



Wear a mask... always!



SUNDAY, 09 MAY 2021
www.muscatdaily.com
Email: muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om
To subscribe, call toll free no: 80076000



36°C/27°C

OMAN ON SATURDAY CONDEMNED ISRAELI FORCES STORMING THE AL AQSA MOSQUE AND AFFIRMED ITS STAND IN SUPPORT OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WITH EAST JERUSALEM AS ITS CAPITAL (SEE ALSO PAGE 06)

CHINESE JAB GETS WHO LIFELINE



UN health agency approves two-dose vaccine – recommended three to four weeks apart. Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine is currently administered in several countries, including UAE

Geneva, Switzerland - The World Health Organization on Friday approved the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use - the first Chinese jab to receive the WHO's green light.

The UN health agency signed off on the two-dose vaccine, which is already being deployed in dozens of countries around the world.

The WHO has already given emergency use listing to the vaccines being made by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, and the AstraZeneca jab being produced at sites in India and in South Korea, which it counts separately.

"This afternoon, WHO gave emergency use listing to Sinopharm Beijing's COVID-19 vaccine, making it the sixth vaccine to receive WHO validation for safety, efficacy and quality," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, chief of WHO, told a news conference.

"The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation, or SAGE, has also reviewed the available data, and recommends the vaccine for adults 18 years and older, with a two-dose schedule."

An emergency use listing by the WHO paves the way for countries worldwide to quickly approve and import a vaccine for distribution, especially those states without an international-standard regulator of their own.

It also opens the door for the jabs to enter the Covax global vaccine-sharing scheme, which aims to provide equitable access to doses around the world and particularly in poorer countries.

Covax call

"The addition of this vaccine has the potential to rapidly accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries seeking to protect health workers and populations at risk," said Mariangela Simao, WHO's assistant director general for access to health products.

"We urge the manufacturer to participate in the Covax facility and contribute to the goal of more equitable vaccine distribution."

Currently only AstraZeneca and some Pfizer jabs are flowing through the scheme.

Bruce Aylward, the WHO lead on Covax, said Sinopharm was "looking at trying to provide substantial support, make substantial doses available. It has been very interested in looking at playing a role to help with the global response, which is encouraging".

The WHO recommended that the two Sinopharm shots be taken three to four weeks apart.

The vaccine's efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalised cases of COVID-19 was estimated to be 79 per cent when all age groups are combined, it said.

The agency said few adults over 60 were enrolled in clinical trials of the vaccine, so its efficacy could not be estimated in that age group.

Nevertheless, "there is no theoretical reason to believe that the vaccine has a different safety profile in older and younger populations," it said.

The Sinopharm vaccine is already in use in 42 territories around the world, fourth behind AstraZeneca (166), Pfizer-BioNTech (94) and Moderna (46), according to an AFP tally.

Besides China, it is being used in Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Peru, the United Arab Emirates, Serbia and the Seychelles, among others.

AFP



WIDE-SCALE IMMUNISATION IN JUNE, SAYS HEALTH MINISTER

Muscat - Wide-scale immunisation is expected to be rolled out in June with the target segment extended to people over 45 years and vital sectors such as security, logistics and education.

Vaccination centres will be opened in all governorates, with schools and sports complexes to be turned into mass immunisation centres. A centre will also be opened at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The ministerial team in charge of immunisation against COVID-19 held its first meeting at the Ministry of Health (MoH) on Thursday.

The meeting dealt with the COVID-19 National Immunisation Strategy, which aims at cutting down the number of infected persons, related deaths and the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic.

During the meeting, it was revealed that the sultanate will receive 1mn doses of Pfizer-BioNTech doses, in addition to 100,000 doses from other companies during the month of June. The number of vaccinated persons by the end of June is expected to reach 1.5mn.

The target segment include those aged above 45 years, pilgrims, citizens in Musandam and frontline workers at health institutions, government establishments, the Royal Oman Police, the Sultan's Armed Forces, higher education institutions, educational and teaching staff, Grade 12 students and people operating in vital sectors like the oil and gas sector, ports, airports and some private sector establishments.

The COVID-19 vaccines will also be provided to private sector establishments through clinics of big companies and licensed private health establishments.

At the meeting, H E Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al Sa'eedi, Minister of Health, informed that more than 4.37mn doses of Pfizer-BioNTech jabs were booked, along with more than 1.5mn doses reserved via the Global Alliance of Vaccines and Immunization.

More than 1mn doses of vaccines will arrive in the sultanate by June and the number of vaccinated persons by the end of June is expected to reach 1.5mn



Walking gains pace during Ramadan

Now in the last week of the holy month, walkers and joggers trying to stay fit during Ramadan can be seen even in soaring temperatures. Experts encourage exercise but caution about the effect of working out on their bodies having had no food and water during the day.

Earlier during Ramadan, I used to walk after Taraweeh prayers but with the limited time this year during the evening owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, I opt to walk an hour before iftar. Walking in Ramadan is good for those who do not want to let their fitness slide during the holy month as heavy exercise cannot be done easily.

Even though walking while fasting is a great experience, it requires courage. I have come to notice that walking before iftar minimises appetite but we need to drink lots of water after a walk to make up for lost fluids.

A nutritionist told me that having more food and sugars when exercise – physical activity in general – is minimal leads to gaining weight by the end of the month.

“Exercise can be in different forms and walking is ideal during Ramadan. However, people shouldn’t stop exercising after Ramadan,” she cautioned.

She was of the view that you can go for a walk before iftar or for more strenuous exercise after it. However, you need to be careful about the kind and time of exercise. “Exercising without

having food or liquids for a long period of time is not ideal. We need to know our body before engaging in any form of exercise,” the nutritionist said.

In order to encourage healthy living and walking in proper places, Muscat Municipality has intensified efforts to improve the quality of its services by providing and expanding footpaths in residential neighbourhoods.

In a discussion, a Muscat Municipal-

ity official told me it has been promoting walking and laying out paths for walkers and joggers in the city. “Parks and gardens also offer nice walking environment but due to the ongoing pandemic, these facilities are currently closed. However, there are walkways in several neighbourhoods across the city that can be used to exercise.”

Considering the many benefits of walking – among others, it refreshes

the memory and stimulates circulation – many walking paths have also been laid out along beaches in Muscat. Parks which have good walking and exercising facilities include Qurm Park, Riyam Park, Amerat Park and Sarooj; these locations saw an increasing number of visitors in the months prior to Ramadan. But for now, let’s stick to our neighbourhoods to stay fit.

According to health experts, as sim-

ple as it may sound, a walk of 30 minutes a day five times a week, greatly reduces the risk of many health conditions. A combination of regular exercise, balanced diet and maintaining normal body weight are effective in minimising health risks. So walking makes absolute sense to stay healthy.

And if you want to do some cardio during the day, a walk or light run is just fine. But it’s essential to start off with

light physical activity every day such as walking. Avoid high intensity exercises like sprinting or lifting heavy weights in Ramadan.

I can assure you that walking is the easiest form of exercise. You can walk at your own pace but the result is the same. But whether you walk up a hill, a flat track, slow or fast, ensure you are hydrated and take rest.

Till next time, stay fit!



MY RAMADAN TAKE
Shaddad al Musalmey

I wear a mask for your safety...

No one can be saved alone. We all have a simple tool to save each other, to prevent the pandemic from spreading and reaching us and our loved ones. This is our face mask - our first weapon against the virus. I wear it properly and change it regularly. Be smart, be safe, and wear your mask

H E Federica Favi
Ambassador of Italy in Oman

Do you?

The battle against COVID-19 is getting tough. Let’s beat it by our responsible behaviour.

Wear a mask...always!

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY

apex | apex
media | للإعلام



More activities, professions exempted from restrictions

Muscat - A set of activities and professions have been exempted from the new restrictions imposed by the Supreme Committee that began on May 8 to continue till May 15.

“Foodstuff stores that sell groceries, meat, poultry, fish, bakery products, honey, herbs, Omani sweets, spices, nuts, mineral water, ice cream, juice, fruits, vegetables and juice are exempted from the ban,” the Government Communication Centre stated.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion said that it is permissible to conduct business inside a facility or shop without the entry of customers for any commercial activity that is not mentioned in the list of excluded activities.



Heavy rains reported in many parts of the sultanate

Muscat - Heavy to moderate rains were reported in several governorates on Sunday after the Met department predicted rains accompanied by strong winds of 30 to 45 knots over Muscat, Dakhliyah, North Batinah, South Batinah, North Sharqiyah, South Sharqiyah, Buraimi and Dhahirah.

The National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre stated that a trough of low pressure (Al Ataya) is expected to affect the sultanate till Monday. ‘Varying intensity of rain with occasional thundershowers associated with fresh to strong winds and hail are expected over Musandam and Al Hajar Mountains and its surroundings,’ the centre stated.

Inclement weather may extend to the coastal areas of North Batinah, South Batinah, Muscat and South Sharqiyah accompanied with flash floods. There are chances of isolated rain over parts of Al Wusta governorate.

Slaughterhouse working hours announced for Eid

Muscat - Muscat Municipality has revised the working hours of municipal slaughterhouses and launched an online service to reserve sacrifices.

Individual customers are required to book in advance on its social media sites. They will receive slaughtered animals in the morning - 7.30am to 11am – starting May 10 to the third day of Eid al Fitr. Livestock of companies and butcheries for slaughter will be processed at night and delivered next morning.

The slaughterhouses will revert to normal working hours on the fourth day of Eid al Fitr.





Making Oman green

Citizen from Ibri launches initiative to distribute wild plant saplings

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A citizen has launched an initiative called 'Green Environment' to increase green areas in the sultanate and spread awareness on the importance of wild trees.

Mohammed Saeed al Hinai, 42, from the wilayat of Ibri, who launched the initiative, says he has made it a mission to contribute tirelessly in making Oman green by providing thousands of wild plant saplings, which he grows in his own nursery.

Hinai said, "I started distributing wild plant saplings in 2018. I created a small nursery at home and till now I have successfully grown 3,000 saplings."

The initiative also aims to encourage community members to plant wild trees.

"I distributed wild trees and seeds to some government and private agencies and schools in Dhofar, Dhahirah, Batinah, Dakhiliyah and Sharqiyah governorates."

In order to encourage school students to plant wild indigenous trees, Hinai said he conducted several workshops for some schools in Muscat, South Batinah and Dhahirah.

