



WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2021

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MHD-ITICS SIGNS DEAL WITH AHMAD AL HARTHY  
GO TO PAGE 14 SPORTS

## HM issues Royal Decree ratifying Maritime Labour Convention

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued Royal Decree No 62/2021 on Tuesday ratifying Oman's joining the Maritime Labour Convention 2006.

Article 1 ratifies Oman's joining the amended Maritime Labour Convention 2006, endorsed on February 23, 2006, at the International Labour Conference's 94th session in Geneva, in accordance with the version attached to

this decree.

Article 2 instructs the departments concerned to deposit the Joining Document for the above-mentioned agreement in line with its provisions.

Article 3 states that this decree will be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.  
ONA

## CAA gives nod to amphibious aircraft

Musandam Airlines, Consolidated Energy for Investments get approval

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has granted approval to two companies to operate amphibious aircraft in the sultanate.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, CAA said, 'The authority has issued its initial approval to complete procedures to establish and operate amphibious aircraft to Musandam Airlines and Consolidated Energy for Investments.'

In April, the authority invited investors interested in establish-



(Image for illustrative purpose)

ing and operating amphibious aircraft services to submit requests with a detailed proposal, including economic feasibility study,

business plan and proof of financial capacity.

Investors were required to submit application forms for a

Class B operating licence for aircraft of 19 seats or less or with a maximum take-off weight of less than ten tonnes.

CAA stated that the licences for amphibious aircraft have been given to promote tourism.

After the initial acceptance, the two companies will be obligated to complete all requirements to obtain an Air Operator Certificate (AOC) based to a specific timetable, CAA added.

According to the initial request documents, the licence will be valid for seven years from the date of issue.

## 'Firm belief in leading role of Omani youth'

Muscat - Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, on behalf of the Omani youth, expressed thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the occasion of Omani Youth Day on Tuesday.

Presiding over a virtual celebration of the Omani Youth Day, Sayyid Theyazin delivered a speech in which he said His Majesty the Sultan accords great attention to Omani youth and that the designation of October 26 to mark Omani Youth Day stems from the belief in the leading role of Omani youth in advancement of the nation.

Sayyid Theyazin said that the second edition of the Youth Excellence Award, overseen by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, will honour youth excellence which will encourage them to be more creative and innovative in various fields.



In a statement made on Monday, Sayyid Theyazin stressed on the sultanate's firm belief in the role of youth in carrying forward the banner of the renewed renaissance.

"The government has accorded great attention to youth since the beginning of the renaissance and empowered them to shoulder their responsibilities in the nation-building process.

"Omani youth proved that they have a high sense of national responsibility. They comprehended the prerequisites of progress and proceed to achieve it through a clear-cut vision based on partnership in promoting the renewed renaissance while at the same time interacting with the outside world and its culture for the sake of coexistence in a climate of love and peace."

## Oman, GCC urge accelerated action on Palestine

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Oman and other GCC member states have stressed on speeding up efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state at a UN meeting.

Speaking at the meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the UN General Assembly on October 25, delegates urged the administering powers of the world's 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories to complete the longstanding decolonis-

*The international community must pressure Israel to stop pursuing its aggressive activities and return to the path of peace*

SULTAN MOHAMMED THANI AL FAZARI

ation process, with speakers also citing a range of additional territorial disputes, as members continued their general debate.

Sultan Mohammed al Fazari, Oman's delegate at the UN, stressed that the UN and Security Council resolutions must be implemented in the Occupied Pales-

tinian Territory "sooner or later".

"In that context, the international community must pressure Israel to stop pursuing its aggressive activities and return to the path of peace, based on international law and in the spirit of peaceful coexistence," he said.

The Kuwaiti delegate Bader A

al Munayekh said that despite UN Relief and Works Agency's essential role, it continues to be attacked and requires financial support to provide a lifeline to millions of Palestine refugees. Expressing support for the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report, he said the "international community must bring pressure to bear on Israel to lift its 14-year-long siege of Gaza, end its settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, and cease its occupation of all Palestinian lands and the Syrian Golan".

Continued on Page 02

THE ALL-NEW THREE-ROW

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(Supplied photos)

# OCE records 200 steppe eagles in Dhofar survey

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The globally endangered steppe eagle have returned to Dhofar in good numbers as compared to 2020, when only 80 were reportedly spotted in the area.

To enhance biodiversity and provide an accurate database on the number of steppe eagles in the Governorate of Dhofar, the Office for Conservation of Environment (OCE) at the Diwan of Royal Court, has started a winter survey which will last until March next year.

"A specialised team from OCE recorded nearly 200 eagles in the first week of the surveys in the northeast of the wilayat of Thumrait," said an official of OCE.

"In 2019, we recorded 500 steppe eagles in Dhofar but they decreased to 80 in 2020," the OCE official said, adding that the reason for the decrease in num-



*In 2019, we recorded 500 steppe eagles in Dhofar but they decreased to 80 in 2020 owing to lack of food, including carrion*

OCE OFFICIAL

bers was lack of food, including carrion (decaying flesh of dead animals).

"The ongoing survey is being

implemented in cooperation with the Environment Society of Oman, the Omani British Friendship Association and a number of

international organisations interested in the study of raptors."

The survey aims to collect information on the number and movements of steppe eagles visiting the sultanate.

"This information will contribute in taking appropriate environmental measures to protect this endangered bird of prey according to the classification of the International Union for Conservation of Nature," said the official.

The steppe eagle is considered an endangered bird globally based on IUCN classification. Oman is considered a natural stopover as a large number of these eagles visit various locations in Dhofar which provides adequate food in the winter season.

