

HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF CHINA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China on the Centennial of founding the Chinese Communist Party. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Jinping. His Majesty also wished the friendly people of China further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



HM RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Sheikh Faisal Mohammed Abdulaziz Al Sabah. In the cable, Sheikh Nawaf expressed his thanks and appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sympathies, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and protect His Majesty against all harms. **-ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Blood donors to get lockdown permit

1 People who wish to donate blood during the hours of the lockdown will be issued a special traffic pass by the Department of Blood Banks Services. **>A3**



MARKET

Sohar port solar unit project completed

3 Majis Industrial Services Company has completed the solar power unit at Sohar Industrial Port. **>B1**

WORLD

Biden rips Trump's 'big lie' claims

2 President Joe Biden ripped apart the claims of Donald Trump's 'big lie' about the 2020 election. **>A6**

FIGHTING PANDEMIC

New lockdown timings to start from Friday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has said that it is preparing to implement the new movement ban timings from Friday.

Starting from July 16, the movement ban will start at 5pm and will continue till 4am, the ROP said.

Full lockdown will be implemented on the first three days of Eid Al Adha (July 20 to 22), it added.

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) also thanked citizens and residents for their adherence to the decisions of the Supreme Committee and their contribution to the commitment to preventive measures in the decline of the epidemic



and the decrease in the number of people infected with the virus. The ROP also wished everyone to spend their time with their families during the blessed Eid Al Adha period.

The Royal Oman Police has also confirmed its readiness to implement the necessary measures for

the safety of society, through police presence in all governorates and wilayats of the Sultanate that will implement the decisions of the Supreme Committee, in addition to maintaining security, and spreading peace and tranquillity.

In order to ensure the availability of basic services and to facilitate the emergency movement of people, the accident centre at the Royal Oman Police will operate during the complete closure with the participation of some main sectors of government institutions including the health sector, the municipal sector, the tourism sector, the transport, the communications and information technology sector, the housing and relief sector, the agri-

cultural, fisheries, water resources sector, and the commerce and industry sector.

The accident centre will receive comments related to the period of movement ban and complete closure.

Inquiries and clarifications of citizens and residents will be dealt with through the centre and provide facilities according to emergency cases. The centre will work 24 hours via the number (1099).

With the advent of Khareef season in the governorate of Dhofar, the Royal Oman Police reminded the visitors to the governorate the necessity of receiving the vaccine in order to avoid the trouble of travel. **>A5**



'I HAVE LOST ALL DESIRE FOR LIFE'

FATHER LEFT HEARTBROKEN AFTER TWO SONS DROWN IN WADI NEAR SAMAIL



Mahmood Al Jabri



Ahmed Al Jabri

The incident took place at Wadi Qari, 20km from where the boys lived in Samail, a town in Al Dakhiliyah around 80km from Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The parents who lost two of their sons when they drowned while swimming in a wadi last weekend say they feel nothing else now, except for the pain of their departure from this world.

On Saturday, July 10, 22-year-old Ahmed Al Jabri, and his younger brother, Mahmood, 19, travelled with their cousin, also

named Ahmed, 18, to Wadi Qari, 20 km from where they live in Samail, a town in Al Dakhiliyah that is around 80km from Muscat and about 90km from the regional capital of Nizwa.

Mahmood, the younger brother, was eager to swim in a pond, which had been formed from the wadi's waters, and dove in. On reaching the centre of the pond, however, he began to tire quickly, and struggled

to stay afloat. Ahmed saw him in danger, and rushed to rescue him.

Because he had approached him from the wrong direction, however, he found it hard to keep a hold on Mahmood and bring him to safety. Ahmed's efforts to rescue his brother tired him as well, and the two of them drowned together.

Their cousin screamed at them to paddle towards the shore as hard as they could, but try as they might, they could not get the energy needed to return to the shore.

Desperate to get them to safety, their cousin called for some expatriates, who were also exploring the area, to help him. On arriving at the lake, however, they knew it was too wide and deep for inexperienced swimmers, and so advised him to call rescue services.

A tearful Ahmed called the res-

cue services, pleading with them to come quickly, telling them 'there is still time to save my cousins'. Despite their best efforts, however, emergency response teams could not save the two boys.

Grieved

"I am very grieved by the departure of my sons...I still cannot believe they are no longer with us at home," said Khaled bin Mahmood Al Jabri, the father of the two boys. "I will no longer be able to hear their voice, their laughter, all I feel now is their separation from us, and their empty places at our dining table. I will no longer be able to call them to help us when we receive guests.

"I have lost a large part of my life," said the grief-stricken father. "It was a great shock to hear the

news of their drowning. I still can't believe that they are gone forever. There is a pain in my heart that I cannot describe. Sometimes I believe God has given me a test of my patience to see if I can bear this agony. I implore God to give me the strength to bear the loss of a part of my soul."

"I feel nothing now in this life, but the great pain of their departure," he added. "I am very broken, and only now say those things that please our Lord. All the corners of our house are alive with the memories of my sons. They were loved by all of us: myself, their mother, our children, and the sounds of their voice always gave us comfort."

Their mother, who was equally heartbroken, added: "Their separation has left me tormented. They were good boys, always respectful.

They would finish their prayers on time, and then clean the house without me even telling them to. Everyone in this area had nothing but praise for them. I ask for everyone to please pray for their souls."

The three young men were part of a group of close friends who would regularly take trips outside Samail to explore the rugged features. On this occasion, Ahmed contacted his elder brother, Mohammed, and their friends, as he was keen to see the wadi, but many of them declined, saying it would be better to go after the Eid holidays.

While they normally inform their parents whenever they go on such excursions, on this occasion, the brothers only told their mother they were going out, said Mohsin Al Jabri, the uncle of the young men. **>A5**



CIVIL DEFENCE AND AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

Firefighters rescue 15 from blaze after smoke blocks their escape

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fifteen people were rescued from a blaze by firefighters, after thick smoke reportedly prevented some of them from evacuating their building in Ghala once it had caught fire.

The rescued are in good health, according to the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA).

At around 8:40 on Tuesday evening, maintenance workers at the building alerted emergency services after a fire was spotted by the basement.

CDAA fire engines, accompanied by ambulances, arrived about 15 minutes later, by which time the inhabitants of both the building in question, as well as the ones next to it, were evacuated.

"It was around 8:45 last night that a neighbour told me a fire was seen in the next apartment block, and we were all required to quickly assemble downstairs," said an occupant of the building



adjacent to the one on fire.

"It was all over rather quickly though, I went back upstairs at about 9:20pm," she added.

Building caretakers said one of the possible causes of the fire could have been a lit cigarette thrown by someone living on one of the floors, which set alight some material

kept at ground level. Equipment belonging to a gym that was situated in the building's basement was also stacked next to this material, helping to fuel the fire that sent up thick clouds of smoke.

"There were many cardboard boxes filled with items used by this gym," said Noor, the caretaker

of the building in question. "Some of the items inside included plastic boxes, and when they caught fire and started to melt, the smoke intensified.

"The smoke went all the way up to the sixth, seventh and eighth floors before it began to spread," he added.

"The people living there were inside their apartments, but had difficulty exiting their homes because the smoke made it very hard for them to breathe properly, or see where they were going."

Firefighting practices

In keeping with standard firefighting practices, emergency services disconnected the utilities before moving to extinguish the fire.

"We assume it was a cigarette or some other burning object capable of causing the fire, because the fire took place about 40 minutes after lockdown," said Reza, the caretaker of an adjacent building.

"The gym closes at 7:30, and there is no one on the premises after that."

"The emergency services were very efficient in getting here, and once they did, they acted quickly to extinguish the fire," he said. "This shows you what a single spark can cause. Thank god no one was injured."



OMAN



PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr	12.18pm
Asr	3:38pm
Maghrib	7:01pm
Isha	8:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:04am

Times of Oman

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PRICE BAIZAS 200

Oman's call to Aden

Oman has asked South Yemen to stop supporting people based there who are hostile to Oman by closing their camps and seizing propaganda against the Sultanate.

The call was made at the first talks for 17 years between the two countries which were held in Kuwait from July 3 to July 7 by Oman's chief delegate Mr Musallam bin Ali al Busaidi, chief of the Arab Affairs Dept at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The talks at the Desman Palace, were arranged by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates under the auspices of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Giving details, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said on

Sunday that this was Oman's main point at the talks.

He said that an element hostile to Oman is in South Yemen calling itself the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman. These people were engaged in military activities against Oman before 1974 but since then they have confined their activities to a campaign in the Press and on radio.

Asked whether Oman has offered these people a chance to return to the country, the spokesman said Oman was ready to accept any Omani who would shun Communist ideology and live in peace.

The spokesman added that the presence of this element in South

Yemen was harmful to that country as they have kept South Yemen in dispute with Oman and out of the Arab ranks.

He said that after this matter was resolved the two countries could start discussions on the border issue.

Other points discussed at the Kuwait talks related to the

by Muzaffar Mohammed

consequence of the presence of foreign military bases in the area. Oman called for the need to keep the Gulf region away from super powers' rivalry. This was necessary for peace and development of the countries in the region.

The final point raised at the

talks related to the establishment of normal diplomatic relations between the two countries after an agreement is reached on all the issues.

Both sides agreed to hold further discussions on a higher level in the near future. The date for the next round of talks will be set through diplomatic channels with the help of Kuwait and the UAE.

The spokesman said that the talks were held in a very encouraging and brotherly atmosphere. Both sides expressed the wish for better relations. Kuwait gave all necessary help to make the talks successful.

The Omani delegation included Ambassador Saud Salem al Ansi and five officials.

The South Yemen delegation was headed by Mr. Abdul Wahid Farah, Director of Arab Affairs in the Foreign Ministry. He was assisted by Mr Ali Idrus Yahya, Yemen's Ambassador to Kuwait and seven officials.

The Kuwaiti delegation comprised Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, Under Secretary Foreign Affairs and Dr. Sheikh Salem al Jaber, al Ahmed al Sabah, son of H.H. the Emir of Kuwait and Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the stay in Kuwait the Omani delegation met the Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information Shaikh Sabah al Ahmad al Sabah and other Cabinet ministers.

Eleven in drifting boat drama

The Oman Government has asked the Pakistan Embassy in Muscat to arrange for the repatriation of 11 Pakistanis who were rescued by a patrol boat of the Royal Oman Police off Musandam last month.

The men's boat was found drifting in rough seas after it broke down and they were without food and water.

The men told the police that they started from Iran and were bound for Dubai in search of jobs.

An Embassy official said the men might have been victims of a fraud — a "recruiting agent" may have taken money from them with false promises of getting visas and jobs in a Gulf state.

The men, most of whom belong to the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan are in Rumais jail.

The Pakistan Charge d'Affaires Mr. Ghayoor Ahmed has asked the authorities to allow an embassy official to visit the men.

