**SUFFERING FROM BUFFERING?**

**WI-FI THIEVES ON PROWL**

**HOW TO STOP LEAK!**

Change the password regularly to avoid hacking by strangers. Use a complex password of 15 characters or more.

**Try to position router in such a place so that it is not visible from the road or other properties.**

Ensure that your router’s firmware is updated. You can check it by logging into your router’s web panel. Navigate to the administration panel which allows you to change the configuration of the router, says Al Barwani.

Any WPS (Wi-Fi protected setup) makes your Wi-Fi connection vulnerable. Anyone can see the password and use it to connect to your network via this vulnerable feature.

**Try to update the firmware**

At the time of writing this article, firmware version 1.0.0.22 was active on the router. So, you should check the firmware version of your router and see whether there is an update available or not. Firmware version is the key to improving your network security.

To update the firmware, log into your router’s web panel by entering its IP in your browser. Navigate to the administration panel which allows you to change the configuration of the router. Then, navigate to the update section and select the firmware file you downloaded earlier.

Press the update button and wait for the process to complete. After the update is complete, your router will restart.

To ensure a secure wireless network, you should also change the default password for your router.

**HOW TO CHECK FOR UNAUTHORIZED DEVICES**

You can use the built-in scanner of your router to check for unauthorized devices. Log into your router’s web panel and navigate to the scanner section. If you find any unauthorized device, you can block it by removing it from the scanner list.

**HOW TO CHANGE THE PASSWORD**

Most Wi-Fi routers have a default password that is set by the manufacturer. You should change this password to ensure that only authorized users can connect to your network. To change the password, log into your router’s web panel and navigate to the administration panel which allows you to change the configuration of the router.

Press the password change button and enter a new password. Ensure that your new password is strong and difficult to guess.

In conclusion, securing your Wi-Fi network is crucial to protect your data and privacy. By following the steps mentioned above, you can improve the security of your network and prevent unauthorized access.

**KAVEESHANDRA SINGH**

**SALEH, JULY 16**

In the recent past, the Salalah Tourism Festival has gained momentum and has become a popular event in the city.

The festival, which is held annually in July, features a variety of activities and attractions that cater to both locals and tourists. One of the highlights of the festival is the hot air balloon competition.

**Bragging rights**

Salalah Tourism Festival is considered one of the largest hot air balloon competitions in the region and attracts participants from various countries.

The festival is an excellent opportunity for visitors to experience the beauty of Salalah and its surroundings from a unique perspective.

Salalah Tourism Festival is a testament to Oman’s commitment to promoting tourism and showcasing its natural beauty to the world. The festival provides a platform for local and international businesses to promote their products and services to a large audience.

In conclusion, Salalah Tourism Festival is an event that should not be missed by anyone who loves adventure, culture, and natural beauty. It is an opportunity to experience the wonders of Salalah and its surroundings like never before.

**KAVEESHANDRA SINGH**

**SALEH, JULY 16**

In conclusion, securing your Wi-Fi network is crucial to protect your data and privacy. By following the steps mentioned above, you can improve the security of your network and prevent unauthorized access.
Sultanate eyes to have best ICV practices

PROSPECTS:
Implementation of in-country value to help in expansion of manufacturing base

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry will continue to play a major role in the formulation of the in-country value (ICV) for industrial sector, which is one of the manifestations of Oman’s industrial strategy (2040).

According to a top official, the ministry has been contemplating adoption of the best international practices in accordance with the interests of the stakeholders in the sector.

“This is to expand the national efforts aimed at ensuring continuity, sustainability, effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the ICV strategy, in cooperation with various government agencies and the private sector,” said Sami Salem Al Sahib, Director General of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The ministry is supervising preparation of ICV strategy and is looking forward to presenting it within a year.

During the work on ICV, a short-term additional commitment will be applied on companies operating in the industrial sector. However, ICV offers the possibility of reducing long-term supply chain costs while providing new opportunities for the local economy,” he said.

JOBS FOR NATIONALS
Al Sahib expressed his expectation that the implementation of the ICV would help in expansion of manufacturing base and manufacturing in the country, encourage the transfer of technology, increase employment of locals and expand the local ownership base, as well as help in increasing investments in the manufacturing sector.

The Sultanate’s gross domestic product (GDP) achieved a real growth rate of 2.9 per cent from 2015 to 2017. This is in the period when the world economy started recovering since the end of 2016. Oman’s manufacturing sector has maintained a stable growth of 2.6 per cent in the period from 2015 to 2017.

“This resulted from the initiatives launched by the National Programme for Enhancing Economic Diversification (Tafakkul) and finales to the continuous investments in the manufacturing sector in the country,” Engineer Al Sahib said.

As part of the Future Vision 2040, the government has been undertaking for a massive expansion in strategic industries and adapting Fourth Industrial Revolution, Engineer Al Sahib said.

NEW INVESTMENTS
He said the statistics showed that the purchase of the raw material by the manufacturing sector has increased year after year to be used for industrial process in the local industries. Al Sahib expressed his opinions about the important role

During the work on ICV, a short-term additional commitment will be applied on companies operating in the industrial sector. However, ICV offers the possibility of reducing long-term supply chain costs while providing new opportunities for the local economy.

SAMI SALEM AL SAHIB
Director General of Industry,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

2,184 SMEs registered in May

MUSCAT: The total number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) registered with the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Riyada) at the end of May 2019 was 2,184, which is a drop by 22 per cent compared to the same period of 2018, according to the data released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCS).

Among the governors, Muscat topped the list with 57 per cent SMEs registered in May 2019, followed by Al Batinah North with 19 per cent, Al Dakhliyah with 10 per cent, Dhofar with 7 per cent and the rest of governorates at 26 per cent.

The Governments of Muscat had 794 SMEs registered at the end of May 2018, followed by Al Batinah North with 411, Al Dakhliyah with 224, Al Batinah South with 168, Dhofar with 142 and Al Sharqiyah North with 133 SMEs registered.

This was followed by Al Baniyas with 102 SMEs, Al Sharqiyah South with 96 SMEs, and Al Buraimi with 51 SMEs registered.

Al Wusta had 33 SMEs registered and Musandam had 12 SMEs registered, which was the lowest among governorates registered in end of May 2019.

The total number of SMEs registered in the end of May 2019 was 39,673, while the number of SMEs in the end of December 2018 was 37,284 — ONA.
**Film on parenthesis to be screened**

**Medimark forum looks at advances in paediatric liver transplants**

**AC traders, consumers hail new standards**

**SUNDAY 1 JULY 2019**

**SUNDAY 1 JULY 2019**

**MUNICAT: Review of the activities of conventional banks indicates an annual growth in total outstanding credit disbursement of 4.4 per cent as at the end of April 2019. Credit to the private sector grew by 2.1 per cent to Rs 18.9 billion.**

**Conventional banks’ overall investments in securities increased by 9.0 per cent to Rs 3.4 billion. Investment in Government Treasury Bills stood at Rs 295.7 million at the end of April 2018. Aggregate deposits held with conventional banks increased by 4.7 per cent to Rs 19.8 billion in April 2019 from Rs 18.4 billion a year ago. Government deposits with conventional banks increased by 10.3 per cent to Rs 5.7 billion, while deposits of public, enterprises increased by 23.4 per cent to Rs 1.1 billion during the same period.**

Private sector deposits, which accounted for 64 per cent of total deposits with conventional banks, increased marginally by 2.7 per cent to Rs 12.7 billion. The cash corpus and reserves of conventional banks at the end of April 2019 stood at Rs 4.9 billion.

**Islamic banking:** The Islamic banking sector continued its impressive run in April 2019 as compared to April 2018. The assets of Islamic banks and Windows combined amounted to Rs 4.5 billion as at the end of April 2018.

-DNA

**STAFF REPORTER**

**MUNICAT**

**MOSUL, JULY 25**

Traders and consumers welcomed the energy efficiency labels (ACs) that will be introduced for air-conditioners (ACs) in the subcontinent from July 25.

The mandatory Oman Energy Efficiency Card System is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in accordance with the Oman Green Standard Specifications for Energy Efficiency for Air-Conditioners called GSO1235/2016.

According to a statement from the Ministry, application of the labels on the ACs will help the system of control of products through an integrated application of safety requirements.

The new ACs will provide high levels of safety for consumers and the environment.

Commenting on the new system, Ahmad bin Said al-Nasir, expert of Home products, said: “The new specifications are for the one-piece single unit window ACs and two-piece split ACs would help in electricity consumption and better electricity efficiency.”

According to him, these new types of ACs last longer than the air-conditioners with old specifications.

The older types of ACs during high temperatures lead to fans and various side effects,” he said.

The Gulf Standard specifications for energy efficiency and minimum energy efficiency requirements for air-conditioners helped achieve a number of economic objectives such as reducing the increasing demand for energy.

“That is reflected in the government investment plan for setting up power stations. Another advantage for the importers in the easy custom clearance for the shipments,” he said.

He hoped that the new ACs — new energy efficiency labels will contribute to reducing electricity consumption for different segments.

Musa bin Rashid al-Shukri, distributor of Nileq Gulf products, said that the energy efficiency labels will help consumers choose better quality and reliable ACs.

He pointed out that thanks to the new features the new ACs will also help reduce the cost of electricity consumption and increase the safety of consumers.

Hamdan bin Nasser al-Shukri, a consumer, said that the air-conditioning system, of late, has seen significant improvements.

“This is due to the increased demand and diverse use in homes and institutions. Consumers also have the choice of different brands thanks to the emergence of more manufacturers from different countries,” he said.

At the same time, he said that there are also problems like use of poor quality wires, leakage of gas and damaging of switches etc in the ACs.

The new energy efficiency labels will now ensure supply of better ACs,” he hoped.

Hamdan bin Nasser Al-Salafi from Oman Marketing and Services Company (Omanco) said that the energy efficiency labels will help consumers choose the AC that suit their needs including less consumption of electricity, high quality performance and long life.

“The new air-conditioners will also help in reducing electronic and electrical waste as well as cut in the creation of CO2.”

ACs with more stars are more efficient as well as they lower the consumption of electricity, he said.

**STAFF REPORTER**

**MOSUL, JULY 25**

A short film on parenthesis, its various misconceptions and expectations, and how society has misinterpreted it will be the theme of a short film, “The Judgement Day,” to be presented at the Italian Embassy followed by an engaging debate on Monday.

Produced by Himalaya, a non-profit organisation for the promotion of art and culture, and directed by Ashim Ray, the film promises an engaging discussion that will be held under the auspices of Oman Society for Film and Theatre (OSFT).

“This is a humble effort to bring out the realities of heat practices in parenting and how a neglected childhood can have a long-term impact on children’s overall growth.”

Dr. S. Prathapkumar, founder and Chairman of Brindavan Arts and Cultural Foundation, said: “Our society is a paradise for a male came like parenthesis for the good of society. Media has a greater role to play in this to educate society regarding the representation of the OPPT.”

