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## 'Take 2 doses to avoid ICU'

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Patients vaccinated with two doses of COVID-19 vaccine are rarely admitted in intensive care units, according to medical experts.

"Taking the second dose is important, as one dose is not enough in the long run. We have noticed that patients vaccinated with two doses of vaccine rarely enter ICUs," said Dr Bader al Rawahi, director of Department of Infectious Diseases Control in the Ministry of Health (MoH).

According to Dr Rawahi, more than 51 per cent of citizens and 12 per cent of residents have received both doses. The sultanate has received more than 2,623,000 doses of vaccines and 2,177,888 individuals have been vaccinated so far.

Oman will receive 3,313,190 doses of vaccines in August and September, and 1.4mn doses

from October to December. "Oman has already booked 7,698,940 doses. Seventy per cent of the population will be vaccinated with two doses to reach community immunity by the end October. MoH aims to immunise the maximum number of people and urges all to get vaccinated in order to return to a normal life," Dr Rawahi said.

Describing speeding up the national immunisation drive as the most powerful weapon to avoid a new wave, Dr Zakaria bin Yahya al Balushi, infectious diseases consultant at The Royal Hospital, said working hours of vaccination centres must be extended to at least 9pm.

Urging families to restrict attendance in weddings and funerals, he said, "We do not want another wave to spread in society as we have seen from previous experiences. And I call on all to get vaccinated because vac-



*Taking the second dose is important, as one dose is not enough in the long run. We have noticed that patients vaccinated with two doses of vaccine rarely enter ICUs*

DR BADER AL RAWAHI



cines are effective and the path to survival."

Noting that vaccines reduce mortality in transplant patients, Dr Zakaria said complications from COVID-19 are more dangerous in organ transplant patients compared to the general public. "While this category should continue to take preventive measures such as wearing mask, physical distancing and washing hands, it is necessary to give them two doses of vaccines.

"A study confirmed that the number of COVID-19 cases is lower in organ transplant patients who received the vaccine completely. Of the 912 patients who received the vaccine, only four were infected and there were no deaths. Of the 1,239 patients who did not receive the vaccine, 61 were infected, and two died. Vaccine is important and effective in organ transplant patients."

Speaking from his observations at the COVID-19 Field Hospital in Seeb, Redha al Lawati too reiterated that one dose is not enough to fight COVID-19 variants. "Most scientific studies confirm that those who are vaccinated with two doses have reduced severity of symptoms of COVID-19 if they are infected.

"Through immunisation and by adhering to the precautionary measures, we can gradually return to our normal lives. Hurry up and get vaccinated."

Dr Zaid al Hinai, infectious diseases consultant at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, described immunisation as the 'most powerful weapon we have'.

"Immunisation protects against infection with COVID-19 and prevents hospitalisation and death to a very high extent," Dr Hinai said.

Continued on Page 04

### SAYYID BADR IN IRAN FOR RAISI'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



Sayyid Badr Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, held a session of talks with Dr Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Tuesday evening. The session reviewed bilateral relations and joint cooperation in different spheres between the two countries. The two sides affirmed their keenness in enhancing relations to serve the interests of their peoples. The session also touched on regional and international developments of mutual interest. Sayyid Badr underscored the importance of continuing to work on finding consensus in political solutions through peaceful dialogue and by backing all efforts exerted to achieve peace and security in the region. Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Sayyid Badr arrived in Tehran earlier on Tuesday to represent the sultanate in the swearing-in ceremony of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Upon his arrival, Sayyid Badr was received in Mehrabad International Airport by Iranian officials and members of the Omani embassy in Tehran (ONA)

### EA uses drones to plant 1mn mangrove seeds in Al Wusta

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

As part of its efforts to plant 10mn wild trees, Environment Authority (EA), in cooperation with Petroleum Development Oman, is implementing a project to plant 1mn mangrove seeds in the Wetland Reserve in the wilayat of Mahout, Al Wusta governorate.

The project is being implemented using drones for the first time in the sultanate in mangrove cultivation operations, an official of the authority said.

"The campaign started in August 3 and will continue till August 6. It is part of the national initiative to plant 10mn wild trees in the various governorates of the sultanate. The project aims to increase vegetation coverage, protect ecosystems, preserve and protect environmental systems and rehabilitate degraded lands



(Supplied photo)

while spreading environmental awareness among members of society.

In 2020, the authority planted 6,500 saplings in various coastal areas. Mangroves are considered to have great benefits in maintaining ecological balance and preserving beaches from erosion while helping the growth of com-

mercially valuable fish and other marine creatures, according to the EA official.

In January, EA, in cooperation with Petroleum Development Oman, launched the initiative to plant 10mn wild trees in the next ten years. The wild tree species include ghaf, sumr, sidr, shue, tiq, talh, mitan, sarh and alalan.



Good turnout as vaccination of students over 12 begins



Bangladesh stun Australia in first T20I game

## Oman's financial wealth grows to \$64bn despite pandemic

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Financial wealth of individuals in Oman grew by a compound annual growth rate of 3.8 per cent annually from 2015 to reach a high of US\$64bn in 2020 as the sultanate's market showed resilience in the face of the protracted COVID-19 pandemic, a global consultancy estimated on Tuesday.

Around 74 per cent of the sultanate's financial wealth is owned by individuals whose net worth is less than US\$5mn, according to a new report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). BCG also noted that 49 per

cent of Oman's US\$64bn financial wealth is investable wealth.

The report, titled *Global Wealth 2021: When Clients Take the Lead*, reveals that despite the pandemic's enduring financial impact, global prosperity and wealth grew significantly throughout the crisis and are likely to continue to expand significantly over the next five years, in line with the emerging economic recovery.

"Oman's wealth has been favourable over the past five years, demonstrating resilience despite pandemic-related tailwinds, with economic productivity accelerating as per Oman Vision 2040 aspirations. Activi-



ties in this direction have encouraged Omani citizens to engage in the global economy, which has, in turn, driven sustained increases in wealth growth,"

*Oman's wealth has been favourable over the past five years, demonstrating resilience despite pandemic-related tailwinds*

MUSTAFA BOSCA

Mustafa Bosca, managing director and partner at BCG, said.

Oman, which represented three per cent of the GCC's financial wealth in 2020, is ex-

pected to witness strong average annual growth of five per cent in financial wealth to reach US\$82bn by 2025, an US\$18bn increase from 2020, the BCG report said.

Meanwhile, the GCC region's financial wealth is forecast to reach US\$2.7tn in 2025 from US\$2.2tn in 2020.

'A spotlight on onshore asset allocation shows that equities and investment funds accounted for the largest proportion (55 per cent) of assets in 2020. Looking ahead, the allocation of onshore assets is expected to be similar with equities and investment funds expected to be the largest share of onshore assets in the

sultanate, amounting to 54 per cent,' the BCG report said.

The report also showed Oman's changing landscape of the wealthy in the coming years, with the rise of the next-generation affluent and high-net-worth clients.

"Greater economic attainment is a primary driver behind Oman's increased wealth. Looking ahead, wealth demographics will continue to shift, facilitating a subsequent shift in client needs and expectations which compels local wealth managers to ensure their offerings are geared towards local needs or younger wealth segments," concluded Bosca.

# Ministerial decision to combat money laundering in real estate

**Our Correspondent**  
Muscat

H E Dr Khalfan bin Said al Shu'a'ili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, has issued a Ministerial Decision on regulations controlling real estate mediation offices and companies, and real estate developers with regard to money laundering and terrorism financing.

The decision is based on the Law Regulating Mediation Business in the field of Real Estate, the Law on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, and Escrow Account System for Real Estate Development Projects.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning on Tuesday, the regulation - that includes 33 articles - comes in line with the global trends of combating this phenomenon, and to limit suspicious operations in buying and selling of real estate properties.

The latest decision comes to



ensure that offices and firms involved in real estate mediation, as well as real estate developers take necessary actions to 'identify the risks of money laundering and terrorism financing in their businesses'.

The regulation calls for high efficiency standards while appointing employees in the real estate sector, beside providing them with ongoing training on all aspects and requirements of combating money laundering and terrorism financing. It also looks to familiarise them with modern developments and tech-

nologies which come handy in detecting suspicious transactions and activities related to such crimes and help in implementing an effective system to check and verify the extent of compliance with policies, procedures, systems and internal control processes.

The regulation confirmed the need for documentation of risk assessment processes and the study of money laundering and terrorism financing risks by licensed real estate mediators, agents, offices and firms as well as real estate developers.

'This shall include risks related to the development of new products and techniques. That study and its relevant information shall be kept in written form, making sure it is updated periodically and provided to the competent authorities upon request,' said the statement.

'Besides, due diligence measures shall be developed and applied in high risks cases, while mitigating measures may be developed and applied in low risks cases, provided that there is no suspicion of money laundering or terrorism financing operations, and ensure that transactions whose value is equal to or exceeding the limit set by the ministry reported to the National Centre for Financial Information.'

As clearly stipulated in the regulation, any group involved in the real estate sector including the developers must enforce international resolutions to combat money laundering and the terrorism financing.



## Tourism Ministry opens office in China to promote Oman

**Our Correspondent**  
Muscat

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) opened a representative office in China on Sunday to attract foreign tourists by promoting Oman tourism in the east Asian country.

'The tourism representative office opened on August 1, 2021, and will operate till July 31, 2022, subject to renewal,' the MHT said in a statement.

'The initiative aims to develop and renew the marketing plans and programmes implemented by the ministry,' it added.

The newly opened office will promote Oman and will give it prominence at various important tourism events in China to attract tourists to the sultanate.

'The opening of the office also aims to consolidate the relationship between local partners (companies and hotels) and their counterparts in the Chinese market,' the MHT stated.

According to the ministry's statistics, 219,717 tourists from China visited the sultanate in the last five years.

There was a significant increase - 141 per cent - in the number of visitors from China to

Oman between 2018 and 2019, the ministry said.

However, there was a 75.1 per cent drop in tourists to Oman in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sultanate welcomed 3,506,441 tourists in 2019, which was 8.2 per cent more than the 2018 figure of 3,241,757 and 75.1 per cent less than the number that visited in 2020 - 874,444 tourists.

The MHT is currently working to establish numerous projects to attract tourists to achieve the strategic goals of Oman Vision 2040.

## Centara signs deal to manage Al Hail Waves

**Our Correspondent**  
Muscat

One of Thailand's leading hotel operators Centara Hotels & Resorts and Ibn Saleh al Hashmi Construction (ISAHC) have announced the signing of a hotel management agreement for Al Hail Waves.

The management of the property will come into effect from

January 1 next year, after which Centara will start refurbishing the property to align it with its brand and operational standards while it remains in operation.

"We are proud and excited to launch our third hotel in Oman, a country blessed with stunning nature, fascinating historical sites, and rich cultural heritage. The Omani government has laid out an ambitious roadmap to

achieve long term goals set forth in the Omani Tourism Strategy, and with Ibn Saleh al Hashmi Construction as our partner, we are confident that we will attract discerning travellers with our sharing, caring family values," said Thirayuth Chirathivat, CEO of Centara Hotels & Resorts.

Founded in 1994, ISAHC is one of the fastest growing construction companies in Oman.

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**BMW SERVICE CAMPAIGN**

**BMW E70-E72- Model Year 2006 - 2014**

**Date of Campaign** :4/8/2021  
**Recall Segment** :Replacing the front passenger airbag (HAH / PSPI-2)  
**Recall Type** :Performance Action  
**Product Description** :BMW E70-E72

| Year               | Make | Model | Affected vehicle VIN/Chassis range                                                                                         | No. of affected vehicles          |
|--------------------|------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2006<br>To<br>2013 | BMW  | E70   | OE55849 - OE68471<br>L091327 - L943485<br>LK10076 - LK12398<br>LL55386 - LL58924<br>LY62606 - LY88607<br>LZ68750 - LZ83978 | 13<br>585<br>22<br>15<br>52<br>48 |
| 2008<br>To<br>2014 | BMW  | E71   | OG82260 - OG91461<br>L192036 - L973161<br>LG15180 - LG15952<br>LJ37264 - LJ54448<br>LM11029 - LM12990<br>LN91455 - LN94504 | 68<br>391<br>13<br>28<br>16<br>12 |
| 2009               | BMW  | E72   | LK42245 - LK42246                                                                                                          | 2                                 |

**Description of Defect:** In this case, in the event of an accidental airbag deployment, a very high internal pressure in the gas generator can occur and in the worst case it can burst the gas generator and metal parts can cause possibly fatal injuries.

**Procedure Check :** Replace front passenger airbag.

**For More Information:** Customers of affected vehicles may please contact.AL Jenaibi Automobiles LLC for further Details/booking appointments from 4/8/2021 onwards.

**Contact Details:** Toll free no. 80050008 on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) between 8.00 A.M-5.30 P.M

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# E-platform Sindbaad takes local firms to foreign markets

Muscat - Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, e-commerce has gained momentum in the country. This development is also in line with Oman Vision 2040 to promote digital economy.

Realising the demand, a new Omani homegrown marketplace 'Sindbaad' ([www.sindbaad.com](http://www.sindbaad.com)) was launched in the beginning of 2021. Sindbaad is the region's first B2C and B2B e-commerce platform, an all-in-one website for personal and business needs. Consumers can choose from over 100 choicest local and international brands in fashion, electronics, essentials and more. Businesses can also connect with other businesses across the MENA region to buy/sell prod-



ucts in large quantities, negotiate prices and finalise contracts.

Sindbaad is paving the way for Omani business entities to enter international markets. "In Oman, we have exceptional treasures and talent. We truly have the power to be a leading market in the Middle East where businesses can thrive and have a

well-deserved opportunity to showcase their products to the world," said Sheikh Ghalib al Naamani, chairman of Sindbaad.

Sindbaad enables businesses to transform the way they market, sell, operate and improve efficiency. It provides the technology infrastructure and marketing reach to help merchants, brands,

retailers and other businesses to leverage the power of new technology to engage with their users and customers.

According to Shoaeb Kasmani, founder and managing director, Sindbaad as a marketplace is an ecosystem that is unique, energetic and innovative. "It connects consumers, enables businesses to be profitable and creates employment opportunities. In just a few months since launch, we have acquired numerous local and international brands in a broad range of categories providing a wholesome personal shopping experience for customers and providing the ultimate business-to-business experience for companies across Oman."

## OPINION

**SALEH MIRI**, MUSCAT DAILY COLUMNIST, IS AN ARCHITECT WHO CAME TO OMAN IN THE EARLY 1980S



**Nobody is losing his/her freedom by getting vaccinated. What is important is the survival of 7.6bn people and not the freedom of some selfish individuals**

The world has been facing the COVID-19 pandemic since almost a year and a half. About 4mn people have already lost their lives to the virus. Nobody knows precisely how it started and nobody knows precisely how it can be fought. Every day, we hear a specialist contradict the analysis of the previous one. But all agree and confirm that the only solution, which exists today, is vaccination.

Some believe that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the best; others prefer AstraZeneca.

Still others claim that those produced by the Chinese are the best. But no matter which one you choose, for the moment the only viable solution is vaccination of all.

Some countries claim success in managing the virus, including Israel and the UK. But very often we realise that these statements are linked to politics. Some other countries in Europe, such as Germany, France and Italy, are protesting to defend their right to chose not to take the vaccine.

This new challenge concerns everybody, young and old, female or male, rich or poor. Our leaders have to think of how to preserve humanity and ensure that this planet survives. This is why they have been elected to represent the people. In some countries, they do not want to import vaccines from the US, because they are their enemy. Others are selling vaccines and PCR tests at exorbitant prices

even as the US offers US\$100 for people who get vaccinated. Where are we going with these attitudes? In Tanzania, the previous president was against vaccination. The new one is 100 per cent for it.

The arguments against vaccination revolve around 'lack of freedom'. When the same people drive their cars, they have to wear their belt. They cannot say that they are free to decide. Refusing vaccination will lead to risk to the lives of others. Our leaders have to make this message clear. Nobody is losing his/her freedom by getting vaccinated.

## VACCINATION ONLY SOLUTION

What is important is the survival of 7.6bn people and not the freedom of some selfish individuals. We need to ensure that the World Health Organization is the sole source which provides the information; one person provides the information in a country. The contradiction in the various opinions expressed by millions of 'specialists' just increases confusion and creates doubts in the mind of people.

The new post-pandemic world has to be treated properly. Manipulation of news by some people just causes chaos and endangers the survival of humanity.