He said that the embassy has

informed the Pakistan Government of the incident and has called for severe action against agents who try to send people across the Gulf without proper documents.

Meanwhile the embassy has appealed to relatives of the men in the Gulf states to contact the embassy to help in the men's repatriation.

Special day for SAFTR

The Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces has announced a programme to observe Lailat-ul-Qadar in a befitting manner at SAFTR in Ghala.

Lailat-ul-Qadar (Reverend Night) which has immense religious value for Muslims is observed on the 27th night of Ramadhan.

Sheikh Hilal bin Sultan Al Hosni, Under Secretary Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will give a sermon on the importance and blessings of Lailat-ul-Qadar.

Birds fly into plane

A British Airways Jumbo jet on its way to Muscat made an emergency landing at Melbourne airport on Monday after a flock of birds flew into two of its engines.

No one was hurt in the incident which took place 500 feet above the ground after the plane took off from Melbourne



Mr Ali Hassan Ali.

Drive to improve manpower

The Manpower Planning Unit of the Directorate General of Vocational Training at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has planned studies aimed at improving the efficiency and productivity of the Omani work forces.

The studies include surveys on occupations of school-leavers, and the Omani female workforce. A third study will look into the efficiency of Omani labour viz-a-viz expatriate labour and will compare the productivity of Omani labour with expatriate labour.

Physical and training aspects will be taken into account to explore the basis of complaints from the private sector about the low productivity of Omani labour.

The unit which was recently set up is already studying the manpower requirement of private firms during the second five year plan.

Meanwhile the Director General of Vocational Training Mr Ali Hassan Ali left for the United States this week to attend a seminar on manpower projection and forecasting for planning.

The seminar being organised by the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labour is being held in Washington from today until Sept 4.

Rooftop restaurant for city

A first class, rooftop restaurant is due to open by the year end in Oman's tallest building — the 52-metre high Oman House in Muttrah High Street.

"Plans are going ahead to build the restaurant," a spokesman for the owners of the building Al Hashar Company, said.

He gave no details as the plans are not yet completed.

The rooftop restaurant would have attractive facilities. The building has lifts that can carry 10 people each and there is a private parking area near the building.

Opened in March

Oman House, which was formally opened in March by HH Sayyid Thuwainy bin Shihab, Personal Advisor to His Majesty and Governor of the Capital, was handed over to its owner, Said bin Nasser al-Hashar in February.

It was built by Oman Shapoorji Construction Company at a cost of RO 6 million and took five years to complete.

The ground floor is taken up by two banks — the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and the Bank Saderat Iran, — and showrooms with mezzanine office accommodation built in. Above are floors of residential flats.

The building is centrally air-conditioned with channels for telephones, telex and for the television antennae. Controls are in the technical floor between the mezzanine and the offices.

It has two 160,000 gallon water reservoirs in addition to the 8,000 gallon tank set aside for use by the restaurant.



Oman House

Shopping centre for defence personnel

A big shopping centre just for defence personnel will be opened in the Sohar cantonment area on Sunday. It includes a supermarket, a cinema and other businesses.

The centre is one among a series of projects planned for the welfare of defence personnel in various parts of the country.

INSIDE

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- Koranic study — pages 8.
- Woman's world — pages 28, 29.

Your TV programmes are on page 26



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MOVEMENT BAN

Special movement permit for blood donors during lockdown

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People who wish to donate blood during the hours of the lockdown will be issued a pass by the Department of Blood Bank Services, so that they can cross traffic checkpoints.

“Due to the urgent need to continue the donation of blood and its derivatives, and to enable blood donors to do so, coordination has been achieved between the Ministry of Health, and the other necessary authorities to allow donors to go to blood banks during the movement ban,” said the DBBS in a statement. “Donors will be granted a temporary permit allowing them to give blood.”

Appointments to give blood must be booked two days in advance, owing to the current circumstances. Those who intend to give blood can send a WhatsApp message to 94555648. They will then be issued with a pass that can be showed at traffic checkpoints.

Once they have completed their donation, the blood bank will issue them another temporary pass, which will enable them to get back home.

The blood bank in Boushar is open between 8 am and 8 pm from Saturday to Thursday, and from 3 pm to 8 pm on Fridays. It will, however, be shut on the first

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT: Those who intend to give blood can send a WhatsApp message to 94555648. They will issued a pass that can be showed at traffic checkpoints.

day of Eid Al Adha, July 20.

“In view of the sharp drop in blood groups levels witnessed by blood banks during this period, we appeal to everyone to take the initiative to donate blood,” added the DBBS.

“Out of concern for the sustainability of blood availability for the cases that need it, we would like to emphasise the need to continue donating blood during the next week, since the need

for blood is continuous.”

The DBBS said it was facing increasing shortages of O positive blood, asking people to donate at the earliest.

“O positive blood group levels continue to decrease due to continuous demand and a lack of donors over the past period,” said the organisation. “Support us to meet the needs of patients who require blood. Donate blood today.”



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بمناسبة عيد الاضحى المبارك
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Musandam to receive massive investments: Wali affirms

KHASAB: The strategic location of the Governorate of Musandam, which overlooks the Strait of Hormuz, with its islands and bays makes it unique compared to the rest of the Sultanate's governorates.

Dr. Said Humaid Al Harthy, Wali of Khasab said that the Governorate of Musandam receives great attention from His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik. He added that the recent royal directives focus on the development the Governorate to make it a hub for local and international investors.

He explained that the governorate receives investors who are keen to view the available investment opportunities and incentives, particularly in the tourism sector, pointing out that investors in tourism projects are exempted from paying fees and taxes for a certain period.

This year, OMR 3.5 million will be spent on the development of the Governorate, said Dr. Said, who added that there are other develop-

ment projects to be implemented by the private sector as part of the social responsibility.

The Wali of Khasab said, "The Governorate of Musandam will witness a focus on entertainment and shopping projects. The Governor's Office, represented by the Municipality of Musandam works on building parks and walkways. Once the university and the hospital projects are completed, there will be an environment that attracts commercial investments in the Governorate, which in turn will boost the shopping power.

The projects in the Governorate also include constructing a port in the Wilayat of Diba, in addition to other projects, such as the new sea front and parks.

In the Wilayat of Bukha, several tourist facilities are undergoing development such as Hul park, with camping sites on its beach. More projects are soon to be launched in the wilayat.







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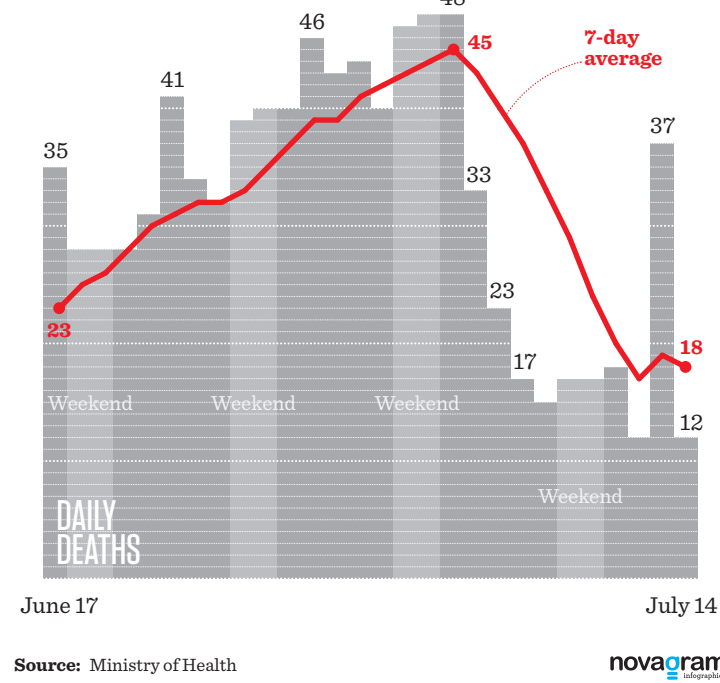
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COVID-19 IN OMAN: DEATHS

Updated on July 14, 2021



MAHAS INDUSTRIAL CITY



Tender for infrastructure work to be floated in September

KHASAB: The tender for constructing roads and relevant infrastructure work and services in Mahas Industrial City in the Wilayat of Khasab is expected to be awarded next September, the Acting Director General of Mahas Industrial City, Mubarak Salem al Ghailani, said on Wednesday.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), al Ghilani said that Mahas Industrial City administration is expected to operate in the temporary administrative building in the Wilayat of Khasab this September.

"Madayn has appointed a specialised consultant to conduct an economic study about types of economic and industrial activities types to be localised in the (1,444,000 square metre industrial city of Mahas," he added.

The layout for the industrial city of Mahas has also been de-



vised based on the geographical location, the Governorate's natural resources and its proximity to the Gulf and regional markets.

The economic study suggests focusing on specific economic and industrial sectors with added value within the light and medium industries, such as: food industries (canning and pack-

ing fish and meat products, and drinking water purification and packaging), manufacturing building materials, furniture, fabrics, logistics and other industrial activities.

Current leased area

Al Ghilani further added that the total current leased area in the Industrial City reached (148,00 square metre), as the existing industries were mainly in manufacturing cement and concrete products, quarries, asphalt industry and an electricity-production plant with 80 megawatt capacity.

The total volume of investments in Mahas Industrial City until the middle of 2021 is up to OMR28 million.

He pointed out that they received a number of new investment applications as they will be localised soon. - ONA

A'DAKHILIYAH GOVERNOR

Platform launched to participate in development plans

NIZWA: A'Dakhiliyah Governor Office on Wednesday launched a link that enables locals of the governorate to contribute with initiatives, innovations and ideas for the comprehensive development plan in the governorate. The step reflects the importance of involving the society to achieve the Tenth Five-Year Plan and Oman Vision 2040. Sheikh Hilal Said Al Hajri, Governor of A'Dakhiliyah, said all participations will be taken into consideration with the aim to meet aspirations of governorate's locals. - ONA



ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Abide by directives

This is in line with implementing the decision of the Supreme Committee to deal with COVID-19 to allow entry of citizens and residents who have received at least one dose of the vaccine approved in the Sultanate and those who received two doses for those coming from outside the Sultanate.

The ROP has urged the citizens and residents to continue to abide by the directives and decisions issued by the Supreme Committee, and to fully cooperate with the relevant authorities during the coming period.

VIRTUAL MEETING

Oman-Sri Lanka trade

MUSCAT: Qais Mohammed Al-Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Cooperation in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, reviewed the distinguished relations between the two friendly countries and means of promoting trade and economic cooperation.

Investment spheres

The virtual meeting discussed matters of common interest. It also reviewed means of enhancing cooperation in trade and investment spheres.

The meeting suggested establishing a direct sea line through the ports of the two countries to directly export and import goods. - ONA



U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS

The U.S. Embassy Muscat is auctioning used household furnishings, appliances, computers and IT equipment by online auction.