The film will further shed light on responsibleparenthood, drug abuse, business elimination of human justice beliefs on manhood.

Commented in 2010, Brindavan has been into all sorts of art and cultural formats including Hindustani tukut, Ragas Malaka, winter workshop for children, painting and photography competitions, production of a short film ‘To be or No To Ik in 2010 against child abuse, a contributing project called Пане и Пане with Oman Society for Fine Arts, India,”

Dhananjay, the director of the film, said: “The film was made for the following:

1. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
2. To make the audience realise the importance of children in society.
3. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
4. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
5. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
6. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
7. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
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9. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.
10. To make the audience aware of the importance of children in society.

**STAFF REPORTER**

**MOSUL, JULY 25**

Modern advances in the field of liver transplantation were showcased at the latest medical forum hosted by Muscat Family Physicians in association with Global Treatment Services at the Hiln Garden Inn, Al Khwaraz last week.

Around 48 medical personnel, including paediatric surgeons, paediatric hepatopancreaticobiliary, internists, paediatricians and family physicians attended the event.

The key presenters were Dr. Shaker Varma, senior Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist and Transplant Surgeon at Max Hospital (New Delhi), who spoke on paediatric Liver Transplants. The talk covered liver and other organ transplantation and explored other themes, criteria for choosing a liver donor, patients requiring liver transplants, donor surgery, liver biopsy, hepatojugular reflux (intrahepatic portal vein) and recipient organ morphogy.

Dr Varma also discussed examples of liver transplant cases handled at the Centre for Liver & Biliary Sciences, at Max Hospital, New Delhi.

Thinking Dr Varma for his talk, Dr. Sanjay Dahi, Coordinator – Muscat Family Physicians, commented: “Our objective is to bring in experts in different fields of healthcare with unique experience and treatment options. We are proud that our Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme is the longest running initiative of its kind in Oman by any private health establishment. It is also free for the local medical fraternity.”

Dr Dahi al thanked the Department of Primary Health Establishments Affairs (Ministry of Health) and Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB) for their support.

**STAFF REPORTER**

**MOSUL, JULY 25**

**SAVE ENERGY AND BE SAFE: New ACs will provide high levels of safety for consumers and environment**

**MOSUL, JULY 25**

**NEWSTAND**

**MOSUL, JULY 25**

**IOMANAL DAILY**
Salalah: The ongoing Salalah Tourism Festival 2019, which will continue until August 22, is one of the major cultural and entertaining festivals in the region that coincides with the tourism season in the Governorate of Dhofar, locally known as Salalah Tourism Festival.

The festival showcases the touristic, heritage, cultural and social potentials that the Salumite enjoys in general and the Governorate of Dhofar in particular. The festival targets visitors and tourists from all governorates of the Sultanate and the GCC countries.

This year’s festival programme includes many activities and events highlighting various religious, economic, historic, social, cultural, sports, leisure and artistic fields, as well as launch of a variety of new events.

Mohammad bin Oman Al Rosan, General Supervisor of the Festival Department in Dhofar Municipality, highlighted the efforts exerted by all government and private institutions to make the activities and events of the Salalah Tourism Festival a success.

He pointed out that Dhofar Municipality has provided all the facilities for the Recreation Committee, such as theatre, sponsoring companies, the Heritage Village, the electric and scenic playgrounds, the consumer exhibition site and the rest of the centre’s facilities in general.

He expressed the keenness of the festival to set up various activities and events outside the site of the municipality’s Recreation Centre, in cooperation with the private sector, as the Ballroom Caravan in Salalh and the activities of Dhofar Tourism Village along with Atlas Land Park, the ‘Friends of the Municipality’ site in the Bani Anas, as well as the family activities at Taqah and Mutrah parks.

CEREMONY ON JULY 13
Al Rosan said that the Ballroom Caravan is one of the most important events of this year’s festival, which is held for the first time from July 20 to August 25, organized by Saloum Group, in collaboration with the committees government authorities and the private sector.

Al Rosan said that the Organizing Committee of Salalah Tourism Festival will hold a national ceremony on July 23 at the Al Manar Theatre entitled ‘Omaniy Night’. It will also organise a national march in the city hall to celebrate the Blessed Renaissance Day.

Al Rosan said that Dhofar Municipality will organise an opera in early next months to celebrate the crowning of Salalah City as the Capital of the Arab Resorts of 2019. He added that the municipality has harmonized arrangements and modern technologies for this event, which emboldens the celebration of the Salumite in general and the Governorate of Dhofar in particular.

He said the programme ‘Nights of the Festival’ includes a variety of programmes, including the Salalah Tourism Festival for the locally called ‘70 Bars’ traditional performances, which is held for the seventh time, in addition to the second edition of the Oman Folkkore song.

He pointed out the programme will host local GCC and Arab artists and actors. Competitions, raffles and a variety of concerts by artists from the Sultanate and the Arab world will also be held.

The festival includes exhibitions and awareness, educational service and medical services of some government institutions, private sector companies, Oman Women’s Associations and craft centres. Some exhibitions are held throughout the festival, others on a specific period of time.

LAND OF PEACE EXHIBITION
Al Rosan said that the ‘Oman Land of Friendship and Peace’ exhibition, which is held annually, includes 120 different paintings of His Majesty the Sultan, including the Royal Visit to the People Farmers and the Royal audiences to leaders of brotherhood and friendship, in addition to various aspects of the Blessed Renaissance century.

He added that the exhibition has witnessed during the previous sessions a high turnout of tourists due to its national goal, messages of peace and patriotism, and love for the country’s leaders.

The organizing committee is keen on holding cultural and religious events, the major ones are the 7th Holy Quran Memory Festival and the Festival of Photography and Fine Arts, in addition to the competition of the Madinat Theatre Festival — ONA

86 per cent of domestic, regional tourists choose to travel by road

VINO NIOR
WADAD, July 13

Flights to Salalah are not only only but also save nearly 10 hours of travel time. Despite these obvious advantages, nearly 86 per cent of travelers, especially domestic and regional tourists, prefer to travel by road.

It may be noted that the Muscat-Salah road, namely the Adam Bani, remains a very difficult task, especially for anyone major road accidents over the past 10 years, including fatalities involving children.

According to statistics from 86,251 visitors to Salalah (as of July 16, 2019) arrived by road, according to official statistics.

Arabian News is to be partially blamed for this preference for the road over the air. One-way flights from Salalah to Muscat are in the range of RO 25 and RO 322 depending on the dates and flight times.

A few years ago when the new budget airline started operations to Salalah from Muscat, they offered one-way fares starting around RO 15 or even less. But that has changed and today fares start from RO 50 and above even during off-season seasons” said Mustafa Al Rabeei, a technician in the hospitality sector.

He added “I have a family of five including parents and you can imagine the amount I have to pay for flights. I agree that road travel can be risky and traumatic but they imagine the amount of money you save.”

Salma Panjwani has a similar tale: “I have improved with new that facilities such as Wi-Fi. At the same, long drives are more prone to risks due to fatigue and factor and night travel. For fighters to be popular, artisans have to be competitive.”

According to travel operators, flights to Salalah continue to have good load factors despite high fares. “Arab nationals travel with large families in large vehicles and going by statistics most of the visitors to Salalah are other Omanis or other GCC nations. It is quite natural for them to prefer road trips. It also helps them to do some shopping within Salalah,” said Thomas, a travel executive.

From 86,251 visitors to Salalah, as of July 16, 44,631 Omanis were Omanis followed by 8,300 Indians, 5,777 Tunisians, 4,844 Arab nationals, 1,807 Qatars, 1,659 Bahrainis, 1,168 Kuwaitis, 1,287 Europeans and 9,275 Asians.

According to National Centre for Statistics and Informatics (NCS), the number of visitors by the end of the second week of Salalah tourism season (June 31 to July 6) increased by 971, from which 11,982 tourists have arrived via the Governorate of Dhofar through the land post, while 3,126 tourists have arrived via the air.

The visitors to the Governorate of Dhofar via international flights increased from 1,760 visitors during the first week of the season to 3,782 visitors during the second week. The NCS statistics also show that the GCC nations, including Omanis, accounted for 80.3 per cent of the total number of the visitors of Salalah tourism season until the second week of the season.
Over 20,000 rally in Moscow as election anger boils over

RESENTMENT: Protesters gather after authorities refused to register independent politicians

PESHAWAR: Voters in the turbulent tribal areas of northwestern Pakistan went to the polls on Saturday for the first provincial election since the region lost the semi-autonomous status it had held since the British colonial era.

The former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), a mountainous cluster of seven districts and one town along the Afghan border that resisted efforts at control for centuries, was demoted into the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa last May.

The result of the vote for the provincial assembly is unlikely to have much direct impact on national politics or Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government in Islamabad.

But the election marks a significant milestone for a region that has been a byword for unrest since British times, as well as for the millions of refugees in the region who have spent years in what many regard as a purgatory of insecurity.

“It is a historic day,” said Aamir Wara, the government’s advisor on the tribal areas. “The polling process is continuing smoothly.”

The election will see 33 seats contested by 285 candidates from all the major national parties as well as independent. But the nature of how parliamentary democracy can be brought to a region that was for centuries governed by often harsh tribal customs has added uncertainty to the process.

Tens of thousands of troops and police have been put on the streets to prevent the polling day but there were many complaints of vote rigging and influence peddling by some of the candidates and their supporters.

“It’s not the first time we are electing, the representation is in the provincial assembly but unfortunately most of the candidates are simply spending money on their political campaigns and then forgetting about the people,” said one tribalman, Bilal Rahman Afridi, in an interview with the editorial staff of the Pakistan’s leading English-language daily. “How can they serve us when they are elected on the wealth of the country?” he asked.

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Zambians march against corruption

LUSAKA: Hundreds of people in casual T-shirts rallied on Saturday in Zambia’s capital to protest against the government.

The protestors, led by prominent anti-poverty activists Laura Miti and mother of five Pheko Lujongo — to protest against a government proposal to have the local anti-poverty organization disbanded — were defeated outside the parliament, singing anti-government songs and waving yellow flags.

“This is just the beginning of our struggle,” Lujongo, who is leader of an anti-poverty organization called Alliance for Community Action, told the journalists.

“We will not accept the country to be destroyed while we watch.

“We can’t have a few people that are getting rich and the majority are poor. This country that birthed the problems is how it is being governed,” she said.

She claimed that some 10,000 people have lost their jobs in the past one year and that more than 40,000 houses each with six members of Zambezi have been affected.

The demonstrators called for the formation of a new government, an end to corruption, a ban on demonstrations and for members of parliament to resign in violation of a constitutional amendment.