"I hope to continue planting and distributing seedlings in all the wilayats of the sultanate to make Oman's environment green," he said, adding that preserving biological diversity and protecting wildlife is everyone's responsibility and an obligation of every individual, whether a citizen or a resident of the sultanate.

"My initiative aims to cultivate seedlings of the local tree varieties, such as Sidr, Ghaf and Samar, which are among the plants that can be grown in the arid climate of the sultanate."

Recognising Hinai's efforts, the Environment Authority (EA) and some schools honoured him recently.

He said he collects seeds of wild plants from different regions of the sultanate, from the valleys, plains and mountains.



I started distributing wild plant saplings in 2018. I created a small nursery at home and till now I have successfully grown 3,000 saplings

MOHAMMED SAEED AL HINAI

"I've made a small area in my house into a nursery and also established a seed bank."

Talking about the challenges, Hinai said

that life is all about overcoming odds.

"I have faced many challenges, such as lack of financial support, and finding enough water for irrigation of plants."

Talking about his plans for the future he said, "I am seeking to obtain a plot of land to establish a special reserve for wild plants to be a knowledge source for students of schools and universities. I also plant to establish the largest nursery for the cultivation of wild plants in Oman. I hope all members of the community will cooperate in planting wild trees to make Oman's environment green."

Minister visits North Batinah to assess damage from rains

Muscat - H E Dr Saud bin Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, accompanied by Sheikh Saif bin Hamiar al Malik al Shehi, Governor of North Batinah, visited Khabourah on Saturday to inspect the damage that the wilayat suffered as a result of the inclement weather conditions.

During the visit, H E Habsi was briefed on the damage to citizens' farms and greenhouses, in addition to the fish market in the wilayat.

The minister directed officials to remove debris and uprooted palm trees from the affected farms and to provide support to farmers and those affected.

Owing to large scale destruction caused by strong winds and rains in North Batinah, the engineering services of the Ministry of Defence continue to provide backup support to the affected wilayats.

The ministry provided the electricity company in the governorate with the necessary fuel to support the electricity sector as well as provided electricity by power generators and repaired electrical lines.

The Ministry of Defence's heavy equipment also continue to reopen roads and remove waste, fallen trees and rocks, in addition to the deployment of water tankers to pump out water from inundated areas.



(Supplied photo)

Restaurants, cafés allowed to deliver round the clock

Muscat - With the Supreme Committee imposing a complete closure of commercial activities throughout the day and the 7pm to 4am movement ban from May 8 to 15, the Government Communication Centre (GCC) has clarified that restaurants and cafés are allowed to deliver orders round the clock.

According to GCC, restaurants and cafes can deliver food through a licensed food delivery company.

Restaurants and cafés can also get the necessary approval from the municipality, provided the person must be authorised to deliver the food.



Commerce ministry to provide services online

Muscat -The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has announced that it will provide its services online, starting from Sunday.

The ministry said, 'Based on the decisions of the Supreme Committees issued on May 2, regarding the restriction of employees at their place of work and working remotely in the various units of the state's administrative apparatus, starting from Sunday, May 9, the ministry assures that all services will be made available online through the Invest Easy platform during the closure period and the Eid al Fitr holiday.'

The ministry confirmed that all services will be stopped in the ministry's service halls and its directorates in all governorates.

BOSE
Better sound through research®

BOSE Products can be delivered at your doorstep during lockdown.

Contact:
SAIF: 92311039
ARCHANA: 95096843
AYAZ: 99347243
SIRAJ: 99388194



OWWC appoints Qais al Zakwani as CEO

Muscat - Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWC), the newly established entity to undertake the activities of water and wastewater sectors in all governorates of the sultanate except Dhofar, has appointed Qais bin Saud al Zakwani as its chief executive officer.

The board of directors of Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company through a press statement on Thursday announced the appointment of Zakwani as CEO.

With more than 18 years of experience, Zakwani brings a unique set of skills and utility sector knowledge, most notably in the implementation of the electricity sector restructuring and leading the Authority for Electricity Regulation as the executive director and member for six years.

Zakwani has been involved with the water restructuring project since 2016 as a member of the water and wastewater restructuring steering committee, Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company said. 'We are confident that he will successfully lead the newly formed executive leadership team to deliver on the water and wastewater restructuring objectives,' the company added.

Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company is a member of Nama Group.



Qais bin Saud al Zakwani

MENA energy investments to exceed \$805bn by 2025

Muscat - The Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (Apicorp), a multilateral development financial institution, has estimated that overall planned and committed energy sector investments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will exceed US\$805bn over the next five years (2021-2025).

In a new report, Apicorp attributes the modest rise in investments to four factors: A strong confidence in the rebound of global GDP, rising energy demand, the comeback of Libyan projects - which alone accounts for around US\$10bn in planned projects - and the accelerated pace of renewables in the region.

Apicorp said that renewables claim a significant share of almost 40 per cent of the estimated US\$250bn in power sector investments. The MENA region will add 3GW of installed solar power capacity in 2021 alone - double that of 2020 - and 20GW over the next five years.

Committed gas investments are projected to fall by US\$9.5bn to US\$75bn after completion of several megaprojects in 2020.

The report noted that additional capacity - particularly from renewables - will make power trading a more commercially viable option in MENA.

In fight against COVID variants some companies target T cell jabs



Paris, France - Getting COVID vaccines into the arms of the world's population is an international priority - but will today's jabs stay effective against virus variants that are spreading across the globe?

It is one of the big questions about the pandemic, with Pfizer chief Albert Bourla recently acknowledging that it is likely a booster will be needed to help extend the protection conferred by its vaccine and ward off new variants.

A recent study presented a mixed picture.

It found that the antibody response of current vaccines could fail against variants. However, a second immune response in the form of killer T cells - which attack already infected cells and not the virus itself - remained largely intact. Several startups are working on developing shots centred on T cells in hopes of producing a jab that would not only provide protection against new virus strains already on the loose, but also variants that don't yet exist.

Alexis Peyroles heads up French biotech firm OSE Immunotherapeutics, which is developing a vaccine that targets T cells that has just begun clinical trials.

"It could offer several years of protection," he told AFP.

Another French firm, Lyon-based Osivax, is also working on a T cell shot, promising a 'universal' vaccine that would be effective against any potential variant.

The government of France, which has yet to develop its own vaccine, is supporting the effort with millions in funding.

Such projects are far from wide-

spread. Among the 400 vaccines under development counted by the World Health Organization only a few are aimed at universal use.

The most advanced shot of its kind is the ImmunityBio vaccine under development in the United States. Very preliminary results released last month were mostly encouraging.

'Complement and broaden'

No lab foresees a final product before next year and many scientists are sceptical about the usefulness of trying to develop a shot to protect against a virus strain that doesn't yet exist. "Mass vaccination itself is a form of evolutionary 'selection' pressure," British virologist Julian Tang told AFP, "And this pressure may push the virus to evolve to escape any vaccine protection - so it can be a double-edged sword." Other questions involve the extent to which the body will be able to fight the virus with a T cell-based response.

T cells and antibodies work together to form an immune response in the body. French virologist Yves Gaudin pointed out that if an antibody response fails, "T cells don't serve much purpose".

He said he is 'doubtful about the effectiveness of such a vaccine', emphasising that an ideal vaccine would be effective in both areas.

In Europe and the United States the plan for T cell jabs, should they see the light of day, would be to give them to people who had already received the current antibody vaccines.

Peyroles confirmed that OSE's vaccine, should it prove effective in trials,

is indeed meant as a way to strengthen current inoculations.

"You would complement and broaden the response created by the first vaccines in terms of scope and time."

He added that T cell vaccines could offer protection to people who have difficulties developing antibodies due to other ailments such as diabetes or cancer.

New vaccine laboratories

Britain is spending £29.3mn on new coronavirus vaccine laboratories in an effort to 'future-proof' the country from the threat of new variants', the government said on Wednesday.

The new labs at the Porton Down research facility in southwest England will be used to test the effectiveness of vaccines against variants and speed up their deployment, according to Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

"We've backed UK science from the very start of this pandemic and this multi-million pound funding for a state-of-the-art vaccine testing facility at Porton Down will enable us to further future-proof the country from the threat of new variants," he said.

Porton Down is the secretive army base near Salisbury in south west England. The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory - its official name - employs 3,000 scientists across a sprawling rural site.

New funding will increase the site's current blood testing capacity from 700 to 3,000 samples a week, enabling scientists to measure more quickly the levels of antibodies that are generated by the vaccines.

The expanded testing capacity at

Porton Down will ensure the UK stays one step ahead of the virus and is in the best possible position to respond to new threats from COVID-19 as quickly as possible, the government said. Leading scientists are still concerned that a new variant resistant to current vaccines may lead to a new surge.

"A new variant that can escape the current vaccines is the greatest risk of a third wave," said Jenny Harries, chief executive at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). "This new investment will help us stay one step ahead of the virus by doubling our capacity to test vaccine effectiveness against emerging variants."

Meanwhile, US biotech firm Moderna announced initial data from a small clinical trial that showed its booster shots improved people's immune responses against key coronavirus variants of concern.

"We are encouraged by these new data, which reinforce our confidence that our booster strategy should be protective against these newly detected variants," said the company's CEO Stephane Bancel.

Forty participants were tested for their levels of neutralising antibodies six to eight months after their primary vaccination series of two shots.

A third shot of either the original Moderna vaccine or a variant-specific booster improved antibody levels against two major variants, which were first detected in South Africa and Brazil. The variant-specific booster performed better than the original shot, producing almost twice as many neutralising antibodies.

AFP

STUDY IN CANADA

Choose the best. Choose M-J Global...

CHOOSE ONE OF THE 150 COLLEGES AND 96 UNIVERSITIES FOR YOUR FUTURE STUDIES

GET A POST STUDY STAY BACK UP TO 3 YRS AND GET RESIDENCY!
IELTS MINIMUM 6 REQUIRED*

DIPLOMA

1. ADVANCE DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING
2. DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING
3. DIPLOMA IN CULINARY MANAGEMENT
4. DIPLOMA IN HOSPITALITY

AND MANY MORE.....

BACHELORS

1. BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
2. BACHELOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN
3. BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING

AND MANY MORE.....

