candidates had been torn down and lay on a Baghdad lawn near police armoured vehicles.

"I am not going there. I am not voting for anyone," said a teacher (30) who lives in Baghdad and belongs to Iraq's Christian minority.

"Why vote? We don't trust any candidate, Christian or not," she said.

We live in a state controlled by firearms which circulate completely out of control and which kill people who think differently

AMINE

Govt brings 'nothing'

Taleb Mohammed (28) was similarly disenchanted in Arbil, capital of the autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq.

"The government brings us nothing, at this time when there are no permanent jobs," said the teacher who works on contract.

In Nasiriyah, the city at the heart of the 2019 revolt, Imane al Amine (54) was also staying home because the elections 'have nothing democratic'.

"We live in a state controlled by firearms which circulate completely out of control and which kill people who think differently," said Amine, an agricultural engineer.

Polling stations visited by AFP throughout the day saw only a very limited flow of voters.

Election workers with an air of weariness sat at worn-out wooden desks near gleaming electronic voting machines.

A poll worker at one Baghdad centre said that of 413 registered voters only 43 had shown up, a few hours before the polls closed.

"There were a limited number of youth. Most were seniors," the worker said.

AFP



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, in Jerusalem on Sunday (AFP)

Israel security will remain priority: Angela Merkel

Jerusalem - Germany's outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel said Israel's security will be a top priority for 'every German government', during a farewell tour in the Jewish state on Sunday near the end of her 16 year term in office.

Merkel, making her eighth and final visit as chancellor to Israel before retiring from politics, held talks with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett before visiting Jerusalem's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem.

"After the crimes against humanity of the Shoah (Holocaust), it has been possible to reset and to reestablish relations between Germany," Merkel said, standing alongside Bennett.

"I want to use this opportunity to emphasise that the topic of Israel's security will always be of central importance and a central topic of every German government."

Bennett credited Merkel with

fostering ties between the countries that have 'never been stronger' and described her as 'Europe's moral compass' due to her support for Israel.

Before the visit, Bennett said he and the German leader were expected to discuss regional security and 'especially the Iranian nuclear issue'.

Merkel had initially planned to visit in August, but delayed her trip during the chaotic exit of US and allied forces, including Germans, from Afghanistan.

The 67 year old trained physicist is to receive an honorary doctorate from Haifa's Technion - Israel Institute of Technology.

She, however, has no plans to meet Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who Merkel dealt with extensively as prime minister during his 2009 to 2021 tenure.

Bennett's ideologically diverse coalition ousted Netanyahu in June.

'Reality of apartheid'

The chancellor is also not scheduled to meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

Under her leadership, Germany has advocated for a two-state solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict but she has faced criticism from activists for not pressing Israel to end its military occupation of Palestinian territory that began in 1967.

Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine director at Human Rights Watch, criticised Merkel for regarding Israel's 54 year occupation as 'temporary'.

"Maintaining this fiction has allowed the Merkel government to avoid dealing with the reality of apartheid and persecution of millions of Palestinians," he said.

"The new German government should put human rights at the centre of its Israel and Palestine policy," he added.

AFP

Iran has 120kg of 20%-enriched uranium, says atomic agency chief

Tehran, Iran - Iran has enriched more than 120kg of 20-per cent enriched uranium, the head of the country's atomic energy agency said on state television on Saturday evening.

"We have passed 120 kilograms," said Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. "We have more than that figure."

"Our people know well that they (Western powers) were meant to give us the enriched fuel at 20 per cent to use in the Tehran reactor, but they haven't done so," he added.

"If our colleagues do not do it, we would naturally have problems with the lack of fuel for the Tehran reactor."

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Iran had boosted its stocks enriched above the percentage allowed in the 2015 deal



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (right) with the country's atomic energy chief Mohammad Eslam at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (AFP)

with world powers. It estimated that Iran had 84.3kg of uranium enriched to 20 per cent (up from

62.8kg when the IAEA last reported in May).

Under the deal, Iran was not

meant to enrich uranium above 3.67 per cent, well below the 90-per cent threshold needed for use in a nuclear weapon.

Under the 2015 agreement China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States had agreed to lift some sanctions against Iran if Tehran cut back its nuclear programme.

But since then US president Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the deal in 2018, Tehran has progressively abandoned its commitments under the agreement, and the United States has imposed fresh sanctions in response.

On Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said he was optimistic that talks on reviving the 2015 deal would make progress, provided Washington fully resumed its commitments.

AFP

Greece to boost guards on Turkey border

Athens, Greece - Greece's police minister on Sunday said 250 additional guards would be deployed on the country's land border with Turkey, where thousands of asylum-seekers tried to enter last year.

"We are ready... and we are further increasing (security) forces by hiring 250 new border guards to support Greek police," Citizens' Protection Minister Takis Theodorikakos said during a visit to the border area of Kastanies, according to a ministry statement.

In February 2020, tens of

We are ready... and we are further increasing (security) forces by hiring 250 new border guards to support Greek police

TAKIS THEODORIKAKOS

thousands of migrants surged towards Greece after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would let migrants seeking to reach the European Union pass through.

Days of clashes with asylum seekers on the border ensued, with Greek police accusing their

Turkish counterparts of firing tear gas against them.

In the aftermath of the incident, Greece invested in a new anti-migration arsenal including cameras, radar and a 40km steel fence over five metres high, to cover part of the 200km border region crossed

by the river Evros.

The Greek civil aviation authority on Saturday also said a tethered balloon known as an aerostat, equipped with a long-range thermal camera, had been deployed at Alexandroupolis airport in August to assist border surveillance.

A Zeppelin operated by EU border agency Frontex is also active in the area, state agency ANA said Sunday. Greece has said it will examine claims of illegal pushbacks of migrants trying to enter from Turkey.

AFP

Minister's son held over India deaths

New Delhi, India - The son of an Indian minister has been arrested on preliminary charges of murder, police said on Sunday, a week after the death of eight people during a farmers' protest sparked national outrage.

Ashish Mishra was detained in Uttar Pradesh late on Saturday over the incident in the northern state's Lakhimpur Kheri district, where farmers were demonstrating as part of their year-long campaign against contentious agriculture laws.

Farmers claimed that a convoy belonging to Mishra and his father - the junior home affairs minister Ajay Mishra - slammed into protesters, killing four of them.

Angry demonstrators then set fire to several cars and four other people, including a driver and a journalist, were killed, according to authorities and local media reports.

Mishra will face court on Monday and formal charges have to be filed within 90 days. Mishra and his father have denied the allegations.

India's Supreme Court had said on Friday that it was 'not satisfied' with the police investigation of the case and questioned why the younger Mishra had not yet been arrested.

The incident was the deadliest since farmers started camping on the outskirts of the capital New Delhi in November demanding a repeal of the controversial laws.

The agriculture sector, which employs some two-thirds of India's 1.3bn population, has long been a political minefield.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government says the sector is massively inefficient and in need of reform.

But protesting farmers fear the changes will leave them at the mercy of big corporations.

AFF

Taiwan will not bow to China, says President Tsai Ing-wen

Taipei, Taiwan - Taiwan will not bow to pressure by Beijing and will defend its democratic way of life, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Sunday, following a spike in incursions by Chinese warplanes into its air defence zone.

Self-governed Taiwan's 23mn people live under the constant threat of invasion by authoritarian China, which views the island as its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

"The more we achieve, the greater the pressure we face from China," Tsai said in a speech marking Taiwan's National Day, adding: "Nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us."

She described Taiwan as 'standing on democracy's first line of defence'. "We hope for an easing of... relations (with Beijing) and will not act rashly, but there should be absolutely no illusions that the Taiwanese people will bow to pressure."

The two sides have been ruled separately since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

Tensions have risen to their highest in decades under Chinese President Xi Jinping, who broke off official communication with Taipei following Tsai's election five years ago and ramped up economic, diplomatic and military pressure.

The latest flare-up has been a surge in flights by Chinese fighter jets and nuclear-capable bombers into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ).



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen speaks during national day celebrations in front of the Presidential Palace in Taipei on October 10, 2021 (AFP)

The more we achieve, the greater the pressure we face from China. The Taiwanese people will not bow to pressure

TSAI ING-WEN

'Complete reunification'

Some 150 sorties were made into the zone in the days surrounding China's own National Day on October 1 - a record number.