In an ongoing research, the OCE recently installed satellite tracking devices on 13 steppe eagles to obtain important and accurate data and information.

## 40 date producers display wares under one roof

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

As many as 40 Omani SMEs are participating in a campaign for the sale of local grown dates and date products at Oman Avenues Mall running from October 22 to 31.

The products, ranging from a variety of dates and their derivatives including sweets, paste and juice, are on display at the stalls.

Hadia al Balushi, director of Marketing and Agricultural Industries Department in the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources, said, "The outlets aim to find and expand marketing opportunities for SMEs and increase their income."

According to the ministry's plan, the 40 participants have been divided into two lots. "Twenty participants present their products in five-day rotations to avoid overcrowding and maintain social distancing in light of the precautionary measures to combat COVID-19," Hadia said.

Adela Ahmed Sultan, one of the participants, said, "These events are an opportunity to market our date products. They



(Supplied photo)

give customers access to our products and help them get acquainted with our industry. Residents of different nationalities prefer Al Fard dates."

Asaad al Mahdi, another participant, said, "The industry of dates and date derivatives is continuously developing. Marketing activities are one of the main reasons for its continuous development. These marketing outlets are very important to get to know the products of other producers of date products and to benefit from their practical experiences."

Batoul, an Indian resident vis-

iting the dates marketing event at Oman Avenues Mall, said, "I look forward to these events. I make sure to buy from these every year because of the quality of products available."

Al Zeer al Siyabi, another visitor, said, "This outlet for dates has saved me time. I can find high-quality dates - also a wide variety - at one place."

Describing the prices as 'good', he added that he hoped such campaigns will not just continue but spread to all parts of the sultanate to support farmers and also make good quality products available to customers.

## Volunteers reach out to farmers in cyclone-hit areas

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

A group of volunteers has launched a special programme to reach out to farmers in North Batinah impacted by the devastation caused by tropical cyclone Shaheen recently.

Hamed al Ruhaili, founder of an initiative called 'Habbat Ghiras al Batinah', said that some concerned people - disturbed by hardships brought upon people in the aftermath of the cyclone - started working together on October 18 to distribute fruit seedlings among farmers to overcome the crisis.

Speaking to *Muscat Daily*, Ruhaili said, "More than 10,000 seedlings of palm, lemon, mango, etc will be collected from all over Oman through a network of individual volunteers, nurseries and the Omani Agriculture Association."

Noting that the cyclone destroyed many farms, and some places were completely destroyed in North Batinah, Ruhaili informed that the initiative "will support farmers in the affected wilayats such as Khabourah and Suwaiq".

The initiative has so far succeeded in collecting 5,000 seedlings and will continue its mission till November 3 so as to collect the maximum number of seedlings possible, he said.

"The Omani Agriculture Association, in cooperation with volunteer teams, will distribute the seedlings among affected



*The Omani Agriculture Association, in cooperation with volunteer teams, will distribute seedlings among affected farmers*

HAMED AL RUHAILI

farmers."

Ruhaili informed that a short video was made about the initiative and used in social media to create awareness. "It generated a great response from the public."

Ruhaili hopes that businessmen and owners of private companies come forward to support their initiative.

"We will launch another initiative to support livestock owners who have been affected in these areas. There are many breeders who have lost their livestock."

Those who wish to volunteer or donate seedlings can contact 95075300 or 95237300.

## OFA to hold 'Inspirational Women of Oman' event

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The Omani French Friendship Association (OFA) has announced the relaunch of its monthly events, starting the season with the third edition of 'Inspirational Women of Oman' at Hormuz Grand Muscat on November 1.

The association 'places great emphasis on this meeting that aims at giving opportunities to women to address general issues affecting the entire society,' an OFA press release stated.

'OFA strongly believes that by highlighting their successful stories, Omani women can encourage other women to follow their own passion with determination.'

In this edition, OFA is offering a platform to 'three exemplary women to share their stories'.

Nutaila al Kharusi, managing director and psychotherapist at Al Harub Medical Center, Nadia Sultan, educational psychologist at Inspire Educational Consultancy, and Dr Zayana Aisri, team lead for the Regional Geology Team at PDO, will be introduced at a panel discussion to be moderated by communications consultant Sara al Lamki.

'Their testimonials will be based on their academic profile, background, what they owe to others and to themselves, their reaction to challenges, cultural barriers, taboo subjects and COVID-19 pandemic,' the association said, adding that 'it will be a very constructive meeting with advice and encouragement'.

## Oman urges accelerated action on Palestine

Continued from Page 01

Hajer Mohamed Ameen from Bahrain said that while the United Nations has made great progress on its decolonisation goals since the organisation's founding, more remains to be done. Emphasising that it is important to advance peace through dialogue and mutual respect, she expressed support for all efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

The representative of the United Arab Emirates listed activities that threaten the viability of a two-state solution in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the building of settlements and the confiscation of property. "It is also important to maintain the legal character of Jerusalem and to preserve the historic status of its holy sites."

The Omani delegate also spoke about outer space matters, when he observed that

many developing countries attach great importance to space technology to monitor climate change, mitigate natural disasters and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals. "As such, there is a need for enhanced international cooperation to ensure developing countries can benefit from space technologies," he said, calling for practical steps to ensure knowledge exchange and technology transfer on that front.

