



HM SENDS CONDOLENCES TO KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait on the death of Sheikh Faisal Mohammed Abdulaziz Al-Sabah. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant his family patience. -ONA

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HIS MAJESTY PRESIDES OVER MEETING OF EMPLOYMENT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE



His Majesty the Sultan also reviewed the progress made in the employment programme

MUSCAT: As part of the Royal attention that His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik accords to the issue of employment of job seekers, considered among the top priorities of the government's action, His Majesty the Sultan presided over a meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the National Employment Programme (NEP) at Al Barakah Palace on Monday.

His Majesty the Sultan reviewed

major challenges to the job seekers' employment file. He studied an analysis of the current labour market situation, related factors and indicators and the efforts exerted by the government in this respect.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan looked into the plans of the NEP, its method of functioning and the objectives of the programme in the next stage.

His Majesty the Sultan also reviewed the progress made in the employment programme through a set of initiatives made to provide jobs for job seekers in government sectors (civil as well as military sectors) and in the private sector.

His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to combine the efforts of all government and private parties in their endeavours to support the NEP and empower it. The aim is

to accelerate full study of the challenges facing employment and draft more comprehensive plans and programmes for generating employment for job seekers in a sustainable manner that fits with approaches of Oman Vision 2040.

His Majesty the Sultan pledged to accord his Royal attention to the National Employment Programme. He affirmed that he will maintain close follow-up of the

NEP to ensure it yields the desired outcome.

The meeting was attended by members of the Supervisory Committee of the National Employment Programme and the Head of the Private Office.

May the Almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan and guard him as a source of inspiration, progress and prosperity for Oman and its noble people!—ONA **See also >A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



WORLD India reports less than 40,000 COVID cases

2 India's cumulative active tally of COVID-19 cases surged to 482,071 on Monday with 39,796 new infections reported in the last 24 hours. The country continues to witness a gradual decline in COVID-19 cases. **>A6**

OMAN Over a million people vaccinated in Oman

1 A total of 1,096,838 people have been vaccinated against coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Sultanate of Oman, according to a data published on July 5, by the Ministry of Health. **>A3**

SPORTS Full capacity crowd at Wimbledon matches

3 All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club said that Centre and Number 1 Court will have 100 per cent capacity crowds for the quarters, with Centre also at 100% for the semis and final. **>A8**

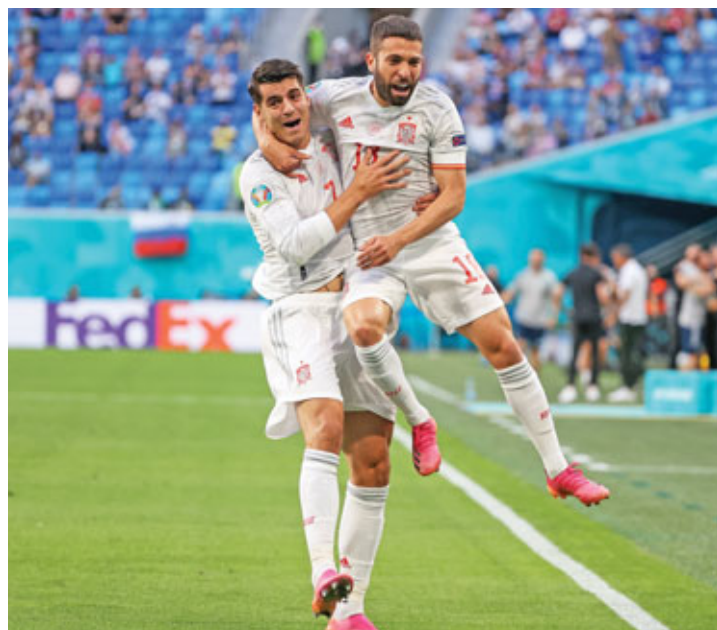
HM receives credentials of Saudi Ambassador

A2



EURO 2020

Expats from Spain, Italy predict tough semis clash



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Italian and Spanish nationals in Oman are looking forward to the exciting clash between their countries in the first semi-final of Euro 2020.

Set to kick off at 11pm GST on Tuesday, the game promises to easily be one of the most exciting of the tournament so far, given the quality and reputation of what are two of the strongest teams in world football. For Stefano Mancini, who is employed at the Embassy of Italy in Muscat, his country's place in a semi-final has been a long time coming, given their poor performances in tournaments leading up to this one.

"I do not think we have one stand-out team player, but instead, the team spirit has been absolutely incredible," said Mancini, the em-

bassy's Administrative Attaché. "Credit must fully go to the players for what they have achieved so far, as well as coach Roberto Mancini.

"I am expecting us to win 3-1, and maybe we can go all the way," he added. "We have been waiting for our country to play such amazing football for a long time."

Four years after winning the World Cup in 2006, Italy exited the 2010 edition of the tournament during the group stages, and repeated that ignominy in 2014. Failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup saw the retirement of legends such as Andrea Pirlo, Gianluigi Buffon, Andrea Barzagli, Daniele de Rossi, and Giorgio Chiellini, although the latter subsequently reversed his decision.

Conversely, at Euro 2012, though, they came within 90 minutes of lifting their second Euro-

pean trophy since 1968. However, they were outclassed by a Spain side that was at the peak of their powers, with goals from David Silva, Jordi Alba, Fernando Torres and Juan Mata giving them a 4-0 victory, with the Italians forced to play the last half an hour with 10 men, after Thiago Motta was stretchered off once all three substitutions had been made.

Italy will be without fullback Leonardo Spinazzola after the AS Roma man injured his achilles during his country's 2-1 win over Belgium in the previous round. However, Mancini is confident his team have the upper hand over the Spanish.

"I think each team goes through these cycles of victory and rebuilding, and we have seen a lot of our star players ahead of this tournament," said Mancini. **>A3**



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Fajr (Tomorrow).....3.59am

HM receives credentials of Saudi ambassador

The envoy conveyed the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to His Majesty the Sultan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik received at Al Barakah Palace on Monday morning credentials of Abdullah Saud Al Anzi, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), accredited to the Sultanate.

During the side meeting with His Majesty, the Ambassador conveyed greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques along with his best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life

to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people continuous progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty. He also expressed his great honour and utmost delight to present his credentials before His Majesty the Sultan.

He affirmed to exert all his efforts to elevate the relations between his country and the Sultanate in various spheres in a manner that serves the joint interest of the Omani and Saudi brotherly people.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassador, expressing his thanks for the greetings and best wishes of King Salman. His Majesty affirmed to him that he would receive all support from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out his duties. The credentials' presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO), the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. — ONA



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN PRESIDES OVER MEETING OF EMPLOYMENT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE







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MEETING



Royal Office Minister receives Swiss envoy; relations reviewed

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohamed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received in his office on Monday Balz Abplanalp, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Sultanate.

