



STATE-OF-THE-ART DIALYSIS CENTRES SERVING KIDNEY PATIENTS IN OMAN

Dialysis centres provide one of main services offered by the Ministry of Health to society. Currently as many as 24 dialysis centres operate in different governorates of the Sultanate, sparing patients the need to go abroad for treatment. **>A5**



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SHOWCASING THE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

History of Science Centre (HSC) at the German University of Technology (GUTech) in Oman is one of the educational and cultural centres that showcases the cultural contributions and human communication. **>See also A5**



Oman to get first satellite by 2024

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A bidding process inviting companies to help design and launch Oman's first satellite by 2024 has been launched by the government.

The tender, issued by the Space Communications Technology (SCT), deals with the procurement details of the OmanSat Satellite Programme.

SCT was founded by the government to spearhead its National Satellite Programme by building the national satellite communications infrastructure, and serving public and private telecommunication network needs.

"The company's operational plan is based on the procurement of a High Throughput Satellite (HTS) (OmanSat-1) and associated services, providing coverage of the Sultanate's entire territory, its economic waters, and associated external markets," said SCT in its tender announcement. "The satellite is required to be



EYE IN SKY: The plan is based on the procurement of a High Throughput Satellite (HTS) (OmanSat-1) and associated services.

operational by 2024."

"SCT therefore invites satellite vendors to submit technical and commercial proposals for provision of the above services in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the tender documents," added the organisation.

The tender documents can be obtained by email, or by visiting

the SCT's offices near Sultan Qaboos University in Al Khoudh, between 7 am and 4 pm. Bidders are required to pay a tender fee to access all tender documents.

Eligibility criteria and a brief scope of work can be obtained from www.omansat.com, or by sending an email to tender@omansat.com. **>A3**



MORE THAN 600 COVID DEATHS IN JUNE ALONE

This is the highest number of deaths since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

Times News Service

MUSCAT: More than 600 people in Oman have died from COVID-19 in the month of June 2021 alone. According to figures published by the Ministry of Health, the country reported 119 deaths in a span of just three days from Thursday, June 24, to Saturday,

June 26, which means 611 people have so far died from COVID-19 in June.

2,967 people in total have died from COVID-19 until June 26, 2021 up from 2,356 deaths as of June 1.

"This is the highest death rate we have seen during the pandemic," said Ibrahim Al Maimani, a

data analyst in the country. "The previous highest rate was this April, when 344 deaths were recorded, which meant we unfortunately had a daily rate of 11.5 deaths per day."

Oman has also recorded more than 43,000 new infections of the coronavirus during this month. On June 1, the total number of cases in the country stood at 218,271, a number that jumped to 262,059 on June 26.

During this time, nearly 30,000 people have recovered from the virus. 200,421 people were reported to have recovered on 1 June, a statistic that rose to 229,998 on June 26. Oman's re-

covery rate is now 87.8 per cent.

"Over the weekend, Oman saw 5,517 new infections, which means we now have 44,835 people who are currently infected with COVID-19," added Al Maimani. "This is an average of 1,661 new daily infections."

Hospitalisation rates have shot up 102 per cent during this period. While there were 808 people in hospital on May 31, there are now 1,635 patients with COVID-19 in hospitals. Similarly, the number of patients in intensive care has increased from 247 on May 31, to 489 people on June 26, pointing to a 98 per cent jump in ICU admission rates. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

UTAS to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040

1 The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) valued the Royal Decree No. 47/2021, which promulgated the UTAS system of functioning to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040's goals. **>A3**

WORLD

Trump holds first rally since leaving office

2 Former US President Donald Trump on Saturday held his first rally since leaving the White House. The rally was intended to endorse Max Miller, a former Trump aide. **>A6**

MARKET

Oman registers over 20% rise in SMEs

3 The total number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) registered in the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development till the end of May 2021 stood at 53,166, compared to 44,197 in May 2020, an increase of 20.3 per cent. **>B1**

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University of Technology designed to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040

University to help meet Oman Vision 2040's goals of upgrading scientific research and innovation within the context of Fourth Industrial Revolution

MUSCAT: The University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) valued the Royal Decree No. 47/2021, which promulgated the UTAS system of functioning.

The establishment of the UTAS under Royal Decree No. 76/2020 set the stage for the university to keep pace with Oman Vision 2040's goals of upgrading scientific research and innovation within the context of Fourth Industrial Revolution and associated techniques and enhancing scientific progress in the Sultanate.

The Royal speech of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik



QUALITY EDUCATION: The Royal speech of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik in February 2020 reaffirmed determination to accord attention to the quality of education and make it one of the Sultanate's priorities over the forthcoming stage of development.

in February 2020 reaffirmed determination to accord attention to the quality of education and make it one of the Sultanate's priorities over the forthcoming stage of development.

This was stated in the Royal

Speech on 23 February 2020 as follows: "On top of our national priorities is the education sector, with all its types and levels. It will receive full attention, and it will be provided with a supporting environment which motivates

research and innovation. We will also provide it with all means of empowerment, since it is the base upon which our children will be able to participate in meeting the requirements of the coming phase of development." -ONA



MEETING

Sultanate and Egypt discuss cooperation in oil and gas sectors

Times News Service

CAIRO: Abdullah bin Nasser Al Rahbi, the Sultanate's ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative to the Arab League has met with Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Egypt.

sources of Egypt.

The meeting reviewed ways of further enhancement of cooperation between the Sultanate and Egypt in the fields of energy and oil within the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries.

The ambassador said that the meeting held at the premises of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources discussed horizons of joint cooperation and investment opportunities in the fields of oil and gas between the Sultanate and Egypt.

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Ancient Omanis used quarries to isolate sick, prevent disease spread

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Eighty-one ancient stone quarries that were used to previously quarantine patients with diseases such as smallpox and plague in order to protect the rest of the population have been inspected by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

The inspection, which was conducted in 2020 and 2021, was carried out by teams from the Directorate General of Antiquities, as part of its efforts to document areas that were used to care for the sick, and add them to the inventory of historically significant sites from antiquity.

Aim

"The aim of these quarries was to reduce the spread of disease among the population," said the MHT in a statement.

"These quarries varied between buildings, caves, and wadis. The presence of these quarries indicates the awareness among Omanis about the seriousness of infectious epidemics and the need to isolate patients to avoid its spread."



The ministry thanked everyone who contributed and cooperated with the field teams to conduct this documentation. Their

work will contribute towards conducting more extensive studies and research by researchers and academics.

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27,160 REACH

The health sector in the Sultanate is getting drained due to the current wave of COVID-19 infections.

Story on the health sector in Oman being drained by pandemic

A story on the health sector in Oman being drained by COVID-19 reached 27,160 people and had 3,851 engagements on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

9,300 VIEWS

No commercial promotions till further notice: MoCIIP

Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video had 9,300 views and reached 22,400 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

6,780 VIEWS

No commercial promotions till further notice: MoCIIP

Video on no commercial promotions till further notice

A video on no commercial promotions till further notice had 6,780 views and 401 likes on Instagram.





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DRIVE-THROUGH VACCINATION SERVICE RESUMES

The Ministry of Health, represented by the Directorate General of Health Services in the Governorate of Muscat, resumed the drive-through vaccination service at the Oman Automobile Association for people aged 45 and above, and pregnant women who completed the first trimester of pregnancy. Thamra Said Al Ghafri, Director General of Health Services in the Governorate of Muscat, stated that the drive-through vaccination service is offered from 3 to 7 PM. Further updates will be given weekly on this service. —ONA



SPACE TECHNOLOGY

<FROM

A1

Oman's first satellite by 2024

Given that the project involves Oman launching its first satellite, it is considered one of high strategic importance. It is expected to provide national and regional coverage, with the primary TT&C (telemetry, tracking and command centre) located in Oman.

The satellite and associated services delivery is structured into three key elements. The first, titled the Space Segment, includes satellite launch, launch services, orbit raising services, in-orbit testing, training, internships, dynamic satellite simulators, and insurance support.

The second aspect involves the Ground Control Segment, and consists of setting up primary and back-up satellite control centres, payload control, capacity management, radio frequency and antennas, and training and support services.

In-country services, including

It is expected to provide national and regional coverage, with the primary TT&C (telemetry, tracking and command centre) located in Oman.

installation and commissioning of ground control segments, and training and support services are the third aspect of services companies need to provide that are covered by the tender.

In order for companies to be considered eligible to participate in the bidding process, they must have successfully delivered at least three Ka-band HTS projects, and must have flexible satellite technologies in advanced

stage of development and production, such as digital beam forming and active antennas, in order to assure in-orbit delivery of OmanSat-1 by 2024.

To be considered valid, all tender documents must be submitted before July 15. Any further clarifications must be completed before August 15, i.e., a month later. Clarifications to the SCT can be sent to tender@omansat.com.

All technical and commercial bids will be subsequently submitted before 21 September, 2021.

"In the event that the SCT considers a bidder to commercially be a potentially successful competitor for the award of the contract, SCT may subject the bidder to a further technical and financial evaluation," said the company during its announcement. "Only when a bidder satisfies the technical, financial and commercial requirements will a contract be awarded."

EXPAT AFFAIRS

Over 23,000 Pakistanis came to Oman for work since 2020

Times News Service

MUSCAT:

More than 23,000 Pakistani nationals have moved to Oman for work since the start of 2020, according to figures released by the government of Pakistan.

10,336 Pakistanis came to the country for work in 2020, followed by 12,939 in 2021, amounting to a total of 23,275 workers in the last 18 months, show data from Pakistan's Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment.

Globally, Saudi Arabia is the country where the maximum numbers of overseas Pakistanis work. From 1971 to 2021, a total of 5,687,286 Pakistanis have travelled there for employment, followed by the United Arab Emirates, where 3,930,799 Pakistanis have migrated during this period. Oman is third on the list, having welcomed 819,058 Pakistani nationals during the last 50 years. The other three countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council – Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain, also host considerable numbers of Pakistani nationals.

The Gulf countries account for employment provided to 96.1 per cent of overseas Pakistanis, according to the 2020 Labour Migration Report published by the bureau.

"The Pakistani labour force is working and residing all across the world, having the majority of its concentration in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries," said the report. "The Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are the largest destination countries for Pakistani migrant workers and also a major source of remittances in Pakistan."

The Pakistani expat worker population in Oman is about 4.6 per cent of all Pakistanis who migrate overseas for employment. The report also adds that the majority of Pakistani nationals work in blue collar jobs. Among the 10 most common jobs done by Pakistanis are those of labourers, drivers, masons, technicians, salesmen, and electricians. The country's Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) also said 224,705 of its citizens moved overseas for work during the pandemic. This is reportedly more than the number of Indians (94,145) and Bangladeshis (217,699) who have travelled abroad for long-term work during the aforementioned period.