Three Chinese planes, including two fighter jets, crossed into the zone on Sunday, according to Taiwan's Defence Ministry.

Xi has made taking Taiwan a key goal of his leadership which

he looks set to extend to a third term in 2022.

On Saturday, he declared in a speech that 'the complete reunification of our country will be and can be realised'.

He said he favoured 'peaceful reunification' but his words come after months of increased military threats, including the recent surge in air incursions as well as heavily publicised military drills

simulating an invasion of Taiwan.

Last year, there were a record 380 sorties. There have already been more than 600 this year.

The ADIZ is not the same as Taiwan's territorial airspace. It includes a far greater area that overlaps with part of China's own air defence identification zone and even includes some of the mainland.

Tsai, who has won two elec-

tions, is loathed by Beijing because she regards Taiwan as an 'already independent' country, not part of 'one China'.

But the President has also made no move to declare formal independence, something Beijing has long warned would be a 'red line' that would trigger an invasion.

She has also made offers for talks with Beijing that have been rejected.

During Sunday's speech, Tsai reiterated her call for Beijing 'to engage in dialogue on the basis of parity' and said she supported maintaining the current status quo between the two neighbours.

But she warned what happens to Taiwan would have major regional and global repercussions.

"Every step we take will influence our world's future direction, and our world's future direction will likewise affect the future of Taiwan itself," she said.

Polling shows the vast majority of Taiwanese have no desire to be ruled by Beijing.

Most favour maintaining the status quo although there is a growing Taiwanese nationalist sentiment, especially among younger people.

China's crackdown in Hong Kong, a city Beijing said would be a model for how it would rule Taiwan, has also done little to endear Taiwanese to assurances that their way of life would continue under communist party rule.

AFF

16 killed as plane carrying parachutists crashes in Russia

Moscow, Russia - Sixteen people were killed after an aircraft carrying parachutists crashed in central Russia on Sunday, the emergencies ministry said.

The L-410 plane carrying 22 people crashed around 9.23am local time during a flight over the republic of Tatarstan, the ministry said on its Telegram channel.

"Six people were rescued, 16 were taken out without signs of life," the ministry said.

The ministry had earlier said that 15 people died and that the aircraft was carrying 23 people.

Images published by the ministry showed the aircraft broken in half with a severely dented nose.

The six survivors were being hospitalised, the local health ministry told the Interfax news agency.

Tatarstan head Rustam Minnikhanov was travelling to the scene of the crash, a statement on his website said.

According to Interfax, the plane belonged to the Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and Navy of Russia, which describes itself as a sports and defence organisation.

The head of the organisation's regional branch said the parachuting club that organised the flight was not to blame.

"We are the best, we are among the top five clubs," Ravil Nurmekhametov told TASS



The wreckage at the site of the L-410 plane crash near the town of Menzelinsk in the Republic of Tatarstan (AFP)

news agency, adding that the club had hosted European and World championships. "Cosmonauts train here," he said.

The Czech-built L-410 light aircraft was one of the two planes used by the club, according to its website. Two L-410 planes suffered fatal accidents in Russia earlier this year, leaving a total of eight people dead.

Russia was notorious for plane accidents but has improved air traffic safety in recent years with major airlines switching from Soviet aircraft to modern jets.

But poor aircraft maintenance and lax safety standards still lead to frequent accidents in far-flung regions involving light aircraft.

AFF

'Father of Pakistan's bomb' Abdul Qadeer Khan dies at 85 years



Supporters and officials gather around an ambulance carrying the coffin of Pakistan's nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan (in the inset) for his funeral outside the Faisal Mosque, in Islamabad on Sunday (AFP)

Islamabad, Pakistan - Abdul Qadeer Khan, celebrated as the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme but accused of smuggling technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya, has died at 85, authorities said on Sunday.

The atomic scientist, who spent the last years of his life under heavy guard, died in the capital Islamabad, where he had recently been hospitalised with COVID-19. Khan died after being transferred to the city's KRL Hospital with lung problems, state-run broadcaster PTV reported.

He had been admitted to the same hospital in August with COVID-19. After returning home several weeks ago, he was rushed back after his condition deteriorated.

Khan was hailed a national hero for transforming Pakistan into the world's first Islamic nuclear weapons power and strengthening its clout against

rival and fellow nuclear-armed nation India.

But he was declared by the West a dangerous renegade for sharing technology with rogue nuclear states.

The news of his death sparked an outpouring of grief and praise for Khan's legacy.

Sharif described his death as a 'huge loss for the country', tweeting: 'Today the nation has lost a true benefactor who served the motherland with heart and soul.' The Prime Minister said the scientist would be buried at Islamabad's Faisal Mosque at his request.

Dr A Q Khan made a critical contribution to making us a nuclear weapon state. For the people of Pakistan he was a national icon

IMRAN KHAN

'Deeply saddened by the passing of Dr A.Q. Khan,' Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted, stressing how loved the nuclear scientist had been in Pakistan due to 'his critical contribution in making us a nuclear weapon state. For the people of Pakistan he was a national icon.'

Opposition leader Shehbaz

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad told journalists the scientist would be laid to rest with 'full honours', with all government ministers and senior armed forces officials attending a funeral at 3.30pm on Sunday.

According to Islamic tradition, burials should take place as soon as possible, usually within 24

hours of death.

Black market

Khan was lauded for bringing the nation up to par with India in the atomic field and making its defences 'impregnable'.

But he found himself in the international crosshairs when he was accused of illegally sharing nuclear technology with Iran, Libya and North Korea.

He confessed in 2004, after the International Atomic Energy Agency - a UN watchdog - put Pakistani scientists at the centre of a global atomic black market.

Pardoned by the nation's military ruler Pervez Musharraf, he was instead put under house arrest for five years.

"I saved the country for the first time when I made Pakistan a nuclear nation and saved it again when I confessed and took the whole blame on myself," Khan said in an interview in 2008.

AFF

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Italy arrests right leaders after violence



A woman (left) protects herself from tear gas smoke as riot police (right) surround protesters after clashes over the mandatory pass called 'green pass', which has been introduced to limit the spread of the COVID-19, in central Rome on Saturday (AFP)

Rome, Italy - Italian police on Sunday arrested leaders and other members of far-right party Forza Nuova after a protest in Rome turned violent, with many calling for the group to be banned.

Hundreds of people gathered to demonstrate against anti-coronavirus measures in central Rome on Saturday, clashing with police and wrecking premises including the headquarters of the CGIL trade union federation.

Police deployed water cannon and tear gas to disperse crowds over several hours of unrest.

Italian media reported that among 12 people arrested were Roberto Fiore, Forza Nuova's national secretary, and Giuliano Castellino, the movement's chief in Rome.

"The people behind the assault on CGIL's headquarters were quickly arrested. They had been stoking tension and violence for too long," said MP Federico Fornaro.

"Fascist violence must be stopped immediately," said senator Andrea Marcucci.

Formed in 1997, neo-fascist party Forza Nuova calls for an abortion ban, a total halt to immigration and the repeal of hate speech laws.

It has never achieved a score of even 0.5 per cent at any election, even when allied with other far-right groups.

Mostly centrist and left-leaning politicians have now called for it to be banned.

"We've had enough of violence by neo-fascist groups. We will bring an urgent motion before parliament tomorrow calling on the government to dissolve Forza Nuova," leading Democratic Party (PD) lawmaker Emanuele Fiano said.

A number of other MPs and members of Prime Minister Mario Draghi's government back the move.

Speaking outside the union body's wrecked headquarters, CGIL chief Maurizio Landini called for Forza Nuova to be banned and announced an anti-fascist demonstration for Saturday October 16.

"They can't intimidate us, they don't scare us," he told a crowd gathered to support CGIL after the violence.

There were scuffles with police as the demonstrators took aim at the health pass, which has been a requirement to enter museums, sporting events and restaurants since August.

Although the march was authorised, several hundred people broke off from the main column and tried to march on parliament. Police used water cannon and tear gas to stop them, arresting several protesters during clashes, the AGI news agency reported.

A separate protest took place in the capital and others in the northern city of Milan and in Cesena, central Italy.

Three weeks ago the government of Prime Minister Mario Draghi announced that the scheme would be extended to all places of work from October 15 and any employees refusing to comply faced suspension without pay.