During the meeting, Al Nu'amani welcomed the ambassador, who thanked the Sultanate for its efforts in the region.

The meeting exchanged cordial

conversations on the march of the relations binding the Sultanate and the Swiss Confederation.

The meeting also reviewed a number of cooperation areas and means to promote them to achieve the joint interests of the two friendly countries.

The two sides also touched on several matters of common interest. -ONA

More than a million vaccinated in Oman

Oman can achieve societal immunity when it has achieved a vaccination target of 60-70 per cent of the population, said Royal Hospital infectious disease consultant Dr Zakarya Al Balushi

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total number of people vaccinated against COVID-19 amounted to 1,096,838, according to a statistic for the national campaign for immunisation against COVID published on July 5, 2021, by the Ministry of Health.

As of July 3, 2021, out of the total target population of 3.7 million people aged 12 years and over, the number of people received two doses against COVID-19 reached 22 per cent, and those who received a single dose of the vaccine reached 78 per cent of the total population vaccinated.

Speaking exclusively to the *Times of Oman*, Ibrahim Al Maimani, a social activist and a data ana-



IN FULL SWING: In seven days, 242,564 people were vaccinated at a rate of 34,652 people per day.

lyst, said, "The total of the vaccinated people in Oman to date reached 1,096,838 people, 30 per cent of the target group (aged 12 years and over), where the number of vaccinated with a single dose reached 855,534 people, 78 per cent of the total of the vaccinated, while those who took two doses amounted to 241,304 people, 22 per cent of the total of the vaccinated people."

He confirmed that in seven days, 242,564 people were vaccinated at a rate of 34,652 people per day. If this rate continues, two million

people will be vaccinated until the end of this month of July, and the percentage will increase from 30 per cent to 56 per cent of the population in the Sultanate."

Dr Zakarya Al Balushi, an infectious disease consultant at the Royal Hospital, also spoke exclusively to the *Times of Oman* about when the Sultanate can achieve societal immunity, "The Sultanate can achieve societal immunity when it has achieved a target of 60-70 per cent of the population."

About the importance of receiving

the COVID-19 vaccine, Dr Zaid bin Al Khattab Al Hina'ai, Assistant Professor at the College of Medicine and Consultant Infectious Diseases at Sultan Qaboos Hospital, speaking to *Al Shabiba FM*, the radio station of *Al Shabiba*, which is the Arabic publication of the *Times of Oman*, said, "The latest study received from Britain on the effectiveness of vaccines against the Delta strain, states that the effectiveness is divided into two types, vaccines which are effective against light infection and severe infection."

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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One person died nearly every half an hour from COVID-19 between Thursday and Saturday.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM

A death every 30 minutes; Oman sees 143 COVID-19 deaths in 3 days



A story on COVID-19 deaths in Oman

A story on COVID-19 deaths in Oman reached 43,286 people and had 3,159 engagements on Facebook.

AVIATION

Air France to launch direct flights from Muscat to Paris

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Air France has drawn up plans to introduce direct flights between Muscat and Paris, providing passengers more options to fly to Europe and beyond.

Starting from October 31, 2021, Air France will operate three weekly flights to Muscat, as part of its efforts to expand its network. Other plans involving the Middle East include increased flight frequencies to Dubai, at the rate of 14 flights a week from October 23, 2021.

"Air France is continuing to adapt its network and increase services to leisure destinations," said the airline in a release. "For the 2021 winter season (October 2021- March 2022), the airline will be offering its customers new services to sunny destinations around the world, on departure from Paris-Charles de Gaulle."

Direct flights between Muscat and Paris are of the duration of eight hours and 20 minutes, departing at 9 am and reaching the French capital at 2:20 that afternoon. Flights with multiple stops are also available, and are jointly operated with KLM and Etihad Airways. Passengers who choose this option will need to fly from Muscat, before transiting in Abu Dhabi and departing for Europe.

Connecting flights also enable passengers to travel to Amsterdam. Two more new destinations have been added to the roster of France's national carrier: Colombo, which is part of its existing journey to Male in the Maldives, and Zanzibar, which will form part of the airline's current route to Nairobi, Kenya.



AIR LINK: Direct flights between Muscat and Paris are of the duration of eight hours and 20 minutes.

Increased flight frequencies to Miami in the United States, and to its overseas territory of Polynesia will also begin around the end of October.

Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Air France has advised passengers to check the health requirements of the countries to which they intend to travel. "Before travelling, Air France advises its customers to check the travel restrictions and the documents required on arrival at their destination," said the airline, adding that its expanded schedule will be implemented "taking into account the health measures currently in force in the various countries served."

Air France is currently offering fully modifiable tickets for travel until December 31, 2021. Customers can change their reservation free of charge, or request a refundable credit voucher if they no longer wish to travel. If the flight is cancelled by the airline, customers have the choice of

postponing their trip, requesting a full ticket refund or requesting a credit voucher, which is also refundable if not used. "The health and well-being of Air France customers and staff are at the heart of the company's concerns," said the airline. "Air France is committed to providing its customers optimum health and hygiene conditions at each stage of their trip, upon arrival at the airport. On board the aircraft and throughout the duration of the trip, it is compulsory to wear a surgical mask.

"The air in the cabin is renewed every three minutes," added Air France. "The air recycling system on board Air France aircraft is equipped with HEPA - High Efficiency Particulate Air - filters identical to those used in hospital operating rooms. Air France has also reinforced aircraft cleaning procedures, notably with the disinfection of all surfaces in contact with customers such as armrests, tray tables and screens before each flight."

ITALY V SPAIN

FROM A1 'Bit of a revenge game'

"Our team is really strong this time, and we have shown that during the Euros. The last time we played Spain was obviously not so good for us, so the players might have a bit of a revenge match mentality this time."

The Italy vs Spain game also has a more personal touch for Mancini: his wife is Spanish, which has left his children confused over which team to support.

"She will obviously be supporting Spain, but out of politeness, our children say that don't know which team to support, or rather say they won't be supporting any team, but of course, football fever does take over our house, so it is very exciting for all of us."

For Spain supporter Nasser Akkad Rodriguez, however, there is no doubt that his country, which won back-to-back Euros in 2008 and 2012 - with the 2010 World Cup sandwiched in between - will take to the final at Wembley in London on Sunday the 11th.