MASTERS

1. MASTERS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
2. MASTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE
3. MASTER OF ARTS - TOURISM MANAGEMENT
4. MASTERS OF ENGINEERING

AND MANY MORE.....

* DEPENDS ON THE COURSE ELIGIBILITY

M-J Global, Office no. 204, 2nd Floor, Jasmine Complex, Al Hadiqa Street, Al Khuwair, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, Landline: +968 24478353
Office Timing: Saturday to Thursday 10 am to 6:30 pm
Email: cs@m-jglobal.com , Phone: +968 23571122, +968 9399424
www.m-jglobal.com



Lulu Oman announces Dream Drive winners

Lulu Oman recently announced the sixth set of winners in its Dream Drive 2021 promotion. The eRaffle draw held on May 4 at Nizwa picked Mohammed Hammed as the winner of the spectacular Nissan Patrol. The other winners in the draw were Kumar who won the Ikon 55” Smart TV, Husaibi took home the Ikon Double Door Refrigerator while Ravindran won the Ikon Cooking Range; Rafi and Zainab won the Ikon Washing Machine, Ikon Freezer respectively.

In the earlier fifth draw which was held on April 28 at the Mall of Muscat, Abdul Hakeem Juma Abdullah al Junabi won the Nissan Patrol with five other winners taking home amazing gifts from Ikon. Kumar won the Ikon 55” Smart TV; Sulaiman won the Ikon Double Door Refrigerator; Shihabudeen won the Ikon Cooking Range; Alabri took home the Ikon Washing Machine, and Mulanthala won the Ikon Freezer.

Shabeer K A, regional director – Oman, remarked, “We are happy to see the great traction that this year’s Dream Drive promotion is making, in spite of the challenging times. We congratulate all the winners and thank all our customers for participating in this promotion. We genuinely hope and believe that we have been able to capture the spirit of Ramadan in its true sense.”

“We are extremely happy to bring cheer and happiness to many and take great pride in being an integral part of the Omani society,” he added.

BankDhofar supports OCO’s iftar initiatives



Reiterating its support to the community and extending its social responsibility initiatives during the holy month of Ramadan, BankDhofar has collaborated with the Oman Charitable Organization (OCO) to support the organisation’s iftar programmes.

Commenting on the initiative, Ahmed Said al Ibrahim, chief operating officer at BankDhofar, said, “Ramadan is a month of giving and sharing, thus, we joined hands with Oman Charitable Organization and supported their efforts in the iftar campaign. This initiative which, falls within our CSR programme, translates our endeavor to give back to the community, through taking part in various initiatives.”

CSR is an important pillar of BankDhofar’s operations; environment element, community development and social well-being have always been among the priorities and interests of the bank. BankDhofar continues to deliver on its commitment by innovating strategic sustainable CSR programmes, initiatives, activities and potential investment opportunities; ensuring lasting positive benefits aimed at strengthening ties with the local community. The bank provides support to a number of charitable organizations and social activities and initiatives.

The combination of the thorough vision of the bank’s executive management, the comprehensive operational strategy that revolves around following best international banking practices and providing best customer experience, as well as commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, placed BankDhofar on top of the list of best banks in the region.

To learn more, check out BankDhofar pages on social media: Facebook (www.facebook.com/BankDhofar), Twitter (@BankDhofar), Instagram (www.instagram.com/BankDhofar), or visit the official website www.BankDhofar.com or contact the call centre 24/7 on (+968) 24791111 for inquiries.

Webinar on world’s most expensive jewels

Sotheby’s and the Gulf Institute of Gemology (GIG) partner up to host a series of webinars inviting viewers to get up close and personal with nature’s brilliant gemstones.

Sotheby’s is the world’s largest broker of fine and decorative art, jewellery, collectibles, and real estate and has 80 locations around the world. The Gulf Institute of Gemology is the Middle East’s leading gemological research, analysis and academia institution and ranks in the top 10 of the world’s gem research labs with its current headquarters in Muscat, Oman.

The joint webinars will be hosted by Sophie Stevens FGA DGA deputy director and jewellery specialist from Sotheby’s Middle East and Eva Kountouraki, Gulf Institute of Gemology academy director.

The webinar will grant viewers insider knowledge on some of the world’s most sought out precious gemstones and magnificent jewels, allowing them to understand the allure behind some of the world’s rarest Kashmir Sapphires and Natural Pearls, from their history to their technical characteristics and gemological features. One of the pieces discussed will be the Marie Antoinette Pearl sold by Sotheby’s in 2019 as well as a unique pearl tiara by Musy; a special item that will be showcased at the Sotheby’s auction on May 11.

The webinar will take place on May 10 at 12pm UAE/Oman, 11am KSA, a day before Sotheby’s Iconic Majestic & Noble Jewels Auction which will showcase the largest Kashmir Sapphire to ever appear at an auction

Sophie joined Sotheby’s as jewellery specialist for MENA in 2019, having consulted for the company in Dubai since 2016. Sophie advises clients on buying and selling jewellery through Sotheby’s international auctions and private sales and participates in the department’s regional exhibitions and educational events.



ENJOY SPECIAL RAMADAN PRICE OFFER ON BAIC X35 CROSSOVER



As part of its strategic focus to enhance ownership experience, Gulf Great Sands LLC, the exclusive importer of BAIC in Oman, has launched a special Ramadan promotion on BAIC X35, a benchmark in the crossover segment. BAIC’s ‘Time for Giving’ Ramadan promotion, which has already begun will go on till June 14.

Extending a blend of superior ride and assertive design, the 1.5lt engine powered crossover BAIC X35 has been innovatively engineered. The offer on BAIC X35 includes assured cash gift, Periodic Maintenance Service (PMS), free fuel card, manufacturer’s warranty.

A Gulf Great Sands LLC spokesperson said, “A blend of style, comfort and technology, BAIC X35 crossover offers “more for less”. The phenomenal crossover has an inspiring charisma and is ideal for all automotive enthusiasts. Our ‘Time for Giving’ promotion offers a variety of benefits for customers purchasing BAIC’s popular model models X35. BAIC X35 should be the car of choice whether for families, executives or for daily use.”

Special price offer

BAIC X35 Comfort available at special price starting from RO4,599 excluding the below mentioned cash gift. The prices mentioned are for the basic model variant after adjusting the cash gift amount mentioned below. In addition, VAT 5% will be charged at the time of vehicle purchase as per government directives.

Assured cash gift

The assured cash gift amount for X35 is RO1,250 and it can be used for financing of car.

Periodic maintenance

BAIC X35 customers will be offered three years/ 50,000km Periodic Maintenance Service. This excludes battery, wear and tear parts. Offer includes only 10,000km service intervals.

Free fuel card

BAIC X35 customers will be eligible for a free fuel card of RO100.

Manufacturer’s warranty

Customers of BAIC X35 will get five years or 100,000kms manufacturer’s warranty. The offer is subject to terms and conditions and are applicable on vehicle purchased for personal use only.

Designed for everyone

The BAIC X35 comfort has styling, with enhanced SUV exterior appeal, sunroof, front and rear parking sensors, rear-view camera as standard. The 1.5lt engine powered X35 has an aggressive wide body SUV exterior styling, class leading space, high fuel economy, newest technology features and safety is standard therefore meant for everyone in the family.

BAIC X35 has Illuminating remarkable styling cues; it offers excellent fuel economy of 15.7 per litre (as per GSO standards) along with confidence enhancing driving experience. A perfect choice for the youth and small families in Oman, BAIC X35 crossover is about responsive performance and value for money.

Its stylish exterior features include sunroof, height adjustable headlight and long wheelbase of 2560 mm. The vehicle’s smart interior boasts of steering mounted switches for Cruise control, Audio, Blue tooth, ample Boot

Space, Seven-inch screen with Rear View Camera, Piano finish multimedia control button, front Driver and Passenger airbags, Front and Rear parking sensor, ABS + EBD + ESP (Bosch 9.1 ESP) and Tyre Pressure Monitoring System. The Comfort Grade variant of BAIC X35 is available at Gulf Great Sands LLC showroom at Wattayah.

Designed for everyone, BAIC X35’s Front Design has a strong SUV stance with Double Grill, Lenticular headlamps, Three-hole lower guard plate, Square Fog Lamps and C-shaped LED Daytime Running Lights. BAIC X35 has tough body contour, chrome plated rear under guard, Dual front air inlet grill, Front and Rear Fog Lamp which add to the SUV styling appeal of this crossover.

BAIC X35 has 60:40 split rear seats, Piano style multimedia controls, stylish air outlet grill. The easy to read 7” suspended display screen makes the journey comfortable, classy and convenient.

One of China’s top auto groups, BAIC boasts of 60-years of engineering expertise. The company, which was established in 1958, has eight major production bases and a cumulative output of 12mn cars. Part of the Bahwan International Group (BIG), Gulf Great Sands LLC (GGS) is an exclusive distributor of BAIC and many other reputed international automotive brands in Oman.

Specifications:

Technical: Engine Capacity – 1.5lt (1499 cc), Drive Type – 2WD, Power – 111hp, Dimensions (LxWxH) – 4286x1815x1655mm, Transmission – 4AT, Wheel Base= 2560mm, Kerb Weight – 1270kg.

Safety: ABS+EBD, EBA, ESP, TCS, HHS, TPMS, Driver & Passenger

Airbags, Engine immobiliser, Front and Rear parking sensor, rear-view mirror, Auto lock with speed sensor, Centre lock.

Exterior: 16” Alloy Wheel, Rear Defroster, Door mirror-elec. Adjustable with turning signal (LED), Headlight height adjustable, Front and Rear fog lights, DRL and sunroof.

Interiors: Leather and multi-functional Steering Wheel, Fabric seat, Rear Seat foldable (40/60), Auto AC, 6-way manual for driver and 4-way manual for passenger seats.

Technology: Cruise Control, Bluetooth, 7” display screen + Smart Call System, Radio, USB, Sound adjustable - speed sensing, 4 Speaker, Remote Key.

Suspension: Front-Macpherson independent suspension, Rear-H type torsion bar.

The X35 1.5lt comfort dual/colour 4AT – P20 includes X35 1.5 L comfort 4AT – P20 features plus roof and outside rear view mirror in white colour only.