Get vaccinated at any cost, and make sure that governments get organised and fulfil their role, which is to be at the service of the people. Climate control and health have to be the top priorities worldwide if we want to survive.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of *Muscat Daily* or *Apex Press & Publishing*

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## BMW SERVICE CAMPAIGN

### BMW F06—F87 Model Year 2012 - 2016



**Date of Campaign** :4/8/2021  
**Recall Segment** :Replace driver's airbag  
**Recall Type** :Performance Action  
**Product Description** :BMW F06—F87

| Year         | Make | Model                           | Affected vehicle VIN/Chassis range                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No. of affected vehicles                                        |
|--------------|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2013 To 2016 | BMW  | F06                             | D145284 - D990783<br>DV73272 - DV73454<br>DY69683 - DY69770<br>GA00120                                                                                                                                                                      | 80<br>18<br>2<br>1                                              |
| 2013 To 2016 | BMW  | F10                             | D095189 - D940891<br>DZ34357 - DZ36798<br>G175844 - G602142<br>GT89613 - GT89936<br>GX26343 - GX28531                                                                                                                                       | 202<br>8<br>358<br>40<br>2                                      |
| 2014 To 2016 | BMW  | F16                             | 0Q57879 - 0Q58128<br>0N25336 - 0N49903<br>0R58030 - 0R64517<br>0S44563 - 0S44567<br>0V51419 - 0V51434                                                                                                                                       | 5<br>52<br>82<br>4<br>3                                         |
| 2013 To 2015 | BMW  | F22                             | V224529 - V615727<br>VW83155 - VZ34077                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 10<br>6                                                         |
| 2014 To 2016 | BMW  | F23<br>F25<br>F26               | V243570<br>0K13017 - 0K14230<br>0R52098 - 0T94304                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1<br>63<br>250                                                  |
| 2013 To 2016 | BMW  | F15                             | 0C08383 - 0C08451<br>0G94941 - 0G98958<br>0J01560 - 0J39473<br>0M54032 - 0M80622<br>0R30514 - 0R88690<br>0S96208 - 0S96769<br>0T64329 - 0T98805<br>0U00484 - 0U00640<br>0V03020 - 0V03617<br>0W26016 - 0W26060                              | 5<br>48<br>92<br>63<br>9<br>3<br>46<br>12<br>5<br>4             |
| 2012 To 2016 | BMW  | F30<br>F32<br>F33<br>F34<br>F36 | F491283-F492666<br>K096954-K791951<br>KW92069<br>F728284<br>K305544 - K591943<br>5A13870 - 5B65352<br>J867654 - J871611<br>P741128<br>D877372 - D877699<br>G319900 - G319911<br>D399306 - D407838<br>G185764 - G765419<br>GA39193 - GZ79663 | 3<br>72<br>1<br>20<br>22<br>2<br>1<br>15<br>5<br>33<br>12<br>56 |
| 2014 To 2015 | BMW  | F45                             | VZ32282 - VZ38702                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5                                                               |
| 2015 To 2016 | BMW  | F48                             | 5E78785 - 5H73052<br>P893365 - P900989                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 155<br>15                                                       |
| 2014 To 2016 | BMW  | F80                             | 5D80271 - 5F95272<br>J194456 - J194638<br>P708037 - P997808                                                                                                                                                                                 | 6<br>3<br>10                                                    |
| 2014 To 2016 | BMW  | F82                             | F699816 - F699836<br>K320681 - K800316                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5<br>20                                                         |
| 2015 To 2016 | BMW  | F83                             | J956260                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1                                                               |
| 2015 To 2016 | BMW  | F85                             | 0C88032 - 0T68938                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 20                                                              |
| 2015 To 2016 | BMW  | F86                             | 0G93313 - 0G93316<br>0P67667 - 0P68606                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2<br>7                                                          |
| 2015 To 2016 | BMW  | F87                             | V728533 - V916342                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                                                               |

**Description of Defect:** In this case, in the event of an accidental airbag deployment, a very high internal pressure in the gas generator can occur and in the worst case it can burst the gas generator and metal parts can cause possibly fatal injuries.

**Procedure Check :** Replace driver's airbag

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## 'Take 2 doses to avoid ICU'

Continued from Page 01

"With good vaccination coverage, we can avoid the need for governorates to close in the future," Dr Hinai said.

"Vaccination can be likened to studying for a test. The person who is vaccinated is like one who enters the exam hall prepared. If he is exposed to the virus, he knows how to deal with it and succeeds against it. A person who is not immunised is someone who enters the test without studying, is surprised by strange questions, and less likely to succeed," Dr Hinai added.

## REGIONAL WEATHER

|             | Max | Min |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| Abu Dhabi   | 42  | 28  |
| Doha        | 45  | 32  |
| Kuwait City | 46  | 34  |
| Manama      | 46  | 32  |
| Riyadh      | 45  | 28  |



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# Good turnout as vaccination of students over 12 begins

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre witnessed a large turnout of the target group since the early morning on Tuesday as the Ministry of Health (MoH) started the COVID-19 immunisation campaign for school students from the age of 12 and above across the sultanate's governorates.

Dr Lamia al Balushi, head of the epidemiological investigation



(Supplied photo)

team at the Directorate General of Health Services in Muscat, said the campaign will continue for three weeks until students are vaccinated before the start of

the new school year.

She stressed the importance of the students having attained the age of 12 before the day of their immunisation.

"Those who have been in contact with COVID-19 patients or complain of symptoms of respiratory diseases must reschedule vaccination dates," Dr Lamia said. The ongoing immunisation campaign targets 320,000 students from public and private schools from all governorates, with 90,000 students scheduled to get their doses in Muscat alone.

Meanwhile, the MoH is continuing to vaccinate those who have completed 10 weeks from the first dose.

## 309 new COVID-19 cases

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The MoH announced 309 fresh infections and nine deaths in the last 24 hour taking the total infections to 297,431. The number of deaths now stands at 3,877.

'Thirty-five patients were admitted in hospitals in the last 24 hours,' the MoH said, adding that 'the total ICU cases was 210, and 485 were inpatients'.

As many as 504 people recovered taking the total number of recoveries to 280,927. The recovery rate is now at 94.5 per cent.

### PRAYER TIMINGS

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr    | 4.13am  |
| Sunrise | 5.38am  |
| Duhr    | 12.13pm |
| Asr     | 3.37pm  |
| Maghrib | 6.47pm  |
| Isha    | 8.17pm  |

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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDERS

The Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.A.O.C) (invites following tenders:

| Tender No.      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Tender Price (R.O) | Grade                | Last Date of Buying | Last Date of Submission |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Tanweer-28/2021 | Electrification Work for New Planned Area at Ras Madrasah at Wilayat Al Duqm - Al Wusta Governorate                                                                                                                                       | 66/=               | "C" and Above        | 17/08/2021          | 31/08/2021              |
| Tanweer-29/2021 | Reinforcement Works for The Existing LV Overhead Line (Replacement of Dangerous Over Headline, Low Voltage & Service Connection to Under Ground Cable) at Al-Gurabiah & Tawi Bent Rashid in Wilayat Dibba & Madha - Musandam Governorate. | 29/=               | "C" and Above        | 17/08/2021          | 31/08/2021              |
| Tanweer-30/2021 | Reinforcement Works for Shifting of 33 KV OHL in Wadies (33 KV - Lima Feeder from Mahas to KHB Fatim) in Wilayat Khasab - Musandam Governorate                                                                                            | 51/=               | "B" and Above        | 17/08/2021          | 31/08/2021              |
| Tanweer-31/2021 | Annual Maintenance Contract for Tanweer SCADA System                                                                                                                                                                                      | 47/=               | specialist Companies | 17/08/2021          | 31/08/2021              |
| Tanweer-32/2021 | Replacement of Porcelain Insulator to Silicone Rubber Type in Wilayat Haima & Surrounding Area -Al Wusta Governorate                                                                                                                      | 48/=               | "C" and Above        | 17/08/2021          | 31/08/2021              |

### The Conditions:

- Collection of Tender:** Interested and Specialized Companies and Establishments registered with Tender Board (valid certificate), Tanweer and (Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) except for tender no. Tanweer- 31/2021) (valid certificate) may obtain the Tender documents from Procurement & Contracts Department, against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. The fees for the tenders shall be deposited on Tanweer account 0423010783090041 – Bank Muscat and for more information please contact via email address i.e. tender.purchase@tanweer.nama.om , or call us on phone number : 24250824.
- Bank Guarantee:** The Tenderer should enclose original bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for an amount equivalent to (1%) of the tender value with a validity of (90) Days from the last date of submission and addressed to Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (Tanweer).
- Offers Submission:**
  - Original bids along Cover letter shall be placed by bidders inside the red waxed Tender's envelopes as communicated to bidders by Tanweer. Such documents must be serialized according to the numbers of the tender items.
  - Tender bids shall be provided separately on a CD Rooms, along with original cover letters in each envelop. Bids and cover letters shall bear the bidder's official seal and must be signed in either blue or red ink, but not black. A true soft copy of the bids shall be provided on a CD in an inner envelope marked "Copy". Bids who do not comply with these requirements will be overlooked.
- Bidders shall write the following details on the cover of CD:**
  - Tender name and number.
  - Tenders No. Tanweer -28/2021 to be Addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee, Tanweer.
  - Tender No. Tanweer -29/202, Tanweer -30/2021, Tanweer -31/2021 & Tanweer -32/2021, to be Addressed to the Chairman of Purchase Committee, Tanweer.
  - Prequalification / Technical Proposal / Commercial Proposal / Bid Bond.
- Submission Location:** The Completed bids in CD should be deposited in the Tender Box at Tanweer Main Office at Wilayat Al Seeb, before 12:00 PM on the last date of submission.
- Tender Price (R.O.):** 5% VAT is inclusive.
- Tanweer without mentioning the reason is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender and not bond to refund tender purchase fees if you are not qualified to participate the tender.

For more information please call: 80077787

**Tanweer**  
P.O Box 1166, P.C. 133, Al Seeb, Sultanate of Oman  
Tel: +968 24250800, Fax: +968 24250892  
info@tanweer.nama.om | www.tanweer.om

## TENDERS ADVERTISEMENT

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

| Sr.No | Tender No.         | Tender Name                                                                     | Last Date for Obtaining Tender Documents | Closing Date | Grade                                                                                              | Tender Document's Fees (Including VAT) (RO) |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1     | 39/2021 (Extended) | Stocktaking for OETC Stores in Muscat, Misfah and Salalah for The Year of 2021  | 12/08/2021                               | 24/08/2021   | Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate. | 39.375                                      |
| 2     | 40/2021 (Extended) | Reinforcement of Tower Foundation for 132 KV OHL Tower at Sharqiyah & Dakhliyah | 12/08/2021                               | 24/08/2021   | Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate. | 157.500                                     |

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Participation:</b>                  | Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity of sending a valid Tender Board certificate in the same required field.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Buying the Tender:</b>              | The documents required for the purchase of the tender are sent by e-mail to the Tenders, Procurement and Contracts Department, to ensure the authenticity of the documents before purchasing the tender through the official working days of the hour from <b>8.00 am - 01.00 pm</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Fees:</b>                           | Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document.(Payment Through Bank Transfer )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>The deadline for clarification:</b> | Before (21) Days from closing date.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Submission:</b>                     | Each bid should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope addressed to The Chairman of tender committee mentioning Tender Number and Name on the top of the envelope.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Terms and conditions:</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope.</li> <li>The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from closing date.</li> <li>The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the bid value and should be valid for (90) days from closing date, addressed to Oman Electricity Transmission Company (SAOC).</li> <li>Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted.</li> <li>OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Offer:</b>                          | The complete bid documents should be deposited in Tender Box No. (1) at the company's building before 11:00 am on the assigned date for submission of the Tenders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Company Address:</b>                | Muscat - Al Mawaleh<br>Road No: 2153 - Building No. 4230 Block No: 321 - GSM:, <b>93201558-92217856</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Email Website:</b>                  | <b>tenders@omangrid.com</b><br><b>www.omangrid.com</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



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

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## إعلان طرح مناقصات

تعلن الشركة العُمانية لنقل الكهرباء عن طرح المناقصات التالية :

| م | رقم المناقصة    | عنوان المناقصة                                                                       | آخر موعد للحصول على مستندات المناقصة | آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات | الدرجة                                                                                 | نوع الوثيقة (شامل ضريبة القيمة المضافة) (رغ) |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| ١ | ٢٠٢١/٣٩ (تمديد) | الجرد السنوي لخازن الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء في مسقط والمسفاة وصلالة لعام ٢٠٢١ م | ٢٠٢١/٠٨/١٢                           | ٢٠٢١/٠٨/٢٤               | الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول | ٣٩/٣٧٥                                       |
| ٢ | ٢٠٢١/٤٠ (تمديد) | تدعيم قواعد الإبراج الهوائية جهد ١٣٢ ك. ف في محافظات الشرقية والداخلية.              | ٢٠٢١/٠٨/١٢                           | ٢٠٢١/٠٨/٢٤               | الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول | ١٥٧/٥٠٠                                      |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>الاشتراك</b>             | يمكن للشركات والمؤسسات المتخصصة الحصول على مستندات المناقصة مع ضرورة إرسال شهادة مجلس المناقصات سارية المفعول وفي نفس المجال المطلوب .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>طريقة الشراء</b>         | يتم إرسال المستندات المطلوبة لشراء المناقصة عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني الى دائرة المناقصات والمشتريات والعقود . وذلك للتأكد من صحة المستندات قبل شراء المناقصة وذلك من خلال أيام العمل الرسمية من الساعة ٨:٠٠ ص - ١:٠٠ م .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>الرسوم</b>               | مقابل دفع المبلغ المحدد أعلاه للنسخة الواحدة - لا ترد - ( الدفع عن طريق التحويل البنكي )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>آخر موعد للإستفسارات</b> | قبل (٢١) يوم من تاريخ آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>تقديم العروض</b>         | تقدم العروض في مظاريف مغلقة ومعنونة بإسم رئيس لجنة المناقصات مع تحديد رقم وعنوان المناقصة فقط.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>الشروط و الضمانات</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>عدم تحديد اسم صاحب العطاء أو ما يشير إليه على المظروف.</li> <li>أن تكون العروض سارية المفعول لمدة لا تقل عن (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ تقديم العطاء .</li> <li>إرفاق تأمينا في صورة ضمان مصرفي من أحد البنوك العاملة في البلاد قدره (٪١) من قيمة العطاء ساري لمدة (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ تقديم العطاء . ومعنونا بإسم الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء .</li> <li>كل عطاء لا يستوفي التأمين المطلوب لن ينظر فيه .</li> <li>الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء غير مقيدة بقبول أقل العروض أو أي عطاء آخر.</li> </ul> |
| <b>العرض المقدم</b>         | يجب وضع العروض في صندوق المناقصات رقم (١) بمبنى الشركة قبل الساعة ١١ صباحاً من التاريخ المحدد لتقديم العطاءات .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>عنوان الشركة</b>         | عنوان الشركة: محافظة مسقط - الموالج<br>رقم السكة ٢١٥٣ - مبنى رقم ٤٣٠ -<br>هاتف : ٩٢٢٠١٥٥٨ - ٩٢٢١١٧٨٥٦                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>البريد الإلكتروني</b>    | <b>tenders@omangrid.com</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>الموقع الإلكتروني</b>    | <b>www.omangrid.com</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



رؤية عمان  
2040

الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء ش. م. ع. م  
ص. ب : ١٣٨٩, الخوض الرمز البريدي : ١٣٢, سلطنة عمان  
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الموقع الإلكتروني : www.omangrid.com



الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء ش. م. ع. م  
أحد شركات مجموعة ناما  
Member of Nama Group

# BP returns to profit as oil prices recover

London, UK – BP returned to profit in the second quarter, the British energy giant announced Tuesday, having posted a hefty loss one year earlier as the pandemic crushed oil prices.

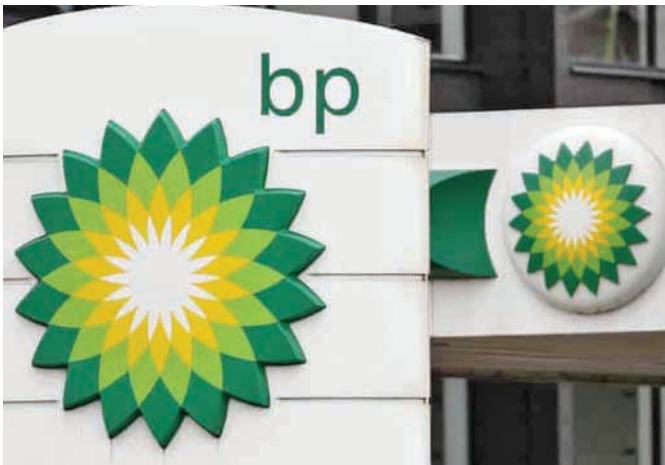
Net profit for April-June hit US\$3.1bn. That compared with a loss after tax of US\$16.8bn in the second quarter of 2020.

With demand for crude crashing as the coronavirus pandemic took hold early last year, oil prices plunged into negative territory. They have since recovered with a bang, currently trading above US\$70 per barrel.

Oil demand was recovering on 'a bright macroeconomic outlook, increasing vaccination roll-out and gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions around the world', BP said in its results statement Tuesday.

'The expectation is that demand reaches pre-Covid levels sometime in the second half of 2022.'

In the wake of the pandemic, BP decided to axe about 10,000



jobs, or 15 per cent of its global workforce, while it embarked upon major asset disposals.

BP on Tuesday said it had completed deals on divestments totalling US\$14.9bn out of a target of US\$25bn.

It comes as Bernard Looney, who became BP chief executive when the coronavirus began taking hold worldwide, wants the company to achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050.

It hopes to achieve this with the help of an expected drop in oil and gas production that is pushing energy majors worldwide to up their game regarding cleaner, sustainable energy sources such as electricity and wind power.