"The Spanish team will for sure win the semifinal - our country is strongly behind our team," he said, before singling out two players for praise. "Morata will absolutely score more than one goal against our rivals Italy, who are strong, and must be respected. "Let us not forget that we have an amazing goalkeeper in Unai Simon, who will stand like a wall in front of the Italian side."

"Ole! Viva Espana!" he exclaimed, reverting to his native language. The winners of this semi-final will face off against either Denmark or England, who will play each other at 11pm on Wednesday.



INTERESTING EXHIBITS IN TAQAH CASTLE

LYING 30 KILOMETRES away from Salalah in Dhofar governorate, Taqah is known for its archaeological sites, breathtaking landscape and geological diversity. It is the second largest city of the governorate and is well known for its mountains, water features, caves and white beaches. Taqah Castle in the middle of the city is 33 kilometres away from Salalah. It is built in Arab Islamic style in terms of shape, design and decor. The castle is one of the most popular landmarks in the Dhofar region. Built in the 19th century it was later renovated and reopened as a museum in 1994. The rooms in the castle display cultural ar-

tefacts thus illustrating the traditional Omani way of living. It also contains ancient weapons, cookware, handicrafts, and some other interesting exhibits. The terracotta potteries and porcelain bowls and plates that were obtained through trade with China, India, Europe and Zanzibar are not to be missed. Taqah is also known for its white sandy beaches. Wadi Darbat is located in the east of the wilayat of Taqah at a distance of 7 kilometres, where Sidr trees and many large shady trees are spread on its sides. Wadi Darbat is well connected to the historical area of Samahram.



LOGISTICS SERVICES

Asyad Express, Vodafone Oman sign agreement

MUSCAT: Asyad Express, an arm of Asyad Group, on Monday signed an agreement with Vodafone Oman to provide Asyad with integrated logistics services through Vodafone's implementation and accomplishment centre. This cooperation is considered the latest in the list of Asyad partnerships aimed to bolster its status as a regional end-to-end centre in the electronic business sector. Nassir Ahmed Al Sharji, Acting CEO of Asyad Express, said, "Our integrated logistics services saw rapid development recently at local and regional fronts. The company seeks to capture new opportunities in order to advance our mission to spearhead the growth of the logistics sector in Oman."

Comprehensive services "Vodafone will enable us to expand this growth and provide our clients with more comprehensive services that cater to their needs, thanks to the preparedness of our facilities to empower electronic business in all parts of the Sultanate," Al Sharji added. Meanwhile, Lujaina Saif Al Kharusi, Head of Regulatory and Corporate Affairs at Vodafone Oman, said, "Our Implementation Centre is well received and is gaining growing eminence among clients due to its outstanding services and affordable prices." Lujaina added that "This partnership will enable us to provide a full package of advanced end-to-end delivery and distribution services." - ONA

TWO-DAY MEETING

Arab state audit institutions approve council's estimated budget for 2021

DOHA: The Sultanate, represented by the State Audit Institution (SAI), on Monday participated in the 62nd meeting of the Executive Council of the Arab Organisation for Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI) in Doha, Qatar. The Sultanate's delegation was headed by Ahmed Salim Al Rujeibi, SAI Deputy Chairman of Audit in the State Administrative Apparatus. Najeeb Al Qattari, Secretary General of ARABOSAI assured in his opening speech that ARABOSAI continues its efforts which aim at promoting cooperation and exchanging expertise among SAIs, as well as being up to date on professional advancements in audit fields. Moreover, Bandar Mohammed Al Thani, Chairman of the ARABOSAI Executive Council appreciated in his speech the efforts of SAIs, members of the council and



their accomplishments, which have contributed in boosting the progress of audit work despite the current challenges. Results of previously conducted activities and events were reviewed through discussing relevant reports submitted by the Chairman of the Council and Sec-

retary General, as well as reports of the Sustainable Development Committee, Strategic Layout Committee and Strategic Plan Follow-up Committee. The meeting also highlighted SAIs reports relevant to their participation in the INTOSAI committees and work groups activities.

During the two-day meeting, SAIs also approved the 2020 final account and the council's estimated budget for 2021. Oman's SAI was elected to be a member of the Executive Council for the period (2017-2022) during the 12th session of the Organisation's General Assembly. - ONA

MALAWI AND COMOROS

His Majesty sends cables of greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr Lazarus Chakwera of the Republic of Malawi on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Chakwera and the friendly people of his country. His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Othman Ghazali of the Union of the Comoros on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Ghazali and the brotherly people of the Comoros further progress and prosperity. - ONA

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1	74/2020/MM/-PA-22-Recall-1	Supply of pumps & Electrical materials	25/- OMR	25/07/2021	08/08/2021	15/08/2021
2	34/2021/MM/-PA- 5	Hiring of Non-potable Water Tankers (5000 GLN) for Irrigation at Al-Seeb	25/- OMR	25/07/2021	08/08/2021	15/08/2021
3	35/2021/MM/-PA-6	Hiring of Drinking Water and Sewage tankers for Labour Camp at Al-Misfah - Bouwsher	25/- OMR	25/07/2021	08/08/2021	15/08/2021
4	36/2021/MM/-PA-7	Supply of Tools and Pesticides for Insect Control	25/- OMR	25/07/2021	08/08/2021	15/08/2021

Specialized Companies with a valid registration certificate from Tender Board can obtain tender documents from the website through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. Starting from the date of this announcement until the end of deadline mentioned above.

Bidders shall submit their offers electronically through the link shown above accompanied with an electronic copy of a bond issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat Municipality. The details of bond (amount & validity) must be as per tender's terms and conditions in the etendering Website starting from the date of bids submission. The original copy of the bond shall be submitted as the table below:

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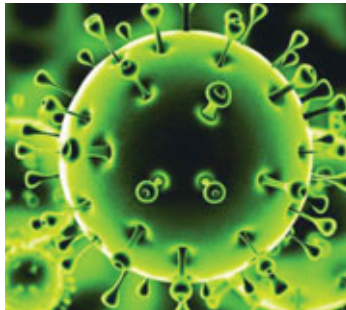


COVID CASES

India reports less than 40,000 COVID-19 cases since June 29

NEW DELHI : India's cumulative active tally of COVID-19 cases surged to 482,071 on Monday with 39,796 new infections reported in the last 24 hours, informed the Union Health Ministry.

The country continues to witness a gradual decline in COVID-19 cases as it has registered less than 40,000 cases again since June 29. On June 29, India registered 37,566 new COVID-19 cases



and 907 deaths. As per the health bulletin issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare today, the national recovery rate now stands at 97.11 per cent and this is the ninth consecutive day when the country recorded less than 50,000 daily coronavirus cases.