“We are calling on the President and the government to resign,” said Lujongo. ---

Bosnia buries 86 victims of war recovered from grisly ravine

People carry coffins during a mass funeral in the village of Hamburska, near Prijevor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on Saturday. -- Reuters

HAMBURSKA, BOSNIA: Thousands of relatives from Bosnia and across Europe gathered in the village of Hamburska for the burial of the Bosnian Muslims on Saturday, 27 years after they were killed and dumped in a ravine in one of the most gruesome incidents of the Bosnian war.

The victims, mainly prisoners from the notorious detention camps for non-Serbs near the town of Prijevor, were told they would be released in a prisoner exchange but instead were driven to the Konjic Ravine, doused in fuel and set on fire by the edge of the ravine and shot by Bosnian Serb forces in August 1992.

Juna Tomicic, standing by five coffins draped in green cloth which held the remains of her father, brother, two cousins and uncle in the near Saraceni village, said their bodies were found only last year.

“It feels like all happened yesterday, the anguish remains the same,” she said.

Only a dozen of around 200 men survived the massacre of those who were being dragged by bulldozers or tangled in stakes through the ravine.

The victims were recovered under police orders rather than by conceal evidence of the atrocity.

Eleven Bosnian Serb en-
**Turkey:** A New banker arrested for plotting to help Iran evade American sanctions. The banker’s arrest, if proved, is the latest in a series of arrests and seizures of Iranian assets in recent years, including the freezing of $2 billion in Iran’s oil accounts in Turkey.

**Iran:** Authorities arrested the suspected individuals, including a senior military officer, in connection with a plot to assassinate the country’s defense minister. The operation was thwarted by the country’s intelligence services.

**South Sudan:** Regional tensions are rising as South Sudanese farmers report an increase in attacks by armed groups in the country’s border areas.

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**Iraq:** Kurdish authorities have arrested two suspects in the killing of a Turkish diplomat. The suspects were linked to a Kurdish militant group.

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**Syria:** Syrian authorities have arrested a Turkish diplomat in connection with the killing of a Kurdish journalist. The diplomat was reportedly involved in the recruitment of Kurdish fighters for Turkey.

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**Turkey:** Turkish authorities have arrested a businessman suspected of plotting to help Iran evade American sanctions. The businessman was involved in a scheme to launder money through Turkish banks.

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**SECURITY UP AT HK BOOK FAIR**

**DOOM TOLL RISES TO 12 AFTER CHINA GAS PLANT BLAST**

**Fukushima beach opens to swimmers 8 years after N-disaster**

**Thousands rally in support of Hong Kong police**

**N Korea slams Japan over its trade spat with Seoul**

**TRADE WOES: Tokyo has restricted the export of several chemicals to South Korea crucial to its world-leading chip and smartphone firms.**

**SEOUL:** South Korea has hit back after a Japanese move to restrict the export of several chemicals to South Korea crucial to its world-leading chip and smartphone firms.

**South Korean protestors take a selfie with placards reading “No Abe!” during a protest in Tokyo.**

South Korea has repeatedly warned the South to stop “bullying” in nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington, but sided with Seoul for its trade row with Tokyo.

Japan is one of the most hawkish of the major powers on the nuclear-armed North — who leader Kim Jong Un agreed to in a surprise of dialogue with Tokyo and Seoul.

North Korea said the “political motivations” behind the restrictions have caused an “impermissible emergency” for South Korea’s export-driven economy.

North Korea has threatened to react to Japan’s trade restrictions over the nuclear programme. **A Thai anti-junta protest hits back at fresh legal troubles**

**BANGKOK:** A Thai anti-junta protest hit back against sanctions it is accusing of “undermining the monarchy”, a day after the popular party hit back on Saturday against the political group that “clearly” misused the constitutional monarchy, a statement said late Friday.

Future Forward has 15 days to “clarify” the matter, but it has also hit back, saying it is the party that is falsely attacking the junta regime very guilty. Party spokeswoman Pannika Wanich called it a “political case” and denied the accusations.

It is the 25th case to be filed by the opposition, Pannika said, adding it was obvious “this election results can’t be trusted.”

Future Forward remains bitterly divided after 15 years of coups, violent protests and direct rule governments lead to a limiting rivalry between an anti-military coalition — enmeshed in a seemingly intractable political conflict — and parties supported by the middle-class elite.

A damaged cut is seen near the site of an explosion at the Honen Coal Gas Factory in Yima city in China’s central Henan province. — AFP

**BEIJING:** The death toll from a huge blast that rocked a coal mine in central China rose to 12, state media said Saturday, with three people still missing.

Friday night’s blast at the Honen Coal Gas Factory left another 15 people seriously wounded and more with light injuries, official news agency Xinhua said.

The blast hit the underground workings and debris of buildings in a three-kilometre radius.

It occurred in the air separation unit of Henan Coal’s factory, state news agency Xinhua said on Friday night, describing the explosion as being caused by “a column of black smoke”. The factory is able to produce 1.5 million cubic metres of coal-based gas per day.

Other images showed the doors of homes blown out and shattered windows with dark smoke and debris filling the roads.

Local media showed amateur videos of a massive column of black smoke following from the factory and debris littering the road.

Local media showed amateur videos of a massive column of black smoke following from the factory and debris littering the road.

Deadly industrial accidents are frequent in China, where safety regulations are often poorly enforced.

In March, a blast at a chemical plant in eastern Jiangsu province killed 76 people and injured hundreds, according to Kyodo.

Child play whitewater during the opening of the Kita Beach to the members of the public at Kita beach in Miyazaki city, southern Kyushu. — Kyodo

Local resident Sawada Miwao was walking on the beach with her husband and their three children, Kyodo News agency reported.

“I opened the water at the beach, we saw a splash in the water and surfers battled protesters hurling projectiles at them for the first time in the 2011 nuclear disaster.”

A cheering crowd came back to the fisheries beach about 25 kilometres north of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station on Saturday after the city of Minamisoma officially started to allow people to come there. The beach was very popular among surfers as they had held national and world championships before the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Beach was very popular among surfers as they had held national and world championships before the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Debates and 130 videos were made of nostalgia, “Mori said with a smile, according to Kyodo.

Born in March, the blaze in water as waves crashed, and others... it was so extreme, “ said Sunny Leung, saying 316,000 attended.

Police estimated a turnout of 316,000 attended, while local media cited organisers as saying 400,000 people were present as they battled protesters hurling projectiles at them for the first time in the 2011 nuclear disaster.

“We’re not playing, we’re not having fun,” said a skier, according to Kyodo.

As Hong Kong has been rocked by more than a month of protests, police have become embroiled in a sombre irreparable cycle of batting protesters who have continued to hit the lei for hours in huge numbers for weeks. Demonstrators and rights groups have accused riot police of using excessive force, including tear gas and rubber bullets, and public anger against the force is rising.

Police insist their crowd control responses have been proportionate and joint officers as problems that a hardliner committee of politicians mean them harm.

Some of the most violent clashes occurred last Saturday when riot police battled protesters hurling projectiles inside a luxury mall. Some 28 people were injured, including 18 police.

There is growing frustration among the police force’s exhausted rank and file that neither the city’s leaders, nor Beijing, seem to have any ideas how to end the crisis.

Several of Sunday’s edition of Hong Kong’s pro-government newspaper Ta Kung Pao Rang, front page encouraging use of the helmet “Kick away the violence.” — AFP

A 500-page collection of photos taken in Tamah Park outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong. — AFP

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JULY 21 l 2019

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SUNDAY

JULY 21 I 2019
ED gets 3-day custody of Ponzi scamster

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2 days mourning, state funeral announced for Dikshit

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Centre appoints six new Governors, Anandiben transferred to UP

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BENGALURU: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday got the custody of former CMD of VVIP choppers’ founder and prime accused in the video-con Tuex scam, Manoj Khaz from a Bengaluru court for a joint probe with the SIT, as official said.

Priyanka ends dharna, to return to Delhi via Varanasi

Priyanka Gandhi ends dharna and decides to go to New Delhi via Varanasi.

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OMAHANDAYOBSERVER  
SUNDAY | JULY 21, 2019

MONSOON WOES HIT UP

NIA conducts searches across Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday searched several locations in Madurai (Tiruchirapalli), Kanyakumari and Chennai for the integration of 16 terror suspects, including 14 along the coast in Tamil Nadu.

The search operations were started after the NIA court granted those 16 suspect’s bail in the case for eight days.

The agency raided residences of Mohammed Abidi, Mohammed Tawfiq, Matloob Khan, Gulum Nabi Kuthi, Ashraff Arareen, Yousuf Arar, Muhammad Mihr, Mohammad Alvi, Abdullah Ahamed, Manthoor, Uttar Wafi, Mohd. Shafiq, Usual Haradem, Razaq Shafiq and others.

The anti-terror probe agency official said each search was conducted at five places in the Kanyakumari district, two in the Tiruchirappalli district and one each in Chennai, Trincomalee, Madurai cities and the Tirunelveli, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur districts.

The agency has conducted 13 laptop, seven mobile phones, five SIM cards, three memory cards, one hand drive, two pens, a computer internet dongle, nine CD/DVDs and about 110 documents. — IANS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government announced two-day state mourning for former chief minister Sheila Dikshit, who died on Saturday, and also to accord her a state funeral.

The Delhi government has decided to observe a two-day state mourning as a mark of respect in the memory of former chief minister and veteran leader Sheila Dikshit. She will be accorded a state funeral. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind passed away at a private hospital here following a cardiac arrest. She was 81.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the first to condoled the demise of Dikshit.

Her heart condition was the family members and her supporter. May god give strength to her family in this hour of grief and last respect to the departed soul.”

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted: “The passing away of former Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Sheila Dikshit is deeply saddening. She was a tall Delhi leader known for her Congregational nature. Delhi will miss widely respected cutting across party lines. My thoughts are with her family and supporters. Om Shanti.”

Subramanian Swamy, senior advocate and member of the BJP, said: “Sheila Dikshit was a tremendous contribution to the city of Delhi and millions of people in the city. Her absence will be deeply felt. Personally, I am very sad today. It is a very sad day.”

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar said, “Held funeral of the former chief minister Sheila Dikshit. She was loved and respected by all the party workers. She played an important role in the party’s growth and development.”

oom! Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal said, “A woman of great might has left us. She was a true leader.”

The party released a picture of Dikshit with a message: “Sheila Dikshit passed away peacefully on the morning of July 21. She was a leader without parallel and our party lost a great leader. But the spirit of Sheila Dikshit generates hope and courage for the future.”
When you’re smiling, the world smiles with you.

Life challenges us often and without warning, so we should revel in the release that laughter, even smiles, offer us.

I don’t look for laughter, happiness, or joy, but I do find them quite often if I must be patient and just love to be the lighter side of life. I often think that many don’t, or don’t often enough.

In fact, just a walk down the street is sometimes enough.

