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MUSCAT DAILY

AN APEX MEDIA PUBLICATION

MONDAY, 09 NOVEMBER 2020

20 PAGE ISSUE

www.muscatdaily.com

Email: muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om



SOHAR PORT AND FREEZONE PLANS UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PROJECTS
GO TO **PAGE 13 BUSINESS**



Bull fighting now banned in Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

In a set of reforms aimed at curbing animal cruelty, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has banned the use of animals for entertainment as well as sports like bull fighting.

H E Dr Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, issued Ministerial Decision No 255/2020 related to the animal welfare law, on November 2, 2020, which will be enforced a day following its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

The decision stipulates fines to be imposed on those who use animals to perform artistic or entertainment shows.

As per the decision, the owner of an animal will be held in violation of the law if he uses it for any act contrary to its nature making it perform in artistic and entertainment shows such as wrestling arenas and circuses, and using cruelty while preparing the animal for slaughter.

Additionally, exposing animals to neglect or malnutrition, not giving it adequate rest, causing



Violation of the law is punishable with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month and a fine not exceeding RO500 or either of these two penalties

exhaustion from work, racing it without regard for age and health, displaying or trading sick or injured animals, and lifting or

pulling animals unable to walk causing them pain as punishable offences.

Abusing (including sexual abuse) animals, administering growth stimulants or any unauthorised feed additives, and getting rid of sick animals in a merciless way are also violations.

The decision was based on the Animal Welfare Law issued via Royal Decree No 21/2017. According to Article 13 of this law, violation of its provisions is punishable with imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month and a fine not exceeding RO500 or either of these two penalties.

HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF ENVOYS



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received the credentials of nine ambassadors of countries accredited to the sultanate at Al Barakah Palace on Sunday, including Maria Luisa, Ambassador of Spain (ONA)

See more on [Page 03](#)

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TO EVERYONE'S HEALTH...

Oman's healthcare system has been praised by various international organisations in serving all strata of society

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Fifty years since the dawn of the Omani renaissance, the health sector has seen remarkable achievements. The most prominent of these achievements is the expansion of tertiary care facilities providing specialised services in all governorates. These developments have contributed to reducing the mortality rate in the country. Various international organisations engaged in the health sector have praised the efficiency and effectiveness of Oman's healthcare system in serving all strata of society.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has opened and upgraded many specialised centres that provide secondary or tertiary healthcare in all governorates. According to current figures, there are 50 hospitals offering 5,049 beds in the country. Additionally, there are 211 health centres/extended health centres, including 54 health centres with 95 beds and 22 extended health centres.

The total number of healthcare workers in MoH, who have played a significant role in achieving the developments in the sector, was 394,000 at the end of 2019 compared to 393,000 at the end of 2018. According to MoH's Annual Health Book, at the end of 2019, there were 6,419 doctors, 14,491 nursing staff and 738 pharmacists. There were a total of 15.7mn outpatient visits, and 331,000 patients were discharged following hospitalisation in 2019.

Rate of Omanisation

In terms of human resources development, Omanisation level in the MoH currently stands at 72 per cent.



The Ministry of Health has opened and upgraded many specialised centres that provide secondary or tertiary healthcare in all governorates

Omanisation among consultant doctors is 70 per cent, nursing staff - 65 per cent, dentists - 84 per cent, pharmacists - 93 per cent, and assistant pharmacist - 81 per cent. Following the graduation of the Omani students currently enrolled in various specialist programmes in several universities and colleges, Omanisation rates will significantly rise among medical and paramedical medical facilities in the near future.

First field hospital for COVID-19

In efforts to combat the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, MoH opened the first phase of a field hospital for COVID-19 patients on the premises



of the old Muscat Airport. This hospital is helping reduce the burden on hospitals across the governorate. The first phase of the hospital is equipped with 100 beds, but the facility will eventually have 312-bed capacity. The ministry is also in the process of establishing an intensive care unit in the field hospital.

A shelter centre will be attached to the field hospital, spread over 10,000sqm, with a capacity of 384 beds. There will be provision of converting the shelter into a hospital if the need arose.

The field hospital is spread over 6,100sqm and is equipped with beds for mild and moderate cases, a temporary care section, a pharmacy, a

laboratory and a radiology section. It is run by a medical team from the MoH comprising 30 doctors, 115 male and female nurses, seven lab technicians, seven assistant pharmacists and seven radiologists.

Oman Vision 2040

The MoH is currently evaluating the Ninth Five-Year Health Development Plan (2016-2020) to assess the achievements and goals set at the beginning of the plan. It is also doing a comprehensive evaluation of the health status in the sultanate, as it is considered the cornerstone of the Tenth Five-Year Health Development Plan (2021-2025) and Oman Vision 2040.



Pregnancy spacing for healthier children

The first years of childhood are crucial to the health and wellbeing in various stages of life. This period offers an opportunity for children to grow up so that they can unleash their full potential in adult life, according to the Ministry of Health. The development trajectory of each child depends largely on the love, care and encouragement received from their family and surrounding environment.

International organisations engaged in children welfare and related fields call for the need to provide better care for children in the early stages of life, and recommend inclusion of relevant programmes - such as mother-child health, nutrition, reproductive health, health promotion, etc - in national policies.

Children need the constant care of parents, as brain development depends on the quality of stimuli from their family and environment. Favourable conditions should be created in order to achieve optimum physical, social and linguistic growth. Consequently, it is necessary to improve families' overall conditions to enable them to raise their children better.

Birth spacing is one of the important factors in achieving children's development. Spacing between pregnancies has many benefits for children, allowing them more attention and care in terms of breastfeeding,

nutrition, healthy practices, disease prevention and accidents. Children who are adequately spaced have better learning opportunities, which contribute to their cognitive growth and development. Spacing births also has enormous health benefits by reducing risk of complications of premature birth, malnutrition, poor growth, morbidity and mortality. It also has positive impacts on the health of the mother as she can regain her physical and psychological health, be able to breastfeed better, provide her baby care and interact with him/her with full mental capacity.

Leaving a sufficient period between pregnancies also provides parents the opportunity to educate themselves in the field of childcare, which leads to improving parenting skills. Additionally, a smaller family enables parents to give all their attention to their children and increase investment opportunities for every child. It gives their child increased opportunities for education and support compared to children who have many siblings.

The development of children in the early stages is crucial to human development and success of societies. This can only be achieved by providing encouraging conditions, including reproductive health and spacing pregnancies, the Ministry of Health said.

HM receives credentials of envoys



Imelda Macapundag Panolong, Ambassador of Philippines



Mohammed Arzan Jawhan, Ambassador of Indonesia



Dr Kim Chang Kyu, Ambassador of Korea



Christian Brunmayr, Ambassador of Austria



Mohammed Yarqi, Ambassador of Algeria



Ali Najafi-Khoshroudi, Ambassador of Iran



Andreas Nikolaides, Ambassador of Cyprus



Amjad Jamil al Quhaiwi, Ambassador of Jordan



Sheikh Ahmed al Nadabi

Majlis A'Shura to reconvene on Nov 15

Our Correspondent
Muscat

In implementation of the Royal Order issued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to begin the annual session of the Council of Oman, Majlis A'Shura will start its second annual session of the ninth term (2019-2023) on Sunday, November 15.

Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed al Nadabi, secretary general of the Majlis A'Shura, extended congratulations to His Majesty the Sultan on the occasion of the 50th National Day.

He confirmed that the Majlis A'Shura will continue its legislative and oversight work in accordance with the Basic Law of the State, by integrating with the Executive Authority, to contribute efficiently and competently in carrying out its roles.

He explained that the Majlis A'Shura has completed all preparations for the start of the second annual session in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the internal regulations of the majlis, stressing that the session will be public and open to media. He confirmed that there are four new members who will take oath after the opening of the session and a vice president will also be elected.

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Tender Announcement

مدائن madayn

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) announces the following Tender:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last date of buying	Date of submission	Type of work	Register Degree	Fee (R.O)
10/2020/PEIE/HQ-10	Design And Build For The Interior Partitions, Decoration And Associated Works For Samail Industrial City Administration Area	22-11-2020	20-12-2020	Construction and Maintenance	First and Second	150

Interested Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted on line on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of 1% of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to The Chairman of Tender Committee mentioned in above tenders.

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at eTendering System.
- eTendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the eTendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: etenderhd@ita.gov.om and +968 24166670, 24166409 Note: Bid Submission will be online only.

No Document can be accepted as Manual except Original Tender Bond. Scan Copy of Tender Bond needs to be attached in system and original needs to be deposited before Bid Opening.

Madayn is not bound to accept the lowest or any other Offer and has the right to cancel these tenders and the tenderers have no right to claim for any compensations.

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973 new COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths in three days

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Health (MoH) on Sunday confirmed 973 new cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) during the last three days, taking the total to 118,140. The number of deaths reported during the same time was 15. The number of those who recovered was 1,313.

'The number of recoveries has increased to 108,681 while the number of deaths is now 1,301,' an MoH statement said.

As of Sunday, a total of 351 patients were admitted in health institutions, including 148 in intensive care units.

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SAFE TO PRAY AND PLAY?

With the resumption of most activities, is it time to reopen places of worship and parks?

Muna Basheer al Zadjali
Private sector employee

Although most commercial activities have resumed to cope with the financial situation arising as a result of the pandemic, I do not suggest resumption of recreational facilities, such as public parks, and places of worship. People are likely to neglect preventive protocols and the essential social distancing norms which would lead to an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. It is essential that we follow these protocols.



Dr Zainab Ansari
Investor

While it's still risky for parks and recreational facilities to begin functioning at this point, I believe reopening places of worship, particularly during this difficult period, is very essential as most of us would want to be able to pray and spiritually connect with the Almighty to fight the negativity. But people must take into consideration the necessary safety measures, only allowing a certain number of worshippers inside.



A R Srinivasan
Government employee

It is definitely time to reopen places of worship with stringent rules. The management team of the places of worship must ensure those who come to pray follow the rules. However, reopening parks and other recreational facilities should be kept on hold for some time as children are likely to visit these places without being aware of the immediate consequence. A fine should be imposed on those who break the rules.



Mbarak al Aaraimy
Entrepreneur

I feel it would be a costly affair to reopen places of worship and parks. The resources required to prepare adequately would be extensive. It won't be an easy task for people who have been practising the culture of shaking hands and hugging since a long time to stop these. Until the government is prepared to monitor these gatherings to ensure that the WHO safety protocols are followed, they must remain closed.



Mohammed Ishtiyag
Finance manager

With most of the activities already open, in my opinion, it is time to consider the resumption of the places of worship at least. The neighbouring GCC countries have opened up places of worship with limited access to people, new guidelines and precautionary measures in place. Reopening parks and other facilities may have to wait.



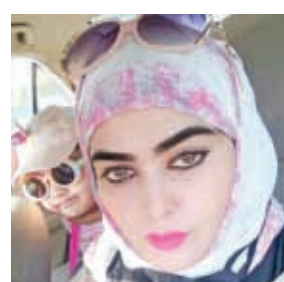
Piyush Bharti
Commercial manager

The second and third waves of COVID-19 were seen all over the world after winter. The weather is only getting cooler in Oman. Reopening places of worship and other facilities would only make the situation in the country much similar to that of Europe, which is a matter of concern.



Hira Khan
Housewife

Yes. We can pray by following social distancing norms, with time limitations, proper sanitisation and wearing masks. Parks, being open areas, pose low risk of spreading the virus. These activities can resume with strict rules and regulations.



Muthumari Pandian
Homemaker

Certainly yes. For almost nine months, there was a lot of negativity. During this difficult time, worship and the environment will bring us peace. But safety is also an important factor. We must wear a mask and adhere to the social distancing norms, which should not be compromised.



? NEXT ON
YOUR SAY

How will you celebrate the 50th National Day?

The views stated here are those of the respondents and not endorsed by Muscat Daily. If you feel strongly about the issues discussed here, you can email your comments to muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om Log on to our Facebook page or tweet us your comments on the issue

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

The Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.A.O.C) (Tanweer) Announce For **TENDER NO. TANWEER- 28/2020**

Supply & Delivery Of Fuel Gas Oil To Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer) Power Station In Wadi Aswad At Wilayat Ibri -Al Dhahirah Governorate

The Conditions:

- Collection Of Tender:** Interested And Specialized Companies And Establishments Registered With Tender Board, Tanweer And Distribution Code Review Panel (Dcrp) May Obtain The Tender Documents From Procurement & Contracts Department Till Date Of **16 November 2020**, Against Non-Refundable Amount Of Ro (175/-). 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 (Tanweer).
- Offers Submission:**
 - Original Bid Bond Along Cover Letters Shall Be Placed By Bidders Inside The Red Waxed Tender's Envelopes As Communicated To Bidders By Tanweer. Tender Soft Copy Must Be Serialized According To The Numbers Of The Tender Items.
 - Tender Bids Shall Be Provided Separately On A Cd Roms, 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.
 - Addressed It To The **Chairman Of Tender 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 Date Of **26 November 2020**.
- Tanweer Without Mentioning The Reason Is Not Bound To Accept The Lowest Or Any Other Tender.

For More Information, **Please Call: 80077787**
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Revised air pact leads to fewer flights between Oman, India

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Private Indian airlines operating under the Air Travel Bubble Arrangement between Oman and India will no more be operating their flights according to a revised pact between the two countries.

GoAir, SpiceJet and IndiGo had started regular flights between Muscat and several Indian cities but the airlines have been asked by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, India, to discontinue their services as per a revised



agreement with the civil aviation authorities of both the countries.

The national carriers of both the countries, including SalamAir, will continue to operate on select routes under the agreement which will last till November 30.

"This is due to the COVID-19 situation in both the countries," an official at the Indian Embassy in Muscat, said.

Under the previous arrangement, up to 10,000 passengers were allowed to be flown weekly by the airlines of each side. This has now been cut down to 5,000.

Oman Air named world's best airline for Economy Class service

Muscat - Oman Air has earned international recognition from a popular media outlet for providing the world's best Economy Class experience.

The site, thepointsguy.com, recently ranked airlines across the globe for their Economy Class service, based on hundreds of flights taken and ranked by their journalists.

The site, which debuted in 2010 to provide information about airlines' frequent flyer programmes, has become one of the world's most popular sites for travel news and content, attracting over 10mn unique visitors per month and over 3mn followers across social media platforms.

In establishing the scores for Economy Class service, reviewers considered a number of factors including seat comfort and space, meal and beverage service, in-flight entertainment, cabin crew service and aircraft cleanliness.



Earning praise for all facets of the flight, Oman Air outscored airlines such as Emirates, Qatar Airways and Delta, a large US-based carrier.

The review noted that Oman Air provided excellent seat comfort and legroom, along with high-quality food and beverage service, world-class in-flight entertainment, an amenity kit and first-rate service throughout a 787 Dreamliner flight connecting London and Muscat.

The crew "was the icing on the cake of this top-class economy flight with Oman Air", the site said. Their reviewer "woke up to find bottles of water at his feet after a nap, one of which was replaced after waking up a second time. That's the kind of service you'd expect in First Class, not Economy".

In closing, the review said, "This Economy experience with Oman Air definitely deserves the top spot."

New entry requirements for travellers to Oman

Muscat - The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), in coordination with relevant authorities, has issued a set of measures for people travelling to Oman. All those arriving in Oman are required to present a negative PCR test report.

The quarantine period is seven days from the date of arrival in Oman if the passenger has a negative report of a COVID-19 PCR test conducted

on arrival and another test conducted on the eighth day. If the passenger does not wish to undergo a PCR test on the eighth day, the quarantine will continue for 14 days from the date of arrival,' CAA stated.

The COVID-19 PCR test conducted within 96 hours of the scheduled time of arrival in Oman should be a valid and certified medical test report.

Travellers must download

Tarassud+ and HMushrif applications before arriving in the country and complete their registration through the link: <https://covid19.moh.gov.om/#/traveler-reg>

The new measures will be effective from November 11.

Children of age 15 years and younger are exempted from the COVID-19 PCR test and wearing the tracking wristband.

An Omani citizen who tests

positive after recovering from COVID-19 is allowed to travel to Oman after providing proof that he has completed the prescribed quarantine period before taking the COVID-19 PCR test prior to departure for Oman.

Diplomats working at foreigner embassies accredited to Oman and diplomats visiting Oman are exempted from the COVID-19 requirements for passengers to and from Oman.