The health pass system is already in place for all medical workers. It requires people to provide a certificate of vaccination, proof of recovery from COVID-19 or a recent negative test result.

AFF

We will bring an urgent motion before parliament tomorrow calling on the government to dissolve Forza Nuova

EMANUELE FIANO



Malaysia eases travel restrictions

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Malaysia eased domestic and international travel curbs on Sunday for those fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, as a fierce outbreak slows and inoculation rates rise.

The Southeast Asian nation had faced its worst COVID-19 wave in recent months, prompting authorities to impose a tough nationwide lockdown.

But with case numbers falling and the inoculation rollout picking up speed, authorities began lifting curbs, with businesses allowed to reopen and workers slowly returning to offices.

In a televised address on Sunday, Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced fully inoculated people can move freely within the country, as well as fly overseas without special permission. "According to the ministry of health, the vaccination rate for the adult population... has reached 90 per cent," he said to explain the move that takes effect on Monday.

But Ismail Sabri people to continue abiding by rules such as mask-wearing to keep the virus in check.

"Do not be complacent... This is important in the government's efforts to reopen the economy," he said.

Malaysians had been prohibited from travelling between the country's different states since January, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

AFF



A man dressed as the character Mickey Mouse sells strawberry juice on the side of a road in Karak, in Malaysia's Pahang state (AFP)

Francisco Moya, who initiated the bill. A similar law was passed in San Francisco in June.

Food delivery giants have challenged the laws in courts, and some analysts think they have a point.

"We believe DoorDash will have a strong legal case against the permanent fee caps," Bank of America said in a research note last month.

DoorDash, Grubhub and Uber Eats argue that the cap is unconstitutional and that restaurants are free to negotiate their commissions with delivery platforms.

The delivery giants also say they have made huge investments during the pandemic that led millions of customers who had never ordered meals online to get started.

And DoorDash says that restaurants that used its platform during the pandemic had a survival rate eight times higher than the industry average. The company also says that even before the laws were passed it already offered a 15 per cent fee formula.

Put Palombino, the pizza chain founder, is unconvinced.

"The problem is that they have become so established that there no longer is a way back," he said. "If you're not on Seamless (one of the most popular delivery services in New York), you no longer exist."

As for the 15 per cent commission, Palombino said that a successful restaurant can 'only hope' for a profit margin of 15 or 20 per cent. "So at the end of the day, they take it all."

In court, the food delivery platforms have argued that the cap will trigger higher fees for consumers, who have been relatively spared for now.

AFF



US Vice President Kamala Harris (right) greets the owner of a bakery in Newark, New Jersey, on Friday (AFP)

Not a proxy

Sara entered politics in 2007, serving three years as vice mayor while her father was mayor of Davao - the family stronghold on the southern island of Mindanao.

They swapped positions for the next three years and she again succeeded him as mayor in 2016 when he won the presidency.

Some doubt Sara's support in the polls will translate into election victory, saying she lacks the charisma and humour of her father - key traits in a country where personality trumps policy.

"She's drawing strength because she's the daughter of the president," Pulse Asia research director Ana Maria Tabunda said.

Analysts say Sara is not a carbon copy of her father, who surveys show remains almost as popular as when he swept to victory in 2016 on a promise to rid the country of drugs.

She lacks his 'folksiness' and that could hurt her appeal, said political analyst Tony La Vina.

"She is more distant and she is not warm," La Vina added.

"I suspect her lead will evaporate during the campaign as she will not rise up to the charm of the father."

Many believe Sara would be a moderate version of her father.

AFF



This file photo shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte with his daughter Sara Duterte, in Boao in China's Hainan province in 2018 (AFP)

'Run Sara Run': Clamour grows for Duterte daughter's presidential bid

Manila, Philippines - Philippines 'First Daughter' Sara Duterte has been in lockstep with her father, following him into law and succeeding him as a city mayor. Now, she's leading the race to replace Rodrigo Duterte as president.

So far, the feisty politician, who once punched a court sheriff in front of TV cameras, has rejected calls to seek the country's highest office, insisting she wants to serve another term as Davao city mayor.

Supporters have plastered 'Run Sara Run' posters and tarpaulins across the archipelago nation, held rallies and posted thousands of messages urging the 43 year old to change her mind.

In a cryptic Facebook post on Saturday - the day after the deadline for registering as a candidate - Sara thanked her supporters who turned up at the Manila registration site for national positions, including president.

"Although I was not at the Sofitel (hotel), you did not lose hope and patience during the wait," she said, hours before her office announced she had tested positive for COVID-19.

"For this I offer my heartfelt thanks."

The elder Duterte has not named a successor, but indicated recently Sara would run alongside his longtime aide Senator Christopher Go.

While Sara missed Friday's closing date, analysts say she has until November 15 to make a late entry into the presidential race - like her father did in 2015.

Sara, known for her quick temper and fondness for big motorbikes, was in first place in the latest Pulse Asia poll of voter preferences for president.

She was followed by Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of a former dictator, celebrity mayor Francisco Domagoso and boxing legend Manny Pacquiao.

All except Sara have declared they will run for the top job.

Not a proxy

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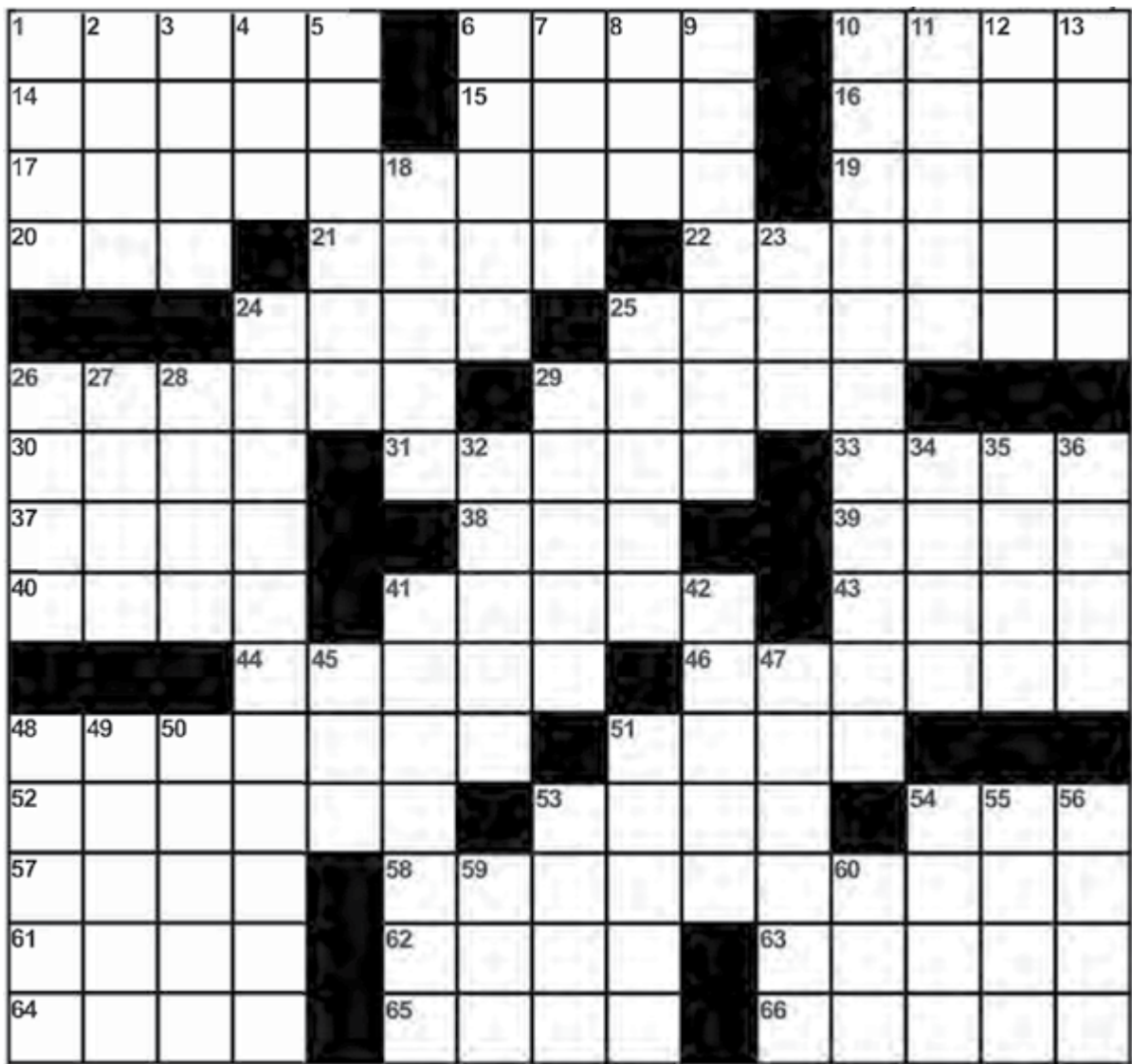
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Many believe Sara would be a moderate version of her father.