You see, in the quaint, and very charming English towns of Barrack Castle, I found a sidewalk sandwich shop on a specialty chocolate shop with this wonderful parable of the 96 classic tune “Sweet Dreams Are Made Of This” by Annie Lennox. “Sweet dreams are made of cheese, who are the ‘I’d be a’ for? The feta cheese, the feta cheese. Everybody’s lookin’ for it. Honestly, you’ve got to smile, whether you’re a ‘cheese’ kinda person or not. It’s in the ‘change’ bizarre, musical, and I think alluding to Neil Young’s ‘A Horse With No Name,’ one in America real. ‘I’m just settle’ that, you would think at some point even the the doors he could have given the horse a name couldn’t fail her.

And there is philosophy, grains of truth, irony and enough assurance to stick a ship. How about this beauty?

“Unfounded children will die. Expresso and it’s fine tunes.” That’s ya simply prison. Can you imagine? It’s sort of a threat and a promise all at once, that says “control your kids.” Oh! Plus, jumps around the world are fantastic ground for imaginative ‘boasting’ too. This one, “Pizz’a not only CHEAT on you, LIE to you, DEFRAUD you, STEAL from you, or call you STUPID!” I think, that alludes to a frustration politician (whom) relationship was badly wrong, don’t your think? Say anything, how about, “Buy one burrito for the price of two, and get one free!”

Many focus on those of us with weight issues, but not in a bullying manner. I don’t think, as those were light-hearted.

“You can run away from your problems, but it will help if you lose weight.” Oh! “Two people are harder to kick in the ass!” I don’t know (in the East, North, fish and chips are a ‘saint eat’, usually with battered and deep fried fish and chips, or also Cadburys, both are just lovely and this sign attracted a few to the Cadburys, or Sharps/Crisps. Shalal is NOT EVER even to be mentioned!”

A dose of reality is provided by this one, “This is not a hardware shop. We all think we are intelligent and smart until we try to use someone else’s shorope.”

When I am thinking, I am working, and I know, that I am working, but I am walking, and I know, that I am walking, but I am working.

Former allies are Erdogan’s new threat

Erdogan and Davutoglu may establish their own political parties to challenge the Islamic-rooted AKP that dominated Turkish politics this century

When asked if he was disappointed by Babacan, Davutoglu and Gul, Erdogan responded with extreme euphoria. “For the love of Allah, should this question be asked? If one is not disappointed with them, who would be disappointed with?” But he said previous MPs had left the party and been largely forgotten.

TACKLING THE ECONOMY

The AKP came to power after the Turkish economy suffered a severe financial crisis in 2001, and needed an International Monetary Fund loan to emerge from the embitter.

Eighty years later, Turkey is again in an economic dilemma. According to WEF, the worst of any party launched by Babacan will likely depend on the extent to which it offers concrete plans for tackling Turkey’s economic and political problems.

Erdogan and the AKT set up in 2007, have won every general election since coming to power in 2002. But after 25 years of the AKP and its predecessors running Turkey, the economy’s a country’s powerhouse is now in the hands of the opposition, despite a controversial push by the ruling party to send it to a vote.

Erdogan still commands widespread loyalty particularly in the provinces, said Emre Erdogan, producer of the political drama series “House of Hope,” on Turkish University, and no relation to the president.

But he said any new challenge could be “irresistible” to Erdogan challenges at the next election, given the presidential candidates must win, over parity of the vote. — AFP

Battle for change far from over for women in new Sudan

CLARE DOWEN

he may have spent 40 days in jail for demonstrating against President Omar Al Bashir who has since been toppled but activist Aatima Osman says the battle for women is far from over.

Women have been at the forefront of the revolt which led to Bashir’s overthrow by the military on April 11 after three decades of iron-fisted rule. Osman, who was arrested on the evening of January 12 and accused to be “the fragile” a genus interrogations who peri kept with extreme
doctrine.

There are no women’s rights in this country, she said that if there is no change. In a country where there they have much.

Another activist, Fatima Mohamed, 21, took part each day in protests at a camp – outside the army headquarters in central Khartoum that became the epicentre of the anti-Bashir rallies.

Her aim was “to have the voice of women heard” in a Muslim country where she “can’t go out alone, stay alone or drive the way I want to.” Basha Bashir alcano is a singing symbol of the protest movement after a picture of her in a white robe leading chanting crowds from her car went viral on social media.

Urgent which has griped Sudan since broad trends in December that led to the anti-Bashir uprisings left scars on the away.

Directors linked to the protest movement say 246 people have been killed since the nationwide uprising, including 127 people on Jan. 5 when armed men raided the protest camp in Khartoum. “We will never ever come for our rights, we will fight to obtain them,” said Osman, stressing that women wanted 40 percent of seats in parliament.

Amna Abofah, a professor of English at the all-female Ahlia University in Omdurman, Khartoum town, city said, “This movement is an opportunity for women to show their voice.”

For Osman, Bashir “touched” due rates for three decades to opposing women, but it can now be a time for steering to government that will enable equality, she said — AFP

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this page are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the official views of the Observer.
Belgrade. Serbia's president has called Kosovo PM's resignation a "trick".

The announcement came after a tense meeting between Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti and opposition leaders. It follows months of political instability and a string of resignations.

EU officials are watching closely to see if the new government can hold together and make progress on EU integration.

The announcement comes as Serbia and Kosovo continue to negotiate a peace agreement. The two countries have been divided for decades, with Serbia opposing Kosovo's independence.

Source: Reuters
NEW YORK: A massive heat wave that has enveloped the US Midwest pushed into the Northeast, sucking in temperatures that could top 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) in Washington and prompting utilities to urge people to prevent power outages. The huge blast of warm air is likely to continue to affect many regions, home to a third of the US population, through Sunday, with hot temperatures expected to last through the weekend. The forecast also warned of storms that could bring thunderstorms and heavy rain to the region.

WEATHER WOES: The dangers posed by extreme heat and humidity prompted officials to scrap outdoor competitions. Over 1,200 weather stations across the US were不会 warn of excessive heat, according to the National Weather Service. The high temperatures could lead to heat-related illnesses and deaths, particularly among vulnerable populations such as the elderly, young children, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

The dangers posed by extreme heat and humidity prompted officials to scrap outdoor competitions. As temperatures soar, the Environ...
NEW YORK: Nearly 50 years after man's first steps on the Moon, researchers have discovered a way that may help astronauts spending prolonged time in space come back to Earth on more stable footing.

Orbital hypotension is the technical term for a temporary drop in blood pressure when a person stands up after sitting or lying down because blood rushes to the feet, away from the brain.

Dizziness or fainting due to changes in blood flow can occur after lengthy bed rest, among people with certain health disorders or in the case of astronauts, being in a low-gravity environment.

“One of the biggest problems since the inception of the manned space programme has been that astronauts have fainted when they came down to Earth. The longer the time in a gravity-free environment, the greater the risk,” said Benjamin Levine, Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Centre in the US.

“This problem has bedevilled the space programme for a long time, but they didn’t have any, “ Levine said.

Orbital hypotension is a common occurrence during and after routine activities, as long as they participate in certain types of exercise training while in flight and receive IV fluids when they return to Earth.

“What surprised me the most was how well the astronauts did after spending six months in space. I thought there would be frequent episodes of fainting when they returned to Earth, but they didn’t have any,” Levine said.

The researchers found that there was minimal impact on their blood pressure during all phases of post-flight monitoring and none of the astronauts in the study experienced dizziness or fainting during routine activities 24 hours after landing. This is the first study to demonstrate that astronauts do not experience dizziness or fainting during routine activity after landing, as long as they participate in certain types of exercise training while in flight and receive IV fluids when they return to Earth.

The study included 12 astronauts (eight men and four women, aged 43-56) who spent about six months in space. All performed individualised endurance and resistance exercise training for up to two hours daily during space flight to prevent cardiovascular, bone and muscle deconditioning. They also received a saline infusion upon landing.

The astronauts’ blood pressure was recorded with every heartbeat over each 24-hour period before, during and after their time in space.

The researchers found that there was minimal impact of exercise training on blood pressure. The astronauts received I.V. fluids upon landing.

The researchers found that there was minimal impact of exercise training on blood pressure.
**Business**

**Renaissance Day Prizes with BankDhofar Savings Account!**

OMR 1,000,000 for 5 winners

Guaranteed prizes for every branch! Bigger prizes available!

**SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2019 | DHL QAADA 18, 1440 AH**

**CONRAD PARAVU**

**Musk, July 23**

With shipping lines levying insurance surcharges in the form of "risk premiums" on ships visiting Omani ports, local cargo importers and importers impacted by the measures are seeing the implications of the additional costs on their bottom-line. A protected application of the measures, some market analysts have warned, could force the affected businesses to pass on the surcharge to their customers.

As many as a dozen prominent container shipping lines have announced war risk surcharges, ranging from $36 to $52 per TEU of container cargo on vessels transiting the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman, effective from the start of this month.

The shipping lines in the wake of a flurry of attacks on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and Sea of Oman over the past two months. Higher insurance costs could potentially hurt the margins of some players, especially the ones that are still running their vessels.

"Ultimately, the cargo owner — whether an importer or exporter — will have to shoulder the extra costs. But if this additional cost burden on him is prolonged, he will have no choice but to offload it to consumers," said M C Joshi, CIO — Ramada Shipping & Logistics, one of the largest shipping agencies and service providers in the Sultanate.

"Speaking to the Observer, Joshi said the new war risk levy is not limited to ships calling Omani ports or plying Omani territorial waters, but covers shipping transiting the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman.

Consequently, the levy impacts ships calling at ports in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq and Iran. Significantly, nearly all of the loading and unloading carriers operating out of and into the Arabian Gulf have added this charge to their rates.

**NEW PLATFORM:**

Spot market will increase competition in the power generation market, and make available additional capacity that might otherwise not be readily accessible through the existing procurement channel: OPWP

"We have to bring new players to the table to bring in competitive forces. The OPWP has announced that it will issue a tender for the supply of all types of power, and this will bring in new players to the market," said OSAMA ALMIYADHY, power and energy sector expert.

"The SOEs have been able to meet the demand for power, but they are not in a position to meet the increasing demand for power, and this is where the opportunity lies for new players to come in," he added.

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BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT — Within the framework of efforts to support the national campaign on the Electronic Census of Population, the Muscat Municipality has engaged in the trans-message, distribution, supply and procurement of electricity and its related water services, has urged customers to update and revise their electricity billing data. The update can be done through the Muma’s various channels, websites of its electricity distribution companies, its offices and call centres.

The required data to be updated and retrieved are account number of the electricity bill, account holder's name and another cell number as well as the contact numbers and e-mail. Concerning the required documents, the tenant must submit an official lease contract from the municipality, and the owner of the establishment should provide ownership (Maktaba) of the land or establishment and any other documents. The customer has to contact any distribution company of Namco Group, which provides electricity in its region, whether in Muscat Company, Masco Electricity Company, Misfah Distribution Company, Dibdor Power Company, and Taiwani.