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 (RO)
1	62/2020	Supply and Installation of INFILL TYPE Gate at Dhofar Store Building	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	150/=
2	63/2020	Media Lap Project	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	123/=
3	64/2020	Completion of Pending Works for Rerouting Portion of 132 kV Sur - Al Kamil Line	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	25/=
4	65/2020	Replacement of OPGW in OETC OHL Network	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	150/=
5	67/2020	Consultancy Services for M of FF Drawing and to obtain Civil Defiance Approval from PADCA to Removal the Transformer Fire Fighting Sprinkler System	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	150/=
6	68/2020	Supply of OPGW Accessories	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	28/=
7	69/2020	Supply of OPGW Cable	23/11/2020	22/12/2020	Local companies with experience in same field, Have a valid tender board registration certificate.	96/=

Participation:	Interested Companies may obtain Tender Document with the necessity of sending a valid Tender Board certificate in the same required field.
Buying the Tender:	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 8.00 am - 01.00 pm .
Fees:	Against non-refundable payment as mentioned above against each set of document.(Payment Through Bank Transfer)
The deadline for clarification:	Before (21) Days from closing date.
Submission:	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.
Terms and conditions:	- No other writing or any reference thereto should be mentioned on the envelope. - The bid should be valid for not less than (90) days from closing date. - 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). - Any bid not comply with the required guarantee, will not be accepted. - OETC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other offers.
Offer:	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.
Company Address:	Muscat - Al Mawaleh Road No: 2153 - Building No, 4230 Block No: 321 - GSM: 99105413, 93201558, 93515198, 92217856
Email	tenders@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	ثمن الوثيقة (رغ)
١	٢٠٢٠/١٢	توريد وتركيب بوابة مترلقة أوتوماتيكية من المعدن المقاوم للصدأ بمخازن الشركة في محافظة ظفار.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	١٥٠/=
٢	٢٠٢٠/١٣	إنشاء مختبر إعلامي لقسم الإعلام بالشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	١٢٣/=
٣	٢٠٢٠/١٤	إكمال الاعمال المتبقية لمشروع تحويل جزء من خط الكامل - صور جهد ١٣٢ كيلو فولت.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	٢٥/=
٤	٢٠٢٠/١٥	إستبدال الكابل الأرضي بخطوط شبكة الكهرباء.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	١٥٠/=
٥	٢٠٢٠/١٧	الخدمات الاستشارية لازالة نظام مكافحة الحرائق (الرش) للمحطات القائمة مع الحصول على الموافقة من الهيئة العامة للدفاع المدني والاسعاف.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	١٥٠/=
٦	٢٠٢٠/١٨	توريد ملحقات تركيب كابل التأريض الهوائي.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	٢٨/=
٧	٢٠٢٠/١٩	توريد كابل التأريض الهوائي.	٢٠٢٠/١١/٢٣	٢٠٢٠/١٢/٢٢	الشركات المحلية العاملة في هذا المجال المسجلة لدى مجلس المناقصات وتسجيلها ساري المفعول.	٩٦/=

الاشتراك	يمكن للشركات والمؤسسات المتخصصة الحصول على مستندات المناقصة مع ضرورة إرسال شهادة مجلس المناقصات بارية المفعول وفي نفس المجال المطلوب.
طريقة الشراء	يتم إرسال المستندات المطلوبة لشراء المناقصة عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني الى دائرة المناقصات والمشتريات والعقود . وذلك لتأكد من صحة المستندات قبل شراء المناقصة وذلك من خلال أيام العمل الرسمية من الساعة ٨:٠٠ ص - ١:٠٠ م . مقابل دفع المبلغ المحدد أعلاه للنسخة الواحدة - لا ترد . (الدفع عن طريق التحويل البنكي)
آخر موعد للإستفسارات	قبل (٢١) يوم من تاريخ آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات
تقديم العروض	تقدم العروض في مظاريف مغلقة ومعنونة بإسم رئيس لجنة المناقصات مع تحديد رقم وعنوان المناقصة فقط.
الشروط و الضمانات	- عدم تحديد اسم صاحب العطاء أو ما يشير إليه على المظروف. - أن تكون العروض سارية المفعول لمدة لا تقل عن (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ تقديم العطاء . - إرفاق تأميناً في صورة ضمان مصرفي من أحد البنوك العاملة في البلاد قدره (٪١) من قيمة العطاء ساري لمدة (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ تقديم العطاء . - ومعنوناً بإسم الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء . - كل عطاء لا يستوفي التأمين المطلوب لن ينظر فيه . - الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء غير مقيدة بقبول أقل العروض أو أي عطاء آخر .
العرض المقدم	يجب وضع العروض في صندوق المناقصات رقم (١) بمبنى الشركة قبل الساعة ١١ صباحاً من التاريخ المحدد لتقديم العطاءات .
عنوان الشركة	عنوان الشركة: محافظة مسقط - الموالج رقم المسكة ٢١٥٣ - مبنى رقم ٤٢٠ - هاتف - ٩٣٥١٥٩٨,٩٢٢١٧٨٥٦,٩٣٢٠١٥٥٨,٩٩١٠٥٤١٣
البريد الإلكتروني	tenders@omangrid.com
الموقع الإلكتروني	www.omangrid.com

الشركة العمانية لنقل الكهرباء ش . م . ع . م
ص ب : ١٣٨٩ . الخوض. الرمز البريدي : ١٣٢ . سلطنة عمان
الهاتف : ٩١٨٢٤٨٣٠٠٠ / الفاكس : ٩١٨٢٢٣٠٩٠٤٦
الموقع الإلكتروني : www.omangrid.com



Bank Muscat to issue limited edition cards



Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the sultanate, has announced that it will celebrate the momentous occasion of the 50th National Day with a special limited edition series of its Prepaid Cards and its Asalah VISA Signature Credit Cards. The look and feel of the cards will represent the achievements of this important milestone in the history of modern Oman. The exclusive cards with 'Just Tap' contactless technology are meant to be collector's items and sales will start in the first week of November and will go on till stocks last.

On this occasion, Amjad Iqbal al Lawati, assistant general manager - Cards and Electronic Banking, said, "All Bank Muscat Credit Card holders are eligible to be entered into a special raffle scheme, whereby they will re-

ceive one chance for every RO50 spent through the card to participate in special National Day raffles that will be held over a period of 50 days. Fifty lucky winners will get RO500 each credited to their credit cards. I invite all Bank Muscat customers try out the benefits of our Credit Cards."

The bank will also be holding special prize draws for prepaid card customers. Customers who use their prepaid card will be eligible to be entered into a special draw with RO2,500 in total cash prizes, with 50 customers winning RO50 each. The special draws for both the Credit Cards and the prepaid cards will be held over a 50 day period starting November 1.

Bank Muscat Asalah VISA Signature Credit Cards offer some of the most exclusive shopping, dining out or traveling

offers and benefits for the bank's customers. They offer 1 per cent cashback on all purchases, toll-free global concierge services, multi-trip travel insurance, great discounts at merchants and restaurants, airport lounge access to over 1,000 lounges worldwide and a 'pick and drop' chauffeur service to Muscat International Airport. With higher cash withdrawal limits, the card is designed with your lifestyle in mind and comes with great benefits for traveling, shopping and dining. Its secure, feature-packed and welcome at millions of establishments worldwide.

Bank Muscat Prepaid Cards on the other hand are meant to make daily transactions a breeze, and can be used online as well as at merchants across the sultanate and abroad with a simple tap of the POS terminal.

Bait al Zubair celebrates 'Oman My Beautiful Country'

Under the auspices of H H Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Bait al Zubair celebrated the release of the fourth and updated edition of Mohammad Al Zubair's book *Oman My Beautiful Country* on Sunday. The first edition was published in 2002.

Published by BAZ Publishing, the book is a visual journey through the sultanate and includes ten chapters with photographs of 'Muscat, Architecture, Seas and Coastlines, Deserts, Oases, Nature, Mountains and Wadis, Khareef, Culture and People'. Mohammad al Zubair has documented Oman's most prominent monuments and landmarks across all governorates of the sultanate, making the book a valuable addition to the visual content available on Oman. This edition includes texts in five languages: Arabic, English, German, French and Russian.

In a message to the readers, the author says: "Whenever I travel abroad, people always tell me that they have wonderful impressions of Oman and that they consider it one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Through my passion for photography, I have tried my best to



showcase the sultanate's diverse beauty and unique landmarks. The result is a visual journey to some of Oman's hidden treasures, for visitors to explore.

"At a time when our nation is witnessing growth in tourism, the number of visitors and people interested in Oman, I have tried to add to the visual content available about our beautiful home and its attractions. This is especially important with the advances in digital photography and how people communicate through social mediums. Since the publishing of the first edition of *Oman My Beautiful Country*, the sultanate has been on a journey

of growth, marking many milestones along the way. Improvements to all areas of life have not impacted our environment or nature. I felt it necessary to revisit the book regularly and publish updated editions that document our progress and successes."

A new element of the fourth edition of *Oman My Beautiful Country* was the development of a website www.myoman.com which allows readers to explore the locations and landmarks featured in the book through short videos and photographs. It can be accessed by scanning one of the QR codes found in the book.

Speaking about Oman in the

introduction of the book, Mohammad al Zubair says: "Oman is not known as a boastful nation; however there are many notable things about the sultanate which continue to highlight it as one of the most beautiful countries in the region. With its rich heritage and embracing society, Oman has a strong sense of identity. This is all owed to the wise and thoughtful leadership of the Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - may the Almighty rest his soul in peace -, who made the people and their education, as well as the preservation of culture, tradition, and history a high priority."

GIG MENA launches online graduate diamond programme in GCC

A one-of-its-kind institution in the region with its eye on promoting education despite the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, GIG launches its unique online education platform allowing people to venture into the fascinating world of gemmology and jewellery.

GIG is the GCC's most trusted name in gemstone analysis and luxury education. Whether you are starting a new career or looking to advance your current one, GIG Education is the key to opening doors within the industry globally.

This course is considered the first and only gemmological course of its calibre coming from the GCC, making it a historic event for the region. The graduate diamond programme is an all-inclusive diamond course that will teach participants about the 4Cs; will train students how to use gemmological equipment to grade diamonds. Develop hands on experience with the International Diamond Grading System;

teach them how to detect the quality of diamonds; for instance, is it natural or lab treated? Plus, more. At the end of the course students will earn a 'Graduate Diamond Grader Diploma'.

Occupations associated with such a diploma include but not limited to auction house diamond specialist, diamond buyer, diamond sorter and grader, inventory control specialist, jewellery business owner.

The programme will be taking on eight students and by next spring the GCC will have the first graduate class of gemmologists coming from the region. All GIG diplomas are internationally recognised as GIG is a member of CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation. GIG is considered one of the top ten research labs in the world and just this year launched the first gemmological magazine in the region.

For more information on the course or how to join people can visit the website <https://gulfgemology.com>

Infiniti Oman extends courtesy vehicle for customers during service period

Offering customers convenience, Infiniti Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, is extending Infiniti Courtesy Vehicle (ICV) for its customers during their car service period while adhering to all the safety protocols related to COVID-19.

The unique programme titled Infiniti Courtesy Vehicle (ICV) offers customers a courtesy Infiniti vehicle to help them be mobile during car service.

The aim of the ICV programme is to create convenience for service customers (seamless mobility) and provide existing customers with the opportunity to experience other/ new models with latest technology.

A senior spokesperson at Infiniti Oman said, "The ICV programme has been conceived to provide customers with seamless mobility during car service and provide a chance to experience newer models of Infiniti. The courtesy vehicles offered as part of the programme will be free of charge to our customers.



ICVs are dedicated units kept only for offering them as replacement vehicles to service customers. All customers/ jobs are eligible for ICV except for internal, B&P and waiting customers for quick services. Our protocol and guidelines guarantee the utmost hygiene, sanitisation, and

safety for all. Besides, our staff is trained to make the processes very secure, with highest focus on hygiene and safety."

This service is based on availability of the ICV cars during that time of car service. Terms and conditions apply. Infiniti Oman strives to offer an excellent retail

and customer service experience to every Infiniti owner. A crucial point of differentiation for the brand amongst competitors is the top level of customer service it delivers.

To ensure safety of its customers and employees, Infiniti Oman is following a thorough

safety precaution protocol at its service centre. The standard operating procedure it follows involves the execution of strict safety, sanitisation and physical distancing rules.

Implemented in line with Oman's Supreme Committee advisories on COVID-19, Infiniti Oman's precaution protocol aims to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of its customers and employees as priority.

The important safety precautions and protocol being followed at the Infiniti Oman service centre include sanitisation of touch points and fumigation of facilities. While hand sanitisers are kept at customer receptions, thermal checks are done before employees and customers enter the service centre. All staff keep a physical distance of two metres from customers.

Other safety measures include sanitisation of vehicle exterior touch points and protective covers on steering wheel, gear lever and seat.

MG offers best-in-region manufacturer's warranty on its cars

In these challenging times, avoiding incurring unexpected costs is more important than ever, which is why MG is offering new car buyers across the Middle East the region's best new car manufacturer warranty. All models in the British-born brand's extensive line-up, whether petrol or electric, enjoy an industry-leading 6 years / 200,000km manufacturer warranty.

MG understands that buyers crave the peace-of-mind that comes with owning a reliable car that requires minimal aftersales care. The best-in-region 6 years or 200,000km (whichever comes first) warranty demonstrates the confidence that the brand has in its products. It is available on all models, including the Middle East's 2020 Car of the Year and

Best Sub-compact Sedan, the MG HS and MG5 respectively, as well as the MG RX8 seven-seater SUV.

Customers who wish to purchase the brand's first all-electric model, the MG ZS EV, will benefit from the "Battery and Drive Unit" specific warranty. Under this, the drive motor, power electronic box and vehicle control unit are covered for 6 years / 200,000km, while the high-voltage battery pack enjoys an even more impressive 8 years / 200,000km warranty.

Under the warranty owners are guaranteed the repair, replacement or adjustment, free of charge, by MG distributors of any part which fails during the warranty period, due to a manufacturing or material defect. This confidence extends to the demands placed on the car by



the tough GCC climate - an industry-leading anti-perforation warranty of 6 years/

200,000km is also included. Customers can have their vehicles inspected annually and free

of any charge for any damage on the bodywork caused by corrosion or perforation. Also, the

MG warranty is transferable; means change of ownership will not affect MG's warranty.

MG is committed to providing customers with the best possible aftersales service, helped by its 8,000m² state-of-the-art warehouse facility in Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone. Now operating at a spare parts supply rate of 94 per cent, this dedicated Parts Distribution Centre ensures rapid turnaround times when it comes to servicing customers across the region, including in the GCC, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan. MG works with industry-leading European parts suppliers such as Delphi, Continental, Michelin, TRW, Bosch, Beru, Hella, Valeo and Sandan.

Tom Lee, managing director of MG Middle East, commented, "We work closely with our dis-

tributors to offer exceptional after-sales service and rapid access to original/genuine spare parts. MG is committed to ensuring the highest levels of customer satisfaction, and with our comprehensive warranty we can deliver a hassle-free service experience for all our customers who place their trust in us in maintaining their cars. This is reinforced by our special 'door to door' pick-up and drop-off service that makes life even easier for customers."

MG has a network of 30 dedicated retail sites and 29 service centres across the Middle East, each of which delivers the highest standards of customer service. All MG employees go through rigorous training that is specifically tailored to equip them better to serve all MG customers across the region.

Mercedes-Benz Oman launches new E-Class

The E-Class Sedan, the first in the thoroughly updated model series, has arrived in Oman alongside a brand new update for 2020, the Mercedes-AMG E 53 4MATIC+, which features a more sporty and striking design. Its electrified 3.0lt bi-turbo six-cylinder engine, with an electric additional compressor, generates an output of 320 kW (435 hp) and produces a peak torque of 520 Nm.

The tenth generation of the E-Class set trends in 2016 with its clean yet emotionally appealing design, exclusive, high-quality interior and wealth of innovations in driving assistance systems. This emotionally appealing and at the same time intelligent combination is extremely successful: to date, more than 1.2mn customers around the world have bought a current-generation E-Class. With over 14mn models delivered since 1946, the E-Class is the best-selling model series in the history of Mercedes-Benz and perceived by many as the "heart of the brand".

"Our cars are the product of over a century of tradition, and the exceptional quality of our vehicles combined with our signature aftersales service is why so many choose Mercedes-Benz," said Scott Shears, general manager of Passengers Cars at Mercedes-Benz Oman.

"The executive E-Class has always been a steady favourite among those looking for a smart, executive vehicle. The newest models move intuitively on the road and offer sophisticated, intelligent technology wrapped in a freshly refined design, that is both modern and sporty. The E-Class models are true masterpieces of intelligence."

More dynamic design

The enhanced dynamics and the upgrade of the E-Class Sedan are reflected in the model range: the entry-level model already comes with the sporty Avantgarde Line exterior. As a result, the base model of the E-Class Sedan features a central star at the front for the first time. The new front end with increased chrome content plays a role in the fresh appearance.

The redesigned AMG Line with a new bumper in the style of the AMG Performance models looks even sportier. In addition, the Avantgarde and AMG Lines will feature a bonnet with power domes as standard. The E-Class Sedan features all-LED headlamps as standard. Multibeam LED headlamps including Ultra



Range high beam are available as an option. The three new paint colours available as part of the refresh are high-tech silver metallic, graphite grey metallic and mojave silver metallic. The wheel line-up has also been expanded and now includes aero wheels, which also contribute to saving fuel and thus to sustainability.