AFF

DAILY CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

1) In need of mental stimulation
6) Pack overhead
10) Highlands miss
14) Be mad for
15) Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives"
16) "Yeah, sure"
17) Oscar and Tony winner for his role as Cyrano de Bergerac
19) Kilauea outflow
20) " _ longa, vita brevis"
21) 1980s war country
22) One end of a No. 2
24) Tear to shreds
25) BBQ equipment
26) Light touch
29) Singer MacGowan of the Pogues
30) One of the Van Halens
31) Creator of Sawyer
33) Place for a spy's message
37) Dance recklessly
38) Tribute in rhyme
DOUBLE CROWN
39) Talk-show host Kelly
40) Anti-fur org.
41) Out of kilter
43) Anita, "the Jezebel

of Jazz"
44) Zellweger of "Cinderella Man"
46) Is honest
48) Hardly luxurious
51) Fey of "30 Rock"
52) "Rabbit ears"
53) Canal dividing Africa and Asia
54) Excite, with "up"
57) "Get Smart" bad-dies
58) Oscar and Tony winner for his role as King Mongkut
61) Flying A competitor, once
62) Hoskins role in "Hook"
63) Suffix with "Beatie"
64) In the public eye
65) Little shavers
66) Manicurist's material
DOWN
1) Tijuana's locale, for short
2) Febreze target
3) Antarctica's _ Sea
4) Bard's "before"
5) Flies in the face of
6) Cremona collectible, for short
7) Gull-like bird
8) Vein yield

9) Utility company worker
10) Tony and Oscar winner for her role as Madame Hortense
11) Lower in rank
12) Break off
13) Milky Way units
18) Consulting firm _ & Young
23) Rand's politico father
24) Oscar and Tony winner for his role as Henry Higgins
25) Draws back, with "away"
26) Like the style of TV's "Batman"
27) Lip balm additive
28) Chill, so to speak
29) Sexy lady in a Beatles tune
32) All of the Bangles' members
34) Something to "thumb"
35) Australian mine yield
36) Is worth it
41) Sports show figure
42) More foxy
45) Seventh Greek letter
47) Biological catalyst
48)" alive!"
49) Porridge type, in rhyme

50) Sprang up
51) Subway tunnel parts
53) Hill toy
54) Heche of "Wag the Dog"
55) "The Iron Lady" of Israel
56) Recite the rosary
59) Thurman of "Gat-taca"
60) Swift boat setting, for short

NOTE PAD

GALAS TORAH HEP
INALL AMINO ALE
SAWPALMETTO MOC
MIEN TAMPA
DEFAMED PRETEEN
ALICES POORER
MILER PALLS TD'S
UTES CANAL THRO
PEC RARER CAROL
ALERTS SALOME
MOBILES SCREWED
AGITA SHOT
URN PLANETICKET
VEE SALAD NOISE
EST EMAGS GOAPE

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

 **ARIES** MARCH 21-APRIL 19

You're going to have an enthusiastic fan, and he or she will be singing your praises to anyone who will listen -- try not to blush too much! This wave of adulation might make you feel embarrassed at first, but as the day wears on and you take bow after bow, you'll start to enjoy the sensation of being recognised for your work -- and it will feel good. This is a boost to your ego.

 **LEO** JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Don't care what others think about you. Yes, your reputation is important. But when you stop yourself from saying something you feel or doing something you want because you're worried about how it will look, you've gone too far. The stress caused by trying to dress the right way, say the right thing and be the right kind of person takes too much energy out of you.

 **SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

There is nothing wrong with a flirtatious encounter with a stranger today -- in fact, it might give your ego the boost that it's been thirsting for. As long as you don't promise anything or get too explicit about your implications, you are safe to flatter and charm anyone who strikes your fancy. Your sense of humour is your biggest asset, so lead with a funny anecdote.

 **TAURUS** APRIL 20-MAY 20

Today you may find yourself talking to someone you'd never think of talking to before. And to no one's surprise, you will end up enjoying the experience immensely. Your curiosity is piqued by this person, who sees life differently than you do. This is your chance to learn something, regardless of whether they are from a different culture, background, or economic group.

 **VIRGO** AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Take a look at your closet and count how many things are in there that you never wear. Chances are, no matter how high the number is, every single one of those forgotten items was an impulse buy. Remember those neglected outfits when you see something you think you must have. Think about all the money you could have now if you had just resisted that compulsion.

 **CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You're getting closer on a personal level with an authority figure at work, but being more social with this person doesn't mean that you're going to be getting any special treatment. But this is a good thing. It would be insulting if they started treating you differently anyway, wouldn't it? Not to mention the fact that it could negatively affect your reputation.

 **GEMINI** MAY 21-JUNE 21

Today's going to be an easy day. So if you want, feel free to put your overworked brain on auto-pilot -- especially when it comes to the tasks you perform every day. You've impressed everyone you need to impress for now, so don't worry about your reputation. Today is all about the ease of knowing exactly how to do everything you need to do. This energy will keep you smiling.

 **LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Beware of people who are being too nice to you -- they may have an ulterior motive for charming you to their side. Getting attention from others is always flattering, but you can't take the compliment without any scrutiny. Take note of their position and what they could gain from having you in their corner. It's not fun to think that a person could be playing you. Protect yourself always.

 **AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Being polite and having good manners is important, but if someone is rude to you, you certainly don't owe them any courtesies. If someone pushes your buttons, then let them have it. Celebrate your obnoxious side today and use your creativity to craft an insult that will really get your point across. You aren't someone who can sit quietly while someone disrespects you.

 **CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22

No one is ever going to walk up to you and ask for your ideas today. If you want to put your thoughts in motion, you have to step in and start the discussion. Frame it in a way that's favourable to your ideas. What you say today will be heard and taken seriously, so have faith. Be bold and insert yourself into situations that seem like they can be advantageous to you.

 **SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Your brain is extremely active right now, and it's urging you to do lots of things in a little amount of time. This frantic energy is exhilarating but also limiting -- you will have little patience for the people in your life who can't maintain your pace. This is a mistake. If they cannot keep up with you, go ahead and move forward on your plans. They're not holding you back.

 **PISCES** FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

This is a great day for starting projects that involve improvements around your house. Even if you don't have the greatest handyman skills, you do have tons of elbow grease. So stick with what you know you can do, and do it. Paint a room. Fix a leaky faucet. Clean out a closet. Then make arrangements for a professional to come in and take care of the rest.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Non stick cooking utensils are coated with

a. Teflon
b. PVC
c. black paint
d. polystyrene

2. Monazite is an ore of

a. titanium
b. zirconium
c. iron
d. thorium

3. Carbon, diamond and graphite are together called

a. allotropes
b. isomers
c. isomorphs
d. isotopes

Answers: 1.a 2.d 3.a

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

H	F	A	O
G	R	U	C
A	I	H	S
D	E	F	A

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters -- to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.
Solution 20-25 words: Excellent, 15-20 words: Very good, 10-15 words: Good, 5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

	3	6	5					
		4			7			8
		9			6	5	3	2
	8	7	9		3			6
				7				
4				6		2	8	5
5	6	8	7			9		
3			2			6		
					5	4	8	

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

8	8	4	6	9	1	2	7	6
5	7	9	6	8	2	1	4	3
1	2	6	4	3	7	8	9	5
7	5	8	2	1	9	3	6	4
6	1	3	8	7	4	5	2	9
9	4	2	3	6	5	7	8	1
2	3	5	9	4	6	1	7	8
8	9	1	7	6	3	4	5	2
4	7	6	1	2	5	9	3	8



AMAZING Thailand



H E Suwat Kaewsook, ambassador of Thailand, was the chief guest

A variety of cultural symbols from the vibrant culture of Thailand were on display at a unique cultural fest organised by the Royal Thai embassy in Muscat, in association with the Water Front mall, between Sept 29 and October 9.

