



MONDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2021
www.muscatdaily.com
Email: muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om
To subscribe, call toll free no: 80076000

30°C/21°C

DRONE ATTACK ON IRAQI PM'S RESIDENCE
GO TO **PAGE 08** WORLD



SAYYID THEYAZIN SEES OFF SHABAB OMAN II

Muscat - An official farewell ceremony for *Shabab Oman II* of the Royal Navy of Oman was held under the patronage of H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, at Sultan Qaboos Port in Muttrah on Sunday.

It was attended by H H Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, and commanders of Sultan's Armed Forces, military and security services.

The sail ship will visit a number of

ports in the GCC, besides participating in Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.

The guests boarded the ship to bid farewell to the crew. H H Sayyid Theyazin later launched the ship's website.

Shabab Oman II will visit A'Shiyoukh Port in Kuwait, King Abdulaziz Port in Saudi Arabia, King Salman Port in Bahrain, Hamad Port in Qatar, and Dubai Tourism Port in the UAE before dropping anchor at Dubai Port on November 21 and remain there till December 1.

ONA



Criteria set for booster dose for COVID-19

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Following the Supreme Committee's approval of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine to high-risk groups and immunocompromised patients, the Directorate General of Disease Surveillance and Control in the Ministry of Health (MoH) has announced criteria for those eligible.

Booster doses are being administered from November 7 to high-risk groups who have completed eight months since the second dose of vaccine.

The high-risk groups include individuals who are 65 years and older, healthcare workers and front-line workers aged 50 years and older, and patients with chronic diseases aged 18 years and older, especially for those if not well controlled.

Chronic illnesses include chronic lung conditions - chronic obstructive pulmonary syndrome (COPD), asthma



36 cases reported in 3 days

The Ministry of Health, on Sunday, announced 36 new cases of COVID-19 registered over three days. There were no COVID-19-related deaths in this period. With this, the total number of COVID-19 cases registered in the sultanate now stands at 304,365 and 4,112 related deaths. The ministry also stated that 55 COVID-19 patients recovered in this period, accounting for a total of 299,754 recoveries.

(medium and high severity), interstitial lung disease, chronic kidney diseases (kidney failure and those on dialysis) - as well as diabetes, hypertension, hereditary blood disorders, liver diseases and obesity (body mass index of 30kg/m2 and higher).

For immunocompromised patients, the third dose will be administered to those who have completed three months since the second dose.

The target groups include immunocompromised patients aged 12 and older who are undergoing cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, HIV positive (especially uncontrolled), and those receiving immunosuppressive drugs or biological agents.

'The dosage should be scheduled as instructed by the doctor treating the patient in consideration of his/her health condition and ensuring it doesn't interfere with other medication,' MoH stated.

UAE President issues personal status law for non-Muslims

Abu Dhabi, UAE - The ruler of Abu Dhabi and the President of the UAE issued an order on Sunday allowing non-Muslim residents the right to marry, divorce, custody of children and inheritance as per the local law.

In a major change to the existing law, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan ordered regulation of 'personal status matters for non-Muslims in Abu Dhabi' so as to 'provide a flexible and advanced judicial mechanism for the determination of personal status disputes for non-Muslims', state-run news agency WAM reported.

The decision - the first of its kind in the world - will enhance the emirate's position and global competitiveness as one of the most attractive destinations for talent and skills, the report said.

The new law applies civil principles in the regulation of family matters, Youssef al Abri, Undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, said while announcing the establishment of the first court dedicated to non-Muslim family matters by the Judicial Department.

Royal Decree on mutual visa waiver with Greece

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued Royal Decree No 64/2021 on the ratification of an agreement between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Republic of Greece on mutual waiver of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports,

signed in Muscat on October 20, 2021.

Article 1 ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version attached to this decree.

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

National Day holiday on Nov 28, 29

Muscat - Upon the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, it has been decided that Sunday, November 28, and Monday, November 29, will be an official holiday for employees in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus, other legal entities and private sector establishments on the occasion of the

51st National Day.

In a statement, the Ministry of Labour said that employers at private sector establishments may agree with their respective employees to continue working during the two days, if deemed necessary, provided the workers are compensated for that. ONA

HONOURABLE LADY PRESIDES OVER LAUNCH CEREMONY OF RIFI

The Honourable Lady presided over the launch ceremony of a financing programme for rural women called Rifi ('rural' in Arabic) at the House of Musical Arts in Muscat. Rifi aims to support and encourage the culture of entrepreneurship among women in rural areas.



Sayyid Fatik delivers HM's message to Qatari Emir



Doha, Qatar - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik sent a written message to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar, on Sunday. The message deals with bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

The message was handed over by Sayyid Fatik bin Fahr al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan, when he was received by the Qatari monarch at the Emiri Diwan in Doha.

During the meeting, Sayyid Fatik conveyed greetings of His Majesty to Sheikh Tamim, along with His Majesty's best wishes of good health and happiness to him. He also conveyed His

Majesty's greetings and wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Qatari people.

On his turn, Sheikh Tamim asked Sayyid Fatik to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Jassim Hamad al Thani, Personal Representative of the Emir, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al Thani, Chief of the Amiri Diwan, and Najeeb Yahya al Balushi, Ambassador of Oman to Qatar.

Sayyid Fatik returned home in the afternoon after the short visit. ONA

Over 15,000 kids register for Grade I in next session

Last date of registration
December 30

Our Correspondent
Muscat

More than 15,000 students have registered with the Ministry of Education (MoE) for enrolment in Grade I in public schools for the academic year 2022/2023.

According to statistics released by the ministry, 15,241 students have registered so far. The number of students expected to enrol is approximately 80,000.

The last date for registration is December 30 this year.

'Registration will not be allowed thereafter,' the ministry stated.

The MoE opened registration for Grade 1 in government schools on October 28, 2021, and has set several conditions.

Only children born in the pe-



(Supplied photo)

ried between September 1, 2015, and December 31, 2016, can register. Applications for registration should be submitted through the sultanate's official

educational portal - <https://portal.moe.gov.om>

Omani children must have a civil number on the birth certificate, while children of residents

must have a valid resident card of the sultanate.

Following registration in the website, parents must report to the school with the child and fur-

nish his/her medical records.

In case of chronic diseases or disabilities, a medical report from an accredited health institution must be furnished.

Council of Oman starts new session

Muscat- The Council of Oman with its two chambers - the State Council and Majlis A'Shura - opened the third annual session of its current term on Sunday.

Based on the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the State Council opened the session under the chairmanship of Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah al Khalili, chairman of the State Council.

The council endorsed a study presented by the Education and Research Committee titled 'The Reality of Research in the Sultanate of Oman and the Role of Public and Private Sectors and Global Firms in Supporting Research'.



Members of the State Council affirmed that the study is in line

with Oman Vision 2040 and its different strategies. It reflects the

vision's role in creating mechanisms aimed at enabling the pub-

lic and private sectors and global firms to effectively contribute to enhancing research efforts in Oman.

The Majlis A'Shura opened the third annual sitting of its Ninth Term that began in 2019 and will continue till 2023.

The first session, chaired by Khalid Hilal al Maawali, chairman of the Shura Council, saw the election of Majlis A'Shura's office bearers and heads and deputy heads of committees.

The majlis will hold a session on the State Budget draft for the fiscal year 2022 and discuss other government proposals on Monday.

ONA

Tropical depression over Arabian Sea

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A tropical depression has formed over the Arabian Sea with potential to move towards the Horn of Africa, the National Multi Hazard Early Warning Centre stated on Sunday. The weather condition will, however, not impact Oman directly.

Weather analysis by the centre indicates that a tropical depression formed around the central-east part of the Ara-

bian Sea on Sunday.

'It is expected to maintain intensity as a depression and move west to southwest towards the Horn of Africa with no impact over the sultanate during the next 72 hours,' the centre added.

The depression was located at longitude 67.5E and latitude 14.0N with estimated surface wind speed of 21-27 knots (40-50km per hour) around the centre. The state of the Arabian Sea will be moderate along the coasts.

Donate blood every 3 or 4 months: DBBS

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Department of Blood Banks Services (DBBS) of the Ministry of Health (MoH) is calling on people to donate blood every three or four months to meet the demand of blood for transfusion in hospitals.

'There is constant need of blood, hence we urge people to donate blood every three or four months,' DBBS said. 'Many patients need blood transfusion and some of them need several units. Since a donor can donate one unit, blood banks need more donors every day and the de-



mand for blood continues.'

The MoH organised a blood donation campaign among its employees at the ministry's headquarters on Sunday. 'With the objective of raising awareness on the importance of blood donation and also to meet de-

mand, the ministry represented by the Department of Blood Banks Services organised a drive to collect blood from its staff today,' a statement said.

The drive witnessed a good turnout of the MoH employees and visitors.



(Muscat Daily)

Online one-act play competition announced

Our Correspondent
Muscat

An online one-act play competition has been announced by Bhavalaya Art and Culture Foundation.

The Bhavalayam 2021 Stage Play Contest is open to entries in Arabic, Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil and Urdu. The last date for registration is November 15 and entries close on November 30. Winners will be announced at a gala event to be held in mid-December.

Announcing the competition at a press conference on Saturday, Dr J Retnakumar, founder and chairman of Bhavalaya, said, 'This is the first ever online drama competition in Oman. It is an ode to the late Girija Baquer who devoted her life to art and culture. She inspired, motivated and groomed several young artists, singers, theatre actors and writers. Our competition is a tribute to her immense contribu-

tion to the field of arts which brings mankind closer.'

He added that the competition also aims to provide a platform for artists to express their thoughts and creativity.

The competition is open to all citizens and residents of Oman. The plays must be of ten-minute duration shot with any device as long as the video and audio are clear and comprehensible. There is no limit on the number of actors and technicians involved.

Elaborating on the rules of the competition, Prakash V, coordinator of the event, said, 'The format is one-act plays, which means that the entire story must be told in one take with no edits, cuts or curtain falls. Controversial issues and subjects must be avoided and judges have the right to reject an entry if it is deemed unfit.' The plays can have background music provided it is live without edits. 'It is advisable to make the audio as clear as possible,' Prakash added.



(Supplied photo)

New dams in Dhahira to help revitalise aflaj, fight drought

Ibri - Work for the construction of two groundwater recharge dams in the Governorate of Dhahira started recently, according to an official.

The dams are being built to store run-off water from mountains and utilise it to fight drought in Yanqul and Dhank wilayats.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, preliminary construction work has started at Falaj al Sederiyen Dam in Yanqul, while preparations have started for the construction of Wadi Suroor Dam in Dhank. Both the dams will feed aflaj and wells in the two wilayats, the ministry said.

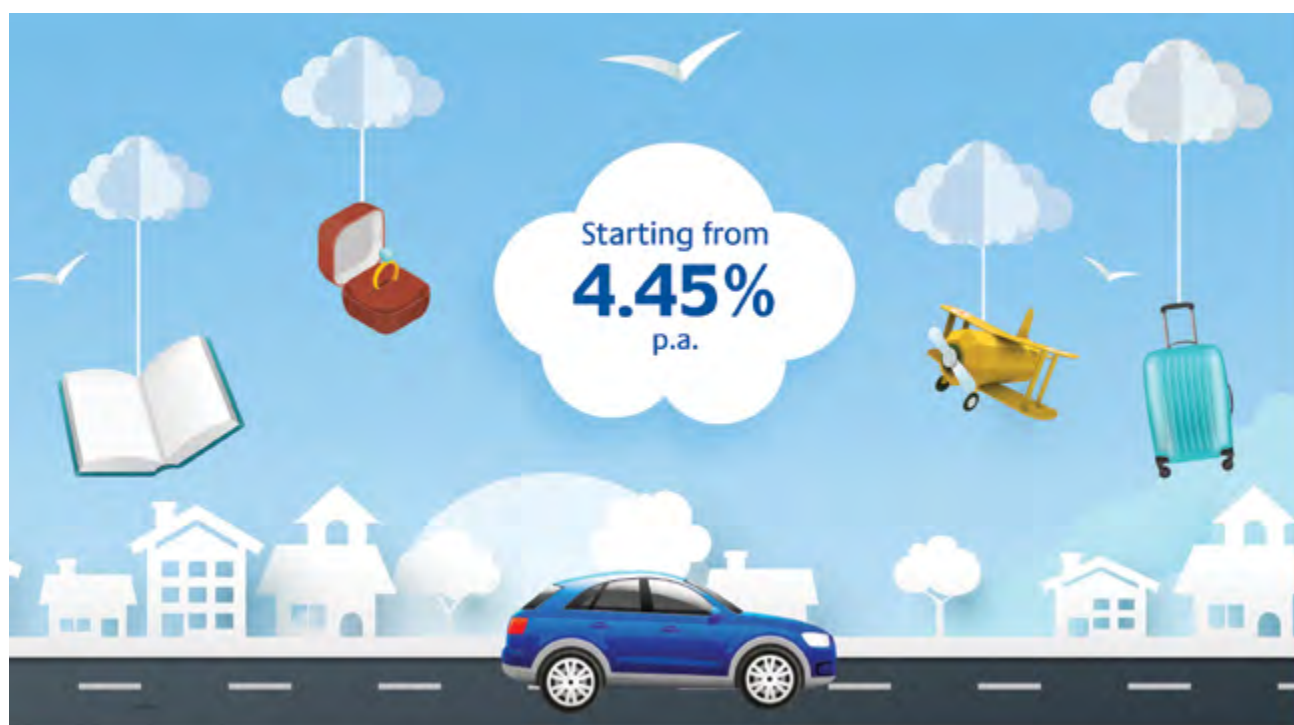
Eng Salem bin Ali al Amrani,

Director General of Agriculture and Water Resources in Dhahira Governorate, said that initial works for an approach road and other arterial thoroughfares have started for the Falaj al Sederiyen Dam.

This dam will be 95m in length and 15m in height with a 35m long spillway to offer a storage capacity of 240,000m³. The length of the Wadi Suroor Dam will be 165m and height, 15m. The length of the spillway will be 10.5m, with 1.29mn m³ capacity.

Amrani asserted that the ministry attaches great attention to the conservation of water.

ONA



Get your personal loan now and pay next year

At NBO, it's more than just a loan. It's your next milestone. And we make it easier to get there.

Sign up for your loan today and pay your first instalment next year with rates starting from 4.45%.

Whether it be a degree or your wedding - we have a loan for every need.

SMS SRL to 90303. T&Cs apply.

f @ y t
nbo.om

البنك الوطني العماني
NBO

What does a high-speed train, which runs at 350km per hour, have in common with China's approach to global cooperation? Foreign leaders at the China International Import Expo (CIIE), not only found out but got on board, too.

In November 2018, during the inaugural CIIE in Shanghai, President Xi Jinping invited foreign leaders to take a simulator of the Fuxing, China's fastest high-speed train in service, on a test drive.

The guests were impressed by the speed of the train.

When Xi told the group, "We are all on board," he was probably not only describing the exhibit, but also the CIIE.

Xi has welcomed countries around the world to get on board the express train of China's development.

Planned, proposed, and promoted by Xi, the CIIE is the world's first import expo held at the national level.

It is an important decision made by China to pursue a new round of high-level opening-up, and is China's major initiative to widen market access for the world, according to the speech made by Xi at the opening of the first CIIE.

With a population of 1.4bn and over 400mn middle-income earners, the domestic consumer

We are all on board China's express train to development



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the first China International Import Expo, in Shanghai in 2018 (Xinhua)



This aerial photo taken on November 3 last year shows the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), the main venue of the third CIIE, in east China's Shanghai (Xinhua)

20 YEARS AFTER WTO ENTRY

China delivers global dividends

Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 has become a watershed event in China's development, not just in terms of the phenomenal changes happening within China, but also its interaction with the rest of the world, in particular the global spillovers of its economic expansion.

Contributing nearly 30 per cent on average to world economic growth over the past 20 years, China now boasts the largest middle-income population in the world and is a major trade partner for over 120 countries and regions, and the largest trade partner of the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

With openness as the hallmark of its development, China has seen its economy increasingly intertwined with its partners. Its trade with the United States is a good example. Despite trade frictions over the past few years and constant calls from some US officials for "decoupling with China", the two nations' economic ties have taken on more features defined as 'mutually dependent'.