With 42,352 recoveries in the last 24 hours, daily recoveries continued to outnumber the daily new cases for the 53rd consecutive day,

it said. The weekly positivity rate is currently at 2.40 per cent, while the daily positivity rate is at 2.61 per cent.

As many as 1,522,504 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, taking the total count to 419,777,457.

Around 35.28 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under the ongoing nationwide vaccination drive. **ANI**

US closer to declaring 'independence' from COVID-19, says Biden

Earlier, the administration announced to inoculate 70 per cent of adults with at least one shot by July 4



COVID-19: The numbers of new cases and deaths have dropped drastically after Biden took command last January.

WASHINGTON: The United States is getting closer to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, said President Joe Biden on the occasion of the country's 245th Independence Day.

"Today, we are closer than ever to declare our independence from a deadly virus," Biden said in a speech at the White House. First responders, military members, and other guests were pre-

sent there, as reported by Kyodo News. "We have gained the upper hand against this virus," he said, adding that "Do not get me wrong: COVID-19 has not been vanquished. We all know powerful variants have emerged, like the Delta variant."

As the Biden administration

has ramped up COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the country, it earlier announced to inoculate 70 per cent of adults with at least one shot by July 4.

The numbers of new cases and deaths have dropped drastically after Biden took command last January. But still, 200 people

die each day and less than half of the total population has been fully vaccinated, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The US has so far reported 33,717,574 cases and 605,526 deaths, according to CNN Health. **ANI**

MASSIVE WILDFIRE

Cyprus forest fire under control after international mission

NICOSIA: Firefighters on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus brought a massive wildfire under control on Monday. It had burned for two days through several mountain villages, destroying homes and leaving four people dead.

Forestry officials said more than 600 people from emergency services and the army worked to fight the fire using a dozen aircraft and 70 fire trucks. The blaze was finally brought under control by water bombing with the help of international aircraft.

Cyprus government spokesperson Marios Pelekanos said that Greece and Israel had each deployed two aircraft Saturday to help fight the blaze. Officials said 11 aircraft from Cyprus were deployed, along with two British helicopters from a nearby UK base.

Firefighters are still deployed around the village of Arakapas to extinguish any further outbreaks.

Interior Minister Nicos Nouris has called the blaze the "most destructive" in the history of Cyprus.

What sparked the fire?

The wildfire broke out Saturday in the Troodos mountain range near the village of Arakapa and burned 55 square kilometers (21 square



miles) of forest and farmland. Officials said more than 50 homes were destroyed.

The flames were spread quickly by strong winds and forced the evacuation of at least eight mountain villages.

Search and rescue crews in the village of Odoou discovered four charred bodies Sunday, belonging to Egyptian laborers who were unable to escape the fire.

A 67-year-old farmer is currently being held in custody by police on suspicion of causing the wildfire.

Police said an eyewitness had seen him leaving Arakapas in his car around the time the fire started. The man denies having started the fire. **AP**

AGREEMENT REACHED

Ever Given ship that blocked Suez Canal to be released

CAIRO: The Ever Given container ship, impounded by Egypt after it blocked the Suez Canal for nearly a week, will be released on Wednesday following an agreement with its owners and insurers, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said on Sunday.

The canal authority said a ceremony would be held on July 7 to mark the signing of an agreement with the owners and "the departure of the ship."

The 400-meter (1,312 feet) long mega-ship was passing through a single-lane portion of the Suez Canal on March 23 when it veered off course and got stuck diagonally across the canal during a sandstorm.

It remained wedged there for six days, blocking a vital route between Europe and Asia, and disrupting global trade.

After the ship was finally dislodged, it was held by the canal authority which sought compensation from the ship's Japanese owners for lost revenue and the cost of salvaging it.

The canal authority reported that revenue lost during the time that the Ever Given was stuck amounted to \$12-15 million



(€10-12.6 million) a day.

Last week, SCA chief Osama Rabie said that Egypt signed a non-disclosure agreement with the owners of Ever Given as the final settlement was being finalized.

Initially, the canal authority has sought \$900 million in compensation to cover lost revenue, salvage efforts, and damage to reputation. But the amount was later publicly lowered to \$550 million.

"We are pleased to announce

that... good progress has been made and a formal solution agreed," said Faz Peermohamed, a member of the London-based Stann Marine law firm which represents owner Shoen Kisen and its insurers.

"Preparations for the release of the vessel will be made and an event marking the agreement will be held at the Authority's headquarters in Ismailia in due course," Peermohamed said.

The lawyer did not give details of the settlement. **ANI**

CENTRAL JAPAN

Rescue work on, 80 people missing in Japan mudslides

TOKYO: Japan is facing one of the deadliest mudslides in a resort city of central Japan and there are still 80 persons who are missing.

As per the Mayor of the city of Atami, 80 people remain unaccounted for this weekend's mudslides, and rescue crews are expanding the search for survivors, reported NHK World. Officials in Shizuoka Prefecture said that the torrent of mud washed away at least 130 homes and buildings in the city of Atami on Saturday.

Twenty-two people trapped

by the deluge were rescued over the weekend. Three have been confirmed dead, reported NHK World.

Officials informed that 215 people are registered as living in the devastated area. So far they have confirmed the whereabouts of 135 of them.

Residents are recounting the anguish of the past few days. A man said, "I heard screaming from far away. When I opened the door, I could only see a splash. It looked like hell."

Another man said that his

mother is missing and he is going to look for her near the house.

Earlier, rescuers carefully passed a baby wrapped in a blanket to a waiting emergency worker.

The infant and her mother were rescued from a building that had its first floor buried in mud. Neither suffered any major injuries, reported NHK World.

The debris flow has cut off the city's water supply and roads. Many people have been forced out of their homes. **ANI**

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Taliban takes control of key district in Kandahar amid US troop withdrawal

The group has pressed on with their campaign to capture territory across Afghanistan’s rural areas since early May

KANDAHAR: Amid the ongoing US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban on Sunday took control of a key district in their former bastion of Kandahar. Citing officials, Geo News reported that after fierce overnight fighting with Afghan forces, the Taliban took over Panjwai district. The group has pressed on with their campaign to capture territory across Afghanistan’s rural areas since early May when the US military began the pull-out. The fall of Panjwai district in the southern province of Kandahar comes just two days after US and NATO forces vacated their main Bagram Air Base near Kabul, from where they led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their Al-Qaeda allies, reported Geo News. The exit of foreign troops from



WITHDRAWAL: The exit of foreign troops from Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, has fuelled concerns that the Taliban will ramp up their campaign to capture new territory

Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, has fuelled concerns that the Taliban will ramp up their campaign to capture new territory. Bagram Air Base has great military and symbolic significance, with foreign forces previously stationed there offering vital air support in the fight against the Taliban. Afghan authorities, who have taken control of the base, said that they will use it to fight terrorism, and have already re-activated its radar system, reported Geo News. Over the years, the Taliban and Afghan forces have regularly clashed in and around Panjwai, with the Taliban aiming to seize it given its proximity to Kandahar city, the provincial capital.