Interested bidders may view the auction items online starting on July 13, 2021 by scanning the QR code above or the link to <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>. Bidding will open July 15 at 09:00. Bidders must first register on the site before placing a bid.

All items offered for sale will be sold as is, where-is. "As is, where is" means that there is no warranty, either expressed or implied. Bidding closes on July 26 at 15:00.

Successful bidders will be notified on July 27. At that point, they must make full payment of all lots won. Payment instructions are listed in the "How to pay for your items" section in the "How it works" link on the auction page. Full and complete payments must be received in the U.S. Embassy bank account no later than August 3.

Successful bidders with fully paid lots may collect their goods on Aug 7 at the Ghala warehouse.

DROWNING INCIDENT

Parents of deceased boys say they are left with their memories

"The three boys had actually previously made a video that explains how difficult it is to reach Wadi Qari," he recalled. "My nephews were taking many videos on their phones and sending them to us, even half an hour before they died. In a way, it was almost as if they were saying a warm and loving goodbye to all of us."

"Because of the recent rains, more water had flowed into the

wadis which feed this lake," said Mohsin. "It is possible the boys did not notice this. When a person is drowning, he must be approached from behind, so that he can be held securely and taken to safety. While they were trying to get out of the pond, their cousin yelled at them, saying 'Ahmed and Mahmood, for the sake of God, don't give up!'"

"They have left their memories

with us in the land of the living," said their uncle, who is just as heartbroken as the rest of the family. "Their bodies are left here, but their souls, their beautiful smiles, are no longer with us. Our elegant home seems to have turned into a darkened place, its walls faded due to sadness. All this is because of the pain of their parting, as if their hearts have been snatched by the arms of darkness."



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IRREPARABLE DAMAGE

Large cruise ships banned from entering Venice

ROME: Large cruise ships will be banned from entering the Venice lagoon as of August 1, the Italian government announced Tuesday.

It follows years of warnings they risk causing irreparable damage to Venice's ecosystem.

"The decree adopted today represents an important step for the protection of the Venetian lagoon

system," Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said in a statement.

The move affects vessels longer than 180 meters (530 feet) or higher than 35 meters.

Venice and UNESCO concerns

The decision comes just days before UNESCO convenes over proposals to add Venice to its list of

endangered heritage sites.

Venice was put on the prestigious list in 1987 after describing the city as an "extraordinary architectural masterpiece."

But the UN body said last month the city needed a "more sustainable tourism management."

Venice's fragile ecosystem

Capital of northern Italy's Veneto

region, Venice is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea.

Environmental activists say giant ships generate large waves that wreck Venice's foundations and cause severe damage to the lagoon's ecosystem.

The city is without roads and its canals are lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces. **mw**

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Biden rips Trump's 'big lie' on 2020 presidential polls

Biden blasted efforts from Trump and others to sow doubt about the 2020 election months after it concluded



ELECTIONS: Biden pointed to the dozens of court challenges thrown out by federal judges, including some appointed by Trump.

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden on Tuesday ripped apart the claims of Donald Trump's 'big lie' about the 2020 presidential election and said that the US is facing the "most significant test of our democracy since the Civil War" due to alleged attempts by the Republican party to suppress and subvert the right to vote in fair and free elections.

"It's clear, for those who challenge the results or question the integrity of the election, no other election has ever been held under such scrutiny or such high standards. The Big Lie is just that, a Big Lie," Biden said.

Biden blasted efforts from Trump and others to sow doubt

about the 2020 election months after it concluded, which have spurred action from Grand Old Party (Republican Party)-led state legislatures to push new elections laws that would limit absentee voting and make it more difficult for certain groups to vote.

Biden pointed to the dozens of court challenges thrown out by federal judges, including some appointed by Trump. He noted

Wisconsin, Arizona and Georgia confirmed his victories in each state through audits and recounts, reported The Hill.

Just hours before Biden spoke, Trump issued a statement calling for Pennsylvania to conduct an audit of the 2020 results, in which Biden won the state by roughly 80,000 votes.

"In America, if you lose, you accept the results," Biden said in a

clear shot at Trump.

"You follow the Constitution, you try again. You don't call facts 'fake' and then try to bring down the American experiment just because you're unhappy. That's not statesmanship. That's selfishness," said Biden.

The President sought to warn of the perilous consequences of Trump's rhetoric in a long-awaited speech on voting rights. He delivered remarks as Texas lawmakers fled the state to block the passage of a new elections law and as federal voting legislation has hit a brick wall.

Texas is one of several states that have introduced restrictive new voting laws following the 2020 election. Georgia, Florida, Arizona and other GOP-led states have pushed for changes to their elections laws, reported The Hill.

"The 21st Century Jim Crow assault is real, it's unrelenting, and we're going to challenge it vigorously. While this broad assault against voting rights is not unprecedented, it is taking on new and pernicious forms," Biden added.

Jim Crow was the name of the racial caste system which operated primarily, but not exclusively in southern and border states, between 1877 and the mid-1960s.

— ANI

Majlis receives Royal Orders to end second annual sitting



MUSCAT: The Majlis Al Shura will terminate the second annual sitting (2020-2021) of the 9th term (2019-2023), following Royal Orders to end the current convening of the Council of Oman (the bicameral chamber comprising the State Council and Majlis Al Shura).

The procedure comes in implementation of Article 38 of the Council of Oman Law promulgated under Royal Decree No. 7/2021.

This was announced by Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Al-Nadabi, Secretary General of the Majlis Al Shura, who ONA that "The Majlis was honoured to receive

the Royal orders to end the second annual sitting of the Ninth Term in implementation of Article 38 of Oman Council Law."

The second annual sitting of the current term saw the issuance of Basic Law of the State and Oman Council Law, which defined the Council's relationship with the government, identified legislative procedures involving the State Council, in addition to internal activity procedures and mechanisms of the running of sessions and standing committees. The law also enables the Council to formulate its internal regulation in accordance with the Basic Law of the State. **-ONA**

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NEW SUSPECTS

Haiti names new suspects in Moise assassination plot



ASSASSINATION: Police said they arrested 18 Colombians and three Haitians, including two who also hold dual US citizenship, linked to the July 7 killing.

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haitian police on Tuesday issued warrants for new suspects allegedly linked to the assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

While uncertainty reigns Haiti's political future, confusion still surrounds the circumstances of the killing of Moise.

Police said they arrested 18 Colombians and three Haitians, including two who also hold dual US citizenship, linked to the July 7 killing.

A Florida-based Haitian doctor, who was also arrested, is believed to have led the group, according to police.

Who are the newly identified suspects?

Police on Tuesday said they were searching for a former official, a former senator and a former businessman. Authorities believe they are "armed and dangerous."

The former senator, John Joel Joseph, is a prominent politician who had previously criticized Moise's Tet Kale party.

The former official, Joseph Felix Badio, has worked for the Justice Ministry and the government's Anti-Corruption Unit (ULCC). Following the announcement, ULCC said in a press state-

ment that he had been fired in May over "serious breaches" of ethical rules.

"This villainous act is an affront to our democracy," ULCC said. "The authors, co-authors, accomplices must be hunted down, investigated and punished with the utmost rigor."

The third suspect, Rodolphe Jaar — also known as "Whiskey" — is a Haitian businessman who was previously indicted by US federal prosecutors for allegedly conspiring with others to distribute cocaine in the US.

According to the Associated Press, his attorney told a US court in 2015 that his client had been a confidential source for the US government for several years before his indictment.

The three are accused of assassination, attempted murder and armed robbery.

What is the situation in Haiti?

Besides the Moise assassination criminal probe, the Haitian government is also trying to organize a national funeral for the slain president.

"The government currently has two priorities: pursuing the investigation to give justice to the

president's family and organizing a national funeral for the president," said Haiti's interim prime minister, Claude Joseph, whose legitimacy as the executive head of government in Haiti is questioned by the opposition.

Any funeral ceremonies would be organized "in agreement with the president's wife," Joseph said. Martine Moise was wounded in the shooting that killed her husband.

Joseph said the ongoing criminal investigation was a "very sensitive" matter. "We have to take a lot of precautions," he said.

Facing turmoil triggered by Moise's killing, the acting prime minister has requested troops from the US and the United Nations to help guard key infrastructure.

But his pitch was not as popular among Haitians who fear foreign intervention. The Haitian Military Association, representing retired officers, called on society to spare Haiti the "humiliation" of foreign intervention.

The group slammed the lack of "patriotic" planning by the interim government, which it accused of opting "to rush into the ease of a request for intervention on national territory," according to a statement cited by Reuters news agency. **mw**

Taliban capture key Afghan border point, say reports

It is the latest territorial gain reported by the insurgents since the US and other NATO countries stepped up their troop drawdown

KABUL: Taliban fighters claimed on Wednesday to have gained control of the strategic Afghan border crossing to Pakistan at Spin Boldak on the border with Pakistan.

“The [Taliban] mujahideen have captured an important border town called Wesh in Kandahar,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement. “With this, the important road be-



GAINING CONTROL: The Taliban are reportedly sweeping across Afghanistan's rural areas, bringing more territories under their control.

tween [Spin] Boldak and Chaman and Kandahar customs have come under mujahideen control.”

It is the latest territorial gain reported by the insurgents since the US and other NATO countries stepped up their troop drawdown.

Former US president George W. Bush, whose administration led the country to war against the Afghan Taliban in 2001,told DW that the withdrawal of NATO troops was “a mistake.”

Women and girls were “just go-

ing to be left behind to be slaughtered by these very brutal people, and it breaks my heart,” he added.

Can the Taliban’s claim be confirmed?

A Pakistan security source con-

firmed to the AFP news agency that the insurgents had taken control of the crossing.

“The Taliban has taken control of the Afghan side of the Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing,” the Pakistani security source told AFP on condition of anonymity. “They have raised their flag and removed the Afghan flag.”

The Afghan Defense Ministry, however, said it was checking developments.

Russia warns Taliban amid sweeping territory gains

The Taliban are reportedly sweeping across Afghanistan's rural areas, bringing more territories under their control, despite political and military control having been handed to the Afghan government.

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday warned the Taliban that any attempt to harm the security of Russia's allies in Central Asia would lead to significant casualties, Russia's RIA news agency reported. A Taliban delegation in Moscow last week sought to reassure Russia it would not allow the country to be used as a platform to attack others.

How important is the Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing?

The Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing links Pakistan with Afghanistan and Afghan government data shows about 900 trucks cross the frontier each day.

The Taliban have reported capturing a number of other crucial border crossings and territory in rural areas of Afghanistan in recent weeks.

The headline Islamic militants now control Islam Qala and Turgundi in Herat province, ShirKhan Bandar in Kunduz and Abu Naser Farahi border port in Farah province, according to Shafiqullah Attai, the chairman of the Kabul-based Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment.