In the first eight months of this year, Chinese exports to the United States, rather than falling, expanded 22.7 per cent year on year, official data shows.

Meanwhile, *Forbes* magazine revealed that imports from China accounted for 19 per cent of all US goods imports in 2020, the highest of any trading partners of the United States, while four out of ten of the fastest-growing imports into the country came from China.

The benefits of growing Sino-US trade to American households are also tangible. China's Ministry of Commerce said that each US family could save US\$850 per year from the trade. From lamps to birthday candles, from flip-flops to mouse traps, 'Made in China' goods have long become an indispensable part of the everyday life of many US households.

Back in November 2019, when the US-initiated tariff battles with China raised concerns about unilateralism and protectionism, more than 190 US enterprises attended the second



This file photo shows a container vessel sailing into Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin Municipality on February 22 this year (Xinhua)



A model of the Qianchun Interchange displayed during the China International Fair for Trade in Services, in Beijing on September 4 (Xinhua)

China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, taking up the largest exhibition area of any participating country. Among the delegation were big names such as General Electric Company and Qualcomm.

Last year, up to 70 per cent of the world's top 500 companies and industry leaders that participated in the first two expos were seen in the third CIIE, including global industry leaders Ford, Louis Dreyfus and Roche.

This year, the total exhibition area of the fourth CIIE, which is due to open on Thursday, has been further expanded to 366,000 square meters. The number of exhibitors from countries like the United States, Japan, Germany, France and the United Kingdom will be greater or the same as in previous expos, as will their total booth areas.

Some 90 enterprises from 33 least-developed countries are

expected to participate, displaying a large number of their specialty goods and tapping into China's market.

Back in 2001, few people could have imagined China host-

ing the world's first import expo at the national level to share its development dividends with the world and seek ways out to boost global economic growth.

China's growing appeal and weight is actually justified by its track record as a trustworthy member of the WTO and its consistent stance of championing globalisation and inclusive development.

Over-fulfilling WTO commitments

China has over-fulfilled the commitments it made upon accession to the WTO, a fact that has been praised by several WTO director-generals and recognised by most WTO members.

China has fulfilled its pledge

of lowering the import tariff for goods to 9.8 per cent from 15.3 per cent when it joined the WTO 20 years ago. At present, its overall import tax stands at 7.4 per cent, lower than the average level of developing members of the WTO and is approaching the level of developed members of the organisation.

The country has also significantly reduced non-tariff barriers for international trade, removing non-tariff measures covering 424 tariff categories by January 2005.

In terms of trade in services, China pledged to open the market for 100 subsectors in nine business categories by 2007. It actually opened nearly 120 subsectors, around 20 per cent

more than it promised.

In the meantime, the ranking of China's annual flow of outbound direct investment has risen to the third place from 26th at its accession to the WTO. The investment has accelerated technological progress in host countries, promoted their economic development and improved local people's livelihood by creating a large number of job opportunities.

Since it joined the WTO, China has played a major role in the production of consumer goods, with its advantages in skilled labour, infrastructure and manufacturing systems. Its exports have provided enterprises and people worldwide with high-quality goods at a low price.

China's actions have demonstrated its resolve in supporting developing countries. In recent years, it has remained the largest export market for the least developed countries, absorbing one fifth of the exports from those countries.

Reaching out for shared prosperity

While walking the talk, China is also willing to embrace the world with open arms and provide public goods to boost global development.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, for instance, has grown into the world's largest international cooperation platform and the most popular public good over the past eight years,

market is unparalleled in size and growth potential. The expo serves as a platform to deepen international business cooperation for shared prosperity and progress.

"The CIIE has been a great access to learn more about the Chinese market and actually meet potential customers and partners," said Kevin Liu, senior China representative for Scottish Development International, a trade and investment agency.

Since the inaugural event, the CIIE has seen fruitful results. Despite the impact of COVID-19, the third CIIE saw US\$72.62bn worth of deals reached for intended one-year purchases of goods and services, following US\$71.13bn for the second and US\$57.83bn for the first CIIE.

Information and communication technology equipment, industrial automation and robot equipment, material processing and molding equipment, medical equipment, dairy product, meat products, among others, saw the largest turnover at the first CIIE.

At the 2020 event, nearly 80 per cent of the world's top 500 companies and industry leaders that participated in previous expos returned. This year, nearly 3,000 businesses from 127 countries and regions are expected to attend the 4th CIIE, scheduled for November 5 to 10.

with over 200 cooperation agreements inked between China and over 170 countries and international organisations.

Defying trade protectionist headwinds, China has been active in building open cooperation platforms. The establishment and hosting of a series of open platforms, including the China International Fair for Trade in Services, the China International Consumer Products Expo, as well as the upcoming CIIE, has facilitated the unimpeded flow of trade and provided a much-needed boost to the global economy.

China means business in opening its doors wider and making its market more accessible. It has pledged to extend tax incentives for overseas investors, introduced the first negative list for services trade, and further expanded the catalog of industries that encourage foreign investment.

Foreign-funded companies have benefited from their presence in China and cast a vote of confidence with bigger bets. Tesla, for example, has decided this year to make the gigafactory in Shanghai its primary vehicle export hub after the company broke ground on its first overseas plant two years ago.

The road ahead, however, won't be all rosy. Rising de-globalisation, the persistent pandemic and looming climate change pose challenges that have put the world at a development inflection point.

At the just-concluded G20 Rome summit, China has, in response to these common challenges, stressed efforts to practice true multilateralism, step up macroeconomic policy coordination and adopt responsible macroeconomic policies to avoid negative spillovers on developing countries.

In pursuit of a path of green, low-carbon and sustainable development, it has reiterated the goals of peaking its CO₂ emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, calling on the developed countries to honor their funding commitments to developing countries to help them cope with climate change.



The city view in Haikou, the capital of south China's Hainan Province. Haikou, an important city in the network of China's Belt and Road Initiative is also a core city for the construction of free trade port in Hainan Province (Xinhua)

Positive economic outlook seen in Oman: Survey

Our Correspondent
Muscat

SICO, a Bahrain-based leading regional investment bank, has released the results of its inaugural investor return assessment survey, a first-of-its kind look into the economic and return expectations of investors across Oman and the GCC.

As per the survey results, 41 per cent of respondents believe the economic outlook for Oman is positive and an additional 24 per cent believe the outlook is similar to the past 12 months, SICO said in a press statement.

The online survey was conducted during the third quarter of 2021 asking two specific questions to investors about overall economic outlook and minimum unleveraged return requirements for different asset classes including listed equities, government bonds, real estate, private equity and cash deposits for Oman and other GCC countries.

Based on SICO's analysis of the majority of responses for



Najla al Shirawi

Oman, required returns for listed equities and ten-year USD government bonds lie within the 6-8 per cent range. As for real estate, the required returns came in between 9-11 per cent, whereas the majority of the remaining GCC countries' required return range between 6-8 per cent.

"After nearly two years of living with COVID-19 and the steep economic challenges and volatility that came along with it, we set out to provide some clarity and insight into the return expectations of investors in the GCC," said Najla al Shirawi, SICO's chief executive officer.

Port of Salalah handles 3.3mn containers in first nine months

Our Correspondent
Muscat

More than 3.3mn shipping containers were loaded and unloaded at the Port of Salalah during the first nine months of this year. The port also handled nearly 13mn tonnes of general cargo goods during the January - September period of 2021.

'The container terminal handled 3.342mn TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) during the January - September period of 2021 as against 3.22mn TEUs in the same period of last year, an increase of 4 per cent,' Salalah Port Services Company (SPSC), which operates and manages Port of Salalah, said in its report submitted to the Muscat Stock Exchange. 'This has been possible due to strong support from one of our major customers despite the very challenging business environment.'

On productivity, SPSC said Port of Salalah's container terminal has registered consistent improvements in port stay performance during the January-September period of this year. This showcases the port's success in focusing on continuous improvements.

Port of Salalah's general cargo terminal, on the other hand, recorded a 17 per cent growth in volumes. The terminal handled 12.721mn tonnes of general cargo during the first nine



months of 2021 as compared to 10.837mn tonnes in the same period of 2020.

The major commodities handled are limestone, gypsum, methanol and cement, which are exported from Salalah to nearby markets, and continue to drive the general cargo business, SPSC said.

According to Port of Salalah, the shipping rates are expected to remain high in the near term despite major shipping lines declaring a cap on spot rates. 'However, the shipping lines have been under pressure by regula-

According to Port of Salalah, the shipping rates are expected to remain high in the near term despite major shipping lines declaring a cap on spot rates

tors of certain governments to reduce the rates to improve the economic outlook as supply chain disruption is being identified as a significant bottleneck to the economic recovery,' the company said.

On the container side of business, importers and exporters

based in Salalah are also facing the pressure of higher freight rates and non-availability of equipments as in other parts of the world which is expected to impact the gate volume in the fourth quarter of this year, SPSC said.

As for the general cargo busi-

ness, SPSC said the rise in higher tonnage and demand for gearless vessels continue to put pressure on exporters of dry bulk.

'While the forecast of dry bulk volumes and other cargo remains positive indicating a strong volume pipeline during the last quarter, the excessive increase in vessel charter and thereby freight rates, by 200-250 per cent, has a potential to negatively impact the dry bulk volume performance in the fourth quarter,' the company said.

CMA warns audit firm Crowe Oman for violation

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has issued a warning to Crowe Mak Ghazali, Chartered Accountants LLC (Crowe Oman), one of the leading audit and advisory firms in the sultanate, for violating the regulatory provisions while auditing a listed company.

'The executive president of the CMA has issued a warning to Crowe Mak Ghazali for violating the provisions of the Regulations for Public Joint Stock Companies while auditing a company listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange and for accepting accounting



(Muscat Daily)

practices made by the company which are inconsistent with the International Accounting Standards,' CMA said in a statement

issued on Sunday. It added that this violation by Crowe Mak Ghazali impacted the authenticity of the [listed company's] fi-

nancial statements disclosed to the investors.

According to the CMA, the audit firm also violated the International Standards on Auditing while auditing another listed company which led to material errors in their financial statements disclosed to the investors.

The CMA has issued a set of rules that regulates the business of audit firms to ensure their strict compliance to the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Additionally, the CMA also reviews the audit firms' performance through its audit and inspection

teams to ensure that the accredited audit firms conduct the audit of regulated companies in accordance to the internationally recognised standards with high credibility.

The CMA has called upon all audit firms to comply with the regulatory directives and deal with high integrity when auditing the accounts of the regulated companies and carry out continuous internal reviews to ensure compliance with the regulatory and professional aspects to avoid legal action.

Crowe Oman is one of the leading and largest accounting and advisory firms in Oman. It is a member firm of Crowe Global.

Special Discount

24.24% DISCOUNT

~~RO 26,400~~ **RO 20 ONLY**

22.72% DISCOUNT

~~RO 64,700~~ **RO 50 ONLY**

- Hot & Cold Dispenser
- 2 Full Bottles
- 15 Refill Coupons

BUY & WIN 310 PRIZES

Get 1 Raffle Coupon for every RO 20 spent on 5 Gallon Products.

CR.No: 1365452 MM 2021/534/06

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

Special discount valid from 20th August 2021 to 19th November 2021. Conditions apply.

Scan QR Code to Register

oman OASIS sifir SODIUM FREE DRINKING WATER

- White Tap Dispenser/ Tap Dispenser/ Manual Water Pump/ Cradle with Tap
- 2 Full Bottles
- 12 Refill Coupons

Gold Coins

Gift Vouchers

Oman Oasis Sifir Water Coupons

Register your raffle coupon number at www.omanoasis.com/discount2021 to win.

oman OASIS sifir SODIUM FREE DRINKING WATER

The healthy choice

Call Toll-Free 800 71 222 or GSM 9275 5522

f OmanOasis i OmanOasisOfficial t OmanOasisWater www.omanoasis.com

C.R. No.: 1365452

A QUALITY RANGE OF GRINDERS TO...

Inspire the taste buds

Distributed by CATERING SOLUTIONS TRADING LLC

Please contact +968 22060236/237

Airlines gear up for travel surge as US reopens

New York, US - Airline reservations to the United States took off immediately after the White House announced the country would reopen to all vaccinated international voyagers starting next week, compelling a welcome - if challenging - industry pivot.

The long-awaited US move to welcome back international travellers - which takes effect today - follows 18 months of restrictions for 33 countries during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic that separated families, impeded business travel and frustrated tourists.

Big carriers including Air France, United Airlines and Singapore Airlines are scrambling to meet the sudden surge in demand, adding flights, swapping in bigger planes for smaller ones and redoubling efforts to hire and retain staff.

Just after the White House announcement, British Airways saw a 900 per cent jump in searches for flights and holiday packages to key US destinations compared with the week before.

The day after the announcement, American Airlines garnered a 66 per cent jump in flight reservations to Britain, 40 per cent to Europe and 74 per cent to Brazil.

Competition for seats on No-



vember 8 itself was especially intense, as Evelyne and Jean-Michel Desobeau discovered when they booked a trip using frequent flyer miles.

The couple, anxious to see their daughter and son-in-law, had reserved a flight from France to New York for November 2, based on a guess of when the travel ban would be lifted.

But when the date was officially set at November 8, the couple discovered that flying that day would have meant using three times as many miles as the original trip. In the end, they will arrive on November 9, using a

more moderate amount of miles.

At Air France, traffic has been gradually returning and 'won't change overnight on November 8', said a spokesperson for the carrier.

The French airline has for months flown jets with empty seats. But with demand rising, it recently increased the number of daily flights between New York and Paris from three to five.

For its Houston-Paris trip, Air France is shifting out the Airbus 330 in favour of the Boeing 777, which has more seats. The carrier expects its capacity in terms

of US travel to reach 90 per cent of its pre-COVID-19 level in March 2022, up from 65 per cent in October.

Airlines are planning for a modest pullback in January and February after a strong holiday season, but anticipate strong demand in the spring that will intensify in the summer, traditionally the busiest season.

At United Airlines, traffic to Latin America has fully returned to its level from 2019, but the rest of international travel remains at only about 63 per cent.

AFP

MSX inches up; volumes rise

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The benchmark index of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) marginally rose 0.09 per cent to close at 4,053.23 points on Sunday.

Trading activity improved from the previous session as turnover jumped by 44.69 per cent to RO4.56mn and vol-

umes surged 111.51 per cent to 14.06mn shares.

While Services index fell 0.03 per cent, Financial and Industrial indices rose 0.17 per cent and 0.08 per cent, respectively.

Market breadth remained positive as 12 companies closed up, while three companies closed down.

Top gainers were Oman

Qatar Insurance (3.02 per cent), Al Batinah Power (1.96 per cent), Al Omaniya Financial Services (1.72 per cent) and Oman National Engineering & Investment Co (1.06 per cent).

The three losers were Dhofar Generating Co (-4.11 per cent), BankDhofar (-1.52 per cent) and Oman & Emirate Investment (-1.41 per cent).

CONTENT SPECIALIST (ENGLISH)

A leading communications consultancy in Oman is looking for a savvy content specialist to guide and develop the content creation process for our portfolio of brands. As a content specialist, you will be required to research and define desired target audiences, manage the content creation and publishing process, and monitor consumer and content metrics.

To ensure success as a content specialist, you should have a keen eye for detail and be highly creative. You should be an expert storyteller and possess excellent knowledge of consumer and content trends.

Content Specialist Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in literature, journalism, marketing, communications, or similar.
- A minimum of three years of experience in content creation, marketing, communications, or similar with a portfolio of published work.
- Familiarity with content management systems such as WordPress, Drupal, and Joomla and usage of MS Office and Google Suite.
- Good knowledge of various content platforms such as social media, blogs, and print media.
- Strong understanding of content practices such as SEO, SMO, and PPC.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Meeting with the creative, marketing, and design teams to ideate and define content goals.
- Researching content and consumer trends to ensure that content is relevant and appealing.
- Developing content strategies to effectively reach the desired target audience and marketing goals.
- Creating content for a variety of platforms including blogs, websites, and social media.
- The ability to keep abreast of content and consumer trends and advancements in technology.