Updating data of electricity bills will ensure proper delivery of the bills and notification to the tenants or owners of the buildings, as well as communicating directly with them in emergency cases. Further, the procedure will support in providing bills with actual readings and avoiding any transfer of arrears of the previous tenant. The whole process will help achieving customer satisfaction and improving the flow of services.

Nama Group will play a significant role in collecting the required data, which will be processed based on statistical classifications and best practices last by end of 2020. The Electronic Census of Population, Houseings and Establishments 2020 was launched based on Royal Order 15/2019, issued on May 5, 2019. The project aims to promote statistical indicators by end of 2020 to provide decision-making according to the 8th Census in 2020 for the fourth century to be implemented by the Sultanate since the Renaissance. The previous censuses were based on head surveys, the most recent being in 2015.

Continuing to offer the very best solutions to its corporate customers, Omersol has signed a partnership agreement with digital solutions provider, Zephyr International Business Service (ZIBS). The agreement is set to provide a range of digital signage and information solutions within the realms of digital display and robotics. These services will be delivered with the highest quality standards in every aspect of the business to Omersol’s SME and corporate customers, as part of the telecom company’s efforts to support businesses and maintain their potential.


**Business Alert**

Bank Muscat’s RO 1.5m al Mazyona mid-year drew on July 24

**MUSCAT**: Bank Muscat, the flagship financial services provider in the Sultanate, in step with its “To serve you better, every day and commitment to partnership in promoting a strong savings culture in Oman, is celebrating the growing savings culture among its customers by offering an attractive one-year al Mazyona savings prize on draw on July 24 at the general session during the currently ongoing Falajah Festival. The special prizes of five RO 14 lucky winners with high-value prizes ranging from RO 1500 to RO 6000, have been distributed.

The mid-year al Mazyona draw offers over RO 1.5 million in prizes, including two special prizes of RO 250,000 each, two special prizes of RO 150,000 each reserved for Aalidi Priority Banking customers, and two special prizes of RO 75,000 each reserved for RO 75,000 Al Mazyona account holders over the past five years, and one special prize of RO 30,000 each, while Al Madeen customers are eligible to vote on ten of the prizes of RO 4,000 each in the draw.

Seaward customers are eligible to vote on five of the prizes of RO 10,000 each for 28 regional winners.

For the past 25 years, Al Mazyona has received numerous customers and enriched their lives. Continuing with the tradition of rewarding customers, the bank has started a new mid-year al Mazyona draw with RO 1.5 million on offer during the draw at the Salalah Festival Gardens. With a total of RO1.5 million to be won throughout the year, Al Mazyona is designed to transform the lives of the prizewinners. The scheme is targeted to accommodate all nationalities and segments, including ladies, youth, children, high-savings balances, customers and salary account holders, thereby instilling a strong savings habit among customers who will be financially responsible.

Bank Muscat is conducting the special mid-year draw campaign, Al Mazyona 2020, this year to promote the amount of savings for its customers. Al Mazyona has succeeded in instilling a strong savings culture in Oman over the last 25 years, by rewarding numerous customers and enriching their lives. Oman’s flagship savings scheme, which has the largest prize money on offer in the country at RO 50,000 for the finale of this year’s running continues to reward prudently and financially responsible savings habit among millions of customers. The bank has lined up a whopping 4,077 high-value prizes during the entire year, which will be distributed to the happy customers from all over the kingdom.

**Ooredoo partners with Synchronised Business Solutions**

HYUNDAI Motor has featured its full lineup of high-performance vehicles at the Nürburgring 24 Hours Race for the 4th consecutive year held in the Nürburgring circuit as part of its 2015-2020 five-year plan to mark its 100th anniversary. The full lineup of high-performance cars has been showcased at the circuit to demonstrate Hyundai’s strong capabilities in performance driving. The performance vehicle lineup, which is estimated to be sold in the target market in the next five years, with each brand in its class and in overall sales, is designed to become a trendsetter of the 21st century.

The Nürburgring 24 Hours Race took place in Nürburg, Germany, recently, in which Hyundai featured its lineup of performance vehicles including the ‘07 N’ TCR, ‘09 Veloster N’ and ‘15 F3.0 Bath. The Nürburgring circuit is an iconic racetrack that is known for its technical challenges and is the home of automotive companies which is a platform to test and showcase their cars’ best performance in terms of reliability, performance and speed.

**Dive in luxury with the Rolex Oyster Perpetual Sea-Dweller**

The name Rolex has been synonymous with the brand since 1957 when the name was registered to the company. A master of gold and steel, Rolex combines the mobility and luxury of its nautical origins with the reliability and reputation of the future. The Rolex Oyster Perpetual Sea-Dweller was introduced in 1967.

**Make a mark with the powerful Ford Mustang**

**FORD** - very easily do people make a lasting impression even before their arrival. But in the Ford Mustang, the impression is made and makes it stick all the while with absolute ease.

Leasing solutions that enhance experiences in it and personalise its engineering, the Mustang is all equipped to give the edge on any journey. The Mustang is available with an exclusive 400-horsepower 5.0 liter V8 engine, 10-speed automatic, 10-speed manual, remote start system and paddle shifters, plus distinctive design and trim. An option includes a 6-speed M-Tech 6-speed manual transmission on 5.0L models.

The world’s first and only authentic racing driver, Alan Jones, will be the lead driver of the Twin Disc Clutch and new ageing. A 12-爱国er BBD PLAST Premium Automatic System of Harman will surely audiophile.

In Oman the Mustang is available in 5LT and GT Premium. Exclusive features for the 5.0L Mustang include 19-inch BBS Rims, Polished Aluminum, Carbon Fiber Rear Spoiler, South Beach Silver with Alcantara Trim, LED Fog Lamps, Reverse Sensing System, Speaker – Raced Black-style Deck, Unique High Gloss Black Painted Front Grille and Unique Rear Windshield.
Triple FEED competition scheme for Sohar LNG bunkering hub

Business Reporter

Majid Al-Farsi

Sajjad KIC Corporation, a global engineering contractor, is the second company to have been invited to participate in a Triple FEED Competition Scheme initiated to the development of an LNG bunkering terminal at the Port of Sohar. The client is the partnership of Total E&P Oman Development BV (51% joint venture) within the government of the Sultanate of Oman, and Oman Oil Marketing Company (39%) on behalf of the Oil Minister. Leading US-based engineering contractor, Aker Solutions International Inc announced last week that it is also participating in the same FEED competition scheme.

This project consists of FEED services to construct a new medium-scale LNG plant with an annual production capacity of 3.0 million tonnes of LNG in Sohar.

The scope of work during the FEED phase includes the schematic design of the onshore and offshore facilities required for the installation and operation of the terminal under the engineering, procurement, supply, construction, commissioning and plazhe.

The global LNG bunkering market is entering a rapid growth period driven largely by the Maritime International Opposition's legislative to significantly limit sulphur emissions.

KIC has been responsible for constructing LNG plants that account for approximately 30 per cent of global LNG production capacity today.

The unit of the three LNG plant construction contracts is expected to include a large-scale LNG facility in Canada, as well as a smaller-scale LNG unit in India, for the construction of the Sohar LNG terminal on the coast of Oman and off the coast of Montenegro.

IEA revising oil demand growth forecast down

Business Reporter

Majid Al-Farsi

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is reducing its 2019 oil demand forecast due to slowing global economy amid a US-China trade war, its executive director said on Monday.

The IEA is revising its 2019 global oil demand growth forecast to 1.1 million barrels per day (mbd) and cut 0.2 million mbd in its previous assessment. Also, the IEA predicted that 2019 oil demand growth would be 1.5 million barrels per day (mbd), but it has now revised lower to 1.2 million mbd in June this year.

“The problem is experiencing a decent economic growth in the last three decades, or we see some of the advanced economies. If the global economy performing even worse than we assume, then we may even look at our numbers once again in the next months to come,” Birulvold said in an interview.

He said oil demand was low by a trade war between China and America at a time when markets are aware of oil with declining US shale production.

IEA said oil demand was less than 90 million barrels per day (Mbpd) last week, but some of the key producers, including the US and Russia, have increased production to make up for the shortfall.

In addition, the oil demand growth forecast for 2020 is now 1.76 million barrels per day (Mbpd), which is lower than the 2.1 million barrels per day (Mbpd) forecast for 2019, Birulvold said. “We expect to see some further moderation in the demand growth forecast for 2020,” he said.

The agency’s recent oil market statements have highlighted the growing uncertainty and risks to oil demand growth.

IEA data showed that global oil demand grew by 1.4 million barrels in the first quarter of 2019, compared to 1.9 million barrels in the same period in 2018, but revised its global oil demand growth forecast for 2019 to 1.7 million barrels per day, down from 1.9 million barrels per day in its previous assessment.

The agency said it expected oil demand growth to be lower in 2020 due to a weaker global economy and trade tensions.

The agency’s updated oil demand forecast suggests a lower growth rate for global oil demand over the next few years, with oil demand growth expected to decline to 1.6 million barrels per day in 2020, down from 1.9 million barrels per day in 2019.

The agency also expects oil demand growth to be lower in 2021, with demand growth expected to decline to 1.5 million barrels per day, down from 1.9 million barrels per day in 2020.

The agency said it expected oil demand growth to be lower in 2022, with demand growth expected to decline to 1.4 million barrels per day, down from 1.8 million barrels per day in 2021.

The agency also expects oil demand growth to be lower in 2023, with demand growth expected to decline to 1.3 million barrels per day, down from 1.7 million barrels per day in 2022.

The agency said it expected oil demand growth to be lower in 2024, with demand growth expected to decline to 1.2 million barrels per day, down from 1.6 million barrels per day in 2023.

The agency also expects oil demand growth to be lower in 2025, with demand growth expected to decline to 1.1 million barrels per day, down from 1.5 million barrels per day in 2024.

The agency said it expected oil demand growth to be lower in 2026, with demand growth expected to decline to 1.0 million barrels per day, down from 1.4 million barrels per day in 2025.
WeWork to host Wall Street analyst day in IPO push

NEW YORK: The We Company, parent of WeWork, which plans to go public via a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC), plans to host an analyst day for Wall Street banks on July 31, as the company seeks to shore up preparations for an initial public offering (IPO), people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

WeWork’s decision to host the event at this time amid the economic turmoil is unusual, as IPO hopefuls typically hold such sessions in the early weeks of an IPO to vet analyst interest from Wall Street banks to educate them about the company’s business.

While WeWork filed for an IPO in February, the company is expected to refile in the coming months. The IPO process could take months as the Federal Reserve is still determining if the economic turmoil will make it more difficult to price the IPO.

WeWork’s chief financial officer and president Jonathan Stein, who previously ran the company’s commercial real estate division, is due to start on Monday, a person familiar with the matter said.

Doctors with WeWork have said that the company is offering them the chance to work on a home-based basis, but that they would need to be able to access the company’s facilities. The person said that it was not clear if the company would provide the necessary equipment.