New upholstery colours and materials upgrade the interior. These include the new colour combinations magma grey/neva grey (Avantgarde), black/nut brown (Exclusive) and magma grey/macchiato beige (Exclusive), and trim in open-pore silver ash wood, burr walnut fondant, brushed aluminium and aluminium with a carbon grain.

Next generation driving assistance systems:

The new E-Class Sedan is equipped with the latest Mercedes-Benz driving assistance systems providing cooperative support to drivers. This results in an especially high level of active safety: the E-Class Sedan reacts if the driver does not. The hands-off recognition now works on a capacitive basis, which enhances user-friendliness when driving in semi-automated mode.

As standard, the E-Class Sedan comes with Active Brake Assist, which in many situations is able to use autonomous braking to prevent a collision or miti-



gate its severity. The system is also able to brake for stationary vehicles and crossing pedestrians at typical city speeds and even to prevent collisions, depending on the situation. As part of the optional Driving Assistance Package, this is now also possible when turning off across the oncoming lane.

Some Intelligent Drive functions can optionally be added to the Driving Assistance Package. They include Active Distance Assist DISTRONIC with route-based speed adjustment, where the E-Class Sedan is now even able to respond to data from LiveTraffic Information.

Active Parking Assist with

Parktronic and 360° camera makes it possible to enter and leave parking spaces automatically. The system facilitates the search for and selection of a parking space as well as entering and leaving (if the vehicle was parked automatically) parallel and end-on parking spaces or garages. For the first time, the new E-Class Sedan is able to recognise and use marked areas as parking spaces. The 360° camera transmits an even more realistic image to the media display, which includes an expanded side view. When leaving a parking space, the system is able to warn of traffic crossing behind the vehicle and can apply

the brakes in case of doubt.

Even more comfort in the interior

The new E-Class Sedan is equipped with the latest generation of the MBUX multimedia system (Mercedes-Benz User Experience). As standard for the region, it includes two large 12.3 inch/31.2 cm screens that are arranged side by side for a widescreen look.

The information in the instrument cluster and on the media display is easily legible on the large, high-resolution screens. An emotive presentation with brilliant graphics underlines the comprehensibility of the intuitive

control structure.

Depending on mood or to match the particular interior, the user has a choice of four different styles:

- Modern Classic is a further development of the classic display style in an elegant and light material mix
- Sport has a high-tech turbine look with decidedly sporty black/yellow contrasts
- Progressive stages the digital realm in reduced form
- In the Discreet style, all displays are reduced to only show absolutely necessary information

Other strengths include touchscreen control of the media display as standard and the use of augmented reality technology (optional) for the navigation display when the navigation function is active: a video image of the surroundings is enhanced with helpful navigation information: arrows or house numbers are automatically superimposed directly onto the image in the media display, for example.

The system also assists the driver at traffic lights: if the E-Class Sedan is the first car at the lights, the current traffic light situation is superimposed. In this way, this new function is a particular help when there is an unfavourable line of sight to the traffic lights.

The optional MBUX Interior Assistant allows intuitive, natural operation of various comfort and

MBUX functions by movement recognition. When a hand approaches the touchscreen or the touchpad on the centre console, the media display changes, and individual elements are highlighted, for example.

Two powerdomes

The dynamic appearance is rounded off by restyled 19-inch light-alloy wheels in an aerodynamically optimised 5-twin-spoke design. 20-inch light-alloy wheels in a 5-twin-spoke design are optionally available, also aerodynamically optimised and with a wider rim edge, painted in a choice of matt black or high-gloss titanium grey.

With the optional AMG Night Package the new E 53 model takes on an even sportier appearance. The front splitter, mirror caps, trim strip in the rear apron and tailpipe trim elements are styled in high-gloss black. In conjunction with the Night Package, the darkened AMG radiator grille is available as an additional optional extra. It adds a final individual touch to the front design.

Infotainment system

Visually the two displays for the instrument cluster and multimedia displays blend beneath a shared glass cover to form the Widescreen Cockpit. The customer can choose between the three AMG display styles "Modern Classic", "Sport" and "Supersport" for the instrument cluster. The "Supersport" mode is particularly striking with a central, round rev counter and additional information presented in the form of bars to the left and right of the rev counter. Via the AMG menu, the driver can call up various special displays such as Engine Data, gear speed indicator, Warm-up, Set-up, G-Meter and Racetimer.

AMG Track Pace, the virtual race engineer, is also optionally available for the E 53 models: The software is part of the MBUX infotainment system, and when negotiating a race circuit, it continuously monitors more than 80 vehicle-specific sets of data (eg speed, acceleration). On top of this, lap and sector times are displayed, as well as the respective difference from a reference time. The optional MBUX Augmented Reality function also allows the ideal line of a stored racetrack to be displayed on the multimedia display or head-up display, allowing the driver to improve lap times with a virtual instructor on board.

Purshottam Kanji holds photo contest

Purshottam Kanji Exchange, the country's first exchange house, is organising a mobile phone photography competition in association with 'Life in Oman online', a Facebook page, to coincide with the 50th National Day of Oman.

Any subject related to the 50th National Day of Oman can be photographed. Post photos under the 'Mobile Photography Contest' post on the 'Life in Oman online' Facebook page. Pictures can be posted until November 20. Both citizens and expats can participate in the competition.

One can post as many photos as one wants. The top three photos will receive attractive prizes. In addition, Purshottam Kanji Exchange general manager Supin James and chief operations manager Binoy Simon Varghese said in a press release that the photo will get the most likes and reach.

Extensive events for the 50th



National Day were planned earlier this year. But due to coronavirus, restrictions on public events are being restricted.

But the 50th National Day is a proud moment for everyone in this country so every effort will be made through social media to convey the excitement of the National Day to the people. So it is important to participate in the National Day celebrations.

Taking a deep dive into Oman VAT and what it means for your business

An exclusive webinar to help cope up with the implementation of the VAT awaits the Oman businesses. The event will be presented in Arabic and in English for the benefit of the work community. The primary focus will be on presenting a complete understanding of the VAT and help arrest any anxiety over the introduction of the new law among the public.

The speakers will address the key challenges before each of the business functions, how to problem solve and will explain the concepts behind and compliances under the VAT Law. The webinar will be on November 11 at 11am for a 90-minute duration on The Stage-Business Gateways allowing plenty of time for questions and the attendees will receive informative FAQs post the event.

"Amidst a lot of expectations among the public on government measures to introduce new taxes including VAT, the last thing to



worry about is what should I be ready with for April 2021," says Omar al Hashmi, the managing partner of Al Hashmi Law, who has seen several changes in the legal industry of Oman in his career as a lawyer for the past 20 years. Al Hashmi Law is doing this webinar event in partnership with Aurifer Tax and Business Gateways.

"We are glad that the response to the registrations to the event has been good so far and



the event has caught the attention of the social media pages this week," says Thomas Vanhee, founder of Aurifer, who has a successful three-year journey in UAE and in Saudi Arabia for providing VAT and tax advises and has seen several tax changes in Europe and in the GCC.

It is one of the big events to come out this year in Oman with regard to VAT and helpfully put together by the tax professionals who want to serve the business

community at large, making this event totally free. More information on the event is available at <https://businessgateways.com/vat-webinar/>

"We know that our clients are having questions on VAT, a simple phone call is not sufficient to address all their questions and a webinar was needed. In the efforts to meet our clients' needs, we stumbled upon a serendipity of putting together the event with Aurifer and Business Gateways," says Dhana Pillai, head of Property, Tax and Project Finance who started her tax practice in the Netherlands and continues to practice in Oman for over 15 years.

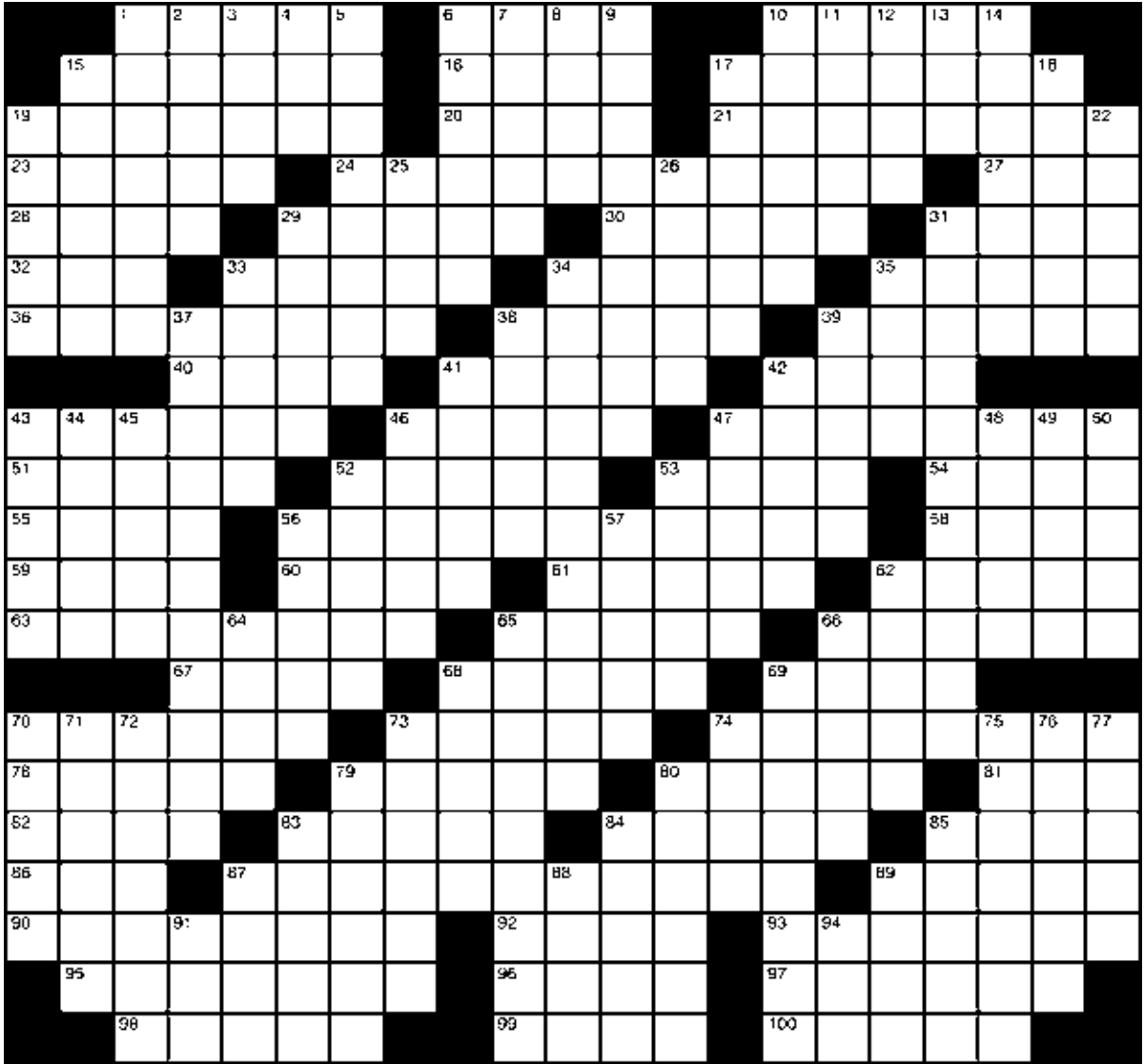
VAT was long considered by the GCC as a non-oil source of income to the government and Oman has entered the VAT regime as the fourth country in the GCC. Oman like other three countries of GCC for the time being has limited the VAT input credit to the borders of Oman.

Mopar launches warranty for FCA vehicles

Mopar Middle East, the official parts, service and after-sales care provider for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), have announced incredible extended factory-backed warranties of up to 10 years for FCA customers in the sultanate through its Mopar Vehicle Protection (MVP) programme. This new offering is available for FCA vehicle owners at Dhofar Automotive, the official distributor of Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram, Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Mopar in Oman.

MVP is extended an impressive new range of MaxCare Extended Warranty options to Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram owners, with choices ranging from a generous 6-year and 7-year full coverage warranties, up to a ground-breaking 10-year limited factory-backed warranty. For more information call +968 2458 4530.

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ACROSS

- 1 Weight monitor
6 Guardian's charge
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21 "Dangerous ____"
23 Pitches in
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66 "... ____ bang, bang"
67 Trudeau or Carter
68 Shelley's name
69 Glide
70 Brags
73 Smidgeon
74 Admires
78 No longer exists
79 "____ porridge hot"
80 Talents
81 Intemperate
82 Astound

- 83 Turner's ex Jane
84 Puts in place
85 Neck area
86 "... ____ longa"
87 Life's purpose
89 Christmas drop-in
90 Sweet wine
92 Tinge
93 Took heed of
95 Rodeo gear
96 Caroline's daughter
97 Cowardly
98 Swing step
99 Belgian river
100 Marine fliers

DOWN

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2 Bivouacs
3 CIA's Aldrich
4 ____ Cariou
5 Excited
6 Rabbit's home
7 At ____ for words
8 Try for a part
9 Type of government
10 Tees off
11 Bellows
12 Nobelist Wiesel
13 US soldiers

- 14 Caledonian terrier
15 Tubular bearing
17 Glib
18 Sound before gesundheit
19 Chick's sound
22 Indulges fully
25 Individuals
26 Eradicate
29 Rounded
31 Know-how
33 Robert's "____ of Order"
34 Feat of skill
35 Army meal
37 Choice portion
38 Propagate
39 Jessica or Hope
41 Nibbles
42 Decants
43 Foundation
44 Mountain ridge
45 ____ and dined
46 Indistinct
47 Inlets
48 Intimidate
49 Happening
50 Pass along
52 Dreamy
53 "____ Dancing"
56 Mocks

- 57 Sec'y of State: 1977-80
62 Blokes
64 Actor Damon
65 Certain country folk
66 Expenses
68 Madrid museum
69 Something to parse
70 Travel documents
71 Of the stars
72 Off the beaten path
73 Stiffens up
74 Raise
75 Lottery tickets
76 Popular list
77 In place of
79 Conical
80 Improve on
83 Electrical unit
84 Intuit
85 Unsophisticated
87 Control line
88 "Vaya con ____"
89 Ollie's partner
91 Pod or plane lead-in
94 Hockey Hall of Famer

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Monday's skies offer up an eclectic mix of energy. The moon moves forward into hardworking Virgo, channeling your energy towards exercise and health. It might be hard to stay focused, as the sun and Neptune's meeting pulls you into a daydreamy, deeply psychological headspace. Mars and Venus duke it out, creating tensions to be wrangled around "me vs we" in relationships.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

The moon departs from your sign and slides into diligent Virgo, helping you cast a discerning eye to your resources, financial or otherwise. Meanwhile, lover Venus and "me first" Mars duke it out, helping you explore outmoded misconceptions you have around relationships. Thankfully, the sun's pleasant connection to Neptune softens things on the home and intimacy front.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Monday's skies are bound to keep you busy. The moon leaps into hardworking Virgo, centring your attention around career and reputation matters. Meanwhile, Mars dukes it out with Venus, creating tensions and creative pursuits around goal actualisation. Luckily, the sun's smooth link to Neptune creates a sense of ease and peace underlying the changes at hand.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

A busy day lies ahead. Your ruling planet, bond-building Venus, encounters a hard aspect with her counterpart, self-interested Mars. This meeting makes it easy for you to get riled up, impatient, and irritated—especially around work matters or unacknowledged areas of frustration. The sun and Neptune bring a softness, creating an idealistic mist around relationship.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

You'd rather be busy than bored. Today's skies don't disappoint in that department! The moon leaps into your sign, helping you re-emerge out of your quiet cave of reflection and isolation. Value goes head to head with Mars—potentially creating tensions around financial resources in a partnership. The sun and Neptune's bond creates a graceful flow of communication.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

It's hard to keep still. The moon trots into busybody Virgo this morning, increasing your need to shake up routine and look at your life from a big-picture point of view. Venus and Mars come to a disagreement, creating minor frustrations to wrangle around your public and private life. Thankfully, the sun's pleasant meet-up with Neptune adds softness to your speech.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Today's cosmic landscape is all over the place. The moon dips into Gemini, stilling your need for movement and summoning you homeward for rest and reconnection with family. Venus and Mars get into a tense disagreement, flaring relationship tensions or goal frustrations. Fortunately, the sun's smooth link to Neptune softens the day and helps make matters at work run smoothly.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Things are heating up for you. Your ruling planet, Venus, is met with a tense interaction from Mars. This creates a sudden call for action around your own individual needs and those of a close partnership. You're quicker than usual to feel impatient around handling relationship matters. The sun's smooth link to Neptune helps you quietly channel your energy towards your workflow.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Today's cosmic landscape is sure to stir up some unaddressed feelings. The moon dips into reflective Virgo, turning your attention towards intimacy issues and relationship dynamics. Mars and Venus go head to head in the sky, making sparks fly around the direction you wish to take things in. Luckily, the sun and Neptune help you quietly focus your energy on work matters.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Don't expect to keep to yourself. The moon slides forward into Virgo, roping you into a variety of meaningful conversations, messages, and interactions that stir your thinking. Elsewhere, Venus locks eyes with Mars, creating a potentially frustrating division between home and career values. Luckily, the sun's meet-up with Neptune lets some fun seep in effortlessly.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Long buried intimacy issues are emerging into the light of day. Your ruling planet, Mars, stumbles into an argument with lover Venus. When these two disagree, sparks are bound to fly and untold stories of the heart are highlighted. Fortunately, your self-expression finds a natural ease today; the sun and Neptune link up, providing you with a dreamy flow of charisma.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Keep a close eye on the relationship stories unfolding. The moon treks into your opposite sign of Virgo, redirecting your full attention towards partnership matters. Lover Venus and me-first Mars get into a scuffle today, creating a somewhat sexy, yet also irritating energy around relationship dynamics. The sun's calm link to Neptune adds an air of dreaminess.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Name the instrument used to measure relative humidity