"For a country direly in need of foreign remittances, we created 1.2 million new jobs across the world since coming into government,"

stated Sayed Bukhari, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and HRD. "Even with the global slowdown during COVID, we kept Pakistan in a leading spot." Remittances from overseas Pakistanis amounted to \$2.5bn (OMR 1bn) in May 2021, according to the State Bank of Pakistan. From July 2020 to May 2021, a total of \$26.6bn (OMR 10.25bn) has been sent home by Pakistani nationals abroad.

Understandably, the Gulf countries are a major source of overseas remittances for Pakistan. Its nationals in Saudi Arabia remitted home \$664.5mn (about OMR 255mn) in April this year, and \$614.5mn (OMR 237mn) in May. Remittances from the UAE came to \$512.4mn (nearly OMR 200mn) in May 2021, and \$549.3mn (about OMR 211mn) in April. Pakistani nationals in Oman sent home \$94.4mn (OMR 36.5mn) in April 2021, and \$88.3mn (OMR 34mn) in May of this year.

According to data from Oman's National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), there are 185,357 Pakistani workers currently employed in Oman, who make up about 13 percent of the 1.43 million expatriate employees in the country.



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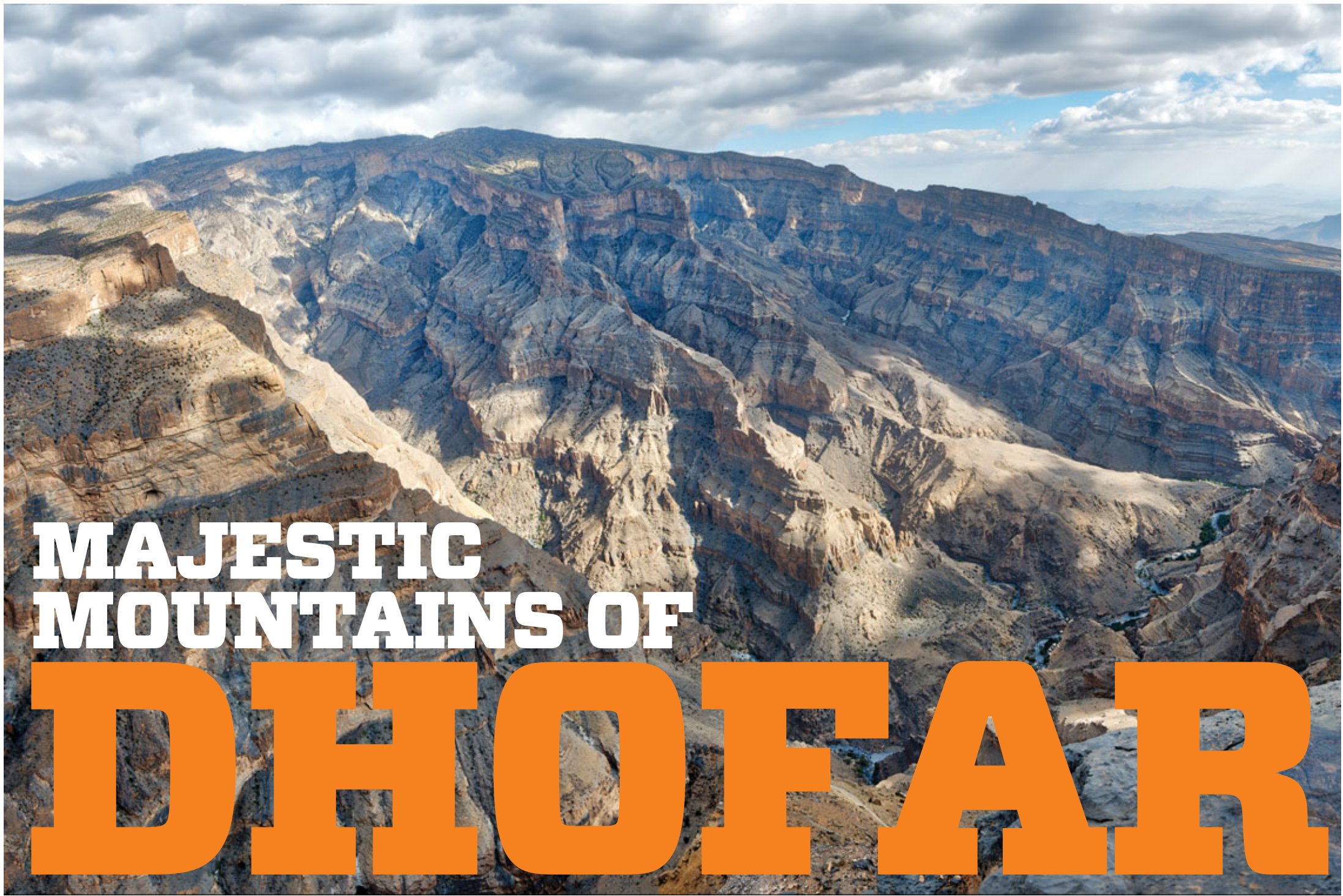
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MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS OF DHOFAR



The governorate of Dhofar is known for its majestic mountains and beautiful shores. In the south, the mountains of Dhofar region extend from east to west off Al-Hillaniyat Islands. Samhan Mountain, which includes the Arabian Leopard Reserve in the east and Jabal Al Qamar (Moon Mountain) in the west, is the most prominent mountain range in the region, rising to an altitude of 2,500 metres.

The mountains in Salalah, due to regular rainfall in summer time, remain green nearly all year round. Visitors to the area of Iftalqot in Salalah are able to view the breathtaking view of the beach, which is engulfed by rocks and green hills, from a height of 3km above sea level. The cliff can be reached from the same road that leads to Al Mughsail beach.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Samhan Mountain is one of the most important mountain ranges in the Governorate of Dhofar, with a maximum height of 2,100 metres. Samhan Mountain includes many plateaus punctuated by narrow and deep gorges, some of



which are about 1,000 metres deep." Various plants grow in the plain of Jabal Samhan, such as acacia and gum trees. The narrow mountain passes have little water but there are a number of streams, which are an important source of water for most animals found in the region. Besides the Arabian leopard (considered a rare animal), these mountains are home to a number of other mammals such as the Arabian gazelle, foxes and the Nubian ibex.

Leopards are the animals that best adapt to the surrounding environment, and are often smaller and lighter in colour than their African counterparts. Arabian leopards have survived for a long time in the northern mountain range of the Arabian Peninsula.



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HEALTHCARE

State-of-the-art dialysis centres serving kidney patients in Oman

MUSCAT: Dialysis centres provide one of main services offered by the Ministry of Health to society.

Currently, as many as 24 dialysis centres operate in different governorates of the Sultanate, sparing patients the need to go abroad for treatment.

One of the longest serving and largest dialysis centres is the one in the Wilayat of Bausher.

Dr. Yaqoub Ahmed Al-Maimani, Head of Bausher Dialysis Centre, said that the facility, opened in 1998, started operating with 28 beds serving 120 patients. By 2020, Bausher centre's capacity rose to 52 beds serving 350 patients round the clock, he added.

Al-Maimani pointed out that 2,500 patients are suffer-



MEDICARE: Currently as many as 24 dialysis centres operate in different governorates of the Sultanate, sparing patients the need to go abroad for treatment. -ONA

ing from kidney failure in the Sultanate, with more than 600 of them in Muscat Governorate and receive medical attention in the governorates.

In Muscat, kidney failure patients get treatment in Bausher and A'Seeb, in addition to a dialysis unit attached to Quriyat Hospital.

The three facilities in Muscat have a total of 95 dialysis beds, Al-Maimani added.

Al-Maimani said that the Ministry of Health tries its best to offer treatment to patients in their respective wilayats, and, accordingly, increased the number of centres (to 24 having a total of 373 beds), while the facilities in general serve all the 2,500 kidney failure patients. -ONA

HISTORY OF SCIENCE CENTRE

Study on achievements of early Muslim scholars

BARKA: History of Science Centre (HSC) at the German University of Technology (GUTech) in Oman is one of the important educational and cultural centres that showcases the cultural contributions and human communication for the nations.

The establishment of HSC comes within the recognition of Islamic history and the achievements of the early Muslim scholars.

GUTech has shown due concern and interest in establishment of an educational centre to study the extent to which early Muslim scholars have benefited from earlier civilizations and their impacts on new civilizations and modern sciences. The centre was estab-

lished under the name "History of Science Centre" as it is concerned with the development of applied sciences from the Greek Classic Era to the Era of Islam.

It is the first centre for the history of Islamic sciences which commits to the established criteria and contributes to introduction of the history of Islamic sciences in a clear and methodological manner.

HSC clearly depicts the findings of mathematical sciences, astronomy, mechanics, statics, geography, etc during the golden era of Islamic civilization. The items on display at HSC shows the scientific methods Muslim scholars have used for their achievements. -ONA

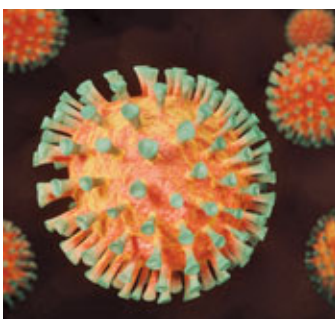
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ministry urges people to get vaccinated at the earliest

"Today, we saw the highest numbers of deaths being reported," said Al Maimani. "We saw 42 deaths on both Thursday and Saturday, and since 214 patients have been admitted in the last 24 hours, this has seen a new single-day record here as well."

Over the weekend, 35 people also died from COVID-19 on Friday. To bring down the infection rates in the country, the Ministry of Health has asked people to get vaccinated as soon as they are able, and to continue following COVID-19 precautions.

"Approach a vaccination centre as soon as you are notified that you are within the target group for the vaccine," said the Ministry of Health in an advisory. "Commit to taking the second dose of the vaccine, after the specified period from the date of the first, so that



you obtain the desired effectiveness, as one dose of the vaccine is not sufficient."

"Be aware that the effects of the vaccine begin 14 days after taking the second dose, to get the desired effect," explained the ministry. "Before this period, the person is still susceptible to infection, and he should go to healthcare institutions if he has

any suspected symptoms."

Immediately after being injected with the vaccine, people are required to wait at the centre for 15 minutes, to make sure no dangerous side effects are recorded.

To reduce vaccine side-effects, the ministry advises applying a cold compress to the injection site to reduce any pain or swelling people might experience there, and use antibiotics such as paracetamol every six to eight hours to counter any fevers, headaches or joint pain people might suffer from.

"If these symptoms persist of if you experience severe side effects, please go to the nearest health institution," the ministry advised. "Do not heed rumours and fake news - take vaccine information from reliable, official sources."