The Art & Soul gallery was the art and craft partner for the event which showcased numerous works of art put up by artists from a host of nationalities in Oman. Omani and expatriate artists were asked to participate in the exhibition on the theme - Amazing Thailand.

Participating artists brought out the colourful splendour of Thailand in many different ways, giving people who attended the fest glimpses of Thailand's vibrant culture and its great emphasis on arts and crafts which are part and parcel of the lives of people in Thailand. Around 35 artists participated with more than 40 paintings.

People also got an opportunity to buy goods from Thailand, including crafts and foodstuff, as well as savour Thai delicacies at the event which was attended by people of different cultures in Oman.

While the Thai festival wound up on October 1, the art exhibition concluded last Saturday as per schedule.



'I'm the best fighter in my era'

Tyson Fury knocks out Deontay Wilder to retain WBC crown in a boxing classic held in Las Vegas

Las Vegas, US - Tyson Fury believes he is the greatest heavyweight of his era after producing a scintillating display to beat Deontay Wilder in a boxing classic on Saturday.

The 33-year-old undefeated Englishman recovered from two knockdowns against the hard-hitting Wilder before knocking out the American in the 11th round to retain his WBC crown. "I know I'm the greatest heavyweight of my era, without doubt. No 1," Fury said following an epic battle at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

"I've fought the most devastating puncher in the history of our sport, not once, not twice, but three times."

At a towering 6ft 9in tall and weighing in at 125.6kg, Fury is unarguably one of the biggest heavyweight champions of all time. Icons of the heavyweight division like Muhammad Ali or Joe Frazier would be giving away massive advantages in height and weight in any theoretical match-up with the reigning champion.

Fury was initially reluctant on Saturday to rank his chances against past greats. "I don't like competing with fighters from the past because it's fantasy, not reality," he said. "I can only beat the best of my day. And I've done that. I'm the best fighter in my era."

However, he later could not resist comparing himself favourably to the greatest heavyweights to have graced the division. "There's been so many of them, so many great champions," he said.

"Without sounding too clever, I place myself at the top of the pile. I believe I can beat any man in history, any man."

'Magnificent'

Saturday's thriller meanwhile left many at ringside struggling to think of a better heavyweight contest in boxing history.

"Listen, I've been in this business 57 years promoting fights and I truly have to say I have never seen a heavyweight fight as magnificent as this," said Fury's US promoter Bob Arum, who promoted 27 of Muhammad Ali's fights including the 1975 classic 'Thrilla in Manila' against Joe Frazier.

Frank Warren, Fury's veteran English promoter, said Saturday's bout was 'boxing history'.

"It's the best live heavyweight fight I've seen," Warren said.

"It was just amazing. Two

this is over.' I thought 'Okay, good shot - but I will get you back in a minute, and I did,'" he said.

"He shook me and he put me down, but that's boxing. And that's life as well - no matter how many times you get put down, it's all about getting back up."

The epic battle was held in front of 15,820 fans at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

The brutal energy-sapping nature of the fight, and Fury's relentless physicality, finally took its toll on Wilder in the 11th.

With the American exhausted

"It was a great fight tonight as well as any trilogy in history."

Saturday's bout was the third instalment of an acrimonious rivalry between Fury, the trash-talking self-styled 'Gypsy King' and Wilder, the heavy-handed knockout specialist regarded as one of the most destructive punchers in the sport.

Fury had scored a seventh-round knockout of Wilder in their second fight 20 months ago, after the two men shared a controversial draw in their first meeting in Los Angeles in 2018.

Two warriors

Fury, who improved to 31-0-1 with 22 knockouts, revealed afterwards he had sought to pay his respects to Wilder after the fight, but had been rebuffed.

"We fought like two warriors in there," Fury said. "And I went over to shake his hand and say well done and he was like 'No, I don't respect you'."

"I was like 'How can you say I've cheated when you know in your heart, you've been beaten fair and square?'"

"Is he a sore loser or what?"

"But I've acted like a gentleman throughout my career and that's all I can do."

Wilder, who was taken to a Las Vegas hospital following the fight as a precaution, did not speak to the press following the bout.

However in brief remarks he acknowledged he had struggled to deal with Fury's size.

"I did my best, but it wasn't good enough," said Wilder.

"I'm not sure what happened. I know that in training he did certain things, and I also knew that he didn't come in at 277lbs (125.6kg) to be a ballet dancer."

"He came to lean on me, try to rough me up and he succeeded."

AFP



I don't like competing with fighters from the past because it's fantasy, not reality. I can only beat the best of my day. And I've done that. I'm the best fighter in my era

TYSON FURY

warriors and just so absorbing. Tyson is the standout heavyweight of his generation.

"I have seen him box better. But the heart and the bravery he showed tonight were just amazing. Boxing should be proud of what he did tonight."

Fury, who now plans to take a break from the sport before contemplating a potential unification fight with WBA, IBF and WBO champion Oleksandr Usyk, or British rival Anthony Joshua, insisted he had never felt in danger against Wilder.

"He caught me twice. But I was never like thinking 'Uh oh,

and on the ropes, Fury landed the decisive combination.

A right uppercut scrambled Wilder's senses before Fury crashed a right hook into his opponent's temple that sent the challenger tumbling to the canvas, barely conscious.

"Shots like that end careers,"

Fury said. "I just hope that he's OK. Because he took a lot of punishment tonight."

"Don't ever doubt me," Fury added. "When the chips are down I will always deliver."

"I give him the glory for the victory. He's a tough man - he took some big shots tonight."



Tyson Fury (top) reacts after knocking down Deontay Wilder in the third round of their WBC heavyweight championship title fight at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, US, on Saturday (AFP)

US Open champion Medvedev cruises into third round



Daniil Medvedev serves against Mackenzie McDonald during their match in Indian Wells, US, on Saturday (AFP)

INDIAN WELLS TENNIS

Los Angeles, US - US Open champion Daniil Medvedev made a smooth return to ATP action on Saturday, downing American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2 to reach the third round at Indian Wells.

The second-ranked Russian - the top men's seed in the combined WTA and ATP Masters hard court tournament - played his first ATP match since capturing his maiden Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows - where he denied Novak Djokovic a rare calendar Grand Slam sweep.

Since then, Medvedev helped Team Europe beat Team World at the Laver Cup, and kept things rolling with a convincing win over 57th-ranked McDonald.

Medvedev didn't face a break

I'm actually really pleased, because usually I haven't played well in Indian Wells

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

point, and converted three of his seven break chances against the American to wrap things up in 72 minutes.

"I'm actually really pleased, because usually I haven't played well in Indian Wells and I haven't been playing that well in practices before (the tournament)," said Medvedev, who was 3-3 in prior appearances in

the California desert.

Medvedev booked a third-round meeting with Serbian Filip Krajinovic, who pulled off a 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 winner over American Marcos Giron.

Russian fourth seed Andrey Rublev also advanced, beating Spain's Carlos Taberner 6-3, 6-4.

Pliskova, Andreescu through

Women's top seed Karolina Pliskova eased into the third round as fifth-seeded Garbine Muguruza was toppled by Ajla Tomljanovic.

Pliskova, ranked third in the world, needed 80 minutes to get past 23-year-old Polish qualifier Magdalena Frech 7-5, 6-2.

Spain's Muguruza, meanwhile, was bundled out 6-3, 1-6,

6-3 by Australia's Tomljanovic, who reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at Wimbledon earlier this year.

Bianca Andreescu launched her defence of the title she won in 2019 - the most recent edition of the tournament - with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-2 victory over American Alison Riske.

"It felt great being back here," Andreescu told the crowd of returning to the site of her breakthrough WTA win, which launched her on a stellar 2019 season that included a US Open victory.