The Taliban is now profiting from the customs revenue gathered at the border points under their control. “We don't have exact figures on the volume of trade and transit conducted from these ports as they are now with the Taliban... income has started to go to the Taliban,” Attai told news agency Reuters.

-ANI

'CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY'

Canada finds 160 more unmarked graves

ONTARIO: Calls for an investigation into “crimes against humanity” in Canada intensified after 160 more unmarked graves of Indigenous children were found on Tuesday at the site of another Roman Catholic boarding school.

The discovery of the undocumented, unmarked graves at the former Kuper Island residential school in British Columbia brings the number of children's bodies found to over 1,000 in recent months, prompting horror and anger among people in Canada and abroad. “We are at another point in time where we must face the trauma because of these acts of genocide,” said Penelakut Tribe Chief Joan Brown, the tribe of the dead children in a letter written on July 8.

What have indigenous tribes said?

Bob Chamberlin, a former vice president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, said the discovery is “the tip of the iceberg,” suggesting that many more unmarked graves were still to be discovered. “We understand that many of our brothers and sisters from our neighboring communities attended the Kuper Island Industrial School,” said Brown. “We also recognize with a tremendous amount of grief and loss that too many did not return home.”

The 160 mass graves were found on Penelakut Island, situated between Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia.

How has the government reacted?

The Roman Catholic Church ran



UNMARKED GRAVES: The discovery of the undocumented, unmarked graves at the former Kuper Island residential school in British Columbia brings the number of children's bodies found to over 1,000.

what it called the Kuper Island Indian Industrial School from 1890 to 1969. The government took it over until 1975, when it closed down and the building was demolished in the 1980s.

“My heart breaks for the Penelakut Tribe and for all the Indigenous communities across the country,” Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Tuesday.

“I recognize these findings only deepen the pain that families, survivors and all Indigenous peoples and communities are already feeling as they reaffirm the truth that they have long known,” Trudeau said on Tuesday.

“To members of the Penelakut Tribe, we are here for you. We cannot bring back those who are lost, but we can and will continue to tell the truth,” Trudeau said.

What other unmarked graves were found?

Last June, ground-penetrating radar raised the alarm about 182 corpses at a former residential school in Cranbrook, also in British Columbia.

It came just a week after the Cowessess First Nation found 600 unmarked graves 85 miles (135 kilometers) east of Saskatchewan's capital, Regina, at the former location of the Ma-

rieval Residential School.

In May, investigators found the remains of 215 children, some as young as three years old, on what was once Canada's biggest indigenous residential school close to Kamloops in British Columbia.

From the 1800s to the 1970s, Roman Catholic missionaries ran boarding schools for 150,000 indigenous children where the government has admitted sexual and physical abuse was rife.

Two New Democratic Party lawmakers have called for authorities to investigate “crimes against humanity” in residential schools. **bw**



Sher Bahadur Deuba sworn in as Nepal’s new PM

KATHMANDU: Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba on Tuesday sworn in as Prime Minister of Nepal at President's office, Shital Niwas.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath to Deuba, who is also president of the Nepali Congress (NC) and leader of the NC parliamentary party, reported Khabarhub.

Earlier, the apex court in its verdict ordered Bhandari to appoint Deuba as the successor of now caretaker Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. Dissatisfied with the judgement of the top court, supporters of Oli staged a protest against the order to reinstate the dissolved House of Representatives (HoR). A large number of Oli supporters gathered and shouted slogans against the apex court's verdict.

A total of 146 members of the House of Representatives (HoR) had reached out to Supreme Court with a writ petition to demand the

restoration of the house and appoint Sher Bahadur Deuba, as the next prime minister on May 24. This was after Nepal President had refused to allow Deuba to form a new government as per Article 76 (5) and dissolution of the House.

With Oli failing to secure the vote of confidence on May 10, Bhandari on May 13 had appointed Oli as prime minister under Article 76 (3) of the constitution as the leader of the party with the highest number of members in the House.

A week after his appointment, Oli on May 20 in a sudden move recommended that the President invoked Article 76 (5) to choose a new prime minister. It is the President who initiates Article 76 (5) when a prime minister appointed under Article 76 (3) fails the trust vote. Oli, however, neither sought the trust vote nor resigned, thereby creating a situation in which a prime minister was asking the President to appoint a prime minister. **ANI**

BUS EXPLOSION

13 people, including nine Chinese workers killed in Pakistan blast

ISLAMABAD: Nine Chinese nationals, two Pakistani soldiers and two locals were killed in an explosion that destroyed a bus on Wednesday in Pakistan.

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan said in a statement that “a certain project of a Chinese firm in Pakistan suffered an attack, which caused the deaths of Chinese nationals.”

What do we know so far?

The bus was carrying Chinese and Pakistani construction workers with a hydropower project

The blast took place in Pakistan's Kohistan district of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A roadside bomb sparked a fire in the bus engine. It sent the bus down a ravine after a night of rain. At least 36 people were injured in the incident.

What did China say?

Beijing called on Pakistan to “severely punish” the attackers.



China's Foreign Ministry said it asked Pakistan to probe the incident and to “earnestly” protect the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects. Beijing also urged Chinese firms to strengthen their security procedures in Pakistan following the blast.

Pakistani authorities said they were investigating the incident. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Islamist militants linked to the Pakistani Taliban had previously targeted

Chinese interests in Pakistan.

What are China's projects in Pakistan?

The security of Chinese workers has long been an issue of concern in Pakistan. Engineers and construction workers from China are helping the country build a dam in Kohistan. Chinese and Pakistani construction workers, engineers, surveyors and mechanical staff were on their way to the site when the incident occurred. **bw**

COVID RULES

Face mask to remain compulsory in London public transport after July 19: Mayor

LONDON: London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced on Wednesday that wearing face mask in the city's public transport will remain compulsory after July 19, when the UK central government is set to lift all remaining COVID-19 restrictions in England.

“If you want to use public transport in London, the rules are you'll wear a face mask,” Khan said during an interview with ITV's Good Morning Britain program. On Monday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed that as part of final phase of the roadmap out of the lockdown, most of the remaining restrictions in England would be lifted from July 19, despite the latest scientific modeling showing that coronavirus cases could reach 100,000 per day and the daily death toll could

climb to between 100 and 200.

The decision means that wearing face masks will no longer be compulsory in shops and public transport and there will be no limits on the number of visitors to care home residences.

There will be no limits either on the number of people allowed to gather indoors or outdoors, and the one-meter (three-feet) rule for social distancing as well as the capacity caps on large sports and cultural events will be lifted. Nightclubs and all remaining businesses will also be allowed to re-open.

According to Johnson, since rules will be replaced by guidance, it will be a matter of personal responsibility for people to wear face masks in crowded places.

The Labour mayor of London said, however, that he is not pre-

pared to stand by and put Londoners and the city's recovery at risk by not continuing to enforce mask-wearing.

“By keeping face masks mandatory we will give Londoners and visitors the reassurance and confidence to make the most of what our city has to offer, while also protecting our heroic transport workers and those who may be vulnerable and rely on the network to get around our city,” Khan said in a statement.

The mayor's decision was welcomed by the general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association union, Manuel Cortes, who claimed on Twitter it was a “great call” to help limit the spread of the virus and urged other transport operators in England to do likewise. **ANI**

Olympics will unite the world in all our diversity, says IOC chief Bach

On Tuesday, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Village officially opened its doors and began welcoming the world's best athletes

TOKYO: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and Japan Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide held a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the preparations for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which will open nine days from now on July 23. The meeting was also attended by Tokyo 2020 President Hashimoto Seiko.

After the meeting, the IOC President in a release said: "I would like to express my heartfelt respect and gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for welcoming us. "There are nine days left until the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. Athletes from all over the world are now arriving into Tokyo. The Games will unite the world in all our diversity. They will show that we are stronger together in all our solidarity."

"The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee has done a fantastic job



OLYMPICS 2020: Over 11,000 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in the Games.

in preparing for these Games and to make Tokyo the best-prepared Olympic city ever. Achieving this was only possible because of the fantastic volunteers and their dedicated staff. The IOC is sitting in the same boat and we are rowing in the same direction, enjoying the full support of the Government of Japan."

"Eighty-five per cent of the athletes and officials who will live in the Olympic Village, and almost 100 per cent of the IOC Members and IOC staff, are either vaccinated or immune. The percentage of vaccinated international media representatives is between 70 per

cent and 80 per cent.

"These Games will be followed by billions of people around the globe. They will admire what the Japanese people have achieved under these difficult circumstances." In addition, the IOC was informed by the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee about the 8,000+ people involved in the Games who travelled to Japan between July 1 and 13. All were subject to the Tokyo 2020 screening testing regime, and all underwent pre-departure tests and health checks. Only three tested positive for COVID-19 after arrival and were immediately

isolated, while the close contacts have been subject to the relevant quarantine measures.

On Tuesday the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Village officially opened its doors and began welcoming the world's best athletes ahead of this year's Games, which will take place between July 23 and August 8. Over 11,000 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in the Games, with the majority staying in the Olympic Village situated in the picturesque Harumi waterfront district of Tokyo. **ANI**

Two Wimbledon matches under investigation over betting patterns



LONDON: At least two matches that took place at Wimbledon 2021 are being investigated for potential match-fixing following irregular betting patterns.

As per Die Welt, they have obtained information of 'possible manipulations' which may have occurred at the Grand Slam involving one singles match and one in the doubles. It is also understood that several betting firms have reported those matches due to a series of abnormal bets that were made.

Although the exact details of the bets being waged are not clear at present. The first suspicious match is a men's doubles in the first round. Several betting providers sounded the alarm that the favored duo would be defeated during the game due to noticeably high live bets.

The pair won the first set, which increased the odds on their own defeat - and then lost the remaining sets. Both the timing of the bets and the number of sums placed indicate irregularities.

Another match that is said to be under investigation is a first-round singles match involving

a German player. Although it is the opponent of that player who has triggered suspicion. It is said that a 'five-digit' sum was placed at the end of the second set on the exact result. There were also special bets on the number of service games in the match. Both of those bets won.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) is in charge of launching investigations into potential match-fixing incidents. When questioned by Welt about the Wimbledon incidents they said they can't comment on individual cases due to 'operational reasons' but they do have corresponding information on those matches. ITIA cases are not made public until a full investigation has taken place.

In their latest quarterly report, the ITIA says they received a total of 11 match alerts between April and June this year through its confidential Memoranda of Understanding with the regulated betting industry. Nine of those matches took place on the ITF circuit and further two happened at ATP 250 events. **ANI**

CRICKET

ICC confirms details for next World Test Championship

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed the points system for the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) as well as the bilateral series that will be part of the 2021-23 cycle commencing next month.