If you are interested in an exceptionally challenging and equally rewarding career move, please send your CV to omanstaff@gmail.com before 15 November 2021.

Musk asks if he should sell 10% of Tesla stock

New York, US - Another zany tweet or a real question? Elon Musk polled his more than 62mn Twitter followers Saturday about whether he should sell 10 per cent of his Tesla shares, insisting he would do as voters say.

The over-the-top electric car maker's query follows a proposal by Congressional Democrats to tax the super-wealthy more heavily by targeting stocks, which are usually only taxed when sold.



Elon Musk

"Much is made lately of unrealised gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10 per cent of my Tesla stock," Musk wrote, asking followers whether they agree 'yes' or 'no'.

"I will abide by the results of this poll, whichever way it goes," the multi-billionaire said.

Around 7pm (2300 GMT), nearly 53 per cent had voted in favour of selling.

Musk owned about 17 per

cent of Tesla's outstanding shares as of June 30, currently worth US\$208.37bn, according to Bloomberg. The entrepreneur was also awarded a large package of stock options and convertible shares as compensation.

"Note, I do not take a cash salary or bonus from anywhere," Musk tweeted.

"I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock."

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	59/2021	Supply of Safety Tools for OETC Staff.	22/11/2021	21/12/2021	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	157.500

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 during the official working days from 8.00 hr am - 01.00 pm hr.
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: 93201558
Email Website:	tenders@omangrid.com www.omangrid.com



Oman Electricity Transmission Company S.A.O.C.
P.O. Box 1389, Al Khoudh, PC 132, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 2428 3000 | Fax: +968 2230 9046
www.omangrid.com



إعلان طرح مناقصة

تعلن الشركة العُمانية لنقل الكهرباء عن طرح المناقصة التالية :

م	رقم المناقصة	عنوان المناقصة	آخر موعد لتقديم المستندات المناقصة	آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات	الدرجة	لنم الوثيقة (شامل ضريبة القيمة المضافة) (رغ)
١	٢٠٢١/٥٩	توريد أدوات السلامة للشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء	٢٠٢١/١١/٢٢	٢٠٢١/١٢/٢١	الشركات اقليمية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول	١٥٧.٥٠٠

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 والعقود . وذلك لتأكد من صحة المستندات قبل شراء المناقصة وذلك في أيام العمل الرسمية من الساعة ٨:٠٠ ص - ١:٠٠ م .
الرسوم	مقابل دفع المبلغ المحدد أعلاه للنسخة الواحدة - لا تزيد . (الدفع عن طريق التحويل البنكي)
آخر موعد للإستفسارات	قبل (٢١) يوم من تاريخ آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات
تقديم العروض	تقدم العروض في مغلف 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 (١٪) 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 - الموالج رقم السكة ٢١٥٣ - مبنى رقم ٤٢٣٠ - تفاصيل التواصل : ٩٢٠١٥٥٨
البريد الإلكتروني	tenders@omangrid.com
الموقع الإلكتروني	www.omangrid.com



الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء ش . م . ع . م
ص . ب : ١٣٨٩ . الخوض الرمز البريدي : ١٣٢ . سلطنة عمان
الهاتف : +٩٦٨٢٤٢٨٣٠٠٠ / الفاكس : +٩٦٨٢٣٠٩٠٤١
الموقع الإلكتروني : www.omangrid.com



Occidental Oman sponsors Al Fulaij Camel Race



As part of its larger initiative to support camel racing in the sultanate, Occidental Oman representatives recently attended the Al Fulaij Main Camel Race in Muscat governorate, which was organised by the Oman Camel Racing Federation and sponsored by Occidental Oman.

Held under the auspices of H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham

al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, the event was attended by Stephen Kelly, president and general manager at Occidental Oman and Saif al Buisaidi, vice president of Human Resources, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Admin at Occidental Oman, along with other senior representatives of the company, a press release said.

Around 2700 camels competed to win on the racetracks, and after eight rounds, eight winners were declared. Occidental Oman awarded each of the winners with a pickup truck, in accordance with the sponsorship agreement previously signed between Occidental Oman and the Oman federation.

Occidental Oman will also

award 16 winners of the three following sponsored races with pickup trucks. Future sponsored races include the race in Ibri, Al Dhahirah Governorate, the race in Haima, Al Wusta Governorate, and the Main Race, in Sohar, Al Batinah North Governorate.

Occidental Oman has supported 26 camel races during the

last eight years, as the initiative engages with a sport historically tied to the culture of local communities.

This sponsorship comes within the framework of Occidental Oman's long-term commitment to strengthen its social ties with the communities located in its concession areas and the wider Omani population.

Omantel provides Oman's trusted ICT solutions

A recent survey on Oman's ICT demographics, initiated by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, showed that more than 95% of the sultanate's population has access to internet, mobile phones, computers, smart devices, social media and content.

This data is not just illustrative of the ICT growth potential of the nation, but also puts in perspective Omantel's contributions and imminent role in enabling and supporting Oman's long-term ICT vision and roadmap, a press release said.



A distinct growth in fixed and mobile internet market will ride on the significant evolution and momentum resulting from the digitisation of technologies. High-speed internet connectivity has opened up new ways and creative avenues of working, learning and living. The telecommunications landscape has now become significantly more data driven. This has helped in developing diverse opportunities across industries, allowing them to leverage the enormous benefits of ICT and in turn accelerate national growth.

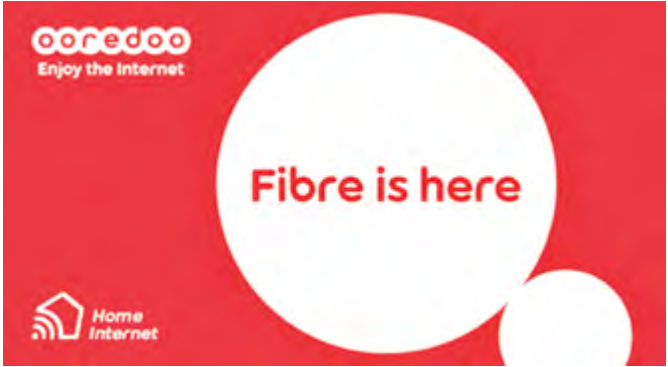
Eng Baha al Lawati, vice president of Enterprise Business at Omantel, said, "The ICT market within Oman and across GCC has been witnessing a massive boost in demand and every sector is seeking unique and differentiated technical solutions - to keep pace with the fast changing and constantly evolving customer requirements. Omantel has added in excess of 100 large enterprise clients, which required complex bespoke ICT solutions and best in class technology enablement and support.

Lawati added, "Omantel has traversed a long and successful transformational journey from being Oman's pioneering telecommunications arm to evolving into a leading Integrated Telecommunications and Technology solutions Provider - a key enabler for the sultanate's Digital Transformation vision. Omantel has been consciously scaling up its services portfolio on the back of its investments in technology, infrastructure, service delivery and operational capabilities.

The organisation strives to stay ahead of the curve by keeping pace with global ICT trends.

Ooredoo expands Fibre Home Internet service

Keeping more corners of Oman connected around the clock, Ooredoo brings its Fibre Home Internet service to Saraa in Al Buraimi, Al Bustan in Muscat, Al Bilad in Sur, Ibra, Hay Al Kawthar in Al Khoud and Al Jinaynah and Al Argan in Barka. Residents in those areas can now enjoy an amazing value high-speed service from as little as RO29.4 per month, a press



release said.

With speeds of up to 1GB, plus a whole range of unique benefits like unlimited data, 10% discount on international calling, unlimited national minutes, and free modem and installation, it's the perfect solution for the whole family. Customers will also get a free Speed Booster when subscribing to Fibre Home Internet 50

and 120 Mbps plans.

With Ooredoo's Fibre Home Internet services, customers no longer need to worry about uninterrupted downloads or streaming movies, TV shows and music even with the whole household connected. Residents in areas with new coverage can order through WhatsApp by sharing their ID and location to 95103000.

Bank Muscat's Baituna home finance helps realise dreams

Bank Muscat's Baituna home finance has been steadily attracting a large numbers of customers over the years and helping them in making their dreams come true.

In line with its customer-centric vision, the bank has been providing financing products to large numbers of customers, both Omanis as well as residents, which are aligned to their unique needs. It should be noted that Bank Muscat offers very attractive interest rates and a tenor up to 25 years, a press release said.

Abdullah Tamman al Maashani, deputy general manager - Institutional Sales & Product Development, said, "Bank Muscat is very keen to provide products and benefits in line with the needs of its customers through a number of products and solutions, which see continuous development and fine-tuning. The real estate sector is a major component of the national economy and Bank Muscat is committed to supporting this crucial sector and strengthening its role in the development and growth of the sultanate's economy.



Abdullah Tamman al Maashani

"Real estate developers are our partners in progress and today, as economic activity picks up in the sector, Bank Muscat is ready to provide valuable support and the best options for its customers, both in Muscat as well as in other parts of the country. We would also like to thank our customers for the strong confidence in our products and services, as well as their valuable feedback which helps the bank to develop new products in line with its customer-centric vision."

With Oman becoming an attractive real-estate investment destination in the region, the role of home financing is only

set to grow more and more important. Customers can use Baituna financing facilities to construct or purchase new homes as well as land for residential use. Bank Muscat customers can take advantage of the fast processing of applications and the excellent insurance coverage for their financing. Flexible payment options and simple documentation makes Baituna the leading home finance facility in the sultanate.

Baituna home finance is available for salaried government employees with a minimum salary of RO250 and minimum service of 3 months for up to 25 years of home financing, while employees of Tier 1 private sector companies with a minimum salary of RO500 and minimum 6 months service, are eligible for home loans having a tenure of up to 25 years. Loans of up to RO500,000 are available through Baituna, subject to the applicant fulfilling the relevant criteria. Easy and convenient credit approval can be obtained at any of the dedicated Baituna Sales Centres or branches.

Municipal school awareness kicks off

The Department of Community Partnership of Muscat Municipality has launched a school awareness programme, in cooperation with the General Directorate of Education.

The programme spreads awareness among school students on the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and keeping public properties safe. It also attempts to instill in students values and behaviours as they would significantly help to reduce common negative phenomena plaguing Muscat.

Al Shawamakh School for basic education (1-9) and Al-Shifa bint Ouf Schools for basic education (4-10) in Al Amerat were the first schools to have the programme this year, focusing more on preserving public properties. School students in Seeb will be familiarised more on healthy meals and preserving public properties, starting from Sheikh Salim bin Hummoud al Siyabi School for basic education (5-9) and Suhail bin Omar School for basic education (5-9) in Seeb.



KR Eshraqa donates space to Dar Al Atta'a for rental income

As a part of its ongoing commitment to inspire sustainable development in the local community and render its unfaltering support to charitable organisations, Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas' Social Development arm, recently donated an entire floor of a building to Dar Al Atta'a. Dar Al Atta'a will be able to generate rental income by letting the floor for events, celebrations, and other activities, which will then be allocated to support the association's various efforts.

Commenting on the donation, Nailesh Khimji, director,

Khimji Ramdas Group, said, "At Khimji Ramdas, we strongly believe in supporting local organisations, especially charitable associations, as they strive towards elevating and strengthening the lives of individuals from various segments of society. This initiative comes as an addition to the several programmes that Khimji Ramdas Group has undertaken in the past to support Dar Al Atta'a. As a group that has remained invested in the socio-economic prosperity, growth, and well-being of the people of the nation, we will continue to support

initiatives that are geared towards empowering them in every way possible."

Maryam al Zadjali, president of Dar Al Atta' Association, said, "We are happy with the continuing assistance from Eshraqa. This gesture demonstrates Khimji Ramdas Groups' unwavering dedication to giving back to the ecosystem it operates in and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the association. It will assist us in achieving our goals as we continue to execute programs aimed at improving the well-being of Omani citizens."

Alizz Islamic Bank's humane efforts feted



In recognition of its outstanding humanitarian and collaborative efforts in the society, Alizz Islamic Bank was granted a prestigious local award for 'Digital Initiative of the Year - 2021', at the Digital Transformation Conference & Awards.

The annual event was organised under the patronage of H E Ali al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. The award was received by Asaad al Kharusi, head of Strategy & Transformation of Alizz Islamic bank. It took note of the bank's role in launching the initiative to

raise donations for the Association of Early Intervention for Children With Disabilities which resulted in the launch of the first crowdfunding website in the sultanate, a press release said.

Earlier this, Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Social Development launched the website (www.crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com) as a crowdfunding project aiming to raise RO2mn towards building the Centre of Excellence for Children with Disabilities, along with an additional initiative on the platform to raise RO40,000 towards orphans of the Child

Care Center via the easiest digital channels, which allows all sectors and segments of the society to participate and contribute to building the Center of Excellence for Children with Disabilities and helping orphans.

Crowdfunding is the practice of raising small amounts of money from a large number of people via the Internet and social media with the aim of funding a project that serves the community. Funds are raised through a platform that enables everyone to play a role in serving our country. Omani people, whether institutions or individuals,

are considered a partner in the community, and play a role in building the society by providing services towards persons with disabilities by contributing to the establishment of private rehabilitation institutions for them, in collaboration with government institutions.

Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Social Development also opened an account for each orphan. After collecting the required amount, the sums will be distributed equally to all orphans. The ministry seeks to take care of orphans by fulfilling their necessary needs and preparing them educationally.



Selfdrive introduces all-in-one mobility app

Selfdrive, a car rental application which is an entity of Pinewoods Technology Services, has launched its services in Oman with the aim of expanding their presence beyond UAE.

Selfdrive is an e-commerce platform that leverages technology to cater to the ever-increasing needs of the modern customer for convenient mobility. The car rental app will offer its users, both individuals and corporates in the sultanate, direct access to a wide variety of cars and latest models direct from the dealerships and leasing companies, a press release said.

Selfdrive provides convenience, choice and ease of booking while renting a car. Using the app, which is built on a proprietary tech foundation concept of 'Search - Select - Pay', customers can rent cars on demand which will be delivered at their doorstep. Selfdrive offers absolute flexibility to its users by allowing them to rent cars by the day, week or even subscribe by the month or lease a car upto 3

years. The app provides a superior automotive experience to its customers with the help of machine learning and artificial intelligence which matches customer profiles with cars of their choice when selecting and renting a car.

Launched in 2017, Selfdrive is the largest car rental tech platform which has crossed 2500 cars on road and serves over 50000 users from 95 different nationalities in the UAE. It offers daily rentals that start from AED49 per day and monthly rentals that start with AED999 per month.

"Oman and UAE both experience international connectivity and there is a lot of travel between both the countries. As such, having our presence at the sultanate is a natural fit because of its strategic location and hence we chose Oman as the first step to our GCC expansion. Moreover, it has robust tourism landscape, which is perfect for our business growth. As the first technology player to have a presence in this market, we are confident that the future looks promising," said Soham Shah, CEO and co-founder of Selfdrive.

"Oman is a great market for the automotive sector, and we see a big potential to be part of that development. In the ever-evolving car rental industry, our novel, tech-driven solution will not only enhance customer experience, but also provide a faster, easier and personalised experience in booking cars at competitive rates, as well as offer access to convenient and secure payment methods while renting a car," added Mr. Shah.

The coming years will see the transport landscape transit to autonomous, electric and shared model. Commenting on the future of transportation, Shah said, "The near future will witness a transformation in the car ownership model and there will be a rapid increase in the adoption of MaaS (Mobility as a Service) with different subscription-based service or an on-demand model of mobility where customers may not own the asset.

OAB launches 'OAB Advantage'

Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently launched a new segment, titled 'OAB Advantage' aimed at customers who have modern lifestyles and are always keen to enjoy the benefits life has to offer.

OAB Advantage offers one per cent guaranteed cashback on e-payments and POS transactions using debit card for limited time. This is in addition to an attractive savings interest rates, merchant discounts and eligibility for a special salary monthly prize draw, a press release said.

Rashad al Shaikh, head of Retail Banking at OAB, said, "As customer demands shift with the transition of time, at OAB we always look to ensure that the services and facilities that we offer can be adapted to best suit their respective lifestyles. Targeted towards customers within the salary range (RO1,000 - RO3,499) or maintaining deposit of (RO10,000 - RO34,999).