- a. Hydrometer
b. Hygrometer
c. Barometer
d. Mercury Thermometer

2. Mina is the tribe of

- a. Tripura
b. Sikkim
c. Rajasthan
d. Nagaland, Assam

3. King Hammurabi raised the first army of the world in

- a. 2000 BC
b. 1500 BC
c. 1480 BC
d. 1027 BC

Answers: 1: b 2: c 3: a

KIDS COLOURING



DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

BOGGLER

G	O	S	U
N	A	W	E
N	U	D	M
G	O	M	L

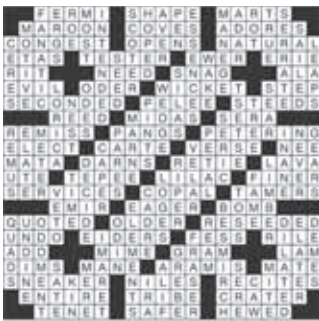
Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters.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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

DAILY CROSSWORD ANSWERS (NOVEMBER 08)



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



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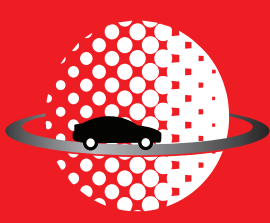
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QUICK RUN

Young Fati suffers meniscus tear in left knee: Barcelona

Ansu Fati, 18, sustained a knee injury during Barcelona's win over Real Betis, the club announced on Saturday. Fati was substituted at half-time for Lionel Messi, with Barca later confirming in a statement: "Tests carried out this afternoon have shown that Ansu Fati has an internal meniscus tear in his left knee. The treatment to be followed will be determined in the coming days." Fati has already scored six goals this season, including his first for Spain in September, which made him the country's youngest ever goal-scorer. Fati will withdraw from the Spain squad ahead of Nations League games against Switzerland and Germany later this month.

SLC moves forward T20 league for South Africa tour

Sri Lanka will bring forward the Lanka Premier League tournament to give its national team more preparation time ahead of their Test tour of South Africa, the cricket board said on Sunday. The 23-match Twenty20 league - which will feature Chris Gayle, Faf du Plessis, Shahid Afridi and Carlos Brathwaite - will now start on November 26, one day earlier than scheduled, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said. The competition had already been delayed three times and the number of venues cut from three to one because of the coronavirus pandemic. It will conclude on December 16, two days before the squad flies out for two Tests.

AFP

Medvedev lifts Paris title

PARIS MASTERS

Paris, France - Third seed Daniil Medvedev claimed his first Paris Masters title at Bercy Arena on Sunday by battling back from a set down to beat Germany's Alexander Zverev.

The Russian was on top form in a high-quality encounter, winning 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 to secure his first trophy of the season and the eighth of his career.

"It's great, I'm really happy. As I always say, I don't always show this after matches, but I'm always happy to win," said Medvedev after securing his third Masters title.

Both players will now turn their attentions to the ATP Tour Finals in London, an event won by Zverev in 2018.

Medvedev has had an up-and-down season, but was at his best this week in Paris, continuing his magnificent record on hard courts - all of his ATP titles have come on the surface.

"Before this tournament I wasn't in great form, zero finals this year and I was crying, well complaining, to my wife, 'Oh my God, I don't have the level, not playing well, not even any finals'," he said.

"But now, three Masters titles, it's great. I have had the level this week. I managed to keep the

pressure on and in the end I broke his level a little bit."

Fourth seed Zverev, who was bidding for a third straight tournament victory after back-to-back success on home soil in Cologne, remains without a Masters title since the 2018 Madrid Open after seeing his 12-match winning streak ended.

Earlier on Saturday, Zverev overpowered Rafael Nadal in straight sets. The German claimed his second successive win over Nadal in impressive fashion, easing to a 6-4, 7-5 victory after Medvedev posted a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) win over Canadian Milos Raonic.

It ended Nadal's hopes of a first title at Bercy Arena and the 20-time Grand Slam champion remains with only one tournament win on indoor hard courts in his career.

The 34 year old Nadal will now prepare to challenge for a maiden ATP Tour Finals trophy in London, with the season-ending event starting on November 15.

"I was there until the end against a player who is playing great on a surface that he's winning a lot (on)," said Nadal. "So it has been a positive tournament for me."

AFP



Russia's Daniil Medvedev lifts the ATP World Tour Masters 1000-Paris Masters trophy after defeating Zverev in the final in Paris on Sunday (AFP)



A disappointed Germany's Alexander Zverev after the loss in the final

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Gustav Burger (right) and Akshay Patel of Al Turki NMC. Photo right: Kannan Prabhakaran of Zawawi Powertech



Burger, Patel star for Al Turki

LOCAL CRICKET

Gustav Burger struck a crucial 45 and Akshay Patel gave him good support (40) to guide Al Turki NMC to a last-over win over Renaissance CT in an Oman Cricket Premier Division T20 game at Al Amerat on Friday.

Batting first, Renaissance was restricted to 129 for four with Pruthvikumar Machhi top-scoring with a fighting 58. Chasing a

modest target, Al Turki found the going tough early on before Burger and Patel took them home with four balls to spare. Rafiullah claimed three for 15.

Meanwhile, in the 50-over-a-side A Division games, Ajay Menon hammered 90 to lead SARCO to an exciting 33-run win over Basta CT on Saturday while Kannan Prabhakaran's deadly spell of six for 24 powered

Zawawi Powertech to a thrilling seven-run victory against ACT.

BRIEF SCORES:

Premier Division T20: Renaissance CT 129-4 (Machhi 58) lost to Al Turki NMC 130-6 in 19.2 overs (Burger 45, Patel 40; Rafiullah 3-15).

A Division (50 overs): SARCO 177 all out in 44.5 overs (Ajay Menon 90; Nazish Mohammed

5-32, Shamsudheen Shareef 3-33, Murtaza Shah 2-41) beat Basta CT 138 all out in 35.3 overs (Usman Haider 47; Dileepa Srilal 5-40, Guru Kotian 3-27). Zawawi Powertech 127 all out in 33.2 overs (K S Nishad 21, Mujib Mohammed 3-30, Ali Qasim 2-19, Devashya Rajesh 2-19) beat ACT 120 all out in 25.2 overs (Ahmed Iftikhar 42; Prabhakaran 6-24, Nishad 2-23).

Mir earns first MotoGP win in Valencia

Valencia, Spain - Spain's Joan Mir won Sunday's European MotoGP in Valencia on Sunday, his first victory in the premier category, to increase his lead in the world championship to 37 points with just two races left.

Mir took advantage of title rival Fabio Quartararo's first-lap crash while compatriot Alex Rins ensured a one-two finish for Suzuki, the first for the Japanese manufacturer since 1982.

Frenchman Quartararo recovered to trail home in 14th but saw his championship hopes suffer a huge blow.

He is level on 125 points with Rins after losing considerable ground on Mir, who is top on 162.

"I'm super happy. I was missing a victory and it came at the perfect moment," said the 23 year old Mir, the Moto3 champion in 2017.

Pol Espargaro of KTM, who started the race on pole, came third ahead of Japan's Takaaki Nakagami of the Honda-LCR team.

AFP

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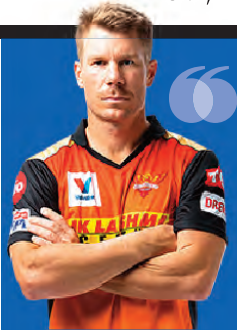
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QUOTE OF THE DAY
I am proud to get where we are today as no one gave us a chance. You can't win tournaments if you keep dropping catches and missing chances.
David Warner
Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper, after his team's loss to Delhi Capitals in Qualifier 2, on Sunday



Shikhar Dhawan
78
50 BALLS



Marcus Stoinis
38
27 BALLS



Kagiso Rabada
4WKTS
29 RUNS

DELHI IN MAIDEN FINAL

Dhawan, Stoinis, Hetmyer and Rabada shine in Capitals' win to set up title clash against Mumbai Indians

Abu Dhabi, UAE - The Delhi Capitals came into Qualifier-2 having won just one of their last six games, and another defeat here would have left everyone writing their campaign off as a squandered opportunity. But here they are now, in their maiden IPL final, one win away from glory.

Their performance in Sunday's Qualifier was like their season in miniature: they flew out of the blocks, then stuttered, but they kept themselves in the game and won the key moments.

Sunrisers Hyderabad, who had won their last four games on the trot, began poorly - with ball and bat as well as in the field - and made up ground later on, but it wasn't quite enough.

Two key tactical moves paid rich dividends for the Capitals. They opened with Marcus Stoinis for the first time in the season, and he, along with Shikhar Dhawan, rewarded them

with their best powerplay of the season. They also brought Shimron Hetmyer back into their side, and his late hitting ensured the Capitals put up a challenging total.

Stoinis contributed heavily with the ball as well, taking two wickets in the fifth over of the Sunrisers innings, and then coming back to remove Kane Williamson just when he seemed set to pull off his second chasing masterclass in two games.

Sandeep Sharma and Jason Holder kept the Capitals' openers to just 11 from the first two overs, and the pressure produced a chance in the third over. Sandeep had bowled inswing to Stoinis, initially achieving an immaculate line, and an attempt to break the shackles led Stoinis to hit in the air, within range of Holder stationed at an unconventional short mid-on, only for the ball to burst out of his right hand.

Then Sandeep lost his line, and conceded back-to-back boundaries either side of deep square leg. Stoinis then went after Holder and smacked three fours and a six in the fourth over.

Dhawan joined in the fun too, picking up three fours - and a slog-swept six in the next two overs, and Delhi ended their powerplay at 65 for no loss.

Rashid Khan hadn't bowled a single powerplay over this season, coming into this game, and he didn't bowl one here either. Perhaps it was a missed chance for the Sunrisers, who instead used Sandeep and the left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem in the fifth and sixth over.

Rashid came on immediately after the powerplay, and struck in his second over, bowling Stoinis with a quick leg-break. He ended his spell with figures of one for 26. The Capitals made up against Nadeem. By the time he bowled his fourth over, Hetmyer

had replaced Shreyas Iyer. Nadeem finished with figures of 4-0-48-0, with Dhawan tonking him for 29 off 14 balls.

At the 16-over mark, the Capitals were 145 for two, and 200 seemed on the cards when Natarajan and Holder conceded a combined 31 from the 17th and 18th overs, with Hetmyer ram-paging his way to 34 off 15.

But Sandeep and Natarajan came back in the last two overs. Only 13 came off the last two, and no fours. The Capitals had made 102 in their first ten overs, but only 87 in their last ten.

By the end of the powerplay, the Sunrisers seemed almost out of the contest. Kagiso Rabada struck with his first ball, a full inswinger that moved late, to bowl David Warner off his pads, and Marcus Stoinis struck twice in his first over - the fifth of the innings - to remove Priyam Garg and Manish Pandey after a brief flurry of boundaries from the

duo. At the six-over mark, the Sunrisers were 49 for three. This was a far more challenging task than the one Williamson and Holder had pulled off against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Eliminator.

But the game wasn't over yet, not as long as Williamson was in the middle. He kept finding ways to hit boundaries. He shoveled Rabada over midwicket after stepping across his stumps, hit Axar Patel and Praveen Dubey for straight sixes, and helped Stoinis over backward square leg with a flick over his shoulder.

The departure of Holder in the 12th over - when the equation was 100 from 50 balls - didn't stop the Sunrisers either, with Williamson now joined by Abdul Samad, who tore into Anrich Nortje in the 15th over, pulling him for a disdainful six before cashing in on width to pick up back-to-back fours. With ten coming off the next over from R Ashwin, the

TUESDAY'S MATCH
FINAL
DUBAI, 6PM

**DELHI CAPITALS** vs **MUMBAI INDIANS**

SCOREBOARD			
DELHI CAPITALS			
M Stoinis	b Rashid Khan	38 (27)	
S Dhawan	lbw b Sharma	78 (50)	
S Iyer	c Pandey b Holder	21 (20)	
S Hetmyer	not out	42 (22)	
R Pant	not out	2 (3)	
Extras	(b 1, lb 2, nb 2, w 3)	8	
TOTAL: 189 for three			
Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-126, 3-178			
Bowling: S Sharma 4-0-30-1, J Holder 4-0-50-1, S Nadeem 4-0-48-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-26-3, T Natarajan 4-0-32-0			
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD			
P Garg	b Stoinis	17 (12)	
D Warner	b Rabada	2 (3)	
M Pandey	c Nortje b Stoinis	21 (14)	
K Williamson	c Rabada b Stoinis	67 (45)	
J Holder	c Dubey b Patel	11 (0)	
A Samad	c sub (K Paul)		
	b Rabada	33 (16)	
Rashid Khan	c Patel b Rabada	11 (7)	
S Goswami	c Stoinis b Rabada	0 (1)	
S Nadeem	not out	2 (3)	
S Sharma	not out	2 (4)	
Extras	(lb 1, w 5)	6	
TOTAL: 172 for eight			
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-43, 3-44, 4-90, 5-147, 6-167, 7-167, 8-168			
Bowling: R Ashwin 3-0-33-0, K Rabada 4-0-29-4, A Nortje 4-0-36-0, M Stoinis 3-0-26-3, A Patel 4-0-33-1, P Dubey 2-0-14-0			

Sunrisers needed 51 from 24.

Then Stoinis came back, dismissed Williamson. The game wasn't completely safe yet, as Rashid Khan showed with a six and a four off Ashwin in the 18th over to bring the task down to 30 off 12. After another six from Samad the big hits kept ending up as catches on the boundary, with Rabada picking up three such wickets in the 19th over to wrench the Purple Cap off Jasprit Bumrah.

Cricinfo

OUTSIDE IPL

Bangladesh's Mahmudullah tests positive for COVID-19

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Mahmudullah has become the latest Bangladesh cricketer to test positive for COVID-19, which rules him out for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) playoffs starting November 14.

The Multan Sultans had roped in Mahmudullah in place of Moeen Ali, and he was supposed to leave Dhaka on November 9. That means Tamim Iqbal, who replaced Chris Lynn in the Lahore Qalandars squad, will be the only Bangladesh cricketer travelling to Pakistan.

Mahmudullah, Bangladesh's T20I captain, said that he got tested twice to be sure, but after two positive results, he has isolated himself in a separate room at his house.



Mahmudullah

"I was surprised with a positive result from my COVID test, on November 6," Mahmudullah told ESPNcricinfo.

"It is disappointing to miss the chance to play in the PSL. It is a competitive tournament. It was a good opportunity to play a couple of matches there."

Cricinfo

Qadir leads Pakistan to T20I series win

PAKISTAN VS ZIMBABWE SECOND T20I

Rawalpindi, Pakistan - Pakistan wrapped up the T20I series at the earliest opportunity, thrashing Zimbabwe by eight wickets in the second of three games on Sunday. It was the bowlers who set it up, with leg-spinner Usman Qadir's sensational spell the most exciting aspect for Pakistan. His three wickets, combined with just as many by pacer Haris Rauf (3-31), dented Zimbabwe early, never allowing partnerships and restricting them to 134.

That chase was a cakewalk for the hosts. Haider Ali (66 not out) and Babar Azam (51) made short work of it, Haider bringing up his second T20I half-century as Babar cantered to his second in as many games.

Zimbabwe got off to a bit of a flyer, racking up 36 in four overs, but lost Brendan Taylor and



Pakistan's Usman Qadir (right) celebrates after picking a wicket

Chamu Chibhabha early, and that set the tone for the kind of innings it would be. All but two of their batsmen got into double figures, but only one managed to cross 30.

Qadir's sensational spell began inauspiciously with a half-tracker that the precocious Wesley Madhevere pulled away for six, but that was the only mistake he made all day.

When, in his final over, it looked like Elton Chigumbura had the measure of him, smacking him for six and then sweeping him for four, Qadir struck back with his final ball, beating the batsman in the flight, giving Rizwan an easy stumping. He finished with three for 23.