Each match of the upcoming WTC will now be contested for the same number of points - 12 for a win, four for a draw, and six for a tie, moving away from the previous system where the same number of points were allocated to each series, divided across the number of matches played. ICC Acting Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said the changes had been made to simplify the points system while taking learnings from the disruption last year. "We received feedback that the previous points system needed to be simplified. The Cricket Committee took this into consideration when proposing a new, standardized points system for each match. It maintained the principle of ensuring that all matches in a WTC series count towards a team's



standing while accommodating series varying in length between two Tests and five Tests."

"During the pandemic, we had to change to ranking teams on the points table using the percentage of available points won by each team, since all series could not

be completed. This helped us determine the finalists and we were able to complete the championship within the scheduled time frame. This method also allowed us to compare the relative performance of teams at any time, regardless of how many matches

they had played," he added in the release by ICC.

WTC 2 Fixtures: As in the first edition of the championship, the nine teams will play six series each, three home and three away with the cut-off date being 31 March 2023.

Meanwhile, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, India captain Virat Kohli and England captain Joe Root looked forward to doing their best in the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship, which commences with the England-India series in Nottingham on 4 August.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said: "It was obviously pretty special to win the inaugural ICC World Test Championship in Southampton last month and it's exciting to now look ahead to the second edition. The WTC has certainly added more context and brought new meaning to Test cricket and it was awesome to see the interest that was generated around the Final against India."

"We know trying to defend the title will be a huge challenge, but our focus will be on making sure we prepare as well as we can for the tours ahead and trying to maintain our level of performance."

India captain Virat Kohli said: "It was great to have played the final of the ICC World Test Cham-

pionship against New Zealand in what was a memorable contest. Not just the final, we saw the determination of players throughout the first edition of the championship. The following of cricket lovers too was great to see, and I am sure they will all be waiting eagerly for the second edition.

"We will regroup with new energy for the next cycle starting with our series against England, hoping to give our fans a lot to cheer about."

England captain Joe Root said: "We start our campaign in the second edition of the ICC World Test Championship against the finalists of last time, which is an interesting challenge straight away. India are a fine all-round side and it would be good to test them in our home conditions. "We narrowly missed out on qualifying for the final last time and are looking to do better this time."

"Test cricket is a format we all want to excel in and with points at stake for each match, everyone has to be at their best all the time." **ANI**

ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN

Vince's maiden century powers England to clinch series whitewash against Pakistan

BIRMINGHAM: England won the three-match ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League ODI series against Pakistan 3-0 by recording a three-wicket win in the third and final match which turned out to be a high scoring thriller at Edgbaston, Birmingham on Tuesday.

Sent out to bat, Pakistan finished with what looked like a competitive total of 331/9 thanks to Babar Azam's career-best 158 and fifties from Imam-ul-Haq (56) and Mohammad Rizwan (74). Unfortunately for the visitors, it did not prove enough as England chased down the target with two overs and three wickets to spare, courtesy of a maiden ODI ton from James Vince and an impressive 77 from Lewis Gregory.

Pakistan's innings got off to a less than ideal start when Saqib Mahmood (3/60) had Fakhar Za-



man (6) caught in the cordon for six. Babar then added 179 runs for the third-wicket with Mohammad Rizwan who contributed 74 off 58 balls with the help of eight fours. The two upped Pakistan's run rate after a cautious start by finding the boundary at regular intervals as England bowlers toiled hard on a good batting surface.

Babar had earlier added 92 runs for the second-wicket with Imam-ul-Haq who scored 56 off 73 balls (seven fours).

Pacer Brydon Carse who took five wickets in the death overs finished with figures of 10-0-61-5 for England while opening bowler Saqib Mahmood took three wickets for 60 runs. **ANI**

RANKINGS

Babar takes top spot, Kohli at 2nd in ICC ODI Rankings

DUBAI: West Indies spinner Fabian Allen on Wednesday moved into the top 10 of the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings after featuring in his team's fine showing in the ongoing five-match series against Australia.

The 26-year-old left-arm spinner has gained 16 spots to reach 10th position in the bowlers' list after grabbing three wickets in the first three matches, which have all been won by the West Indies, who defend their ICC Men's T20 World Cup title later this year. Fast bowler Sheldon Cottrell (up two places to 22nd), Dwayne Bravo (up to seven places to 37th), and Obed McCoy (up 15 places to 38th) have also moved up in the bowlers' list for the West Indies, while for Australia, left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc has advanced five places and is now in 29th position.

Shimron Hetmyer (up 37 places to 62nd) and Lendl Simons (up

to six places to 64th) have moved up in the batsmen's list as have veterans Chris Gayle and Andre Russell, who are tied in 103rd place after gaining 22 and 38 places, respectively.

In the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings update, which takes into account performances in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series that England won 3-0 against Pakistan, and two matches of the ongoing Ireland-South Africa series, Babar Azam has consolidated his position at the top.

The 26-year-old Pakistan captain, who struck a fine 158 in the final match of the series, has gained eight rating points to reach a career-best 873 rating points, 16 more than India captain Virat Kohli, who is in second place. Rohit Sharma is third with 825 rating points.

Others to gain in Wednesday's updates include the Ireland pair

of William Porterfield (up to five places to 74th) and Harry Tector (up 37 places to 90th), South Africa's Janneman Malan (up 12 places to 95th), and England's James Vince (up 85 places to 113th) in the batters' list.

England fast bowler Saqib Mahmood (up 89 places to 63rd), Ireland's Craig Young (up to four places to 78th), and Joshua Little (up 22 places to 86th) have moved up among bowlers.

In the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings, Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor has made headway after knocks of 81 and 92 in the one-off Test against Bangladesh in Harare, which his team lost by 220 runs. He is up to seven places to the 28th position.

Bowlers Blessing Muzarabani (up to six places to 45th) and Donald Tiripano (up to three places to 76th) are other Zimbabwe players to gain in the latest weekly update. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by September 2021 reaching \$74.86, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil increased by 36 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was at \$74.50. - **ONA**

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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,085.53 points, down 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.07 per cent at 597.40 points. Salalah Mills, up 7.34 per cent, was the top gainer while Global Investment Holding, down 5.63 per cent, was the top loser.

Solar electricity production project in Sohar completed

In this renewable energy project, electricity production was linked to the water treatment plant supply network in the sea to produce potable water using reverse osmosis technology

MUSCAT: Majis Industrial Services Company (MISC), an affiliate of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), has completed the solar electricity production project at Sohar Industrial Port with a production capacity of 36 kilowatts per hour.

In this renewable energy project, electricity production was linked to the water treatment plant supply network in the sea to produce potable water using reverse osmosis technology.

Through this technology, the project contributes to reducing carbon emissions and the opera-

tional cost of electricity and other facilities in the plant.

In terms of design, the project consists of 150 solar panels within 300 square metres. It also contributes to providing electricity by producing around 36 kilowatt/hour of alternating current, equivalent to 60.6 megawatt/year, which can provide air-conditioners with electricity for up to 7 hours per day.

The project also contributes to reducing global warming and environmental emissions by decreasing carbon dioxide emissions by 1262.5 tonnes. - **ONA**



150 SOLAR PANELS: In terms of design, the project consists of 150 solar panels within 300 square metres. - **ONA**

'MIDHYAF'

Employment training programme receives good response from Omani jobseekers

MUSCAT: Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group), the executive arm of the Sultanate for tourism development, announced that its recently launched training for employment programme, 'Midhyaf', saw a significant turnout from Omani jobseekers, with over 2,000 job applications received since the launch of the programme on July 1, till date.

The programme is part of Oman Investment Authority's (OIA) initiative to provide over 4,800 job and training opportunities within its owned companies, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour.

This substantial turnout in the first phase of the programme reflects the interest of Omani youth to work in the tourism and hospitality sector and be qualified to enrol in the programme which will expose them to several stages and professional disciplines, to ultimately succeed and thrive in this dynamic sector.

All submitted applications will be subject to an evaluation and selection process after the registration process is completed on July 22. For the participant to qualify for the programme, they must meet the registration requirements, accept the training and work requirements and pass the interviews and personal performance tests.

The registration requirements for the programme include being a high school graduate or holding a Diploma or Bachelor's degree, being registered as a jobseeker at the Ministry of Labour, not above 30 years of age and should



not have benefited from similar training programmes provided by the Ministry of Labour.

The programme will include professional training courses that will be offered by Oman Tourism College in cooperation with a number of the world's most prestigious hospitality academies and institutes, including the Saudi Academy of Culinary Arts 'ZADK', the British Butler Institute, the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI), LobsterInk Institute, and the Highfield Institute. For the aim of qualifying Omani talents as per the highest standards and to ensure that they obtain accredited specialised certificates, up to 11 professional certificates, according to the type of training programme.

The programme is open to all Omani job seekers. For registration and details, visit Midhyaf's webpage through Omran Group's website on: <https://omran.om/midhyaf>.

RECOGNITION

HSBC named Best Investment Bank in Oman for second consecutive year



Times News Service

MUSCAT: HSBC Bank Oman was named the Best Investment Bank in Oman for the second consecutive year at the 2021 Euromoney Middle East Awards for Excellence. HSBC collected five awards including the Middle East's Best Bank for Sustainable Finance and the Middle East's Best Bank for Transaction Services. It was also named the Best Investment Bank in Egypt and Kuwait.

Alyson Henshaw, Head of Global Banking in HSBC Oman said, "Our purpose is to open up a world of opportunity for our clients and support them every step of the way. Being acknowledged as the Best Investment Bank in Oman is a clear recognition of our

strength to support Omani clients seeking access to global opportunities and products and our ability to be able to present business opportunities in Oman, which attract international investors to the Sultanate. Our global expertise and presence on the ground allow us to extend our thought leadership in the Sultanate and further support the Omani economy in tapping the international finance market."

HSBC Oman has a long history with the Ministry of Finance supporting them on their debt raising plans and extending access to innovative financing solutions. The bank has acted on all of the Sultanate's 2020 and 2021 issuances including their \$3.25 billion issuance in January which

marked the Sultanate's largest-ever order book in the debt capital markets.

HSBC is prioritising financing and investment that supports the transition to a net-zero global economy, citing this as a landmark opportunity to build a thriving, resilient future for society and businesses. The bank has committed to aligning its financed emissions – the carbon emissions of its portfolio of customers – to the Paris Agreement goal to achieve net-zero by 2050 or sooner. To support customers in their transition to lower carbon emissions, HSBC Group is aiming to provide up to \$1 trillion of financing and investment globally by 2030. The bank also aims to be net-zero in its operations and supply chain by 2030.



“

Being acknowledged as the Best Investment Bank in Oman is a clear recognition of our strength to support Omani clients seeking access to global opportunities and products and our ability to be able to present business opportunities in Oman, which attract international investors to the Sultanate

Alyson Henshaw
Head of Global Banking in HSBC Oman

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Oman Cables appoints Omani professionals at top level of organisation

MUSCAT: Oman Cables Industry continues to enhance its executive team.