5-DAY EXERCISE

Annual strategic exercise begins

Muscat: Activities of the annual strategic exercise 'Decision Making-8' began at the National Defence College (NDC) yesterday.

The exercise is carried out by the NDC eighth batch from the various military, security and civil units.

The 5-day exercise aims to enhance the joint cooperation and integration among the participating units.

- ONA

OBITUARY



Mr. James Philip

It is with deep sorrow that the ISG family mourn the untimely demise of Mr. James Philip, Music Teacher.

We pray the Almighty gives strength to his family to bear with this great loss.

May his soul Rest in Peace!

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



Pharmacist Mohammed Abdul Majeed

We regret to announce the sad and untimely demise of our beloved colleague Pharmacist Mohammed Abdul Majeed, on 24th June 2021. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to his grieving family, friends and colleagues.

We pray for courage, fortitude and willful strength to his loved ones to bear this irreparable loss.

May his Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.



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NOTICE OF INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Oman Agriculture Development Company (SAOC) is pleased to invite the shareholders to attend the Annual Ordinary Meeting of the Company, which is scheduled to be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, 14/07/2021, through the e-platform for holding general meetings. You can access the e-platform through the website of Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (www.mcd.gov.om). If the quorum is not completed for this meeting, the second meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Thursday, 15/07/2021 through the above-mentioned e-platform. The following agenda will be discussed:

Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. To study and approve the Board of Directors report for the financial year ended April 30, 2021.
2. To study the Auditor's report and approve the balance sheet and the profit and loss account for the financial year ended April 30, 2021.
3. To inform the Meeting of the Company's transactions with related parties during the financial year ended April 30, 2021 (according to the attachment).
4. To consider and approve the proposed related party transactions to be entered into by the Company during the financial year ending on April 30, 2022.
5. To appoint the Auditor for the financial year ending April 30, 2022 and fixing their fees.

According to the Company's Articles of Association and the General Meeting procedures using modern technology issued by the Authority, we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- A- A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the General Meeting and vote on their behalf through technical means, provided that this natural person has an investor number in Muscat Clearing and Depository Company.
- B- Voting on any of the agenda items shall begin no more than three days before the date of the Meeting and until the end of the voting process on the day of the Meeting. In the event that the shareholder's balance of shares increased or decreased, the voting process shall be canceled, and he/she must vote again on the day of the Meeting.

In case of any inquiries, please contact Mr. Rajith Januka on phone number: 95615272.

Chairman



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WORLD



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IED RECOVERED

India’s Jammu Police averts major terrorist attack by LeT

JAMMU: The Jammu Police on Sunday averted a major terror attack and recovered an improvised explosive device (IED) which was targeted at a crowded area by an operative of terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

This came after two low-intensity blasts took place near the Jammu Air Force Station. “The use of a drone which carried a payload in both the blasts at Jammu airfield

suspected to drop explosive material. Another IED weighing 5-6 kgs was recovered by Jammu police. This IED was received by LeT outfit operative and was to be planted at some crowded place,” J-K’s DGP Dilbagh Singh told ANI.

As per the police, the IED weighed about 5-6 kg. The suspect has been lifted and is being interrogated. More suspects are likely to be picked up in this foiled IED

blast attempt.

In a similar incident earlier on Sunday, the police arrested one terrorist from the Narwal area and seized five improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from his possession.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police is also investigating two low-intensity blasts that took place earlier in the day in the technical area of Jammu Air

Force Station. An FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has been registered in the matter.

Two drones were used to carry out the attack and the possible target of the drones was the aircraft parked in the dispersal area, sources said.

As per sources, no major damage has been reported from the incident. **ANI**



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Evidence of ‘major structural damage’ found before Florida condo collapse

Part of a 12-storey apartment block in the Surfside suburb caved in suddenly on Thursday as residents slept, killing at least five



WASHINGTON: Rescuers continued to search through the rubble of a collapsed Miami condo on Saturday as it emerged that a 2018 report had warned the building needed urgent repairs.

Part of a 12-storey apartment block in the Surfside suburb caved in suddenly on Thursday as residents slept, killing at least five people.

As many as 156 people are unaccounted for, fuelling fears of a much higher death toll.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said crews also discovered other unspecified

RESCUE OPERATIONS CONTINUE: As many as 156 people are unaccounted for, fuelling fears of a much higher death toll.

human remains.

What about the rescue efforts?

Rescue teams are using sniffer dogs, camera, and sonar equipment in the race to find survivors. They used heavy machinery to sift through the debris, including two large cranes.

Teams from Mexico and Israel have arrived in Miami to help with the efforts of the local crews. Crews had to fight flames on Saturday in the debris, hampering their search

New information emerges about the building

Officials have repeatedly stressed

that the cause of the building’s collapse remains unknown.

But a report published late on Friday showed that a consultant for a major engineering firm had warned three years ago that the building had shown evidence of “major structural damage.”

The recommendations had formed the basis of planned renovation work that was set to get underway soon.

Champlain Towers was built in 1981 and local regulations state that changes were needed to the 40-year old building in order to obtain a new safety certificate.

Vice Mayor Tina Paul called the structural issue identified in the report “very alarming” in an email on Saturday morning.

What did the report say?

Engineer Frank Morabito wrote in the report that the waterproofing installed below the pool deck had failed due to a major error in design.

“The failed waterproofing is causing major structural damage to the concrete structural slab below these areas,” he wrote.

“Failure to replace the waterproofing in the near future will cause the extent of the concrete deterioration to expand exponentially.”

Morabito gave no indication in his report that the structure was at risk of collapse.

He pointed out that the repairs would be aimed at “maintaining the structural integrity” of the building and its 136 units.

His findings had been submitted to local Miami authorities back in April ahead of the planned work.

What happened to the building?

A large section of the oceanfront Champlain Towers in Surfside crumbled to the ground at around 1 a.m. local time on Thursday.

CCTV footage showed an entire side of the building suddenly folding in two sections, spitting out clouds of dust.

Officials said roughly 80 units of the apartment block were occupied at the time of the incident.

Eyewitnesses described hearing what sounded like thunder when the collapse occurred.

Families angry over ‘slow’ rescue operation

Some families, urgently waiting for news of loved ones, have criticized the slow pace of the rescue operation.

“Not enough is being done,” said Mike Salberg, who came from New York after the accident. “I want answers.”

Salberg said that five of his family members, including his parents, are unaccounted for.

“My friend’s mom is there (under the rubble),” a man who identified himself only as Mark said.

“We want to be hopeful but also we have to be realistic. The next step is being there for the families and know why this happened.” **DW**



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TRUMP RALLY

Ex-President Trump holds first rally since leaving office



ENDORSEMENT The rally, at Lorain County Fairgrounds in Wellington, Ohio, was intended to endorse conservative congressional candidate Max Miller.

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump on Saturday held his first rally since leaving the White House.

The rally, at Lorain County Fairgrounds in Wellington, Ohio, was intended to endorse conservative congressional candidate Max Miller, a former Trump aide.

It comes as the Republican Party gears up to take back majorities in Congress next year.

However, the former president largely stuck to a range of topics that are familiar from his time as president.

Key points from Trump’s rally

Trump repeated his widely debunked and baseless claim that his defeat in the November 2020 presidential election was marred by fraud.

At one point, Trump alluded to the possibility of running once more for the top job at the White House: “We may have to win it a third time. It is possible,” he said, alluding to his election fraud claim.

He repeatedly slammed US President Joe Biden, particularly for his immigration policies.

The Ohio rally drew a crowd of several thousand. Many wore shirts with slogans like “Trump 2024 — Because America can never be too great.”

The rally came as Trump remains banned from various social media following accusations of using the platforms to stoke riots at the US Capitol in Washington.

He is also facing various legal troubles. The Manhattan district attorney’s office has told Trump’s lawyers it is considering filing criminal charges against his family business.

Where Trump is heading next

The Ohio event in Wellington, about 40 miles (64 km) southwest of Cleveland, was the first of three expected public appearances.

After Ohio, Trump will travel to the US-Mexico border with Texas Governor Greg Abbott on June 30 and hold a rally in Sarasota, Florida, on July 3.

Trump’s Save America PAC, or political action committee, says that the ex-president plans on making further appearances “in support of candidates and causes that further the MAGA agenda and accomplishments of Trump’s administration.”

-DW

Protesters try to storm banks after currency hits record low in Lebanon

The country's worst economic crisis in decades has seen its unofficial value plummet on the black market

MINSK: Lebanon's national currency plunged to a new record low on the black market against the dollar on Saturday, as an ongoing economic crisis continues to wipe out savings and raise living costs, unleashing widespread protest.

The Lebanese pound has been pegged to the dollar at 1,507 since 1997, but the country's worst economic crisis in decades has seen its unofficial value plummet on the black market.

On Saturday, money changers told a news agency that the pound was trading at 17,100 to 17,500 to the dollar on the black market, while some social media users said it had fallen as low as



RECORD LOW: Since the economic crisis began in 2019, the Lebanese pound has lost 90% of its value against the dollar.

18,000.

It is at least the second time this month the pound has hit a new low against the US dollar.

Since the economic crisis began in 2019, the pound has lost 90% of its value against the dollar.

Protesters try to storm central bank branch offices

In the coastal city of Tripoli, dozens of people took to the streets to condemn the currency's depreciation and "difficult living conditions," Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) reported.

Some protesters managed to break through the gates of a branch

of the central bank and enter the courtyard, the NNA said, but the army prevented them from reaching the building.

Demonstrators also set fire to the entrance of a government office, an AFP correspondent said.

Others were seen trying to force their way into the homes of two lawmakers but were stopped by security forces. In the southern city of Sidon, protesters tried to storm another branch of the central bank. They were also pushed back by security forces, the NNA reported. Scattered protests also took place in the capital Beirut, where a small number of protesters took to the streets and burned tires, an AFP correspondent said.

Fuel shortages worsen

Lebanese were struggling to fill up their cars with gas on Saturday, a day after the country's caretaker government reduced subsidies.

Long lines of cars stretched outside gas stations in Beirut where motorists reportedly waited for more than two hours to get half a liter of gasoline.

The Lebanese newspaper Al Joumhouria posted a video showing two men fighting at a gas station. The caretaker government's lack of foreign currency reserves, which are necessary to import

fuel, has been blamed for the shortages.

What is behind Lebanon's financial meltdown?

Lebanon's financial collapse began in 2019, but the build-up began much earlier.

Following the 1975-1990 civil war, successive governments piled up debt, the equivalent of 150% of national output.

Political instability, corruption and mismanagement saw little return on the borrowed cash, except for a large number of skyscrapers built in downtown Beirut.