### Tender Announcement

Tender NO (14/2021)

الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة  
Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones  
Sultanate of Oman



The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) invites the reputable and experienced Companies/Bidders to participate in the following tender:

**Cleaning works of the building of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) at Muscat and the building of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD) at Al Wusta Governorate for the years 2022 & 2023**

|                                                                |                                                                                                           |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Participating &amp; Purchasing the Tender Documents:</b>    | By visiting the headquarter of OPAZ in Muscat - Airport Heights P.O 77 P.C 100 Muscat - Sultanate of Oman |  |
| <b>Start of Tender Documents' Sale (Date):</b>                 | Wednesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 (9:00 AM Muscat Time)                                            |                                                                                      |
| <b>End of Tender Documents' Sale (Date):</b>                   | Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 (2:00 PM, Muscat Time)                                              |                                                                                      |
| <b>Tender Closing (Submission) &amp; Opening of Bids Date:</b> | Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021 (2:00 AM, Muscat Time)                                             |                                                                                      |
| <b>Cost of Tender Documents :</b>                              | RO 100 (Omani Rial One hundred only).                                                                     |                                                                                      |
| <b>Payment method for purchasing the tender document :</b>     | OPAZ account - Bank Muscat 0423-0205-4603-0013 Code:BMUSOMRXXXX Branch Code: 0423                         |                                                                                      |

Bidders must submit their bids in a stamped and sealed envelopes, addressed to: **The Chairman of OPAZ Purchase Committee (OPC)**, to the above address in the specified submission date during official working hours from 9 AM to 2 PM.

No bid shall be accepted after the specified date for submission.

OPAZ is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reasons.

For further enquires, you may contact the e-mail [Tenders@opaz.gov.om](mailto:Tenders@opaz.gov.om)

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# Sri Lankan diva Yohani to perform live in Muscat

Muscat - Sri Lankan music sensation Yohani De Silva - of the popular hit Sinhala song *Manike mage hithe* - will perform two back-to-back shows in Muscat this winter.

Yohani and her band Lu;Nu will perform on December 16 and 17 at Al Falaj Hotel. Tickets for the shows will go on sale starting the first week of November.

Presented by BPOS Global, the shows will mark a resumption of live entertainment activities in Muscat, as the country opens its doors gradually to the new global normalcy with COVID-19 protocols in place.

The presence of Yohani, who is currently in the spotlight with her chart-topping rendition of *Manike mage hithe*, is expected to give a fillip to the live music segment in Muscat.

Yohani's rendition of *Manike mage hithe* became an Internet sensation within days of its release on YouTube in May 2021 and spawned versions in several languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Punjabi, Nepali, Bengali, Bhojpuri and Malayalam by different artists.

"We want music lovers here to grab this opportunity and celebrate this unique moment with Yohani and her band. We are overjoyed at the prospect of hosting them here for their debut performance in Oman and as part of the new normal," said Anselm Perera, CEO/MD of



BPOS Global.

With over 3mn subscribers on YouTube and over 167mn streams of *Manike mage hithe*, Yohani has become a global phenomenon within a short span of time. She and her band pack a lively, exciting and engaging performance.

They have a wide repertoire, including pop hits, rap and hip hop to Sinhala Baila. At the shows in Oman, the band will

perform English, Hindi, Sinhala and Tamil numbers.

The band will be performing in Muscat fresh off a tour of Hyderabad in India, which was a whop-ping success.

Of the two shows in Muscat, one is a dinner dance and the other a music concert. Tickets will be available at the BPOS Global, Office No 83, 8th Floor, Super Plaza, Azaiba; and Al Falaj Hotel, Ruwi.

# Two Omani films selected for Morocco international festival

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Two movies from Oman have been selected for the prestigious Arab-African International Documentary Festival which will be held in the Moroccan city of Zagora from November 26 to 29.

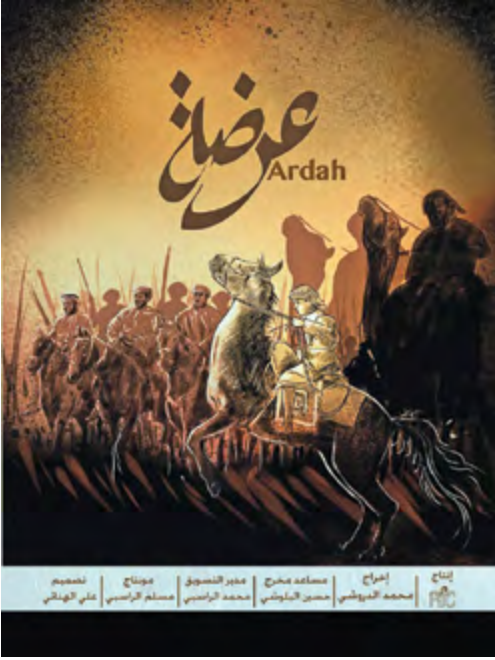
The two films chosen for the fest are *Sultanah 1840* and *Ardha* directed by Dr Khalid al Zadajli and Mohammed Ali Rashid al Darwshi, respectively.

"I am happy that *Sultanah 1840* has been selected for this festival which is one of the most prestigious in the region," said Zadajli.

"The 20-minute film, which also has some excellent graphics, tells the story of the historic ship that carried the first ever ambassador to New York, United States of America in 1840."

*Ardha* - the second film from Oman - is of 55-minute duration. The film delicately treats the traditional music of Hambal and Tohoreb.

"This form of art is very ancient in Oman and has also been recognised by the Unesco," Darwshi said, adding that "the doc-



*I am happy that 'Sultanah 1840' has been selected for this festival which is one of the most prestigious in the region*

DR KHALID AL ZADAJLI

umentary is very lyrical and colourful".