In other women's matches, French Open champion Barbora Krejickova, the third seed, beat Kazakh qualifier Zarina Diyas 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

AFP

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FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

England stroll past Andorra; McTominay is Scotland hero

FIFA WORLD CUP
EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Paris, France - Scott McTominay scored an injury-time winner as Scotland came from behind to claim a crucial 3-2 victory over Israel in World Cup qualifying on Saturday, while England thrashed Andorra 5-0 to stay on track to reach next year's global show-piece.

The win takes Scotland four points clear of Israel in second place in Group F with three matches remaining as they bid to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1998.

Scotland trailed twice in the first half at Hampden Park to goals from PSV Eindhoven forward Eran Zahavi and Mu'nas Dabbur. John McGinn levelled once, but home striker Lyndon Dykes missed a penalty on the stroke of half-time. He made amends before the hour mark with an equaliser.

The hosts pushed for a winner which arrived in the 94th minute as Manchester United midfielder McTominay bundled in at the back post.

The Scots still hold a slim chance of topping the group, trailing leaders Denmark, who cruised past Moldova 4-0 in Chisinau, by seven points.



England's Ben Chilwell (second from left) celebrates a goal with his teammates

England score five

England manager Gareth Southgate rested key players including Harry Kane and Raheem Sterling as his second string impressed in a 5-0 thumping of Andorra.

Ben Chilwell opened the scoring in the 17th minute, with the goal awarded by VAR after initially being disallowed for offside against Jadon Sancho.

Bukayo Saka made the points safe before half-time and Roma striker Tammy Abraham made

the most of a rare start by scoring in the 59th minute.

Jack Grealish came off the bench and won a penalty which James Ward-Prowse saw saved, before turning in the rebound.

Grealish rounded off the scoring with a fine individual effort for his first international goal after collecting goalkeeper Sam Johnstone's long kick. It was a busy night for Kateryna Monzul, the first woman official to referee an

England match, with five yellow



Scotland's Scott McTominay (C) during the match against Israel

cards as well as the penalty award.

England remain four points clear at the top of Group I after second-placed Albania won 1-0 against Hungary in Budapest.

Poland are a point further back in third after seeing off San Marino 5-0 and next face Albania in Tirana on Tuesday.

Sweden prevail

Sweden moved within a point of Group B leaders Spain thanks to

a 3-0 win over Kosovo in Solna.

Sweden also have a game in hand on Spain, who they visit in their final qualifier next month.

Greece kept their hopes of pushing into the top two themselves alive as two late goals secured a 2-0 win in Georgia.

The Greeks remain unbeaten and are three points behind Sweden and also have a game in hand on Spain. Switzerland remain close on the coattails of European champions Italy after

COLLATED RESULTS

GROUP A

Azerbaijan 0 Republic of Ireland 3 (Robinson 7, 39, Ogbene 90)
Luxembourg 0 Serbia 1 (Vlahovic 68)

GROUP B

Georgia 0 Greece 2 (Bakasetas 90-pen, Pelkas 90+5)
Sweden 3 (Forsberg 29-pen, Isak 62, Quaison 79)
Kosovo 0

GROUP C

Lithuania 3 (Lasickas 18, Cernych 82, 84) Bulgaria 1 (Despodov 64)
Switzerland 2 (Zuber 45+3, Fassnacht 90+1) Northern Ireland 0

GROUP D

Kazakhstan 0 Bosnia and Herzegovina 2 (Prevljak 25, 66)

Finland 1 (Pukki 29) Ukraine 2 (Yarmolenko 4, Yaremchuk 34)

GROUP F

Scotland 3 (McGinn 30, Dykes 57, McTominay 90+4) Israel 2 (Zahavi 5, Dabbur 32)
Faroe Islands 0 Austria 2 (Laimer 26, Sabitzer 48)
Moldova 0 Denmark 4 (Skov Olsen 23, Kjaer 34-pen, Norgaard 39, Maehle 44)

GROUP I

Andorra 0 England 5 (Chilwell 17, Saka 40, Abraham 59, Ward-Prowse 79, Grealish 86)
Hungary 0 Albania 1 (Broja 80)
Poland 5 (Swiderski 10, Brolli 20-og, Kedziora 50, Buksa 84, Piatek 90+1)
San Marino 0

edging out ten-man Northern Ireland 2-0 in Geneva.

The Swiss are three points behind Italy in Group C with a game in hand and lead third-placed Northern Ireland by six points.

Elsewhere, Serbia moved above Portugal to the top of Group A with a 1-0 win over Lux-

embourg. Ukraine won 2-1 in Finland to consolidate their grip on second place in Group D.

The Euro 2020 quarterfinalists are two points ahead of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who beat Kazakhstan 2-0, and four points behind France. AFP

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Mane among goals as Senegal triumph

FIFA WORLD CUP
AFRICAN QUALIFIERS

Johannesburg, South Africa - Liverpool star Sadio Mane was among the goals as Senegal cruised to a 4-1 win over Namibia on Saturday, and near-certain qualification for the final World Cup elimination round in Africa.

Another victory over the Namibians on Tuesday will seal first place in Group H for the Senegalese, who are chasing a second successive appearance at the global showpiece.

The convincing matchday 3 triumph in Thies near Dakar lifted Senegal to nine points while Namibia have four, Congo Brazzaville two and Togo one.

PSG's midfielder Idrissa Gueye gave the Teranga Lions an early lead in Senegal that Turkey-based Famara Diedhiou increased before half-time. After Mane claimed his third goal of the qualifying campaign on 55 minutes, Joslin Kamatuka pulled one goal back only for Keita Balde to restore the three-goal gap.

In Casablanca, Ayoub el Kaabi scored in each half as Morocco cantered to a 3-0 Group I win over Guinea-Bissau and, like

Senegal's Sadio Mane (R) in action during the FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Namibia in Thies, Senegal, on Saturday

Senegal, the north Africans can punch a ticket to the final round on Tuesday.

The Moroccans play Guinea in a rescheduled matchday 2 fixture in Rabat and victory will give the Atlas Lions an uncatchable eight-point lead as they chase a sixth World Cup appearance.

Pacesetters South Africa remain one point ahead of Ghana in Group G after both nations achieved 3-1 victories. South Africa overcame third-placed Ethiopia in Bahir Dar while Ghana were too good for bottom side Zimbabwe in Cape Coast.

South Africa have seven

points, fellow three-time World Cup participants Ghana six, Ethiopia three and Zimbabwe one. Zimbabwe faced Ghana after expressing unhappiness at the hard, uneven pitch with knee-high grass on which they had to practice.

Playing under Serbian coach Milovan Rajevac for the first time after Charles Akonnor was sacked following a loss in South Africa last month, Ghana led within five minutes through Mohammed Kudus.

Knowledge Musona equalised via an early second-half penalty only for Ghana to regain the lead

COLLATED RESULTS

GROUP G

Ethiopia 1 (Kebede 67)
South Africa 3 (Mokoena 45+1, Mvula 71, Makgopa 90+1)
Ghana 3 (Kudus 5, Partey 66, A Ayew 87) Zimbabwe 1 (Musona 49-pen)

GROUP H

Togo 1 (Placca 56) Congo Brazzaville 1 (Romao 20-og)
Senegal 4 (Gueye 10, Diedhiou 38, Mane 55, Balde 84) Namibia 1 (Kamatuka 76)

GROUP I

Guinea 2 (Kante 48, Bayo 67) Sudan 2 (Mahmoud 64, Kamal 88)
Guinea-Bissau 0 Morocco 3 (El Kaabi 10, 69, Barkok 20)

Note: Guinea (post-coup security concerns) and Guinea-Bissau (no international-standard stadium) moved home fixtures to Morocco

through Arsenal midfielder Thomas Partey and long-serving Andre Ayew added a third goal. AFP

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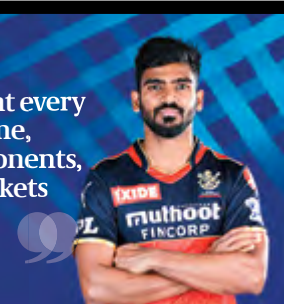
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

You can't just go bang-bang at every ball. You have to take your time, work out the angles, the opponents, the running between the wickets

KS Bharat
Bangalore batter, on his IPL experience so far, on Saturday



CHENNAI IN NINTH FINAL

QUALIFIER ONE
DELHI VS CHENNAI
Dubai, UAE - Ruturaj Gaikwad and Robin Uthappa put on 110 for the second wicket and MS Dhoni rolled back the clock with a finishing act as Chennai Super Kings qualified for their ninth IPL final, beating league-stage toppers Delhi Capitals in Qualifier One on Sunday.