Rather than rein in spending, politicians continued to splurge and corruption was rife. The government also failed to deliver reforms causing foreign donors to hold back billions of dollars in aid they had pledged.

Then in 2019, youth-driven mass protests erupted against Lebanon's political elite. They demanded wholesale change in government. Following this, foreign exchange inflows dried up and dollars exited Lebanon. Banks no longer had enough dollars to pay depositors queuing outside, so they shut their doors.

Compounding problems, an explosion in August 2020 at Beirut port killed around 200 people and caused billions of dollars of damage. **DW**

WITHDRAWAL

US lawmakers, advocates question Biden's plan to evacuate Afghans who assisted military efforts

WASHINGTON: As US President Joe Biden moves ahead with his plan to withdraw Afghans from Kabul who have assisted US military efforts in the country, lawmakers and advocates have raised several questions as the deadline for the plan draws near.

The White House on Thursday confirmed that it would evacuate former interpreters, drivers and others along with their families to third countries to shield them from danger in Afghanistan, senior administration officials confirmed to The Hill. It comes after mounting pressure on the Biden administration from lawmakers to evacuate Afghans who are waiting for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applications to be processed.

However, even those who have pushed the administration to execute that massive-scale evacuation say officials have been short on details about when, where and how it will take place.

"There are many outstanding questions, including which applicants would be prioritized for evacuation, how we would get them out of the country, where we would send them, how much it would cost and where the money to come from, just to name a few. And that doesn't even mention the clock that is ticking on our time on the ground," House Foreign Affairs Committee ranking member Michael McCaul said in a statement to The Hill.

"I appreciate the Biden Administration's intention to evacuate



EVACUATION: It comes after mounting pressure on the Biden administration from lawmakers to evacuate Afghans who are waiting for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applications to be processed.

as many SIV applicants as possible - which I have been calling them to do for months - but that doesn't mean much until they put words to action. They need to start answering some of these basic questions if we are to believe they will actually follow through," he added.

Meanwhile, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday that a group of SIV applicants will be relocated before the withdrawal is officially completed in September.

Since the Biden administration announced plans to withdraw from Afghanistan by September 11, it has faced calls to speed processing of the 18,000 Afghans who have already applied for SIVs along with another 53,000 family members seeking to accompany them to the US.

However, the withdrawal could take place well before the September deadline, as the military looks likely to largely wrap up its withdrawal in July amid mounting pressure. This also comes as US intelligence reports suggested that Afghanistan could fall to the Taliban in as little as six months once America leaves.

Experts are also worried the lack of military presence could hinder the evacuation, particularly if the withdrawal takes away the option of moving Afghans on military planes, The Hill reported.

The 14-point visa application process can take as long as 800 days to process.

Sunil Varghese, policy director of the International Refugee Assistance Project, said SIV seekers are often held up as the government works to verify employment -- an effort complicated by factors including poor record-keeping throughout the war and even kidnapping of people's former supervisors.

"There's a big question as to what happens to someone who is evacuated and then stuck in this years-long process, and what happens if they're denied in error or forced to reapply," Varghese said. **ANI**

STEPPING DOWN



UK Health Secretary Hancock quits after breaking social distance guidance

LONDON: UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock, who was filmed on CCTV kissing an aide in his office in breach of coronavirus social distancing rules, resigned on Saturday after members of his own Conservative party called on him to step down.

The Sun newspaper revealed that the minister had been having an affair with Gina Coladangelo, a friend from his days at Oxford University who he hired as an adviser in March last year.

The tabloid said Hancock had broken the health guidelines that he had repeatedly championed, urging Britons to follow them closely.

Downing Street published his resignation letter on Saturday, saying it had been accepted by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"We have worked so hard as a country to fight the pandemic," Hancock said in the letter. "The last thing I would want is for my

private life to distract attention from the single-minded focus that is leading us out of this crisis."

He was later replaced by Sajid Javid, the country's former finance minister.

Who is Matt Hancock?

Hancock, a Conservative MP, has played a key role in leading Britain's response to the coronavirus pandemic, receiving praise for the pace of the country's vaccine rollout.

He used media appearances to urge voters to respect government guidelines on social distancing.

In February, the 42-year-old married father of three said sticking to the rules was a matter of "personal responsibility" and that everybody needs to "play their part." At the time, bereaved families were being told that they could not hug their relatives at funerals for fear of spreading the virus further. **DW**

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Two more Catholic churches burned down in Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Days after two Catholic churches were destroyed by fire in the British Columbia province of Canada, two more Catholic churches were burned down in the province's Interior on Saturday morning.

Lower Similkameen Indian Band Chief Keith Crow said he received a call at about 4 am PT that the Chopaka church was on fire. By the time he arrived about 30 minutes later, it had burned to the ground, reported CBC News. "I am angry. I do not see any positive coming from this and it is going to be tough," said Crow.

Crow further said that he later received a call from the Upper Similkameen Indian Band, near Hedley, that a church on that reserve had burned down as well.



The Upper Similkameen Indian Band confirmed that St Ann's Church was destroyed overnight and a representative for the band said officials are currently working with Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at the site of the fire.

In a written statement, RCMP said both fires started within an hour of each other early Saturday morning. They said the Chopaka church fire had spread to nearby brush, but BC Wildfire crews were able to attend to it before it spread.

Meanwhile, Crow said that the fire in his community is still under investigation, adding that the fact it came on the heels of overnight fires that destroyed two other churches in the Okanagan earlier this week is suspicious.

"There's got to be something more to it," he said. "It's not just coincidence."

RCMP said they're treating Saturday's fires as suspicious, and investigating any possible links to the Okanagan church fires, reported CBC News.

The RCMP on Monday said that the Sacred Heart church on Penticton Indian Band lands and St. Gregory's church on Osoyoos Indian Band lands burned to the ground and police were treating the fires as suspicious.

The incident comes days after 751 unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school for indigenous children in Canada's Saskatchewan province, the second such discovery here in less than a month as the country con-

fronts one of the darkest chapters in its history.

The discovery came less than a month after the mass burial place of 215 children, some as young as three years old, was found at the site of a school, closed in 1978, near the Canadian town of Kamloops.

Following the discovery of graves, a probe has been opened into the circumstances and the accountability of these fatalities.

Under the Canadian schooling system for indigenous children during the 19th century, at least 150,000 students were forcibly separated from their families and incarcerated in residential schools. It is estimated that up to 6,000 children could have died in such schools. **DW**

Denmark in Euro quarterfinals with 4-0 victory over Wales

Wales took over and came to a promising chance with ten minutes played as Gareth Bale missed the target from 18 metres just wide

BERLIN: Denmark cruised into the quarterfinals after a brace from Kasper Dolberg and late goals from Joakim Maehle as well as Martin Braithwaite edged uninspired Wales in the round of last 16 in Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena on Saturday.

After a lively opening period from both sides, Wales took over and came to a promising chance with ten minutes played as Gareth



WALES VS DENMARK: Wales couldn't reply and tried their luck with the long-range efforts but the attempts from Daniel James and Joe Allen were harmless.

Bale missed the target from 18 metres just wide.

Denmark though cut a better figure in front of the target as they clinically broke the deadlock with their first opportunity after Dolberg had enough time and space at the edge of the area to give the ball a couple of touches before drilling it past Wales goalkeeper Danny Ward in the 27th minute.

The Danes kept the "Dragons" busy but for all Dolberg was only able to test Ward from sharp angle in the closing stages of the first half.

After the restart, Denmark continued on the front foot and shocked Wales with the 2-0 lead after Neco Williams cleared a dangerous ball across the goal into the path of Dolberg, who made no mistake to tap home from very close in the 48th minute.

Wales couldn't reply and tried their luck with the long-range efforts but the attempts from Daniel James and Joe Allen were harmless. Meanwhile, Denmark remained a menace with every attack, yet Mathias Jensen lacked in

accuracy and missed the far corner just wide with 66 minutes gone.

Wales couldn't prevent Denmark from attacking as Jensen's ball into the area allowed Maehle to overcome Ward from seven metres and tripling the lead with two minutes until the final whistle.

However, things went from bad to worse for the "Dragons" as Harry Wilson saw a straight red card for a rude foul play before Denmark's Braithwaite made it four after tapping home Andreas Cornelius assist at the far post.

With the win, Denmark face either the Netherlands or Czech Republic in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

"I actually don't know how I feel. This is total madness. It's surreal. It was here it all started for me, and to play here again in this setting was insane," former Ajax Amsterdam player Kasper Dolberg said.

"It had to end this way with him scoring on his old home ground. I had a good feeling about him, and he was fantastic," Denmark head coach Kasper Hjulmand said.

-Xinhua

EURO CUP

FORMULA ONE

Italy see off Austria 2-1 in extra time to reach quarterfinals at Euro 2020



QUARTERFINALS: Italy won all three group matches to advance into the last-16 round comfortably without conceding a goal.

LONDON: Italy needed to fight until the extra time to see off their last-16 opponents Austria 2-1 at the European Championship in London on Saturday.

Italy won all three group matches to advance into the last-16 round comfortably without conceding a goal. They traveled to London to take on Austria, who reached the knockout phase of the competition for the first time.

Since the start of the match, the Azzurri launched attack one after another. They could easily push to the front especially from the left flank with an active left defender

Leonardo Spinazzola, but failed to achieve any goal when facing the tough defence from Austria.

Their best chance in the first half came in the 32nd minute when Ciro Immobile's curved long shot hit the left top corner of the woodwork.

After the interval, Austria threatened more often in the box while the Italian players showed sign of impatience.

In the 65th minute, Bayern Munich David Alaba headed the ball across the box and Marko Arnautovic nodded it in from close range. But a lengthy VAR check

ruled out the goal for offside.

A scoreless tie in the regular time saw the game at Wembley went into extra time. Italy made breakthrough soon as late substitute Federico Chiesa swept home a small angled shot near the post in the 95th minute.

Ten minutes later, Matteo Pessina added a second for Italy while Austria pulled one back with Sasa Kalajdzic's header in the closing stage.

Italy will face the winners between defending champions Portugal and Belgium in the quarterfinals. Xinhua

Red Bull's Verstappen claims pole position for Styrian GP

STYRIA: Max Verstappen gave Red Bull the perfect start to the first of two races on home soil by delivering a scintillating lap to fend off Mercedes duo Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton as he snatched pole position for the Styrian Grand Prix on Saturday.

According to Formula One, the Red Bull Ring has been a happy hunting ground for Verstappen in years gone by, with the two-time winner looking to have his RB16B hooked up beautifully from the start of qualifying, making good progress as the one-hour session built to a crescendo. Championship leader Verstappen set provisional pole with his first run and his second lap was also good enough to take top spot, as the Mercedes challenge fell short.