While thanking Ramon Pallares for his great efforts and relevant achievements as Chief Operating Officer of Oman Cables in the past years and congratulating him for the new prestigious assignment as COO of the South Europe Region in worldwide leader Prysmian Group, Oman Cables announced the appointment of the new chief operating officer and the new plant director, forming a strong addition in the company's strategic growth.

Muhannad Al Lawati will be entrusted as Chief Operating Officer and will be responsible for

overseeing the company's overall operations, with a focus on the company's operational strategy. He has strong knowledge of the many dimensions of cable manufacturing and is a board member at the Oman Manufacturers Association. Muhannad is a Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineer with more than 10 years of experience in the cables business.

He started his career as a Process Engineer and more recently served as Plant Manager. He has exceptional management and leadership skills with experience gained from operating at a senior level. Muhannad will focus on developing and implementing stra-

While thanking Ramon Pallares for his great efforts and relevant achievements as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Oman Cables in the past years and congratulating him for the new prestigious assignment as COO of the South Europe Region in worldwide leader Prysmian Group, Oman Cables announced the appointment of the new chief operating officer and the new plant director, forming a strong addition in the company's strategic growth

tegic growth and pipeline expansion, to build winning captures for customer-focused solutions.

Mohammed Al Riyami will be entrusted with the role of Plant Director and will be reporting directly to the Chief Operating Officer with the responsibility of contributing to and carrying out production strategy and increasing efficiency. Mohammed is an Industrial & Manufacturing Engineer with more than 10 years of experience in the Cable business. He started his career as a trainee Process Engineer at Oman Cables 11 years ago and gained his experience working on the factory floor and building technical knowledge

on the equipment.

The newly appointed executives are strong followers of LEAN manufacturing & continuous improvement always trying to implement the best practices to meet the highest levels of the organisation standards for safety, quality and operational effectiveness at Oman Cables.

With an emphasis on the utilisation of the knowledge, skills and abilities of Omanis, Oman Cables offers adequate opportunities for employment to the local workforce encouraged to achieve their full potential through comprehensive training and development programmes.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Salalah Mills, up 7.34 per cent, was the top gainer while Global Investment Holding, down 5.63 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,085.53 points, down 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index down 0.07 per cent at 597.40 points. Salalah Mills, up 7.34 per cent, was the top gainer while Global Investment Holding, down 5.63 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman & Qatar Insurance was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as turnover.

A total number of 628 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.8 million, with more than 18.8 million shares changing hands. Out of 52 traded stocks, 11 advanced, 23 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, local investors were net sellers for OMR286,000 million while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR199,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR87,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,519.50 points, up by 0.08 per cent. Prices of Oman & Qatar Insurance, Dhofar Insurance, National Bank Oman, Al Omaniya Financial Services and Bank

Muscat were up 5.81 per cent, 2.63 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 1.64 per cent and 1.33 per cent respectively. Global Investment Holding, Al Madina Investment, United Finance, Ahli Bank and Al Sharqia Investment were down 5.63 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 2.65 per cent and 1.85 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,939.94 points, up 0.20 per cent. Prices of Salalah Mills and Jazeera Steel Product were up 7.34 per cent and 1.55 per cent respectively. Voltamp Energy, Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics and Oman Cement were down 4.83 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 1.49 per cent and 0.40 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.39 per cent before closing at 1,745.00 points. Al Suwadi Power and Renaissance Services were up 1.85 per cent and 0.92 per cent respectively. Al Jazeera Services, Oman Investment & Financials, Sembcorp Salalah, Muscat desalinate and Oman National Engineering were down 2.38 per cent, 1.57 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 1.14 per cent and 1.06 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MAN STOCKS

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,089.88	4,078.04	4,085.53	4,087.24	-1.71	-0.04
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,520.20	6,495.36	6,519.50	6,514.19	5.31	0.08
Industry Index	5,939.94	5,907.21	5,939.94	5,928.06	11.89	0.20
Services Index	1,749.90	1,743.79	1,745.00	1,751.90	-6.90	-0.39
MSX Shariah Index	596.80	592.48	593.37	597.40	-4.03	-0.68
MSX TR INDEX	4,911.06	4,896.85	4,905.85	4,907.91	-2.06	-0.04

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
18,893,252	4,806,938	628	21,658,633,409	11	23	18	52

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP		
REGULAR MARKET																	
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	614,600	76,210	11	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.122	0.002	1.639	0.124	0.120	0.123	0.100	36,199,961	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	18,599	7,316	9	0.390	0.396	0.390	0.394	0.386	0.006	1,546	0.396	0.394	0.394	0.100	48,209,796	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	661,122	301,876	26	0.452	0.460	0.452	0.456	0.450	0.006	1,333	0.458	0.458	0.458	0.100	162,960,506	
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	100,000	9,750	4	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.001	1,031	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	238,581,660	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	540,444	237,484	25	0.440	0.440	0.436	0.440	0.436	0.004	0,917	0.440	0.426	0.440	0.100	104,020,400	
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	5,000	900	2	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.180	0.000	0,150	0.180	0.158	0.180	0.100	13,600,000	
OM0000001416	RAYSUT CEMENT	15,840	4,043	3	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0,290	0.280	0.290	0.299	0.100	58,000,000	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	50,000	5,600	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0,000	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	22,400,000	
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKETING	1,869	1,405	1	0.752	0.752	0.752	0.780	0.780	0.000	0,000	0.752	0.704	0.772	0.100	53,820,000	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	108,950	27,047	10	0.246	0.247	0.245	0.246	0.247	-0.001	-0.405	0.246	0.245	0.246	0.100	81,394,687	
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	91,056	71,024	15	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.780	0.784	-0.004	-0.510	0.780	0.780	0.772	0.780	0.100	585,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	181,840	72,943	13	0.406	0.406	0.400	0.402	0.406	-0.004	-0.985	0.406	0.402	0.406	0.100	261,679,580	
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	1,477,484	127,064	31	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.090	5,800,000	
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	709,500	282,907	53	0.394	0.402	0.392	0.398	0.404	-0.006	-1.485	0.400	0.394	0.404	0.100	21,800,000	
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	50,000	6,250	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.127	-0.002	-1.575	0.125	0.121	0.126	0.100	29,625,000	
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	214,708	101,442	8	0.474	0.474	0.472	0.480	-0.008	-1.667	0.472	0.472	0.478	0.478	0.100	103,840,000	
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIA INV.	7,000	742	1	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.108	-0.002	-1.853	0.106	0.099	0.110	0.100	9,540,000	
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	286,350	109,204	13	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.420	-0.010	-2.381	0.410	0.400	0.410	0.100	25,093,752	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,334,854	146,854	25	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.113	-0.003	-2.655	0.110	0.109	0.111	0.100	214,462,321	
Total	19	6,448,316	1,589,559	252													
Parallel Market																	
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	14,000	10,640	1	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.708	0.052	7,345	0.760	0.760	0.000	0.100	37,971,929	
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR.	3,158,685	518,612	108	0.165	0.170	0.160	0.164	0.155	0.009	5,806	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.165	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000001065	DHOFAIR INSURANCE	6,000	1,170	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.190	0.005	2,632	0.195	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	19,500,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	271,480	49,953	3	0.185	0.185	0.184	0.184	0.180	0.004	2,222	0.184	0.184	0.183	0.187	0.100	299,174,130
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	32,500	1,786	3	0.054	0.056	0.054	0.055	0.054	0.001	1,852	0.056	0.056	0.053	0.056	0.100	39,292,249
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,500	275	2	0.184	0.184	0.183	0.184	0.184	0.000	0,000	0.183	0.183	0.184	0.184	0.100	5,550,000
OM0000003139	ALUMINIUM PROD.	3,000	483	1	0.161	0.161	0.161	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.161	0.161	0.163	0.100	5,505,718	
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,000	85	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.082	0.085	0.100	10,625,000	
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORP.	620	47	2	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.079	0.100	5,532,367	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	362,000	29,922	21	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,847,875	
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	770	36	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.000	0.046	0.100	9,945,450	
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	8,950	886	2	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.108	0.100	9,900,000	
OM0000004925	ALBATRAH POWER	2,927	156	2	0.053	0.054	0.053	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.053	0.055	0.100	34,444,921	
OM0000005969	PHOENIX POWER	755,884	37,026	23	0.048	0.050	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.100	71,667,472	
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INS.	735	92	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.100	0.125	0.100	12,912,708	
OM0000007407	DHOFAIR GENERATING	232,400	29,773	16	0.128	0.130	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.140	0.100	28,444,720	
OM0000008447	OMAN RET. FUND	10,000	920	2	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	60,237,822	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	197,278	20,724	9	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.100	18,375,000	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	203,057	20,025	18	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	148,500,000	
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	10,000	920	2	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	20,230,376	
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	52,160	4,538	6	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.138	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.100	13,532,885	
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	125,250	10,572	10	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.178	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	21,301,560	
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	14,050	1,170	4	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.083	0.080	0.100	79,229,472	
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	604,043	34,878	47	0.069	0.069	0.066	0.068	0.060	-0.002	-3.333	0.068	0.058	0.059	0.100	20,230,376	
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	415,971	9,567	19	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.024	-0.001	-4.167	0.023	0.023	0.025	0.100	4,764,482	
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	43,012	5,940	6	0.140	0.140	0.138	0.138	0.145	-0.007	-4.828	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.100	11,233,580	
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	1,218,283	83,350	49	0.066	0.068	0.066	0.067	0.071	-0.004	-5.634	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	13,400,000	
Total	27	7745,535	871,564	356													

CHINA

Stable intellectual property growth

BEIJING: China on Wednesday reported a stable trend in intellectual property development in the first half of this year. A total of 339,000 invention patents were authorised in the first six months, the China National Intellectual Property Administration revealed at a press conference. -Xinhua

STOCK MARKET

Asian shares fall on US inflation jitters

SHANGHAI: Asian shares fell on Wednesday after data showing the biggest jump in US inflation in 13 years fuelled some market expectations that the Federal Reserve could exit pandemic-era stimulus earlier than previously thought. But US bond yields and the dollar were lower in Asian trade after jumping a day earlier on the inflation data.

The US consumer price index jumped 0.9 per cent in June, the Labor Department said on Tuesday. That was above market expectations and the largest gain since June 2008, according to Reuters.

"Against the background of higher, longer US inflation, a taper coming earlier seems to be the likely direction of travel as far as policy goes," said Rob Carnell, ING's Asia-Pacific head of research.

"The only thing that comes across as a slight salve in all of this is that no one seems to be expecting much in terms of Fed rates. So we might be getting sooner, but we're not getting very much."