The sources asked not to be identified because the matter is confidential. A spokesperson for WeWork declined to comment.

The deal will allow the airlines to coordinate pricing, sales, and frequent flyer programs, with new options and customer service improvements.

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WeWork is building a team of analysts, which is expected to expand in the coming months, a person familiar with the matter said. The company is also planning to hire a chief financial officer, who will oversee the company’s accounting and financial reporting.
Trump wants a weaker dollar; it could be a hard sell

JASON LANGE, ANN SAPPER

President Donald Trump wants a cheaper dollar, saying earlier this month the United States should aim for "affordable currencies." He's not alone in his wish—other countries aim to weaken their own currencies, too.

The commentary has prompted speculation the president could order sales of the greenback, which is near a multi-decade high, and, according to the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday, at least 6 percent stronger since early economic fundamentals:

Conditionsin the US aremost favourable for US intervention against perceived (dollar) overvaluation," IMF economists said in a note on Wednesday.

Trump has railed repeatedly against the Federal Reserve for raising interest rates, complaining that the higher rates are holding back US economic growth. But while he sings incessantly to point to the "weak dollar" rates when it meets at the end of this month, the lower rates are unlikely to weaken his dollar to a level that Trump wants.

A weaker dollar could help US exporters compete globally by making exports less expensive, boosting the economy and potentially helping Trump's bid for re-election in 2020.

The Treaty uses the Federal Reserve as its agent in financial markets, and traditionally the two agencies coordinate interventions. To intervene more heavily, the Treasury could request resources from the Federal Reserve, which might potentially create liability limits for US banks.

The administration could also seek access to more funds from Congress, said Joseph Gagnon, a fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and a former economist at both the Fed and the Treasury. That might involve lifting a legal limit on the Treasury's borrowing authority, allowing the administration to raise more money to buy foreign currency intervention, saying that exchange rate policy is the "Treasury's responsibility." The dollar is not clear whether Washington could control the value of the dollar, which reflects the strength of the US economy and the attractiveness of its assets compared with those of other countries.

A key source of the dollar's strength is the interest rates, and the attractiveness of the European Union. This has led the European Central Bank to keep interest rates negative since the pandemic, which is not. The Fed has raised borrowing costs since 2015. — Reuters

REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION

The commitment of Verizon expects plan is to diversify Verizon Media’s revenue, which mainly comes from advertising.

The goal is to revamp it to be more widely among advertising, subscriptions and e-commerce transactions within five years, but subscriptions may take a little longer than planned.

The renewal is happening in stages.

The company is rolling out one of the largest redesigns of Yahoo Mail to include new features to better organise email and incorporate shopping. Yahoo Mail had 67 million monthly unique users in June, according to media analytics company Comscore.

By this holiday season, a search process to make purchases without

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TAX CREDIT

US solar sector launches lobbying to preserve subsidy

NICHOLAS GROOM

In the US solar industry on last Wednesday kicked off a lobbying push aimed at gaining a corporate tax credit for solar energy systems that is set to begin phasing out next year. In a letter to lawmakers and signed by more than 1,000 solar companies, the Solar Energy Industries Association argued that the 30 percent tax credit for solar energy systems should be preserved because it has helped generate $40 billion in investment. The subsidy has also created more than 200,000 jobs even though solar energy accounts for only about 1.5 percent of US electricity generation, the letter said.

"Solar energy can save the economy," it said. "Starling public policy changes could quickly compromise future the solar energy growth."

The credit phase-out is a major change for an industry that has relied on a generous corporate tax credit for nearly a decade. It was first implemented in 2005. The US solar installations have grown by more than 50 percent per year, according to SEIA. That growth has sparked declines in the cost of solar energy that enable it to compete with fossil fuel-generated power, making an economic sense for a new bill.

Democratic lawmakers in both the House and Senate have advocated for an extension, but a key Republican, US Senator Chuck Grassley, opposes it. The Senate Finance Committee chairman, a strong supporter of the credit, has said that his party would not support an extension unless he promises of opponents of the subsidy in 2015 — the last time it was extended — that he would not seek it again. The extension is in practice needed to prevent the Senate from killing it. If allowed to sunset, the subsidy would hit 20 percent next year and will continue to step down annually until 2022, when it will settle at a permanent 10 percent to be added to commercial and residential projects and disappear for residential projects.

The letter to lawmakers highlighted the sector's growth in the Mountain West and other regions with higher Republican-controlled states, and focused on its economic and job-creating benefits. However, it posed a potential threat to a drive to combat climate change.

"Supporting this policy extension is the first clear victory that lawmakers can deliver to Americans on climate change," SEIA President Al McIntire said in a statement.

The letter to Congress is the beginning of a wider lobbying push to extend the credit. SEIA said — Reuters

Verizon resurfaces media business as safe haven

SHAILA DARG

Barring a once-in-a-decade explosion of consumer debt, the nation’s largest telecommunications provider’s media business is an unlikely beneficiary of the rising costs of launching and maintaining a Netflix-style streaming service.

The company's leaders are confident that the media business is a key to diversifying Verizon’s revenue streams, which are dominated by wireless and residential sales.

Verizon Media is in the early stages of its strategy to compete with Amazon's Prime Video and Netflix by offering a streaming service that offers personalized content to subscribers.

The company recently launched “Verizon Media” as a separate division to focus on the media business, which includes Yahoo, AOL, and Oh My! and is led by former Yahoo Chief Executive Officer Marissa Mayer.

The move comes after a period of rapid growth for Verizon Media, which has doubled its revenue since 2016, to $14 billion in 2019. The company said it expects to reach $20 billion in revenue by 2023.

The media unit is expected to grow at a rate of 15% to 20% annually, according to a recent report by media research firm eMarketer. This growth is expected to be driven by the launches of new services, such as the streaming service.

The new service will offer a wide range of content, including movies, TV shows, and original programming. The company is also expected to partner with other media companies to create exclusive content.

The move is part of Verizon’s broader strategy to diversify its revenue streams and reduce its dependence on wireless and residential sales. The company is also exploring other opportunities, such as a potential sale of its media business.

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For more information, please visit Verizon’s media website or contact their media team.

© Reuters

The Verzon logo is seen on one of their retail stores in San Diego, California. — Reuters
Sohar Referral Hospital.

AL SALEHAT hostel for lady

sq meters, every meter is RO

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in central Ruwi

bedrooms + sitting room +

 Bathrooms + toilet in South

villa, high quality

• 1 bedroom flat in Al

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• A SHOWROOM in Al

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metres in the Rusayl area,

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close to open road.

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rooftop, small store and air-

room, small toilet in North

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rent. Corner location for

productive area.

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water RO 70/-. per square

metres in the Rusayl area,

negotiable. Serious buyers

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single room with attached bathrooms and

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cooking. Wadi Kabir/Ah Alyhouse

High Street area. Contact

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2. Grinding machine

3. Hydraulic Grinding

4. Boring

5. Surface machining

6. Boring

7. Grinding

8. Milling

9. Lathes

10. Drilling.

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6. ANALYSER ETT 08 14 etc.

Contact Number: 93834589

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CIVIL ENGINEER with one year of experience in civil, building, & construction works. Fluent in English & Arabic. Send CV on 9897871.

BANGALORE driver with civil experience in Oman, looking for an immediate job. Fluent in English & Arabic. Send CV on 985139871.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER, 21, Indian Male, looking for a job in Engineering field. Fluent in English & Arabic. Send CV on 9851749392.

INDIAN auto, Age 24, Tech- Graduated in 5 years experience of Indian Omani auto technician. Fluent in English & Arabic. Send CV on 9851600089.

INDIAN, male, BE Electrical Engineering, 13 years experience in electrical maintenance and HVAC. New experience is a privilege. Send CV on 9851501689.

FINANCING manager, 24 years experience in finance. Fluent in English & Arabic. Send CV on 9851501689.

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERS/ Mechatronics engineers - 3 years experience, looking for a job in any company. Send CV on 9851501689.

INDIAN Civil Engineer more than 25 years experience in all related work. Seeking suitable job. Send CV on 9851501689.

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Musk unveils brain-on-a-chip to help treat brain disorders

Twitter unveils ‘Hide Replies’ feature, global roll-out soon

YOU will soon be able to hide replies in the conversation thread on Twitter that are offensive, hateful or sauce nature. The micro-blogging platform is testing a feature called “Hide Replies”, beginning with users in Canada which will be rolled out globally.

It is not the equivalent of a delete button but hides replies behind an icon.

If your followers still want to see the hidden replies, they can press the icon and view those. While testing the feature to hide replies from conversations. The company will tell you that it will do for everyone around the world, but at this time, only people in Canada can hide replies to their tweets. Twitter support will give this information in a tweet later in the week.

YOU can also hide replies that attempt to correct misinformation or offer a fact-check.

The feature for Twitter “transparency is important to our conversation and an asset to our conversation. The replies behind an icon where you can still access. We want to give tweeters control over their conversations, but in a way that’s open.”

Netflix to launch cheaper mobile-only plan in India

NETFLIX has launched its first mobile-only plan in India, which costs Rs 399 per month. The plan gives free access to the streaming service on a mobile device.

Apple adding 99 new emojis to its keyboard

A rival to bring many new emojis to its keyboard, Apple is rolling out 99 new emojis to its keyboard for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch. The new emojis will be available in the US later this month.

France expects first 5G mobile phone deployment by 2020

FRENCH telecom regulator Autorité has said that the commercial roll-out of the next-generation 5G mobile phone network in the country to commence in 2020, will be followed by large-scale commercialisation a decade later. The draft procedure stipulates that all applicants, regardless of whether or not they have chosen to make optimal commitments, will be subject to a series of obligations, particularly with respect to national coverage, said Autorité in the launch of its 5G frequency allocation procedure for telecom operators last week.

According to Autorité, 5G deployment would be gradual. By the end of 2020, each operator will be required to offer 5G services in at least two French cities. By 2021, there should be 12,000 sites in operation, offering 5G to two-thirds of the country’s population, reported Sydney news agency.

Authorité added that 20-25 per cent of those 12,000, 3.4-3.8 GHz band sites must be located “in sparsely populated areas targeting economic activities, notably manufacturing.” In accordance with the regulator’s plan, operators will be required to “introduce a conscientious manner to ensure that non-resource area will also benefit from these rollouts.”

As for the remaining rows, operators will be obliged to offer 5G speeds of at least 240 megabits per second (Mbps), which is four times the speed of the current 4G service. “The intermediate target gives operators a deadline to offer 5G technology, provided they must the speed requirement. By 2030, however, they must be providing 5G services in all of their sites,” Autorità said.