European engineering and safety standards

BAIC acquired SAAB (Svenska Aeroplan Aktiebolaget) which is a North European brand from Sweden. At the end of 2009, BAIC Motor took over the SAAB’s core assets, including its 9-5/9-3 vehicle platform, turbo engine transmission, R&D, manufacturing and supplier systems. The SAAB unique front wheel drive and steering technology was also inherited by BAIC. The unique reindeer horn body structure is sourced from SAAB’s ‘Safe Cage’ patented technology.

For more information, call toll free number 80050800, WhatsApp on 79005800 or visit the showroom in Wattayah.

Armed men stage show of force in Libya

Tripoli, Libya - Dozens of armed men staged a show of force late on Friday at a hotel used as a headquarters by Libya's presidential council as the nation's deep divisions resurface.

The country was plunged into chaos after longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi was ousted and killed in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011, and over the years the conflict has drawn in several foreign powers.

An interim unity government finally came into being in March, replacing rival administrations in east and west, and aims to lead Libya to elections later this year.

The armed men were seen at the entrance of the Hotel Corinthia in the heart of the capital Tripoli, according to images on social media. Local press labelled them militias.

Presidential council spokeswoman Najwa Wheba confirmed that armed men had stormed 'one of the headquarters where the council meets'.

She told Libya's LANA news agency that 'no one was harmed' as the council does not work on Fridays, the weekly day of rest in Libya.

The show of force comes as the implementation of a UN Security Council call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and mercenaries rekindles divisions within the unity government.

On Monday, Foreign Minister Najla al Mangoush, who is an east-erner, angered many in Tripoli and the west with a call for Turkey to withdraw troops it deployed during the civil war.

2 arrests over attack on Maldives' Nasheed



Police at the site of the blast that injured Mohamed Nasheed

Malé, Maldives - Maldives police have arrested two people over an assassination attempt on former president Mohamed Nasheed who has been taken off life support, officials and relatives said on Saturday. The Indian Ocean island has called in international help to investigate Thursday's bomb attack that left the democracy pioneer and climate activist needing 16 hours of surgery to remove shrapnel from his lungs, liver, chest, abdomen and limbs.

Police said two people had been arrested but did not give details. They were looking for four suspects seen in the vicinity of the attack on Thursday night just as Nasheed was about to get in his car. Australian Federal Police officers and two experts from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime were expected to join the investigation on Saturday.

The 53 year old, who is now the Maldives second most powerful leader as speaker of parliament, spoke with his family to say he was feeling 'much better', his sister Nashida Sattar said.

"The doctors are very happy with recovery progress," added his brother Ibrahim Nasheed.

Damage suspected in Mexico metro mishap

Mexico City, Mexico - The collapse of a Mexico City metro overpass that left 26 people dead could have been caused by defects in the steel beams or damage to the joints, experts told AFP.



A girl at an event in honor of the victims, in Mexico City on Friday

The capital's mayor, Claudia Sheinbaum, said after Monday's accident, which also left 80 injured, that a beam holding up the section of elevated track had given way.

Norwegian engineering company DNV has been asked to help prosecutors with the investigation into the disaster, which has prompted accusations of negligence. Sergio Alcocer, a researcher at the engineering faculty of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said that the collapse 'may be due to a defect in the steel' used to make the beams. Like other experts, he based his initial suspicions on a police video showing the moment when an elevated part of metro line 12 collapsed, sending two carriages plunging towards the ground. Juan Manuel Fuentes, technical director of Mexican structural engineering firm Quasar, said that 'the deafening vibration' on some of the sections of the line also could have caused the overpass' joints to weaken.

Trump gained phone records of journalists



A file photo of former US president Donald Trump

Washington, US - The Trump administration secretly obtained the phone records of *The Washington Post* journalists who reported on allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, the newspaper reported on Friday, prompting concerns over freedom of speech.

The Justice Department sent letters to three reporters - Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller, and former Post reporter Adam Entous - saying that it had received work, cell or home phone records 'for the period from April 15, 2017 to July 31, 2017', according to *The Washington Post*.

The newspaper was 'deeply troubled by this use of government power to seek access to the communications of journalist', *The Washington Post* acting executive editor Cameron Barr was quoted as saying.

"The Department of Justice should immediately make clear its reasons for this intrusion into the activities of reporters doing their jobs, an activity protected under the First Amendment," he continued.

The American Civil Liberties Union said the Justice Department had been 'spying' on the journalists 'at the whims of an administration'.

AFP

New protests called after Jerusalem clashes wound over 200



Tear gas billows amid clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian protesters at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, in Jerusalem on Friday (AFP)

Jerusalem - Israel braced for more protests after clashes at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al Aqsa Mosque compound wounded more than 200 people and as the US, EU and regional powers urged calm after days of escalating violence.

In the unrest following prayers on Friday, Israeli riot police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinians who hurled rocks, bottles and fireworks at Islam's third-holiest site which is also revered by Jews.

Israeli police said 17 officers were wounded while the Palestinian Red Crescent reported that 205 Palestinians were injured in the violence at Al Aqsa and across annexed east Jerusalem.

Video footage showed Israeli forces storming the mosque's sprawling plaza and firing sound grenades inside the building, where throngs of worshippers including women and children were praying on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan.

The clashes came after tensions soared in recent weeks, over Israeli restrictions on access to parts of the Old City during Ramadan and the threat of eviction hanging over four Palestinian families in east Jerusalem to make way for Jewish settlers.

A call for demonstrations on Saturday in solidarity with Jerusalem Palestinians came from an advocacy group for Arab Israelis, who make up 20 per cent of the country's population, the High Follow up Committee for the Arabs in Israel.

The United States - a staunch Israeli ally whose tone has however toughened under US President Joe Biden - said it was 'extremely concerned' by the events and urged both sides to 'avoid steps that exacerbate tensions or take us further away from peace'.

"This includes evictions in east Jerusalem, settlement activity, home demolitions and acts of terrorism," the State Department said.

The European Union called on the



Israeli security forces clash with Palestinian protesters at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, in Jerusalem on Friday (AFP)

authorities 'to act urgently to de-escalate the current tensions in Jerusalem', saying 'violence and incitement are unacceptable and the perpetrators on all sides must be held accountable'.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said he held the Israeli government 'responsible' for the unrest and voiced 'full support for our heroes in Al Aqsa'.

'Barbaric attack'

Jordan condemned Israel's 'barbaric attack' in Jerusalem, calling on the international community to stop the 'escalation and violations' at Al Aqsa Mosque. Egypt, Turkey, Qatar and Bahrain also blasted Israeli forces for the confrontation.

The unrest came as Iran and its allies around the world on Friday marked Al Quds (Jerusalem) Day, an annual show of solidarity with the Palestinians.

Iran called on the United Nations to condemn the Israeli police actions, arguing that 'this war crime once again

proved to the world the criminal nature of the illegitimate Zionist regime'.

The Al Aqsa Mosque compound has an explosive history. In 2000, the second Palestinian intifada broke out after then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon made a high-profile visit that Palestinians viewed as an intolerable provocation.

The Al Aqsa confrontation followed a week of intensifying violence in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

Earlier on Friday, Israeli police said officers killed two Palestinians and wounded a third after the three men opened fire on the Salem base in the occupied West Bank. On Thursday, Israeli troops killed Yehuda Guetta (19), who had been shot on Sunday at a bus stop in the northern West Bank. Israeli security forces said they had arrested Montasser Shalabi near Ramallah, on suspicion of carrying out the attack.

On Wednesday, Israeli troops killed 16 year old Palestinian Said Youssef Muhammad Oudeh near the West

Bank city of Nablus, saying soldiers had opened fire on protesters throwing petrol bombs.

Forced evictions

Clashes have also repeatedly broken out in east Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, fuelled by a years-long land dispute between Palestinian residents and Jewish settlers seeking to evict them.

An Israeli court this year ruled that four Palestinian homes there legally belong to Jewish families, who claimed to have lost the land during the war that accompanied Israel's creation in 1948.

The Sheikh Jarrah families have provided evidence that their homes were acquired from Jordanian authorities, who controlled east Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967.

In Jordan - home to a large Palestinian population - hundreds rallied on Friday, chanting 'we will die for Sheikh Jarrah'.

AFP



Health workers wearing personal protective equipment suits attend to a COVID-19 patient inside the Intensive Care Unit of the Teerthanker Mahaveer University (TMU) hospital in Moradabad in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (AFP)

Virus deaths top 4,000 in India; Pope calls for patent waivers

New Delhi, India - New COVID-19 deaths surged past 4,000 for the first time in India on Saturday in one of the world's worst outbreaks, as the pope called for patent waivers to "allow universal access to the vaccine."

The call for waivers has gained momentum after the United States announced its surprise support for such a scheme to enable adequate vaccine supplies to fight the raging pandemic.

India now accounts for nearly half of the world's new known cases according to an AFP database, and it reported a national record 4,187 new deaths on Saturday.

New Delhi has struggled to contain the outbreak, which has overwhelmed its healthcare system and sparked public anger over mismanagement.

India reported more than 400,000 new infections on Saturday, but many experts suspect the official death and case numbers are a gross underestimation.

The surge has spilled into next-door Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Virus of individualism

Pope Francis on Saturday expressed his backing for "universal access to the vaccine and the temporary suspension of intellectual property rights", condemning the "virus of individualism" that "makes us indifferent to the suffering of others".

"A variant of this virus is closed nationalism, which prevents, for example, an internationalism of vaccines,"

he said.

"Another variant is when we put the laws of the market or intellectual property above the laws of love and the health of humanity."

The global arsenal against the coronavirus expanded as the vaccine from China's Sinopharm became the first fully non-Western shot to get the green light from the World Health Organization.

The WHO has already given emergency use authorisation to vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca, a status that paves the way for countries to quickly approve and import shots.

The European Union meanwhile said it had sealed a deal with BioNTech/Pfizer for up to 1.8bn extra doses of its COVID-19 vaccine.

"Other contracts and other vaccine technologies will follow," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

The United States this week backed a push led by the WHO, India and South Africa to waive COVID-19 vaccine patent protections to boost supply to poorer nations.

The European Union on Saturday pressed the US for a concrete proposal and a commitment to export much-needed jabs.

Japan's vaccination programme slow

Rapid vaccine rollouts worldwide are considered critical in the fight against



This photo released by the Vatican press office shows Pope Francis during his live-streamed audience at the Vatican (AFP)

the virus, which has killed 3.26mn people so far, and some countries with high immunisation rates such as Britain are already easing restrictions and testing events with large gatherings again.