"We are a year into executing BP's strategy to become an integrated energy company and are making good progress – delivering another quarter of strong performance while in-

vesting for the future in a disciplined way," Looney said in Tuesday's results statement.

BP added that it was hiking its shareholder dividend and launching a buyback of shares totalling US\$1.4bn.

The turnaround in results mirrors the picture at BP rivals, with Chevron, ExxonMobil and Shell all posting bumper second-quarter earnings.

"There is little doubt that the rise in the oil price has helped BP this quarter, along with the rest of its peers," noted Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

"However if the company wants to meet CEO Bernard Looney's plans for a 40-per cent reduction in oil and gas production by 2030, then it will need to invest a lot more in renewables."

BP's share price jumped 2.6 per cent following the results, topping London's benchmark FTSE 100 index.

AFP

# Janet Yellen urges Congress to raise US debt limit

Washington, US – US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has called on Congress to take steps to address the federal government's borrowing limit which was hit on Sunday.

Congress suspended the debt limit in 2019, but the two-year suspension lapsed July 31, forcing Treasury to begun taking 'extraordinary measures' to remain under the ceiling and continue funding government operations.

But private economists estimate those steps will only buy the government a few weeks after which debt repayments would be at risk unless the debt limit is increased or suspended.

"I respectfully urge Congress to protect the full faith and credit of the United States by acting as soon as possible," Yellen said in a letter to congressional leaders.

The debt limit was reset to the total as of Friday, just over US\$28tn, according to Treasury figures.

The US national debt and deficit have soared during the COVID-19 pandemic after Washington approved three massive spending bills aimed at



Janet Yellen

lessening the damage from its economic impacts.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said this year's budget deficit will be US\$3tn, second only to the record deficit in 2020.

In a letter earlier in July, Yellen reminded lawmakers that raising the debt limit does not increase spending but simply allows Treasury to finance actions already approved by the legislature.

CBO estimates Treasury should be able to keep paying the

government's bills until October or November, after which point it would have to either delay making payments or default, which could cause economic chaos.

Raising the debt ceiling has been a contentious issue in Congress for the past several years, and a 2011 standoff caused the United States to lose the coveted AAA debt rating.

However, the Democratic majority in Congress might be more sympathetic to resolving the issue.

AFP

# TED talks seek to inject optimism into pandemic gloom

Monterey, US – A TED conference under the theme 'The Case for Optimism' on Monday threw down the gauntlet for a return to face-to-face gatherings, despite the daunting challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, climate change and deep political divides. Even with those dark clouds, speakers ranging from scientists and academics to artists and entrepreneurs took to the TED stage for the four-day event.

"We are trying to juggle it and do it right," TED curator Chris Anderson told the gathering while stressing pandemic precautions.

"We are living through a piece of history. Even though what we've heard is alarming, we can find optimism."

The event at the heart of what has become a global platform for

mind-bending concepts aimed at making the world a better place returned to its roots with a scaled-down event on the edge of Silicon Valley.

Proof of vaccination was required, and badges were only given to those who passed COVID-19 tests on arrival.

A welcome kit included masks, wipes and sanitizers.

And the annual gathering that had grown to some 1,800 attendees at its venue in Vancouver was limited to about 600 attendees at a Monterey conference center. Despite none of the attendees testing positive for COVID-19, Anderson urged everyone to wear masks given the highly-transmissible Delta variant.

"I felt the weirdest combination of intense excitement and intense nervousness," Anderson



This handout photo courtesy of TED Conferences LLC shows organizational psychologist Adam Grant speaking at TEDMonterey on August 1 in Monterey, California (AFP)

said of the weeks leading up to the conference.

"I want to salute the courage and commitment of each of you to come here; I know it wasn't necessarily easy to come."

The annual TED conference was among a slew of events that went virtual last year due to the pandemic, which prompted lockdowns to reduce the spread of COVID-19. TED attendee Betul Kacar, an astrobiologist who is a professor at the University of Arizona, took solace in the turmoil roiling society.

"Chaos is needed for change to occur, and the world is definitely changing," Kacar said during a break in the talks.

"When things go smoothly, evolution doesn't happen."

TED talks tackled hot-button topics from capturing the carbon that is damaging the climate to

researchers developing vaccines, and people dealing with shutdowns caused by the pandemic.

"I'm a cynic by nature," said Akash Bhatia, a managing director at Boston Consulting Group who specializes in disruptive technologies. "It's early in this, but some of the talks nudge a bit to the other side to be a little more optimistic."

Conference talks are crafted into videos shared free online for what has grown into a global following since its founding in 1984.

"We are living through a cynicism epidemic," said speaker Jamil Zaki, a psychology professor who heads a neuroscience lab at Stanford University.

"It is not a system upgrade; it's mental malware. We can take control of our stories to escape the cynicism trap."

AFP

# IMF approves to increase its lending capacity by \$650bn

New York, US – The board of governors of the International Monetary Fund on Monday greenlit increasing the institution's lending capacity by US\$650bn, the last step in approving an initiative to boost aid to the most vulnerable countries.

"This is a historic decision – the largest SDR (Special Drawing Rights) allocation in the history of the IMF and a shot in the arm for the global economy at a time of unprecedented crisis," IMF head Kristalina Georgieva said in a statement.

"It will particularly help our most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis," she said.

The program, which had already been approved by the IMF's executive board in mid-July, will be implemented on August 23. Newly issued SDRs will be allocated to member countries in proportion to their IMF quota, the lender said.

Emerging and developing nations are to receive around US\$275bn in total. But "we will also continue to engage actively with our membership to identify viable options for voluntary channeling of SDRs from wealthier to poorer and more vulnerable member countries to support



IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva

their pandemic recovery and achieve resilient and sustainable growth," Georgieva said.

Wealthy countries could, for example, transfer their SDRs by using those attributed to them to finance the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust Fund, which would increase the supply of loans to low-income countries.

The NGO Oxfam welcomed the IMF's decision.

"The new SDRs will bring much-needed liquidity to struggling developing countries without adding to their unsustainable debt burdens," Nadia Daar, head of the Washington-based NGO, said in a statement.

It is "unfathomable that wealthy nations would fail to reallocate a substantial portion of their SDRs – at least US\$100bn as agreed by the G7" at a mid-

June summit, she said.

It is also necessary for governments to "work transparently and together with civil society" so that SDRs are used wisely, Daar added.

Created in 1969, SDRs are not a currency and have no material existence. Their value is based on a basket of five major international currencies: the dollar, the euro, the pound, the renminbi or yuan and the yen.

Once issued, SDRs can be used either as a reserve currency that stabilizes the value of a country's domestic currency, or converted into stronger currencies to finance investments.

For poorer countries, the interest is also to obtain hard currencies without having to pay substantial interest rates.

AFP

# MSX: Downward trend continues

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The benchmark index of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on Tuesday decreased 0.20 per cent to close below 4,000 mark at 3,999.29 points. Trading activity, however, slightly improved on the bourse.

All the sectoral indices closed in red except Services Index which inched up 0.06 per cent. Financial Index dropped 0.29 per cent and Industrial Index closed 0.07 per cent lower. MSX Sharia Index increased 0.14 per cent to close at 585.10 points.

Trading activity increased on Tuesday as volumes rose 31.8 per cent at 11.8mn shares compared with 8.95mn shares traded in the previous trading session. Market turnover went up more than 86 per cent to RO2.71mn compared with RO1.45mn in the previous session.

Market breadth at the MSX remained

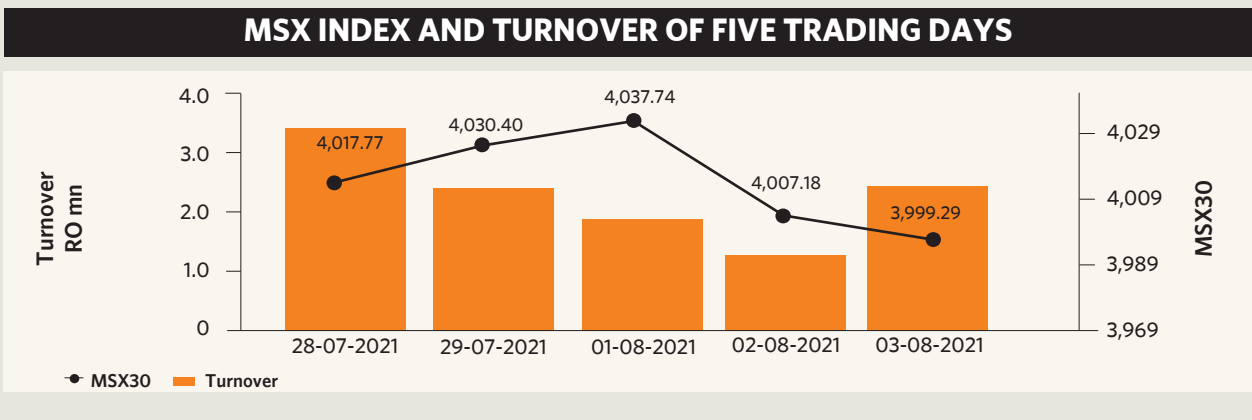


nearly neutral with nine advancing stock to eight decliners. As many as 31 traded stocks remained flat for the day.

Two gainers of the day were Al Ahlia Insurance (9.09 per cent), SMN Power Holding (4.69 per cent), Majan College (3.33 per cent), Al Jazeera Services (1.56

per cent), Oman Fisheries (1.28 per cent).

Top losers were Al Omaniya Financial Services (-5.6 per cent), Al Batinah Power (-1.92 per cent), Global Investment Holding (-1.45 per cent), Oman Cement (-1.26 per cent) and Oman National Engineering & Investment (-1.04 per cent).



# Leaders of sports teams praise success, highlight importance of Bank Muscat's Green Sports initiative



Ahmed Salim al Alawi



Salim Ali al Riyami



On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bank Muscat's landmark corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, Green Sports, a number of sports teams from across the sultanate have appreciated and praised the bank's prominent role in supporting the youth and local communities across the sultanate.

The bank's long-running CSR programme continues to benefit many sports teams across the

sultanate even as the annual programme brings together different generations on a single platform on the evergreen theme of sports. The bank's efforts complement the government's efforts to develop modern sports infrastructure across the sultanate in the spirit of the Public-Private Partnership model.

The scope of Green Sports support for sports teams include greening of football fields with

natural or synthetic turf, floodlights or water desalination equipment in areas facing problems of water salinity. The programme aims to develop a sustainable sports infrastructure across the sultanate, thereby serving as a means to channelise the boundless energy and vast talents of Omani youth in a pro-

ductive way, besides helping local communities develop stronger bonds and a greater spirit of partnership and cooperation all around. Having seen the great success of the programme over the years and to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2021, Bank Muscat increased the number of annual beneficiaries to 20 sports

teams, up from 15 teams annually in previous years. The bank believes that this will also help it reach out to more Omani youth in the coming years and take the fruits of development to all segments of society and at all levels.

**Unique programme**  
Speaking about the benefits of

the programme, Salim Ali al Riyami, chairman of Al Mustaqbal Team from the wilayat of Bahla, said that the Green Sports programme is a truly unique programme helping young Omani talent in various fields. He pointed out how the facilities were used by the community for activities like special religious and social events before the COVID-19 pandemic. The club's Green Sports field can also be provided to other teams on rent, thereby providing the Al Mustaqbal team with a means of revenue generation.

Riyami said that the team and the community were eagerly looking forward to a time when pandemic-related challenges are a thing of the past and the sports team could work towards a brighter future. He said that the entire management, the players as well as the fans of the team

were thankful to the bank for its Green Sports programme, which would go a long way in developing the talents and capabilities of youth in the country, particularly in sports. He added that the programme serves to complement the development initiatives undertaken by the government.

On his part, Ahmed Salim al Alawi, chairman of A'Shabab Sports Team, from the wilayat of Yanqul, said that the launch of the Green Sports programme by Bank Muscat was one of the most successful and pioneering CSR steps undertaken by the bank in strengthening the infrastructure available to youth teams across the different governorates in the sultanate.

He pointed out how youth teams constitute an important feeder line for national level clubs as well as the national team in different sports activities.

## CCED develops national talent

As part of its strategy to empower national talent to excel in the oil and gas sector, CC Energy Development (CCED), has seen 95 per cent of its maintenance technicians and production team acquire the Advanced Diploma in Oil & Gas Operations from City & Guilds in the UK.

With 161 team members receiving the globally-recognised diploma to date, the value-driven energy company continues to nurture the next generation of energy sector qualified experts through a number of on-the-job training programs to sig-



nificantly accelerate their skills development.

"Talent acquisition and development is a translation of CCED's forward-thinking strat-

egy to build a highly skilled national workforce in the oil and gas industry," said Walter Simpson, managing director of CCED.

## Educational Statistics book launched

The Ministry of Education, represented by the Department of Statistics and Information, issued the annual book of Educational Statistics for the academic year 2020/2021. The book is one of the most important annual publications related to educational statistical data, and one of the most important sources for documenting this data in the ministry.

The Department of Statistics and Information is keen to issue this book annually, and to publish it electronically in multiple ways through the educational portal website; to make it easier for the beneficiary to access data.

The annual book consists of 11 chapters, and includes many statistical data represented in government schools' data in terms of numbers of students, aca-

demic classes, numbers of faculty, administrative, and technical staff. The book also contains data on the numbers of special education schools, private and international schools, and literacy classes and adult education. The book also includes data related to human resources, training and rehabilitation programs, information and communication technology data, and educational

evaluation, in addition to the development of statistical data and financial data.

The work on this version took nearly five months, and modern digital display methods (infographics) were used in designing statistical data to be a new addition to the contents of this version, and to keep pace with the method of tabulation and electronic publishing.

### TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

**China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Company Limited Oman Branch (CPP), as an EPC Contractor, invites companies to participate in the following tender:**

| Estimated Scope Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Tender Documents Fee |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Road construction, cable trench excavation and backfilling. It mainly includes 5.1km road construction (width is 4m), 5.1km cable trench (1M*0.5M*0.7M) excavation and backfilling. The approx. quantity of road construction is around 13000m <sup>3</sup> cut volume and 11200m <sup>3</sup> fill volume. The approx. quantity of cable trench excavation and backfilling is around 3500m <sup>3</sup> . | Free                 |

- Legal entities, domestic Omani and foreign companies who meet the following minimum qualification criteria are eligible to quote in Tender:
- Priority to Oman local companies, or local agent appointed by foreign companies,
  - Capability to submit a performance bond of ten percent of total value.
  - Complying with the CPP's project execution schedule.
  - ISO 14001 and OHSAS18001 in valid period are mandatory.
  - Having direct experience of similar jobs in the last five years.
  - Agree to complete the further prequalification undertaken by CPP.

All interested bidders shall submit a written application letter printed on Bidder's letter head signed by the Bidder's authorized Person to [cppomancd@cppmde.com](mailto:cppomancd@cppmde.com), [contractcppoman@cppe.ae](mailto:contractcppoman@cppe.ae) over a period before **10th August, 2021** stating the following details: Full name of Bidder, phone number, e-mail address, contact person, tender name and tender title. Any application received after **10th August, 2021** shall not be entertained.

The ITB documents will be issued via email by CPP later. The bidders shall bear all cost arising from or incidental to the preparation, clarification, finalization and delivery of their bid proposal.

CPP is not obliged to accept the bid with least prices or any other bids. CPP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or; any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for the CPP's action.



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**Al Maha Ceramics SAOG**

PO Box 482, Postal Code 322, Falaj Al Qabail, Sohar, Oman. Tel: 26752322/23  
Fax: 26752177. Email: [info@almahaceramics.com](mailto:info@almahaceramics.com), web: [www.almahaceramics.com](http://www.almahaceramics.com)

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Dear Shareholders,**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the un-audited results of Al Maha Ceramics SAOG for the six months ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

##### Company's Performance:

Your company has achieved a revenue of RO 4,875,651 for the period as compared to RO 4,297,896 in the same period last year, an increase of 13.44 %. Net profit after tax for the period is RO 1,225,901 as compared to RO 695,163 in the last year same period, an increase of 76.35% which is mainly due to an increase in the sales revenue, effective cost control measures taken at various levels.

##### Future Outlook:

The robust performance achieved in the first quarter of the year continued in quarter two as well registering an excellent growth over last year even when the situation of pandemic and its effect continued to remain the same. The challenge that is expected in the future is the sharp increase in sea freight forcing our suppliers to increase the price of raw materials. Pandemic also inducing continued restrictions of movement due to closed borders hampering visit of our vendors, technicians, our customers and also skilled workforce. With the ongoing vaccination drive, we hope to see the situation improving in the next quarter. Demand situation looks good in the region and with our continued efforts to lower down our cost, we expect to continue with similar performance in next half of the year as well.

With regards to our announcement regarding taking majority stake in Al Hael Ceramics, the due diligence in under process and we are progressing as planned

Your company has initiated a vaccination drive for its employee and their family to ensure a risk-free and safe work environment and to meet the challenges of the pandemic in days to come. We have a robust risk management mechanism in place to effectively manage the health, business, operational and financial risks. Your company is in compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance and prioritizes the interests of the national workforce through omanization and would continuously strive for their overall development.