The province of Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, who went on to rule Afghanistan until being overthrown by a US-led invasion in 2001. Panjwai District Governor Hasti Mohammad said Afghan forces and the Taliban clashed during the night, resulting in government forces retreating from the area, reported Geo News. Kandahar provincial council head Sayed Jan Khakriwal confirmed the fall of Panjwai, but accused government forces of “intentionally withdrawing”. Fighting has raged across several provinces of Afghanistan in recent weeks and the Taliban claim to have seized more than 100 out of

nearly 400 districts in the country, reported Geo News. Meanwhile, Afghan officials disputed the claims but acknowledged that government troops have retreated from some districts. It is difficult to independently verify the situation.

Over 1,000 Afghan soldiers retreat to Tajikistan As many as 1,037 Afghan troops retreated to Tajikistan following clashes with the Taliban militants, the Tajik State Committee for National Security (SCNS) told Sputnik. “Afghan servicemen retreated to Tajikistan through the border areas of Shohon region (104 people); Ruzvay (213 people) and Nulvand (83 people) in Darvoz region; Khumrogi in Vanj region (173 people), Tem district of Khorugh city (312); Eshkashem (102 people) and Langar (50 people) in Eshkashem region,” the SCNS said. According to the statement, on Sunday night, Taliban militants took full control of the districts of Hohon, Shekay, Nusay, Maimay, Shughnon and Eshkashem in the Afghan province of Badakhshan, which borders Tajikistan. “Taking into account the principle of good-neighbourliness and adhering to the position of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the military personnel of the Afghan government forces was allowed to enter Tajik territory,” the SCNS added. The situation at the border areas is under the control of the Tajik border guards. **ANI**

Myanmar security forces kill 25 villagers

NAYPYITAW: Myanmar security forces opened fire on villagers earlier this week, killing at least 25 people, according to local media and witness reports on Sunday. The violence on Friday occurred in the central town of Depayin in the Sagaing region. **What do we know so far?** Around 150 soldiers went to six villages near Depayin on Friday, according to media outlet Than Lwin Khet News. The security forces then reportedly opened fire on the villagers. “There were people dying at farms and by the railroad. They (soldiers) shot everything that moved,” an anonymous Depayin resident told Reuters news agency. The soldiers reportedly targeted the area due to the presence of the People’s Defense Force (PDF), an armed opposition group against the military. Young local members of the PDF used makeshift weapons to fight back against the military’s incursion into the area. Villagers used swords and home-made rifles, but were overwhelmed by the



military’s firepower. Local residents said at least 25 bodies were found after the fighting. Myanmar’s military has not yet commented on the clashes. A state-run newspaper claimed “armed terrorists” ambushed soldiers who were on patrol in the region. **What is the political situation in Myanmar?** Myanmar has been ruled by a military junta since February. The military seized power after having arrested State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party. Citizens have taken to the streets to protest the junta. In response, the military has cracked down on the demonstrators, sparking international condemnation. The coup has forced more than 230,000 people out of their homes due to fighting, according to the UN. Prisoners’ aid group AAPP claims more than 890 people have been killed in the months since the coup, with thousands having been arrested by the junta. **nw**

Vaccines found to be less effective against Epsilon strain of COVID-19

Times News Service

SEATTLE: Scientists have found that a variant of the coronavirus, dubbed the Epsilon strain, has more resistance to vaccines, thereby somewhat neutralising their effectiveness. “The mutations give this coronavirus variant of concern a means to totally evade specific monoclonal antibodies used in clinics and reduces the effectiveness of antibodies from the plasma of vaccinated people,” said the University of Washington’s School of Medicine, one of the institutions involved in research into the Epsilon strain. The project was led by David Vesler of UW’s Department of Biochemistry, and Luca Piccoli and Davide Corti of Vir Biotechnology. The Epsilon variant is the name given to the B.1.427/B.1.429 lineages of the virus, which was first discovered in the US in the summer of 2020. Studies found that the ability of plasma from patients who had



previously been infected with COVID-19, was reduced by about two to three and a half times, when exposed to the Epsilon variant. “Epsilon mutations were responsible for rearrangements in critical areas of the spike glycoprotein,” added the release from UW. “Electron cryo-microscopy studies showed structural changes in these areas. Visualising these mutations help explain why antibodies had difficulty binding to the spike glycoprotein. “One of the three mutations in the Epsilon variant affected the receptor binding domain on the

spike glycoprotein,” added the university. “This mutation reduced the neutralising activity of 14 out of 34 neutralizing antibodies specific to that domain, including clinical stage antibodies.” The findings of the scientists have been published in the journal Science, where their research is explained in-depth. “The fast rise in the number of cases associated with the B.1.427/B.1.429 lineages led to their classification as a variant of concern by the US Center for Disease Control,” they added in their research paper.

Pope Francis in ‘good condition’ after surgery

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday was admitted to a hospital in Rome for a “scheduled” colon procedure, the Vatican said in a statement. It is the first time Francis is hospitalized since his election in 2013. **What do we know so far?** Francis was admitted to Gemelli Polyclinic “for a scheduled surgery for symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon.” The intestinal disease can cause pain or fever in the elderly. Hours later, the pope’s spokesman Matteo Bruni said the Vatican chief “responded well” to the procedure, which was done under general anesthesia. On Monday, Bruni said Francis was “in good condition, alert and breathing on his own.” Bruni added that Francis is expected to stay in Rome’s Gemelli Polyclinic, a Catholic hospital, for seven days “barring complications.” The Vatican had said earlier



the scheduled surgery was not prompted by an emergency. Francis possibly hinted at the surgery during a public appearance last Sunday. “I ask you to pray for the pope, pray in a special way,” Francis told fellow Catholics at St. Peter’s Square on June 27. “The pope needs your prayers.” Francis is in fairly good health for his age, although he does have a problem with his hip. He also suffers from sciatica — pain along the sciatic nerve in the back and leg. Francis had a part of his lung removed in his youth due to an infection. The pope is still fit to travel, and is expected to visit Hungary and Slovakia in September. **nw**



SULTANATE OF OMAN
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TENDER NOTICE

The Public Prosecution invites interested companies to the following tender(s):

Tender Number	Description	Deadline for obtaining tender	Deadline for tender submission	GRADE	Tender document Cost (Non-refundable)
14/2021 Re Tender	SUPPLY OF NUIX WORKSTATION	15/07/2021	26/07/2021	(Group) specialized	25

- Companies that are specialized in such works and who have a valid registration certificate from the Tender Board can participate and obtain technical specifications and tender documents from the website: <https://etending.tenderboard.gov.om>
- The bidder shall submit their offers electronically via the mentioned website.
- Each tender shall be accompanied by an electronic copy of the temporary insurance in the form of bank guarantee or check certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate at a rate of (1%) of the value of the bid valid for 90 days from the date of submission.
- To help the contestants contact the technical support center at 24166670 and email: etenderhd@ita.gov.om
- Public Prosecution is not bound to consent the lowest bid or any other tenders.