Rauf was at his quickest, which brought him the wickets of the openers. He defeated Taylor

with a hint of seam movement and returned to rush Chibhabha's pull shot, while a tight powerplay over from Fahim Ashraf brought the wicket of the in-form Sean Williams. Zimbabwe had moments of promise, with Ryan Burl's intelligent knock at the death - 32 off 22 - taking them to 134.

Pakistan's only worry would be the continued struggle of Fakhar Zaman at this level. Blessing Muzarabani snared him in his second over. But it only gave Haider Ali another shot at putting his dazzling talent on display. While everyone's eyes were on Ali, Azam scored the quickest T20I half-century of his career, bringing it up off 27 balls - once again, the only minor irritation being he failed to stick around to hit the winning runs as Muzarabani dismissed Azam on while going for a hook shot.

Cricinfo

SCOREBOARD			
ZIMBABWE			
B Taylor	c Rizwan b Rauf	3 (16)	
C Chibhabha	c Ashraf b Rauf	15 (19)	
S Williams	c Ashraf	13 (10)	
W Madhevere	lbw b Qadir	24 (22)	
S Raza	b Qadir	7 (10)	
R Burl	not out	32 (22)	
E Chigumbura	st Rizwan b Qadir	18 (19)	
D Tiripano	c Zaman b Rauf	15 (17)	
T Chisoro	not out	3 (5)	
Extras	(lb 1, w 3)	4	
TOTAL: 134 for seven			
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-30, 3-38, 4-65, 5-66, 6-90, 7-120			
Bowling: M Hasnain 4-0-28-0, H Rauf 4-0-31-3, F Ashraf 4-0-20-1, W Riaz 4-0-31-0, U Qadir 4-0-23-3			
PAKISTAN			
F Zaman	c Chigumbura b Muzarabani	5 (11)	
B Azam	c Chigumbura b Muzarabani	51 (28)	
H Ali	not out	66 (43)	
K Shah	not out	11 (19)	
Extras	(lb 1, w 3)	4	
TOTAL: 137 for two in 15.1 overs			
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-110			
Bowling: B Muzarabani 4-0-33-2, R Ngarava 3-1-0-28-0, D Tiripano 2-0-18-0, T Chisoro 3-0-26-0, S Williams 1-0-11-0, S Raza 2-0-20-0			

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

City, Liverpool share the spoils

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

London, UK - Kevin De Bruyne missed a penalty as Manchester City squandered the chance to close the gap on Liverpool on Sunday while Tottenham's Harry Kane celebrated joining the English Premier League's 150 club.

A win at the Etihad would have taken the Reds to the summit but they were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw in a battle between the two dominant powers over the past two seasons.

That meant Leicester clung onto top spot after leapfrogging Spurs with a 1-0 win at home to Wolves.

Jürgen Klopp's champions made an aggressive start against City, with Sadio Mané, Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Diogo Jota all in a fearsome-looking starting line-up.

The visitors went ahead in the 13th minute when Salah converted a penalty after Kyle Walker clipped Mané in the box.

City drew level just after the half-hour mark when De Bruyne picked out Gabriel Jesus in the area with his back to goal. The City striker cleverly turned past



Manchester City's goalkeeper Ederson makes a save from Liverpool's Roberto Firmino (right) on Sunday (AFP)

Trent Alexander-Arnold and poked past Alisson Becker.

City were awarded a penalty themselves just before the interval after a VAR check when Joe Gomez was unable to get his arm out of the way of a De Bruyne cross but the Belgian skewed wide. The draw left Liverpool in third place on 17

points after eight games, one behind Leicester and five clear of City, who have a game in hand.

Kane in 150 club

Earlier, Kane headed in a late winner in a 1-0 victory against struggling West Brom but briefly lift Jose Mourinho's side to the top of the table after their fourth

win in five league games.

Only Alan Shearer and Sergio Agüero have scored 150 EPL goals in fewer appearances than Kane, who reached the landmark in his 218th match.

Mourinho was effusive in his praise for his star striker, who also has ten assists in all competitions this season.



Tottenham's Harry Kane celebrates after scoring against West Bromwich

"Harry Kane, you have to say has this many goals, this many assists, this number of balls recovered, this number of duels won, this number of balls that he saved his team in a defensive set-piece," he said.

"This is Harry Kane. It's goals plus this and this and this and that."

The landmark effort for Kane, who scored his 200th Tottenham goal in all competitions against Ludogorets on Thursday, was perfectly timed after they had laboured to break down stubborn Albion. Kane finally broke Albion's resistance in the 88th minute when Matt Doherty's cross caused indecision

from Johnstone and the England captain arrived to flick a header into the far corner.

Spurs are now unbeaten in their past seven league games but were below their best for long periods against a West Brom team still without a league win this term.

But Spurs' stay at the top of the EPL table was short-lived as Jamie Vardy netted his eighth EPL goal of the season for Leicester.

Vardy scored the decisive goal from the penalty spot in the 15th minute - following a VAR check - after Max Kilman handled Dennis Praet's cross in the area.

But he blew a chance to make it 2-0 when he was denied by Rui Patrício late in the first half after James Justin was brought down in the box but Brendan Rodgers' team held on to win all three points.

On Saturday night, Chelsea pummelled Sheffield United 4-1 to climb to third. There was late drama as West Ham beat Fulham 1-0 at the London Stadium.

AFP

Caicedo grabs a point for Lazio against Juve

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Milan, Italy - Felipe Caicedo again rescued Lazio, scoring deep into injury time to cancel out Cristiano Ronaldo's early goal for Juventus in a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Ronaldo had opened after quarter of an hour in Rome but second-half substitute Caicedo once again proved decisive firing in the equaliser five minutes into injury time.

The 32 year old Caicedo had rescued his side in a 1-1 Champions League draw at Zenit Saint Petersburg during the week and also an injury time 4-3 winner against Torino last weekend.

Juventus missed the chance to move second behind Serie A leaders AC Milan, with the champions three points behind their northern rivals who host Hellas Verona later on Sunday, by three points.

Elsewhere, Roma moved into third place, one point ahead of fourth-placed Juventus, after a Henrikh Mkhitaryan hat-trick in a 3-1 win for the capital side at Genoa.



Lazio's Felipe Caicedo (left) celebrates after scoring against Juventus in Rome on Sunday (AFP)

Inter Milan and Atalanta also dropped points with a 1-1 draw in Bergamo after Aleksey Miranchuk struck on his first Serie A start to cancel out Lautaro Martinez's header.

"We had a good match, there were no signs of danger," said Juve coach Andrea Pirlo.

Simone Inzaghi's Lazio, cur-

rently embroiled in coronavirus chaos, are ninth, five points off the leaders.

Lazio lined out without top striker Ciro Immobile, midfielder Lucas Leiva and goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha, who remain in coronavirus isolation. The Roman club are being investigated by the Italian

football federation for possible COVID violations.

Immobile was among a number of Lazio players blocked by UEFA from taking part in Champions League games against Club Brugge and Zenit Saint Petersburg after testing positive.

But they were included in last weekend's game against Torino,

in which Immobile also scored, following negative tests carried out in a lab used by the club.

Inzaghi had been optimistic about them lining out in the Stadio Olimpico but they were left out after they were also reported to have tested positive in another Italian lab.

Leonardo Bonucci, making his 400th start for Juventus, proved decisive early blocking Vedat Muriqi. But it was again Ronaldo who proved decisive finishing off a Juan Cuadrado cross after the Colombian shook off defenders Luis Alberto and Mohamed Fares. Ronaldo, 35, scored his sixth goal in four league games.

But with Juventus looking in control, Ronaldo went off with 15 minutes to go after taking a knock to his ankle.

And Caicedo, who had come off the bench nine minutes after the break, once again had the final word. The Ecuadorian picked up a Correa cross, swivelling to fire in the equaliser to hand Juventus their fourth stalemate in seven league games.

AFP

Casteels secures Wolfsburg win

GERMAN LEAGUE

Berlin, Germany - Wolfsburg climbed to sixth in the Bundesliga Sunday after goalkeeper Koen Casteels pulled off a late stunning penalty save to help seal a 2-1 home over Hoffenheim, who have struggled since their shock win over Bayern Munich.

Hoffenheim were awarded a penalty in the fourth minute of injury time, but their Israeli striker Munas Dabbur watched helplessly as Casteels pushed away his spot kick attempt.

It was the second late penalty which went begging after Wolfsburg's Dutch striker Wout Weghorst fired his spot-kick attempt wide on 84 minutes.

Wolfsburg raced into the lead when Swiss winger Renato Steffen scored after just six minutes.

A superb pass by Wolfsburg midfielder Xaver Schlager then split the defence and put Steffen away with Weghorst scoring on 26 minutes.

When Wolfsburg's American defender John Anthony Brooks failed to connect with a clearance header, Hoffenheim's replacement forward Sargis Adamyan smashed his shot into the net three minutes from time.

However, Casteels' goal-mouth heroics made sure Wolfsburg took the three points.

Bayern opened a two-point gap over second-placed RB Leipzig on Saturday with a 3-2 win at rivals Borussia Dortmund, who dropped to third.

OTHER RESULTS:

FRENCH LEAGUE:

Sunday: Brest 3 Lille 2, Lens 4 Reims 4, Lorient 0 Nantes 2, Metz 1 Dijon 1, Nîmes 1 Angers 5.

Saturday: Paris Saint-Germain 3 Rennes 0.

SPANISH LEAGUE:

Sunday: Getafe 1 Villarreal 3, Real Sociedad 2 Granada 0.

Saturday: Sevilla 1 Osasuna 0, Atletico Madrid 4 Cadiz 0.

AFP



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Rangers hammer Hamilton for eight, Celtic's Elyounoussi slams hat-trick

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

Glasgow, UK - Rangers restored their nine-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premiership with an 8-0 thrashing of Hamilton as Celtic bounced back with a 4-1 win at Motherwell on Sunday.

Steven Gerrard's men have played two more matches than their Glasgow rivals but showed why they are now the bookmakers' favourites to end Celtic's record-equalling run of nine straight league titles.

Hamilton shocked the hosts on their last visit to Ibrox in March, but Rangers are a team transformed since Scottish football's return in August, unbeaten in 20 games in all competitions this season.

Joe Aribo, Kemar Roobe and James Tavernier all scored twice, while Scott Arfield and Brandon Barker were also on target against the rock-bottom Accies.

In stark contrast to Rangers' fine European form, Celtic suffered a humiliating 4-1 home defeat to Sparta Prague on



Rangers' James Tavernier (centre) celebrates with his teammates after scoring his team's eighth goal against Hamilton at Ibrox on Sunday

Thursday. Mohamed Elyounoussi faced a backlash from ex-Celtic players for being seen on his mobile phone after being substituted in midweek, but responded with a hat-trick at Fir

Park to ease the pressure on manager Neil Lennon.

"I thought we were really well motivated, we looked far more like ourselves," said Lennon. "The players responded brilliantly, it's

a fantastic response and win."

Elyounoussi settled any nerves from the visitors early on as he pounced after Albion Ajeti's strike came back off the post. Tom Rogic then teed up the on-loan Southampton winger for his second from close range.

Celtic's defence has been the source of most of Lennon's problems in recent weeks and their frailty from set-pieces was again exposed when Declan Gallagher's header halved Motherwell's deficit 18 minutes from time. However, Elyounoussi quickly responded with a towering header of his own at the back post to restore Celtic's two-goal cushion.

France U21 stars Odsonne Edouard and Olivier Ntcham have also failed to match their standards of previous seasons so far this campaign.

But they came off the bench to combine for Celtic's fourth as Edouard teed up Ntcham to side-foot into the bottom corner.

AFP



BOMBARDIER FACES PROBE
The UK Serious Fraud Office announced it was investigating Canadian industrial group Bombardier over suspected bribery in airplane sales to Garuda Indonesia

BUSINESS

BRIEFS

Iraq keen on boosting economic, investment ties with Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Minister of Oil Ihsan Abduljabbar said on Sunday Baghdad was keen on further boosting economic and investment collaboration with Saudi Arabia.

Iraq seeks to develop relations and cooperation with Saudi Arabia in sectors of oil, energy, industry, agriculture, health, education and environment, Abduljabbar said at the opening of the Iraq-Saudi higher committee meeting in Baghdad.

He said the committee aimed at activating memorandum of understanding like electricity linkage, petrochemicals and investment in gas.

Abduljabbar said he was happy of the genuine Saudi desire to provide support for the Iraqi side.

Saudi Minister of Industry Bandar al Khurayyef hoped discussions with the Iraqi side would contribute to joint and promising investments.

EasyJet in talks with German govt for virus aid

British budget carrier EasyJet is in talks with the German government for aid to manage the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, its CEO said in an interview with a German business magazine.

"Negotiations are proceeding constructively," Johan Lundgren told the business weekly *Wirtschaftswoche*.

"We have a large presence in Germany, created healthy competition before the crisis and invested a lot of money in it. This should be reflected in the scope of the aid," he added.

Questioned by AFP, an EasyJet spokeswoman said, "As a pan-European airline, as you would expect, we have regular contact with all governments in the countries where we operate and employ people around the support measures available to all eligible companies."

"No formal request for funding has been made. We continue to talk to all of these governments on an ongoing basis," the spokeswoman said.

Fortnite could soon return to Apple iPhones: Report

The popular Fortnite videogame could be restored to Apple mobile devices through a gaming program that runs on a browser, allowing it to evade a ban by Apple amid a dispute over fees, the BBC reported.

Apple pulled Fortnite from its App Store on August 13 after Fortnite developer Epic Games released an update that dodges revenue sharing with the iPhone maker, and the companies are now locked in a legal battle

Now Silicon Valley tech firm Nvidia has developed a version of its GeForce Now cloud gaming service that runs on Apple's Safari browser, which could offer Fortnite to Apple users, the BBC said.

Nvidia could announce the Fortnite offering on the platform before the winter holidays, the report said, adding that it was possible the game could still be excluded from Apple devices.

Sohar Port and Freezone plans utility-scale solar projects

The port is also planning to create the first green hydrogen hub in Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Sohar Port and Freezone is planning to set up larger utility-scale solar power generation projects with an aim to offer competitively priced electricity to the industrial projects and tenants operating within the port and free zone.

Given the strong regular sunshine and the vast unused land outside the free zone in Sohar, it is commercially viable to develop the large solar power plants, according to Mark Geilenkirchen, CEO of Sohar Port and Freezone.

"Apart from our small-scale solar park powering our headquarters in Sohar, we are planning larger utility-scale power generation facilities within the industrial port and the adjoining free zone in line with our strategy to offer competitively priced solar photovoltaic-based electricity to the industrial end-users and other tenants operating within the hub," Geilenkirchen wrote in a whitepaper recently published with the title 'Sohar Port and Freezone - Going Green'.



Geilenkirchen said that the planned capacity [of the projects] is 3.5GW, which is equivalent to what they are consuming at the port and free zone.

He also noted that Shell Development Oman's renewable energy arm 'Qabas' has plans to develop as much as 300MW of renewable energy-based capacity to support the green energy requirements of industrial companies operating in Sohar Port

and Freezone. The first 25MW of this solar photovoltaic-based capacity will be operational before the end of 2020.

Sohar Port and Freezone's green initiatives include solar energy and green hydrogen. In addition to larger utility-scale solar facilities, Sohar Port and Freezone is also planning to create the first green hydrogen hub in Oman.

"We have a unique opportunity

to make hydrogen an important part of our clean and secure energy future. We have major plans for scaling up the use of clean hydrogen with the first hydrogen plant in Oman. The idea is to make the most of our industrial port by turning it into a hub for lower-cost hydrogen, replacing traditional hydrocarbons," Geilenkirchen said.

He said the planned facility will create carbon-free hydrogen

from low-cost solar power, stored for use on demand. The hydrogen stored for later delivery (via pipelines and trailers) will be used by the port's industries and tenants for clean transport and industrial purposes.

Sohar Port and Freezone is working in collaboration with its strategic partner, Port of Rotterdam, as well as Hydrogen Rise, and other research institutes worldwide, to identify cost-com-

petitive solutions for the adoption of hydrogen as an alternative to natural gas.

Geilenkirchen said the scale-up will be critical to bringing down the costs of technologies for producing and using clean hydrogen, such as electrolyzers and fuel cells.

"We have a near-term opportunity to boost hydrogen on the path to more widespread use. We can accelerate efforts to find commercially viable deep-sea vessels that run on zero-emission fuels such as hydrogen, while simultaneously optimising ship speed to minimise fuel consumption," he added.

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals recently announced that it is undertaking a feasibility study paving the way for policies that directly support investment in hydrogen technologies.

"It is clear that the time is right to tap into hydrogen's potential to play an important role in a clean and secure energy future in Oman. Investments in hydrogen can help create new technological and industrial development in Oman, creating skilled jobs," Geilenkirchen said.

OIFC reports 51% drop in 9 months net profit

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC) has reported more than 51 per cent decline in its group net profit for the nine months period ended September 30, 2020. The group made a net profit of RO1.14mn for the first nine months of 2020 compared to RO2.35mn during the corresponding period of 2019, OIFC said in a filing to the Muscat Securities Market on Sunday.