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) on Wednesday became the latest central bank to plot an end to the pandemic-era policy, as it surprised markets by announcing it would end its bond purchase programme from next week, sending the Kiwi dollar sharply higher.

Asia-Pacific shares

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 0.33 per cent, as Chinese blue-chips dipped 1 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.66 per cent and Seoul's Kospi lost 0.29 per cent.

Australian shares were 0.34 per cent higher on a boost from miners and energy firms.

Japan's Nikkei was down 0.2 per cent.

Investors are keeping a close eye on the semi-annual testimony of Fed Chair Jerome Powell to Congress on Wednesday and Thursday for more clues on whether the Fed will take more aggressive steps to halt rising inflation. Powell's testimony comes

as the Biden administration continues to push for fiscal stimulus to boost the US economy.

Democrats on the US Senate Budget Committee late on Tuesday reached an agreement on a \$3.5 trillion infrastructure investment plan that they aim to include in a budget resolution to be debated later this summer.

Meanwhile, in Asia, China is due to release second-quarter economic growth data on Thursday even as its central bank is set to cut banks' reserve requirements to help bolster an unbalanced economic recovery.

China's premier said on Tuesday that the country will keep its economic operations within a reasonable range over the

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JOB VACANCIES

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Srilanakan with 5 yrs experience & have completed BBA in Accounting looking for an Accountant job. Contact: 98981998, 9388825

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Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience in Oman. Languages Known - Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact [97002240](tel:97002240)

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NOTICE

Announcement of Liquidation Start

In accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of the Companies Law No. 4/74 and the amendments thereto, **عالم الإزهار الوطنية ش.م.م**, which is registered with the Secretariat of Commercial Registry under No. 1260003, hereby announces that it is going to start the liquidation process. Claims should be submitted to the appointed liquidator of the company within six months from the date of publication hereof. Secretariat of Commercial Registry.

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Email: sales@oceancentre.co

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Indian, MBA Finance with 14+ years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance is looking for a senior post in finance. Oman D/L & NOC available. Contact 99510161
Email: vinodpanchaman@gmail.com

Female ACCA qualified member, 4+ years work experience in Oman, driving license, NOC available, looking to join a finance team. Contact 95785272

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Srilanakan with 5 yrs experience & have completed BBA in Accounting looking for an Accountant job. Contact: 98981998, 9388825

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Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience in Oman. Languages Known - Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact [97002240](tel:97002240)

ADMIN/HR

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

Indian male with 21 years' experience in Oman seeks job for Admin / Hr / - Contact 95425764

Indian Male, Smart, Excellent English, Arabic speaker, 17years Oman experience. Contact 99283938

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CONNECT

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Contact on Tel : 95803522

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Contact 79848875

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ROUND-UP

Kia’s bold and stunning Black Edition Sportage now in Oman

The stylish and powerful Black Edition Kia Sportage makes a mark with its advanced features, fuel-efficient performance and inspiring technology



MUSCAT: Black, bold, eye-catching and thrilling, Kia's exciting Sportage SUV raises the bar on impressions and expectations with a Black Edition version now in Oman. Equipped with stunning black alloy wheels and overall black colour, the Sportage Black

Edition underlines its stunning presence on every arrival and at any given opportunity. According to a representative from Reliable International Automotive, "The Black Edition Sportage is what wishes are made of. Sporting a bold black shade and designed to elevate its style quo-

tient, the Sportage will appeal to the young customers as well as the young at heart. Interested enthusiasts who wish to get the first-hand experience of the Black Edition Sportage are welcomed to visit their nearest Kia showroom." The stylish and powerful Black Edition Kia Sportage makes a

mark with its advanced features, fuel-efficient performance and inspiring technology. The Sportage features front and rear fog lamps and LED projection headlamps with LED daytime running lights, 17" black pack alloy wheels and Continental tyres that enhance the SUV's overall looks for a more

modern appearance. The Black Edition Sportage also features power outer side mirrors, a keyless entry system, auto cruise control, side repeater lamps in the outside mirror, roof rack and cargo screen among others. The Black Edition Sportage's cabin exhibits a sense of modernity. It is equipped with power windows, rear AC vents, steering audio controls, Bluetooth, radio with USB, tinted glass, driver's seat height adjuster, 60:40 split rear seats, tilt steering, a trip computer, sunglass case and cigar lighter with an ash tray. The all-wheel-drive Black Edition Sportage is available with 2.4-litre, 182 hp engine producing 24.2 kg.m torque. The engine is paired with a 6-speed automatic transmission. Exclusive features that find a place in the Black Edition Sportage are the panoramic sunroof, Bluetooth with voice recognition, 8" audio display, the rearview camera with dynamic guideline, auto light control, black pack front and

rear skid plate and radiator grille, black pack front and rear bumper garnish and roof, electric parking brake, electrochromic inside mirror, auto AC, LED rear combination lamps, front parking system, smart key with button start, remote engine starter, smartphone wireless charger, side and curtain airbags, leather-wrapped steering wheel and more. Keeping passengers safe and secure on every journey in the Black Edition Sportage is a range of safety features. They include an anti-lock braking system (ABS), driver and front passenger airbags, electronic stability program (ESP), hill-start assist control (HAC), downhill brake control (DBC), tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) and rear parking assist system. Kia models are equipped with some local accessories to enhance their looks, feel and functionality. Customers are welcome to get full details of these local fitments by visiting any Kia showroom.

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

ICAI Muscat Chapter celebrates CA Day and International Yoga Day

MUSCAT: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the second-largest accounting body in the globe, celebrated CA Day globally on July 1. The Muscat Chapter of ICAI also celebrated the day, which showcased participation from other GCC Chapters (UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) along with the current President, Vice President and several Past Presidents of ICAI. Events were conducted online and the dignitaries acknowledged the contributions of Chartered Accountants to the economy of the Sultanate and the Middle East. The Chapter also extended support to the community through blood donation drives in Muscat and Sohar on July 2-3. The members joined in large numbers along with their families and friends to participate in this noble cause. The Chapter also celebrated 'International Yoga Day' jointly with Kuwait Chapter over three days. It was inaugurated by Smita Jayakar, a veteran Indian actress, who gave a talk on "Digital Fatigue". This was followed by a yoga session led

by CA Siddharth Satapathy and Subhashree Satapathy, certified Yoga instructors at Art of Living, Oman. The usefulness of yoga and various yogic postures were explained, followed by a guided meditation session to relax the body and mind. Finally, Prema Nagesh, founder of Vyaniiti Yoga, demonstrated breathing techniques to improve lung capacity and develop immunity for COVID-19. CA Ravi Deora, Chairman of ICAI Muscat Chapter said, "The Chapter is conducting several events for the continuing professional development of members. Apart from professional and technical events, the managing committee is organising wellness events to promote better health and reduce strain and stress in these challenging times of the pandemic." Anis Al Lawati, Acting Dean of CBFS said, "CBFS is happy to sponsor the Muscat Chapter of ICA. Omani accounting professionals are always encouraged to join their events and to update their knowledge on various current topics."

TESTIMONIAL

Customers laud Renault Duster, Koleos and Megane for safety and design

MUSCAT: Customers in Oman have extolled popular Renault models Duster, Koleos and Megane for the host of features they offer. While Renault Duster has been praised for its functionality and strength, Koleos has been acclaimed for its space and safety and Megane for its design and technology. Praising Renault Duster for its functionality, Abdul Al Ajmi from Ibra said, "With its demonstrated power to handle all challenges, the Renault Duster equipped with multiple exceptional features and technology enhancements, continues to set high standards in Oman. Renault Duster 2WD and 4WD's impressive exteriors, elegant interiors and advanced equipment reiterate the maker's commitment to setting new standards in the SUV segment." Faiz Al Balushi from Al Hamra says, "Renault Duster adds more grandeur and sophistication with its distinctive features. It is equipped with off-road capability and affordability to beat the best in the market." Tariq Al Lawati from Shinas likes Renault Koleos for its powerful, efficient engines, safety attributes and onboard technologies. He says, "Renault Koleos impresses car enthusiasts who value distinctive design, safety technology, great space, and superior performance." Explaining the features of Koleos, car enthusiast Ahmed Mansur from Muscat says, "The 2.5-litre petrol engine in Koleos



is an atmospheric, four-cylinder, 16-valve powerplant with double overhead camshafts. Power is 170hp (126kW) at 6,000rpm, with a peak torque of 233Nm at 4,000rpm. Care has been taken to minimise friction for enhanced performance and optimised fuel consumption. With 233Nm torque available from as low as 1,800rpm, it is extremely responsive at low and mid-range engine speeds and is particularly suited to towing (up to two tonnes). It can be specified with either two or four-wheel drive and is exclusively coupled to the X-Tronic automatic transmission." Admired Megane for its driving performance, Hasan Fazal from

Nizwa applauds Renault Megane for its design, driving comfort, technology and safety features. He says, "The enigmatic Renault Megane electrifies with its sedan body, dynamic lines and generous proportions. With its smooth silhouette, high-tech cockpit and sophisticated styling, Renault Megane combine style and flexibility." Shadad Manzoor from Salalah says, "Megane delivers an exclusive driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and roominess. Renault's designers have drawn upon their acclaimed expertise to seamlessly incorporate 508dm3 VDA of boot storage capacity without compromising the vehicle's aesthetic appeal."

A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, "Featuring a host of impressive features, Renault Duster has won the admiration of customers for being a perfect package in terms of looks, performance, strength, functionality and safety. With a robust and high-end design, comfort and outstanding performance, Renault Koleos has found a place in the heart of customers. Renault Megane presents a high-class driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and roominess. Its energetic lines and substantial proportions add to its increasing popularity with car aficionados in Oman.

PROMOTION

Oman Oasis announces first draw winners of ‘Win Gold’ promotion

MUSCAT: Oman Oasis, the nation's number one packaged drinking water brand, announced first-round winners of its much-admired 'Win Gold' promotion on small bottle cartons. Three lucky people won 25-gram gold Coins each - Hilal Khalid Mohammed Salmi, Wendy Phillips and Sandeep Sarju Prasad Gupta. Eighty-five others walked away with 4-gram coins. An excited hundred others won Lulu shopping vouchers each worth OMR10. Plus a hundred and seventy people got free Oman Oasis cartons with 24 pieces of 500ml bottles inside. A total of 1061 prizes are up for grabs across three rounds of draws in the promotion valid till August 15. The next two draws are scheduled for July 18 and August 16. Consumers excitedly await the 50 grams and 100 grams gold prizes in these upcoming draws. Buyers of Oman Oasis 1.5L or 500ml cartons are to look out for a Scratch Coupon inside the carton. Scratch and register the code on it at www.omanoasis.com/wingold to be eligible for the raffle prizes. Customers are free to participate more than once to increase their



chances of winning the prizes on offer. The winners will have to preserve the scratch coupon, proof of purchase and present it along with their proof of ID to

claim their prize. The rewarding experience presented to its consumers by Oman Oasis saw an overwhelming response so far.