Bottas popped ahead of Hamilton into second which a very tidy lap at the death, but he'll drop back to fifth following a three-place penalty for 'dangerous driving' when he spun in the pit lane during practice.

That promotes Hamilton to the second spot, having crossed the line third, with the Mercedes driver opting to do three runs in Q3 having saved a set of soft tyres from the opening segment.

McLaren's Lando Norris ended up a strong fourth - which will become third for the second time at this track, following Bottas' penalty - ahead of the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez.



Pierre Gasly showed strong pace throughout - and was quickest of all in Q2 - qualifying sixth for AlphaTauri, his sixth top-six start in eight Grands Prix weekends.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was seventh, ahead of Yuki Tsunoda who made his second Q3 appearance in the last three Grands Prix, but is under investigation for an alleged block of Bottas.

Fernando Alonso was Alpine's sole representative in Q3, after team mate Esteban Ocon was knocked out in the first part of the session, with the Spaniard ninth as Aston Martin's Lance Stroll out-qualified teammate Sebastian Vettel for the first time in four races to close out the top 10. ANI

WEST INDIES VS SOUTH AFRICA

Evin Lewis, Fabien Allen star as West Indies defeat South Africa in 1st T20I

ST GEORGE : An electric batting display by the West Indies saw them take a 1-0 lead in the opener of the five-match T20 series against South Africa at the National Cricket Stadium on Saturday at the National Cricket Stadium.

South Africa was outplayed particularly in the batting department, thanks to a West Indian outfit that packed a marked difference in personnel, with players such as captain Kieron Pollard, Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo and Andre Russell returning to the fold as they begin their preparation for the ICC T20 World Cup later this year. It was the batting prowess of Evin Lewis that got the hosts the quick-fire start that they were looking for.

He smashed seven sixes and four boundaries on his way to 71 from 35 balls in their reply to South Africa's under-par 160/6 after being put in to bat first. Lewis shared a partnership of 85 runs with Andre Fletcher to get their side off to a start which the visitors never recovered from.

Gayle and Russell contributed



with unbeaten scores of 32 (24) and 23 (12) respectively, as their side cantered to an easy win. The only breakthroughs came by way of a direct hit by Lungi Ngidi (0/46) to remove Fletcher at the end of the 7th over and Tabraiz

Shamsi (1/27), who finally ended Lewis' reign in the 12th.

Earlier in the match, Quinton de Kock and Reeza Hendricks got their side off to a good start with the bat as they put on 33 runs for the opening stand before the lat-

ter was bowled out by Fabian Allen for 17 (11). De Kock hit two maximums and two boundaries as he raced to 37 from 24 balls, before his knock was brought to a screeching halt by Russell (1/29) in the seventh.

Captain, Temba Bavuma (22 off 20), tried to stabilise the ship with Rassie van der Dussen - who returned unbeaten for 56 off 38 - but their partnership soon ended when Allen struck again. The rest of the line-up could not manage to get a start. David Miller (9), Heinrich Klaasen (7) and George Linde all fell for single figures - Linde without scoring, thanks to Bravo (2/30) and Jason Holder (1/29).

The second match takes place later today at the same venue, which does not give the tourists much time to work on what needs turning around, but they are still confident that they can do so.

Brief Scores: South Africa 160/6 (Rassie van der Dussen 56, Quinton de Kock 37, Fabien Allen 2-18); West Indies 161/2 (Evin Lewis 71*, Chris Gayle 32, Tabraiz Shamsi 1-27). ANI

ENGLAND VS SRI LANKA

Morgan impressed with England's bowling performance in T20I series against SL

SOUTHAMPTON : After defeating Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series, England captain Eoin Morgan hailed his side's bowling performance in all three games.

Dawid Malan fired a sensational fifty before David Willey picked three wickets to help England defeat Sri Lanka by 89 runs in the third and final T20I on Saturday. England clean-swept Sri Lanka 3-0 in the T20I series with Saturday's thrashing win over the visitors. The hosts scored 180 in their 20 overs and then folded Sri Lanka for 91 in the dead rubber to seal the series.

"The biggest thing for me out of this series has been our bowling performance. The guys adapted to the conditions extremely well. To bowl first 16 overs of all seam today was outstanding. We can't fault the bowlers for anything, looking towards the T20 World Cup, we're looking to improve our powerplay and death-bowling," said Morgan at the post-match presentation.

"We have made some great strides and I am proud of the way the guys have performed. It's a great opportunity for the guys to



stake their claim for the World Cup. We are aware of the capabilities of the players. Today was a great example. It was a hugely commendable opening partnership from Jonny and Dawid," he added.

Talking about the series loss, Sri Lanka skipper Kusal Perera said: "We know it was always going to be tough but the batting has not been upto the mark. We are not used to the pace and bounce and the execution was not great and we need to have good back-up plans facing a team like this. We have to take responsibility and play to our strengths and that's the best way to approach these kinds of situations." ANI

PLATFORM FOR SMEs

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) announced the launch of "tjjara" a new efficient digital banking platform for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that enables businesses to apply for loans online for the first time in the kingdom.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,044.79 points, down 0.05 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.24 per cent at 589.66 points. Oman Oil Marketing, up 9.66 per cent, was the top gainer while Salalah Mills, down 7.81 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman registers over 20% increase in SMEs

The Governorate of Muscat witnessed an increase of 20.3 per cent, followed by the Governorate of North Al Batinah which saw an increase of 20.4 per cent, NCSI latest statistics reveal



NCSI DATA: The number of SMEs registered in the Governorate of Muscat stood at 17,927 at the end of May 2021, followed by the Governorate of North Al Batinah with 8,411. - File picture

MUSCAT: The total number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) registered in the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development till the end of May 2021 stood at 53,166, compared to 44,197 in May 2020, an increase of 20.3 per cent, according to the data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The Governorate of Muscat witnessed an increase of 20.3 per cent, followed by the Governorate of North Al Batinah which saw an increase of 20.4 per cent, NCSI lat-

est statistics reveal.

An increase was also marked in the number of SMEs in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah by 18.5 per cent, the Governorate of Dhofar by 19.3 per cent, the Governorate of South Al Batinah by 23.6 per cent, the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah by 17.5 per cent, the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah by 25.5 per cent, the Governorate of Al Dhahira by 14.7 per cent, the Governorate of Al-Buraimi by

22.3 per cent, the Governorate of Al-Wusta by 39 per cent and the Governorate of Musandam by 17.3 per cent.

The number of SMEs registered in the Governorate of Muscat stood at 17,927 at the end of May 2021, followed by the Governorate of North Al Batinah with 8,411, the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah with 6,616, the Governorate of Dhofar with 4,439, the Governorate of South Al Batinah with

4,049, the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah with 3,527, the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah with 3,158, the Governorate of Al Dhahira with 3,016 and the Governorate of Al Buraimi with 1,135 registered SMEs.

The number of SMEs registered in the Governorate of Al Wusta stood at 691 and the Governorate of Musandam 197, which was the lowest among governorates registered in May 2021. -ONA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After facing unprecedented changes in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) confidence in Mena is on the rise, according to the latest research by Mastercard.

The inaugural Mastercard Middle East and Africa (MEA) SME Confidence Index found 81 per cent of SMEs in Mena are optimistic about the next 12 months. In fact, 77 per cent are projecting revenues that will either grow or hold steady. Over half (56 per cent) are projecting an increase.

Access to data, digitalisation and skills key for future growth

As many regional economies gradually enter the normalisation and growth phase, and social restrictions continue to ease, small and medium-sized businesses in Mena have identified better data and insights (42 per cent), easier access to credit (41 per cent) and upskilling staff (40 per cent), as the top three drivers for growth. This highlights the opportunities for small businesses that arise from internal transformation as well as industry regulations and trends.

Making sure that SMEs have all the support they need to go digital and grow digital is a key focus for Mastercard. The company works closely with the government, financial organisations and the wider business community to create opportunities for SMEs across the region.

Mastercard has pledged \$250 million and committed to connecting 50 million micro, small and medium-sized businesses globally to the digital economy by 2025 using its technology, network, expertise and resources in support of the company's goal of building a more sustainable and inclusive digital economy. As part of these efforts, Mastercard is focused on connecting 25 million women entrepreneurs. For many small businesses, reducing their dependence on cash through digital payments acceptance has played a major factor in being able to get paid and maintain revenues.

"The results from the SME Confidence Index clearly indicate an upliftment in sentiment that

most businesses across Mena are feeling today. This is a positive sign for the region on its journey to economic recovery, and a clear indication of the power of technology in helping enable this growth. As a technology enabler of choice, Mastercard is working closely with small and medium businesses across the region to ensure that their needs are being heard and met with the latest tools and technology that can help them make the most of out of an evolving digital economy," said Khalid Elgibali - Division President, Mena, Mastercard.

Key concern

When asked about the main thing that keeps them up at night, 50 per cent of SMEs in Mena mentioned the challenge to maintain and grow their business was their top issue. Looking at concerns over the next 12 months, over half (53 per cent) identified the rising cost of doing business, while 39 per cent cited access to capital. Private sector partnerships (58 per cent) and government-led initiatives (53 per cent) were identified as having the biggest potential to positively impact SMEs and the wider Mena market.

"With rising costs among the key concerns of SMEs in Mena, it is crucial that we prioritise a safe and secure digital economy that can keep commerce going, enable healthy cash flows, and support access to capital by virtue of a digital track record. A strong digital economy benefits everyone in multiple ways, from SMEs being able to grow their customer base through eCommerce, to consumers having a choice of payment methods. Transforming a smart economy through technology, insights and omnichannel solutions is how Mastercard supports businesses of all sizes," added Elgibali.

As consumer trends evolve in a post-pandemic world, businesses must adapt and prepare for the future. Mastercard's Economic Outlook 2021 estimated that 20-30 per cent of the COVID-19 related surge in e-commerce would be a permanent trend in the share of overall retail spending globally. Furthermore, recent studies from Mastercard showed that 74 per cent of consumers in Mena are shopping more online than they did since the start of the pandemic.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA to update electronic link between insurance firms, policyholders and ROP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) recently announced a tender for the operation and maintenance of the e-insurance systems which was launched in 2008 in continuation of the development and improvement of the services related to digital transformation. The system links the insurance companies, Royal Oman Police (ROP) and insurance policyholders.

CMA aims to enhance the role of technology and maximise its uses especially its role in serving the policyholders and other



stakeholders to ease registration, renewal, transfer and export of motor vehicles and issuance of registration certificates. It also furnishes for insurance compa-

nies a database containing specific data on the drivers and vehicles such as traffic accidents and violations for use in underwriting.