Giving details about the mak-

ing of the film, Darwshi said shooting was done in 2019 covering "all parts and regions of the

sultanate".

But because of the lockdown, he said, "we had to hold back".

"Also the editing took a long time," Darwshi added.

The film festival had numerous entries from around the world of which only 17 movies - from Oman, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Guinea, Lebanon, Algeria, UK, Morocco and Denmark - were selected.

# 7 tonne trucks banned on Sohar-Yanqul road

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

As part of its efforts to manage the movement of trucks on main roads in the sultanate, the Ministry of Transport, Commu-

nications and Information Technology has issued a decision to stop the movement of trucks on the Sohar -Yanqul road.

A statement issued by the ministry said it 'has issued a decision to stop the movement of

trucks which exceed seven tonnes on the Sohar-Yanqul road (Wadi Hibi), starting from November 1, 2021'.

An official in the ministry said that the decision aims to manage and regulate the movement

of trucks on main roads. It also aims to maintain smooth traffic and reduce traffic accidents.

The ministry urged truck drivers to use alternative routes to travel between North Batinah and Dhahirah governorates.



بنك العز الإسلامي  
alizz islamic bank



## ALIZZ ISLAMIC BANK EMPOWERS WOMEN WITH ITS NEW FEMALE BANKING SEGMENT HIYYA

### MOHAMMED AL GHASSANI: OUR VISION IS CRYSTALIZED IN ENSURING THE PROSPERITY OF OMANI WOMEN



Launch of Hiyya Female Banking

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Upholding the bank's tradition of observing the Omani Women's Day with symbols of appreciation and empowerment, a ceremony was held at Shangri-La Bar Al Jissah Resort under the auspices of H.E Asila Al Samsami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion and in the presence of the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, Sulaiman Al Hatrthi. During the ceremony, Alizz Islamic Bank announced the launch of an exciting new female banking segment called 'Hiyya', featuring a bouquet of banking products and services that are designed exclusively for women.

Celebrated annually on October 17th, Omani Women's Day, this year, will mark a new chapter in the history of Alizz Islamic Bank, as 'Hiyya' is crafted to meet all the investment, health and financial needs of female customers; it will provide customers with a tier based savings account to enhance their profits. The Shari'a compliant account is based on the principle that the customer is the 'rab-al-mal' (investor) and the bank is the 'mudairib' (investment manager), wherein the bank invests the funds within a common investment pool, including other partner accounts.

As per the arrangement, profits will be shared between customers and the bank according to the previously agreed distribution ratios. In addition to that, instant debit cards will offer exclusive benefits, as the main intent is to ensure an open platform for women to enjoy a host of discounts and special offers at spas, beauty salons and beauty

products, while availing deals from health clubs, fitness centers and perfume stores. Exclusive stores and branded outlets for clothing and accessories, home décor, restaurants and flower shops are all pegged onto the account, which also includes priority express service at all Alizz Islamic Bank branches.

What is more, women who opt for the Hiyya account will get free Takaful insurance services - this is designed specifically for women, as it covers some of the most common cancers that affect women, such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer, fallopian tube cancer, uterine cancer and other types of cancer. It will also include insurance cover to obtain a second medical opinion.

Additionally, it will also cover insurance on hand luggage and travel, the Takaful insurance provision also assures compensation for the loss of hand luggage while traveling anywhere in the world. It will also provide compensation for the loss of personal documents or keys on account of the loss of handbag; the onus will be on the insurance company to reimburse the customer for the expense incurred in obtaining new personal documents/keys.

The only condition for availing the Takaful insurance; that has some of the best offers to meet the health needs of women and add value to their lives is that the customer should be between the ages of 18 to 65 years and that they should be an Omani national or a resident expat with a valid Oman residence.

THE SCOPE OF HIYYA IS TO ENSURE THAT IT IS INSPIRATIONAL AND TOUCHES THE HEARTS OF ALL WOMEN CUSTOMERS WITH ITS INBUILT OFFERS OF DISCOUNTS AND FACILITIES.



Honouring the winners of the Hiyya Awards

### AWARDS

During the Launch Alizz Islamic Bank also announced the winners of the 'Hiyya' awards for women. The award for the Best New Female Owned Business went to Natasha Events, owned by Natasha Al Wahaibi, while the Most Inspirational Business Woman award went to Sayyida Asila Al Said the owner and founder of Party Fever Oman, a comprehensive company that provides event management and party planning and has become an essential part of society. As for the Made in Oman award for the best female owned business that manufactures and produces goods locally, it went to Lama Al Kharusi, the founder of Lama Sweet Company which is the first Omani homemade ice cream company in Oman and run by 10 year old entrepreneur Lama Al Kharusi. The Best Customer Service Award for the Best Customer Service in a female owned Business was awarded to Bodour Boutique by Taqwa Al Lawati. The Social

Responsibility Champion of the year Award for Women went to Nada Al-Moosa, who devotes much of her time, effort and money to raising awareness and drawing attention to the issue of animal welfare. The award for Best Online Business was awarded to Mazoon Al Jabri for her Graphic Design business @designbymaz that has set an example in the success of startups in Oman and has boosted the quality of graphic design work in Oman. Finally, the award for the role model of the year for the woman who sets an example for leadership and success was awarded to Asma Al Hajry who used to run a business that was only 12 square metres, with her diligence and perseverance today the shop has an area of 4,000 square metres. Commenting on the launch of the Hiyya Female Banking Segment, Mohammed Al Ghassani, AGM - Chief Consumer Banking officer at Alizz Islamic Bank,

said: "Our vision is crystalized in ensuring the prosperity of Omani women without compromising our Islamic values. And, as we have proven previously, we do not make a product without putting in it maximum benefits for the customer, and this is what our Hiyya Female banking segment promises to do: meet our female customers' needs and aspirations."