OAB Advantage seeks to make banking even easier, while simultaneously offering an array of benefits and hosts. A unique aspect of the new service that places it ahead of its competitors is that it is the only debit card in Oman to provide a cashback on e-payments, alongside opening the door for our customers to step into a world of incredible advantages."

Additionally, customers can benefit from higher interest rate of up to 3% per annum on their savings and get special entries in the Hasaad Monthly Draws by simply transferring their salary to the Bank, as well as special dis-



Rashad al Shaikh

counts and offers from renowned retailers across Oman.

Advantage customers are entitled to receive a Visa Platinum Credit Card which offers travel benefits including free lounge access (6 times annually) at over 35 most visited airports, complimentary pick & drop service to the Muscat International Airport, joining bonus points and higher rewards on retail purchases.

Both, Omani nationals and expatriates aged 18 and above, are eligible to apply for this segment by simply maintaining a deposit balance of RO10,000 - RO34,999 or transferring monthly salary between RO1,000 - RO3,499.

"At OAB, we are always looking into innovative ways to enhance our customer's banking experience, which is aligned with one of the key pillars of our transformational strategy. Through Advantage, which is specially crafted to suit our customer's diverse lifestyles, we can support them in ensuring that they get the most out of what we have to offer so that they can focus on the things that matter in life.

OHI Oman Amateur Opens return

The Oman Golf Association and OHI are delighted to announce the welcome return of the OHI Oman Amateur Opens.

One of Oman's premier golf championships, now in its 11th year, the event continues to drive tournament golf in the sultanate. With the championship attracting top amateur golfers in Oman, including many from the Oman National Team, it is sure to be a well contested event, a press release said.

OHI Group have generously renewed their title sponsorship for a fifth year which sees the OHI Oman Amateur Open, OHI Ladies Open, OHI Juniors Open, OHI Oman Under 15s Open and OHI Under 12s Open played simultaneously November 26 and 27 at Ghala Golf Club in Muscat.

Having taken a one-year hiatus in 2020 due to the restrictions on hosting events during the pandemic, Oman Golf Association and OHI Group are confident that the 2021 edition will be well received, with every precaution being taken to ensure the



safety of the competitors and organising staff.

Mundhir al Barwani, chairman of Oman Golf Association, said,

"After a very difficult last year of no tournaments and events due to COVID-19, we are delighted to continue with OHI as our part-

ners and title sponsors of the Amateur Opens. We truly appreciate their continued support and belief in the future of golf even during these challenging times."

Eihab al Saleh, CEO - OHI Group, said "We are immensely proud to sponsor Oman's leading Amateur golf Tournament for the 5th year. Golf in Oman is at a very exciting stage and OHI Group is committed to help grow the game in Oman and promote junior golf for which there are separate categories. Golf is such a unique and accessible sport, with golfers aged from 7 to over 70 coming together to play the game."

OHI has been an ambassador for Golf over the years. 'Continuous Community Development' is one of the core missions of the group and as part of this commitment supporting Golf has been at the heart of the leadership team.

Beaconhouse students hold cancer walkathon

Beaconhouse students from the Al Khuwayr school participated in a walkathon last week to raise awareness on Breast Cancer in observance of 'Pink October'.

This is the second initiative of the school in a week. Earlier last week, members of the UNICEF school group raised money by organising a bake sale.

Secondary students and staff participated in the walkathon in the vicinity of the campus dressed in different shades of pink. They were flagged off by the school leaders with words of



encouragement and the Royal Oman Police personnel escorted the students along their walk to

ensure order and safety. Badr al Samaa hospital also provided an ambulance to take care of any

emergency.

Muna al Aafi, from the Oman Cancer Association, was present

to support the event and also to receive the proceeds from the bake sale.

Iraqi PM calls for restraint after attack

This apparent act of terrorism, which we strongly condemn, was directed at the heart of the Iraqi state: US

Baghdad, Iraq - Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhemi said he was unhurt and appealed for 'calm and restraint' after a drone attack on his residence early on Sunday heightened political tensions in the war-scarred country.

The attack in Baghdad's Green Zone was the first to target the residence of Kadhemi, who has been in power since May 2020. It came as Iraq's political parties negotiate alliances over who will run the next government after elections last month.

That vote saw the Conquest (Fatah) Alliance, the political arm of the pro-Iran Hashed al Shaabi paramilitary network, suffer a substantial decline in its parliamentary seats, leading the group to denounce the outcome as 'fraud'.

The big winner, with more than 70 seats according to the initial count, was the movement of Moqtada Sadr, a Shiite Muslim preacher who campaigned as a nationalist and critic of Iran.

Security sources said three drones were launched, but two were shot down. They were 'launched from a site near Republic Bridge', which crosses the Tigris River in Baghdad, before flying towards the Green Zone, one source said.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack, which left two bodyguards wounded, according to a security source.

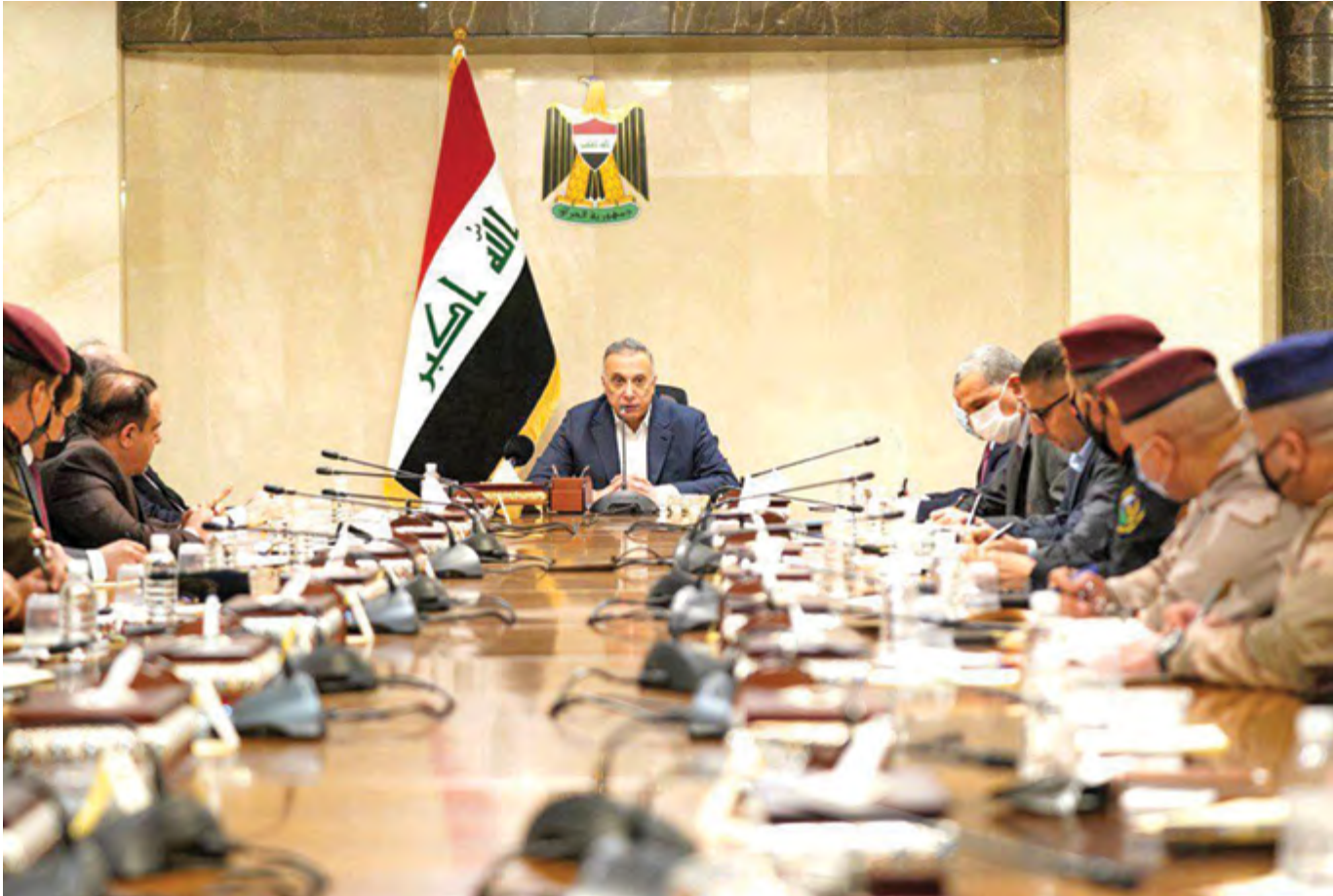
Gunfire sounded and smoke was seen rising from the Green Zone area after the strike.

Photos issued by Kadhemi's office showed debris strewn on the ground below a damaged exterior stairway and a door that had been dislodged.

In a tweet, Kadhemi called 'for calm and restraint on the part of everyone for the good of Iraq'.

"My residence has been the target of a cowardly assault. Praise God, I am fine," he then said in a short video shared on social media.

His office described the attack



Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhemi (centre) heads a meeting, hours after his residence was targeted by a drone attack, in Baghdad on Sunday (AFP)



Damage to the residence of the Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi (AFP)

The attack requires a united position in confronting the evil actors trying to mess with this country's security and the safety of its people. We cannot accept dragging Iraq into chaos

BARHAM SALIH

as a 'failed assassination attempt'.

'Heart of state'

The United States, which has around 2,500 troops in the country, said it was 'relieved to learn the Prime Minister was unharmed'.

"This apparent act of terrorism, which we strongly condemn, was directed at the heart of the Iraqi state," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

Iraq's President Barham Salih, who holds a largely ceremonial role, said the attack 'requires a united position in confronting the evil actors trying to mess with

this country's security and the safety of its people'.

"We cannot accept dragging Iraq into chaos and to a coup against the constitutional system."

A large number of security forces were deployed in and around the Green Zone, which also hosts the US Embassy and is frequently targeted by rocket attacks.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) said it 'strongly encourages all sides to take responsibility for de-escalation and to engage in dialogue to ease political tensions, upholding the national in-

terest of Iraq'.

The influential cleric Sadr said the attack was 'against Iraq and the Iraqi people'.

Mounting tensions

It came during a period of soaring tensions over the results of the October 10 elections, the fifth since the 2003 US-led invasion ousted dictator Saddam Hussein with the promise of bringing freedom and democracy.

Hundreds of Hashed supporters clashed with police on Friday while protesting near the Green Zone to vent their fury over the preliminary result.

One protester died of injuries in hospital, according to a security source, while a Hashed source said two demonstrators were killed.

Several hundred supporters of pro-Iranian groups returned to the edge of the Green Zone on Saturday to protest, and some burned a portrait of the prime

minister, whom they called a 'criminal'.

The pro-Hashed protests are aimed at strengthening its negotiating position during the coalition bargaining process, Iraqi political analyst Ihsan al Shamari has said.

According to initial tallies, the Conquest won around 15 of the 329 seats, down from the 48 it held previously, which made it the second-largest bloc.

Final election results are expected within weeks.

Kadhemi brought forward the ballot, originally planned for next year, in a concession to anti-government protests over endemic corruption, the influence of Iran, unemployment and failing public services.

Activists accuse the Hashed's armed forces - whose 160,000 fighters are now integrated into Iraq's state security forces - of being beholden to Iran and acting as an instrument of oppression

Iran condemns attack, urges vigilance to foil plots

Tehran, Iran - Iran on Sunday said it condemned a drone attack targeting Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhemi and urged 'vigilance to foil plots aimed at the security and development' of his country.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Said Khatibzadeh directed blame at the United States, which led the 2003 invasion of Iraq and toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, kicking

off years of sectarian conflict.

"Such incidents are in the interest of those who have violated the stability, security, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq over the past 18 years," said Khatibzadeh.

"They have sought to achieve their sinister regional goals by creating terrorist groups that seek to cause sedition," he added.

AFP

against critics.

Other drone attacks in Iraq have occurred over the last few months particularly against American interests.

Officials in the United States allege Iran has supplied drones used in attacks by its allies

around the Middle East.

In late October the Treasury Department sanctioned Brigadier General Saeed Aghajani, who leads the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Command.

AFP

Deportees despair despite US-Mexico border reopening

Tijuana, Mexico - Families separated by the pandemic are planning joyful reunions when the Mexican-US border reopens on Monday, but not Martin Figueroa, who left his 'mind and soul' behind when he was deported.

He is one of a number of Mexicans who lived legally in the United States until, due to legal offences, they were sent back to a country that no longer feels like home.

"It's sad to know that many will be able to cross, but I won't," Figueroa (52) said in the simple room he rents in the border city of Tijuana after being expelled in 2018.

The deportees left behind families, friends and - in the case of war veterans - financial benefits and the comrades they fought alongside in countries including Vietnam and Iraq.

"It's hard because you could say that my mind and soul stayed on the other side. Only my body is here," said Figueroa, who was separated from his seven children.

"I can't say when leaving work, 'I'm going to see my children'. No. Because there's that wall," he said, referring to the fence snaking along the more than 3,100km long border.

Figueroa was sent back to Mexico while working in construction in Bakersfield, California, despite having steered clear of gangs for several years, he said.



It's hard because you could say that my mind and soul stayed on the other side. Only my body is here. I can't say when leaving work, 'I'm going to see my children'. No. Because there's that wall

MARTIN FIGUEROA

He had arrived in the United States at the age of two, after being adopted by Mexican immigrants.

Now, Figueroa works in a call center in Tijuana that deals with customers in the United States.

'Bring us home'

In Ciudad Juarez, another border city, veterans demanding the right to go 'home' fly the US flag near the wall that separates



Ivan Ocon, a Mexican veteran of the United States Army deported to Mexico in 2016 after being assigned to guard the Iraqi border in Jordan during Operation Iraqi Freedom, places flags of the US and US' Armed Forces in front of the border wall in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Thursday (AFP)

them from the twin city of El Paso in Texas.

Jose Francisco Lopez was expelled in 2003 after serving a sentence for trying to buy drugs.

Four years ago, he founded an organisation supporting deported veterans.

"I lost my wife, my children. I haven't seen them for many years," said Lopez, 76, who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and has not met his

grandchildren.

He helps around 30 deported former soldiers taking legal steps to try to regain their residency. Some have died during the process.

In July, US President Joe Biden's administration announced a plan aimed at bringing back deported veterans 'who were unjustly removed and ensuring they receive the benefits to which they may be entitled'.

"It was one of his promises," said Lopez.

"We hope he will deliver and bring us home soon to be with our families," he added.

'In their sights'

Mexico's National Institute of Migrations says that this year alone, it has assisted more than 181,000 people of Mexican origin repatriated from the United States, without specifying how

many were deported.

Figueroa said he believed his case resulted from former president Donald Trump's tough immigration policies, because when he was deported, the authorities brought up events that happened in 1994.

"They hadn't looked at me until Trump came in and... (then) they had me in their sights," he said.

On Monday, Washington will

reopen its land borders with Mexico and Canada to foreigners vaccinated against COVID-19, almost 20 months after they were closed to non-essential traffic.

It is estimated that of the 11mn undocumented immigrants in the United States, about half come from Mexico, and many have relatives across the border.

The deportations leave a deep psychological scar on the people who made their lives from an early age in the United States.

"Depression hits you," said Figueroa, who does not want to risk entering the United States illegally because he fears spending the rest of his life in jail.

Ivan Ocon, who took part in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, said post-traumatic stress disorder was common among veterans.

"We all have depression, anxiety, trauma from the war," said Ocon (44).

Deported for a second time in 2016, former military service member Marcelino Ramos is devastated to be separated from his six-year-old daughter and two sons, who are members of the US National Guard.

"My whole life is there," said Ramos, who was expelled for domestic violence.

"We made a decision: To fight for America, for the United States, and not for anyone else," said Ramos (53).

"It's an injustice that we're here," he said.

AFP

Ethiopians vow to repel rebels at pro military rally



Adanech Abebe, mayor of Addis Ababa, addresses the public during a rally in support of the national defence forces, in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on Sunday (AFP)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Tens of thousands of Ethiopians vowed to defend the capital from advancing rebels during a pro-military rally on Sunday where attendees dismissed diplomatic efforts to end the year-long war.