After the second-wicket stand had laid the platform for Super Kings in a chase of 173, the middle order stuttered before Dhoni came in with Super Kings needing 23 off 11. He played his first ball with them needing 19 off nine, and missed it.

The next ball from Avesh Khan was clobbered over the midwicket boundary, and Dhoni then had strike against Tom Curran with 13 to get off five.

Curran was Capitals' most successful bowler of the night at that point, but boundaries from Dhoni - even if one was an inside edge - off the next two balls put the pressure squarely on him; that resulted in a wide, and eventually the half-tracker slower ball that Dhoni swung to the leg-side boundary to seal the win with two balls to spare.

"My innings was a crucial one," said 40-year-old Dhoni. "Delhi has a very good bowling attack. They exploited the conditions well, so we knew it would be tough."

He added, "I've not done a lot in the tournament, so wanted to look for the ball and see what the bowler can do. I was batting well

in the nets. But wasn't thinking too much, if you think too much while batting then you mess your plans up."

Virat Kohli, whose Royal Challengers Bangalore face Kolkata Knight Riders in the Eliminator on Monday, hailed Dhoni's vintage performance.

"And the king is back, the greatest finisher in the game. Made me jump Outta my seat once again tonight," Kohli tweeted.

Dhoni will be India's mentor in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman where Kohli will captain the national team for one final time in the shortest format.

The first IPL qualifier had the top two teams in the league table clash, with three-time champions Chennai getting a direct entry into the final - their ninth in 14 seasons - on October 15.

Delhi, led by Rishabh Pant, will have another shot at securing a berth in the final when they play the second qualifier on Wednesday.

Speaking after the close defeat, Pant said, "Obviously it is very disappointing, and I can't have enough words to describe how we are feeling."

On the decision to hand the ball to Curran for the last over, Pant said, "I thought Tom bowled beautifully throughout the match, and so I thought better to use him for the last over."

"The score was decent, and they got off to a flier. That



was the main difference. We are going to rectify our mistakes, learn from it and hopefully, we can move on and play the final."

Delhi posted 172 for five with attacking knocks from Prithvi Shaw (60) and skipper Pant (51 not out).

Chennai's Australian import Josh Hazlewood took two wickets while Moeen returned figures of one for 27 with his off-spin.

Chennai lost opener Faf du Plessis for one, bowled by Anrich Nortje in the first over, before

Gaikwad and Uthappa set up the chase.

Curran hit back with two wickets in one over including Uthappa's key scalp, but the in-form Gaikwad took the attack to the opposition and got past 600 runs this season.

Gaikwad, who was named the player of the match, later said, "I try to stay neutral. Every game is new so need to start afresh, need to start new. The powerplay was the crucial stage, the wicket was holding a little bit. Robin [Uthappa] batted really well,

took on bowlers. It got easier for me to stay there till the end. At times you have to take the odd risk. You have to take it one over at a time, so that required rate doesn't go up too much. Want to stay humble."

Cricinfo

TODAY'S MATCH

ELIMINATOR



ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

VS



KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

SHARJAH, 6PM

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

P Shaw	c du Plessis b Jadeja	60 (44)
S Dhawan	c Dhoni b Hazlewood	7 (7)
S Iyer	c Gaikwad b Hazlewood	1 (8)
Axar Patel	c sub (M Santner)	
	b Moeen Ali	10 (11)
R Pant	not out	51 (35)
S Hetmyer	c Jadeja b Bravo	37 (24)
T Curran	not out	0 (1)
Extras	(w 6)	6

TOTAL 172 for five in 20 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-50, 3-77, 4-80, 5-163

Bowling: D Chahar 3-0-26-0, J Hazlewood 4-0-29-2, S Thakur 3-0-36-0, R Jadeja 3-0-23-1, Moeen Ali 4-0-27-1, D Bravo 3-0-31-1

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

R Gaikwad	c Axar b Avesh Khan	70 (50)
F du Plessis	b Nortje	1 (2)
R Uthappa	c Iyer b Curran	63 (44)
S Thakur	c Iyer b Curran	0 (1)
A Rayudu	run out	1 (3)
Moeen Ali	c Rabada b Curran	16 (12)
MS Dhoni	not out	18 (6)
R Jadeja	not out	0 (0)
Extras	(lb 1, w 3)	4

TOTAL: 173 for six in 19.4 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-113, 3-117, 4-119, 5-149, 6-160

Bowling: A Nortje 4-0-31-1, Avesh Khan 4-0-47-1, K Rabada 3-0-23-0, Axar Patel 3-0-23-0, T Curran 3-4-0-29-3, R Ashwin 2-0-19-0

OUTSIDE IPL

England name strong squad for Ashes tour

London, UK - England were able to name their strongest available squad for the Ashes tour to Australia on Sunday as their stars committed to the trip after coronavirus quarantine fears.

The Ashes tour had been the subject of tense negotiations after England's players and their families expressed concerns over tough COVID-19 quarantine restrictions in Australia.

England Test captain Joe Root and vice-captain Jos Buttler both hinted they might not travel if their fears were not eased.

But following a breakthrough in talks with Cricket Australia, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Friday said they had given 'conditional approval' for the tour to go ahead.

Both Root and Buttler were named in the 17-man squad for the tour and there were no COVID-19 opt-outs, with Essex batsman Dan Lawrence the most eye-catching selection.

"A tour of Australia is the pinnacle as an England Test cricketer. I'm delighted that all of our



A file photo of England skipper Joe Root (L) and Jos Buttler during a Test match

available players have committed to the tour," England head coach Chris Silverwood said.

"This is why we play and coach to be involved in iconic series like this. More than half of our squad haven't featured in an Ashes tour before, which means we will be fresh and looking to embrace the cricket and the excitement of touring one of the

best places in the world."

Veterans James Anderson and Stuart Broad head up the seam bowling for what may well be their Ashes swansongs, with support from fellow pacemen Chris Woakes, Mark Wood and Ollie Robinson. Broad will embark on his fourth Ashes tour after making 'excellent progress' from a torn right calf sustained during

the Test series against India.

Moeen Ali's retirement from Test action left the way clear for Jack Leach and Dom Bess to take up two spinners slots.

Haseeb Hameed travels despite missing out on a central contract this week.

As expected, England are without fast bowlers Jofra Archer and Olly Stone due to elbow and

back injuries respectively. Australia are the current holders of the Ashes after retaining the urn following a 2-2 draw in England in 2019.

Along with the main Test squad, England will also name a separate Lions party in due course. That group will be on stand-by in the event of injury and will serve as warm-up opposition before the five-match Test series starts in Brisbane on December 8.

The ECB said the tour is still subject to 'several critical conditions' being met by Cricket Australia before the team travels in November.

ENGLAND SQUAD:
Joe Root (capt), James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Dom Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

AFF

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Bottas wins Turkish Grand Prix, Verstappen reclaims title lead



Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas celebrates during the podium ceremony after the Formula One Turkish Grand Prix in Istanbul on Sunday

FORMULA ONE
TURKISH GRAND PRIX
Istanbul, Turkey - Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas claimed his first chequered flag of the season to win the Turkish Grand Prix on Sunday as Max Verstappen reclaimed the lead in the title race.

The Red Bull driver finished second to take a six-point lead in the championship ahead of Bottas' teammate Lewis Hamilton who finished fifth voicing frustration with team strategy.

Sergio Perez, in the other Red Bull, took third with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in fourth. Although the rain eased by the start of the race, the wet conditions prevailed throughout, making the tactics around tyres

and the timing of pit stops all the more important. Bottas began from pole, avoiding a tangle between Pierre Gasly and Fernando Alonso on the opening lap, and led until pitting on the 38th lap of the 58-lap race. That gave Leclerc the lead but as his tyres faded so did his pace and the Finn soon reclaimed the lead, going on to take his 11th

RESULTS [TOP FIVE]:	
1	Valtteri Bottas (1hr 31min 4.103sec)
2	Max Verstappen (at 14.584sec)
3	Sergio Perez (at 33.471)
4	Charles Leclerc (at 37.814)
5	Lewis Hamilton (41.812)
Championship standings:	
1	Verstappen (262.5 pts)
2	Hamilton (256.5)
3	Bottas (177)
4	Lando Norris (145)
5	Perez (135)

which tyre but I'm glad everything went smooth for once for me.