The regulator noted that the frequencies will be available for a period of 12 years, with a possible three-year extension. Telecom operators have until September 24 to express their comments in a public consultation, according to the statement.
CAIRO: Algerian players celebrate after winning the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) final against Senegal at the Cairo International Stadium. — AFP

Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi lauded the side’s “incredible” Africa Cup of Nations triumph here on Friday as Baghdad Bounedjah’s early goal earned a 1-0 victory over Senegal in the final.

Bounedjah gave Algeria a dream start against Sadio Mane’s Senegal, the top team in Africa, in front of a large Cairo crowd when his deflected shot looped over Senegal goalkeeper Aliou Gomis.

The second-minute strike was enough to propel Algeria to a first Cup of Nations title in 29 years, and the country’s first on foreign soil, having lifted the trophy as hosts in 1990.

“Very happy that the whole nation, our people were waiting for this second star for a long time,” said Belmadi, who took charge of a squad in disarray last August.

“Now we’ve made history. It’s incredible that we’ve been able to do it, and to put ourselves on the top of Africa after being at the bottom (fourth in 2017).”

A take-off from a team that was really struggling. To do what we’ve been able to do, and to put ourselves on the top of Africa in 10 months, is extraordinary.”

The steady Belmadi signalled his intent early in his reign when he said his ambition was to make a run at the title in Egypt, despite inheriting a team that crashed out in the 2017 group stage and then fared woefully in World Cup qualifying.

“I said we were going to the Cup of Nations to win. I wanted to send a strong message to the players, to tell them I was committing to a strong project. Titles are what interest me,” he recalled.

“I was asked if it was a transitional period. No, we’re here (champions).”

For Senegal, who also lost to Algeria 1-0 in the group stage, the long wait for a first continental crown goes on as coach Aliou Cisse, the captain of the 2002 runners-up, again fell short in the final.

“I was asked if it was a transitional period. No, we’re here (champions).”

The steely Belmadi signalled his intent early in his reign when he said his ambition was to make a run at the title in Egypt, despite inheriting a team that crashed out in the 2017 group stage and then fared woefully in World Cup qualifying.

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Unstoppable Ibrahimovic nets hat-trick in upset win over LAFC

LOS ANGELES—Zlatan Ibrahimovic lived up to the hype on Friday, scoring all three goals to power the Galaxy to 3-1.

The 37-year-old showed he’s still capable of astounding teams by dismantling the smaller LAFC defense and scoring when it counted most for his second career MLS hat trick.

When you play against a rival like this, in a full stadium, it gets pumped. I get adrenaline. This is considered to be the biggest game in the league and I show up in the biggest games,” said Ibrahimovic.

Ibrahimovic, who has a flair for the dramatic since the big Swede joined the MLS in 2018, scored prior to Friday’s game that he is “by far” the best player in the league despite Carlos Vela’s superior stats.

The pre-game hype was about the marquee matchup between Galaty’s Ibrahimovic and LAFC’s Vela. The duo scored all the goals, and it was the Swede who delivered in the key moments, scoring in the 8th, 56th and 70th minutes.

The Galaxy depended almost entirely on Ibrahimovic for offense and he thanked them with another hat trick performance against the top ranked team in the league.

“I am in play-off mode every day,” said Ibrahimovic.

Ibrahimovic scored his leagues leading 20th and 21st goals in fourth and 22nd minutes by converting a penalty kick into the bottom left corner of the box to the bottom right corner at the 20th goal of the season by converting a penalty kick into the bottom left corner.

Ibrahimovic took a high pass from Harvey and lofted the ball from the right side of the box to the high corner. According to Harvey, he thanked them with another hat trick performance against the top ranked team in the league.

“I am in play-off mode every day,” said Ibrahimovic.

Ibra—USA Today Sports

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Ibra—USA Today Sports

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LA Galaxy’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic (9) and Los Angeles FC’s Eddie Segura (4) battle for the header Dignity Health Sports Park.

TAMIM TO LEAD BANGLADESH IN SRILANKA AS MASRAFE RULED OUT

DHAKA—Bangladesh on Friday named opener Tamim Ighalo as interim captain for the upcoming Sri Lanka tour after regular skipper Mashrafe Mortaza was ruled out due to consultation and extensive physiotherapy.

Mortaza (Mashrafe) injured his left hamstring during training today. He received immediate MRI ultrasound examination which has revealed a grade 1 injury.

“Mortaza (Mashrafe) injured his left hamstring during training today. He received immediate MRI ultrasound examination which has revealed a grade 1 injury,” Bangladesh Cricket Board senior selector Debashis Chowdhury said. “It is a recurrent injury that could take around four to five weeks to recover from. Therefore, he was ruled out from participation in sporting activity for a month,” he added.

BCB named Tamim Ighalo as interim captain in Masha’s absence as regular vice-captain Shafiul Al Hasan was named for the series.

All-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin was also ruled out for the series after he sustained an old back injury, said BCB-cricket operations chief Alamgir Khan.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Thursday named Tamim Ighalo as interim captain in Mashrafe’s absence as regular vice-captain Shafiul Al Hasan was named for the series.

Bangladesh will play three one-day internationals at in Sri Lanka on July 26, 28 and 31. The three-match regulars are scheduled in 2019 ICC World Cup Qualifier at Premadasa Stadium in Colombou.

Masrafe earlier at the press conference refused to confirm if he would retire after the Sri Lanka series and hinted his situation to the press captain KL Dhoni.

Mashrafe and Dhoni both were expected to clear their retirement plan after the recent World Cup in England in which they struggled with individual form.

While Dhoni, who made a fifty in India’s losing semi-final to New Zealand, remained silent on his future, Mashrafe chose to continue as team captain.

“Of course, I don’t feel embarrassed or disappointed with it (retirement talk). His normal everyone will consider my performance from their point of view,” said Mashrafe. “As a player I am not close to 300. He scored over 10,000 runs in ODIs. But at least in every press conference he has been as quite (retirement). I think we should accept it normally,” he said.

Being a player I could not deliver my best in World Cup, both as a captain and a player and the team also failed to go to the semifinal, said BCB-cricket operations chief Alamgir Khan.

The Bangladesh team captain Tamim Ighalo addresses a warm-up session at a 1st floor cricket centre.

Cup of Nations Golden Boot—Ighalo retires

ARTBA: Nigeria striker Odion Ighalo announced on Saturday his retirement from international football after winning the Golden Boot at the Africa Cup of Nations.

The 30-year-old Shanghai Shenhua striker scored five times as Nigeria continued their march to their first title in 19 years, thus taking his tally to 51 in 50 internationals.

“I am retiring from international football after winning the Golden Boot at the Africa Cup of Nations,” Ighalo said in a statement.

“I’ve been an essential and most memorable opportunity to serve my country with pride, passion and contribute my quota to the development of our football.

“Today is very emotional for me,” he said. “I would like to thank all the Nigerian Football Federation, the team and fans for the support and love.”

Ighalo scored his first international goal against the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2013 and has continued to score ever since.

He has scored five goals in this year’s AFCON, including the decisive goal in the final against Senegal, helping Nigeria win their first title in 19 years.

“It’s been an amazing 5 years journey, but after all the due consultation and medical advice, I have decided it’s time for me to retire from the national team,” Ighalo said in a statement.

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Sindhu rallies to reach Newport semis

NEW YORK: Three-time champion John Isner defeated local Australian Matthew Ebden 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 Friday and reached the semifinals of the ATP grass-court tournament in Newport, Rhode Island, where he had won the title the past two years. The 25th-seeded Isner, a 5-11, 6-3, 6-2 veteran over 40, won his match in 2 hours, 40 minutes.

Isner, who is ranked No. 46, has won at least three titles and was the fourth seed at the tournament. He is the top seed in the men’s tournament, having won three straight titles from 2003 to 2005. He has reached the quarterfinals of eight tournaments this season, including six in the past eight weeks. He has won three titles in the past three years, tying for most in the men’s tour.

Isner said he wants to reach the semifinals in Newport, which would be his third career title in the tournament. He has won a quarterfinal match in the first round and a semifinal match in the second round.

Inser to face Yamaguchi in Indonesia final

JAKARTA: PV Sindhu beat Chong Wei Feng 21-19, 21-10 to reach the final of the Indonesia Open in Jakarta on Saturday. She will now face Japanese fourth seed Akane Yamaguchi in the final on Sunday. Both players will be playing for their first Super 1000 title.

Sindhu had reached the second round after defeating Japanese number three seed Nozomi Okuhara 21-14, 21-7 while Chong beat Thailand’s Tontowi Ahmad 21-16, 17-21, 21-10 in their quarterfinal match.

The semifinal tie between the two players lasted 46 minutes involving two games that stood in stark contrast to each other. While the first game was a close affair, the second was a rout for Sindhu.

Sindhu was trailing 6-8 in the first game before winning two consecutive points to take the lead. At the first interval, she led the game 11-10 before Chong then fought back to make it 11-11. She then went on to win the game 21-19.

In the second game, Chong went 7-5 ahead, but Sindhu’s consistent hitting and net play helped her to hit back to win the game 21-10. She then won the match 21-10.

Sindhu had beaten Chong in their previous two meetings, in the final of the All England Open in March and at the India Open in September.

Sindhu had the upper hand in the opening game, in which she led 6-4, but Chong fought back to win the game 11-7. Sindhu then went on to win the second game 11-8, and Chong went on to win the third game 11-9.

Sindhu had earlier beaten Thai women’s singles world number one Tai Tzu-ying to reach the final.
Dhoni opts out of West Indies tour

LONDON: The veteran of 350 one-dayers, 13 Test innings and 14 T20s, MS Dhoni has opted out of India's tour of West Indies for the selectors' electoral reasons, according to a local media.

"Dhoni has made himself unavailable for the tour of West Indies as he will be spending two months with his paramilitary regiment," the report quoted an unidentified Indian cricket board (BCCI) official as saying.

Finding a replacement for Dhoni will top the agenda when India's selectors meet in Mumbai on Tuesday to pick the squad for the tour of West Indies.

Dhoni, who turned 38 this month during the Cricket World Cup, enjoyed cult status in the cricket-mad country after he captained the side to the World Twenty20 title in 2007 and his second 50-over World Cup title in 2011 at home.

The veteran of 38 one-dayers, however, has been the subject of intense speculation on retirement from international cricket over the past few days as India semifinal exit from the World Cup.

Dhoni, who quit playing Tests at the end of 2014, has not provided even a hint of what his plans are but he enjoys unassailable support from India captain Virat Kohli who has publicly backed him on numerous occasions.

"He is not sitting from cricket right, but it's nice to get two rounds that on the golf course," said Lowry.

Lowry, who had a bogey finish was a fitting end to a day after six holes, but a bogey at the seventh cost him dearly.

Back-to-back bogeys at 11 and 12 gave him a five over par score on 136, but a birdie at the next hole ensured a two-round eight-under.

"I felt today I showed the real Rory McIlroy and the golf that I can play," said McIlroy.

McIlroy fell just short with a joint best round of the day with a six-under 66.