The system allows the CMA to

monitor and follow up the business of insurance companies to evaluate their performance.

The system comprises software, operation licenses, linking devices, servers and provides an environment linking 15 insurance companies carrying out motor insurance business with policyholders and ROP for quality and improved service to policyholders and enhances the supervision process.

Motor insurance is among the top insurance activities with more than 1.402 million insurance policies at 85.4 per cent of the insurance policies and direct premiums at OMR113.3 million.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Rising world food prices causing concerns among people: IMF

WASHINGTON: Global food prices have rallied to multi-year highs, triggered by COVID-19 pandemic-related supply chain disruptions and soaring transport costs, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

More is likely to come since international food prices are expected to increase by about 25 per cent in 2021 from 2020, wrote IMF's Christian Bogmans, Andrea Pescatori and Ervin Prifti in a new blog. They are expected to stabilise later this year.

The recent sharp increase in international food prices has already slowly started to feed into domestic consumer prices in some regions as retailers, unable to absorb the rising costs, are passing on the increases to consumers. However, food price inflation started increasing before the pandemic.

At the start of the pandemic, food supply chain disruptions, a shift from food services (such as dining out) towards retail grocery and consumer stockpiling (coupled with a sharp appreciation of the US dollar) pushed up consumer food price indices in many countries.

Consumer food inflation peaked in April 2020 even though producer prices of primary commodities, including food and en-

ergy, were declining sharply as demand for primary food commodities was disrupted. By early summer 2020, however, various consumer food prices had moderated, pushing down consumer food inflation in many countries.

At the same time, wrote the IMF economists, ocean freight rates have increased two to three times in the last 12 months while higher gasoline prices and truck driver shortages in some regions are pushing up the cost of road transport services. Higher transport costs will eventually increase consumer food inflation.

From their trough in April 2020, international food prices have increased by 47.2 per cent attaining their highest levels in May 2021 since 2014. Between May 2020 and May 2021, soybean and corn prices increased by more than 86 and 111 per cent respectively.

Finally, wrote the IMF economists, for emerging markets and developing economies an additional risk factor is the currency depreciation against the US dollar - possibly due to falling export and tourism revenues and net capital outflows.

Since most food commodities are traded in US dollars, countries with weaker currencies have seen their food import bill increase. -ANI

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Oil Marketing, up 9.66 per cent, was the top gainer while Salalah Mills, down 7.81 per cent, was the top loser on Sunday

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,044.79 points, down 0.05 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.24 per cent at 589.66 points. Oman Oil Marketing, up 9.66 per cent, was the top gainer while Salalah Mills, down 7.81 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Madina Takaful were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while National Aluminum Product was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 882 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.8 million, with more than 20 million shares changing hands.

Out of 59 traded stocks, GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR52,000 while local investors were net buy-

ers for OMR29,000 followed by GCC and Arab investors for OMR23,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,424.88 points, up 0.12 per cent. Oman & Emirates Holding, Oman Arab Bank, Al Madina Investment, Global Investment Holding and Al Omaniya Financial Services were up 7.69 per cent, 4.57 per cent, 4.17 per cent, 3.33 per cent and 2.42 per cent respectively. Muscat Finance, Sohar International Bank and Al Sharqia Investment were down 1.64 per cent, 1.03 per cent and 0.98 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,968.24 points, up 0.26 per cent. National Aluminum Product, Oman Cables Industry, Voltamp Energy and Raysut Cement were up 7.35 per cent, 5.05 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 0.69 per cent.

Services Index was up by 0.10 per cent before closing at 1,709.95 points. — **United Securities**

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,051.16	4,042.27	4,044.79	4,046.88	-2.09	-0.05
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,432.70	6,418.80	6,424.88	6,417.40	7.48	0.12
Industry Index	6,013.24	5,961.84	5,968.25	5,952.93	15.32	0.26
Services Index	1,713.54	1,707.97	1,709.96	1,708.32	1.63	0.10
MSX Shariah Index	591.97	589.66	589.66	591.06	-1.39	-0.24
MSX TR INDEX	4,864.57	4,853.90	4,856.93	4,859.44	-2.51	-0.05

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
20,087,967	2,814,796	882	21,512,000,254	20	12	27	59

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 27

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM000001707	272,404	312,337	20	1.130	1.185	1.130	1.145	1.090	0.055	5.046	1.150	1.130	1.195	0.100	102,706,500
OM000000224	25,000	10,370	3	0.416	0.416	0.410	0.414	0.404	0.010	2.475	0.410	0.400	0.416	0.100	97,874,740
OM000000207	469,107	59,432	21	0.126	0.127	0.126	0.127	0.124	0.003	2.419	0.127	0.125	0.132	0.100	37,075,767
OM000000892	154,333	13,427	11	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.001	1.163	0.087	0.086	0.089	0.100	8,700,000
OM000000152	250,113	27,735	18	0.109	0.112	0.109	0.111	0.110	0.001	0.909	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	26,307,780
OM000000172	799,800	89,757	51	0.111	0.113	0.111	0.112	0.111	0.001	0.901	0.111	0.111	0.112	0.100	22,440,000
OM000000148	740,200	216,717	44	0.283	0.288	0.280	0.283	0.281	0.002	0.687	0.288	0.291	0.298	0.100	58,800,000
OM000000197	165,000	86,000	6	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.388	0.092	0.503	0.480	0.384	0.400	0.100	40,000,000
OM000000140	400	315	1	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.788	0.788	0.800	0.100	126,000,000
OM0000001749	89,657	22,428	9	0.253	0.254	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.255	0.100	82,718,178
OM0000002786	1,000	420	1	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.444	0.100	26,317,857
OM0000003026	518,419	216,896	27	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.422	0.100	1,501,273,413
OM0000002198	149,334	70,660	7	0.474	0.474	0.470	0.474	0.476	-0.002	-0.420	0.474	0.470	0.474	0.100	104,280,000
OM0000003968	6,621	2,715	4	0.412	0.412	0.408	0.410	0.412	-0.002	-0.485	0.408	0.408	0.412	0.100	266,887,134
OM0000005005	37,000	13,194	3	0.360	0.360	0.354	0.356	0.358	-0.002	-0.559	0.354	0.354	0.368	0.100	19,580,000
OM0000002440	212,800	21,502	7	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.102	-0.001	-0.980	0.101	0.101	0.105	0.100	9,800,000
OM0000003398	350,000	33,650	12	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	233,712,647
OM0000002176	22,150	8,481	6	0.388	0.388	0.380	0.382	0.386	-0.004	-1.036	0.384	0.380	0.384	0.100	4,711,021
OM0000001580	286,000	17,875	10	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.638	0.060	0.059	0.066	0.100	18,428,780
OM0000001160	72,712	11,150	12	0.158	0.158	0.153	0.153	0.157	-0.004	-2.548	0.153	0.150	0.153	0.100	13,005,000
Total	23	4,688,842	1,240,518	291											

Parallel Market

OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	20,000	18,160	4	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.828	0.080	9.662	0.908	0.828	0.908	0.100	55,637,700
OM0000001881	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	2,139,960	149,854	88	0.067	0.071	0.067	0.070	0.065	0.005	7.692	0.071	0.068	0.071	0.100	8,531,230
OM0000001319	ALUMINUM PROD.	2,940,887	431,211	154	0.138	0.149	0.138	0.146	0.136	0.010	7.393	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.100	4,901,452
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	15,809	2,924	6	0.181	0.187	0.181	0.185	0.175	0.010	5.714	0.185	0.180	0.185	0.100	5,550,000
OM0000003280	OMAN ARAB BANK	72,000	13,182	4	0.176	0.184	0.176	0.182	0.175	0.008	4.371	0.182	0.177	0.184	0.100	30,505,030
OM0000004689	SHARQIAH DESALIN	10,000	1,200	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.115	0.005	4.348	0.120	0.115	0.120	0.100	11,736,259
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INV.	21,000	4,333	2	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.100	2,487,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	104,100	6,454	5	0.062	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.060	0.002	3.333	0.062	0.062	0.063	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	15,914	2,417	5	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.002	1.333	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.100	12,372,218
OM0000003281	TANGER FINEANCE	654,000	53,020	31	0.080	0.082	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.001	1.250	0.081	0.081	0.083	0.100	20,540,790
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,094,566	317,889	89	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.103	0.102	0.001	0.980	0.103	0.103	0.105	0.100	18,025,000
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	1,000	340	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.165	0.175	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	16,390	1,475	2	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.094	0.100	2,776,500
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	70,000	7,050	4	0.100	0.105	0.100	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.100	0.101	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000001579	OMAN FISHERIES	8,900	493	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.090	0.100	10,625,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK	4,000	3,520	3	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.880	0.880	0.900	0.100	85,500,000
OM0000003274	UNITED FINANCE	2,100,989	127,526	88	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	20,945,665
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	500,000	63,000	1	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.126	0.122	0.126	0.100	37,750,281
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	444,644	38,900	30	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.100	16,407,675
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	2,110	93	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.047	0.100	9,945,450
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	39,401	3,782	4	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.100	144,000,000
OM0000004726	SEMO CORP SALAH	10,000	473	3	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.086	0.100	80,184,044
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	2,045,100	204,542	7	0.102	0.102	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.099	0.102	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATRAH POWER	7,000	2,491	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.353	0.353	0.100	37,900,000
OM0000005863	PHOENIX POWER	414,000	20,286	19	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	71,697,472
OM0000006079	OMAN QATAR INSUR	127,000	18,415	8	0.143	0.145	0.143	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000007943	NATIONAL LIFE INS	5,675	2,325	3	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.390	0.394	0.000	0.000	0.394	0.390	0.394	0.100	104,410,000
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	40,760	2,201	3	0.055	0.055	0.054	0.054	0.055	-0.001	-1.818	0.054	0.054	0.056	0.100	38,577,942
OM0000003985	AL KAMEL POWER	7,000	1,680	1	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	23,100,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	227,596	29,917	8	0.138	0.138	0.130	0.131	0.140	-0.009	-6.429	0.130	0.132	0.140	0.100	29,113,440
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	43,384	30,727	3	0.700	0.800	0.700	0.708	0.708	-0.090	-7.813	0.800	0.800	0.768	0.100	35,373,849
Total	31	15,262,943	1,554,458	583												

MARITIME TOURISM

Abu Dhabi announces resumption of cruise liners

ABU DHABI: The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), has announced the resumption of cruise liners in Abu Dhabi starting from September 1, after months of closure in 2020 as a result of the strict COVID-19 precautionary measures.

In 2019, maritime tourism in Abu Dhabi witnessed impressive growth, resulting in a record-break-

ing year for the sector. Around 500,000 cruise visitors arrived in the Emirate's ports throughout the year which marked a 46 per cent increase compared to 2018. Similarly, the number of cruise calls witnessed a rise of 43 per cent in 2019 to reach a total of 192.