"When only one drying line, it doesn't need much to go off. I definitely needed to focus all through the race. A difficult one, but feels like a well-earned victory."

Verstappen, who began the race two points behind Hamilton in the title race, made no attempt to challenge Bottas and focussed on a damage limitation exercise, content to ease home second knowing that Hamilton was three places further back.

"It was not easy today," said the Dutchman who took a slender six-point lead in the championship with six races remaining.

"The track was very greasy, we had to manage the tyres the



Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen drives ahead of Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc during the Turkish GP on Sunday

whole race so couldn't really push.

"Just seemed Valtteri had a bit more pace, could look after the tyres all race. Happy to finish second in these conditions, it's easy to get it wrong so you drop back."

Hamilton was quickest in qualifying but had to start the race in 11th because of a grid penalty incurred for changing his engine.

The seven-time champion gained two places on the opening lap before picking his way up to fifth where he was held up by Perez.

As the other cars came in to change their tyres Hamilton stayed out, moving up to third and looking good for the podium.

Hamilton declined the initial call to come in for fresh tyres but

finally acceded to the Mercedes team instructions, boxing eight laps from the end.

It cost Hamilton two places as Perez and Leclerc flew on ahead and the Englishman did not hide his frustration over the radio.

"We shouldn't have come in. Massive graining man. I told you," an angry Hamilton said to his team as he struggled to hold off Pierre Gasly in the McLaren.

A disgruntled Hamilton later pointed out Alpine's Esteban Ocon made it round with one set of tyres, intimating that he could have stayed out.

"In hindsight. I should either have stayed out or come in earlier because when you come in with eight laps to go you don't have time to make up the difference."

AFP



Italy's Moise Kean (L) fights for the ball with Belgium's Jason Denayer during the UEFA Nations League third-place match in Turin, on Sunday

Italy down Belgium to finish third

NATIONS LEAGUE
THIRD PLACE PLAYOFF
Turin, Italy - Italy claimed third place in the Nations League on Sunday after beating Belgium 2-1 to bounce back from their world record unbeaten run being brought to an end.

A superb volley from Nicolo Barella just after half-time and Domenico Berardi's 63rd-minute penalty were enough for the Azzurri to see off a Belgium team missing the injured Romelu Lukaku and Eden Hazard to win the third-place playoff.

The European champions, beaten by Spain in their semifinal on Wednesday to lose after going 37 matches without a defeat, played with verve on a gorgeous sunny day at Turin's Allianz Stadium but Belgium's poor luck continued following their last-gasp semifinal loss to France on Thursday.

Alexis Saelemaekers, who started in place of substitute

Kevin De Bruyne, Michy Batshuayi and Yannick Carrasco all struck the woodwork before Charles De Ketelaere scored with four minutes remaining.

It was a positive day for Italy coach Roberto Mancini, who watched as Federico Chiesa starred up front for an experimental side.

"We played very well today... Chiesa can play anywhere, right or left, today he played on the left and he did really well. He's an important player," Mancini told RAI.

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois may have called Sunday's match 'pointless' but the two teams put plenty of commitment into their displays, with some players looking to carve out a place in their national teams.

World champions France face Spain in the final at the San Siro in Milan later on Sunday.

AFP

Oman's Luqman and Ayman exit after reaching knockouts

Ashok Purohit
Muscat

WTT YOUTH CONTENDER
Oman's young paddlers - Ayman al Shehi and Luqman al Farsi - flattered to deceive on the opening day of the 2021 WTT Youth Contender Muscat at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex on Sunday.

Playing in the U17 boys' singles competition, the duo raised the sultanate's hopes by finishing second in their respective groups in the first-round to advance to the knockout (round-of-32) stage.

Luqman began his campaign in style with a 3-0 win over Nigerian Olawale Adegoke Muizz but lost to India's Payas Jain 0-3 in the group to finish second and advance. However, in the knockouts, Luqman lost to down to Bangladesh's Ridoy Mohutasin Ahmed.

Ayman also started on a winning note with a 3-0 win over UAE's Dheyab al Balushi but lost to Saudi Arabia's Salem Al Suwailem 0-3 to end second in the group. In the knockout round, Qatar's Ali Yousaf blanked Ayman 3-0 to end his hopes.

The other Omani U17 players - Abdulrahman al Zaabi, Mohammed al Mutawa and Bader al Jassasi - failed to win any of their first-round group games to make a hasty exit.

Indian paddlers - Payas Jain and Ankur Bhattacharjee - set up a quarterfinal clash while in another last-eight clash, Sri Lanka's Pitiyage Silva was to play Iran's Amin Mohammad Samadi. The other quarterfinals pitted Iran's Samran Karimi and Kazakhstan's Alan Kurmangaliyev and Saudi Khalid al Shareif and



Luqman al Farsi in action during the first-round match against Payas Jain



Ayman al Shehi in action during his match against Dheyab al Balushi

Yemen's Abdulhakim Ebrahim Gubran.

Meanwhile, in the U13 boys' category, eight Omani paddlers - Ali al Ghafri, Eyad al Jassasi, Said al Awadi, Moyad al Mutawa, Turki al Abri, Badr al Shanfari, Laith al Balushi and Mohammed al Jassasi - were in action on Sunday but all failed to advance.

Except for Turki, who won one match in his group, none of the others could record any victories. Turki beat Qatar's Hamad al Sulaiti 3-2 but lost his other two matches to finish third in the group. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Uzbekistan and Sri Lankan

players advanced to the quarterfinals.

ITTF competitions' manager Jose Benets appreciated the arrangements made by the Oman Table Tennis Association (OTTA). "The OTTA has provided us with all the requirements and we hope to have a successful event," he said.

Competition in the boys' U11, U15 and U19 categories will take place on Monday. All the group matches will be held in the morning session while the knockout stages will be held during the evening session.

@ashokmuscat

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP
COUNTDOWN: SIX DAYS TO GO

DRS to be used for first time

Dubai, UAE - For the first time in an ICC men's T20I tournament the Decision Review System (DRS) will be in use as the governing body has announced that the system will be available at the T20 World Cup starting on October 17.

As per the playing conditions released by the ICC for the forthcoming T20 World Cup, which begins in Muscat and will be played in the UAE and Oman, each team will need to get a maximum of two reviews per innings.

ICC had confirmed in June last year an additional unsuccessful DRS review for each team in each innings of a match across all formats, 'keeping in mind that there may be less experienced umpires on duty at times' owing to COVID-19-related reasons.

The number of unsuccessful appeals per innings for each team has since increased to two for the white-ball formats and three for Tests.

The ICC has also decided to increase the minimum number of overs for delayed and rain-interrupted matches. During the group stages of the T20 World Cup, each team will need to bat for a minimum of five overs for the result to be decided by the DLS method.

But for the semifinals and the final, each team will need to bat for a minimum of ten overs to effect a result.

Cricinfo

Title winners to get \$1.6mn

Dubai, UAE - Whoever lifts the T20 World Cup trophy on November 14, 2021, in Dubai, will get a cash award of US\$1.6mn to go with it. This was confirmed as the ICC announced the list of prize money for the tournament - a total of US\$5.6mn overall - on Sunday. The losing finalist will get US\$800,000, while the two losing semifinalists will get US\$400,000 each.

Every win in the Super 12s stage of the tournament will fetch teams US\$40,000 - 30 Super 12 games will be played, totalling US\$1.2mn in prize money. The teams that go out at this stage of the tournament - eight teams in all - will get US\$70,000 each.

Wins in round one of the tournament - 12 matches in all - will fetch US\$40,000 apiece, and the four teams that don't make it to the Super 12s will get \$40,000 each.

Eight teams will take part in round one, starting in Muscat on October 17.

The ICC also announced that the tournament will feature official drinks breaks - that is, a two-and-a-half-minute break in play at the ten-over mark in each innings.

Weather in both the nations could have had an influence on this decision. While the worst of the summer is over, both the countries are still transitioning into the cooler months.

Cricinfo

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