But concerns are swirling about the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, with Japan's vaccination programme moving slowly.

A coronavirus state of emergency in parts of Japan, including Tokyo, was extended on Friday with authorities

warning of some hospitals being overwhelmed.

The WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Friday implored the G7 to prioritise equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines around the globe, branding the current imbalance morally inadmissible.

Tedros wants the G7 countries - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States - to dig deep to help find solutions.

AFP

Pakistan imposes Eid holiday shutdown

Islamabad, Pakistan - Pakistan on Saturday began a nine-day shutdown affecting travel and tourist hotspots in a bid to prevent a surge in COVID-19 cases during the Eid al Fitr holiday.

Already battling a third wave of infections and increasingly nervous about the crisis across the border in India, the government has imposed the most severe restrictions since a one-month lockdown in April last year.

"These measures have been necessitated by the extremely dangerous situation which has been created in the region with the spread of virulent mutations of the virus," tweeted Planning Minister Asad Umar, who has been leading the government response to the outbreak.

Eid, which comes at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, usually sees the mass movement of people around the country and tourist spots crowded with Pakistanis. Last year the country saw a spike in cases in the weeks after the celebrations.

Businesses, hotels and restaurants as well as markets and parks will be closed, while public transport between provinces and within cities has been halted.

The military has been mobilised to monitor the restrictions.

Mosques, however, which have been packed each night throughout Ramadan - with few people wearing masks - will remain open. Authorities fear curbs on places of worship could ignite confrontation in the deeply conservative Islamic republic.

Impoverished Pakistan has recorded more than 850,000 infections and 18,600 deaths, but with limited testing and a ramshackle health-care sector, many fear the true extent of the disease is much worse.

Health officials have warned that hospitals are operating at close to capacity and they have rushed to increase the number of intensive care beds. International flights have been slashed and border crossings with Iran and Afghanistan closed, except for trade.

Pakistan, which has so far vaccinated only a fraction of its population, received its first batch of 1.2mn AstraZeneca doses on Saturday under the delayed Covax global vaccine sharing scheme.



People through a market area ahead of Eid al Fitr, in Rawalpindi on Friday

Everest climbing season may suffer



Expedition team members gather at Everest base camp, in Nepal on May 1

Everest Base Camp, Nepal - More than 30 sick climbers have been evacuated from the foot of Mount Everest, raising fears that coronavirus may scupper a hoped-for bumper season on the world's highest mountain.

Nepal's tourism industry suffered a devastating blow last year when the pandemic prompted a complete shutdown of its summits, costing millions in lost revenue. This year authorities have eased quarantine rules in an effort to lure back foreign adventurers and have issued climbing permits to more than 400 people, a new record.

An Everest permit alone costs US\$11,000 and climbers pay upward of US\$40,000 for an expedition.

But the warmer weather that ushers in safer conditions for scaling Nepal's dangerous, snow-capped peaks has coincided with a deadly second wave of COVID-19 infections, with active cases in the country rising six-fold in the last two weeks.

Norwegian climber Erlend Ness spent two nights sleeping in his tent at base camp last month, unsure of what was making him ill.

"I was evacuated to Kathmandu and was tested. My result was positive for COVID," he told AFP, becoming the first climber with an Everest permit to confirm his infection. "I think I'm not the only one... Every team at the base camp knows the risk of COVID is there and they have to be careful, they should be careful," he said.

Fellow climber Gina Marie Han-Lee decided to abandon her expedition last week over fears the disease was spreading around base camp.

"I have taken a helicopter out of EBC (Everest base camp) back to Kathmandu after 1 day. The COVID situation at EBC is a total shitstorm. I had no clue what I was flying into," the US citizen wrote on her Facebook page on April 29.

Commonwealth govts meet postponed again

London, UK - A Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting scheduled to take place in the Rwandan capital Kigali in June has once again been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the organisation said on Friday.

The event, which takes place every two years, was due to be held last year but was rearranged for June 21 this year due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland announced on Friday that it had once again been postponed, with no date given for the rearranged event.

"While it is with deep disappointment and regret that we cannot bring Commonwealth leaders together at this time to discuss many of these critical issues, we must be mindful of the huge risks large meetings pose to all," she said. "I look forward warmly to a time when we can be reunited with the Commonwealth family, face-to-face, in Rwanda when the conditions allow for us to do so safely and securely."

The Commonwealth is made up mainly of former British colonies comprising 54 countries and 2.4bn people.

AFP



Streets wear a deserted look amid restrictions, in Rwanda's capital Kigali

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

The week begins to intensify with the arrival of Sunday’s skies, Aries. The moon drifts into stormy Scorpio, pushing you to survey your most vulnerable feelings in the light of day. Intimacy and trust take on added importance, as Luna’s afternoon square with Venus creates a lack of social cohesion. Come evening, a heavier mood sets in, particularly around money.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Sunday’s skies bring heavy moods to navigate, Taurus. The moon wades into deep-feeling Scorpio this morning, directing your attention towards the ongoing relationship story in your world. Whatever your status, you can expect to be exploring it with more depth than usual. Stay flexible and try to face problems head on.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

As a Gemini, powerful emotions can feel suffocating when it comes to maintaining your sought-after mental clarity. Sunday’s skies bring a storm to shore that’ll require firm footing to navigate. The moon dips into sharp-focus Scorpio this morning, helping you direct your energy towards overdue errands waiting to be tackled. Luna faces a rough day all around, so stay pliable.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Strong moods are in store with the emergence of Sunday’s skies, Cancer. The moon tiptoes into brooding Scorpio this morning, facing challenge after challenge on her path. Social interactions and intimate relationships are likely to be especially difficult today, so it may best to stay low-key. Luna’s presence in Scorpio offers relief through creative action and sexual enjoyment.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

It’s a good day to go underground, Leo. Sunday’s cosmic landscape is contentious, moody, and has a surprise or two in store—all of which are easier to handle from your home base rather than in public. Luna’s series of challenging encounters is to blame. The moon slides into privacy-craving Scorpio this morning, offering relief by reconnecting with your roots and closest of kin.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

As a Virgo, you naturally prefer when life has some order to it. Unfortunately, that longing seems to be absent from the reality of Sunday’s skies, as the moon slides into sensitive Scorpio and faces an array of jarring interactions. Your craving for movement and sharing your voice is strong today, but may be hindered by a variety of work responsibilities or surprise scenarios.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You’re here to create an unshakable sense of inner peace. Sounds easy, right? That mission is tested under today’s contentious skies. The moon slides into reserved but intense Scorpio this morning, turning your attention towards finance or resource concerns. Luna’s series of hard aspects fans the flames on the relationship front, so do what you can to keep a balanced head while staying truthful.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You’re ready to share yourself with the world once more. The moon glides into your sign this morning, stirring your desire to be seen, heard, and acknowledged. Luna’s presence in your sign also signals a need to tune into your body and appearance, what needs fine tuning? Today’s skies are likely to be melancholic and full of stops, as the moon faces a series of hard aspects.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Philosophers of life need time spent away in a quiet cave to reflect. Thus, the universe is urging you to pull away and introspect today, as the moon tiptoes into deep-feeling Scorpio this morning. Luna faces an array of unsettling interactions on her course, which makes the idea of hiding away from the world all the better. Catch up on your rest.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

When life gets hard, we turn to the people in our circle for support. Today’s cosmic landscape carries that simple reminder, as the moon trek into deeply sensitive Scorpio. Luna’s presence here works to warm up your social life and remind you of your important place in your social network. The moon faces a challenging day of encounters, so ride out the turbulence.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

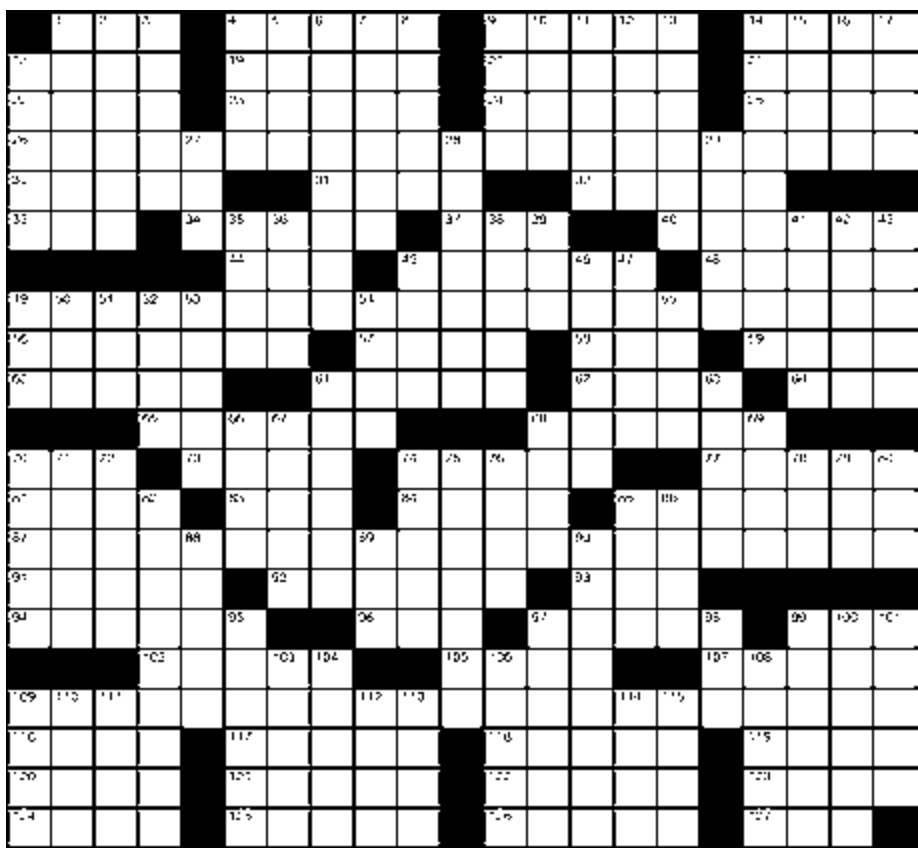
You’ve been doing so much contemplating around your identity. The universe has been channeling all of its focus on you lately—so much so that it could feel overwhelming. Today’s skies work to turn your eyes towards the goals of your career and mission in society, as the moon drifts into highly focused Scorpio. The day itself is riddled with challenges. So, try to be grounded while taking in new messages.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Your mind is looking for some fresh air today. Let yourself get the freedom of movement and spontaneity that you crave, as the moon slides into deep-feeling Scorpio. The day ahead is an emotionally charged one, as Luna endures a series of unsettling aspects. Relief can be found by carving out little adventures and finding perspectives or philosophies that stray from the norm.