Through campaigns like these, Oman Oasis has managed to engage with its consumers on a personal level and has created a strong bond with them.

KEY SPONSOR

Malabar Gold set to participate with India Pavilion at Expo 2020

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the leading jewellery retailer globally with a strong retail network of over 260 outlets spread across 10 countries has signed up with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) as one of the key sponsors of India Pavilion at the much-awaited Expo 2020 to be held in Dubai, UAE from October 1. The sponsor participation agreement was signed between Dilip Chenoy, Secretary-General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the presence of Dr Gunveena Chadha, Assistant Secretary-General, FICCI; Praveen Kumar Mittal, Senior Director, FICCI; Abdul Salam KP, Vice-Chairman, Malabar Group and Salish Mathew, Chief Marketing Officer, Malabar Gold & Diamonds at a private event held in Dubai. Expo 2020 Dubai is the first world expo to be held in Middle East, Africa and South Asia region. Spanning across an area of 4.38 sqkm and located at the Dubai South District, Expo 2020 will be a global stage to 191 country pavilions and a host of signature pavilions, showcasing and exchanging some of the greatest innovations, ideas, knowledge, business partnerships and the

road to recovery post-COVID-19 pandemic. Expo 2020 Dubai will have 3 thematic districts: Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity, in line with the event's subthemes. The Indian pavilion, one of the largest pavilions at the expo will showcase the country's achievements over the last 75 years, innovative technologies, and business opportunities it offers, as well as its cultural diversity and ancient treasures. From age-old yoga to India's foray into space, the pavilion will bring alive a vibrant and ambitious India. It features a kinetic façade made up of 600 individual colourful blocks. 'Our participation at Expo 2020 Dubai will be providing us with a great opportunity to represent India and showcase the art, culture, heritage and tradition of Indian handcrafted jewellery in a global forum at a time when the nation has kickstarted the celebrations for #Indiat75, highlighting what the country has achieved in these 75 years of Independence and its vision for the future. It gives us immense happiness to be joining hands with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to make this a reality at the India Pavilion', said Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.



ROUND-UP

Go healthy with A'Safwah's Turkish labneh and fresh laban products

A 100 per cent Omani company with almost four decades of experience, A'Safwah reserves a good understanding of the local market and the preferences of its people

MUSCAT: A'Safwah Dairy, the largest vertically integrated dairy company in Oman, has earned the loyalty of its ever-growing customer base by offering premium qual-

ity fresh milk and dairy products. Its Turkish labneh and fresh laban and laban drinks are increasingly popular in the market.

"A 100% Omani company with almost four decades of experience, A'Safwah reserves a good understanding of the local market and the preferences of its people," said spokesperson, A'Safwah. "During summers, we have seen an increase in the demand for fresh and flavoured laban and various laban drinks (including Jeera Laban) which is a well-known source of nutrition and helps to keep the body hydrated while replenishing electrolytes."

To suit the varying taste buds and preferences of its consumers, A'Safwah's laban drinks come in a variety of flavours. Its fresh laban comes in a full cream variant as well as a delicious strawberry flavour while its fresh laban drinks come in plain and jeera flavours.

Another A'Safwah product that has been a favourite amongst con-

sumers is the delicious, soft and easily spreadable Turkish labneh. Recognized as a healthy source of protein and probiotics, it's also a versatile ingredient that can be added to a variety of dishes for a tangier flavour.

Commenting on the product, the spokesperson said, "Our Turkish labneh has a distinct full-bodied flavour that our customers love. Not only is its high nutritional value but it can also be used to stir up a variety of unique dishes. Light-weight and healthy, it can be enjoyed at any time of the day even on its own."

A'Safwah's Turkish labneh can be paired with local favourites like baba ghanoush, falafel, stuffed grape leaves or even just with regular pita. Adding a zesty touch to any dish, it is often used to make pies, dips and salads.

"Full of flavour and goodness, A'Safwah's Turkish labneh adds a distinct taste to my favourite dishes. Turkish labneh goes with a

variety of dishes and during festive seasons I often experiment with new recipes that my family always enjoys," testifies Asma Abdullah Al Badi, who has been a loyal customer of A'Safwah. "When I have to make a quick, light and easily digestible snack for my children, I usually make a sandwich with labneh, vegetables and a sprinkle of zaatar, and pair this with A'Safwah's laban drinks."

Encouraging consumers to follow a healthy lifestyle, A'Safwah also ensures it remains committed to providing farm-fresh dairy products while adhering to the highest quality standards throughout all its operations.

Its world-class dairy farms, advanced infrastructure and excellent distribution systems, complements its decades of knowledge, expertise and experience in the dairy farming industry, therefore, bringing to consumers products that are premium quality, fresh and local.



MEETHAQ



Hibati Savings Account customers win OMR300,000 in mid-year draw

MUSCAT: In line with its vision 'To serve you better, everyday' and with its commitment to promote a healthy savings culture in Oman, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat held its Hibati mid-year draw, which was broadcast live on the bank's social media channels.

Being one of the most followed brands on social media in the Sultanate, there was an overwhelming response from the audience and Meethaq customers. Five lucky winners won a total of OMR 300,000 in mega prizes in the Hibati's mid-year draw, including one grand prize of OMR 100,000 and 4 mega prizes of OMR 50,000 each. The winner of the grand prize of OMR 100,000 was from Meethaq's Bahla branch, bringing immense joy to the customer. Since the launch, the Hibati Savings Account has seen strong interest from the market, making it Meethaq's flagship account for its customers.

The draws were held in the presence of Said Ahmed Nasser Al Salmi, Regional Manager - Muscat, Meethaq and Mohammed Ahmed Al Kharusi, Head of Hafawa Priority Banking, Meethaq. The cash prizes offered under Hibati's 2021 prize draw scheme are 'Hiba' (gift) from Meethaq to its customers and are paid out of Mudarib's (shareholders') own sources to boost financial inclusion. The cash prizes are in addition to the profit share of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in the General Mudarabah Pool as per the declared profit rates.

Speaking on the occasion, Amor Said Al Amri, Meethaq Head of Retail Branches said, "We are pleased with the excellent response to the 2021 Hibati Savings Scheme and congratulate all the winners. Customers who continue to consistently save, increase the chances of winning the mega prizes in the Hibati prize draws. Meethaq takes great interest in constantly updating the prize scheme, ensuring the prize scheme remains exciting for the customers with competitive prize amounts based on the feedback of the customers. We thank all our customers for their strong confidence in Hibati and other Islamic banking products and services from Meethaq."

Meethaq's Hibati Savings Scheme, which was launched in 2018, is one of the biggest cash prize schemes in Oman offering special quarterly, National Day, Omani Women's Day and weekly prizes. Cash prizes worth more than OMR 1.5 million are being given away to a record number of 5,331 winners in 2021. Customers with Hibati Savings Accounts enjoy some of the most exciting benefits in Oman, which include competitive Mudarabah indicative profit rates, attractive cash prizes through draws, Visa Debit Card, no minimum balance charges and digital banking facilities. Meethaq ensures that each and every product goes through the process of Sharia compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Khedmah continues to deliver many effective community initiatives

MUSCAT: Aspiring to support local communities and strengthen collaboration with national entities, Oman Investment & Finance Co. (Khedmah), continued to deliver various initiatives during 2021 under its corporate social responsibility programme. The initiatives were directed toward different vital segments of society.

The company provided financial support to the Ministry of Social Development to purchase medical equipment and assistive devices for the severely disabled in-house residence of Al-Aman Rehabilitation Centre affiliated with the ministry. This initiative comes as part of OIFC's continued approach since last year aimed at enhancing its collaboration with the Ministry and promote social initiatives.

Furthermore, Khedmah signed an agreement with Oman Charitable Organisation to allocate an annual contribution from the company as per the requirements set by the organisation. The objectives of this collaboration are to help several families affected by fires and support others in purchasing remote study supplies for their children. The company additionally pro-



vided support to many charitable teams to distribute food supplies to some regions during the pandemic.

Commenting on these gestures, Khalid bin Kahoor Al Balushi, Senior Director of Human Resources and Administration, and Chairman of the CSR Committee at OIFC said, "We at Khedmah pay great attention to national development through delivering community initiatives. Seeking to implement the directives of the company's board of directors about CSR, we place social responsibility among our priorities by conducting a plethora of effective



programs that target various segments of society. This is in collaboration with government authorities, charitable and local community institutions."

"Our CSR programme comes in line with national priorities and government objectives that strive to enhance the welfare of Omani citizens. Internally, the company's board of directors approved a general policy on dedicating special spending annually to ensure the achievement of these priorities. We encourage all entities and institutions to contribute in delivering such initiatives as this is the

responsibility of everyone without any exception," he further stated.

OIFC is one of the leading investment and services companies in the Sultanate for more than four decades. It specialises in billing, collection, debt factoring for electricity, water and telecom services as well as making payments to Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI). Furthermore, it provides recharge services for pre-paid telecommunication and electricity operators across Oman. These services can be easily availed through Khedmah branches around the Sultanate and electronic channels.

AT SALALAH GRAND MALL

Lulu Exchange opens its 37th branch in Oman

MUSCAT: Lulu Exchange, the Sultanate's leading payments provider, has opened its newest branch in the country at Salalah in the centrally located Salalah Grand Mall.

Offering superior, affordable and world-class cross-border remittances and currency exchange services, the branch was inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammed Hamed Ali Al Ghazali, Director, Lulu Exchange, in the presence of Adeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Group and other senior management in a grand virtual opening ceremony.

The new branch is the company's 37th in Oman and the sixth in the Dhofar region. It also marks the 236th global branch under Lulu Financial Group.

Speaking on the occasion, Adeb Ahamed, Managing Director of Lulu Financial Group, congratulated the team for maintaining a



positive growth rate in 2021 despite the many challenges, and said, "The new branch at Salalah Grand Mall re-affirms our commitment to the economy. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Oman's standing as a hub

of global business has increased in recent months, especially with several progressive regulations aiding the growth of the payments sector. Through our new branch, we aspire to leverage the emerging possibilities to bridge the gap between our offerings and the people

who trust in our services, in line with our vision to innovate value and inspire experiences."

Lulu Exchange, which is a part of the Lulu Financial Group, is among the leading and most trustworthy financial service providers in Oman. The ISO-9001 certified company has a reputation for providing the highest quality service to customers looking to conduct their personal and corporate cross-border transactions at the most competitive rates.

The company also has strategic partnerships with global payment networks and caters to countries world over with direct online remittance arrangements to countries in the Mena, Indian sub-continent and APAC markets. In addition, the company's mobile app, Lulu Money, is highly rated for its superior features and ease of use.

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