SPORTS

EURO 2020

Euro 2020 four semi-finalists enjoy key home advantage

MADRID: The home advantage enjoyed by the host nation or nations at a tournament is always a factor, but Euro 2020, with so many host cities, presented a situation never seen before. It seems that the advantage of playing at home remains as solid as ever, with all four Euro 2020 semi-finalists having played the entire group stage in their own country.

Italy beat Turkey, Switzerland and Wales at Rome's Stadio Olimpico. They then knocked out Austria and Belgium in London and Munich respectively.



Spain played their group games at La Cartuja in Seville, drawing with Sweden and Poland before thrashing Slovakia. For the last 16, they travelled to Copenhagen and Saint Petersburg.

Denmark lost to Finland and Belgium before beating Russia in three group games in Copenhagen. Their knockout games so far have been in Amsterdam and Baku.

England are the team who have played most games at home. They drew with Scotland and defeated Croatia and the Czech Republic at

Wembley in London in the group stage before beating Germany at the same venue in the last 16. The quarter-final victory over Ukraine in Rome was England's first and last game away from Wembley in the tournament.

The three remaining Euro 2020 games will all be at Wembley in London. That means if England reach the final, they will have played six of their seven games at home, giving them the biggest home advantage of all the hosts.

It is telling that all four semi-

finalists had three home games in the group stage. Besides the semi-finalists, only two other teams played all three group games at home: Germany and the Netherlands. Both lost in the round of 16 in their first matches outside their own country, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported.

The tournament, being held in 11 cities in 11 UEFA countries, was originally scheduled from 12 June to 12 July 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe and rescheduled for 11 June to 11 July 2021. **OWA**

Spain, Italy gear up for semifinal clash

Consecutive extra-times mean Spain have played an hour more than Italy over their last two games



SEMIFINALS: Spain have lost just two of their last 14 meetings against Italy and they still remember their quarterfinal win against Italy on the way to the 2008 European Championship title.

MADRID: Spain's national football team flew to London on Monday ahead of their European Championship semifinal against Italy on Tuesday night.

The need to protect the playing surface at Wembley Stadium means the Spanish, who enjoyed a day off on Sunday, will hold their final training session ahead of the game at the familiar headquarters of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) in Madrid.

Spain have reached the last four after testing the nerves of their fans (and no doubt coach Luis Enrique) as they needed extra-time to beat Croatia 5-3 in the last 16, while their quarterfinal against Switzerland went to a penalty shootout in which goalkeeper Unai Simon was the hero.

Consecutive extra-times mean Spain have played an hour more than Italy over their last two games and the general feeling is that Luis Enrique's players

will need a good night in front of goal if they are to get past the Italians.

Nevertheless, Spain have lost just two of their last 14 meetings against Italy and they still remember their quarterfinal win against Italy on the way to the 2008 European Championship title, which truly marked their arrival as a top team and started a run of success which saw them win the 2010

World Cup and Euro 2012, where they thrashed Italy 4-0 in the final.

However, the current Italian side is very different from the ultra-defensive teams of the past, with Roberto Mancini building a team based on pace in attack and drive in midfield.

He has lost left-back Leonardo Spinazzola to injury, whose pace down the flank will be missed, although **Ciro Immobile**, **Lor-**

enzo Insigne and **Nicola Barella** all pose massive threats to a Spain side that always look as if they have a defensive error in them.

Pablo Sarabia is likely to miss out for Spain with a muscle problem, with **Dani Olmo** or **Thiago Alcantara** stepping in for a game where Spain will hope their control of midfield, rather than tired legs, will be the key factor. **Xinhua**

EURO CUP

We've got to give Denmark respect, says Jordan Henderson

ROME: Jordan Henderson showered praise upon England's side after their dominating win over Ukraine in the quarter-finals of the ongoing Euro 2020 but has cautioned the Three Lions not to get ahead of themselves before their semi-final with Denmark at the Wembley Stadium on Wednesday.



The Liverpool captain notched his first senior goal as Harry Kane scored a brace and a Harry Maguire's header helped Gareth Southgate's men to thrash Ukraine 4-0 in the last 8 here at the Stadio Olimpico on Saturday. "I thought the lads were outstanding, so, yeah, overall a great night," the midfielder, who came off the bench for Declan Rice in the second half, told Sky Sports. "You know, we haven't achieved, we need to quickly turn focus, and use it in a positive way, to Wednesday and a tough opponent against Denmark."

"We've got momentum and we're feeling confident but at the same time, we've got to give Denmark respect because they're a fantastic team. We played them not long ago and we know how difficult that will be."

England had lost the semifinals of the 2018 FIFA World Cup against Croatia and now three years later, they would be playing another semifinal of a major tournament.

England got off the blocks quickly as Harry Kane made no mistake

in converting a lovely cross from Raheem Sterling into a goal in just the 4th minute of the game. After that, no more goals were scored in the first half, and as a result, the Three Lions went into the interval with a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, England displayed its A-game and managed to score three more goals to eventually win the match 4-0.

First, Jordan Henderson netted the ball into the goalpost in the 46th minute and four minutes later, Kane scored again to give England a 3-0 lead, leaving Ukraine search for all kinds of answers. The final nail in the coffin for Ukraine came in the 63rd minute as Henderson got among the goal-scoring charts and in the end, England walked away with a 4-0 win. **ANI**

FORMULA ONE

Max Verstappen wins Austrian GP, Lewis Hamilton finishes fourth



SPIELBERG : Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen continued his dream run in 2021 as he enjoyed a serene drive to victory at the Red Bull Ring, leading every lap of the Austrian Grand Prix from pole position to register a third win in a row on Sunday.