The rally in central Addis Ababa was the latest attempt to shore up public support for the conflict against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and allied groups.

It came five days after the government declared a nation-

wide state of emergency ostensibly to protect civilians from the TPLF, which has claimed key gains in recent days while floating a possible march on the capital.

US official Jeffrey Feltman arrived in Ethiopia on Thursday to try to broker an end to the hostilities.

The US Embassy announced on Saturday it was ordering the departure of non-emergency staff, days after countries including Saudi Arabia, Norway, Swe-

den and Denmark urged their citizens to leave.

‘Sucking our blood’

Rally-goers on Sunday held signs blasting Western media for broadcasting ‘fake news’ over-stating rebel gains.

Other signs urged the US, one of the harshest international critics of the war, to ‘stop sucking our blood’.

Addis Ababa mayor Adanech Abebe said in a speech that Ethiopia’s foes were trying to

‘terrorise our population’.

“They say Addis Ababa is surrounded, but Addis Ababa is only surrounded by its incredible people, by its vigilant, heroic children,” she said.

She was particularly critical of the US government, which last week announced plans to boot Ethiopia out of a vital trade pact because of rights abuses related to the war.

“If aid and loans will strip us of our freedom, if they will lead us to sacrifice our freedom, we

won’t sacrifice our freedom,” Adanech said.

She also said the TPLF’s rightful place ‘is in hell’.

Guns ‘not the solution’

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops into Tigray last November to topple the TPLF, then the regional ruling party, a move he said came in response to TPLF attacks on army camps.

He promised a swift victory, but in June the TPLF retook most

Capital not facing ‘bloodbath’: Rebels

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Rebels fighting Ethiopia’s government on Sunday played down reports that they would face a hostile population or cause a ‘bloodbath’ if they advanced into the capital city.

Several countries have urged their nationals to leave Ethiopia and the US has withdrawn diplomats as the year-long conflict in the north escalates.

Fighters from the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) and their allies in the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) have claimed several cities in recent weeks and have not ruled out marching on Addis Ababa.

The government, which has denied the capital is under threat, has nevertheless declared a state of emergency and local authorities have asked residents to organise to defend the city.

“The story that the population in Addis is vehemently opposed to us is absolutely

overstated,” TPLF spokesman Getachew Reda said on Saturday.

“Addis is a melting pot. People with all kinds of interests live in Addis. The claim that Addis will turn into a bloodbath if we enter Addis is absolutely ridiculous.”

While the rebels would enter Addis Ababa to overthrow Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, he said taking the capital was not ‘an objective’.

He also said the TPLF, which dominated Ethiopia’s politics for nearly 30 years, had no desire to take back power. The TPLF overthrew the Marxist Derg regime in 1991 and ruled until 2018 when Abiy came to power.

After months of tension, Abiy sent the army into Tigray in November 2020 to remove the TPLF-led regional authorities, accusing them of attacking military bases.

He declared victory a few weeks later, but the conflict has rumbled on.

AFP

Sudan security forces fire tear gas as anti-coup campaign starts



Sudanese women walk in front of tyres set ablaze by anti-coup demonstrators in the capital Khartoum (AFP)

Khartoum, Sudan - Sudanese security forces on Sunday fired tear gas at an anti-coup rally by a group of teacher at the start of a two-day civil disobedience call against last month’s military takeover.

Dozens of teachers carried banners reading ‘no, no to mili-

tary rule’ and called for a transition to ‘full civilian rule’ at a rally outside the Ministry of Education in the capital Khartoum.

Nationwide anti-coup protests - including by tens of thousands on October 30 - have occurred since the October 25 coup but have been met by a

deadly crackdown. At least 14 demonstrators have been killed and about 300 wounded, according to the independent Central Committee of Sudan’s Doctors.

“We organised a silent stand against the decisions by Burhan outside the Ministry of Educa-

tion,” said Mohamed al Amin, a geography teacher who took part in that stand against the country’s top general, Abdel Fattah al Burhan.

“Police later came and fired tear gas at us though we were simply standing on the streets and carrying banners,” he said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties but a union of Sudanese educators said ‘a large number of teachers were detained’.

The teachers’ rally came after the military leadership which carried out the coup replaced heads of department at the education ministry, as part of sweeping changes it made in multiple sectors.

‘The protest rejects the return of remnants of the old regime’ of ousted president Omar al Bashir, the teachers union said in a Facebook post.

AFP

Libya FM suspended days before international conference

Tripoli, Libya - Libya’s presidential council suspended Foreign Minister Najla al Mangoush from her duties on Saturday days before an international conference is to make a new push to restore stability to the war-battered nation.

The council opened an inquiry into alleged ‘administrative breaches’ by Mangoush, spokeswoman Najla Weheba told the Libya Panorama television channel.

The El-Marsad news website, which is close to eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar, said that the council accused her of taking foreign policy decisions without consulting it.

A decree from the council said its vice chairman Abdullah Allafi would head a commission of inquiry that would report its findings within 14 days.

The political infighting in Tripoli comes amid a new international push for fresh presiden-



Najla al Mangoush (AFP)

tial and parliamentary elections to help stabilise the war-battered North African nation.

US Vice President Kamala Harris is to join French President Emmanuel Macron and other world leaders at a conference in Paris on November 12.

Libya expert Emadeddin Badi linked the foreign minister’s suspension to comments she made about the 1988 Lockerbie

bombing in a recent BBC interview, and tensions between Libyan politicians over the elections.

Libya has been struggling to move past the violence that has wracked the oil-rich nation since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moammar Gadhafi, with political wrangling over the date of the twin elections the latest stumbling block.

A ceasefire between eastern and western factions last year led to a fragile unity government taking office in March, with a mandate to take the country to elections.

Part of an agreed roadmap was to hold elections on the same day.

Foreign powers have been pushing hard for elections to be held as scheduled on December 24, after the date was agreed at UN-led talks last year.

AFP

Online Afghan humour: Laughter as resistance against Taliban

Paris, France - When a Taliban fighter meets Afghan pop star Ayrana Sayeed, he tries to charm her.

“If you marry me, I will have a beard and a moustache and tanks. And I will build you a nightclub!”

The scene, completely unimaginable in real life with the singer now based in exile after fleeing in the wake of the Taliban’s takeover, is part of a satirical YouTube animation series that has captivated Afghans in recent weeks.

It shows Sayeed appearing to the fighter in his dreams. But then the man, sleeping with his Kalashnikov slung around his shoulder, wakes up to reality to

find he is in fact hugging a bearded fellow fighter.

The fighter is then shown in another video proudly showing off how life has changed in Kabul since the Islamist fundamentalists took control in mid-August. He comes upon a woman wearing an Arab-style niqab face veil.

“Are you a genie, a fairy or a human?” he inquires, reflecting the confusion of locals when faced with such garb, now being promoted by the Taliban.

Producing such work could be lethal in Afghanistan under the Taliban, where many artists are in hiding and even ordinary people have erased potentially compromising material from their phones.

The author of the videos is Afghan refugee Hafiz Afzali (34), who has lived in Finland for the past seven years.

He left Afghanistan in 2000 during the first phase of Taliban rule ended by the 2001 US-led invasion.

He puts together his videos on YouTube during the week, while working as a taxi driver at the weekend.

“I left Afghanistan at the age of 13, when the Taliban was in power. I remember everything,” said Afzali, who came to Finland after living for three years in Iran, one year in Turkey and seven in Greece.

Afzali is a self-taught expert in 3D design and is perfecting his

skills at a Helsinki university.

This has allowed him to create more than 200 comic videos that started out by targeting the deposed pro-Western Afghan government, which critics accused of being riddled by corruption. But now his sights are set on the Taliban.

“Their guns may be full of bullets but their hearts are empty,” he said.

Several of his works have enjoyed more than 1.7mn views.

“It works very well. People get the message because it’s visual,” Hafzali said.

“I want to send my message to Taliban leaders and Taliban followers that we are free human beings, we’re not going to accept

this rule. I think the majority of people don’t want to accept this.”

His attitude is shared by Musa Zafar, a prominent Afghan satirist. Zafar fled the country in 2016 but refuses to disclose where he is living now for security reasons. “Satirists make people laugh, while being informative like media,” of which Afghans are ‘tired’ because their usual flow of information is ‘depressing’, he said.

Satire can also make the political figures targeted ‘think twice’ about the way they govern and the measures they take, said Zafar, who posts his work under the name ‘Imam Musa’.

AFP



Hafiz Afzali from Afghanistan working on his computer to animate 3D characters for his Youtube videos, at his home in Espoo, Finland (AFP)

Global climate crisis could give nuclear energy a second wind

Glasgow, UK - For more than two decades, promoters and purveyors of nuclear energy felt shunned at UN climate change conferences.

At the COP26 summit under-way in Glasgow, however, they have been welcomed with open arms, the UN's top nuclear regulator told AFP.

The spectre of Chernobyl and Fukushima, along with the enduring problem of nuclear waste, kept energy generated by splitting atoms on the sidelines, even if that energy was virtually carbon free.

But as the climate crisis deepens and the need to transition away from fossil fuels becomes urgent, attitudes may be shifting.

"Nuclear energy is part of the solution to global warming, there's no way around it," said Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in an interview.

It already accounts for a quarter of 'clean' - that is, carbon-free - energy worldwide, and Grossi said this COP is the first where it has 'had a seat at the table'.

"The winds are changing."

To have even a 50/50 chance of capping global warming at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels - the threshold for dangerous tipping points that could trigger runaway warming - global greenhouse emissions must be slashed by almost half within a decade, scientists say.

But things are still moving in the wrong direction: A report on Thursday said emissions in 2021 are approaching record levels.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has warned they could hit new heights by 2023.

That is helping refocus attention on nuclear.

"At the 2015 COP in Paris, nuclear wasn't welcome," said Calum Thomas, head of a recruitment firm for the nuclear industry, who was spotted at COP26 sporting a T-shirt saying 'Let's Talk Nuclear'.

"There was a belief it was not needed. Now many countries are looking at the feasibility, especially with the rise in gas prices."

'Never stops'

From the time he took the IAEA's helm nearly two years ago, Grossi, an Argentine diplomat, has been a tireless advocate for



A woman (left) holds up a poster reading 'Nuclear Power - Yes, Please' as she takes part in a demonstration of Germany's 'Querdenker' (Lateral Thinkers) movement that emerged as the loudest voice against the government's coronavirus curbs, in Leipzig, eastern Germany on Saturday (AFP)



Rafael Mariano Grossi (IAEA)

the industry.

At his first COP in Madrid he 'went in spite of the general assumption that nuclear would not be welcome'.

On the contrary in Glasgow, where nearly 200 countries are still trying to put flesh on the bone of the 2015 Paris Agreement, he said 'nuclear is not only welcome, but is generating a lot of interest'.

Grossi argues that the technology can not only speed the transition away from fossil fuels, but also power research on technologies needed for adapting to climate impacts, from finding drought-resistant crops to eradicating mosquitos.

He acknowledges that it carries serious risks.

The meltdown of three reactors at Japan's Fukushima power plant in 2011 following an earthquake and a tsunami profoundly



A climate activist, wearing a turtle costume, brandishes a placard as he stands in the middle of the Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey on Sunday (AFP)

shook confidence in nuclear.

The industry also has yet to find a way to dispose of nuclear waste, which remains highly radioactive for thousands of years.

But Grossi said these issues are not disqualifying, arguing that statistically the technology has fewer negative consequences than many other forms of energy.

It could also be a complement to renewables.

"Nuclear energy goes on and on for the entire year, it never stops," he said.

Even so, with prolonged construction times, many argue that

it is too late to build enough nuclear capacity to effectively join the battle against global warming.

But Grossi said he thinks part of the answer lies in keeping existing reactors up and running.

100 year old reactors?

Many power plants designed to run for 40 years are now licensed for 60 years under strict national safety standards supervised by the IAEA, he said.

"What could be more efficient than a facility that you built that gives you energy for close to 100 years?" he said.

He acknowledged that plants running that long might be a 'bit of a provocation'.

"But it still might be possible." In their projections on how to limit the rise in global temperatures and satisfy a growing global demand for energy at the same time, the IEA takes all non-carbon sources on board.

The UN's climate science advisory panel, the IPCC, has also given a place to nuclear in its models, even as it says that its deployment 'could be limited by social preferences'.

Indeed, attitudes towards nuclear power vary sharply across nations.

While New Zealand and Germany are opposed, India is in discussions with French energy giant EDF to build what would be the largest nuclear power plant in the world.

Meanwhile, both Canada and the United States are developing so-called 'small modular reactors', although only Russia has put into operation a floating reactor using this technology.

Price is also not the barrier it used to be, said Grossi. "Countries see in smaller units a very interesting alternative, which is not in the range of billions but of hundreds of millions," he said. "When it comes to energy projects, this is quite affordable."

AFP



Two people were killed in a shootout that took place on the beach near the Caribbean resort of Cancun in Mexico

Mexico arrests two suspects in beach shooting

Mexico City, Mexico - Mexican authorities on Saturday arrested two people suspected of involvement in a shooting between rival gangs on a beach near the Caribbean resort of Cancun that left two people dead.

The armed clash, which took place on Thursday, was the second to shake Mexico's Riviera Maya in recent weeks and is another blow to a tourism industry still recovering from the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.

The attorney general's office for the eastern state of Quintana Roo said it had managed to locate three of the four vehicles the suspected shooters used to travel to the beach. They arrested two people who had been driving, while one managed to escape.

"Two drivers were captured while a third one fled, and there was even an exchange of gunfire with police officers, managing to escape to a jungle area," the attorney general said in a statement.

The office also said initial investigations showed that the groups involved that day had split off from the Sinaloa cartel who 'are disputing territory for the sale of drugs'.

The shooting on Thursday took place on the beach outside one of the luxury resort hotels near Cancun, a popular tourist destination.

Local authorities had said the clash was between rival gangs of drug dealers.

Mexico is plagued by cartel-related bloodshed that

Two suspects were captured while a third one fled during an exchange of gunfire with police

ATTORNEY GENERAL

has seen more than 300,000 people murdered since the government deployed the military in the war on drugs in 2006.

While the Riviera Maya, home to Cancun and other leading resorts including Playa del Carmen and Tulum, is generally considered safer than much of the country, there has been an increase in violence.

Last month, two tourists from Germany and India were killed in a shootout between suspected drug dealers in Tulum, while several others were wounded.

In 2017, three foreigners were among five killed in a shooting at an electronic music festival in Playa del Carmen.

The incidents have led European countries and the United States to warn their citizens about the risks of visiting the Mexican Caribbean, among the world's top beach destinations.

Tourism represents 8.5 per cent of Mexico's gross domestic product and is the main economic activity in the southeast region, which includes the Riviera Maya.

AFP

On election day, Nicaraguan woman honours teen son killed in protests

Masaya, Nicaragua - Junior Gaitan was 15 when he was shot in the chest during demonstrations in 2018 against Nicaragua's long-term President Daniel Ortega.

Three years later, his mother Aura Lila Lopez is still struggling to cope with the loss. On Sunday, when Nicaraguans go to the polls in a presidential vote stacked in Ortega's favour, she will go to put flowers on her son's grave.

In the gloom of Lopez's modest dwelling in the city of Masaya, southern Nicaragua, photos of Junior adorn an entire wall.

On a small table, statuettes of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, a candle and a wreath of artificial blue and white flowers - the colours of the Nicaraguan flag - flank yet more framed pictures of the teenager.

The shrine keeps growing. "I still cry, I still yearn for him," Lopez (49) told AFP.

She wears a T-shirt on which is printed a photo of her son in his primary school graduation toga, as well as the phrase: 'Junior Gaitan. El Pollito (the Little

Chicken),' his nickname.

"I cannot get used to not having him here. It is very hard to lose a child, it is a thing I do not wish on anyone," she sobbed.

Gaitan was among at least 328 people known to have died in 2018, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, when Nicaragua's security forces clamped down violently on anti-government protests.

Ortega, now 75, had accused the protesters of 'terrorism' and of seeking to oust him with help from the United States.

He is assured of a fourth consecutive term in elections on Sunday, with all viable challengers detained or in exile.