Explaining further, Al Ghassani noted that the segment would meet all the banking needs of women. "The scope of Hiyya is to ensure that it is inspirational and touches the hearts of all women customers with its inbuilt offers of discounts and facilities. We have a clear understanding of women's banking needs and services, and thus we have resolved to make seventeenth of October a special day for Omani women through the launch of Hiyya."

**MARKET WATCH**  

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| MSX30      | 4,010.75  |
| BSE Sensex | 61,350.26 |

**FOREX RATES**  
**(RO1 equals)**  

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Indian Rs        | 194.99 |
| Pakistani Rs     | 453.55 |
| Bangladeshi Taka | 222.67 |
| Philippine Peso  | 131.89 |
| Sri Lankan Rs    | 524.00 |

\*Rates as on October 26  
Source: xe.com

**BRIEFS**  

**China's Liu and Yellen hold 'candid' call on trade**

China's Vice Premier Liu He held a call with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Tuesday to discuss trade issues, with both sides highlighting points of concern in their relationship as they try to tread a new path after the upheaval of the Donald Trump era.

In a video call, the two held 'pragmatic, candid and constructive exchanges on the macroeconomic situation and cooperation in multilateral and bilateral fields', said China's Commerce Ministry in a statement. Liu expressed concern about US tariffs and sanctions, and its treatment of Chinese companies.

The two sides recognised that 'developments in our two economies have important implications for the global economy'.

# OPWP won't grant extensions for expiring power purchase agreements

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP), the sole procurer of all electricity and water production capacity in the sultanate, would not grant extensions to the four power generating companies whose power purchase agreements will expire by the end of 2021 or early next year.

Four power generating companies – ACWA Power Barka, Al Kamil Power, Sohar Power and SMN Power Holding – have received letters from OPWP informing them about the annulment of the Power 2022 procurement process.

OPWP's Power 2022 project is an implementation of the new procurement strategy for power and related water projects involving existing generators. OPWP had received tariff proposals from four existing power generators – ACWA Power Barka, Al Kamil Power, Sohar Power and Al Rusail Power – participating in the Power 2022 procurement process.

In a disclosure submitted to the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) on Tuesday, ACWA Power Barka said, 'The company



has received a letter from OPWP informing the annulment of Power 2022 procurement process. The company, therefore, will not be granted a power and water purchase agreement extension after the expiry date of December 31, 2021.'

In a similar disclosure, Al Kamil Power also confirmed about receiving the OPWP letter notifying the annulment of Power 2022 procurement process. It said, 'The company will not be granted a power purchase agreement extension beyond December 31, 2021, the

expiry date of the current agreement.'

Sohar Power informed the MSX that it is assessing all the options available to continue its operation beyond the expiry of the current power and water purchase agreement with OPWP, including operating under the upcoming Electricity Spot Market.

SMN Power Holding also received the letter from OPWP regarding the Power 2022 tender in which its subsidiary Al Rusail Power participated.

'OPWP has issued a formal

notice to Al Rusail Power on the annulment of Power 2022 procurement process. Thus, there will be no extension of the power purchase agreement between OPWP and Al Rusail Power and the agreement will terminate on March 31, 2022 in accordance with the existing terms and conditions,' SMN Power Holding said in a disclosure to the MSX.

**Electricity Spot Market**

OPWP, however, has invited the above mentioned companies to participate in Oman's Electricity

*The Middle East's first wholesale Electricity Spot Market, which is being developed by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company, is set to go live before the end of this year*

Spot Market which will go live before the end of this year.

OPWP is developing the Middle East's first wholesale Electricity Spot Market. The aims of the Spot Market initiative include improving efficiency and transparency in the electricity sector, providing opportunities for diverse generation sources that do not compete in OPWP's normal tender process, and providing an option for the continued participation of existing generation plants whose power purchase agreements have expired.

Al Kamil Power in its disclosure said, 'OPWP stated in their letter that the Electricity Spot Market is planned to go live be-

fore the end of the current year, and the company is invited to participate in the said spot market.'

However, Al Kamil Power had appointed an independent consultant to conduct a study to assess the revenues that the company can expect to generate from the Electricity Spot Market. 'The study concluded that the level of revenues that the company can expect to generate from the spot market will be negligible and hence will not be economically feasible for the company,' Al Kamil Power said.

ACWA Power Barka said, 'The OPWP letter mentioned that the Electricity Spot Market is on track to go live in January 2022 onward. The company is assessing all options available to continue its operations beyond expiry of its power and water purchase agreement.'

SMN Power Holding also said that it is assessing the feasible alternatives available [for Al Rusail Power], including the participation in the Electricity Spot Market.

The Electricity Spot Market will enable OPWP to purchase the required electricity on a daily basis through the offers received from generation companies.

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## Tesla tops \$1tn in market value

New York, US – Tesla became the latest US tech giant to hit US\$1tn in market value on Monday as investors cheered a large order from Hertz and shrugged off criticism from a US auto safety official.

Shares of Elon Musk's company finished at US\$1,024.86, up 12.7 per cent and topping US\$1tn for the first time.

'Wild \$Tmes!' Musk said on Twitter.

The surge followed an announcement from rental car giant Hertz of an order to buy 100,000 autos from Tesla by the end of 2022 in the latest embrace of electric car technology by a mainstream auto player.