DAILY CROSSWORD



©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All rights reserved

- ACROSS**

1 Aniston flick, “___’s the One”

4 Ear bone

9 Capacitance unit

14 Null’s companion

18 Vault

19 Smiling

20 Stun

21 Author Hunter

22 Hep

23 ___ Gras

24 “Hostess” Perle

25 Storm

26 Start of a seasonal verse

30 Deuce toppers

31 “Bus Stop” playwright

32 Derision

33 Melancholy

34 Milieu for 106 Down
- 37 Sine ___ non

40 The naked truth?

44 Eur. financial pact

45 Fountain treat

48 Crete’s capital

49 Second line of the verse

56 ‘60s character

57 Actress Lenska

58 Infamous judge

59 Hindu deity

60 Like ___; probably

61 Composer Berg

62 Unheeding

64 Kind of sleep

65 Tyro

68 Sex classification

70 Legendary bird

73 Writer ___ Ephron

74 States positively

77 Part of NAS

81 Author Seton

83 Obsession
- 84 Bary Manilow’s showgirl

85 Powerful political group

87 Third line of the verse

91 Santa ___ Park

92 ___ corpus

93 Laders’ org.

94 Late

96 Lin. portion

97 Infant ferry?

99 Relatively suffix

102 Stable breeders

105 “To ___ His Own”

107 Type of physics

109 Last line of verse

116 Oppositionist

117 Le ___ of spydom

118 Tropical tubers

119 Kirgiz mountain range

120 Vienna, to Fritz
- 121 Shakespearean sprite

122 “Aida” or “Lohengrin”

123 Bambi of theater fame

124 For a ___; cheaply

125 Eagle ex-coach

126 Fortification

127 Unchanged

DOWN

1 Lady of Spain

2 Animosity

3 Adhesive ingredient

4 “La Douce”

5 Long and Vardalos

6 Sweater type

7 Destroyed

8 Bee’s bite

9 Fortune’s partner

10 Wall St. acronym

11 Grates

12 Nahuatl

13 Church official

14 Lanais

15 Track shape

16 Desdemona’s nemesis

17 Plankton snare

18 Artists’ residences

27 Ed.’s reading matter

28 Margarita base

29 Cease-fire

35 Garr of Hollywood

36 Frenzied

38 Deprive of strength

39 Summer beverage

41 “Bombs bursting ___”

42 Tennis opener

43 Palindrome’s first word

45 Ticket end

46 Stage whispers

47 Downed

49 Business deg.

50 “___ We Have No Bananas”

51 Dapper one
- 52 College town on the Thames

53 Austrian composer Bruckner

54 Perry’s creator

55 Hope-Crosby course

61 Tropical tree

63 Spar

66 Ballot

67 South Bend team

68 “Elegy” poet Thomas

69 Rooting sounds

70 Trooper’s trap

71 Quarterback’s count

72 Doubter

74 Walk

75 “Star Trek: ___”

76 Trees in an O’Neill title

78 Appia or Dolorosa

79 Cuckoo

80 Preceded

82 Witness’s activity

85 Actor O’Shea

86 Way out

88 African tribe

89 Wt. units

90 Sere

95 “Under the ___ Sun”

97 Roughen

98 “Krazy ___”

99 Roma’s country

100 On the move

101 Sculptor Auguste

103 “Wreck of the Mary ___”

104 Damascus’s land

106 Troupe member

108 Sell hot tickets

109 Shark film

110 Mussel genus

111 British gun

112 Turgenev’s birthplace

113 Ubangi river feeder

114 “___ the Explorer”

115 “It ___ ancient mariner”

KIDS COLOURING







TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of the following is used as a moderator in nuclear reactor?

a. Thorium

b. Graphite

c. Radium

d. Ordinary water

2. Which among the following is a positively charged particle emitted by a radioactive element?

a. Beta ray

b. Alpha ray

c. Cathode ray

d. Gamma ray

3. Atoms are composed of

a. electrons and protons

b. electrons only

c. protons only

d. electrons and nuclei

Answers: 1.b 2.b 3.d

BOGGLER

S	O	T	J
A	E	I	M
O	U	L	A
D	K	A	R

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters.

The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on.

Valid words must be at least three letters long.

Solution 20-25 words: Excellent, 15-20 words: Very good, 10-15 words: Good, 5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

WORD BUILDER

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

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



SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

DAILY CROSSWORD ANSWERS (MAY 06)



NEW HOBBY

Learn abstract art

Activities apart, if you want to make the most of extra time at home this week, try doing abstract art. Besides helping you to spend your time in a fruitful way, it will also unlock your hidden creativity which you never imagined was lodged at the back of your mind.

The very first thing to do when wanting to learn abstract art is to view and study abstract art – the work of few abstract artists – though you never admired any of them, as such. Check out their concepts, colour schemes, strokes and techniques that made their end results stand out. Get started in your own small way and soon you will discover that you have, indeed, developed your own style.

First things first, get hold of some basic requisites to start off. You will need acrylic paint (it dries very fast and is good for beginners), a suitable canvas (don't go for huge sizes), a few flat brushes (yes flat, you don't need pointed brushes for minute details, yet) pencils, art paper, and a few accessories (try plastic spatulas/knives, even bits of cardboard).

The first layer

Place your canvas on a steady table at a comfortable inclination (you don't yet have a stand to fix it). Arrange your paint-brushes and prepare a few paints on a tray to get started. Choose a colour and prepare four or more shades of it - each shade should be deeper than the other. Starting from the top side of the canvas, use the darkest shade for the first layer.

Continue painting towards the bottom side of the canvas. Once you're done with the first dark layer, wash your brush by simply dipping it into a cup of water. Then go for the next.

Complete the base ombre

Keep adding different deeper shades of your colour while painting towards the bottom end of the canvas. If you're a beginner, don't worry if the base ombre (a graded tone) doesn't turn out as good – you will eventually get better. This ombre is now the base of your painting

Smudge the overlapping parts

Use a sponge to smudge the overlapping sections of the painting to give them a smooth look. Just tap gently on the overlapped layers and keep smudging them until you're happy with the shades. Now, allow the paint to dry completely. It might take a few hours for the layers of paint to dry completely.



Positioning your palette

The artist's painting palette can be used in two primary positions - on the tabletop or hand-held. Some artists prefer to hold their palettes while they paint. This makes it possible to continue painting from different angles. Other artists would rather set their palette on a table and mix paints that way.

Organise your palette:

- Place your colours along the outer edge of your palette leaving the center area open for mixing your paints.
- If you are a beginner, you might want to start with a small section of colours on your palette. As you become a more experienced painter, you can add more colours.
- Try to lay out your colours in the same order each time you paint. You will soon get to know where they are without having to look at your palette.



Paint scattered clouds

Grab white acrylic paint and using a flat brush, paint a scattered cloud pattern along the top side of the canvas, and move downwards diagonally. Prepare a really deep mint acrylic shade (mixing white, blue and green) and again paint a scattered cloud pattern below the white cloud pattern. Overlap with the previous cloud pattern.

With a new colour, paint more clouds randomly, overlapping with and beside the previous clouds. Continue to add different deep shades. Don't worry about the get-up, just get creative. Soon you would discover an all new pattern with many layers to it.

Add some effects

Pour a small amount of golden paint on a toothbrush and then splatter the golden paint from the toothbrush on the painted canvas, for a unique effect. Try keeping the golden splattered pattern mild, don't add too much golden paint.

You don't have to follow the same steps identically. Get creative in your own way, experiment with new colours, create new shades, new patterns, use accessories like plastic knives or bits of cardboard to apply the paint on your canvas in varied strokes. Blend the colours to form new shapes and shades and add your own touch of class with a few decorative strokes at the end to complete your artwork. Most importantly, don't be in a hurry to finish your abstract artwork – enjoy the process, learn new insights from it and feel enlightened at the end of each painting.

CLASSIFIEDS

JOB VACANCY

Male Electrical / Mechanical Technician
for manufacturing unit.
Age 24–28.

4–5 years' working experience in electrical maintenance on fuse, sockets, ampere, including wiring and coil winding, layer winding. Basic knowledge in rating of Distribution and Power transformers will have preference.

Qualification: ITI / Diploma.

Salary will depend on working experience / credentials.

Email: job.opportunity1947@gmail.com

WJ Towell Group Company



Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 | Salalah 9429 9325

www.orbit-oman.com

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



SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

R024
1 YEAR
(Actual price: R052)

R015
6 MONTHS



Toll free no: 80076000
E-mail: customer@apexmedia.co.om

an apex media

منشور PUBLICATION

القلم للعلام

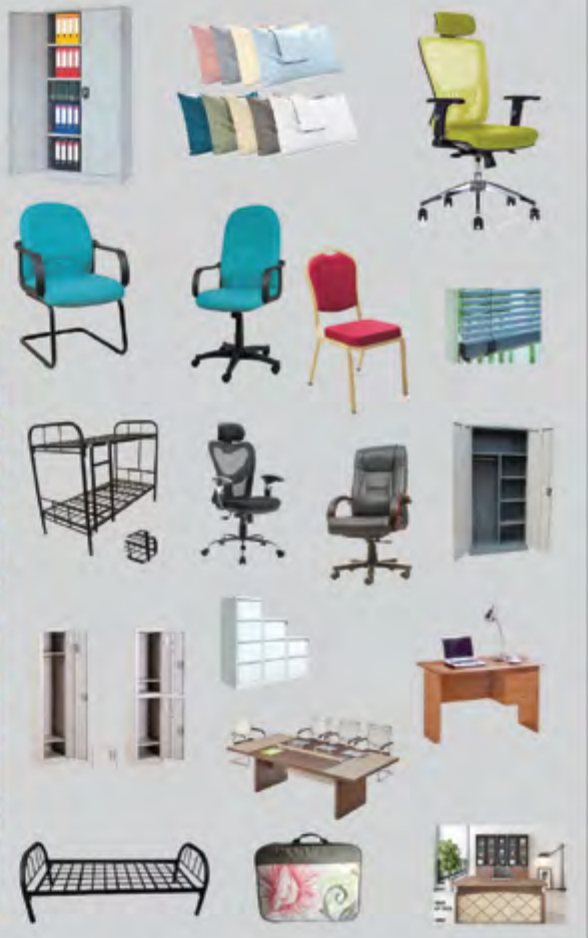
www.apexmedia.co.om

EDUCATION FURNITURE





LABOUR CAMP FURNITURE



OUTDOOR SHADES



Contact: 9611 5353 / 9611 5252 Email: mybusinessoman@gmail.com

Creative leisure

How to decorate your computer mouse

- Cover the edges of the mouse with masking tape.
- Select a contrasting shade of nail polish and pour out some on a piece of paper.
- Using the eraser end of a pencil, dip it in the polish and start dotting away on the body of the mouse. You can use dots of different sizes to make your desired design.
- Let it dry completely. Then remove the masking tape from the sides.
- You can try a variety of designs with dots, stripes or dashes.