The net profit of the parent company decreased to

RO1.82mn for the nine months period ended September 30, 2020 from RO2.84mn recorded a year ago.

OIFC said it has commenced the collection operations under the new collection contract and 20 new branches are now operational.

"The parent company is engaged with multiple principles to explore new business opportunities. The COVID-19 situation had a major impact on the collection of revenues and closure of some field operations had resulted in the loss in revenues," OIFC said.

OQ to support environmental, natural resources conservation projects

Muscat - As part of the efforts exerted to preserve Oman's environmental and natural resources,

the Environment Authority and OQ, Oman's global integrated energy company, have signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) for a strategic partnership to support environmental and natural resources conservation projects in the sultanate.

The MoC was signed by H E Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Amri, chairman of the Environment Authority, and Eng Musab bin

Abdullah al Mahruqi, group CEO of OQ, a press release said.

H E Amri said, "This MoC aims to enhance the partnership between the public and private sectors to support the sultanate's environmental efforts and projects. It also provides a platform to share knowledge, exchange experiences and best practices between the two sides across different aspects."

"The Authority makes every effort to protect the environment and conserve its natural resources in order to have a clean

sustainable nature," H E Amri added.

Mahruqi said, "The signing of such agreements falls within the scope of the social and environmental investment programmes of OQ that are based on implementing sustainable projects. Preserving the environment and natural resources are important areas for OQ through adopting regulations, practices and policies that are aimed at achieving sustainability of natural resources in the country."

OQ also imposes environ-

mental conditions on its partners in all its operational fields and supports educational, innovative, cultural, and economic wellbeing, health and environmental projects, that contribute to the enhancement and development of local communities within its corporate social responsibility scope, Mahruqi said.

Based on its vision of protecting the environment and creating new opportunities in the sector, OQ has always supported initiatives that help preserve the environment.

Stimulus, taxes top Biden agenda for US economy

Washington, US - When Joe Biden walks in to the White House as President in January, he will have the opportunity to reshape the world's largest economy, but first he will have to get it back on its feet.

The United States is starting to recover from a historic contraction in growth and tens of millions of job losses caused by the world's largest COVID-19 outbreak, which spoiled the previously healthy economy and contributed to voters' decision to oust President Donald Trump in this week's election.

On the campaign trail, the 77 year old former vice president promised a slew of policy departures from Trump, such as raising the minimum wage, rewriting the tax code, investing massively in infrastructure and lowering the country's carbon emissions.

But in order to achieve those, he will first have to subdue the coronavirus pandemic, while

navigating a Congress that could be split, with Biden's Democrats holding a narrow majority in the House and control of the Senate still undecided.

"He has an ambitious policy agenda, it's hard to argue with that. You can certainly argue it's not ambitious enough," said Shai Akabas, economic policy director at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Like former president Barack Obama, under whose tenure he served as vice president, Biden takes office with an economy that is reeling.

The US\$2.2tn CARES Act stimulus package passed in March helped temper some of the damage caused by business shutdowns to stop COVID-19 from spreading, but key parts of that law expired and the economy is far from healed.

If the outgoing Congress fails to approve a package in the closing weeks of Trump's presidency, getting a stimulus measure ap-



US President-elect Joe Biden speaks in Wilmington, US on Saturday, after being declared the winner of the presidential election (AFP)

proved will be one of the first things Biden does, Akabas said.

Next, Biden likely will turn to the tax code, as practically every American president does at some point in their term. Trump did so in 2017 lowering taxes on corporations and the rich.

Mark Duggan, director and senior fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, said Biden will likely try to reverse those cuts, cranking rates back up on the country's largest businesses and people making more than US\$400,000

a year.

"For the typical American, tax policy changes from a Biden administration are going to be pretty minimal. I think for high income people they're going to be quite significant," Duggan said.

Kyle Pomerleau, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, warned the short-term gains from higher taxes on the wealthy could eventually depress business activity and undermine whatever benefits a stimulus package brings. "I think it would be unwise for him to, on one hand, provide a stimulus and then, on the other hand, take some of it with a very large tax increase on employers," he said.

Other planks of 'Bidenomics' include a US\$1.3tn infrastructure investment along with increasing the minimum wage to US\$15 per-hour, expanding paid medical and family leave and a 'Buy American' policy meant to boost

US domestic manufacturing.

But some of his fellow Democrats may demand more aggressive action from the new administration, particularly on health care policy.

And the party is also far from united on how Biden should handle the country's commercial relationships after Trump entangled Washington in a trade war with China.

JP Morgan investment bank said Biden will probably focus on executing his domestic policies before tackling commerce, and likely won't immediately modify this year's 'phase one' trade deal that cooled tensions with Beijing.

Another obstacle looming is the budget deficit, which skyrocketed to US\$3.1tn in the fiscal year ended September 30 - more than double its previous record - fueled by the coronavirus emergency spending measures.

AFP

MSM inches up on improved activity

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The benchmark index of the Muscat Securities Market (MSM) was marginally up by 0.05 per cent to close at 3,552.15 points on Sunday.

Trading activity improved from the previous session as turnover jumped by 6.36 per cent to RO420,355 and volumes increased 18.41 per cent to 2.42mn shares.

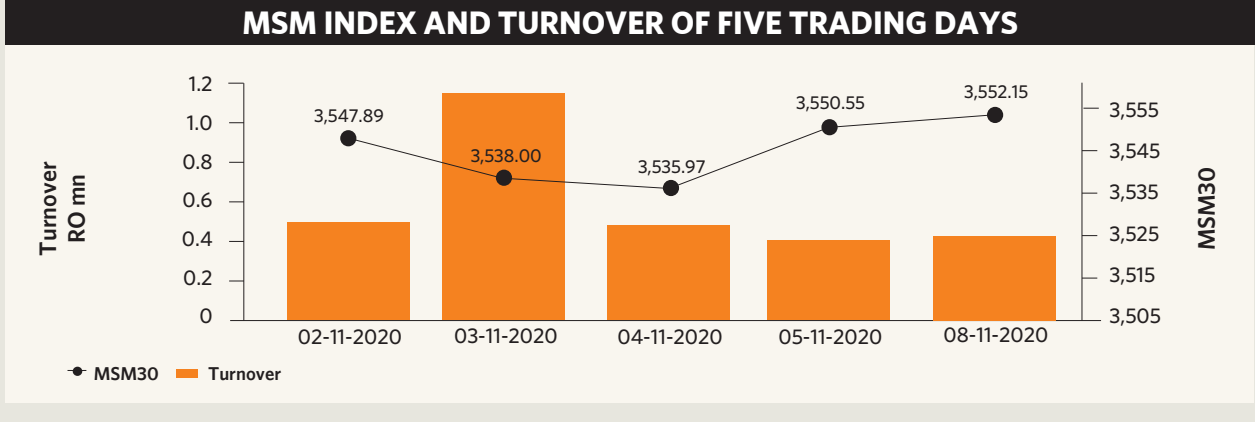
While Industrial index rose 0.32 per cent, Financial and Services indices fell 0.05 per cent and 0.01 per cent, respectively. The MSM Shariah Index closed up by 0.21 per cent at 515.53 points.

Market breadth remained positive as ten companies closed up, while six companies closed down. The rest 12 traded stocks closed flat for the day.



Top gainers were National Gas (3.5 per cent), Galfar Engineering & Contracting (2.5 per cent), Oman and Emirates Investment Holding (2.27 per cent) and Al Anwar Holding (1.64 per cent).

Top losers were Muscat Finance (-2.63 per cent), National Bank of Oman (-1.9 per cent), Al Batinah Power (-1.85 per cent) and Al Suwadi Power (-1.82 per cent).



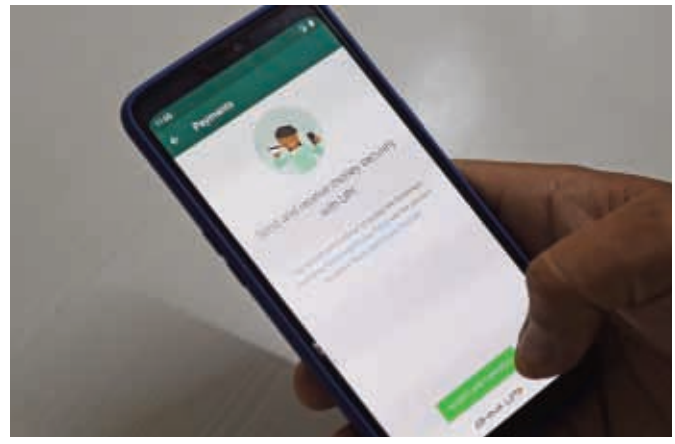
WhatsApp enters India's intense phone payment battle

Mumbai, India - WhatsApp on Friday entered an increasingly tense battle between multinational giants such as Google and Alibaba for a chunk of India's fast growing digital payments market.

The Facebook-owned firm said it was launching Whatsapp Pay just hours after it was given permission by the country's payments regulator. India is the messenger firm's biggest market with some 400mn users.

Whatsapp Pay - which allows people to send and receive money through the messaging platform - was launched in Brazil in June but was quickly suspended because of competition objections raised by the central bank. Authorities have since indicated that it will be allowed there.

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg said in a video statement accompanying the India launch that the move would boost 'innovation' in payments. Zuckerberg also hailed India's



A user checks the Facebook's WhatsApp application payment feature on his mobile phone in Faridabad, India (AFP)

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) which is used in the country of 1.3bn people to manage payment apps, with more than 140 Indian banks part of the network.

UPI is also used by Alphabet Inc's Google Pay, Walmart's PhonePe and Alibaba-backed Paytm, which dominate India's digital payments market.

"India is the first country to do anything like this," said Zuckerberg of the network.

WhatsApp has linked up with five Indian lenders including State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Jio Payments Bank to roll out the service.

The National Payments Corporation of India has put a cap of 20mn users of the Whatsapp service in the first phase. All must have a debit card and a bank account.

AFP

Saudi PIF to invest in Reliance Retail

Mumbai, India - Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) announced that Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) will invest \$95.55bn (US\$1.3bn) in Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL).

The investment will be done for an equity stake of 2.04 per cent into RRVL, valuing RRVL at a pre-money equity value of \$4.587tn (US\$62.4bn). This is

the second investment by PIF in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries as it had earlier acquired 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms.

Speaking about the investment, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director, RIL, said, "We at Reliance have a long-standing relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. PIF is at the forefront of the eco-

nomie transformation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

"I welcome PIF as a valued partner in Reliance Retail and look forward to their sustained support and guidance as we continue our ambitious journey to transform India's retail sector for enriching the lives of 1.3bn Indians and millions of small merchants," he added.

ANI

Automation seen to drive future remote oil and gas operations

Abu Dhabi, UAE - With the global oil and gas industry looking for improved efficiencies in a post-COVID-19 world, exhibitors at ADIPEC Virtual Strategic Conference, the world's largest online industry gathering, said automation will be the key driver of future remote hydrocarbon operations.

The forecast comes as the industry readies to probe how it can build for future business resilience through technology, innovation, and partnerships at the ADIPEC Virtual Strategic Conference, which is a key component of the ADIPEC 2020 Virtual programme, which runs from November 9-12 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

"The COVID-19 crisis forced oil and gas organisations as well as service companies to take measures to meet new market including cost reductions, optimisation of operations and digital transformation, which used to be looked at as futuristic prototypes. A good example is remote operations, which became popular during lockdowns all around the world," said Fouad Mohammed Ali, managing partner of Kuwait's Upstream Solutions, acknowl-



edging that creative technology solutions are key to the sector's fast-track recovery.

With the industry continuing to adapt to new operating procedures, expedited by the global pandemic, automating remote operations can help spur expansion across the supply chain and lead to more sustainable markets such as the geothermal drilling market.

"We expect to see more development in remote operation

and automation technologies in the industry, this includes remote technical support and automated cloud-based technical support," said Ashvini Bayudewa, business operations director at Axel, a drilling measurements startup Axel, that aims to improve oil-drilling telemetry around the world through the use of cutting edge technologies.

The automation, a core component of digital transformation, is now forecasted to take hold on

the global oil and gas industry. Dr Tariq Aslam, head of MEA for global industry software leader AVEVA, classifies digital transformation as 'the primary priority' for energy sector business leaders.

"Our industrial customers are increasingly adopting emerging technologies such as cloud, machine learning, artificial intelligence, big data and analytics," said Dr Aslam.

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NAV Date		Nov 05, 2020
NAV (OMR)		1.001
Adjusted NAV** (OMR)		1.320
Cash Dividend paid since inception (OMR)		0.03
Unit Dividend paid since inception		28%
YTD Performance		(1.29)%
Performance since inception		37.50%

* First NAV was issued on 4th March 2010
** Adjusted for cash and bonus dividends

For more information please contact:
Tel: 00968 24 949 031/030, Email: ubhargccfund@u-capital.net

Huawei appeals Swedish 5G ban

Stockholm, Sweden - Chinese telecoms group Huawei has appealed Sweden's decision to ban it from the country's 5G network for security reasons.

The ban, announced by the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS) on October 20, 'lacks legal basis, violates fundamental human rights, violates

fundamental EU legal principles ... and is incorrect in substance', Huawei wrote in its appeal to PTS and the Stockholm administrative court.

If carried out, it would cause 'exceptionally comprehensive and irreparable damage' to its business, Huawei added.

AFP

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EU and UK say Brexit gap still large, trade talks continue

Brussels, Belgium - The European Union (EU) and Britain said on Saturday major divergences remain but that post-Brexit negotiations would continue next week to clinch a trade deal in the scant time left.

Following a phone call with Prime Minister Boris Johnson, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said the differences were 'large', while the British Prime Minister described them as 'significant'.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier said he would head back to London to resume talks with UK counterpart David Frost this week.

Despite multiple rounds of talks, including two weeks of 'intense' meetings that ended on Wednesday, the sides remain far apart on fishing rights and rules for competition between British and European companies.

'Some progress has been made, but large differences remain especially on level playing field and fisheries. Our teams will continue working hard this week,' von der Leyen tweeted.

Johnson said the negotiating teams would reconvene in London on Monday, 'in order to redouble efforts to reach a deal', according to a Downing Street spokesperson.

"The Prime Minister set out that, while some progress had been made in recent discussions, significant differences remain in a number of areas, including the so-called level playing field and fish," the spokesperson said.

Both leaders agreed to remain in personal contact as well, signalling a stepped-up political effort to secure a new trading



A file photo of Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (left) and Ursula von der Leyen

Brexit to hit British trade hard

London, UK - Britain's business community has long hoped for a post-Brexit free trade deal - but government failures mean there will still be 'significant' disruption when it is fully free of the European Union next year, an official watchdog warned.

The coronavirus pandemic, which has already sparked a historic recession in Britain, will add to the strain on freight, farming and other sectors especially in Northern Ireland, with or without an EU trade deal, the National

Audit Office (NAO) said in a report.

Britain formally left the bloc in January but remains bound by its rules under a post-Brexit transition period until the end of this year - and still hopes to clinch a trade deal.

The two sides are currently battling to thrash out a new economic partnership, but Britain's full exit will mean changes either way, in particular customs checks for trucks heading to the EU from British ports.

The NAO also backed up

complaints by business leaders who have been warning for months that the government is putting all the pressure on companies to prepare, but failing to do enough itself.

"Even if government makes further progress with its preparations, there is still likely to be significant disruption at the border from 1 January 2021 as traders will be unprepared for new EU border controls which will require additional administration and checks," the NAO said.

AFFP

Some progress has been made, but large differences remain especially on level playing field and fisheries. Our teams will continue working hard this week

URSULA VON DER LEYEN

the EU and UK parliaments before the end of the year.

But the talks blew past this unofficial deadline, and Britain could yet leave the EU single market and customs union at midnight on December 31 with no follow-on framework for cross-Channel business.

Both sides say they would prefer to avoid the economic disruption that this would entail, but both insist they are ready if it comes to that, and neither is yet ready to cross their red lines.

For Britain, this means reasserting sovereignty over its fishing waters and for Brussels agreeing rules to prevent UK businesses gaining an unfair advantage over EU competitors.

Barnier said he was going to London 'to find an agreement that respects the interests and values of the EU and its 27 member states'.

AFFP



A ship waits to load China-made cars for export at a berth of Port of Lianyungang in Lianyungang City, China (Xinhua)

China's exports show 'rising role' in global trade

London, UK - The continuing growth in China's exports highlights the country's 'rising role' in global trade amid the coronavirus pandemic, a major British newspaper reported on Saturday.

The October figures have shown the latest sign that China's 'rapid economic recovery from coronavirus is strengthening its role in global trade', the *Financial Times* (FT) reported.

China's foreign trade sustained its upward momentum in October with notable growth and improved structure, the country's official data showed.

China's foreign trade expanded 4.6 per cent year-on-year in October, with exports jumping 7.6 per cent year-on-year and imports climbing 0.9 per cent in yuan terms, China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) said in a statement.