##### Thanks, and Appreciation

On behalf of the board, I would like to convey our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and His Majesty's Government for their encouragement and support.

The Board would also like to thank the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Investment Promotion, Capital Market Authority, Muscat Stock Exchange, Bankers and Auditors for their continued support to the company.

The Board would also like to place on record appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the management team and all employees of the company. I would also like to thank the shareholders of the company for the confidence they have reposed in the Company and its Board.

##### For Al Maha Ceramics SAOG

**Masoud Humaid Malik Al Harthy**  
Chairman

#### UNAUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30th June

|                                          | 2021<br>RO        | 2020<br>RO        | Audited<br>Dec. 2020<br>RO |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                            |                   |                   |                            |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>                |                   |                   |                            |
| Property, plant and equipment            | 6,537,209         | 7,278,318         | 6,906,960                  |
| Investment property                      | 225,000           | 225,000           | 225,000                    |
| Right-of-use asset                       | 655,861           | 466,674           | 464,109                    |
|                                          | <u>7,418,070</u>  | <u>7,969,992</u>  | <u>7,596,069</u>           |
| <b>Current assets</b>                    |                   |                   |                            |
| Inventories                              | 1,419,424         | 1,741,255         | 1,515,101                  |
| Trade and other receivables              | 2,183,591         | 2,712,032         | 2,221,170                  |
| Cash and bank balances                   | 2,038,256         | 482,107           | 1,751,544                  |
|                                          | <u>5,641,271</u>  | <u>4,935,394</u>  | <u>5,487,815</u>           |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                      | <u>13,059,341</u> | <u>12,905,386</u> | <u>13,083,884</u>          |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                            |                   |                   |                            |
| Share capital                            | 5,500,000         | 5,500,000         | 5,500,000                  |
| Share premium                            | 88,199            | 88,199            | 88,199                     |
| Statutory reserve                        | 1,833,333         | 1,697,533         | 1,833,333                  |
| Retained earnings                        | 2,839,306         | 2,185,056         | 2,878,405                  |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                      | <u>10,260,838</u> | <u>9,470,788</u>  | <u>10,299,937</u>          |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                       |                   |                   |                            |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>           |                   |                   |                            |
| End of service benefits                  | 266,923           | 256,807           | 260,879                    |
| Deferred tax liability                   | 319,611           | 348,950           | 319,611                    |
| Non-current portion of lease liabilities | 613,500           | 395,593           | 423,667                    |
|                                          | <u>1,200,034</u>  | <u>1,001,350</u>  | <u>1,004,157</u>           |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>               |                   |                   |                            |
| Bank borrowings                          | -                 | 600,000           | -                          |
| Trade and other payables                 | 1,314,715         | 1,559,341         | 1,420,552                  |
| Current portion of lease liabilities     | 67,399            | 85,807            | 59,692                     |
| Income tax payable                       | 216,355           | 188,100           | 299,546                    |
|                                          | <u>1,598,469</u>  | <u>2,433,248</u>  | <u>1,779,790</u>           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                 | <u>2,798,503</u>  | <u>3,434,598</u>  | <u>2,783,947</u>           |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>      | <u>13,059,341</u> | <u>12,905,386</u> | <u>13,083,884</u>          |
| <b>Net assets per share</b>              | <u>0.187</u>      | <u>0.172</u>      | <u>0.187</u>               |

#### UNAUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

|                                                                 | 6 months ended<br>30 June 2021<br>RO | 6 months ended<br>30 June 2020<br>RO |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Revenue                                                         | 4,875,651                            | 4,281,945                            |
| Cost of sales                                                   | (2,836,381)                          | (2,816,443)                          |
| <b>Gross profit</b>                                             | <u>2,039,270</u>                     | <u>1,465,502</u>                     |
| Administrative and general expenses                             | (320,405)                            | (276,183)                            |
| Selling and distribution expenses                               | (273,711)                            | (373,570)                            |
| Other Income / (expenses)                                       | 16,500                               | 15,951                               |
| <b>Profit from operations</b>                                   | <u>1,461,654</u>                     | <u>831,700</u>                       |
| Finance charges                                                 | (19,417)                             | (13,861)                             |
| <b>Profit before tax</b>                                        | <u>1,442,237</u>                     | <u>817,839</u>                       |
| Income tax                                                      | (216,336)                            | (122,676)                            |
| <b>Total comprehensive income and net profit for the period</b> | <u>1,225,901</u>                     | <u>695,163</u>                       |
| <b>Basic earnings per share (Annualised)</b>                    | <u>0.045</u>                         | <u>0.025</u>                         |

# OAB extends support to families, individuals affected by floods in Sur

As part of its commitment to support the community and in line with its sustainability strategy, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced the launch of an initiative to aid families and individuals that were affected by the recent floods in Sur.

The OAB initiative will see the provision of a three-month loan deferment for affected bank customers, as well as financial support for families in need, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development.

Rashad al Shaikh, head of Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "Our community initiatives are targeted towards those within the community that need it most. With this in mind, we will be deferring loans for our customers who have been affected, for a period of three months to



Rashad al Shaikh

help them overcome this difficult situation."

Feras al Farsi, head of Sustainability and CSR at OAB, said, "A key focus of our sustainability strategy is centred on reinforcing our relationship with our communities. Given the impact of the floods and the effects of the pandemic, we are doing our best to



Feras al Farsi

extend support to affected families and individuals that need it most. Together with the Ministry of Social Development, the cases are reviewed and necessary action is taken accordingly. We will also be donating to the ministry and recommending three SME construction companies, who are our customers, to facilitate the

required repairs."

Emphasising the bank's strategy, Farsi added, "We continue to work towards implementing initiatives that fall under our three sustainability pillars, community partnerships, environmental responsibility and financial inclusion. The initiative launched today is just one example of the activities we undertake to support our communities in a time of need."

Oman Arab Bank has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in the sultanate. Today, the bank operates a nationwide network of 53 branches and representative offices with 160 ATMs spread across Oman. OAB provides a complete range of financial products and services through its OAB Online App.

## Purshottam Kanji Exchange, Instant Cash donate 100 tabs

Oman's first money exchange Purshottam Kanji Exchange and Instant Cash Global Money Transfer jointly donated 100 tabs for students in Indian School Muscat (ISM). In a simple function Purshottam Kanji Exchange general manager, Supin James and head of operations in the presence of Instant Cash representative Nihlas, handed over the 100 tabs to ISM principal Dr Rajeev Kumar Chauhan and vice principal Saji S Nair.

During COVID-19 pandemic the society was in tremendous pressure and due to online classes many students were unable to attend properly. With the financial crisis created by the pandemic to many parents the devices were not easy to be owned. Purshottam Kanji Exchange as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility, took this initiative with Instant Cash to donate these tabs.

James informed, "It is our responsibility to contribute back to society, especially ISM management, staff and parents who have been part of Purshottam Kanji Exchange success story, and we



are bound to support such good initiatives taken by ISM and wish them great success."

Dr Chauhan said, "This kind gesture is a fine example of how an organisation understands the importance of education and they have come forward in supporting the needs of the students. ISM management, teachers, staff and parents will be thankful for this wonderful support extended by Purshottam Kanji Exchange and Instant Cash."

Nair added, "The eligible students will be given the tabs at the earliest and it will be based on the expression of interest from the parents. The identification process will be soon carried out. James added, "We are extremely happy with the ISM for giving us the opportunity to support a good cause and we had no second thoughts for the request submitted from ISM for support. We are part of the community and will be in forefront to support and encourage the good activities done by ISM management. It is not the first time we have done such a large support in fact in 2020 we did similar gesture of contributing 100 tabs to students in all the ISM schools and we are proud to be associated with this event."

Binoy Simon Varghese thanked the ISM management for allowing Purshottam Kanji Exchange to be involved in such a wonderful Social Responsibility activity.



## Oman Air to resume its Jeddah flights from August 11

Oman Air said it will resume flights to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on August 11.

The twice-weekly flights will operate on Wednesday and Saturday as WY 1675 from Muscat (MCT) and WY 1676 from Jeddah (JED). Flights from Muscat will depart at 3.25pm and arrive in Jeddah at 5.40pm. Flights from Jeddah will depart at 7.40pm and arrive in Muscat at 11.45pm.

Oman Air said no quarantine is required for fully vaccinated travellers, with proof of second dose administered 14 days prior to arrival.

The airline said it will maintain its comprehensive safety pro-

gramme throughout all elements of the travel journey to ensure that guests fly confidently.

Masks are required when guests are on board the aircraft and in Oman's airports. Distancing is maintained while guests board and exit the aircraft, which are carefully cleaned after each flight and at the end of every day. Cabin crew all wear a full set of personal protective equipment, meal service has been modified to further ensure safety, and a number of other measures have been implemented to ensure that the airline's guests and crew are safe at all times.

People who are planning to travel to Muscat should visit the

Civil Aviation Authority website, caa.gov.om, to ensure they are prepared to comply with requirements to enter the sultanate, and those travelling to Jeddah should ensure they are aware of official requirements to enter or transit through the country.

Guests travelling for Umrah should be aware of the latest conditions for travel, as well as other relevant Umrah measures and restrictions, available on omanair.com

Guests departing from Oman should also ensure that they are aware of all pre-departure requirements and requirements during their flights, which are provided at omanair.com.

## Pakistan Embassy facilitates webinar on Oman-Pakistan trade development

Pakistan Embassy in collaboration with Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI) on Tuesday convened a webinar.

Pakistani side was represented by Hanif Lakhani, acting president FPCCI, while Eng Redha al Saleh, chairman OCCI led Omani delegation.

Acting president FPCCI congratulated his Omani counterpart upon his appointment as the chairman of OCCI and hoped that the trade relations between Pakistan and Oman would be further strengthened and expanded under the stewardship of Eng Saleh. The webinar aimed at promoting trade and commercial ties between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Sultanate of Oman.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Oman, H E K K Ahsan Wagan, in his opening remarks, highlighted the importance of complementing each other in this era of geo-economics. He mentioned that some of the major impediments in reaching optimal level of bilateral trade are lack of high level visits including visits of business delegations, lack of direct con-



nectivity between two countries and lack of holding trade exhibitions on both sides.

The ambassador also talked in detail about CPEC and investment opportunities in Gawadar. Chairman of OCCI, in his address, also endorsed that there has been fluctuations in bilateral trade levels in recent times and this webinar will pave way for intra-regional trade and increase in number of joint investment projects since Oman has now many business friendly laws in place including Foreign Capital Investment Law, Privatisation Law and Public Private Partnership Law. Oman Ambassador to Pakistan, H E Sheikh Muhammad Omar al Marhoon, reiterated that Oman has been and will keep on extending all support to the businessmen from both countries.

Both sides reviewed a range of issues of common interest in the field of economic cooperation, emphasised the need of exploring numerous investment opportunities in different fields including fruit, vegetables, pharmaceuticals, meat, mining and construction. The significance of CPEC, Gawadar and Duqm Ports, for possible future collaboration, was mutually acknowledged and recognised by all parties.

The segment of open discussion during the webinar included introduction of business people from both Pakistan and Oman for future interactions. Both sides reiterated and encouraged continuation of such webinars/virtual meetings which will lead to increase in bilateral trade and commercial relations.

## Dubai office market remains strong due to government support and economic recovery

Savills, the leading global real estate advisors, reported that the grade A office market in Dubai has remained strong over the last three months. According to Savills latest 'Market in Minutes' research, demand for grade A office space has been on a steady incline since Q4 2020 due to strong economic recovery and bullish business sentiments for the remainder of the year. Relocations continue to drive demand with occupiers looking to upgrade to Grade A developments.

Paul Walshe, director of International Corporate Services at Savills Middle East, said, "Due to the accelerated vaccination drive, the UAE's economy is among the very first in the world to showcase increased recovery and growth. This has given companies the confidence to move away from focusing on cost saving to instead securing quality office spaces."

According to Savills research,



with sustainability remaining a high priority for occupiers, now more than ever, developers and landlords are beginning to evaluate the feasibility of certifying their buildings with globally recognized accreditations such as LEED among others. Furthermore, this has also driven an increasing number of landlords to upgrade common areas and other building facilities to improve the marketability of their buildings.

Commenting on the government's contribution towards the growth in the office market, Walshe said, "Strong support from the government towards promoting home grown tech and fintech companies has resulted in an increasing number of new businesses entering the market. This has significantly contributed towards the demand for office space evidenced by the recent announcement to expand the

DIFC FinTech Hive four-fold to over 315,000sq ft."

Swapnil Pillai, associate director Research at Savills Middle East said, "In most micro-markets, rental values have remained relatively stable when compared to Q1 2021. However, certain submarkets, such as the Dubai Design District and One Central, have recorded an increase in rental values by 1.5 per cent to 3.0 per cent q-o-q."

## Pandemic recovery moves forward 2021's Earth Overshoot Day

This year's Earth Overshoot Day has moved almost a month forward, in part due to the world's economies recovering from 2020 and the growing demand for power fuelled by hydrocarbons. Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity has used all the biological resources that Earth can renew during the entire year.

Last year, that date was August 22 - reflecting a 9.3 per cent reduction of humanity's Ecological Footprint from January 1 to Earth Overshoot Day compared to 2019. This year's date represents a ten per cent increase and sets the Earth back to pre-pandemic levels of resource usage. Oman's own Earth Overshoot Day was on March 22 of this year.

In response to this, Schneider Electric and Global Footprint Network (GFN), a research organisation that tracks how the world manages natural resources, launched the '100 Days



of Possibility' initiative, which aims to promote solutions that help address climate change and biodiversity loss.

The 100 days referenced in the initiative's name mark the time left until the start of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual UN Climate Conference (COP26), when government officials from around the globe will gather in Glasgow, Scotland, to try to agree on effective actions to combat climate change. The solutions highlighted by the project underpin its key message: That companies, governments and individuals can take action now -

and there is no need to wait for decisions made at COP26.

Opportunities and solutions across all sectors will be revealed each day leading up to COP26 on 100DaysOfPossibility.org. These will highlight the many ways that everyone can #MoveTheDate of Earth Overshoot Day. Examples include proposals for 100 per cent renewable power grids, smart homes, and food waste reduction. Schneider Electric, declared the world's most sustainable corporation by Corporate Knights earlier this year, showed its support of the initiative by submitting six of its climate solutions to the '100 Days' list.

"Climate change is a threat to us all, and we're seeing its impact with extreme weather events throughout the world and in the Gulf where summer temperatures are regularly reaching fifty degrees Celsius," said Sridhar Sharma, Oman country manager, Schneider Electric.

# Iran ultraconservative Raisi inaugurated as President

Tehran, Iran - Ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi was on Tuesday inaugurated as the President of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinges on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers.

"Following the people's choice, I task the wise, indefatigable, experienced and popular Hojatoleslam Ebrahim Raisi as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wrote in a decree read out by his chief of staff.

Raisi replaces moderate president Hassan Rouhani, whose landmark achievement was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers.

From the outset, Raisi will have to tackle negotiations aimed at reviving the nuclear deal from which the US unilaterally withdrew imposing sweeping sanctions.

The 60 year old also faces the United States, Britain and Israel's warnings to Iran over a deadly tanker attack last week for which Tehran denies responsibility.

Raisi, in his inauguration speech, said the new government would seek to lift 'oppressive' US sanctions, but would 'not tie the nation's standard of living to the will of foreigners'.

"We believe the people's economic position is unfavourable both because of the hostility of our enemies and because of the shortcomings and problems inside the country," he said.

In his response, Khamenei acknowledged Iran suffered from 'many shortcomings and problems', but quickly added: "The country's capabilities are even more numerous."

"Fixing economic problems takes time and cannot be done overnight," he said.

Raisi won a presidential election in June in which more than half the electorate stayed away after many heavyweights were barred from standing.

A former judiciary chief, he has been criticised by the West for his human rights record.

Tuesday's ceremony marked Raisi's formal accession to office. He will next be sworn in before parliament on Thursday when he is to submit his proposed government line-up.

Raisi's presidency will consolidate power in the hands of conservatives following their 2020 parliamentary election victory, marked by the disqualification of



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (left) during the inauguration of Ebrahim Raisi (right) as President, in the former's office in the capital Tehran on Tuesday (AFP)

thousands of reformist or moderate candidates.

## Economy top challenge

Iran's economic woes, exacerbated by US sanctions, will be the new president's top challenge, said Clement Therme, a researcher at the European University Institute in Italy.

"His main objective will be to improve the economic situation by reinforcing the Islamic republic's economic relations with

neighbouring countries" and others such as Russia and China, Therme said.

The 2015 deal saw Iran accept curbs on its nuclear capabilities in return for an easing of sanctions.

But then US president Donald Trump withdrew from the accord three years later and ramped up sanctions again, prompting Tehran to pull back from most of its nuclear commitments.

Trump's successor Joe Biden has signalled his readiness to return to the deal and engaged in indirect negotiations with Iran alongside formal talks with the accord's remaining parties - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia.

The US sanctions have choked Iran and its vital oil exports, and the economy contracted by more than six per cent in both 2018 and 2019.

*We believe the people's economic position is unfavourable both because of the hostility of our enemies and because of the shortcomings and problems inside the country*

EBRAHIM RAISI

## US warns of 'appropriate response'

In the winter of 2017-2018, and again in 2019, street protests sparked by the economic crisis rocked the country.