Our WhatsApp number has changed

Get your latest news update on WhatsApp

91953774

Save this number to your contact list.
Send 'start' to receive news update



MUSCAT DAILY

JBL

BAR 9.1 TRUE WIRELESS SURROUND
9.1 Channel Soundbar
System with surround speakers and Dolby Atmos

DOLBY ATMOS

- The Ultimate 3D sound experience
- Real surround sound in a second
- 820W Output power
- Thrilling bass
- Ultra HD 4K Pass-through with Dolby Vision
- Chromecast and AirPlay 2 built-in
- Bluetooth Wireless Streaming
- Detachable speakers that go anywhere

UPGRADE YOUR VIEWING EXPERIENCE FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Genetco (جنتكو)
GENERAL ELECTRIC & TRADING CO. LLC

50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

MUSCAT
97693496, 96742452
Available at Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

SALALAH
79011363

C.R. No. 1009680

Logos: dts, Chromecast built-in, Apple AirPlay, Bluetooth, WiFi, DOLBY VISION, HDMI



LEARN ART AT HOME

It has been a year since the outbreak of the pandemic and we are still grappling with various means to deal with it. Art is the one activity that actually brings a certain amount of peace," says Harini Kumar, a senior Indian artist in Oman.

Harini points out that art not only provides a creative outlet, it also gives immense pleasure to see ideas being represented on paper or canvas.

Here are some tips on how to get started on painting by yourself at home:

Choose your art medium

Choosing your medium is important. While we may be inclined to try out various mediums we cannot do justice to all of them. Start with one medium that you are comfortable with. The most versatile medium is acrylic since it dries up quickly.

Acquire art supplies

After you decide on your medium, do make sure that you have the right supplies with you. Brushes suitable to the medium chosen, paints, a palette etc. Without the right kind of brushes, it will be difficult to proceed.

Choose a range of brushes - A large flat brush for bigger strokes and backgrounds is mandatory. A number 9 round brush can be used for blending. A few flat and round brushes ranging from 2 to 6 will help with smaller details.

Brushes are available either in packets or individually. Make sure the brushes are smooth and soft but not brittle.

With regard to paints, choose good quality paints. It is always better to buy bigger tubes of the colours you prefer to use as you will run out of them pretty soon as your painting progresses.



HARINI KUMAR
Artist

Prepare your canvas

A decent canvas size would be 40x60 cm. This size is comfortable to start out with. For acrylic mediums, a good idea would be to apply gesso before starting out. This strengthens the canvas and gives a firmer base to start your art.

Choose your subject

This can be a bit tricky if you are aiming for something original. A good way to start would be to choose a photo clicked by you that has a good composition, and try to get something similar on to your paper or canvas. Get a basic drawing done with your pencil on the canvas. Do not draw details as it would get covered with paint anyway.

When working with abstract themes, remember that it has more to do with colours, balance and composition. Line, texture, shape, form, colour, and value are the basic principles upon which we can build up an abstract artwork.

A realistic image can be converted into an abstract picture by only representing the light and dark colours that you see without actually drawing the shapes. Or, shapes can be simplified into simple geometric shapes differentiated only by colour or size. Yayoi Kusama's or Wassily Kandinsky's art is an excellent example of how to create dynamic art from geometric shapes.

Brush strokes can be used in

dynamic patterns to create effect.

Inspiration

Look at a lot of art. Pick the artists whose work you really like and study their paintings for a bit before you start out. Do not copy their work with regard to each detail, instead take inspiration from their choice of subjects, the depiction, and the colours or lines. Try to keep your own as original as possible.

Layering

With acrylic painting or oil painting, the richness of the colour will only come through with a number of layers. Start with a basic coat of each area of the canvas. Once your whole canvas is covered with the basic coat, add a couple of thick layers or build up the image with a number of thin layers to achieve the effect that you want. Start with dark shades, then and add lighter colours. Once you have finished with the lower basic coats, the upper coats can be more detailed.

Be decisive

Wavering lines or vague images will not get your idea or thought across to the audience. Therefore, be firm in what you aim to represent. Try to make your lines and colours distinct. Your painting should convey your intent.

Correct errors

An important tip is to keep taking pictures of your work as it progresses. Looking at your painting through the camera will give you a different perspective to spot errors. Always walk away from your painting and look at it from a distance or turn your painting upside down and take a look. This helps in detecting and correcting mistakes.

PRESENTING MASTER OF MIXES

AMERICA'S NUMBER 1 MOCKTAIL MIX

BE YOUR OWN MIXOLOGIST!

Distributed by **CATERING SOLUTIONS TRADING LLC**

Please contact
+968 22060236/237

Logos: CRAFT INGREDIENTS, MASTER OF MIXES, SUPERIOR COCKTAILS

ABID'S UNBEATEN DOUBLE-CENTURY PUTS PAKISTAN IN COMMAND

Hosts Zimbabwe lose four wickets in reply, ending the day 458 behind



Pakistan's Abid Ali plays a shot during his unbeaten knock of 215 against Zimbabwe in Harare on Saturday

ZIMBABWE VS PAKISTAN

SECOND TEST: DAY TWO

Harare, Zimbabwe - In a series in which Zimbabwe have offered little competition, this might be the nadir. On a turgid, attritional day for the hosts, Pakistan piled the runs up high with Abid Ali scoring an unbeaten double century on the second day of the second Test in Harare, combining for a 169-run partnership with No 9 Nauman Ali, who scored a brisk 97 of his own.

It allowed Pakistan to amass 510 before Babar Azam declared, leaving Zimbabwe with an uncomfortable final session to negotiate.

But that they didn't, with Brendan Taylor's side losing four frontline batsmen in 30 overs and ending up trailing by 458 runs overnight.

It might be easy to forget now but both sides claimed a share of the spoils in the morning session. At that point, the hosts kept their hopes of restricting Pakistan below 400 alive with wickets at regular intervals, and were just three strikes away from wrapping up the innings.

Pakistan's nightwatchman Sajid Khan frustrated Zimbabwe for the first hour, but saw his stay come to an end thanks to a splendid diving catch from Regis Chakabva, whose wicketkeeping has been under scrutiny at times on this tour.

Mohammad Rizwan combined for an equally handy partnership with the ever-present Abid, while also speeding things up.

There were a few whipped boundaries through the off side, and the pair

might have carried through to lunch before Rizwan tried to target Tendai Chisoro over mid-on.

A horrible miscue found the fielder, and tailender Hasan Ali nicked off to Luke Jongwe in the following over.

Zimbabwe might have smelled blood then, but it was Pakistan who landed all the punches in the session that followed.

After four attritional sessions of Zimbabwe ensuring they stayed within touching distance of Pakistan, Abid and Nauman wrenched the game out of the hosts' hands in a middle session that devastated Zimbabwe's chances.

If the hosts imagined they would come out after lunch and mop up the tail, the two put paid to such fanciful notions, hurtling through the gears as the total began to swell.

With Zimbabwe supposedly well into the Pakistan tail, there was expectation that the more able batter in Abid would take a more progressive approach through the middle session, but it was Nauman who broke the shackles more regularly.

He targeted the spinners from time to time, awaiting deliveries in the slot to launch over long-on as five of Pakistan's six sixes came off his bat. Once he got to his half-century - with a boundary to square leg naturally - he began to lay waste to the Zimbabwe attack.

Longwe was smashed for 17 in that over, before Milton Shumba found himself going for 18 in the following one. It seemed no sooner than Abid's double century had come up that Nauman was eyeing three figures of his

own. Blink and you would miss it, but by tea, the scorecard had Nauman single digits away from a hundred.

It might be a tad unfair to say Abid didn't adjust the tempo of his innings over five sessions, but he continued to prioritise solidity and assuredness over thrift. It is hard to fault the formula that has ground Zimbabwe into the dust for nearly two days, and when Abid pulled a long hop to cow corner to bring up 200, there was a sense of inevitability about it.

He might have batted the whole Test without anyone being able to snare him, but when Nauman lazily lifted his foot up in the air just after tea, Chakabva cannily whipped off the bails to have him stumped, leaving the left-armer three short of a remarkable ton.

If Pakistan's total suggested the pitch might be a decent one for the batters, Zimbabwe went about dispelling that notion effectively.

The first wicket to fall was pure misfortune, with the umpire misjudging the line of a ball that was missing Tarisai Musakanda's leg stump, giving Tabish Khan his first Test wicket. Tabish, whose debut was the focus of much scrutiny, was tidy overall without quite being penetrative, with that role taken up most effectively by Hasan.

Zimbabwe looked to hunker down and shut shop for much of the first session, but Hasan was finding swing at pace, and one that seared back in off a length ripped past Kevin Kasuza and sent his stumps tumbling. He had hung around at the crease for 43 deliveries without looking up to much while managing just four runs.

Taylor looked to take a more proactive approach, getting a couple of boundaries away early, but Zimbabwe needed a long-term survival strategy. When the Zimbabwe captain pushed at one from Shaheen Afridi from around the wicket, any hopes of him leading the resistance was over.

Zimbabwe were in freefall by now, and there was still time enough for Sajid to trap Milton Shumba in front as the noose began to tighten. The hosts have been suffocated by now, and you would expect the knockout blow isn't far away either.