The Hertz announcement came on the heels of strong Tesla earnings last week that illustrated the company's resilience in spite of a semiconductor shortage that has weighed more heavily on other automakers.

Leading analysts at Morgan Stanley upped their target on Tesla to US\$1,200 from US\$894, pointing to the company's 'extraordinary' revenue in the last quarter despite supply chain problems.

The Morgan Stanley note predicted Tesla over the next 12 to 18 months will 'demonstrate the capabilities of the Trillion dollar Tesla', as it ramps up production and expands its capacity, model offerings and service offerings.



Monday's rally overlooked a letter from the National Transportation Safety Board castigating Musk for not implementing key recommendations to safeguard the automaker's driver assistance programs.

In a September 2017 report on a fatal incident a year earlier in Florida, the NTSB concluded that Tesla's driver assistance system was prone to being employed on roads for which it was not designed. Tesla's programme also failed to detect signs the driver was disengaged. The agency urged Tesla to incorporate safeguards to limit the system to areas for which it was intended and to alert the driver when he or she became disengaged.

The other five automakers that received the NTSB's recommendations responded and outlined the steps they were taking.

"Tesla is the only manufacturer that did not officially respond to us about the recommendations," wrote NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy.

AFP

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# MSX inches down; volumes improve

**Our Correspondent**  
Muscat

The benchmark index of the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) was marginally down by 0.02 per cent at 4,010.76 points on Tuesday.

Trading activity improved from the previous session as turnover jumped by 32.97 per cent to RO3.62mn and volumes increased 3.25 per cent to 19.31mn shares.

While Financial index rose 0.17 per cent, Industrial and Services indices fell 0.95 per



cent and 0.81 per cent, respectively.

The MSX Shariah index closed down by 0.29 per cent at 559.61 points.

Market breadth remained negative as eight companies closed up, while 29 companies closed down.

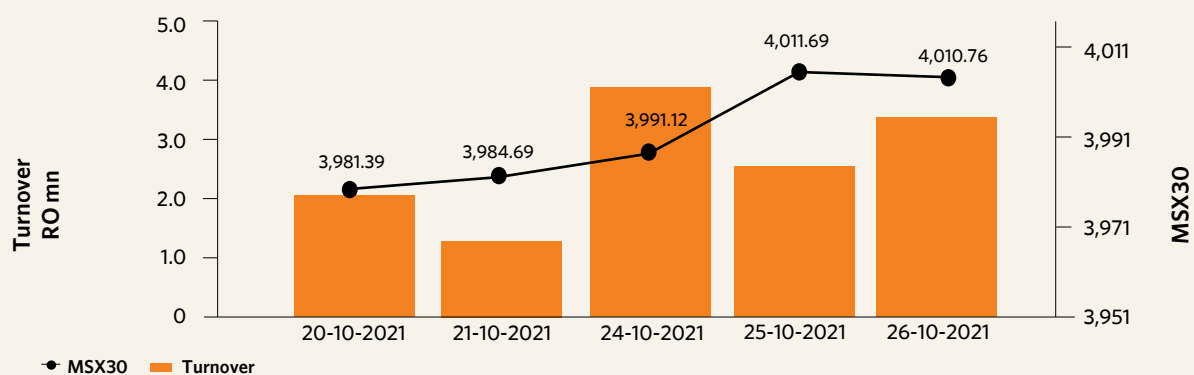
The rest 18 traded stocks

closed flat for the day.

Top gainers were Muscat Desalinate (5.06 per cent), Ahli Bank (2.73 per cent), Sembcorp Salalah (1.21 per cent), Gulf International Chemicals (1.05 per cent) and Sohar International Bank (1.04 per cent).

Top losers were Voltamp Energy (-8.89 per cent), SMN Power (-5.17 per cent), Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co (-3.83 per cent), Al Batinah Power (-3.77 per cent) and Al Madina Investment (-3.39 per cent).

**MSX INDEX AND TURNOVER OF FIVE TRADING DAYS**



# Petrol price hits record high at UK pumps

**London, UK** - The price of petrol in Britain hit a record high of 149.94 pence (US\$2.05) per litre, the RAC motoring organisation said on Monday.

The previous record at the pumps, set in April 2012, was broken on Sunday as global oil prices rise dramatically, doubling from around US\$40 a barrel a year ago to US\$85 now.

The price of diesel in Britain, at 146.5 pence a litre, is also nearing its 2012 record.

"This is truly a dark day for drivers, and one which we hoped we wouldn't see again after the high prices of April 2012," said RAC fuel spokesman Simon Williams.

"This will hurt many household budgets and no doubt have knock-on implications for the wider economy," he added.

"The big question now is: Where will it stop and what price will petrol hit?"

Factors beyond the oil price hike have fed into the price rise at the pumps. September's switch to greener E10 petrol also



played a part, as has the margin retailers are taking on every litre sold which is now greater than it was prior to the start of the pandemic.

On September 1, the bio content of unleaded petrol increased from 5 per cent ethanol to 10 per cent, and as ethanol is more expensive than petrol, it added around a penny a litre to the cost to motorists.

The biggest element of the price paid by British consumers is tax. Duty at 57.95 pence a litre exceeds the combined bio and petrol components which amount to around 50 per cent,

leading to calls from the RAC and others for the government to drop VAT on petrol to tame the price.

According to RAC data, the price of unleaded petrol has 'rocketed' over the past year, adding £15 to the cost of filling up a family car.