The FT reported that China's exports have 'flourished' during the COVID-19 crisis, with growth over recent months supported by international demand for its medical equipment and electronics products.

'Trade activity has con-

tributed to China's recovery from the pandemic, at a time when other economies are still grappling with its impact,' said the report.

The FT also noted that China's recovery has been fuelled by strong industrial growth and booming construction.

Domestic consumption, with retail goods data returning to growth in September this year, will play an increasing role in job creation in the country, it added.

"The consumption sector could be a source of job creation that gradually replaces the job pool in the manufacturing sector," Iris Pang, chief economist for Greater China at ING, a multinational banking and financial services corporation, was quoted as saying.

China's economic recovery picked up steam in the third quarter as activities normalised amid effective control of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Chinese government's sweeping efforts to stimulate demand and consumption, according to official data.

Xinhua

Libya's national oil firm says daily output tops 1mn barrels

Tripoli, Libya - Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) said production had punched above 1mn barrels per day (bpd), nearly two weeks after it lifted the war-torn country's last remaining force majeure.

But the firm also warned financial difficulties could yet trigger a renewed slide in output.

The NOC said in a statement it had 'managed to raise production rates to 1,036,035 barrels a day', after lifting force majeure at the Al-Feel oilfield on October 26.

It had been invoked on multiple facilities by NOC, due to a months-long blockade of oilfields and ports by forces loyal to east-

ern strongman Khalifa Haftar, imposed to correct what his camp called an unfair distribution of oil revenues.

The country, which sits atop Africa's largest proven crude oil reserves, has been torn between forces loyal to Haftar and a UN-recognised Government of National Accord in Tripoli.

But the two sides signed a UN-brokered 'permanent ceasefire' on October 23, and NOC announced the same day the reopening of two key export terminals, Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra, before likewise lifting force majeure at Al-Feel three days later.

However, in its statement on Saturday, NOC also said it faced

'very big financial difficulties and a huge shortage of its budgets'.

This has led to an accumulation of 'debts on the sector's companies and significant delay for the salaries of its service companies', it added, pointing to a consequent 'reluctance of some entities' to help restore production.

NOC therefore 'may not be able to sustain the current production levels', the company added, warning that output may even cease 'totally'.

Up to January, Libyan oil production stood at 1.25mn bpd, but then drastically declined as a result of Haftar's blockade.

AFFP

Toyota ramps up full-year forecasts

Tokyo, Japan - Toyota has almost doubled its full-year forecasts, saying sales and production were recovering quickly from the coronavirus pandemic, which has shredded the global auto market this year.

Japan's top car maker now projects net profit of 1.42tn yen (US\$137bn) for the fiscal year to March 2021, up from an earlier estimate of 730bn yen.

It said full-year sales are now expected to hit 26tn yen, against a previous estimate of 24tn yen.

Results for the first half appeared sluggish compared with the previous year, with net profit down 45.3 per cent at 629.4bn yen.

But the signs of recovery were clear in the second quarter, with



People visit a Toyota showroom in Tokyo, Japan on Friday (AFP)

bottom-line profit at 470.5bn yen against 158.8bn yen in the previous quarter, when the pandemic was hitting hard.

Carmakers around the world have been battered by the coro-

navirus crisis, with many relying on government help, as it slammed the global economy into reverse and forced people to stay at home.

But Toyota last week reported

both global production and sales hit record highs for September, marking the first gains in nine months.

"I think we were able to recover [in the second quarter]," chief operating officer Kenta Kon told reporters, saying 'sales outlets and suppliers made efforts to deliver as many vehicles as possible'. He said the firm also benefited from a 'foundation of measures' put in place since the 2008 financial crisis.

"The impact of the pandemic has yet to be fully erased, but Toyota swiftly recovered in the July-September period," said Satoru Takada, auto analyst at TIVV, a Tokyo-based research and consulting firm.

AFFP

Virtual gold? Bitcoin's rise sparks new debate amid pandemic

London, UK - Bitcoin's rally above US\$15,000 has reignited debate over whether the cryptocurrency is so-called digital gold or a perilously risky bet as investors grapple with the coronavirus pandemic.

The world's most popular virtual unit has gained over 30 per cent in value in almost three weeks up to Friday, taking it close to its December 2017 peak when it reached nearly US\$20,000.

After a rollercoaster ride on markets since then, it began its latest meteoric rise on October 21, after US online payments provider PayPal announced that it would enable account holders

to use cryptocurrency.

"It is the validation of a market which was still relatively uncertain a few years ago," said Simon Polrot, president of Paris-based crypto-assets association ADAN.

Bitcoin was created in 2008 by the pseudonymous Satoshi Nakamoto, and marketed as an alternative to traditional currencies.

Unregulated by any central bank, it was sold as an attractive option for investors with an appetite for the exotic - although criminals have also seen its under-the-radar appeal.

However, after bitcoin surpassed US\$1,000 for the first



time in 2013, it has increasingly attracted the attention of financial institutions.

The more recent arrival of big players in the virtual market,

such as PayPal and Mastercard, are 'very important signals' solidifying that trend, according to Polrot.

PayPal said it would allow

users to buy and sell using bitcoin as well as other cryptocurrencies such as Ethereum and Litecoin.

'The migration toward digital payments and digital representations of value continues to accelerate, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased interest in digital currencies from central banks and consumers,' the company said.

The US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank are holding consultations on the possible launch of their own virtual currencies, while China's central bank started experimenting with digital payments in four cities in April.

Investment banking giant JP-Morgan Chase has joined industry players in the increasing optimism around bitcoin.

After PayPal's announcement, analysts at the bank compared the cryptocurrency to gold.

'Bitcoin could compete more intensely with gold as an alternative currency over the coming years given that millennials will become over time a more important component of investors' universe,' they said.

They noted that the total capitalisation of the cryptocurrency market is ten times lower than gold, with some speculating it could steadily close that

gulf.

On Thursday, its price leapt nearly 9 per cent and gold rallied 2.45 per cent, as the US election impacted the market. The rises sparked fresh comparisons of the two assets.

"Crypto could constitute a form of safe haven in a context where confidence in fiat money is a little undermined," said Polrot.

As with gold, bitcoin could benefit as central banks gush out trillions in stimulus support to counter the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, potentially diluting the value of their currencies.

AFFP

ARAB GREETINGS



QATAR

Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani in a tweet on Sunday on his official handle congratulated Joe Biden on winning the White House.

‘Congratulations to President-Elect @JoeBiden and Vice President-Elect @KamalaHarris. My best wishes to the people of the United States and I look forward to working together to continue strengthening the friendship between our countries,’ Sheikh Tamim tweeted.



UAE

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on their victory in the US election.

On Twitter, Sheikh Mohammed said: ‘Congratulations to the President-Elect of the United States @JoeBiden and Vice President-Elect @KamalaHarris. We look forward to strengthening our five-decade enduring and strategic relations.’

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, also offered his congratulations.

‘Congratulations to @JoeBiden and @KamalaHarris on winning the US elections. Our sincere wishes for further development and prosperity for the American people. The UAE and USA are friends and allies with a strong historic partnership that we look forward to strengthening together,’ he tweeted.



KUWAIT

The Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf al Ahmad al Jaber al Sabah on Saturday sent a cable to US President-elect Joe Biden, congratulating him on the trust placed by the friendly US people by electing him as US president.

In the cable, the Amir also congratulated Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris, while hailing the historical and firm relations between the State of Kuwait and the US.

Sheikh Nawaf said he looks forward to bolstering relations and joint cooperation with the US in different fields.



BAHRAIN

The King of Bahrain, Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, congratulated the US President-elect Joe Biden and the Vice President-elect Kamla Harris, expressing the Kingdom of Bahrain’s pride in the strong and long-standing historical relations with the United States of America for more than a hundred and twenty years, and its keenness to continue constructive cooperation at all levels to enhance these Strategic relationships.



IRAQ

President Barham Saleh extended ‘warmest congratulations’ to Biden, describing him as ‘a friend and trusted partner in the cause of building a better Iraq’. “We look forward to working to achieve our common goals and strengthening peace and stability in the entire Middle East.”



EGYPT

President Abdel Fattah al Sisi said Egypt, the most populous Arab country, looked forward to ‘strengthening strategic bilateral ties between Egypt and the US in the interest of both countries and peoples’.



BIDEN BEGINS

WHILE TRUMP REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION, BIDEN AND HARRIS BACKED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BIDEN HAD WON



Mideast heads for policy revamp under Joe Biden

Dubai, UAE - Contrary to Donald Trump’s impulsive policies in the Middle East, Joe Biden is expected to shift back to a more conventional US stance and re-engage with Iran, redrawing regional geopolitics.

In his term in power, Trump’s unconventional strategy produced a head-spinning sequence of signature achievements, risky moves and failed initiatives that have transformed the Middle East’s political landscape.

The US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and assassinated its once-untouchable general Qasem Soleimani.

It also moved the US Embassy to Jerusalem, breaking with international consensus, and wound back America’s military presence in a region Trump believed has lost much of its strategic importance.

But with the election of Biden, the energy-rich region is on the verge of another major shift that could see a tougher US stance on human rights and arms deals.

‘This is a region where Biden administration is expected to both refocus US policy on issues such as Iran and push for respect of

normative values across the region,’ the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) said in a report.

‘Biden has made clear he intends to re-enter the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) if Iran also comes back into full compliance and to pursue diplomacy with Tehran on wider issues.’

This is a region where Biden administration is expected to both refocus US policy on issues such as Iran and push for respect of normative values across the region

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Rolling back sanctions

Trump’s personalised relationships with regional regimes led to a freeing of the hands of Arab leaders and monarchies, notably Saudi Arabia’s young de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The businessman-turned-president’s warm ties, especially in the Gulf region, contrasted with those of his predecessor Barack Obama, whose deal-making with

Iran appalled arch-rival Saudi Arabia and its neighbours.

In a regional game-changer, the United States agreed just days ago to sell more than US\$10bn worth of top-of-the-line F-35 fighter jets to the United Arab Emirates, to reward its diplomatic recognition of Israel.

Trump’s policies generally played well in the Gulf and be-

campaign of sanctions against Iran... and by pushing through arms sales to the kingdom.”

Now they worry ‘that a Biden administration will abandon these core interests, by rolling back sanctions against Iran, returning to the JCPOA, and limiting arms sales’.

The White House has also pushed back against anti-Saudi resolutions in Congress over its controversial involvement in the Yemen war, which has come at the cost of thousands of civilian lives, and the grisly 2018 assassination of a Saudi journalist in Turkey

“Given the erratic leadership of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, from his alleged role in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi to his disastrous war in Yemen, MBS could find himself marginalised as Washington takes stock of the pros and cons of its relationship with Riyadh,” said the US-based Soufan Centre.

A few hours after the election was finally called, Arab leaders rushed to congratulate Biden. Among the six Gulf countries, only Saudi has not yet reacted.

Sigh of relief

Biden’s regional strategy will have to grapple with a series of thorny issues where Trump is accused of either neglect or mismanagement, from taking a decisive role in ending the war in Libya, to containing a rising Turkey and facing the threat of attacks in Iraq.

Analysts say that one of the administration’s first moves will be to restore contact with the Palestinians, who are angered over the Jerusalem Embassy issue and also by the US push for the Arab world to normalise ties with Israel.

Biden heartily endorsed the decision by several Arab nations to forge ties with Israel, and he is very unlikely to shutter the new embassy.

However, he is expected to ‘row back the most negative consequences of the Trump era’ with a renewal of US aid to the Palestinians, reopening the Palestinian mission in Washington, and returning to the traditional two-state position, the EFCR said.

‘Still, there is unlikely to be a full return to the status quo.’
AFP

INS NEW ERA

S OF THE ELECTION, MANY WORLD LEADERS MADE IT CLEAR THEY
D WON WITH RUNNING MATE KAMALA HARRIS

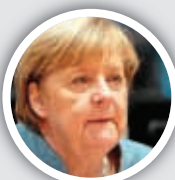


WORLD LEADERS GREET BIDEN, HARRIS

World leaders rushed to congratulate US president-elect Joe Biden, with many expressing hopes of unity and cooperation following four years of explosive Donald Trump diplomacy

Germany

'Congratulations!' said Chancellor Angela Merkel. 'I wish luck and success from the bottom of my heart.' 'Our transatlantic friendship is irreplaceable if we want to overcome the great challenges of our times,' she said in a tweet issued by a government spokesman.



CANADA

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "I look forward to working with President-elect Biden, Vice President-elect Harris, their administration, and the United States Congress as we tackle the world's greatest challenges together."



BRITAIN

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson congratulated Biden 'on his election as President of the United States and Kamala Harris on her historic achievement'. 'The US is our most important ally and I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security.'



FRANCE

French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted: 'The Americans have chosen their President. Congratulations @JoeBiden and @KamalaHarris! We have a lot to do to overcome today's challenges. Let's work together!'



INDIA

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Biden's win as 'spectacular' while highlighting Harris' Indian heritage. 'Your success is pathbreaking, and a matter of immense pride not just for your chittis, but also for all Indian-Americans,' Modi said in a tweet to Harris. 'Chitti' is a Tamil term of endearment for the younger sisters of one's mother, which Harris used in her acceptance of the Democratic nomination for vice president.



NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, a popular leader who had verbally jostled with Trump, congratulated Biden and Harris in a tweet focused on cooperation. 'With so many issues facing the international community, your message of unity is one we share. New Zealand looks forward to working with you both!'



NATO

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg described Biden as a 'strong supporter of our Alliance'. Stoltenberg, who often had to adapt to President Donald Trump making unexpected announcements about US troop drawdowns from NATO deployments, said in a tweet he looked forward to working with Biden. 'A strong NATO is good for both North America and Europe,' he said.



AUSTRALIA

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison tweeted, 'The Australia-US Alliance is deep and enduring, and built on shared values. I look forward to working with you closely as we face the world's many challenges together.'



ITALY

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte tweeted, 'We are ready to work with the President-elect @JoeBiden to make the transatlantic relationship stronger. The US can count on Italy as a solid Ally and a strategic partner.'



The President-elect urges unity in victory speech

Wilmington, US - Democrat Joe Biden urged unity on Saturday and promised 'a new day for America' in his first national address since he won the tense US election and ended the historically turbulent and divisive era of Donald Trump.

After jogging onto the outdoor stage to the sounds of Bruce Springsteen in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden delivered a message of hope and healing to a crowd of cheering supporters and tens of millions more on television.

The victory speech followed a desperately bitter election conducted in the midst of a raging coronavirus pandemic. But instead of sounding triumphant, Biden's accent was more on changing hearts in a country split down the middle between Democrats and Republicans.

Promising 'not to divide but unify', Biden reached out directly to Trump supporters, declaring 'they're not our enemies, they're Americans'.

"Let's give each other a chance," he said, urging the country to 'lower the temperature'.

"Let this grim era of demonisation in America begin to end, here and now."

Casting his eye further, Biden said he would 'make America respected around the world again' - a reference to Trump's tearing

up of traditional diplomatic ties.

"Tonight, the whole world is watching America and I believe that at our best America is a beacon for the globe," he said.

Addressing the coronavirus, which has killed more than 237,000 Americans under Trump's leadership, Biden said he would form a task force of 'leading scientists' on Monday.

Fireworks

While attendance was limited for social distancing purposes to about 360 cars at the drive-in style event, crowds numbering thousands of people, many of them dancing and waving American flags, lined the highway leading to the facility.

This was Biden's first public appearance since US television networks declared earlier on Saturday that he'd taken an insurmountable lead in the nearly complete count from Tuesday's election, giving him victory against Trump, who will now become a rare one-term president.

The celebratory event, which featured a confetti canon, fireworks and a soundtrack including Springsteen and Tina Turner, also gave Americans a closer look at Biden's running mate Ka-

mala Harris, who will make history as the country's first female and first Black vice president.

In her speech, cheered every few seconds by the ecstatic crowd, Harris lauded the record turnout of some 160mn people in the election and said that after so much division, 'Joe is a healer'.

"When our very democracy was on the ballot in this election, with the very soul of America at stake, and the world watching, you ushered in a new day for America," she said.

Biden, who is 77 and turns 78

Let this grim era of demonisation in America begin to end, here and now. Tonight, the whole world is watching America and I believe that at our best America is a beacon for the globe.

JOE BIDEN



later this month, will be the oldest person to become president when he takes office on January 20.

No Trump concession

Crowds took to the streets in major cities across the United States in celebration of Trump's defeat, while key Western allies such as Germany, which had a tempestuous relationship with the Republican, quickly congratulated Biden.

But Trump - becoming the first one-term president since George H W Bush at the start of the 1990s - refused to concede and continued to claim he was a victim of fraud.

Biden was 'rushing to falsely pose' as the winner, Trump said in a statement as he arrived to play golf at a course he owns in Virginia, his first trip outside the White House since Election Day. There is no evidence to support Trump's unprecedented claims of mass fraud.