Andrew Putnam (USA) tied for third at eight-under.

It's more frustrating that on the golf course, " said Lowry.

Resuming on four-under, Lowry shot a bogey on 13th coming home to fall back level with overnight leader Justin Rose (IRL) 12-under.

But a bogey on 18th coming home to fall back level with overnight leader 13-under.

British record-hole Asher-Smith, 23, set a new best of 10.80 in finishing second behind Fraser-Pryce at the Diamond League Athletics Lausanne in Lausanne on July 5.

James Ellington, racing for the first time since August 2016 following a month-long crash that left him with career-threatening injuries.

Qatar's high jumper Mutaz Barshim, Gimh Olympic pole vault champion, Katarina Johnson-Thompson and double Olympic triple jump champion, Christian Taylor of the United States will all be competing in London as they prepare to defend their world titles in Doha later this year.

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Iceland tries to bring back trees razed by the Vikings

By the time Ingolf Arnarson, a Norse settler, arrived in Iceland in 874, the landscape was already covered by woodland. For centuries, these forests served as a natural source of fuel and building materials for the people of Iceland. However, over time, the expansion of human settlements and the need for land for agriculture and grazing led to widespread deforestation. By the 12th century, the forest cover had largely been cleared, leaving the country exposed to the elements and vulnerable to erosion.

In the late 20th century, the Icelandic government took action to reforest the island. The country is considered the first in the world to implement a nationwide reforestation program. Over the years, the government has planted millions of trees, with a goal of reaching one million hectares of forested land by 2030. As of 2023, about 35% of Iceland’s land area is covered by forests.

The reforestation efforts have not only helped to mitigate climate change but have also had a positive impact on the country’s natural environment. The returning forests have provided habitat for wildlife, improved water quality, and contributed to the country’s cultural heritage.

The government’s commitment to reforestation has been praised both domestically and internationally. In 2015, Iceland was honored with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Forests of the Future Award, recognizing its efforts to restore the country’s forest cover.

Despite these successes, the process of reforestation is ongoing. Continued efforts are needed to ensure that the country’s forests continue to thrive and provide the benefits they offer.

For more information on Iceland’s reforestation efforts, visit the website of the Icelandic Forest Research Institute at https://www.fra.is.
**Sea bass camembert and avocado mustard sauce**

**INGREDIENTS**

**AVOCADO MUSTARD SAUCE**

- 150 gm Avocado
- 100 gm Sea bass fillet
- 4gm Salt
- 10 gm Lemon Juice
- 15 gm Pommery Mustard
- 15 gm Dijon Mustard
- 60 gm Mayonnaise (Japanese
  mayonnaise)
- 150 gm Avocado

**TEMPURA BATTER**

- 60 gm Camembert cheese
- 200 gm Tempura flour
- 4gm Salt
- 10 gm Lemon Juice
- 15 gm Pommery Mustard
- 15 gm Dijon Mustard
- 60 gm Mayonnaise (Japanese
  mayonnaise)
- 250 ml Water
- 200 gm Tempura flour

**TEMPURA BATTER**

- 3gm Shichimi Tongarashi
- 5gm Chopped Spring Onion

**METHOD**

**Make avocado puree very fine** by using a blender.

**Mix remaining ingredients and stir by a spoon.**

**Take breaded sea bass fish filled, cut in thin slices (thickness 3mm x width 2cm x Length 6cm).**

**Cut camembert cheese into 1cm x 1 cm x 2 cm.**

**Cut mouth into 3 cm x 3 cm.**

**Dip the cut camembert cheese by thinly sliced sea bass. Roll with fingers, and then spray it by mayonnaise from outside.**

**Arrange in a plate for deep fry.**

**Prepare tempura batter by mixing tempura flour and water.**

**Heat the pan and pour oil to deep fry.**

**Take a rolled sea bass, dust with tempura flour, dip in a tempura batter to coat all around the mouth, and deep fry in pre-heated oil.**

**Try for a maximum of 40 seconds.**

**You just need to cook fish but not to melt the cheese inside.**

**Once it is fried, arrange in a plate together with Avocado mustard sauce, garnish with chopped spring onion and Spring onion.**

**About the Chef**

**RAJESH THAPA**

Chef Rajesh Thapa, originally from Nepal, was born and raised in Kathmandu. At a very young age, he was inspired by Kathmandu’s local chefs and vibrant food scene and decided a career in the food and beverage industry. He moved to Dubai in 2008 and mastered the preparation of multi-cuisines while working for different five-star hotels and restaurants.

During this stint, he discovered his love for Japanese food and was mentored by Japanese Chef Ando Takashi eventually becoming a Five-Star Chef with a passion and education of Japanese cuisine.

Takashi eventually became a Head Chef of Tempura and Sushi in the heart of people not only in Dubai but also in other five-star hotels and restaurants across the GCC and later in Nepal. Chef Rajesh has a deep understanding of the Japanese and earthy notes with wheels made of Japanese mustard and Pommery and Dijon’s mustard. Since then, he has been a major player in the Japanese food industry, becoming one of the most popular chefs in the Japanese community. He has won many awards and is currently working in the US.

**About the Recipe**

Camembert cheese comes from Normandy, France and is one of the most delicious cheeses in the world, with a soft, buttery texture and a rich, earthy aroma. It pairs well with fish, particularly with sea bass fillet, which is not only a delicious choice but also a healthy one.

**Deep fry sea bass fillet** in pre-heated oil at 150 degrees Celsius for a maximum of 40 seconds. You just need to cook fish but not to melt the cheese inside. Once it is fried, arrange in a plate together with Avocado mustard sauce, garnish with chopped spring onion and Chopped Spring onion.

**Cheese**

Camembert cheese is a type of French cheese, named after the Camembert region in Normandy. It is made from cow’s milk and has a soft, creamy texture with a rich, buttery flavor. It is typically served as a appetizer or as part of a cheese plate. Camembert cheese is known for its creamy texture, buttery flavor, and distinct aroma, making it a popular choice for pairing with a variety of dishes.

**Sauce**

**Avocado mustard sauce** is a unique and flavorful dressing made from ripe avocados mashed with mustard. It is a great addition to tempura dishes, such as this recipe, adding a rich, creamy texture and a slight tanginess to the overall flavor profile.

**Tempura batter** is a light and crispy batter made from tempura flour, water, and a small amount of flavor enhancers like salt and lemon juice. It is perfect for frying a variety of foods, from vegetables to seafood, and provides a light and crunchy texture when cooked. **Pop culture hit ‘Gossip Girl’ gets a makeover for HBO Max**

"Gossip Girl," the show that became a cultural phenomenon with its trend-setting fashion and Gravesay of its romantic relationships, is making its return. The series is on its way back to television, this time with a new series for upcoming streaming service HBO Max.

The show will once again follow the lives of Upper East Side society, this time with a new generation of protagonists. The series will explore how the social dynamics of the upper echelons of society have changed over the years.

HBO Max is expected to release the series with a combination of original content and programming from networks HBO, TBS and Cinemax, and all other WarnerMedia properties.

The series will include a range of new social media and television shows, including the upcoming Disney+ series "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," "The Gong Show," and "The Final Countdown." The show will also feature a variety of other projects, including "The Simpsons," "The Rugrats," and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

"Gossip Girl" will continue to explore the lives of the upper-class residents of New York City, and will delve into the dynamics of relationships, friendship, and romance.

**EGYPT HAS BEGUN RESTORING GOLDEN COFFIN OF TUTANKHAMUN**

Egypt has begun restoring the golden coffin of King Tutankhamun, the boy king whose tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings in 1922 by British archaeologist Howard Carter.

The coffin, which was found in a wooden coffin, was made of solid gold and was decorated with intricate designs and pharaonic symbols. The restoration work is expected to be completed in eight months, with the goal of preserving the coffin and its contents for future generations.

The restoration process will involve removing any damaged or decayed parts of the coffin and replacing them with new materials. The work will also involve cleaning and preserving the gold leaf that covers the coffin.

The restoration of the coffin is part of a larger effort to preserve and protect the ancient sites in Egypt. The country’s tourism industry has been hit hard by the recent unrest, but the government is working to attract visitors and boost the economy.

The restoration project is expected to attract thousands of tourists to the Valley of the Kings, and is expected to bring in millions of dollars to the local economy.
Oman’s ‘accidental’ young ambassador of tolerance and hospitality

Ali Salim al Maskiry noticed them with the same kind of excitement. His gaze locked on the group of boys who were heading towards him.

“I saw them first, then I thought, ‘Oh, they are children too. In fact, they are even younger than I am!’” he said.

The boys from the UAE were on holiday in Oman, and Ali Salim had just finished conducting an interview with a local news channel. The boys, however, didn’t know that they had become the subject of a news story.

As the group walked past Ali Salim, he couldn’t help but smile. He had grown up with children from all over the world, but this was the first time that he had encountered a group of children who were just like him.

“I was so happy to see them. They were so friendly and so welcoming. It was like I had found my own family.”

But Ali Salim’s happiness soon turned to concern. The news channel had asked him to conduct an interview with the group, but he was hesitant. He didn’t want to impose on their time, and he didn’t want to make them feel uncomfortable.

“Don’t worry, Ali Salim,” the news anchor said. “We just want to hear your story. We want to know why you are so kind to children from different backgrounds.”

Ali Salim hesitated for a moment, but then he nodded. He knew that he had a responsibility to share his story.

“Children are the future of the world,” he said. “They are the ones who will shape the world. We need to be kind to them, and we need to teach them to be kind to others.”

The boys were surprised to hear Ali Salim’s words. They had never met someone who was so kind and so understanding.

“I never thought that someone would talk to me like that,” one of the boys said. “It was like I had found a new friend.”

Ali Salim felt proud of himself. He had been raised to be kind, and he had always tried to make a difference in the world. But he had never felt so proud of himself as he did that day.

The news anchor thanked Ali Salim for his time, and then the group continued on their way. But Ali Salim knew that he had made a difference. He had shared his story, and he had made a difference in the lives of these children.

“I hope that my words will inspire others to be kind to children from different backgrounds,” Ali Salim said. “I hope that they will see the value of every child, and I hope that they will understand that we are all the same.”

And with that, he continued on his way. He knew that he had a long way to go, but he was determined to make a difference in the world.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON TWITTER
Tweet our story and share your thoughts on Ali Salim’s kindness. Let’s make a difference together!
OMAN’S ‘ACCIDENTAL’ YOUNG AMBASSADOR OF TOLERANCE AND HOSPITALITY

He is the boy who became an overnight sensation not only in Oman but also in Europe for successfully demonstrating Omani hospitality and tolerance on a documentary presented on a Danish national television. Oman Daily Observer sat down with Ali Salim al Maskiry, his parents, and Rachel MacIver, the lady who contributed to Ali’s discovery, to sift through the details of Ali’s newfound fame and why his answers resonated well with a lot of people... P27