Oil prices pressed higher on world markets on Monday, with the main international contract, Brent, at a three-year high above US\$86 per barrel. Meanwhile the main US oil contract, WTI, rose above US\$85 for the first time since October 2014.

AFP

# No new coal plants in Sri Lanka: Govt

**Colombo, Sri Lanka** - Sri Lanka will stop commissioning new coal-fired power plants as part of a push to ditch the dirty fossil fuel, the government said on Tuesday, ahead of the COP26 global summit on climate change.

Coal and hydroelectricity contribute about 44 per cent each to Sri Lanka's power supply. Diesel accounts for 9 per cent, the rest coming from wind and solar.

"The Cabinet approved a proposal by the Minister of Electric-

ity to support the no new coal initiative [of COP26] and allow both local and foreign investors to set up more renewable energy projects," Cabinet spokesman Ramesh Pathirana told reporters.

Ceylon Electricity Board officials told AFP the decision meant a planned fourth coal-fired power plant in Norochcholai, north of the capital Colombo, would be scrapped.

Plans for the plant were announced a year ago, but no construction work had started.

Demand is now expected to be met by future renewable projects.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's spokesperson, Kingsly Rathnayaka, confirmed to AFP on Tuesday that the Sri Lankan leader would attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, which starts on October 31.

Unlike many countries, the island nation is yet to release a net-zero target.

AFP

# Cyberattack blocks Iran petrol distribution

**Tehran, Iran** - A cyberattack in Iran interrupted petrol distribution at the country's service stations on Tuesday, state television said, citing the Islamic republic's top security body.

"The Supreme National Security Council confirmed that there has been a cyberattack against the petrol distribution computer system," the television said.

It had earlier reported that the interruption was due to 'disruptions to the computer system'.

'Details of the attack and its source are under investigation,' it added, without giving further details.

State television said the system disruption had blocked petrol pumps across the country.

Networks broadcast images of long lines at shut services stations.

An urgent meeting was being held at Iran's national society for the distribution of petrol products in order to resolve the problem, the body's spokesman Fatemeh Kahi said.

In Tehran, technicians from the Ministry of Petrol took IT

systems offline in a number of petrol stations to distribute fuel manually, state television reported later in the day.

Interior Minister Ahmed Vahidi on Tuesday assured people that there are no plans to raise petrol prices, calling on them 'not to worry', in remarks to the state broadcaster.

AFP

# As US debt limit looms again, calls intensify for reform

**Washington, US** - The US government is once again nearing the limit on how much debt it can take on, a familiar deadline that will force the country's political elite into high-stakes negotiations over averting a default.

The world's largest economy has never failed to meet a debt payment before, and though standoffs like these have become familiar in Washington, Democrats and Republicans are expected to eventually reach a compromise before the limit may be reached in December.

The looming deadline comes as Democrats appear near an agreement to unilaterally pass a social services spending plan backed by President Joe Biden, as well as an infrastructure bill that has attracted some Republican support.

But calls are growing to put an

end to the legal limit, with several economists saying the brinkmanship is unnecessary and potentially damaging.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who will play a major part in forging any compromise with Republicans, acknowledged 'a number of plans' to eliminate the debt ceiling in a Sunday interview with CNN.

IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath said it was 'highly unproductive to have the situation of brinkmanship with respect to the US debt ceiling' and described it as 'something that should be reformed'.

Two Democratic House lawmakers have introduced legislation to transfer the authority to raise the debt limit to the Treasury secretary.

"The problem with the debt ceiling is that it does nothing to



A sign at a bus stop shows the amount of the US national debt in Washington, DC on Monday (AFP)

address the problem of government debt and only serves as a political tool for political parties," said Brendan Boyle, one of the

bill's sponsors.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has signaled support for reforming the limit.

"I believe it's very disruptive to put the President and myself, the Treasury Secretary, in a situation where we might be unable to pay

the bills that result from those past decisions," she told a House committee last month.

Steve Pressman, an economics professor at Monmouth University, described the debt limit as forcing lawmakers to essentially make the same decision twice: one to approve the spending, the second to raise the borrowing ceiling to pay for it.

"It is all political now, which is another good reason... [to] just get rid of this stupid thing," he said. "We're just spending too much time and too much effort on it."

Only a few countries have a similar debt control mechanism. In Denmark, it's set so high 'that there was no way within the next century that they would approach it', Pressman said.

Four Democratic House and Senate lawmakers have pro-

posed legislation abolishing the ceiling altogether.

"We should eliminate the debt limit to permanently lift the threat of default from our economy and focus on the urgent work the American people expect Congress to do," said Michael Bennet, one of the Senate sponsors.

Earlier in October, Steny Hoyer, the number-two Democrat in the House of Representatives, told colleagues in a letter 'the House will explore options to remove the threat that the debt limit poses over the long term, now that Republicans have demonstrated a willingness to weaponise it for partisan purposes'.

A bill to end the limit could be considered as soon as this month, he said.

AFP

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# Ahlibank Wafra 3rd quarter draw offers prizes worth RO300,000

Ahlibank’s popular prize scheme Wafra 2021 continues to change the lives of an increasing number of customers, rewarding them with frequent and more cash prizes.

The Bank has rewarded the lucky winners in the Wafra 3rd quarter draws with prizes totaling more than RO300,000, including one winner of the grand ‘Salary for Life’ prize of RO250,000 (RO1,000 monthly for 250 months), which went to Jai Hasnani from Al Khoudh Branch, a press release said.