And last month, demonstrators in oil-rich Khuzestan province, which has been hit by drought, took to the streets to vent their anger.

On the foreign front, tensions have escalated after the United States and Britain joined Israel in blaming Tehran for a tanker attack off Oman last Thursday that killed a British security guard and a Romanian crew member.

The United States vowed an 'appropriate response', while Iran warned on Monday that it will respond to any 'adventurism'.

The economic malaise has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, which has officially cost more than 90,000 lives and also hit many Iranians in the pocket.

In his final Cabinet meeting on Sunday, Rouhani defended his track record but apologised over the 'hardships' Iranians have had to endure. After his election, Raisi made clear that his key foreign policy would be to improve ties with regional countries.

In mid-July, Rouhani said he hoped his successor can clinch a deal to lift US sanctions and conclude nuclear talks.

But Khamenei, whose word is final in policy matters, has warned against trusting the West.

Raisi has already said he will not hold talks simply for the sake of negotiations.

His government will only support talks that 'guarantee national interests', the incoming president said.

AFP



Police experts leave the place where Belarusian dissident Vitaly Shishov was found hanged in a park, near the capital Kiev on Tuesday (AFP)

# Missing Belarus dissident found hanged in Ukraine

Kiev, Ukraine - A missing Belarusian dissident was on Tuesday found hanged in a park in Ukraine, with police opening a murder probe and supporters accusing the regime of Alexander Lukashenko of killing the activist who helped his compatriots flee repression.

Vitaly Shishov (26) headed the Belarusian House in Ukraine, a non-governmental organisation, and was involved in everything from helping fellow compatriots settle in Ukraine to staging anti-regime protests.

Belarus strongman Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994, has been cracking down on any form of dissent since mass protests erupted after last year's elections, deemed unfair by the West.

Many Belarusians have fled, often to neighbouring Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania.

'Belarusian citizen Vitaly Shishov, who had gone missing in Kiev yesterday (Tuesday), was today found hanged in one of the Kiev parks, not far from where he lived,' the police said in a statement.

The police said they had opened a murder probe and would pursue all leads including a possible 'murder disguised as a suicide'.

Activist Oleg Ovchinnikov told AFP that Shishov had bruises on his face and a broken nose when he was found in the woods on the outskirts of Kiev.

An AFP journalist saw several police cars and dozens of police at the scene, some carrying black bags.

The Belarusian House in Ukraine accused the Lukashenko regime of being behind the murder of Shishov.

"There is no doubt that this is an operation planned by Chekists to liquidate a Belarusian who presented a true danger to the regime," the NGO said in a statement, referring to security service agents.

The activist went jogging in



Vitaly Shishov (AFP)

Kiev on Monday morning but did not return and could not be reached on his mobile phone.

Shishov moved to pro-Western Ukraine in the autumn of 2020, after joining anti-government protests in Belarus, and helped establish the Belarusian House in Ukraine.

## 'Followed by strangers'

The NGO said that it had repeatedly received warnings about possible 'provocations, including kidnapping and liquidation'.

Friends of Shishov said he had been followed by 'strangers' while jogging recently, according to human rights organisation Vi-asna.

Belarusian authorities have used force to put down historic demonstrations against Lukashenko's rule and have been trying to snuff out remaining dissent, jailing university students and shutting down independent media.

Belarus has a history of political killings and disappearances, and regime critics have claimed that the Belarusian security services run death squads that hunt down and target Lukashenko opponents.

In 2019, a man who claimed to have served in an elite Belarusian police unit, Yuri Garavsky, gave sensational testimony to German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, saying he helped murder three of Lukashenko's political opponents 20 years ago.

AFP

# Lebanese officials 'criminally negligent' over port blast: HRW

Beirut, Lebanon - Human Rights Watch on Tuesday accused Lebanese authorities of criminal negligence for failing to secure a shipment of hazardous chemicals that caused last year's monster port blast, despite repeated warnings.

The watchdog recommended an independent UN investigative mission conduct its own inquiry, and advocated for broad international sanctions against top officials. The August 4, 2020 explosion of a shipment of ammonium nitrate fertiliser haphazardly stored at the Beirut port for six years killed more than 200 people and destroyed swathes of the capital, in one of the world's largest non-nuclear blasts.

Victims' families and the broader public widely saw the explosion as the result of incompetence and corruption on the part of the ruling class, but one year on, no official has been brought to justice.

A 126-page HRW report, released one day before the first anniversary of the tragedy, identified top officials in the government, customs, the army and security agencies who were aware of the shipment and its dangers but failed to take necessary action.

"Multiple Lebanese authorities were, at a minimum, criminally negligent under Lebanese law in their handling' of the ammonium nitrate shipment, said the report, which draws on interviews and official correspondence, including previously unpublished material.

## 'Homicide'

"Evidence strongly suggests that some government officials foresaw the death that the ammonium nitrate's presence in the port could result in and tacitly accepted the risk of the deaths occurring," it said.

The report, entitled 'They Killed us from the Inside: An in-



A 25m tall steel sculpture dubbed 'The Gesture' by Lebanese artist Nadim Karam, made from the debris of the blast that destroyed the port of Lebanon's capital Beirut on August 4 last year, hangs at the site on July 28 (AFP)

vestigation into the August 4 Beirut blast', accused authorities of violating the right to life and said that their actions could amount to 'homicide' under domestic law.

The rights group recommended sanctions against 'officials implicated in ongoing violations of human rights re-

lated to the August 4 blast and efforts to undermine accountability'.

Sanctions, HRW said, would 'provide additional leverage to

those pressing for accountability through domestic judicial proceedings'.

According to the HRW investigation, mistakes started soon after the chemicals arrived in Beirut in 2013 onboard the *Rhosus*, a Moldovan-flagged ship allegedly sailing from Georgia to Mozambique.

'Ministry of Public Works and Transport officials inaccurately described the cargo's risks in their requests to the judiciary to offload the merchandise,' HRW said.

They also 'knowingly stored the ammonium nitrate in Beirut's port alongside flammable or explosive materials for nearly six years', even after receiving reports warning that the chemical is 'extremely hazardous', HRW said.

For their part, customs officials who were first alerted to the hazardous chemicals in 2014 and who could have acted unilat-

erally to remove the material from the port failed to take adequate steps to dispose of it, HRW said.

The Lebanese army, even after learning that the shipment's nitrogen grade classified it under local law as material used to manufacture explosives, 'took no apparent steps to secure the material', the report said.

Instead, it brushed off responsibility, saying it was not in need of the chemicals, even though under Lebanese law, army approval is required to import or inspect material used to manufacture explosives.

Lebanon's State Security agency, which completed an investigation into the ammonium nitrate at the port before the explosion, was slow to report the threat to senior government officials and provided incomplete information about the dangers the chemical posed, HRW said.

AFP

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# Virus returns to China's Wuhan as Delta variant woes mount

Beijing, China - Authorities in China's Wuhan said on Tuesday they would test the city's entire population for COVID-19, as the virus returned to the place where it first emerged and the highly contagious Delta variant drove tightening lockdowns worldwide.

A resurgent virus has returned with a vengeance, buoyed by stalling vaccination rates and deadly new mutations even in places which had long touted their successes in overcoming the worst of the pandemic.

China brought domestic cases down to virtually zero after the coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, allowing the economy to rebound and life to return largely to normal.

But a fresh outbreak has thrown that record into jeopardy, as the fast-spreading Delta variant reaches dozens of cities after infections among airport cleaners in Nanjing sparked a chain of cases that have been reported across the country.

In Wuhan - where the virus first emerged in December 2019 and which faced a gruelling lockdown in the early months of the pandemic - authorities said they were launching a mass-testing program for all 11mn residents.

And across China, authorities have confined the residents of entire cities to their homes, cut domestic transport links and



A resident gets nucleic acid test done for the coronavirus in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Tuesday (AFP)

rolled out mass testing in recent days as the country battles its largest coronavirus outbreak in months.

Millions are also still under movement restrictions in Australia, where troops on Monday hit the streets of the country's largest city of Sydney and surrounding areas, which are entering the sixth week of a lockdown set to run until the end of August.

Authorities have been struggling to stop the spread of the

highly infectious Delta variant in the city - and to ensure that residents follow containment rules - with more than 3,600 cases recorded since mid-June.

With about 15 per cent of Australia's 25mn people fully vaccinated, authorities are still relying on lockdowns to slow the spread of the virus.

## Hospitalisations in the US

And the virus has even spread in places where inoculation rollout

programs have been relatively successful, with the United States seeing a new wave driven by the Delta variant that has sent hospitalisations soaring to levels not seen since last summer.

The country on Monday hit President Joe Biden's goal of administering at least one jab to 70 per cent of adults one month late - dashing hopes of declaring victory over the worst of the pandemic by Independence Day on July 4.

Officials blamed falling vac-

cine rates, particularly in areas where hesitancy is higher as well as among younger people, those with lower income and racial minorities, for the missed deadline as well as the soaring caseload.

"These cases are concentrated in communities with lower vaccination rates," Jeff Zients, White House COVID task force coordinator, told reporters.

"One in three cases nationwide occurred in Florida and Texas this past week," he added. In a silver lining, US states that lagged behind in their vaccination rates are belatedly catching up, according to the latest data.

And faced with the Delta variant, other countries have begun considering a rollout of booster shots, which some drug manufacturers have suggested could enhance immunity to more infectious mutations of the virus.

Germany said on Monday that it would begin offering third jabs to elderly and at-risk groups, citing concerns over 'a reduced or rapidly declining immune response' among some people.

A booster shot will also be offered to anyone who received the two-dose AstraZeneca or single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccines, a document released by the country's Health Ministry said, 'in the interests of preventive healthcare'.

AFP



A woman receives a dose of the COVID-19 jab at a vaccination centre at El-Menzah Stadium, in Tunisia's capital Tunis on Tuesday (AFP)

## 'Tunisia crossed peak of wave but must speed up jabs'

Tunis, Tunisia - Tunisia - which has seen the world's worst COVID-19 death toll - may be over the peak of the latest wave but the government must still speed up inoculations, the WHO said on Monday.

"The epidemiological data are going in the right direction," World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Tunisia Yves Souteyrand told a press conference.

"We have the feeling that the peak of the epidemic may have passed."

But with vaccines in short supply, overwhelmed hospitals, shortages of oxygen and the highly contagious Delta variant rampaging through the country's 12mn population mean the risk of a health disaster remains, the WHO warned.

The Delta variant was responsible for 'more than 90 per cent' of cases, and the impact of family gatherings during a recent religious holiday was hard

to evaluate but could set back progress made, Souteyrand said. "The challenge is to speed up the vaccination campaign."

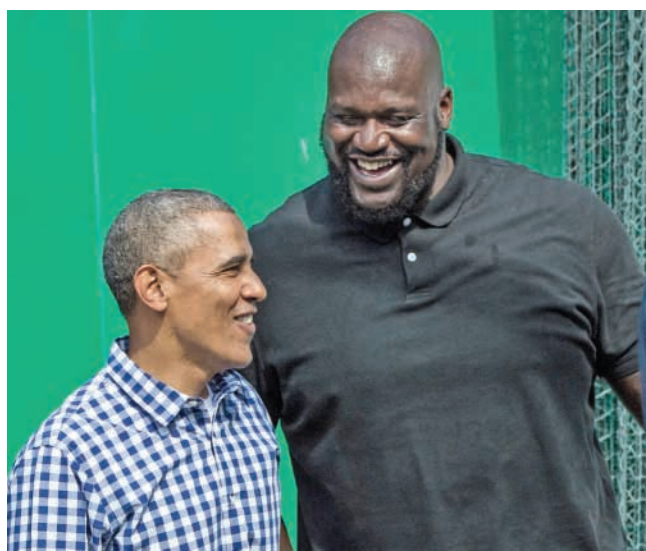
The country had 'in ten days received around seven million vaccine doses and will receive perhaps two or three million more' soon, he said.

The WHO has also provided 400 oxygen concentrators and four oxygen generators to Tunisia, where the government has been in crisis after President Kais Saied suspended parliament and took direct power - a move his critics said was a coup.

Since the shock move late last month, Saied has established a coronavirus crisis unit, supervised by a high-level military official, to help manage the country's outbreak.

Souteyrand said that 'relations between the WHO and the Health Ministry have not been affected by the political crisis'.

AFP



This file photo shows Barack Obama sharing a light moment with former NBA basketball player Shaquille O'Neal (AFP)

## Obama's mega birthday bash draws criticism

Washington, US - Former US president Barack Obama's plans to celebrate his 60th birthday came under fire - mainly from the Republican camp - for throwing a large party amid a resurgence of coronavirus cases due to the Delta variant.

The celebration is to take place this weekend on the upscale island of Martha's Vineyard.

Republican congressman Jim Jordan, a loyalist of Obama's successor Donald Trump, took to Twitter to joke that 'if this was

President Trump's birthday', Democrats would be saying 'How can someone be so reckless?' or 'They're killing people.'

"Is there an exception for parties attended by rich liberal celebrities?" demanded Ronna McDaniel, the Republican National Committee chairwoman.

'Barack Obama will have a birthday bash with 700 guests on Saturday,' tweeted Republican congressman Lance Gooden. 'Will Democrats demand he require all of his guests wear masks?'

According to unnamed sources quoted by the American press, the celebration would take place in full compliance with the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the main US public health agency. All the guests will need to be vaccinated and have tested negative for coronavirus, the sources said.

The event will take place outdoors, and a 'COVID coordinator', whose exact role has not been specified, will be present on the premises.

In addition, the CDC said on Monday that Martha's Vineyard, in the state of Massachusetts, was reporting only a moderate level of virus transmission, not enough to trigger the new recommendations from the health authorities that even vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors.

The Trump administration too made headlines on numerous occasions for organising maskless events in the White House or in government departments, or holding campaign rallies, at

the height of the pandemic.

A ceremony in honor of Amy Coney Barrett, whom Trump appointed to the Supreme Court, was suspected of being a super-spreader event that led to the infection of a dozen people, including Trump himself.

"The former president - who is a huge advocate of getting vaccinated, of following the guidance of public health experts - would certainly advocate for himself as well," said White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki.

AFP

## Hong Kong broadcaster, local media outlet, artist quit city

Hong Kong, China - Hong Kong online news outlet Initium announced it was relocating to Singapore on Tuesday citing fading press freedoms, the first local media to quit the financial hub as authorities crack down on dissent.

The announcement came the same day that veteran broadcaster Steve Vines and Kacey Wong, one of the city's best known political artists, also separately confirmed they had left Hong Kong because of declining freedoms.

"Over the past six years, the road to freedom has become tougher and more dangerous, the world is increasingly polarised and antagonistic," Initium's chief editor Susie Wu wrote in an article commemorating the outlet's sixth year anniversary.

She cited Hong Kong's steady slide down annual press freedom ranking lists and the rise of 'little pinks' - staunch nationalists - in mainland China.

Initium is a comparatively small Chinese-language outlet

with some 60,000 paying subscribers.

But its departure illustrates the concerns many media outlets have about their future in Hong Kong, a city which was once a bastion of free speech in China.

"We believe no matter where we are, as long as the freedom in our hearts is connected, we can create larger space for freedom," Wu wrote.

China is currently remoulding Hong Kong in its own authoritarian image after huge and often violent democracy protests two years ago.

A sweeping national security law imposed last year has criminalised much dissent and authorities have embarked on a campaign to root out those deemed unpatriotic.

Many of the city's most prominent pro-democracy activists have been arrested or jailed. Others have fled overseas.

On Tuesday, public broadcaster RTHK confirmed veteran host Vines had left for the UK, blaming what he said was 'white

terror sweeping through Hong Kong'.

'The institutions that ensure the liberty of Hongkongers are being dismantled by people who care so little that they don't even flinch when it becomes abundantly clear that the very essence of the place is being destroyed,' Vines wrote in an email to colleagues, RTHK reported.

In a separate interview with Hong Kong Free Press, political artist Wong said he had moved to Taiwan in search of '100 per cent freedom' because of diminishing freedom in his home city.

Multiple international media companies, including AFP, have their regional headquarters in Hong Kong, attracted to the business-friendly regulations and free speech provisions written into the city's mini-constitution.

But many media outlets are questioning whether they have a future there. *The New York Times* moved its Asia hub to South Korea after the law was enacted last year, and others have drawn up contingency plans.

AFP

## Afghan army urges civilians to evacuate

Kandahar, Afghanistan - Residents of a besieged Afghan city were urged to evacuate on Tuesday as the army prepared a major offensive against Taliban insurgents after three days of heavy fighting.

The Taliban have seized control of much of rural Afghanistan since foreign forces began the last stage of their withdrawal in early May, but are now focused on capturing provincial capitals, where they are meeting stiffer resistance.

Fighting is raging for Lashkar Gah, the capital of southern Helmand province, with the United Nations saying at least 40 civilians had been killed in the last 24 hours.

Gen Sami Sadat, commander of the 215 Maiwand Afghan Army Corps, told residents to get out as soon as they could.

"Please leave as soon as possible so that we can start our operation," he said in a message to the city of 200,000 delivered via the media. "I know it is very difficult for you to leave your houses - it is hard for us too - but if you are displaced for a few days please forgive us," he added.