Tuesday's polling went off without any reported serious incidents or even technical glitches, despite the shadow of a still out-of-control COVID-19 pandemic and volcanic political tensions.

With vote-counting nearly complete around the huge country, Biden built up an irreversible lead. New tallies from the state

of Pennsylvania early Saturday put him over the top, ending four days of tense waiting and allowing the TV networks' specialised data analysts to call the overall result, as they do every election.

Spontaneous celebrations

In Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Washington and other majority-Democratic cities, people poured into the streets to celebrate and car horns honked.

An excited crowd of several thousand gathered on Black Lives Matter Plaza next to the White House, giving a hostile reception to Trump as his motorcade passed nearby on return from the golf course.

"It's been so many years waiting for this day to happen," said Jack Nugent, a 24 year old software engineer.

There were similar scenes in New York, Trump's birthplace.

"I'm happy that Trump has gone from our lives, hopefully forever," said Catherine Griffin (47) through tears of happiness.

However, in Arizona, where the race was close, a group of almost 1,000 Trump supporters gathered in Phoenix to protest what they said was a stolen election.

"There's a lot of fraud here. It needs to be either redone totally or recounted," Donna McCollum (77) said.

Western allies send congrats

For Biden, who got more than 74mn votes, a record, the triumph was the crowning achievement of his half-century in US politics - including eight years as deputy to Obama, the first Black US president who hailed the 'historic and decisive' win.

Biden vows to get the coronavirus pandemic under control. He also promises to restore traditional US diplomacy after Trump's dramatic pivot to unilateral nationalism.

The leaders of Britain, Germany, France and other European countries were the first, along with Canada, to send congratulations. Japan's Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga sent 'warm congratulations', while India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi also tweeted on Biden's 'spectacular victory'.

The head of the NATO military alliance, which reeled from Trump's disruptive approach after decades of US leadership, also quickly welcomed Biden's win.

Israel's leader Benjamin Netanyahu - a close Trump ally - congratulated Biden, calling the president-elect 'a great friend of Israel'. There was no immediate reaction from other big players in US relations, including China, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

AFP

Delhi fears the worst amid smog cloud and virus wave

New Delhi, India - A steady stream of patients is coming out of New Delhi's brownish atmosphere for treatment at the Breathe Better clinic, where lung specialist Davinder Kundra is confronting what he calls the 'double whammy' of deadly smog and the coronavirus.

Kundra is among a growing number of doctors who are worried as the capital's notorious air again hits peak pollution levels while a new pandemic wave is battering hospitals.

Every winter pollution season, demand for beds spikes in the world's most polluted capital because of an increase in lung diseases and chronic bronchitis.

Now the coronavirus has come back after a lull, new cases reaching a record 7,000 a day. Some official predictions say the figure could soon exceed 12,000.

India already has the world's second-highest number of cases - 8.5mn - behind the United States.

With studies strongly linking air pollution to increased coronavirus deaths, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the intense annual smog from farm fires, cars and industry was worsening the pandemic crisis.

As he fretted over the x-ray of one pneumonia patient, Kundra said he spots at least one coronavirus suspect a day in his small clinic and orders them to get tested.

"Tiny microscopic pollutants act as carriers for the virus and go deep into the lungs. So Delhi is facing a double whammy because of pollution and coronavirus cases," he said.

"Patients who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and are exposed to increased



Commuters make their way along a busy road under heavy smog conditions, in New Delhi on Saturday (AFP)

pollution are prone to have more severe forms of the infection."

Smog guns

With more residents on the streets ahead of India's main hol-

iday, Diwali - the festival of light - on Saturday, doctors fear dark days ahead for the city of 20mn people.

Kejriwal has banned Diwali firecrackers and launched legal

action to get private hospitals to set aside more beds for COVID-19 patients.

The city has deployed smog guns, which blast out clouds of water intended to bring pollution

particles to the ground.

But environmental activists such as Vimlendu Jha say the authorities are not serious about the problem, and have demanded suspensions on construction and even some power stations.

Every winter, Delhi residents carefully scan pollution indexes, which measure tiny but deadly PM 2.5 particles, up to 2.5 microns in width.

A Harvard University study released last month said an increase of just one micron per cubic metre of PM 2.5 causes an 11 percent jump in COVID-19 mortality.

Other studies indicate the problem is particularly bad for poorer people - such as slum dwellers - who tend to live nearer pollution sources.

With no respite in sight, Delhi doctors have little choice but to recommend face masks and air purifiers at home, though few in slums can afford such luxuries.

Navjot Kaur, who had started riding her scooter to her job as a lab technician to avoid public transport and the risk of COVID-19, said taking to two wheels had left her exposed to the smog: "Now I get off and my eyes sting, I have to splash water on them."

"The pollution has come quicker this year and seems worse," she said.

Other Delhi inhabitants such as software engineer Naveen Malhotra, who suffers from a respiratory condition, want to leave the city altogether because 'coronavirus attacks the lungs'.

He said, "I am just waiting for an opportunity to shift to a place where there is less pollution."

AFP



A woman casts her vote during Myanmar's national election at a polling station in Yangon on Sunday (AFP)

Suu Kyi forecast to triumph in Myanmar election

Yangon, Myanmar - Polls opened in Myanmar on Sunday morning for a vote expected to return to power the government of Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains a hero at home in spite of a reputation abroad shattered by the Rohingya crisis.

The election will be just the second since the Southeast Asian nation emerged from nearly half a century of junta rule in 2011.

Five years ago Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory, but was forced by the constitution into an uneasy power-sharing agreement with the still-mighty military.

This time the civilian leader - in a bid to maintain an absolute majority - has implored citizens to overcome their fears of coronavirus to turn out and cast their ballots. "Every single voter is writing their own history, this election's history and our country's history," she told the nation in a video message posted on Facebook on Thursday.

Voters across the country joined long lines before the sun had even risen on Sunday as they waited for polling stations to

open, largely maintaining physical distance and wearing compulsory face masks in the coronavirus-disturbed vote.

Cases have spiralled upwards in recent months, sending swathes of the country into lockdown and largely forcing election campaigns online, where hate speech between rival factions has flourished.

But Suu Kyi, who has placed herself front and centre in the fight against the epidemic, refused to postpone the polls.

"I'm not at all afraid of being infected with COVID-19," said 27 year old Khine Zar Chi, voting for her first time in downtown Yangon. "I don't care if I die for Mother Suu."

Authorities allowed the elderly to vote in advance - including the 75 year old Suu Kyi and the president - as well as internal migrants casting ballots in temporary constituencies.

But holding the election could see 'serious public health ramifications', warned the International Crisis Group watchdog.

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Friday called for a 'peaceful, orderly and credible' election.

AFP



Members of Mexico's National Guard place sandbags to prevent the overflowing of the Grijalva River after heavy rains in Villahermosa, in the Tabasco state of Mexico on Saturday (AFP)

Storm Eta claims over 50 lives in Mexico, Honduras

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico - Torrential rain and a bitter cold front linked to storm system Eta have claimed at least 20 lives in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, officials said on Saturday.

And authorities in Honduras said flooding in the north and northwest caused by torrential downpours had now left 23 people dead after another ten people lost their lives on Friday.

The government of Chiapas - which borders Guatemala, where about 150 people are dead or missing in the wake of the storm - said ten bodies were found in the river in the town of Chenalho.

Early reports indicated they had been swept away by powerful currents.

Eight other people died in the cities of El Bosque and La Grandeza, the government said. Another person was washed away by a stream in Oxchuc,

while a youth died in Mitontic.

The storm caused landslides that blocked roads in at least 20 locations in Chiapas, a poor region with a majority indigenous population. The government said five rivers had overflowed their banks, and flooding cut off three towns.

The United States and Guatemala have sent helicopters to Honduras to help with a rescue mission that involves 50,000 emergency services workers, authorities said.

More than 16,000 people have been rescued by boat and helicopter from regions ravaged by Eta, government disaster relief agency the Permanent Contingencies Committee said.

Honduras has declared a 'zero zone' in the northern Sula Valley - the largest alluvial valley in the country.

It is where the second largest

city in Honduras, San Pedro Sula, is located.

The Ulua, Chamelecon and Humuya rivers burst their banks, flooding the valley.

Authorities said that more than 1.7mn people and over 1mn homes in the country of 9.5mn have been affected.

Central America has been badly hit since Eta made landfall in Nicaragua on Tuesday as a powerful hurricane before losing strength.

Authorities in Panama reported 17 deaths and 68 people missing, Security Minister Juan Pino said.

Cuba is bracing for impact, expected on Sunday, as Eta approaches. It has gained strength from a tropical depression to a tropical storm. Havana has placed provinces in the centre of the island nation on alert.

AFP

Residents celebrate history-maker Kamala Harris at her ancestral home

Thulasendrapuram, India - Residents set off firecrackers in the ancestral home of Kamala Harris on Sunday as India celebrated the Vice President-elect's victory in the US election, with her uncle hailing her achievement as historic and an inspiration to women and girls.

Harris - daughter of breast cancer specialist Shyamala Gopalan from the southern Indian city of Chennai - paid tribute to her late mother, who 'believed so deeply in an America where a moment like this is possible' in a national address with president-elect Joe Biden on Saturday.

At Thulasendrapuram village in Tamil Nadu state, once home to Harris' maternal grandfather P V Gopalan, celebrations broke out with people lighting firecrackers, praying at its main temple and waving posters bearing the vice president-elect's face.

Women in the village made a rangoli - a colourful work of folk art drawn on the ground - with the words 'Congratulations to Kamala Harris'.

"It is a matter of pride for the entire womenfolk," housewife Arul Mozhi Sudhakar told AFP.

'A lot of firsts'

Harris' uncle, academic Balachandran Gopalan, said his late sister would have been proud of her daughter and that the family would converge in Washington from across the United States and from India, Canada and Mexico to witness her historic inauguration.

"Her mother would have been



This file photo shows a poster of now US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the day of election, at her ancestral village of Thulasendrapuram in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on November 3 (AFP)

Lots of (Indian-American) children who earlier were interested in the annual Spelling Bee contest are now going to be interested in US politics

BALACHANDRAN GOPALAN

can immigrants, he added.

"Lots of (Indian-American) children who earlier were interested in the annual Spelling Bee contest are now going to be in-

terested in US politics," he quipped.

"I think young children, especially young girls, are more motivated and enthused. That's a good thing."

Gopalan said he had further hopes for his trailblazing niece - including a presidential run.

In Delhi, Yash Iyer (25) said, "It's a proud moment for us too as Indians since she traces her roots here."

"Kamala Harris being the US VP is a monumental accomplishment not only for the US and Indians but for women across the globe," Smitashree Mishra, who works in international health and development, told AFP.

AFP

HIT

The waves

5 things you should know to ride a watercraft

In this new era of staycations and social distancing, there has been a heightened interest in outdoor recreational activities, especially with water sports and watercraft. More and more people are discovering motorised water sports, and they're getting to know what experienced riders have known all along - very few things in life eliminate stress like spending time on the open water. Here are five recommendations before starting your adventure:

1 CHECK IF YOU NEED A LICENSE
With the increase in watercraft popularity, more riders will be out on the water, and it's important you have all the information when traveling lake-to-lake, finding your favourite river spot, or riding in the open ocean. Every country has its own rules and regulations regarding licensing and proper age to

operate a watercraft. Know the local rules and regulations before you venture into it.

2 HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR WATERCRAFT
Get to know the general functions of your watercraft. It might be obvious, but spend some time on land learning the controls and functions so you can hit the water with confidence. It is good to check out your operator's guide, know your fuel level, and understand the general best operational practices, so you're good to go before heading away from shore.

3 SHARE THE WATER WITH OTHERS
Respect everyone on the water and surroundings and adopt a fun and safe riding style. Be mindful of signs and reminders to slow down or stay

out of restricted areas. Also, keep a safe distance away from others and the shoreline. Watercraft were meant for social distancing even before it was a thing! Finally, never ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol as it puts everyone's safety at risk.

4 WEAR THE RIGHT GEAR
A life jacket (aka Personal Flotation Device or PFD) is a no-brainer even if you know how to swim. For additional safety, wear the tether cord connected to the ignition switch on your life jacket at all times. In the event you end up in the water, that tether cuts the engine power and you can get right back on. Also, you and your passenger should always wear a wetsuit bottom in neoprene for protection. And finally, take sunglasses to increase the cool factor and for protection from the sun and the elements.

5 PAY ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT
Leave your playground and surroundings cleaner than you found it. Protecting nature and the outdoors is what will keep water sports and recreational activities going for decades to come. Don't throw trash in the water or surrounding areas. And respect the animals in the area - after all, it's their home.

By following these key tips, watercraft riders will not only be able to take advantage of water fun but get in some healthy escape therapy, recharge their metaphorical batteries and practice social distancing to create great memories from their unforgettable time on the waves. There's nothing on land that matches the glory of the sea!
(BPT)



IN THE LAP OF nature

Art camp at Javaherdeh, Iran



Hubert Vaz

Javaherdeh village, one of the most beautiful villages in the world, in Iran, with breathtaking nature and a cool climate, attracts scores of tourists every year. You, too, could be lured into taking a trip to what tourists call a 'mysterious village with a very small population' if you read on and bite the bait that's coming up!

Situated around 27km from Ramsar, in Sakht Sar Rural District of Iran's Mazandaran province, Javaherdeh village sits in the lap of the Semasus mountains around 2000m above sea level. There is a beautiful river on the way to this village, called Safarud, which begins its route from the eastern tip of Mt Semamus and passes through the village towards the Caspian Sea.

From afar, the village tucked between the hills appears much like the view from the hills in Muscat, on the way to Qantab or Yiti. The difference is that the hills are covered with greenery and the fairytale dwellings are enveloped by mist and fog amid very cool temperatures in the mornings.

A tourists delight, this village also has a beautiful garden, many facilities for picnics, opportunities for savouring Iranian cuisine, shopping at a local 'supermarket' for popular snacks, as well as a renovated 700

year old mosque - Adina Mosque - which is an additional draw.

If you are an adventure buff who likes travelling and discovering remote locations off the beaten track in different countries, Javaherdeh could be your next haunt. If on a family trip to Iran, you must make it a point to include this stop on your itinerary. And if you are a budding artist or art lover, here comes the real bait - sign up for an upcoming residency art camp at this village, as Farideh Zariv, an Australian-Iranian artist in Oman who champions this camp, can facilitate the same.

Farideh, who came to Oman to host her solo exhibition at Bait al Zubair museum in 2016, says she instantly fell in love with Oman and its people as she found strong cultural and historical links between Oman and Iran. And when her husband (Dr Nasser Palangi) received an invitation to teach fine arts at Scientific College of Design, she jumped at the idea of residing in Oman.

The first international artist's residency in Javaherdeh was created by Amin Art Gallery, in Teheran, and it is now open for artists from around the world to apply for a residency programme every year. Farideh has been the director of this gallery for over 25 years and participants of this residency are dually certified by the gallery at the end of the programme.

"The climate of Javaherdeh village is pleasant and cool in spring

CREATE AND COLLABORATE
I believe, all artists need to exchange ideas and share experiences with each other and, even for a short time, live in a natural space that is far from industry. It is the best way to create, collaborate and experiment with art."

FARIDEH ZARIV



and summer, and many people travel to this area for sightseeing. In winter, the snowfall covers the whole village. Most of the people in this village are engaged in gardening, animal husbandry and agriculture," says Farideh, disclosing that products such as felt, tablecloth, shula, chokha, woolen socks, and tents are made by artists in this village.

"I decided to open a page on In-

stagram about this interesting opportunity and the changes we will make in our 'Tiny Stone House' in Javaherdeh. And I invite interested people to join us in 'living it big in a tiny house' by adding our own creative life to nature," Farideh says, asserting that this village has the best weather in summer time, as well as fresh vegetables bought directly from farmers and the use of

fresh dairy products by ranchers, besides other activities like horse riding and other sports.

Contemporary visual artists pursuing innovative practice in a professional capacity are eligible to apply while artists using different media and materials in different style on paper or canvas will also be accommodated. The programme introduces artists in residence to professional Iranian artists, art students, art lovers and art collectors. The residency can be for two or four weeks, as per personal choice.

One of the things that attracts artists to the idea of living in a tiny house is the simplicity of life in this village and the ability to reconnect with nature and truly engage with nature, she said pointing out that people often return to nature when they face a difficult time or to get an easy escape from their routine life.

"The reality is, the nature that surrounds us is far more meaningful and valuable than money, wealth, and fame. It is something that makes us truly happy. We have to love nature and appreciate it and take care of it to have a more beautiful world," Farideh said, hoping that restrictions around the pandemic are soon lifted so that people from Oman can consider visiting this beautiful village.

For more details, email: farideh_zariv@yahoo.com.au



The Tiny Stone House in Javaherdeh where the art residency is conducted



Dr Nasser Palangi, lecturer in fine arts



Ali Khalegh, a professional Iranian artist at the camp