Cricinfo

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN 1 st INNINGS		
I Butt	c Tiripano b Ngarava	2
Abid Ali	not out	215
Azhar Ali	c Shumba b Muzarabani	126
B Azam	c Kasuzu b Muzarabani	2
F Alam	b Muzarabani	5
S Khan	c Chakabva b Tiripano	20
M Rizwan	c Ngarava b Chisoro	21
Hasan Ali	c Chakabva b Jongwe	0
Nauman Ali	st Chakabva b Chisoro	97
Extras:	(b 7, lb 8, nb 2, w 5)	22
TOTAL:	510 for eight decl in 147.1 overs	
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-28, 3-252, 4-264, 5-303, 6-340, 7-341, 8-510		
Bowling: B Muzarabani 29-6-82.3, R Ngarava 24-5-58-1, L Jongwe 17-1-68-1, D Tiripano 22-5-83-1, T Chisoro 40-1-7-131-2, M Shumba 15-1-73-0		

ZIMBABWE 1 st INNINGS		
K Kasuzu	b Hasan Ali	4
T Musakanda	lbw b Tabish Khan	0
R Chakabva	not out	28
B Taylor	c Rizwan b Afridi	9
M Shumba	lbw b Sajid Khan	2
T Chisoro	not out	1
Extras:	(b 4, lb 3, w 1)	8
TOTAL:	52 for four in 30 overs	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-23, 3-40, 4-47		
Bowling: S Afridi 9-3-16-1, Tabish Khan 10-3-22-1, Hasan Ali 6-3-7-1, Nauman Ali 2-2-0-0, Sajid Khan 3-3-0-1		

EXTRAS

Hardik, Kuldeep miss out for WTC final, England Tests

Mumbai, India - There is no room for Hardik Pandya or Kuldeep Yadav in India's squad of 20 players, including two players - KL Rahul and Wriddhiman Saha - subject to 'fitness clearance', for the final of the World Test Championship (WTC) against New Zealand and the subsequent five-Test series against England. India will play the WTC final from June 18-22 in Southampton and the Test series against England from August 4, starting in Nottingham, to September 14, with the last Test scheduled for Manchester. Keeping in mind the length of the tour as well as possible contingencies because of the COVID-19 pandemic, India are carrying a total of 24 players. Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja and Hanuma Vihari returned to the side after missing the recent home Tests against England because of their respective injuries.

Squad: Virat Kohli (capt), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-capt), Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul (subject to fitness clearance), Wriddhiman Saha (wk; subject to fitness clearance).
Standby players: Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Arzan Nagwaswalla.



New Zealand's Seifert tests positive in India

Chennai, India - New Zealand batsman Tim Seifert was forced to stay in India after testing positive for the coronavirus as his fellow Kiwi cricketers fled the COVID-19 crisis in India for the Maldives, officials said on Saturday. Seifert, who was playing for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL), failed his pre-departure tests and has been placed in quarantine. Test players involved in the IPL - Kane Williamson, Mitchell Santner and Kyle Jamieson - had planned to stay in New Delhi before travelling to England for their upcoming Test series but have now decided to move to the Maldives. Seifert is to be treated at the same Chennai hospital where former Australian player Michael Hussey has been staying since testing positive earlier in the week.

Cricinfo



sifra

SODIUM FREE
DRINKING WATER

Ramadan & Eid Offer

50 ONLY



HOT & COLD DISPENSER

2 FULL BOTTLES

12 REFILL COUPONS

20 ONLY



WHITE TAP DISPENSER OR TAP DISPENSER OR MANUAL WATER PUMP OR CRADLE WITH TAP

2 FULL BOTTLES

7 REFILL COUPONS



100 ONLY



100 ONLY



BUY & WIN ³¹⁰ Prizes

10 ONLY



30 CARAT 4 DMS GOLD COIN

20 ONLY



30 CARAT 4 DMS GOLD COIN

200 ONLY



10000 SPS 6 GALLON WATER COUPON

100 ONLY



LUXURY GIFTS VOUCHERS & MORE

[Register your coffee capsules collection](#)
[How to Redeem Your Sifra Prizes](#)

Offer valid from 11 May 2021 to 31 July 2021. Total of 3 gift winners will be held at Sifra Water Company, Arabian Dhow, Doha, 11 June 2021, 11 July 2021 and 21 August 2021. Winners will be announced directly. Close Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts known are for illustrative purpose only. Actual gift vary.

oman OASIS

www.omanoasis.com

Sifra Water Co. BSC
 PO Box 51, Al-Khail, DHA
 Suburban of Doha,
www.sifra.com.qa

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
 or GSM: 9378 5522


Sifra of the Year
 2012 & 2013
 10 Best Free Premiums



DOUBLE GOODNESS
GAIN HEALTH WIN PRIZES

Fortified with
Zinc & Copper
Boost your immune system

SCRATCH REGISTER WIN



Every Immuno shrink pack comes with a scratch coupon inside. Register the hidden number at www.omanoasis.com/immuno and stand to win amazing prizes.

3 nos.
Huawei P40 Pro

12 nos.
22 carat 4 grams gold coin

88 nos.
Omantel Hayyaki recharge worth RO 10

3 nos.
Acer Laptop



Scan QR Code to Register

Promotion valid from 25th February 2021 to 24th May 2021. Raffle draws on 25th March, 26th April and 26th May 2021. Three draws in total. Winners will be announced in 7 days from the draw date. Pictures shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Customers to retain purchase receipts and scratch coupons to claim the gift. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Terms and conditions apply.

SIDE KICKS

Bayern Munich win ninth Bundesliga title in a row

Dortmund, Germany - Bayern Munich were confirmed as Bundesliga (German League) champions for the ninth straight season Saturday after Borussia Dortmund beat second-placed RB Leipzig 3-2. England winger Jadon Sancho netted twice in Dortmund's home win, a result that meant Bayern become champions without kicking a ball before their home game against Borussia Mönchengladbach later on Saturday. Before they even kick off, Bayern have 71 points to Leipzig's 64, securing them the coveted domestic title.

Barcelona, Atletico draw gives Real an advantage

Barcelona, Spain - Barcelona and Atletico Madrid knew victory could fire them towards the La Liga title but a 0-0 draw at Camp Nou on Saturday handed Real Madrid the chance to move top of the table. Zinedine Zidane's side know four wins from their last four games will be enough to retain their La Liga crown, with a crunch game at home to fourth-placed Sevilla up first on Sunday. A point each leaves Atletico three points clear of Real Madrid, who have a game in hand and also the superior head-to-head over both Atleti and Barcelona.

Spurs' top-four hopes dented after Leeds defeat

Leeds, UK - Leeds beat managerless Tottenham 3-1 on Saturday to put a huge dent in their ambitions of securing a coveted English Premier League top-four spot. Son Heung-min cancelled out Stuart Dallas's early goal for Leeds midway the first half but Patrick Bamford restored the home side's lead and substitute Rodrigo struck late on. Spurs, who sacked Jose Mourinho last month, remain five points behind fourth-placed Chelsea but now have just three games left - one fewer than their London rivals. Earlier on Friday, Newcastle United upset Leicester City 4-2 to all but secure their place in the Premier League

'Happy' Neymar extends PSG contract to 2025

Paris, France - Neymar has signed a contract extension that will see him stay at Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) until the end of the 2024-2025 season, the French champions announced on Saturday. The Brazil attacker said he had 'grown as a person, as a human being' since joining the club in 2017 from Barcelona for US\$270 mn in what remains the most expensive transfer in history. "I'm really pleased to continue my adventure at Paris Saint-Germain," the 29 year old said in a club statement after extending his contract until June 30, 2025. "I'm very happy in Paris, and proud to be part of this squad."

AFP

100 POLES!

Lewis Hamilton achieves another career milestone at Spanish GP



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (R) talks with Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen after the qualifying session at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona on Saturday (AFP)

FORMULA ONE

SPANISH GRAND PRIX

Barcelona, Spain - World champion Lewis Hamilton celebrated his 100th pole on Saturday after setting the fastest time in qualifying for the Spanish Grand Prix. The Mercedes driver's latest milestone puts him 32 clear of Michael Schumacher in the all-time pole chart and leaves him in prime position to secure a record-extending 98th win in Sunday's race.

"I'll always remember that one," he beamed.

Alongside the 36 year old Briton on the front row in Barcelona will be his Red Bull title rival Max Verstappen.

Hamilton reached his century 14 years after securing his maiden pole in the Canadian Grand Prix in 2007, which he went on to win to take the first step on the road to becoming Formula One's most successful driver.

He drew level and overtook Schumacher's record haul of 91 wins last season and leads the drivers' standings this season as he goes for an unprecedented eighth world crown.

Verstappen, eight points behind Hamilton in the nip and tuck battle for the drivers' crown after the first three races, at last has a car up to the job of mounting a serious title challenge.

The Dutch driver got to within

0.036sec to Hamilton's fastest lap on Saturday to join him at the head of the Montmelo circuit grid, with Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes and Charles Leclerc for Ferrari on the second row. Hamilton has a superb record in Catalonia, winning the race in each of the last four years with five wins altogether. Alpine's Esteban Ocon was fifth while Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was sixth.

In the all-time polesetter's league, Hamilton's childhood hero, the late Ayrton Senna, is in third place with 65, then comes Sebastian Vettel on 57 with Jim Clark and Alain Prost on 33 apiece.

Hamilton's record would have seem unthinkable until he started his run of success with Mercedes - and it is a remarkable achievement. He stands 32 poles clear of the next most successful qualifier in F1 history, Michael Schumacher.

He said, "I can't believe we are at 100. It's down to the men and women back at the factory who are just continuing to raise the bar and never giving up. It has been a dream to work these guys. Who would have thought when I made the move at the end of 2012 that we would get to 100? I am ecstatic, like it's my first.

Agencies

Honouring women who have achieved remarkable success in their chosen fields

NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON MAY 15

Go to www.apexmedia.co.om/events

SCAN ME

HEADLINE PARTNER

PERFUMES & COSMETICS

Beauty • Sensation • You

WOMAN

OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021

apex media

حدث
EVENT

الأمم
الاعلام

Topfruit

100% JUICE

ORANGE NO ADDED SUGAR

RED BERRIES NO ADDED SUGAR

200ml

Topfruit

RAMADAN MUBARAK

100% JUICE

ORANGE NO ADDED SUGAR

RED BERRIES NO ADDED SUGAR

200ml