"We are delighted to welcome all cruise liners back to Abu Dhabi after a challenging year. This step

comes as part of the leading efforts to enliven the Emirate's tourism sector after the impressive results we've achieved in combating the spread of the pandemic, and yet another step towards strengthening the UAE capital's position as a world-class hub for maritime tourism," said Ali Al Shaiba, Executive Director of Tourism and Marketing at DCT Abu Dhabi.

46% of consumers expect effects of pandemic to last another year

DUBAI: Increased vaccinations (47 per cent) and continued protective and social distancing measures (28 per cent) will be key to rebuilding UAE consumers' confidence to visit public places (stores, restaurants and supermarkets) moving forward. This is according to a study commissioned by Kearney; the third in a series of surveys exploring consumer shopping habits since the onset of the pandemic.

The results reveal that as spending habits continue to evolve, UAE consumers stay cautious, with 46 per cent expecting the effects of the pandemic to last at least another year. It also highlights that expenditure on essential items (which constitutes food and beverage (F&B) as well as non-F&B items) has shown a sustained increase, while spending on non-essentials (clothes, bags and accessories) continues to decline.

73 per cent of consumers have admittedly changed their shopping habits to adapt to the "new normal", with a larger portion of women reporting changing habits (81 per cent) than men (67 per cent). Those aged between 30-45 recorded the highest change (80 per cent) followed by those under 30 years of age (73 per cent).

When looking more closely into how habits have changed, 23 per cent have reduced expenditure on essential items by up to 50 per cent compared to pre-pandemic, however, over a third (34 per cent) of respondents have increased spending by over 25 per cent. Conversely, spending on non-essentials has decreased by 41 per cent, with only 23 per cent of respondents increasing spend in this area.

Within the essential item's category, 16 per cent of respondents have upgraded to higher-priced, better quality items, with the high-

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Indian male, B.Com, MBA, Finance 23 years of experience in Accounts, Audit & Finance (last 14 years in Oman) is looking for a suitable opportunity. D/L & NOC available. Contact 93231040
Email: trp270172@gmail.com

Finance & Accounts person, looking for Manager/Asst. Manager position. 18 Years' experience in accounts, last 12 years in Oman. Knowledge of MIS Reporting, finance & accounts up to finalization. Experience in trading, logistics & construction industries. # 98042943 / cb3415@gmail.com

Indian Female PGDM (Finance & Marketing, worked as Associate with KPMG India, currently in Oman looking for a suitable opening. Contact 79629993

ADMIN/HR

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

BM, with 26 yrs exp of large FMCG distribution looking for better prospect. Contact 90925520

Indian Female, Msc. (Mathematics) looking suitable job position. No experience, currently in Oman. Contact 91169195
Email: cb3415@gmail.com

Indian female, 8 years experience coordination, ex-secretary, admin asst. Contact 92243552

Omani male 15 yrs experience in the field of Public relation & good communication skill looking for a suitable placement. Contact 97407500. Email khalidoman017@gmail.com

ENGINEER

MEP Engineer 15 Yrs, EXP. Maintenance Manager Arabic/English D/L. Contact 95752101

An Egyptian construction engineer with 11 years experience in government projects and another with great experience in reviewing the designs of all types of constructions and following up and completing the project to the fullest. Contact 96965100

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MEP Engineer, 16yrs experience in Building construction in MEP works seeks new opportunity. Contact 94556412.
Email ID: prabhatm82@gmail.com

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Civil Engineer, Having 12 years of experience. Seeking a suitable job, Having Oman D/L. # 92667903
Email: firozbakhtiar2@gmail.com

Project Manager/Engineer (Electrical) with 10 Years Experience in Oman at (Primary & Distribution Substations and OHL) Tendering, Estimation and Execution, Oman D/L & NOC Available. Contact 9909 2164. Email Awiloo0018@gmail.com

MEP Mechanical Engineer with 2 years Experience. Contact 79027224. Email mhmdsalah6a@hotmail.com

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Looking for driving job, 8 yrs experience in Oman. Languages known - Arabic, English & Hindi. Contact 97002240

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Contact 94549278

FINANCE
Female, MBA Finance, 3 years experience (1.5 years in a Big Four as Tax Consultant), immediately available for Finance/Accounts job.
Contact +968-93213813

Project Director/ Contracts Administrator
Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer, Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.
Please contact - 78022980

Accounts & Finance
Indian Male with more than 25 years experience in Accounts and Finance field, holding Omani driving license, NOC available, seeking challenging opportunity.
Contact on Tel : 95803522

Sr Accountant/Financial Controller
(M.COM) Indian Male 32 Year. 11 Years Exp in Finance/Accounts/ VAT/Budget/Payroll Software SAP, Excellent in SAP/MS Office/ MIS. Looking suitable placement having Oman driving licence & NOC.
Contact 94684007
Email: vveer555@gmail.com

Senior BSc Civil Engineer
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HR / Admin
Female with 13yrs of experience in HR/Admin field is looking for job opportunities. Available to start immediately.
Contact 79285929

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CONTACT 99283938

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GSM: 96409439
Email: farhansiddiqi2014@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER
Indian Male B. Com, MBA having 14 yrs Exp in Accounts/Finance & Admin, upto finalisation, OODO, ERP, Tally & Online Softwares. Oman D/L, Noc/Release Available.
Email: mq_199820@yahoo.co.in
GSM: 99279626

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Contact 94887879
Email: amani.alhaj94@gmail.com

MANAGER
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Contact: 95070748
Email: siyabi1430@gmail.com

OMANI HR/PRO
Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.
Contact 97264447

Software Professional
Indian female, 27 years, Software professional (MCA), having 4 years experience in MNC seeks a suitable job in Muscat. Currently on visit visa.
Contact 78037607

HR & Administration Professional
With Executive Assistant Exposure, Well Experienced With Oman Labour Law, Well Versed In Office Management, New Office Induction & Administration, Indian Male, With Valid Oman Driving Licence, NOC Available, Seeks Suitable Placements.
GSM: 94 94 86 76

ACCOUNTANT
Indian female having MBA with 15yrs exp as Accountant and Accounts Officer looking for suitable placement. Having Valid Visa, NOC.
Contact: 98783111
Email: anjubinus@gmail.com

Mechanical Engineer
Indian B.E., (Mechanical) with 19 years Oman Experience in MEP system Design, Supervision, Execution & Maintenance of Comm./Res. Buildings, hotels, Hospitals, HyperMarkets, PDO & Govt. Palace and RGO is looking for suitable Opening. Valid D/L, NOC available.
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Contact 98921022
akhfarmahmood3137@gmail.com

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ACCA,CIA, CRMA and Masters Degree with 9 years of diversified experience and valid Oman driving licence; looking for suitable opportunity in Finance/Accounting /Audit.
Contact No: +96891735780
Email: cia.acca1989@gmail.com

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SRI LANKAN)
CA, CPA, BSc. (Accountancy & Business Finance) Special with 12 years of experience (6th year in Oman) is looking for an opening. DL, NOC are available.
GSM: 78259755

JOB WANTED

IT
Indian Female, Master Degree in Computer Science. Seeking for suitable jobs. Currently available in Oman (Sohar). Contact 79566592.

LOGISTIC
Young Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272 Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES / MARKETING

Indian Sales executive, B.Com with D/L looking for job. Has Visa. Contact 78040248
26, Indian male born in Oman, with 3years of experience, having valid D/L, looking for suitable placement in Engineering Sales/Marketing Field Holder of Bachelors in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering. Contact 98914229
Indian male (30) MBA with Oman experience (FMCG and Retail) in Sales and Marketing valid Omani D/L on visit. Contact 79755795

Indian male B.com graduate, PG Diploma in logistic (Air cargo and supply chain management) and Digital Marketing Valid Oman Driving License. Looking for suitable placement. Contact 79748272 Email: shazil.sadique@gmail.com
Inventory, Purchase & Accounts: Indian male 31, having 8 years experience in Retail, F&B, Operations and various other skills. NOC available. Contact 96219904 Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

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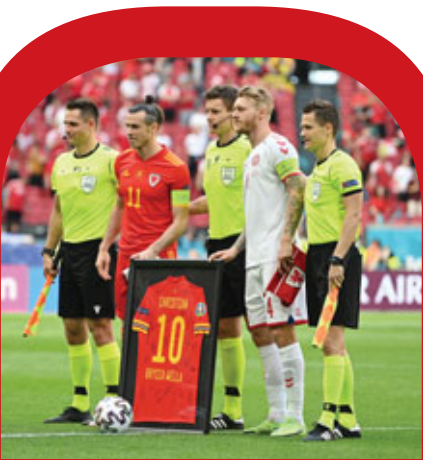
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WALES SEND BEST WISHES TO ERIKSEN

BALE WINS HEART WITH LOVELY GESTURE FOR DANISH MIDFIELDER

1



AMSTERDAM: Wales national football team on Saturday presented a jersey with Christian Eriksen's name on it to Denmark skipper Simon Kjaer before the two teams got ready to lock horns in the round of 16 in the ongoing Euro 2020.

Earlier this month, Eriksen had collapsed on the pitch while playing for Denmark against Finland in the ongoing Euro 2020. He was later taken to the hospital. The framed jersey of the Wales team was numbered ten which Eriksen wears while playing. Kjaer, Wales captain Gareth Bale and match officials posed for a picture with the jersey

"Wales send their best wishes to Christian Eriksen," UEFA Euro 2020 tweeted.

Last week, Denmark Football Association confirmed that midfielder Eriksen has been discharged from the hospital.

Christian Eriksen has been through a successful operation and was today discharged from Rigshospitalet. Today he also visited the national team in Helsingor - and from there he will go home and spend time with his family," the Denmark FA had said in an official statement.

After being discharged from the hospital, Eriksen said: "Thank you for the massive number of greetings - it has been incredible to see and feel. The operation went well, and I am doing well under the circumstances. It was really great to see the guys again after the fantastic game they played last night. No need to say, that I will be cheering on them on Monday against Russia."



ROUND-UP

COVID-19

Anantara Jabal Al Akhdar Resort vaccinates its team members

MUSCAT: Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort has vaccinated its team members against COVID-19, in line with its promise to ensure employee health and wellbeing, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Badr Al Samaa Hospital.

The COVID-19 vaccination was delivered to team members at the resort this week, making Anantara the first hotel in Al Jabal Al Akhdar to have 100% of all eligible team members vaccinated.

The resort has also reinforced health and hygiene measures under Anantara's brand-wide 'Stay with Peace of Mind' programme. A dedicated Guest Guardian is responsible for overseeing health and safety standards by ensuring a series of rigid guidelines are met and surpassed at all times.