In contrast to the Styrian Grand Prix, Verstappen faced no real threat from behind, even having enough time to take an extra pit stop with 10 laps to go to ensure an extra point for fastest lap - and a first ever 'grand slam weekend', with pole, fastest lap and victory, having led every lap.

Behind him, championship rival Lewis Hamilton worked his way up to the second place from P4 on the grid before aerodynamic damage, picked up by running over exit kerbs, slowed his progress, allowing both Mer-

cedes teammate Valtteri Bottas and McLaren's Lando Norris to get past.

Despite heavy pressure from Norris, who was awarded Driver Of The Day honours, Bottas held on for P2, with the McLaren driver taking a third podium finish of the season in P3.

Hamilton held on for fourth, but slipped from 18 to 32 points behind Verstappen in the championship standings.

Red Bull might have had an even better day, had Sergio Perez not had such an eventful race from third on the grid. After an early safety car, called on Lap 1 when Esteban Ocon was forced to park his Alpine with damage sustained bumping Antonio Giovinazzi's Alfa Romeo at Turn 3, Perez attacked Norris for P3 at Turn 3. Going around the outside, Perez was forced off track, with

Norris given a five-second penalty as a result.

However, Perez would later ease Charles Leclerc's Ferrari off the road at exactly the same place and pick up an identical penalty, before doing the same thing to Leclerc at Turn 6 and getting one further time penalty.

That meant that while Perez crossed the line in P5, he was classified in P6, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz - who propelled himself up the order with a brilliant late charge after running a long opening stint - taking fifth.

McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo, Leclerc, AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly and Alpine's Fernando Alonso completed the top 10, the latter taking the final points-paying position from George Russell on the penultimate lap, denying the Briton the first point with Williams. **ANI**

WIMBLEDON



Centre, No. 1 Court at Wimbledon to have full capacity from quarterfinals

LONDON: All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (AELTC) on Sunday announced that Centre and Number 1 Court will have 100 per cent capacity crowds for the Quarter-Finals, with Centre also at 100 per cent for the Semi-Finals and Finals for the ongoing Wimbledon Championships.

"Following the successful staging of the first week of The Championships, as agreed with the Government's Events Research Programme and in consultation with our Local Authority in Merton, the AELTC is pleased to confirm that Centre and No.1 Court will feature 100% capacity crowds for the Quarter-Finals, with Centre Court also at 100% for the Semi-Finals and Finals," Wimbledon stated in a release.

This marks the first full outdoor stadiums at a sporting event

in the UK since the pandemic began. The capacity of Centre Court is 14,979, and the capacity of No.1 Court is 12,345. Capacity across the rest of the Grounds will be reduced according to the number of courts in play.

Ticket-holders will continue to be required to show proof of their COVID-status on arrival, either in the form of both vaccinations (first and the second dose), and with the second dose 14 days ago; or a negative lateral flow test (for those aged 11 and over). Proof of a negative lateral flow test taken within 48 hours of attending the event can be displayed via SMS text, or via email.

People are also being asked to observe the guidance around wearing face coverings on the move and supporting any additional mitigation measures in place. **ANI**

TOKYO OLYMPICS

Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh to be India's flag bearers at Olympics

NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday confirmed that boxer Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh would be the flagbearers for the Indian contingent at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. Wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flagbearer at the closing ceremony.

"The flagbearers for the Indian contingent of Tokyo 2020 for the opening ceremony on July 23rd are Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh," IOA President Narinder Batra said in an official letter. "The flagbearer for the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony on August 8 will be Bajrang Punia," he further stated. Batra also confirmed that the total contingent for the Olympics would be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, and as a result, the total contingent would be around 201.

The contingent comprises 56 per cent of men and 44 per cent of women. It has 76 quota places and will compete in about 85 medal positions. After being named India's flagbearer for the Opening Ceremony at the Tokyo Olympics, boxer Mary Kom on Monday said she is very happy to be given this opportunity and she will do her best at the Games.

"I don't have words to express my happiness because this will be my last Olympics and being the flag bearer, it's a really big thing. Yes, expectations give pressure it's not easy to tackle it but how to handle that pressure, I have learnt," she added. **ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Maha Marketing, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Vision Insurance, down 3.33 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,102.83 points, up 0.11 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down 0.32 per cent at 596.71 points. Al Maha Marketing, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Vision Insurance, down 3.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman Investment & Financials were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 1,199 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR5.8 million, with more than 30 million shares changing hands. Out of 56 traded stocks, 14 advanced, 15 declined and 27 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR413,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for

OMR359,000 followed by local investors for OMR53,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,522.03 points, up 0.09 per cent. Ahlia Insurance, Ahli Bank, Al Anwar Investment, Al Sharqia Investment and Oman United Insurance were up 7.65 per cent, 1.80 per cent, 1.77 per cent, 0.97 per cent and 0.97 per cent respectively. Vision Insurance, Oman Emirates Holding, National Bank Oman, HSBC Bank Oman and Madina Takaful were down 3.33 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 1.52 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.93 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,042.98 points, down 0.28 per cent. Dhofar Cattle Feed and Oman Cables Industry were up 2.20 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 1.05 per cent before closing at 1,752.18 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,107.79	4,098.47	4,102.84	4,098.47	4.37	0.11
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,533.06	6,514.99	6,522.03	6,516.27	5.76	0.09
Industry Index	6,042.90	6,024.99	6,024.99	6,042.71	-17.73	-0.29
Services Index	1,753.61	1,734.90	1,752.19	1,733.90	18.28	1.05
MSX Shariah Index	598.91	596.42	596.71	598.64	-1.93	-0.32
MSX TR INDEX	4,932.58	4,921.38	4,926.63	4,921.38	5.25	0.11

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
30,072,372	5,768,947	1,199	21,627,118,804	14	15	27	56