'A gunshot to the chest'

Gaitan was one of many young people who erected roadblocks during the protests in 2018 that all but paralysed the country for four months.

He was carrying a backpack full of mortars when, according to his mother, he was shot by a



Aura Lila Lopez, mother of Junior Gaitan, who was shot dead during protests against Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega's government in June 2018, speaks during an interview with AFP in Masaya on November 2 (AFP)

policeman.

On that day, June 2, 2018, he woke up early to take up his post at a barricade, but his mother locked him in a room because the police and armed groups were patrolling the neighbourhood of Monimbo in Masaya -

which was at the forefront of the anti-government campaign.

"He was desperate to leave, he started crying, and his father gave him permission to go see the barricade. He told him not to move from there," Lopez recounted.

But when he did not return after a few hours, she started to fret.

"If something happens to Junior, I'll die," she remembered thinking. "I prayed to God not to do this to me."

But soon the neighbours

started bringing news. She went from roadblock to roadblock on the back of a neighbour's motorcycle to look for him.

"When I got to the church, there were many people. And there he was, his face covered, with a gunshot to the chest."

No 'earthly justice'

Near the front door of Lopez's house, a basket with bags of toasted bread stands on a wooden table. She sells the bread and cold drinks to make a living.

Her husband, Javier Gaitan, fixes bicycles from home. In his work shed, there is also a large photo of Junior.

The couple has three other sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Junior Gaitan liked football and dressing up for parties. He was a good student and wanted to be a graffiti artist, said his mother.

On the first anniversary of his death, other boys in the neighbourhood dedicated a football match to him. Their victory trophy adorns the shrine his mother

built.

"Until now, there has not been justice," Lopez told AFP.

"For Ortega, these deaths do not exist. There were no deaths, no killings and there are no political prisoners," she said.

Five months ago, she said, the security forces kept a menacing watch over a church mass to mark the third anniversary of Junior's death.

Ortega's regime has some 150 political opponents behind bars, including 39 opposition figures and seven presidential hopefuls arrested since June.

On November 2, the Day of the Dead, Lopez brought frosted flowers - which she taught herself to make - to her son's grave at a nearby cemetery.

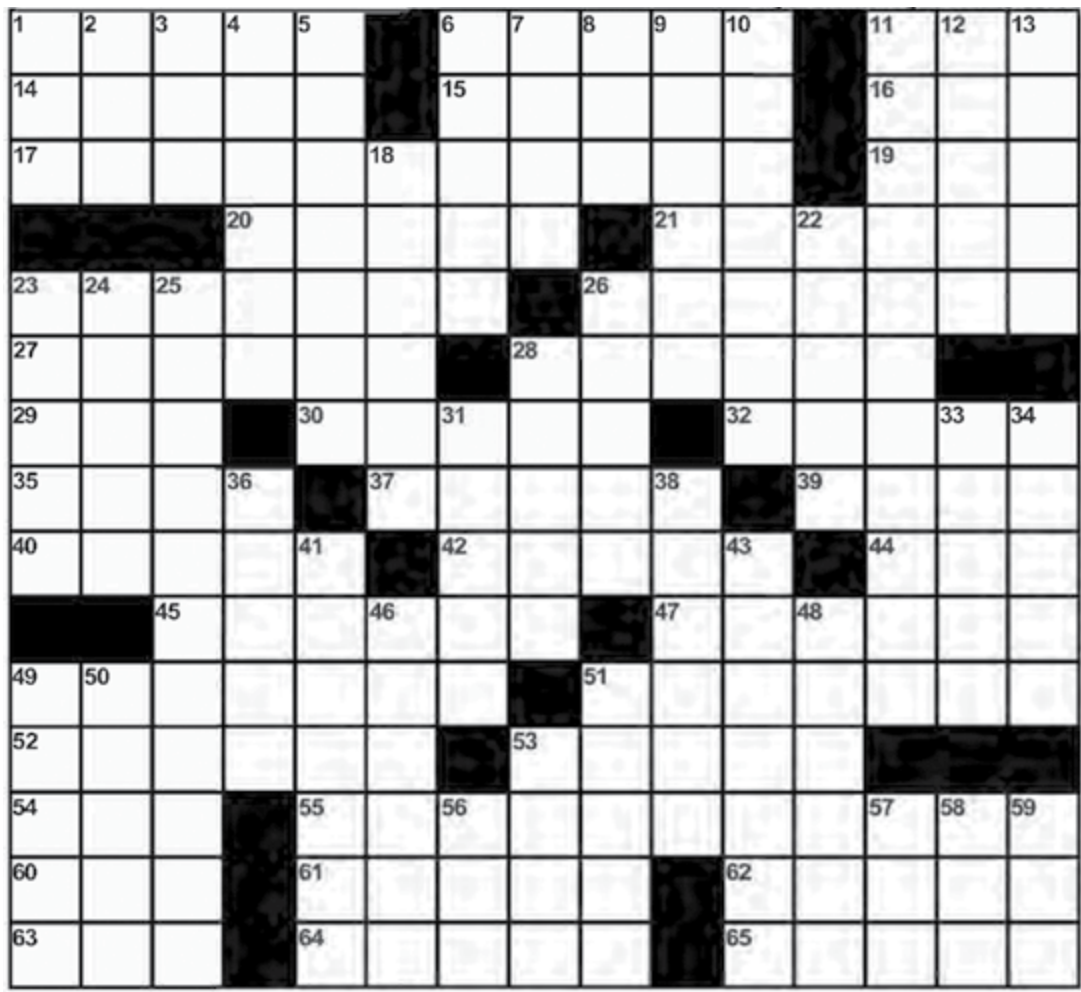
Once a month, she serves lunch to the boys of the neighbourhood in his memory.

And on Sunday, she said, she will protest in her own manner.

"We will not have earthly justice," she said as she lit a candle at her son's shrine. "Divine justice is all I can hope for."

AFP

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Gives kudos to
6) Haggard who sang country
11) Without an umbrella on a rainy day, perhaps
14) Prefix with "structure"
15) Hunter in the night sky
16) "How was... know?"
17) Removing ice cream from its carton, e.g.
19) Convent resident
20) Sly tricks
21) Leave the country?
23) One way to follow behind
26) Saber rattlers
27) Certain NFLers
28) Quaint eatery
29) Solitary figure?
30) Card for a fortune-teller
32) Classical lyric poem
35) Get bent out of shape?
37) More maneuverable at sea
PIGEON SAY
WHAT?
39) Czech or Croat
40) Comparatively

friendly

- 42) Hairy bovine
44) One of the Gabor sisters
45) Animals with striped legs
4 7) Prado Museum home
49) Crouched
51) French painter Henri
52) Like instantly
53) Widespread fear
54) Japanese cummerbund
55) Three-part treats
60) Noun-forming suffix
61) Ransacking weapon?
62) Less desirable turkey parts
63) Hardly a big wheel
64) Completely appeases one's hunger
65) Wanda of "Curb Your Enthusiasm"
DOWN
1) Fleur de_
2) Mandela's org.
3) Enigma in the sky
4) Be partially asleep
5) Possessing wisdom
6) It can get you stuff
7) Tiny bits of work

- 8) Brazil metropolis, familiarly
9) Dirty rats
10) Agreement among countries
11) Some alcoholic beverages
12) Musical composition
13) Utilizes a gym
18) "Amen!"
22) Is a fault-finder
23) Top of the head
24) Hawaiian veranda
25) Keeping on the stove too long
26) Tiny pests
28) Karloff of old horror films
31) Foaming at the mouth
33) Confederate President Jefferson
34) Avoid, as responsibility
36) Tea offering
38) Sharp Italian cheese
41) NBA team welcome in Jurassic Park?
43) Olympic teams
46) Illinois city
48) Detachable shirt collar
49) Displaying no emotion
50) Forbidden in po-

- lite society
51) Clublike weapons of old
53) North or South end
56) Developing newt

- 57) "Yuck!" relative
58)_ out (just manage)
59) Sound of deflation?

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

There are many flirtatious comments floating around you today, but most of them are much too ambiguous to take seriously. Of course, if you listen to your bolder half, you won't let that stop you! You're feeling so silly and sassy that you're totally ready to take any opportunity available to flirt away. Feel free to up the ante and make saucy connections with a new person on the scene. They'll receive your overture well.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Be careful who you flirt with today. It will be all too easy to capture someone's heart without even trying. Does that mean you can't talk to anyone at all? Well of course not, but confine yourself to your very own partner as much as you possibly can. It would probably be best for all parties concerned, especially since getting rid of any new admirers won't be easy.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Who's jealous? You? Believe it or not, you just might be. And if you feel guilty about working so much and taking time away from your loved ones, the attention that someone else shows them could be enough to stretch even the most open-minded, freedom-loving person past the breaking point. That's if you're not careful. But you'll be careful. And more attentive.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

With any luck, you haven't committed all your free time to one particular person, because more interesting and exotic admirers are en route, and one of them might disrupt the routine of your day in a wonderful way. Of course, if you're attached, your best bet will be to say thank you to the fans, and move along. Stay focused on that one quality person you so wisely chose, who will be delighted to let you know just how much you're adored.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Thinking of doing something different with your hair, your body, or your wardrobe? Good for you. Change is good for the soul and refreshing to the spirit. Just don't get too carried away. You wouldn't want a dear one to walk by without recognizing you, right? Besides, you're pretty darned close to perfect in the eyes of your sweetie. Better have a powwow before you do anything too drastic.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

Someone is working hard from behind the scenes to cause a problem between you and a person you love. If you've had that feeling lately and you thought you were losing your mind, you can rest assured that you're not. But what are you going to do about it? Well, there's only one thing to do: march right up to them, tell them you know what they're doing, and demand that they stop. You can bet they will.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

For better or worse, someone has captured your attention totally and completely. You can't remember the last time you felt this way. And there's a good reason for that: you probably haven't ever felt this way, at least not since becoming an adult. It's called passion, and this wave of it is here for at least the day. What you do with it is up to you, of course, but you can cross arguing off the list right away.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Finally, at long last, you're ready to come out of your cocoon. And not a moment too soon in the opinion of your sweetie and your friends, all of whom have probably been pouting since you decided to hide out a few days ago. Go ahead and call them now or see them tonight if you feel like it. And before they have a chance to give you a hard time, explain that absence really does make the heart grow fonder.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

You've been thinking about this for days, even weeks. Are you going to stay and try to work this out or let go of the whole thing and start over? You've laid out all the pros and cons in your mind and you're still just not sure. Well, talking to a friend about it will help. But in the end, you'll have to make up your mind all by yourself. How about taking some time alone?



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Who loves entertaining more than you do? Right, no one. And who loves coming to your place? Right, everyone. So don't be surprised if the urge to open up your home for dinner and some lighthearted socializing comes along or if you answer that urge by doing some serious shopping for provisions. Remember, though, that it wouldn't hurt to let the guests bring dessert.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

It's easy for you to become rather focused on (okay, even obsessed with) a tiny thing. So if you're worried about something and you don't see any end in sight, talk to someone about it. Why live with the worry when you don't have to? Wouldn't it be better to set your mind at ease once and for all? At the very least, spend some time relaxing with a friend you've known forever.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Intimacy isn't something that comes easily to you. At least not now that you've had time to tuck a couple of years under your belt and learn how fickle some people can be. There's someone in your life at the moment, however, who seems not just sincere but also legitimately interested in you. At this point, you can trust your own judgment and you know it.

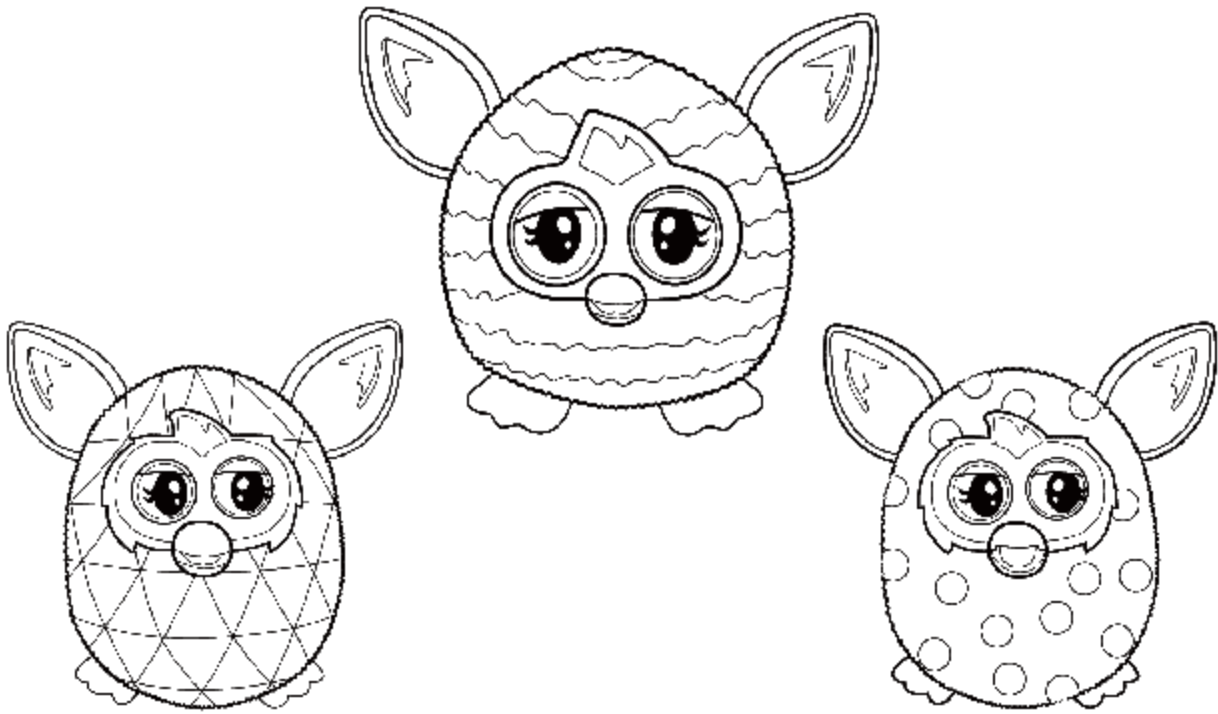


TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- The blood pressure of a young male human being is
 - 110/70
 - 120/80
 - 135/90
 - 140/100
- The first Winter Olympic Games were held at
 - Innsbruck (Austria)
 - Lake Placid (USA)
 - Chamonix (France)
 - Calgary (Alberta)
- The electron was first identified by
 - J. J. Thompson
 - J. Kepler
 - D. Rutherford
 - James Chadwick

Answers: 1. b 2. c 3. a

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

E	L	T	I
T	B	I	S
H	E	S	R
E	E	D	B

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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



COLOURS OF FALL

HUE AND CRY

America's northeast is famous for its red, orange and yellow fall foliage but experts say climate change is dulling the colours and delaying peak season, causing concern for the region's multibillion-dollar 'leaf-peeping' tourist industry.

Warmer temperatures and heavier rainfall are keeping leaves greener for longer while extreme weather events like heat waves and storms are stripping trees bare before getting to autumn, according to conservationists.

"Climate change is making it less likely that we're going to get those perfect fall colour displays," Andy Finton, a forest ecologist with the Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts, told AFP.

Several delicate factors combine for leaves to turn the vibrant colours that adorn picture postcards from New England and see visitors flocking to states like Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire every October.

The right combination of heat and precipitation in the summer followed by sunny days and cooler nights as the days start to shorten are required for chlorophyll to break down, unveiling the yellow and orange carotenoid pigments that turn ash and birch trees a golden hue. But the more complicated process

by which leaves produce sugar that creates the red anthocyanin pigments seen in sugar maple and black gum trees is worrying arborists the most.

Slowing down nature

Hotter days, coupled with warmer nights and overcast skies caused by increased precipitation are slowing down photosynthesis, threatening those deep red colours beloved by leaf-peepers.

"What you're gonna see is more muted colours," said Finton.

Leaf-peeping is a slang term in the United States used to describe the recreational activity of traveling to see and photograph autumnal colours.

Numerous tracking websites try to predict where and when peak fall foliage will occur as it makes its way south through New England, including Massachusetts and Connecticut, and into New York.