"The health and wellbeing of our guests and team members is our top priority. We have implemented the 'Stay with Peace of Mind' programme to ensure precautionary measures to combat the pan-



demie are met and have carefully followed the rules and guidelines implemented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Supreme Committee since the reopening of the resort last year," said Rami Farhat, Acting General Manager of Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort.

To celebrate, the resort is offering savings of up to 40% on the best available rate on rooms and villas to vaccinated guests for stays until August 15. Guests will need to book in advance and present their vaccination certificate upon check-in to avail of the offer. Terms and conditions apply.

OFFER

Renault Oman to cover VAT of customers on service packages

MUSCAT: Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles has launched a 'VAT on us' offer on service packages. As part of the offer, Renault Oman will cover the value-added tax (VAT) their customers are required to pay on service packages purchased until June 30.

A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, "We are happy to bear the tax our customers have to pay during the 'VAT on us' offer period. Renault offers various service packages that help care for your car and customers can experience peace of mind when you buy service packages."

He added, "Renault service makes driving more enjoyable for an easier life. With the packages, automotive maintenance is no longer a chore. To save time and give greater peace of mind, Renault Oman offers quick and easy service solutions to suit customer needs."



Understanding the importance of car servicing, Renault Oman ensures peace of mind when customers buy service packages. The benefits for those who buy service packages include priority service, package price lower than paying for every

service, protection against the price increase. Bank Muscat and NBO credit cardholders can opt for easy payment options of 0% interest for 12 instalments.

Renault packages cover servicing, maintenance and labour costs over a specified period.

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE YEAR

Top Indian award for CEO of National Life & General Insurance

MUSCAT: S. Venkatachalam, CEO of National Life & General Insurance Co (NLG) has been listed in India's Greatest Leaders 2020-21 as Global Indian of the Year.

At the helm of affairs of NLG since 2003, Venkatachalam has been efficiently driving NLG towards new horizons of growth and turned it into the market leaders and largest insurance company in Oman with branches in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait.

Under his able leadership, NLG has undergone significant transformation across various departments of customer service, IT and business operations.

Today, the company has a strong asset base, employing more than 500+ dedicated insurance professionals located across 190+ sales and service locations. NLG has taken pioneering efforts in Bancassurance and medical insurance. With in-house claims management systems, they were the first health insurers to introduce medical cards for customers for easy claims management.



NLG was also the pioneers in introducing insurance mobile app and providing end to end online digital insurance solutions.

With an experience of more than 30 years in the GCC, Venkatachalam is a leader who has won various awards and accolades including the 'CEO of The Year Award' 3 times in a row in 2018, 2019 and 2020 in Oman.

"It is indeed a moment of pride for me to get this recognition. I thank the NLG team, my family and friends for their continuous support," said Venkatachalam, upon receiving the award.

As a Lexus Al Nukhbah member, you can benefit from outstanding rewards by redeeming points earned on your Lexus card every time you pay for service or repair jobs or purchase service contracts for your Lexus vehicle at a Saud Bahwan service facility



MUSCAT: Lexus Service has recently introduced Al Nukhbah, a uniquely rewarding service loyalty programme specially designed for Lexus vehicle owners across Oman.

As a Lexus Al Nukhbah member, you can benefit from outstanding rewards by redeeming points earned on your Lexus card every time you pay for service or repair jobs or purchase service contracts for your Lexus vehicle at a Saud Bahwan service facility.

Lexus vehicles are some of the finest luxury vehicles in the industry. Right from design, technology, safety features and more, every Lex-

us vehicle stands out to offer some of the finest ownership experiences.

The key to enjoying amazing experiences in your Lexus is aptly adhering to the prescribed service schedule as advised by the experts at Lexus Service. The advantage is your Lexus will continue to remain healthy and offer fine driving experiences for longer too.

At Lexus Service, talented professionals undergo regular training, both in-house and at Lexus Japan, to ensure you benefit from the finest service experiences. The customer care at Lexus Service promptly reminds customers of their service

schedule and assists with making prior appointments, for a smooth and hassle-free service.

Across Oman, Lexus Service facilities are some of the most advanced and full-fledged facilities. Right from the large number of service bays that assist in servicing more cars at one time, to the easy availability of spare parts, advanced car diagnostic technologies, cutting-edge paint matching, denting and repairing expertise and more. Lexus Service goes the extra mile to ensure high levels of customer delight.

Another unique facility at Lexus Service is the customer lounge with Wi-Fi access, where customers can relax and unwind. From here they can even view the service process that is underway on their Lexus. Offering them even more confidence that their Lexus is in the best hands.

In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

FERRARI

296 GTB: Defining fun to drive

MARANELLO: The 296 GTB, the latest evolution of Maranello's mid-rear-engined two-seater Berlinetta, was premiered during an online event broadcast on Ferrari's social media and web channels. The 296 GTB redefines the whole concept of fun behind the wheel, guaranteeing pure emotions not just when pushing the car to its limits, but also in day-to-day driving situations.

The 296 GTB ushers in an authentic revolution for Ferrari as it introduces a new engine type to flank the marque's multi-award-winning 8- and 12-cylinder power units: a new 663 cv 120° V6 coupled with an electric motor capable of delivering a further 122 kW (167 cv). This is the first 6-cylinder engine installed on a road car sporting the Prancing Horse badge: it unleashes its massive 830 cv total power output to deliver previously unthinkable performance levels and an innovative, exhilarating and unique soundtrack.

The car's name, which combines its total displacement (2.992 l) and the number of cylinders with the GTB (Gran Turismo Berlinetta) acronym, in finest Ferrari tradition, was chosen to underscore this new engine's epoch-changing importance to Maranello: it is not simply the living, beating heart of the 296 GTB but also ushers in a new V6 era that has its roots deep in Ferrari's unparalleled 70-year-plus experience in motorsports.

The very first Ferrari V6 featured a 65° architecture and debuted on the 1957 1500 cc Dino 156 F2 single-seater. This was followed in 1958 by bigger displacement versions on the front-engined sports prototypes - the 196 S and 296 S - and F1 cars, such as the 246 F1 which powered Mike Hawthorn to



the F1 Drivers' Championship title the same year.

The very first Ferrari to sport a mid-rear-mounted V6 was the 246 SP in 1961, which won amongst others the Targa Florio both that same year and in 1962. Also in 1961, Ferrari secured its first Constructors' title in the Formula 1 World Championship with the 156 F1, which was powered by a 120° V6. Ferrari first installed turbos between an engine's cylinder banks on the 126 CK in 1981 and subsequently on the 126 C2 in 1982, which became the first turbocharged car to win the Formula 1 Constructors' World Championship title. This was followed up with a second title in 1983 with the 126 C3. Lastly, V6 turbo hybrid architecture has been used on all Formula 1 single-seaters since 2014.

The 296 GTB's plug-in hybrid (PHEV) system guarantees it is an incredibly usable car as well as cutting pedal response times to zero and delivering a 25km range in all-electric eDrive mode.

The car's compact dimensions and the introduction of innovative dynamic control systems, as well as meticulously honed aero, ensure that the driver will instantly experience its astonishing agility

and responsiveness to commands. Its sporty, sinuous design and extremely compact dimensions also visually underscore its exceptional modernity, brilliantly referencing the likes of the 1963 250 LM, the perfect marriage of simplicity and functionality.

As was the case with the SF90 Stradale, for clients who want to exploit the car's extreme power and performance to the utmost, particularly on the track, the 296 GTB is also available with the Assetto Fiorano package, which includes lightweight features and aero modifications.

Powertrain

The 296 GTB is the first Ferrari road car to sport a V6 turbo with a vee with an angle of 120° between the cylinder banks, coupled with a plug-in electric motor.

This new V6 has been designed and engineered from a clean sheet by Ferrari's engineers specifically for this installation and is the first Ferrari to feature the turbos installed inside the vee. Aside from bringing significant advantages in terms of packaging, lowering the centre of gravity and reducing engine mass, this particular architecture helps deliver extremely high levels of power.

'SHOP AND WIN'

Win OMR200 everyday with Oman Avenues Mall's Eid Bonanza

MUSCAT: Oman Avenues Mall, the Sultanate's iconic destination for shopping, dining and luxury experience has announced a fully integrated QR code-based digital 'Eid Bonanza' with an everyday spend and win OMR200 offer from June 12 to July 11.

To participate in the draw, visitors must spend OMR 5 from the participating outlets at Oman Avenues Mall. For enabling a seamless registration process, QR codes have been placed at strategic locations of the mall. The shoppers on their visit to the mall, after shopping, need to scan the QR code using QR code scanners on their smartphones and register themselves by filling in the required details and uploading their shopping receipts on <https://www.omanavenuesmall.om/eidbonanzato> become eligible for the draw that will be held to choose the winner for each day.

Two lucky winners will be entitled to an OMR 100 each worth of mall cash voucher during the promotion period. Winners of the draw will be announced weekly on the mall's social media platforms.

Elaborating about the promotion, Suad Al Wahibi, Deputy Mall General Manager, Oman Avenues Mall said, "It is all about shopping and winning at Oman Avenues Mall. With Eid Al Adha fast approaching, we are pleased to announce this special Eid Bonanza. It gives customers a chance to shop and win before Eid. This is an ideal time to reward our valuable customers and we are happy to create a meaningful experience around a festival that is close to people's heart. We are happy to



make customer rewards and incentives a key part of our strategy."

Being the Sultanate's most prominent leisure destination, Oman Avenues Mall's management feels it is vital to keep adding value to the overall experience for its visitors of the mall to best reflect its magnificence.

She added, "Taking into consideration the current pandemic situation, the winner management will be completely devoid of any human interface and the winners will be picked through online draws. Visitors who shop at Oman Avenues Mall are eligible to participate."

COVID-19 protocols

In line with the guidance of Oman's Supreme Committee, the mall has developed a comprehensive and designated set of protocols to be implemented by shoppers, retailers, employees and all parties related to the mall operations. To safeguard the health and well-being of customers, employees and other visitors, the mall has been equipped with facilities such as state-of-the-art thermal sensor cameras at multiple entry points, a dedicated sanitising crew and automated sanitiser dispensers at various locations.



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www.changanoman.com



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800 50800



9464 1010

*@Easy monthly installments are calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 year loan tenure for the respective CHANGAN basic model inclusive of 5% VAT. Subject to credit approvals from Banks. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only and actual may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the Changan Showroom.

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Offer valid from 1st May 2021 to 31st July 2021. Total of 3 raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Azaiba. Draw Dates: 1st June 2021, 1st July 2021 and 2nd August 2021. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary.

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