This file photo shows internally displaced Afghan families upon their arrival at a refugee camp in Kandahar on July 27 (AFP)

"We are fighting the Taliban wherever they are. We will fight them and... we will not leave a single Taliban alive."

Officials said earlier that insurgents had seized more than a dozen local radio and TV stations in the city, leaving only one pro-Taliban channel broadcasting Islamic programming.

"Deepening concern for Afghan civilians... as fighting worsens," the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) tweeted.

"UN urges immediate end to fighting in urban areas."

### Rooftop chants

"Fighting was intense this morning," said Sefatullah, director of Sukon radio in the city.

He said US and Afghan air force planes had pounded Taliban positions, adding fighting was ongoing near the city's prison and a building housing the headquarters of police and intelligence agencies.

In recent days, the US military has intensified airstrikes across the country in a bid to stem Taliban advances.

The loss of Lashkar Gah would be a massive strategic

and psychological blow for the government, which has pledged to defend cities at all costs after losing much of the rural countryside to the Taliban over the summer.

In Herat, another city under siege, hundreds of residents rejoiced from their rooftops after government forces repulsed the latest Taliban assault.

Afghan officials said government forces had managed to push back the insurgents from several areas of that city - including near the airport, which is vital for resupplies.

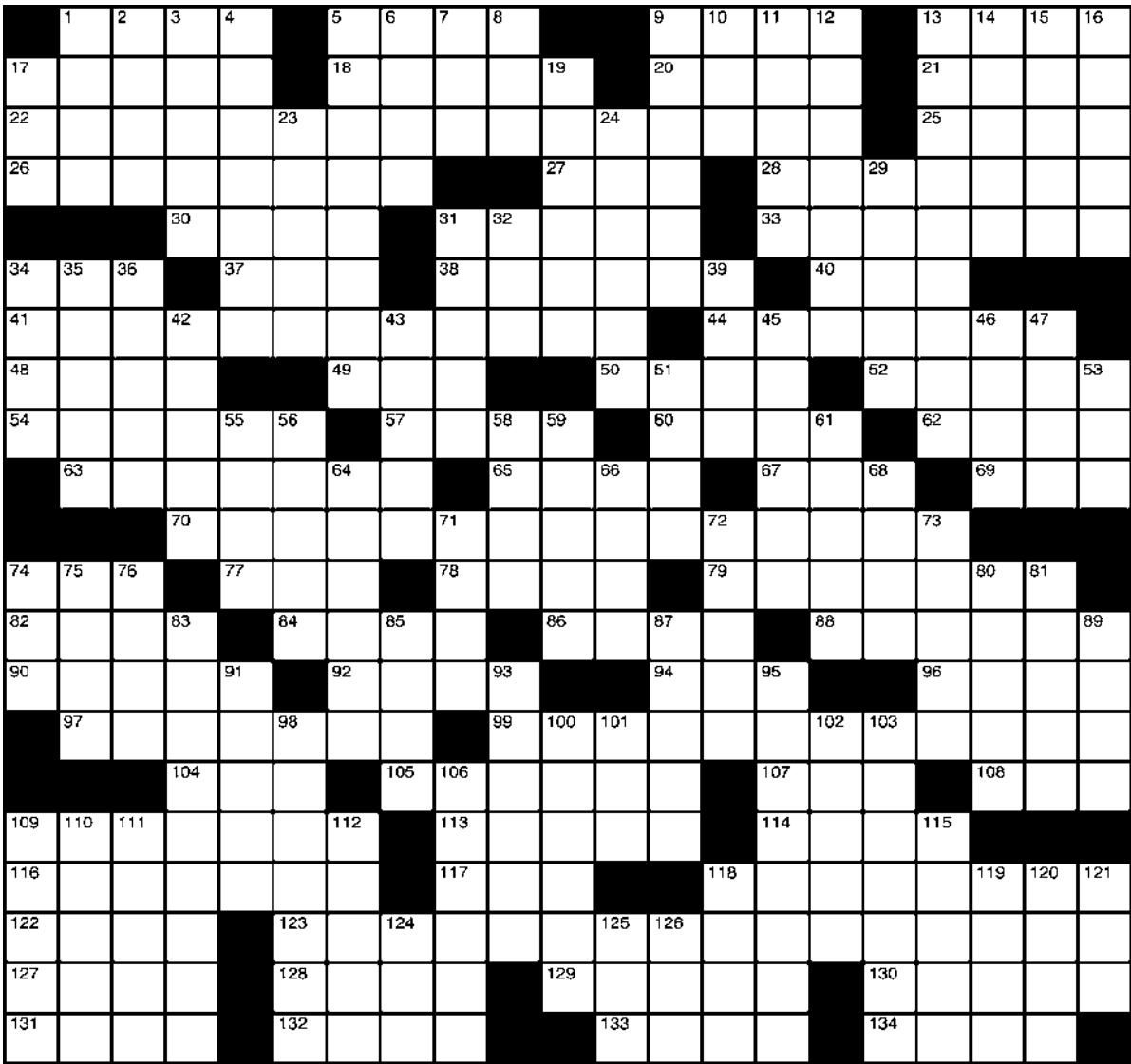
Another official said US warplanes had carried out air strikes, but that could not be confirmed.

Washington and London lashed out at the Taliban, accusing them of committing atrocities that may amount to 'war crimes' in the town of Spin Boldak, which the insurgents captured last month along the border with Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission earlier said the insurgents had indulged in revenge killings there, leaving at least 40 people dead.

AFP

DAILY CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

- 1 Dirty dig
- 5 Thirst quencher
- 9 In order
- 13 Vivacity
- 17 Arctic oriented
- 18 Split \_\_\_\_: quibble
- 20 Code word
- 21 Swelling
- 22 IV
- 25 Remove from print
- 26 Earth movers
- 27 Heredity factor
- 28 Jostled
- 30 Command: arch.
- 31 Involved in monkey business?
- 33 Housetop workers
- 34 Legendary serpent
- 37 Chicago-Louisville dir.
- 38 Manse resident
- 40 Decay
- 41 G
- 44 More hurried
- 48 Sound quality
- 49 Five centimes worth, in the past
- 50 Furtive glimpse
- 52 Campaign type
- 54 Elaborate
- 57 Lugosi
- 60 Starring role
- 62 Art Deco designer

- 63 Tune, in Toulon
- 65 Grade sch.
- 67 Bee follower
- 69 Slangy affirmative
- 70 H
- 74 Tooth drs. degree
- 77 "Diamond \_\_\_\_": 1928 Mae West play
- 78 Writer Bagnold
- 79 Announces
- 82 Former pitcher
- 84 Confining place
- 86 Como \_\_\_\_ usted?
- 88 San Simeon, for one
- 90 May honorees
- 92 \_\_\_\_ Parks, rights activist
- 94 \_\_\_\_ bonne heure!
- 96 Finished
- 97 In the wrong role
- 99 N
- 104 Highland cap
- 105 Summer shoe
- 107 Skater Midori
- 108 \_\_\_\_ Canals: former Superior/Huron ites
- 109 Learned one
- 113 Austrian actress
- 114 Creates Chantilly
- 116 Irreverent

- 117 Short deli order
- 118 Former Georgia Senator
- 122 I could \_\_\_\_ horse!
- 123 ES
- 127 Daredevil Knievel
- 128 \_\_\_\_ angle: aslant
- 129 November listing
- 130 Bite down on
- 131 Farmer milieu
- 132 Taken back item
- 133 Not as much
- 134 Partner for hems
- DOWN**
- 1 Achiever
- 2 Arm bone
- 3 Fire starter
- 4 Try out
- beforehand
- 5 Reduces
- 6 Clumsy ones
- 7 Day, in Durango
- 8 Circle segment
- 9 Western Native
- American
- 10 Actor Wallach
- 11 Following
- 12 Zachary and Elizabeth
- 13 E
- 14 Lerner's collaborator
- 15 Freud
- contemporary
- Alfred
- 16 Must have

- 17 CPA's concern
- 19 Rigid
- 23 Motorcycle racer
- Valentino
- 24 Foot area
- 29 Western wear
- 31 Debate
- 32 Pod dweller?
- 34 Regarding
- 35 Tempest
- 36 Silky velvet
- 39 Syngman, of S. Korea
- 42 Kingdom
- 43 Comic George
- 45 Geronimo, for one
- 46 Sinister
- 47 Judge
- 51 Sailor's saint
- 53 GOP member
- 55 Labor
- 56 Relating to old
- Norse verse
- 58 Author Uris
- 59 Caine role
- 61 Farm machinery maker
- 64 Nonworkers
- 66 Remnants
- 68 Historical periods
- 71 Snakelike swimmers
- 72 \_\_\_\_ of a tale
- 73 Rocker John
- 74 Funnyman

- DeLuise
- 75 Small amount
- 76 Big rig
- 80 Sammy or Bette
- 81 Pool person
- 83 L
- 85 Plenty
- 87 Set aside indefinitely
- 89 Therefore: L.
- 91 Milan's La \_\_\_\_
- 93 Cancels
- 95 Stirs up
- 98 "\_\_\_\_ All Seasons"
- 100 Bunker and Wharton
- 101 Used to be
- 102 Aviator Balbo
- 103 Very little
- 106 Lacking pigmentation
- 109 Pace
- 110 Want badly
- 111 Accommodating place
- 112 French queen
- 115 \_\_\_\_ Baron Cohen
- 118 Dartboard ctrs.
- 119 Arab boat
- 120 Storied stones
- 121 6th sense
- 124 Short snooze
- 125 Not well
- 126 Scottish refusal

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

If you've got a little less zest in your attitude overall, now is a great time to take action so you can get back to your old, more energetic self. Today's energy may call for plenty of rest, silly movies and long chats with old friends so you can recharge those spiritual batteries. Try picking up a book, going to a museum or just watching people in the park -- anything that helps you.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Eating a donut is a supremely delicious indulgence. Eating a dozen donuts is a cry for help! Remind yourself of that if you find yourself reaching for junky snacks all day long. No matter how much you may care for an original glazed, they're really not worth risking your health over. (Right?) Now is a great time for you to start taking better care of yourself!



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Before you put your signature on that legal agreement or throw in your allegiance with someone new, be sure to scrutinise the fine print and go over every last detail. It might not come naturally to you -- the big picture is more your thing, after all -- but it's essential to make sure that everything moves forward as smoothly as possible.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

It's time to take the guilt out of your pleasures! Whatever it is that brings you real joy needs to be brought out in the open and celebrated, no matter what others might think. If you like dancing to yesterday's top hits while wearing clothes that would embarrass a teenager, go for it. It's sure to be liberating -- not only for yourself but for your friends, who are eventually inspired.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Aren't you tired of the same old excuses from your people? They might be coming from your best friend, who's always late. Alternately, they might come from a coworker who can never keep your travel itinerary straight. They might even come from yourself, telling yourself how you can never exercise because there's not enough time. Cut to the chase!



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

Cupid is sometimes too cautious for your liking. You can't just strut up to him out of nowhere and demand that he shoots the object of your affections just to power up your love life! For now, try just acting nonchalant and totally unconcerned with what happens next. The more frantically you seem to want love, the less likely it is to come your way.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

You know full well that your soul has unplumbed depths. Like the ocean, there are things living down deep that might become endangered if you don't take time to cultivate them -- like your creativity, for example! If you've been a little careless about nurturing your artistic nature, now is definitely the time to turn it all around. Take a class, pick up a new book or magazine.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Though you may feel like monopolising someone's company today, it's a good idea not to get too greedy. Let them have their fun for now -- they're sure to come back to you sooner or later. Trying to keep them by your side all day and night just cuts down on the amount of fun you could be having on your own. Set them free and watch them come right back to you soon.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Stop punishing yourself for mental sins and try to leave the past where it belongs -- far behind you. Learn to absorb the right lessons from past mistakes, but don't pile on the guilt for anything you did out of ignorance or naivete. If you had never made any mistakes, you'd never have learned a thing, and if you never learn, you never grow. Who wants to live like that?



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Good times are on the way, and your good energy is totally ready for fun. Whether you choose to go out as part of a crowd, a pair or all by yourself, you can tell that a marvellous time will be had by all. Your company and agenda for the day (and night) are all up to you, though. Check in with your subconscious and decide who's in, who's out and what you're all up to.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You need to figure out a way to drop some of your prized attachments before they make your life even more complicated. Though it might feel impossible not to cling tightly onto something or someone, wouldn't your life be much easier if you could just loosen your grip a bit more? You should end up with more energy for the things that really matter?



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

It's an easy, breezy day for you. You should feel relaxed and mellow and ready to enjoy life for exactly what it is. Augment that mood by doing whatever you can to spread the emotional wealth. Make an awesome dinner for you and someone close to you. Pull out all the stops -- what's the point of having good china and fancy glasses if you never use them?



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. In which of the following activities silicon carbide is used?

- a. Making cement and glass
- b. Disinfecting water of ponds
- c. cutting very hard substances
- d. Making casts for statues

2. The average salinity of sea water is

- a. 3%
- b. 3.5%
- c. 2.5%
- d. 2%

3. Galvanised iron sheets have a coating of

- a. lead
- b. chromium
- c. zinc
- d. tin

Answers: 1.c 2.b 3.c

# BLOCKBUSTERS ARE BACK WHERE THEY BELONG

Witness the magic of movies the way they were meant to be seen...on the big screen.

**Suicide Squad**  
The government sends the most dangerous supervillains in the world -- Bloodsport, Peacemaker, King Shark, Harley Quinn and others -- to the remote, enemy-infused island of Corto Maltese. Armed with high-tech weapons, they trek through the dangerous jungle on a search-and-destroy mission.

**Spirit Untamed**  
Lucky Prescott's life is changed forever when she move from her home in the city to a small frontier town and befriends a wild mustang named Spirit

**American Traitor: The Trial of Axis Sally**  
Based on the true story, follows the life of American woman Mildred Gillars (Meadow Williams) and her lawyer (Al Pacino), who struggles to redeem her reputation.

**Hungama 2**  
HUNGAMA 2 is the story of a man in trouble after his ex-flame arrives at his house and causes a havoc.

Book your tickets at [voxcinemas.com](http://voxcinemas.com) or the VOX app

## KIDS COLOURING

## 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

### DAILY CROSSWORD ANSWERS (AUGUST 03)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| M | I | N | I | R | A | T | E | N | O | M | E | C | L | E | A | R |
| N | I | G | H | T | M | A | R | E | C | A | S | T | L | E | E | L |
| S | H | O | W | O | F | F | A | M | I | T | Y | C | R | E | S | T |
| N | E | S | T | S | T | A | D | E | C | L | I | N | T |   |   |   |
| I | N | D | I | R | A | S | A | U | T | E |   | B | R | A | S | S |
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SUMMER MEALS



# LIGHT & Delightful

Summer's the time for bright colours. And summer's the time to chill. So why not bring some of that on your dinner table when you'd like to relish something light yet delightful. **Avoid using your burners as far as possible and churn out meals that bring in some good cheer at home**

## Watermelon Gazpacho

This cool and refreshing watermelon gazpacho is simple to make and packed full of healthy summer produce. A delicious chilled soup, perfect for hot summer days, also quite filling.

**Ingredients**

- 1 red bell pepper – chopped, divided
- ¼ cup red onion - chopped
- 3cups chopped cucumber
- 1 garlic clove - minced

- 1 medium tomato - chopped
- 1 jalapeno - chopped
- 4 cups cubed watermelon - divided
- ½ cup chopped parsley
- 1tsp chopped coriander leaves
- 2 slices of beetroot
- Salt, to taste
- 4tbsp red vinegar
- 3tbsp olive oil

**Method**

In a blender, place ¾ of the bell pepper, onion, cucumber, garlic, tomato, beetroot, jalapeno, and only 2 cups of the watermelon. Blend. Add herbs, salt, vinegar and blend to combine well. Add the rest of the watermelon and pulse a few times. Taste and adjust salt. Chill until very cold and serve in a bowl topped with garnishes (chopped avocado, turnips, onions, cherry, tomato and herbs).



## Burrata Salad with Tomato and Nectarine

This simple, yet elegant, burrata salad is perfect for summer entertaining. It highlights ripe nectarines (or peaches), and tomatoes. Think of this as an elevated caprese salad of sorts.