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JULY 5

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKETING	9,400	7,102	5	0.700	0.780	0.700	0.756	0.700	0.056	8.000	0.780	0.680	0.780	52,164,000	
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN	11,025,571	1,350,553	361	0.117	0.127	0.117	0.122	0.116	0.006	5.172	0.127	0.128	0.127	28,914,000	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	407,249	63,088	46	0.154	0.159	0.154	0.155	0.152	0.003	1.974	0.154	0.154	0.154	13,175,000	
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	34,309	3,864	6	0.113	0.113	0.111	0.113	0.111	0.002	1.802	0.113	0.111	0.113	220,311,284	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,898,236	334,420	96	0.113	0.118	0.113	0.115	0.113	0.002	1.770	0.116	0.116	0.116	23,000,000	
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	124,600	51,724	4	0.412	0.416	0.412	0.416	0.412	0.004	0.971	0.416	0.388	0.416	41,600,000	
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	800,000	83,045	58	0.103	0.105	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.103	0.103	0.104	9,360,000	
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	284,269	111,764	20	0.420	0.424	0.420	0.422	0.418	0.004	0.957	0.422	0.400	0.422	99,765,030	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	47,250	15,118	9	0.318	0.320	0.318	0.320	0.318	0.002	0.829	0.320	0.316	0.320	258,487,145	
OM0000003968	GOERDOO	16,694	6,998	7	0.418	0.420	0.418	0.420	0.418	0.002	0.478	0.420	0.412	0.420	273,396,577	
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	5,655,717	241,637	52	0.428	0.434	0.426	0.428	0.426	0.002	0.469	0.434	0.432	0.434	1,000,153,875,211	
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	45,000	53,550	4	1.190	1.190	1.190	1.190	1.185	0.005	0.422	1.190	1.110	1.190	106,743,000	
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	168,225	10,586	8	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.065	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	69,145	17,286	12	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.248	0.250	0.100	82,718,178
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	1,000	129	1	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.127	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.126	0.133	0.100	37,075,767
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	240	190	1	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.796	0.796	0.000	0.000	0.792	0.784	0.796	0.100	587,000,000
OM0000003386	SOHAR INT BANK	500	49	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.100	236,147,153
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	197,388	73,275	50	0.372	0.372	0.370	0.372	0.374	-0.002	-0.535	0.370	0.350	0.370	0.100	20,460,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	187,000	88,302	8	0.476	0.476	0.470	0.472	0.476	-0.004	-0.840	0.470	0.462	0.470	0.100	103,840,000
OM0000001418	RAISUT CEMENT	80,660	23,864	13	0.298	0.298	0.294	0.296	0.299	-0.003	-1.003	0.294	0.294	0.296	0.100	59,200,000
OM0000002226	ALAJAZERA SERVICES	42,675	17,947	10	0.430	0.430	0.420	0.430	0.430	-0.010	-2.326	0.420	0.412	0.420	0.100	25,705,795
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	223,988	19,580	22	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.090	-0.003	-3.333	0.087	0.086	0.092	0.100	8,700,000
Total		22,273,024.47	486,005	794												

Parallel Market

OM0000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	24,500	8,967	4	0.366	0.366	0.366	0.366	0.340	0.026	7.647	0.366	0.366	0.366	0.100	36,600,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	5,512	512	2	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.093	0.091	0.002	2.198	0.091	0.090	0.091	0.100	7,519,050
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	10,000	920	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.093	0.096	0.100	12,480,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	3,000	549	1	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.182	0.182	0.000	0.000	0.183	0.180	0.185	0.100	5,460,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV	279,120	6,763	7	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.100	4,971,633
OM0000002028	GULF INT CHEM	8,800	1,225	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.125	0.135	0.100	1,625,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKK	1,000	964	1	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.964	0.000	0.000	0.964	0.924	0.964	0.100	91,580,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	438,500	27,177	28	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	21,646,953
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	214,631	27,713	3	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.129	0.135	0.100	386,530,335
OM0000003803	AL KAMEL POWER	1,000	240	1	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.240	0.100	23,100,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	14,537,500	96,642	66	0.067	0.068	0.066	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000003281	TANGER FINEANCE	70,100	5,999	7	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	21,808,740
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	1,500	68	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.051	0.100	10,387,470
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,102,023	108,475	37	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	147,000,000
OM0000004689	SERAGIYAH DESALIN	5,000	576	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.121	0.100	11,834,061
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	1,000	83	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.088	0.100	80,184,044
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	216,000	21,025	13	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	57,792	3,121	9	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.053	0.055	0.100	36,443,921
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	106,600	5,863	4	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.000	0.000	0.055	0.054	0.057	0.100	39,292,349
OM0000005903	PHOENIX POWER	171,268	8,408	8	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	28,600,960
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	525,000	20,330	32	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.147	0.152	0.100	15,200,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	136,261	20,030	13	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.148	-0.001	-0.676	0.147	0.145	0.147	0.100	11,966,204
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	149,000	19,321	12	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.100	28,600,960
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	1,024,691	108,991	63	0.107	0.108	0.106	0.107	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.107	0.105	0.107	0.100	18,550,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	913,904	92,324	15	0.101	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.102	-0.001	-0.980	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	202,031,592
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	108,318	18,335	13	0.172	0.172	0.169	0.171	0.171	-0.002	-1.170	0.169	0.168	0.169	0.100	1,673,575
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	574,121	48,510	39	0.084	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.178	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.100	17,050,861
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	25,000	4,875	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.198	-0.003	-1.515	0.195	0.195	0.200	0.100	317,059,539
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	45,000	3,285	9	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.667	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	5,896,675
Total		7,651,091	720,495	399												

FIRST QUARTER

China's PC monitor shipments surge 48.6%

BEIJING: China's shipments of personal computer (PC) monitors surged 48.6 per cent year on year to 7.55 million units in the first quarter of the year, according to an industry report.

The shipment of PC monitors in the commercial market jumped 77.5 per cent to 4.41 million units, while that in the consumer market

grew 20.9 per cent to 3.14 million units, read a report released by global market research firm International Data Corporation (IDC).

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, Chinese people's consumption and work habits have changed, which has broadened the user scenarios of PC monitors in fields such as entertainment and

study and spurred the growth of the country's PC monitor market, said the report.

Global PC giant Lenovo was the top vendor by shipments in the January-March period, with its market share reaching 21.7 per cent. The company shipped a total of 1.64 million PC monitors in the period. — **Xinhua**

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FOR CRYING

GERMAN GIRL

A football fan has said he wanted to show the young Germany supporter that “not everyone in the UK is horrible.” He also said he hopes his crowdfunding project will help raise awareness on cyberbullying.

A Wales football fan has raised over £28,500 (\$39,400, €33,200) for a young German girl mocked online after England’s win against Germany at Wembley Stadium in London.

Joel Hughes said the girl was the subject of online abuse after she was pictured crying on television and the big screen at the stadium. He said he hopes his

funds will help counter the “unsavory element of social media.”

“I can’t stand seeing that kind of bullying online,” Hughes said.

Hughes initially set a target of £500, but his crowdfunding project quickly exceeded the sum.

“I’d like to think that the parents of the little girl will spend this on a nice treat for her so that she knows that not everyone from the UK is horrible and that we care,” Hughes posted on his crowdfunding page at justgiving.com.

He said he doesn’t know the girl’s identity yet but hopes “social media can sort that out.”

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