Ecologists, however, say climate change is pushing the season back, making it harder to predict when the leaves will turn and threatening to shorten the window, if it is followed by a quick cold snap.

Stephanie Spera, an environmental scientist at the University of Richmond,

Climate change is muting America's famous fall foliage, a riot of bright colours that beckon tourists from around the world. Nature experts are concerned over the fact that trees get stripped before autumn, photosynthesis is often slowed down, and bright hues are getting replaced with pale shades

is studying the impact of climate change on fall foliage in Acadia National Park in Maine.

"What we are seeing is that it is about a full week later than it was in the 1950s," and now arrives around the second week of October, Spera told AFP.

Barbara Brummer, a field biologist with the Nature Conservancy's New Jersey office, estimates it was at least two weeks late this year "from what typically might have happened 100

years ago."

Pests and disease

Fall foliage tourism is big business in the northeast. It contributes US\$300mn to Vermont's economy alone every year, according to official figures.

In autumn, upwards of 500 people visit Polly's Pancake Parlor in New Hampshire every day to marvel at the colours on display in the White Mountains. The restaurant has been recording when leaves change colour since the 1970s to keep track of how weather was impacting footfall.

"Fall is a huge part of our business and customers would ask, 'When's the best time to visit?'" owner Kathie Cote told AFP, adding that she was definitely concerned about climate change.

Alejandro Bertagnoli, a 31-year-old tourist from Argentina, and his girlfriend visited New York's Central Park in early November and were surprised by how green the leaves still were.

"The pictures do seem different from what you usually see. But it's still enjoyable," he told AFP.

Warmer, wetter temperatures are also helping invasive pests and disease

live longer and spread further, according to Pete Smith, urban forestry programme manager at the Arbor Day Foundation. "There's nothing worse for fall colour than a dead tree," he told AFP.

Natural fury

Extreme weather events are also wreaking havoc. In September, heavy rain and powerful winds brought by Hurricane Ida brought down trees and knocked leaves off branches.

Ecologists are also concerned by foliage scorch, a phenomenon seen this summer in the western US when brutal temperatures burned leaves brown, stripping them of their pigments. They say carbon emissions must be reduced and forests conserved to protect foliage.

While they acknowledge that foliage may not top the agenda at Cop26, healthy leaves mean healthy forests which are essential for the environment.

The leaves that sugars develop into the twigs and stems of trees to provide food for spring.

"If you disrupt these cycles, there are impacts that we probably don't even know about, because nature is so complex," said Brummer. "Fall foliage is also good for the soul. When you go out and see beautiful red colours it's joyful."

AFP



Hamed al Wahaibi in action during the Oregon Trail Rally on Saturday

Wahaibi placed fourth overall with a day left

Our Correspondent
Muscat

OREGON TRAIL RALLY: ARA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Omani rally driver Hamed al Wahaibi led in his R5 class and was placed fourth overall after the second day of action at the Oregon Trail Rally in the Golendale area of neighbouring Washington State in United States on Saturday.

Wahaibi had completed two runs through a short super special stage at Portland International Raceway on Friday

evening. The 53-year-old and his New Zealand co-driver Tony Sircombe set a string of fourth fastest stage times behind the three more powerful Open class cars of rally leader Brandon Semenuk, stunt legend Ken Block and Travis Pastrana.

Wahaibi leads his nearest rival Javier Castro by 2min 15.2sec heading into the final day.

The Omani's performance in the Ford Fiesta R5, is being run on the event by McKenna Motorsport, and is his first appearance at the round of the

American Rally Association (ARA) National Championship.

"It all went very well and I am very pleased that we were fast in the R5," said Wahaibi.

"Travis Pastrana came along and complimented us on our performance.

"The super special at the start was good and the stages on Saturday were beautiful to drive on.

"They were fast and flowing and really enjoyable.

"The level of competition has been very good. It has been a great experience and I will

definitely come back again. I tried in the morning to see how close we could get to the Open class cars, but they are WRC cars in effect. They were flying."

Sircombe added, "Hamed has been driving really well and the car has been doing everything he wanted it to do.

"They have been tricky and quite difficult roads and you need confidence in some places. Some sections were very technical and narrow, still high speed but no room for error.

"We are pleased and we had a little bit of night driving as well.

That is something we hadn't done for a while."

American legends Pastrana and Block battled for the outright lead, but Wahaibi shadowed third-placed Semenuk.

The Omani duly topped the RC2 field on his debut and found himself 5.4 seconds in front of rival and British racing driver Kyle Tilley.

Wahaibi is running the Ford Fiesta R5 with logistical support from Asyad Express (an Omani delivery and logistics company) and Muscat-based Sandan Development LLC.

Shonal on podium at UAE RMC



Shonal Kunimal (C) with Sanad al Rawahi (R) and Carlo John Bariquit



Shonal competes during the third round of UAE RMC in Al Ain, UAE

Ashok Purohit
Muscat

At the age of eight, Shonal Kunimal was winning titles one after another in 2019. Not only did the Indian School Ghubra (ISG) student dominate the domestic go-karting scene but the youngster also won back-to-back UAE Rotax Championship titles in micro max (age nine to 12 years) categories in 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons.

However, he was kept away from circuit for nearly two years, having lost his mother last year in a tragic accident, and then due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The talented go-karting racer returned to competitive go-karting circuit in October but on Saturday claimed his first podium finish since his return in the third round of the 2021-22 UAE Rotax Max Challenge (RMC) Championship that was held at the Al Ain Raceway International Kart Circuit.

Shonal, who is being groomed by former Oman go-karting champion Sanad al Rawahi, finished behind Maxim Bobreshov (winner) and Leonidas Peruzzi (runner-up).

Driving for Birel Team, Shonal was third among the eight drivers in fray. Also competing was another Muscat-based driver in Adam Awan. Omani na-

tional Adam came seventh.

The UAE RMC round one began on October 9 with Adam claiming a creditable podium place ahead of Shonal, who finished fourth. Maxim won the opener too.

In the second round, which was held on Friday, Shonal missed the podium to end up fourth but bounced back with a third place on Saturday. Adam had clinched his second podium on Friday with a third spot. Each round comprises qualifying, heat, pre-final and final sessions.

In the third round, Shonal was P3 in qualifying but slipped to P7 in heat. However, Sanad's pep talk and Shonal's determination helped him claim a podium place in the final session.

Shonal said, "I would like to thank my coach Sanad for his guidance and also thank my team mechanic, Carlo John Bariquit, for getting my kart in good condition."

Shonal's dad and mentor Shojai Kunimal thanked Suleiman al Rawahi, managing director of Oman Automobile Association (OAA), for his constant support. "Without the backing of Suleiman, it would have been very difficult for Shonal to make a comeback after the personal tragedy we experienced last year."

@ashokmuscat

Exciting battles witnessed at Asian 49ers

Our Correspondent
Muscat

2021 ASIAN 49ER & 49ER FX CHAMPIONSHIPS

Exciting battles were witnessed on the first day of racing at the 2021 Asian 49er and 49er FX Championships in Barcelo Mussanah Resort on Saturday.

Just 15 points separated the top six crews in the men's category and the top nine sailors in the women's competition with three full days of racing still to come.

A fleet of 50 across all classes representing four countries from Asia took to the waters in Mussanah for the first race keen to show their best form.

For the international guests, ineligible to compete for the title, the Asian 49er and 49er FX Championships are a chance to find their groove ahead of the World Championships taking



Sailors competing during the 2021 Asian 49er and 49er FX Championships on Saturday

place later this month. As a result, the sailing was excellent and highly-competitive from the

very first race.

The crew of Molly Highfield and Sandi Choi of Hong Kong

lead from Harshita Tomar and Sweta Shervegar of India after the first day in the 49er FX class,

sitting seventh and ninth overall respectively. Dutch pair of Odile Van Aanholt and Elise de Eijter are out in front, holding a very slim lead from Finnish duo Ronja Gronblom and Veera Hokka in second and Lara Granier and Amelie Riou of France in third.

In the 49er class, Indian pair of KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar lead from Akira Sakai and Russell Awylworth of Hong Kong, India's Anand Thakur and Satyam Rangad and the Omani crew of Ahmed al Hasani and Abdulrahman al Mashari with just a point separating second, third and fourth.

Robert Dickson and Sean Waddilove of Ireland lead overall, level on points with Denmark's Fredrik Rask and Jacob Precht, and Germany's Jakob Meggendorfer and Andreas Spranger tied in third place with Great Britain's Jack Hawkins and Chris Thomas.

CLASSIFIEDS

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 | Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com

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

FREE CLASSIFIED LISTING

Muscat Daily now offers free classified listings for individuals in the following categories:
Situations Wanted/ Accommodation Wanted or Available/Sale of Household Items/ Car for Sale or Wanted/ Matrimonial Alliances (Word limit is 35)
Please email your listing to
dailyclassifieds@apexmedia.co.om or call 99104346

JOP VACANCY

Wanted an experienced Graphic Designer for an advertising agency. Whatsapp CV to 91764576

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

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

EVERTON HOLD SPURS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

London, UK - Antonio Conte had a taste of the scale of his task at new club Tottenham as they laboured to a 0-0 draw at Everton on Sunday. Elsewhere, Arsenal beat Watford 1-0 to climb to fifth in the table while Leeds and Leicester shared the points in a 1-1 draw.

Spurs sacked Nuno Espirito Santo last week after five defeats in seven Premier League matches and turned to Conte, who has won league titles with Juventus, Chelsea and Inter Milan.

The Italian oversaw a 3-2 victory against Vitesse Arnhem in the Europa Conference League in midweek but Sunday's match at Goodison Park gave him a more realistic glimpse of the challenge ahead.

A game short on clear-cut chances could easily have ended in another league defeat for the visitors but for an intervention from VAR to overturn the decision to award Everton a second-half penalty.

Rafael Benitez's side thought they had won a spot-kick after Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris dived at the feet of Richarlison and clipped the Brazilian.

But after a VAR review referee Chris Kavanagh overturned his original decision on the basis that Lloris got enough of a touch on the ball.

Mikel Arteta celebrated his 100th game as Arsenal manager with a 1-0 victory against ten-man Watford.

Emile Smith Rowe broke the deadlock in the second half after an inspired performance from goalkeeper Ben Foster had frustrated the hosts, with Juraj Kucka



Tottenham's Harry Kane (C) challenges Everton's Seamus Coleman (L) and Anthony Gordon during the English Premier League match on Sunday (AFP)

dismissed late on at the Emirates Stadium.

The three points mean Arsenal, unbeaten in ten games in all competitions, leapfrog Brighton and Manchester United.

Leeds and Leicester shared the spoils after a stunner from Harvey Barnes cancelled out Raphinha's opener.

Leicester thought they had taken the lead midway through the second half but Ademola Lookman's close-range finish from Jamie Vardy's flick was overturned for offside following a VAR review.

OTHER RESULTS
SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP
Sunday: Dundee 2 Celtic 4, Rangers 4 Ross County 2.

SPANISH LEAGUE
Atletico concede twice vs Valencia
Madrid, Spain - Atletico Madrid conceded in the 92nd and 96th minutes on Sunday to surrender a two-goal lead and draw 3-3 away at Valencia in La Liga.

Luis Suarez's opener was cancelled out by a Stefan Savic own goal early in the second half but when Antoine Griezmann and

Sime Vrsaljko put Atletico 3-1 up, victory look secured at Mestalla.

Instead, Valencia pulled off an incredible comeback in extra-time, Hugo Duro poking in a superb Jose Gaya cross and then equalising four minutes later, heading in to secure a dramatic point.

The draw leaves Atletico Madrid four points behind Real Madrid, who beat Rayo Vallecano 2-1 on Saturday, and continues a weekend of remarkable comebacks in La Liga, after Barcelona threw away a three-goal lead against Celta Vigo.

OTHER RESULTS
Saturday: Espanyol 2 Granada 0, Alaves 2 Levante 1. Sunday: Villarreal 1 Getafe 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE
Marseille held to goalless draw
Paris, France - Marseille were held to a goalless draw by Metz in Ligue 1 on Sunday after failing to make their numerical superiority count following Jemerson's red card. Despite laying siege to the Metz goal, Marseille had to settle for a single point that left them in fourth place, 11 points

behind leaders Paris Saint-Germain. Neymar scored twice in PSG's 3-2 win against Bordeaux on Saturday.

OTHER RESULTS
Saturday: Lille 1 Angers 1; Sunday: Lorient 1 Brest 2, Nantes 2 Strasbourg 2, Reims 0 Monaco 0, Saint-Etienne 3 Clermont 2.

ITALIAN LEAGUE
Roma slump continues
Milan, Italy - Roma's worrying crash in form continued on Sunday with a shock 2-3 loss at Venezia, a fifth defeat for Jose Mourinho's team just 12 games into the Serie A season.

Deservedly a goal ahead at half-time after Eldor Shomurodov and Tammy Abraham had scored following Mattia Caldara's opener for promoted Venezia, Roma collapsed after a harsh penalty decision allowed Mattia Aramu to level with a 65th-minute spot-kick.

David Okereke's finish with 16 minutes remaining on the banks of the Venetian Lagoon sank the club, who are now fifth.

OTHER RESULTS
Saturday: Spezia 1 Torino 0, Juventus 1 Fiorentina 0, Cagliari 1 Atalanta 2. Sunday: Sampdoria 1 Bologna 2, Udinese 3 Sassuolo 2.

GERMAN LEAGUE
Saturday: Bayern Munich 2 Freiburg 1, Wolfsburg 1 Augsburg 0, Stuttgart 0 Arminia Bielefeld 1, Bochum 2 Hoffenheim 0, RB Leipzig 2 Borussia Dortmund 1. Sunday: Hertha Berlin 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1.

AFP

QUICK RUN

Alvarez stops Plant to make super middleweight history

Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez made history on Saturday, knocking out Caleb Plant in the 11th round to become the first undisputed world super middleweight champion, unifying all four major belts in less than 12 months. The 31-year-old added the IBF belt to his WBC, WBA and WBO straps in a winner-takes-all showdown at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, US, to join an exclusive club. The Mexican had seized the WBA and WBC titles by beating Callum Smith in December 2020.

Bagnaia clinches Algarve MotoGP

Ducati rider Francesco Bagnaia won a red-flagged Algarve MotoGP in Portimao, Portugal, on Sunday as newly-crowned world champion Fabio Quartararo failed to finish after falling off his Yamaha. Italy's Bagnaia, who had started on pole position for a fifth consecutive race, finished ahead of 2020 world champion Joan Mir of Suzuki and Australia's Jack Miller, also on a Ducati. Starting from a lowly seventh on the grid, Quartararo fell five laps from the end of the race on the same circuit where he had won the Portuguese MotoGP in April. In front of a crowd of around 28,000 spectators, seven-time MotoGP world champion Valentino Rossi finished in 13th place in the penultimate race of his career.

Shevchenko named Genoa manager

Andriy Shevchenko was named new Genoa coach on Sunday, a day after the struggling Serie A club sacked Davide Ballardini following a miserable start to the season. In a statement Genoa said Shevchenko had signed a deal until the end of June 2024, giving the former AC Milan and Ukraine forward his first club management role after coaching his national team for the past five years. The 45-year-old guided Ukraine to the Euro 2020 quarterfinals, losing 0-4 to England in Rome.

Aston Villa sack manager Smith

Dean Smith has been sacked as manager of Aston Villa after five straight Premier League defeats, the club announced on Sunday. Smith guided Villa back to the English top flight in 2019 but has paid the price for their disappointing form this season, with Friday's 1-0 defeat at Southampton proving the last straw for club bosses.

AFP

ONLY PURE WATER AND PERFECT TASTE

ONLY WHAT'S ESSENTIAL

Bottas claims Mexico GP pole



Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas races during the qualifying session at Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City, on Saturday (AFP)

FORMULA ONE MEXICO GRAND PRIX

Mexico City, Mexico - Valtteri Bottas claimed pole position for the Mexico Grand Prix on Saturday with 'shocked' world champion Lewis Hamilton next to him in a Mercedes front-row lockout.

Championship leader Max Verstappen, who has a 12-point edge over Hamilton in the title race with five events left, was third fastest.