**Ingredients**

- 2 balls burrata cheese, each cut in half
- 2 large ripe nectarines or peaches
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 1 roasted or steamed beets
- ½ red onion - thinly sliced

Few basil leaves

Pinch of salt

Cracked pepper, to taste

**For the balsamic dressing**

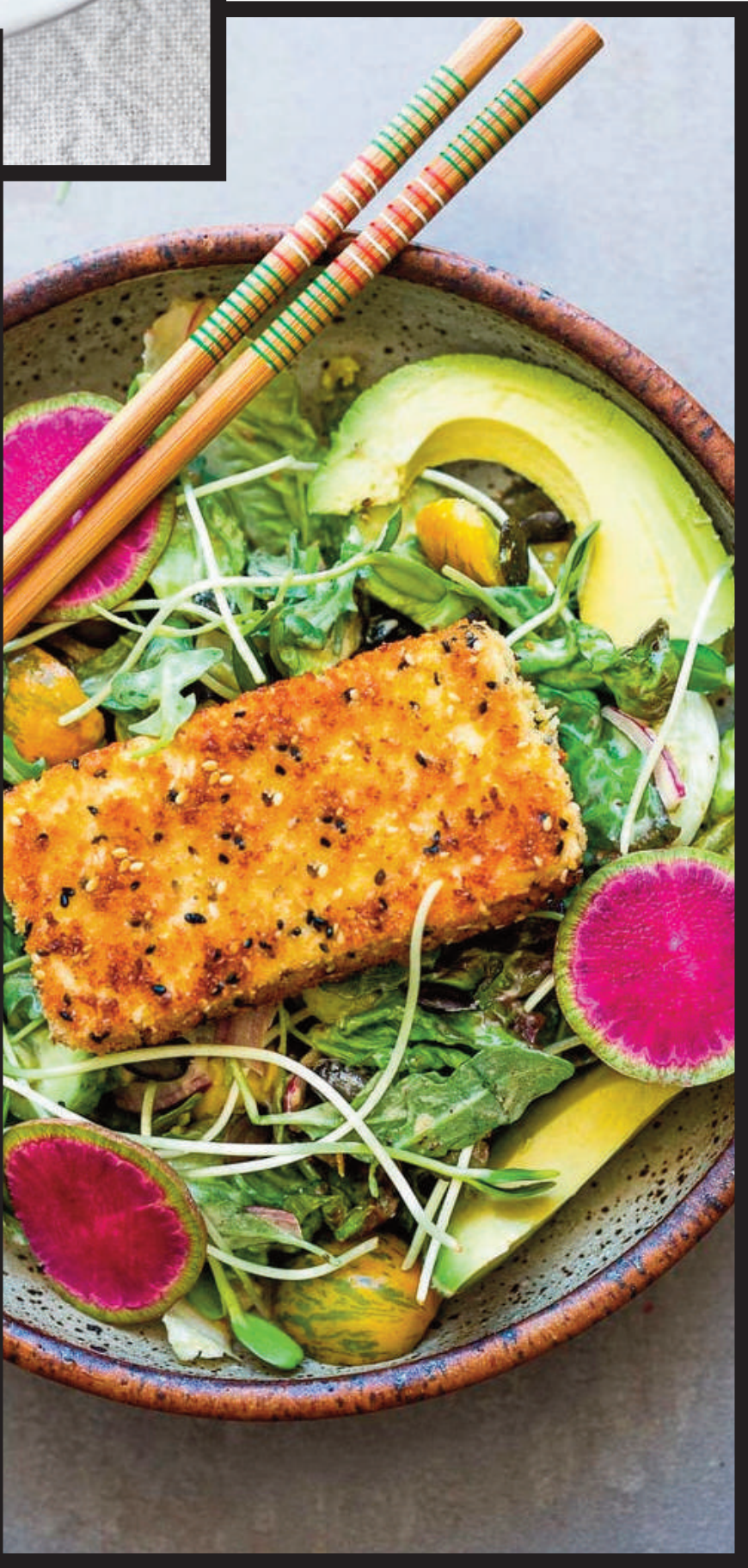
- 3tbsp olive oil
- 2½tbsp red vinegar
- 1tbsp honey
- Pinch of salt and pepper

**Method**

Place each half of burrata cheese, open side down, in the center of 4 plates. Cut nectarines into

thick wedges and divide among four plates in a crescent moon shape. Cut tomatoes into quarters and arrange between the nectarines, keeping the crescent shape. Chop up the roasted beet and scatter over the crescent. Add the onion and scatter torn basil leaves over the crescent. Season the plates with salt and pepper.

In a bowl, whisk all the dressing ingredients together and spoon it over the salad. Serve immediately.



## Tofu Katsu with Crunchy Salad

Light, crispy, perfectly seasoned, deliciously crunchy, katsu is typically made with chicken dredged in an egg batter, then coated in breadcrumbs and fried. But, vegetarians will love this recipe made with tofu instead of chicken. Great for mixed households.

**Ingredients**

**For the katsu**

- 800g normal tofu
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup flour or cornstarch
- 2tsp garlic powder/onion powder
- 2 eggs - whisked
- 1tsp soy sauce or sriracha
- 1 cup spicy breadcrumbs
- ½tbsp sesame seeds, ½tsp salt
- 3-4tbsp oil for searing

**For the salad**

- 1 avocado - peeled, sliced
- 2 pink radishes – sliced thinly
- 3 cups salad leaves (arugula, watercress, sorrel),

**For the dressing**

- 3tbsp olive oil, 2tsp sesame oil
- ¼ cup rice vinegar, 3tbsp honey
- 1tbsp soy sauce

**Method**

Slice the tofu and season with salt and pepper. Set aside. Now take three bowls. In the first bowl, mix flour and garlic powder. In the second bowl, whisk eggs and add a little splash of soy sauce or sriracha. In the third bowl, mix breadcrumbs, sesame seeds and salt. Place all three bowls near the stove and heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Once hot, dredge the seasoned tofu slices in the flour mixture, then in the egg mixture, and coat with breadcrumbs. Place in the hot skillet and fry on both sides till golden brown.

Now place all the salad ingredients in a bowl, whisk the dressing ingredients in another bowl and drizzle over the salad. Place the fried tofu pieces in the centre while serving.

# Shakib and Ahmed star as Bangladesh stun Australia

## BANGLADESH VS AUSTRALIA FIRST T20I

Dhaka, Bangladesh- Needing only 132 to win, the first of five T20Is, Australia had the upper hand at the halfway mark on Tuesday. But the dismissal of Alex Carey first ball, followed by two more batters by the third over, meant that they had their backs to the wall early on. After that, though Mitchell Marsh did try to keep Australia in the contest with a patient run-a-ball 45 from No 3, wickets at regular intervals left them 23 short in the end, giving Bangladesh their first T20I victory against Australia in five attempts.

It was spin that hurt Australia the most, a ploy used by Bangladesh right from the first ball. Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed shared the new ball with Mahedi Hasan and finished with four for 19, his best in T20Is.

Mahedi and Shakib al Hasan picked up early wickets too, and kept things tight all through.

Shakib also made a crucial contribution in the first half after Australia won the toss and opted to bowl, scoring 36 in 33 balls, on a surface that was never easy to bat on. In fact, Bangladesh's batters struggled with timing too, as the Australia bowlers varied their pace. And it took a late cameo from Afif Hossain - 23 in 17 - to take them to 131.

## Australia flounder against spin

Inside the first 2.1 overs, Australia had lost three wickets - both openers and No 4 Moises Henriques - to the Bangladesh spinners. Mahedi took the new ball, and got one to slide in from around the stumps. Carey, attempting the cut expecting the ball to turn away, lost his stumps.

Next over, Josh Philippe was stumped trying to drive Nasum through the covers. Then, Henriques' sweep off Shakib had the ball go between his legs and hit the stumps.

At 11 for three, Matthew Wade and Marsh tried to bring Australia back with patient play against the spinners.

Wade explored the square region on both sides to keep the



Bangladesh's cricketers celebrate their win against Australia in the first T20I of the five-match series in Dhaka on Tuesday

runs ticking, while Marsh preferred the straight region. But a lapse from Wade came soon after as, chasing a wide ball that pitched outside leg and turned away further, he attempted a pull but ended up hitting straight to short fine-leg.

However, the two Ashtons - Agar and Turner - were still around for Marsh to bat with, which meant that wickets were still the only way for Bangladesh to ensure they stayed ahead. They got their way, though. Agar was out hit-wicket trying to flick Nasum, and Turner sliced a catch to extra cover.

With Marsh running out of partners, he looked to change gears, and although a few boundaries did come, he perished looking to slog sweep.

When Marsh was dismissed, Australia were 84 for six, and it looked like they might struggle to reach three digits. They got there, just about, courtesy Mitchell Starc's 14, before being shot out last ball.

Earlier, pace bowler Josh Hazlewood led an inspired bowling attack as Australia kept Bangladesh down to 131.

## England tour of Bangladesh postponed

Dhaka, Bangladesh - England's cricket tour of Bangladesh for September-October has been postponed until 2023, the two countries said on Tuesday as both struggled with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nations' cricket boards said they had 'mutually decided' to delay the three one-day internationals and three T20Is.

The postponement makes it possible for players from both teams to take part in the Indian Premier League (IPL), which resumes in the UAE on September 19.

Hazlewood returned impressive figures of three-24 and fellow quick Starc took two wickets after Australia elected to bowl first at the start of the five-match series. Bangladesh's batsmen failed to convert their starts, including opener Mohammed

The cash-rich IPL was suspended in May as India was hit by a massive COVID-19 wave and the pandemic affected cricket tours around the world.

England are expected to play Pakistan in two T20 matches in October, with the T20 World Cup starting on October 17 in the UAE and Oman.

"With all the challenges of COVID-19 and a packed cricket calendar, both boards agreed that the best approach was to reschedule the tour," said an English board official.

AFP

Naim, who got out for 30 after hitting two fours and two sixes in his 29-ball knock. Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who made 20, and Afif, who scored an unbeaten 23, also contributed to give the total some respect.

Agencies

## SCOREBOARD

| BANGLADESH                                                                                                                             |                                  |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| M Naim                                                                                                                                 | b Zampa                          | 30 (29) |
| S Sarkar                                                                                                                               | b Hazlewood                      | 2 (9)   |
| Shakib al Hasan                                                                                                                        | b Hazlewood                      | 36 (33) |
| Mahmudullah                                                                                                                            | c Henriques                      |         |
|                                                                                                                                        | b Hazlewood                      | 20 (20) |
| N Hasan                                                                                                                                | c Marsh b Tye                    | 3 (4)   |
| A Hossain                                                                                                                              | b Starc                          | 23 (17) |
| S Hossain                                                                                                                              | b Starc                          | 4 (3)   |
| M Hasan                                                                                                                                | not out                          | 7 (6)   |
| <b>Extras</b>                                                                                                                          | (b 1, lb 1, nb 1, w 3)           | 6       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>131 for seven in 20 overs</b> |         |
| <b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-15, 2-37, 3-73, 4-86, 5-104, 6-114, 7-131                                                                    |                                  |         |
| <b>Bowling:</b> J Hazlewood 4-0-24-3, M Starc 4-0-33-2, A Zampa 4-0-28-1, A Tye 4-0-22-1, A Agar 4-0-22-0                              |                                  |         |
| AUSTRALIA                                                                                                                              |                                  |         |
| A Carey                                                                                                                                | b Mahedi Hasan                   | 0 (1)   |
| J Philippe                                                                                                                             | st N Hasan                       |         |
|                                                                                                                                        | b Ahmed                          | 9 (5)   |
| M Marsh                                                                                                                                | c Islam b Ahmed                  | 45 (45) |
| M Henriques                                                                                                                            | b Shakib al Hasan                | 1 (2)   |
| M Wade                                                                                                                                 | c Rahman                         |         |
|                                                                                                                                        | b Ahmed                          | 13 (23) |
| A Agar hit wicket                                                                                                                      | b Ahmed                          | 7 (12)  |
| A Turner                                                                                                                               | c Mahmudullah                    |         |
|                                                                                                                                        | b Rahman                         | 8 (10)  |
| M Starc                                                                                                                                | b Rahman                         | 14 (14) |
| A Tye                                                                                                                                  | c Naim b Islam                   | 0 (3)   |
| A Zampa                                                                                                                                | c A Hossain b Islam              | 0 (2)   |
| J Hazlewood                                                                                                                            | not out                          | 2 (3)   |
| <b>Extras</b>                                                                                                                          | (lb 2, w 7)                      | 9       |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                                                                                                                          | <b>108 in 20 overs</b>           |         |
| <b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-0, 2-10, 3-11, 4-49, 5-71, 6-84, 7-100, 8-102, 9-104, 10-108                                                 |                                  |         |
| <b>Bowling:</b> M Hasan 4-0-22-1, N Ahmed 4-0-19-4, Shakib al Hasan 4-0-24-1, M Rahman 4-0-16-2, S Islam 3-0-19-2, Mahmudullah 1-0-6-0 |                                  |         |



England skipper Joe Root (L) and his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli

## It's time for Tests as India face England in five-match series

### ENGLAND VS INDIA FIRST TEST

London, UK - It's funny to think that a series of this magnitude - with these teams and these players - has flown under the radar over the last month. Relatively speaking.

Trent Bridge was doused in the Hundred's branding a couple of days ahead of the first Test, and even when it's not on, the IPL has influenced cricket scheduling across the world, including pushing an England tour of Bangladesh 18 months into the future. That the ECB's and the BCCI's premium products will hold sway in this day and age is understandable, perhaps, but it is hard to imagine this five-match series won't be front and centre when it kicks off on Wednesday.

For one, it will be played to a full house. For another, it's rare that a team can lose a series 1-3 and have a chance at a comeback in the same year - over five Tests, no less. England's defeat in India this year meant the end of their World Test Championship (WTC) ambitions. Now, it's a chance to set the tone early against the runners-up, who have managed two wins in their last three tours of England.

India's leadership has argued that the 4-1 scoreline on their 2018 tour was not an accurate reflection of how closely fought the series was, and upon that will rest their approach this time around. In the time since, this is a squad that has grown in depth and shown it can find ways to win overseas; they haven't yet done it in swing-friendly conditions, however, and it's a challenge that Virat Kohli said his

team is craving. They won't be the only ones. England are without Ben Stokes, which could potentially pave the way for Sam Curran to be a designated gamechanger, as opposed to the surprise package he proved to be in 2018.

Both sides also have team compositions to figure out, and top-order batters who are either new, or returning, or searching for form. Throw that together with two of the best fast-bowling line-ups over a month-and-some of cricket, and we could have a series for the ages.

England are almost certain to play four fast bowlers, and the batting talents of both Curran and Ollie Robinson mean they could be tempted to fit Jack Leach in there for a five-pronged attack. More than anything else, India would be thinking about who slots in at No 7. Ravindra Jadeja's rise as a reliable batter in the format, alongside his runs during the warm-up games, would make him frontrunner for No 7 spot.

### Teams:

**England (likely):** Rory Burns, Dom Sibley, Zak Crawley, Joe Root (capt), Ollie Pope, Jos Buttler (wk), Sam Curran, Ollie Robinson, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach, James Anderson.  
**India (likely):** Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul/Abhimanyu Easwaran, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (capt), Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah.

**Match begins** at 2pm, Oman time.

AFP

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TOKYO 2020





Cuba's Roniel Iglesias (R) celebrates after winning welterweight final bout

## Iglesias joins Cuban Olympic boxing hall of fame with gold

**BOXING**  
Tokyo, Japan - Roniel Iglesias added his name to Cuba's Olympic boxing hall of fame after winning a second gold medal on Tuesday, as women fighters voiced their determination to get more girls into the sport.

The 32-year-old Iglesias put on a masterclass to defeat British hope Pat McCormack on unanimous points and claim the welterweight title in style in Tokyo. Iglesias has now won three Olympic medals, adding Tokyo gold to his London 2012 light-welterweight gold and bronze at Beijing 2008.

In doing so he joins a star cast of Cuban boxers to seal a hat-trick of Olympic boxing medals. They also include Felix

Savon (three gold), Teofilo Stevenson (three gold) and Lazaro Alvarez (three bronze).

Iglesias, who failed to win a medal at the Rio 2016 Olympics, said he does not plan to stop there and is already eyeing the Paris 2024 Games.

In the women's competition, Sena Irie became the first Japanese woman to win Olympic boxing gold with a unanimous points victory over Nesthy Petecio of the Philippines.

Women's boxing entered the Olympics for the first time at London 2012, when there were only three weight categories, but there are five in Tokyo and women's boxing is more popular than ever.

AFP



## Germany, Netherlands win to end British reign

**CYCLING TRACK**  
Shizuoka, Japan - Germany and the Netherlands both claimed gold in the velodrome on Tuesday as crushing victories over Britain finally signalled the end of British dominance in the sport.

The Germans broke the world record for a third time in two days to beat Britain by more than six seconds in the women's team pursuit final.

The British team were over three seconds behind in the final of the men's team sprint, as the Netherlands cruised to victory. The Netherlands' gold medal is their first in men's track cycling since 1936.

Two silver medals still represents a decent return for Britain but it falls below their previous high standards. Britain had won the last three

Olympic golds in the men's team sprint and the previous two in the women's team pursuit. Victory ended Britain's hopes of a third consecutive gold while Laura Kenny's streak of winning gold in every Olympic event she had entered was broken.

The Netherlands were almost as emphatic in the men's team sprint as Van den Berg, Harrie Lavreysen and Jeffrey Hoogland set a new Olympic record of 41.369sec to destroy Britain, who managed 44.589.

A silver medal did mean Britain's Jason Kenny made history, becoming the first athlete to win eight Olympic medals in track cycling, moving ahead of compatriots Chris Hoy and Bradley Wiggins, who both won seven.

AFP



US's Simone Biles competes in the artistic gymnastics women's balance beam final of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at Ariake Gymnastics Centre in Tokyo on Tuesday (AFP)

## American superstar Simona Biles clinches bronze after mental health battle

**ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS**  
Tokyo, Japan - Simone Biles' nightmare Olympics concluded with the US gymnastics superstar returning in the beam final on Tuesday, declaring 'I did it for me' after taking bronze behind Chinese teenager Guan Chenchen.