The other Red Bull driver Sergio Perez was fourth in front of his home fans in Mexico City.

"Valtteri did an amazing job, he has been driving so well for the team. To lockout the front row is so special," said Hamilton of his teammate who clocked 1min 15.875sec, the only driver to dip below 1:16.

"They (Red Bull) were six-tenths ahead at one stage but when we got to qualifying we

had better pace. I am as shocked as everyone."

For Bottas, it was a career 19th pole position, bettering the 18 of Rene Arnoux as the driver on most poles without ever winning the world title.

"Honestly that first run in Q3 was one of my best laps. It's a good feeling," said the Finn.

Verstappen admitted that there had been a problem with the balance on his Red Bull.

"It seemed like through qualifying the balance went away a little bit, but actually the last lap I was on for a good lap," said the Dutchman.

AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly, Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz, Daniel Ricciardo in a McLaren, Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari, Yuki Tsunoda of AlphaTauri and Lando Norris in a McLaren filled out the top-ten on Saturday.

AFP

Every day, all day!



QUOTE OF THE DAY
We played good cricket in the tournament, and we will take a lot of positives. We need to correct the mistakes we made with the bat

Mohammad Nabi
Afghanistan skipper, after his team's exit, on Sunday



ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

All-star New Zealand knock out Afghanistan and India

Southee-Boult strike with the ball, Williamson-Conway see the chase through as NZ enter semis

GROUP TWO

NZ VS AFGHANISTAN

Abu Dhabi, UAE - New Zealand were clinical. As they have now made the semifinals of four World Cups in a row (including ODI World Cups), this is perhaps not surprising.

Needing a win to ensure themselves a place in the final four, they produced what turned out to be a match-winning powerplay.

Kane Williamson cycled his three quicks - Trent Boult, Tim Southee, and Adam Milne - through the first six overs, giving them two apiece.

They each claimed a wicket, and helped keep Afghanistan to less than four an over while the fielding restrictions were in operation.

Afghanistan recovered slightly, through a Najibullah Zadran half-century, but apart from during one 19-run over against Mitchell Santner, never really managed to find momentum after that awful start.

They spluttered their way to 124 for eight, and were always going to struggle to defend it.

In response, New Zealand strode to 45 for one at the end of their powerplay, and then Williamson and Devon Conway came together to stroll to the finish - their unbeaten 68-run stand taking up 56 balls, even as the side won with 11 balls to spare.



New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson plays a shot during his unbeaten knock of 40 against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on Sunday (AFP)

With this win they have not only ended Afghanistan's semifinal hopes, but also those of India, whom they had beaten earlier in the tournament.

New Zealand quicks scythe through

Afghanistan banked on their attack when they chose to bat first, with mystery spinner Mu-

jeeb Ur Rahman back in the lineup after recovering from injury. They eeded a decent batting powerplay, though, and could hardly have done any worse.

Mohammad Shahzad was the first to go, trying to larrup an Adam Milne bouncer over third man, and managing only to send an edge through to wicketkeeper

Conway (who did excellently to get a glove behind it, and complete the catch on the second rebound), in the third over.

Trent Boult then had Hazratullah Zazai caught at short mid-wicket. Soon after, Tim Southee had Rahmanullah Gurbaz lbw. After six overs, Afghanistan were 23 for three, and had struck just three boundaries - one of which was an unintentional top edge.

Afghanistan fizzle at the death

Despite the start, Afghanistan did recover slightly through the middle period, through a 37-run stand between Najibullah Zadran and Gulbadin Naib, then a 59-run partnership between Najibullah and Mohammad Nabi. But they could not fire at the death. In the last six overs, Afghanistan managed just 37 runs, as they lost four wickets. Trent Boult picked up two dismissals in his final over to end with the game's best figures, of three for 17.

New Zealand ace the chase

It didn't need much chasing, really. At no point did New Zealand seem rushed. Mujeeb struck at the start of the fourth over, when a carrom ball that didn't really turn caught Daryl Mitchell's outside edge, but Afghanistan really needed a couple more wickets in the powerplay if they were really

going to challenge New Zealand.

Instead, Williamson came out and played an ice-cool innings, almost never taking a risk, working the singles, striking only the occasional boundary, as he strolled to 40 not out off 42. Conway's stay was not quite as assured, but despite having nicked a ball early in his innings (Afghanistan barely appealed), made his way to 36 not out off 32.

The whole thing was drama-free.

Cricinfo

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN			
H Zazai	c Santner b Boult	2	(4)
M Shahzad	c Conway b Milne	4	(11)
R Gurbaz	lbw b Southee	6	(9)
G Naib	b Sodhi	15	(18)
N Zadran	c Neesham b Boult	73	(48)
M Nabi	c & b Southee	14	(20)
Karim Janat	c Sodhi b Boult	2	(2)
Rashid Khan	c Williamson		
	b Neesham	3	(7)
Mujeeb Ur Rahman	not out	0	(1)
Extras:	(b 1, lb 1, w 3)	5	
TOTAL:	124 for eight in 20 overs		
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-12, 3-19, 4-56, 5-115, 6-119, 7-121, 8-124			
Bowling: T Southee 4-0-24-2, T Boult 4-0-17-3, A Milne 4-0-17-1, J Neesham 4-0-24-1, M Santner 2-0-27-0, I Sodhi 2-0-13-1			
NEW ZEALAND			
M Guptill	b Rashid Khan	28	(23)
D Mitchell	c M Shahzad b Mujeeb Ur Rahman	17	(12)
K Williamson	not out	40	(42)
D Conway	not out	36	(32)
Extras:	(lb 2, w 2)	4	
TOTAL:	125 for two in 18.1 overs		
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-57			
Bowling: M Nabi 4-0-26-0, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 4-0-31-1, Naveen-ul-Haq 2-0-16-0, H Hassan 3-0-14-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-27-1, G Naib 1-1-0-9-0			

Bangladesh, Afghanistan assured of Super 12s spot in 2022

Dubai, UAE - West Indies and Sri Lanka will both have to play an additional qualifying round to make the Super 12s in next year's Men's T20 World Cup in Australia, while Bangladesh and Afghanistan are assured of direct entry. The automatic qualifiers for the Super 12s in 2022 were determined to be the winner and runner-up of the ongoing T20 World Cup, alongside the next six highest-ranked teams.

Going into Saturday's games, six teams - England, Pakistan, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia - had already done enough to ensure their ICC T20I rankings were high enough to seal a Super 12s spot next year.

West Indies' eight-wicket defeat to Australia on Saturday, however, meant that they slipped to tenth in the rankings, while Sri Lanka dropped to ninth.

Benefitting at the two teams' expense is Bangladesh, who rose to eighth, on the back of recent home-series wins over Australia and New Zealand. Afghanistan will occupy the other automatic spot. Joining West Indies and Sri Lanka in the first round of the 2022 T20 World Cup will be Scotland and Namibia - two teams who advanced out of the first round during the ongoing edition - as well as four qualifiers.

Cricinfo

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE

شركة برشوتم
كانجي للصرافة

OMAN'S 1ST EXCHANGE



Transfer US Dollar to
China
for your
Trade & Personal Transaction

Commission
OMR 3.5/-

99101314, 99849289, 91787829

customersupport@pkexchange.net

www.pkexchange.com

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

f t c i n

FREE CLASSIFIED LISTING

Muscat Daily now offers free classified listings for individuals in the following categories:
Situations Wanted/Accommodation Wanted or Available/Sale of Household Items/ Car for Sale or Wanted/Matrimonial Alliances (Word limit is 35)
Please email your listing to dailyclassifieds@apexmedia.co.om or call 99104346

YORK
INSTALL CONFIDENCE

Experience The Same Cooling Comfort
In Every Corner Of Your Room



USA TECHNOLOGY

7 YEARS COMPRESSOR WARRANTY
3 YEARS FULL UNIT WARRANTY

Turbo Mode Multi-Speed Fan High Ambient Cooling at 60°C

24-Hour Timer Auto Restart Self Diagnosis 3-Minute Protection



Genetco جينتكو
GENERAL ELECTRIC & TRADING CO. LLC

50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

MUSCAT
97693496, 96742452

SALALAH
79011363

C.R. No. 1009680
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers



QUOTE OF THE DAY

Yes I'm in good form but I want to see myself more consistent to help the team. Overall, feel fit. We have to give our best shot

Shoaib Malik

Pakistan all rounder, after his team's win over Scotland, on Sunday



ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

Pakistan set up Australia semifinal after big victory

GROUP TWO

PAKISTAN VS SCOTLAND

Sharjah, UAE - Pakistan defeated Scotland by 72 runs on the back of magnificent half centuries from Babar Azam and Shoaib Malik on Sunday to set-up a T20 World Cup semifinal clash against Australia.

Skipper Azam scored a polished 47-ball-66 for his 24th fifty in T20Is, and his fourth in five matches, while Malik smashed an 18-ball 54 not out as Pakistan posted 189 for four in their 20 overs. Scotland were never in hunt as they managed 117 for six with Richie Berrington fighting a lone hand during his 37-ball 54 not out with four boundaries and a six.

The victory gave Pakistan five wins in as many games, topping the Group Two with ten points. They now face Australia in the second semifinal in Dubai on Thursday. England will face New Zealand in the first semifinal in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

"Shoaib, the way he finished, the way he showed his experience, that's what he's known for," said Azam of his 39-year-old teammate.

"We'll carry good confidence into the semifinals and try to play in the same way. Definitely Dubai is one of the best stadiums. As a player if you play in front of a whole crowd that cheers for you, your confidence increases."

Scotland lost skipper Kyle Coetzer (nine), Matthew Cross (five) and George Munsey (17) before they crossed fifty and it was left to Berrington and Micheal Leask (14) to add 46 for



Pakistan players walk back to the pavilion after their win over Scotland at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in Sharjah on Sunday (AFP)

the fifth wicket. But the asking rate continued to mount as spinner Shadab Khan (2-14) kept up the pressure. Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Hasan Ali claimed a wicket each.

"I thought we bowled really well today, especially in the powerplay," said Coetzer whose team lost all five Super 12 games

but defeated Bangladesh in the qualifying round.

'Guys fought hard'

"When you've got the power in the batting line-up like Pakistan you know that they are going to find the boundaries at some stage, but I thought our guys fought really hard today."

Earlier, Azam had set the platform with another fine knock.

Malik then punished the Scottish attack during his fiery knock comprising six hits over the fence and one boundary, taking 26 off Chris Greaves's last over.

Azam smashed five boundaries and three sixes to become the tournament's highest run

scorer, passing England's Jos Buttler's 240 in five matches with 264 in as many games. He holed out to spinner Greaves in the 18th over as Pakistan lifted the scoring rate, adding 129 in the last ten overs and an incredible 77 in the final five.

Azam and Mohammad Rizwan (15) had put on a slow 35

for the opening stand. Rizwan, when on five, broke West Indian Chris Gayle's record for most runs in T20 in a calendar year. Rizwan now has 1,676 runs in 41 matches. Gayle had notched 1,665 in 36 matches in 2015.

Mohammad Hafeez scored a brisk 19-ball 31 with four boundaries and a six.

AFP

TODAY'S MATCH

GROUP TWO

INDIA VS NAMBIA

Dubai (UAE), 6pm

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN		
M Rizwan	c Cross b Tahir	15 (19)
Babar Azam	c Munsey b Greaves	66 (47)
F Zaman	c Leask b Greaves	8 (13)
M Hafeez	lbw b Sharif	31 (19)
S Malik	not out	54 (18)
Asif Ali	not out	5 (4)
Extras:	(lb 3, w 7)	10

TOTAL: 189 for four in 20 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-59, 3-112, 4-142

Bowling: H Tahir 4-0-24-1, B Wheal

2-0-20-0, S Sharif 4-0-41-1, M Watt

4-0-41-0, R Berrington 2-0-17-0,

C Greaves 4-0-43-2

SCOTLAND

G Munsey c Rauf b Shadab Khan 17 (31)

K Coetzer b Hasan Ali 9 (16)

M Cross run out 5 (18)

R Berrington not out 54 (37)

D Budge b Shadab Khan 0 (2)

M Leask b Afridi 14 (14)

C Greaves b Rauf 4 (12)

M Watt not out 2 (3)

Extras: (b 1, lb 1, nb 3, w 7) 12

TOTAL: 117 for six in 20 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-36, 3-41, 4-41,

5-87, 6-114

Bowling: S S Afridi 4-0-24-1, I Wasim

4-0-17-0, H Rauf 4-0-27-1, Hasan Ali

4-1-33-1, Shadab Khan 4-0-14-2

GROUP ONE

TEAM	P	W	L	PTS	NRR
ENG	5	4	1	8	+2.464
AUS	5	4	1	8	+1.216
SA	5	4	1	8	+0.739
SL	5	2	3	4	-0.269
WI	5	1	4	2	-1.641
BAN	5	0	5	0	-2.383

GROUP TWO

TEAM	P	W	L	PTS	NRR
PAK	5	5	0	10	+1.583
NZ	5	4	1	8	+1.162
IND	4	2	2	4	+1.619
AFG	5	2	3	4	+1.053
NAM	4	1	3	2	-1.851
SCO	5	0	5	0	-3.543

AUS: Australia, BAN: Bangladesh, ENG: England, SL: Sri Lanka, SA: South Africa, WI: West Indies, AFG: Afghanistan, IND: India, NAM: Namibia, NZ: New Zealand, PAK: Pakistan, SCO: Scotland

P: Played, W: Won, L: Lost, PTS: Points, NRR: Net Run Rate

2021-22 HIS MAJESTY'S CUP FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-OF-32

Holdings Dhofar open title defence against Majees



H H Sayyid Fahr bin Fatik al Said (L) at the draw ceremony on Sunday

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Holdings and ten-time champions Dhofar kick off their title defence in the 2021-22 His Majesty's Cup Football Championship against Majees in a tricky round-of-32 match at the Sohar Sports Complex.

The draw of the prestigious

championship was held at Sheraton Hotel on Sunday under the auspices of H H Sayyid Fahr bin Fatik al Said. Also present were Sheikh Salim al Wahabi, Oman Football Association (OFA) chairman, and other OFA and clubs' dignitaries.

The single round-of-32 knockout matches will be played from November 19 to 21.

Nine-time winner Fanja will lock horns with Al Ittihad while Nizwa will take on Bausher.

Five-time winners and Salalah giants Al Nasr were drawn against Masirah and four-time champions Al Arouba will host Sohar.

Three-time winners Seeb will take on Ibri while another former champion Muscat will meet

Salalah. In the other pairings, Al Nahda will meet Jalaan at Al Buraimi Sports Complex; Al Ittifaq will host Al Mussanah, two-time champions Saham will face Samail and another two-time winners Oman will play against Al Bashayer.

The other matches pit Rustaq against Quriyat, Bahla vs Al Kamil W'al Wafi, four-time

champions Sur against Al Shabab and Al Khabourah taking on Ahli-Sidab.

Last season's runner-up Al Suwaiq will clash with Al Mudhaibi for a place in last-16.

The last-16 stage will also be played on a single-round knockout format while the quarterfinals and semifinals will be played over two legs.

REIGNITE YOUR LOVE FOR BARBEQUE WITH A'SAFFA

A name you can trust!

The Jeep logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font in the top right corner of the advertisement.

A LEGEND REDESIGNED

THE FIRST-EVER SEVEN-SEATER GRAND CHEROKEE L

Exceptional capability, stunning looks, the latest technology and complete comfort for all seven passengers. The all-new three-row Jeep Grand Cherokee L will turn every journey into a wildly civilized adventure.

Now available in Oman, enjoy a sneak peek at the new Jeep Grand Cherokee L from our launch event.



**Visit our showrooms across Oman
to book a test-drive today.**

BOOK A TEST DRIVE



جراند ميلينيوم مسقط

GRAND
MILLENNIUM

MUSCAT

• A NIGHT OF Jazz & Pizzas

PIZZA STARTING FROM 2.200 OMR
AT MAZAJ LOUNGE WITH JAZZ MUSIC

EVERY MONDAY • 6PM - 10 PM

FOR RESERVATIONS, DIAL
+96879495989 OR +968 22302351