It was Biles' first taste of competition in Tokyo since dramatically standing down during the women's team final last week, struggling with the 'twisties', a condition meaning gymnasts lose the ability to orientate themselves in mid-air.

"I was just happy to be able to

perform regardless of the outcome. I wasn't expecting to walk away with the medal, I was just doing this for me," said Biles, who revealed her aunt died two days ago.

"I did this for me and me only. I just went out there and had fun."

After also withdrawing from the first three apparatus finals in the uneven bars, vault and floor, she said she had only been cleared to compete in the beam on Monday night.

"We almost missed the deadline!" she disclosed, adding, "Just to have one more

opportunity to compete at the Olympic Games meant the world. Training for five years and then coming here, and then kind of being triggered and not being able to do anything, it wasn't fun."

The four-time gold medallist from the Rio Games received a huge cheer from her US teammates when she entered the arena.

With bib 392 on her back, she filed in with the other eight finalists, blowing a kiss to the cameras.

Another cheer rang out when the stadium announcer said, "And now, representing the United States...Simone Biles."

**'Nervous'**  
She looked pensive on her comeback as she waited for her

turn to climb up onto the 10cm wide beam for one of the most intensely scrutinised 90-second routines of her or anyone else's life. Her routine earned the triple world champion on the apparatus 14.000 points.

"I was a little bit nervous for the dismount just because we had to switch it and I probably haven't done a double pike dismount since I was 12 years old, so it was kind of hard to control that," said Biles. "But to go out there and compete one more time and have everybody's support meant the world."

She was lying second behind Tang Xijing until 16-year-old Guan, the last of the eight finalists to go, put in a superb display to take gold with 14.633 points, relegating Biles to bronze, the

same colour she won in Rio.

It was Biles' seventh Olympic medal, equalling Shannon Miller's record for an American gymnast.

She had arrived as one of the faces of the pandemic-delayed Games, seeking five gold medals to equal the Olympic all-time gymnastics record of nine.

But despite her hiatus she said she was proud of the decisions she had taken. "My mental and physical health is above all medals that I could ever win."

Biles' presence inevitably overshadowed the other two finals on the closing night of artistic gymnastics with Japan's new men's star Daiki Hashimoto adding horizontal bar gold to his all-around title and team silver, and China's Zou Jingyuan winning parallel bars gold.

AFP



## Durant leads US past Spain

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Saitama, Japan - The United States kept their basketball gold medal dreams on track on Tuesday by sweeping past world champions Spain 95-81 and into the semifinals, while Olympic debutants Slovenia crushed Germany 94-70 to set up a last-four clash with France.

Sharp-shooting Brooklyn Nets star Kevin Durant poured in 29 points and four assists for the Americans while Boston's Jayson Tatum chipped in 13, nullifying Ricky Rubio's dazzling 38-point spree for Spain.

The three-time defending champions will face Patty Mills-

led Australia, who trounced fourth-ranked Argentina 97-59, to decide who plays the final on Saturday. Slovenia progressed on the back of 27 points from Zoran Dragic and another 20 off Dallas Mavericks star Luka Doncic in their 94-70 rout of Germany.

They will meet France who edged Italy 84-75 in a nail-biter, with Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert drilling 22 points and fellow NBA mainstay Evan Fournier getting 21.

Gregg Popovich's US team came to Tokyo with two shock defeats in exhibition games and then crashed in their opener

against eventual Group A winners France - their first defeat at an Olympics since 2004.

But they have steadied the ship and came through a see-sawing clash after knocking down in the final stretch to go 13-0 against their rivals in Olympic competition.

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Rubio drilled 13 points to put Spain into a 21-19 lead after the first quarter as the US gave up a seven-point advantage.

They traded the lead in a back-and-forth second quarter before Spain went on a ten-point run to move 39-29 clear.

But inspired by Durant, the US fought back and two points inside the paint from Devin Booker with seconds to go drew them level 43-43 at the break.

The tide looked to turn in the third period with the US building a 22-6 streak to take charge before Spain regained ground to go into the final quarter just six points adrift at 69-63.

With their reputation at stake - they have medalled in all 18 Olympics they have competed at, winning 15 golds, a silver and two bronze - the US put their heads down to ensure they stayed in the tournament.

AFP



USA's Kevin Wayne Durant (L) goes to the basket during the men's quarterfinal basketball against Spain on Tuesday





TOKYO 2020



MEDALS TABLE

(Only selected nations)

|                | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| China          | 32   | 21     | 16     | 69    |
| USA            | 24   | 28     | 21     | 73    |
| Japan          | 19   | 6      | 11     | 36    |
| Australia      | 14   | 4      | 15     | 33    |
| ROC            | 13   | 21     | 18     | 52    |
| Great Britain  | 13   | 17     | 13     | 43    |
| Germany        | 8    | 8      | 14     | 30    |
| France         | 6    | 10     | 8      | 24    |
| Netherlands    | 6    | 7      | 7      | 20    |
| South Korea    | 6    | 4      | 9      | 19    |
| New Zealand    | 6    | 4      | 5      | 15    |
| Italy          | 5    | 9      | 15     | 29    |
| Hungary        | 4    | 4      | 3      | 11    |
| Cuba           | 4    | 3      | 4      | 11    |
| Czech Republic | 4    | 3      | 1      | 8     |

(ROC\* - Russian Olympic Committee)



Belgium's Alexander Hendrickx (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring against India during their men's hockey semifinal match of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on Tuesday (AFP)

# Belgium, Australia set up summit showdown

India to take on Germany for bronze medal on Thursday

MEN'S HOCKEY

Tokyo, Japan - World champions Belgium set up a title showdown with Australia in the men's hockey competition of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics after both the teams won their respective semifinals at the Oi Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

A hat-trick from Alexander Hendrickx helped Belgium's Red Lions claim a 5-2 triumph over India while Australia handed 2016 Olympic bronze medallists Germany a 3-1 defeat.

Belgium and Australia, the two highest ranked teams in the world, play now for gold on Thursday, while India and Germany will battle for bronze on the same day.

Goals from Tim Brand, Blake Govers and a late tap-in from Lachlan Sharp put Australia into their first Olympic final since Athens 2004, when Jamie Dwyer famously scored a dramatic golden goal to win their only Olympic gold medal in men's hockey.

Belgium's Hendrickx scored his third hat-trick of the competition, taking his remarkable tournament tally to 14 in seven matches, just three goals short of the record 17 scored by the Netherlands legend Ties Kruize at the Munich 1972 Games.

With IOC President Thomas

Bach watching from the stands, Belgium and India produced a sensational contest that was far closer than the final score would suggest.

Despite the searing temperature on the field of play in this morning fixture, the quality and pace of the match between the heavyweights was there for all to see, with Belgium making a fine start thanks to a perfectly executed penalty corner drag-flick from Loick Luypaert just 70 seconds into the contest.

However, India hit back with

two quickfire goals to take a 2-1 lead into the quarter time break, with Harmanpreet Singh rattling the backboard with a penalty corner before Mandeep produced a stunning backhand strike from open play.

Belgium restored parity when Hendrickx fired home an unstoppable penalty corner drag-flick, ensuring the Red Lions were level at half time in this thrilling contest.

While the score-line remained locked at 2-2 throughout the third quarter, Belgium were starting to dominate and would surely

have been ahead were it not for some outstanding defending from India. However, they could not stop Hendrickx from determining the outcome of the match, with the defender slamming home a penalty corner before winning and converting a penalty stroke to put his side 4-2 ahead with seven minutes remaining.

Eight-time Olympic gold medallists India went for broke in the dying stages, replacing goalkeeper P Sreejesh with an outfield player in a bid to outnumber the Belgian defence. However, the Red Lions held

firm, with John-John Dohmen adding gloss on the victory when he passed into an open goal with just six seconds remaining.

India captain Manpreet Singh said, "It is really hard for me right now because we came with a winning mindset, but unfortunately we didn't win the match. In the second quarter we fell back, where they created good opportunities and got a PC. Now we need to focus on our next bronze-medal match and we need to work and we need to get the medal."

"We're very proud for making the finals, but the last step is yet to be made," Belgium captain Felix Denayer said.

In the second semifinal, young forward Tim Brand opened the scoring for Australia with a seventh-minute goal when he pushed in a powerful shot from team mate Flynn Ogilvie that crossed the striking circle.

Germany equalised off a penalty corner by flicker Lukas Windfeder, but were not able to keep the Kookaburras at bay, with Blake Govers giving them the lead shortly before halftime.

Australia's Lachlan Sharp sealed the German team's fate with a late-game goal, marking a painful end to their Tokyo title campaign.

Agencies



Australia's Joshua Simmonds (L) is marked by Germany's Constantin Staib during their semifinal match on Tuesday

## Double gold for Kiwi kayaker

CANOE SPRINT

Tokyo, Japan - New Zealand's Lisa Carrington continued an extraordinary nine-year unbeaten streak to win the 200m single-kayak sprint in Tokyo on Tuesday, then backed it up to claim gold in the 500m. Carrington's golden double makes her New Zealand's most successful women Olympian, with four golds and one silver over three Games dating back to London 2012.

Three of the gold medals came in the 200m solo sprint, an event the 32-year-old has dominated without defeat since 2012, a run which also includes seven world titles.

Carrington, an indigenous



New Zealand's Lisa Carrington after winning the gold on Tuesday

New Zealander who earlier this year was named the most influential Maori athlete of the past 30 years, described her hectic morning as 'awesome'.

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Superb Asensio puts Spain into final against Brazil

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Tokyo, Japan - Spain will play reigning champions Brazil in the Olympic men's football final after Marco Asensio's superb extra-time winner on Tuesday secured a 1-0 victory over host nation Japan in Saitama.

The Real Madrid winger came off the bench as a substitute and curled in a terrific strike in the 115th minute, sending Spain through to a first Olympic final since they finished runners-up at the 2000 Games in Sydney.

Japan will take on Mexico in Friday's bronze medal match. Mexico lost 1-4 on penalties to Brazil in Kashima following 120 goalless minutes.

Having needed a last-gasp equaliser against Ivory Coast in the previous round before prevailing 5-2 after extra-time, Spain created the better chances over the 90 minutes against Japan without making a breakthrough.

Japan goalkeeper Kosei Tani produced a key save to deny Rafa Mir in the first half, while VAR intervened to overturn a penalty awarded to Spain after a tackle



Spain's Marco Asensio celebrates after scoring against Japan during the men's semifinal match of Tokyo 2020 in Saitama on Tuesday (AFP)

by Maya Yoshida on Mikel Merino. Takefusa Kubo had a shot batted away by Unai Simon before Japan withstood a late siege, as Kou Itakura threw himself in the way of Martin



Zubimendi's strike before Mir fired against the legs of Tani. As a shootout beckoned Asensio conjured up a touch of magic, spinning free inside the area and bending

his effort beyond Tani's despairing dive.

Earlier, Brazil goalkeeper Santos saved Eduardo Aguirre's penalty in a shootout before Johan Vasquez smacked the post with Mexico's second attempt. Dani Alves, Gabriel Martinelli, Bruno Guimaraes and Reinier all scored for Brazil, who will be appearing in a fifth Olympic final in Yokohama.

"It's very special to be able to take part in an Olympic Games and to get to the final. It's a really happy moment for me," said veteran Brazil captain Alves, who at 38 is one of three over-age players in the squad.

"Since the very start we set ourselves the aim of seeking going, and I think we are deservedly in the final."

Brazil won the 2016 final against Germany on penalties and are attempting to join Britain, Uruguay, Hungary and Argentina by defending their Olympic crown. Spain won the 1992 Games on home soil in Barcelona. AFP



Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah celebrates after winning the women's 200m gold in Tokyo on Tuesday (AFP)

Thompson-Herah secures historic 'double-double'

Norwegian Warholm shatters world record to claim 400m hurdles gold

ATHLETICS

Tokyo, Japan - Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah made history with the Olympic sprint 'double-double' on Tuesday.

Thompson-Herah's blistering 200m win, following her brilliant 100m victory, made her the first woman to win both Olympic sprints twice in a row, evoking memories of her retired compatriot Usain Bolt.

It rounded off a stunning day on the track, when Norway's Karsten Warholm obliterated his own 400m hurdles world record and Athing Mu, 19, became the first American woman to win the 800m in 53 years.

Thompson-Herah's 21.53sec was the second fastest ever seen after Florence Griffith Joyner's world record of 21.34, set at the drug-tarnished 1988 Seoul Olympics. As well as becoming the first woman to claim a 100m-200m 'double-double', the 29-year-old is the only women track and field athlete to win four individual Olympic gold medals. Namibia's Christine Mboma took silver in 21.81sec while the USA's Gabby Thomas took bronze in 21.87sec.

Earlier, the Olympic Stadium witnessed one of the great races when Warholm shattered his own world record by nearly



Malaika Mihambo is delighted after winning the women's long jump final

0.8sec in an epic 400m hurdles final. The 25-year-old stormed over the line in 45.94sec, pushed hard down the home straight by USA rival Rai Benjamin, who took silver in 46.17 - the second fastest in history, said Mihambo.

Swedish world record-holder Armand Duplantis leapt 6.02m to take pole vault gold, and Poland's Anita Wlodarczyk won the women's hammer for the third straight Games with a heave of 78.48m.

Poland's Anita Wlodarczyk became the first women athlete to win the same Olympic track and field event three times in a row with win in the hammer on Tuesday. The 35-year-old Pole, who won golds at the 2012 and 2016 Games, dominated the field with a best throw of 78.48m. It was 1.45m clear of silver medalist Wang Zheng of China (77.03m), with Malwina Kopron, also of Poland, taking bronze (75.49m).

Behind Duplantis, American Christopher Nilsen claimed silver with a personal best of 5.97m, while Brazil's defending champion, Thiago Braz, took bronze. AFP



There was more drama in the women's long jump, when Germany's Malaika Mihambo snatched gold from former champion Brittney Reese with her last leap of the competition.



Norway's Karsten Warholm (R) competes in the men's 400m hurdles final at the Olympic Stadium on Tuesday (AFP)

Al Jenaibi International Automobiles L.L.C.

الجنيبي العالمية للسيارات ش.م.م.

BMW SERVICE CAMPAIGN

BMW E82—E93- Model Year 2006 - 2014

Date of Campaign

Recall Segment

Recall Type

Product Description

:4/8/2021

:Replace driver's airbag

:Performance Action

:BMW E82—E93

| Year         | Make | Model | Affected vehicle VIN/Chassis range                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No. of affected vehicles                                        |
|--------------|------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2008 To 2012 | BMW  | E82   | VF44166 - VF45260<br>VG94040 - VG94926<br>VM02980 - VM05152<br>VS62759 - VS64170                                                                                                                                                                                              | 8<br>9<br>6<br>5                                                |
| 2006 To 2010 | BMW  | E83   | WD72254 - WD91861<br>WK20782 - WK21271                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 14<br>2                                                         |
| 2010 To 2014 | BMW  | E84   | VL03069 - VL03307<br>VN78968 - VN95376<br>VR07278 - VR07317<br>VS00743 - VS52770                                                                                                                                                                                              | 7<br>10<br>2<br>92                                              |
| 2004 To 2010 | BMW  | E87   | E005564 - E009185<br>EH90144 - EH90185<br>JT41194 - JT41635<br>PR40146 - PR41152<br>PT30428<br>PV59217                                                                                                                                                                        | 8<br>2<br>2<br>6<br>1<br>1                                      |
| 2005 To 2011 | BMW  | E90   | A050488 - AP89366<br>E091240 - E196317<br>FEB4600 - FEB4732<br>KN91613 - KN92447<br>KP95121 - KP96273<br>KT59451 - KT61618<br>PR23524 - PR25524<br>PS00337 - PS55980<br>PY69460 - PY69461<br>VA41842 - VA44173<br>VB69205 - VB69637<br>VC30079 - VC30157<br>VE24385 - VE39484 | 107<br>2<br>32<br>5<br>35<br>11<br>3<br>58<br>2<br>22<br>3<br>2 |
| 2006 To 2013 | BMW  | E92   | E247701 - E854736<br>J009377 - JP99800<br>P026167 - P306116<br>PU80093 - PU82942<br>PV76498 - PV78135<br>PW78168 - PW78789<br>PY30728 - PY32658                                                                                                                               | 13<br>16<br>67<br>3<br>10<br>2<br>9                             |
| 2007 To 2012 | BMW  | E93   | E369997 - E767631<br>J398001<br>P166068 - P169349<br>PG81850 - PZ76472                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 10<br>1<br>18<br>52                                             |

Description of Defect:

In this case, in the event of an accidental airbag deployment, a very high internal pressure in the gas generator can occur and in the worst case it can burst the gas generator and metal parts can cause possibly fatal injuries.

Procedure Check :

Replace front passenger airbag.

For More Information:

Customers of affected vehicles may please contact.AL Jenaibi Automobiles LLC for further Details/booking appointments from 4/8/2021 onwards.

Contact Details: Toll free no.

80050008 on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) between 8.00 AM-5.30 P.M