Muneer al Balushi, AGM and head of Retail Distribution, ahlibank, said, “At ahlibank, the role of Wafra savings accounts is not only to give various customer segments special rewards, but also to encourage them to save more in order to achieve their future aspirations. Through multiple categories of draws, and at multiple timelines, the Wafra prize scheme has been systematically designed to encourage individuals of various income brackets to try their luck by adopting prudent financial practices. We aim to continue our journey to bring smiles on the faces of more winners.”

Highlighting the bank’s commitment to its customer-first approach, Balushi said, “The consistent growth witnessed by the Bank over the past years has come as a result of innova-



tion to provide high quality products and services, and the development of banking technologies, especially those that are geared towards enriching the experience of our retail customer base. Additionally, the Wafra prize scheme helps us to maintain close relationships with our customers, and impactfully engage with them, while the savings enhancement

nature of the scheme supports their personal goals.”

In addition to the grand prize winner, the bank also announced the winner of the quarterly prize from Al Nukhba and Exclusiv accounts worth RO25,000, as well as the winner of the quarterly draw of Imtiyaz accounts with a prize of RO10,000. For customers who maintained an average quar-

terly balance of at least RO5,000 in their accounts, the bank presented a special quarterly prize of RO25,000 to five winners (RO5,000 per winner).

In order to expand the winning base among its customers, the bank announced during the third quarterly draws’ event the names of two winners in the monthly salary transfer draws, where each winner received a

prize of RO1000. Five young winners were awarded a total of RO1,500 in the monthly draws that was conducted under the ‘MyChoice’ category, while 5 children won a total prize of RO1,000.

Apart from these, a weekly draw was held for all branches, through which 20 winners were rewarded with prizes worth RO500 each.



## Ericsson enhances 5G capabilities

Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) is enhancing its 5G capabilities with the launch of an end-to-end solution that will guarantee the consistent low latency and high reliability demanded by time-critical applications and services for consumers, enterprises, and public sector.

Ericsson is enabling Time-Critical Communication through its new Critical IoT product – easily deployable as a software upgrade on public and private 5G networks, in wide and local areas, on any 5G frequency band. Having deployed 5G networks globally with successful rollouts of enhanced mobile broadband and Fixed Wireless Access services, the new solution will allow communications service providers to further enhance experiences in real-time media use cases like cloud gaming and AR/VR, and unlock possibilities in remote control, mobility automation, and industrial control,

a press release said.

Apart from the estimated 2.5bn mobile gamers across the world who will enjoy lag-free gaming experience, the new solution will thrill all 5G users looking for immersive XR experiences. It will also benefit enterprises, industries, and public agencies where production processes or mission-critical services depend heavily on high-performance connectivity.

Per Narvinger, head of Product Area Networks, said, “Ericsson continues to introduce innovative 5G solutions that fuel the global uptake of 5G. Now we are taking 5G to the next level with Time-Critical Communication, a solution that will give our customers the tools to expand their offerings for the consumer, enterprise, and public sectors and further monetise 5G effectively.” Ericsson’s Time-Critical Communication is a software toolbox for resolving lags.



## OQ to showcase polymer solutions at ArabPlast

As OQ gears up for ArabPlast 2021 to be held in Dubai from November 15 – 18, it plans to exhibit polymer products and solutions aligned with its outlook to drive a more sustainable future.

At ArabPlast 2021, Oman’s state-owned energy firm will be one of the main exhibitors showcasing its product offerings in key sectors – Flexible Packaging, Rigid Packaging & Durables, and Infrastructure & Construction. With the ambitious Liwa Plastics Industries Complex (LPIC), OQ has pioneered the sultanate’s first production of polyethylene thereby diversifying its product

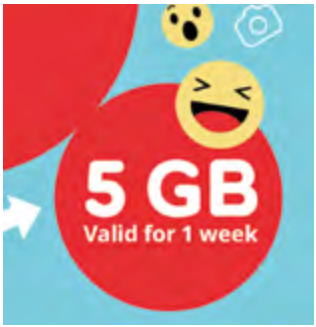
portfolio to include HDPE (high-density polyethylene) and LLDPE (linear low-density polyethylene) production.

LPIC has enabled OQ to expand its production capacity of polyethylene and polypropylene to 1.5 million tonnes.

The global polymer demand is on the rise as it is a widely used petrochemical product in multitudes of applications across industrial sectors. The market size for polymers is forecasted to soar to USD750bn by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 5.1% during 2020-2025. According to Goldstein Research, the GCC polymer industry is expected to

reach 34.5 million tonnes by 2022, supporting further downstream development, while growing at a CAGR of 3%. To capitalise on the global and regional demand, OQ has undertaken an aggressive growth plan and aims to increase its polymers product portfolio by over four times.

Gilles Rochas, vice president, Performance Chemicals at OQ, said, “The polymer industry has witnessed a steady increase in demand over the past year, attributed to the accelerated demand for secure food packaging solutions and products aimed at personal health and safety.”



## Ooredoo launches revamped Internet add-ons

Ooredoo has launched revamped Internet add-ons for Hala and Shahry customers who can simply visit the Ooredoo App and select from Hala Internet Add-ons for prepaid or from Shahry Internet Add-ons for postpaid to enjoy streaming, surfing and exploring the internet for longer durations. This is just one of many ways Ooredoo continuously adds value to its users, a press release said.

New and existing customers can choose from daily data plans starting at 500bz, or those looking for a longer commitment, can get 12-week plans for RO20 and receive 25GB of data. Users are now spoilt for choice for selecting a suitable plan.

## Adeeb Ahamed appointed advisor to Al Maryah board

UAE’s first licensed digital-only bank – Al Maryah Community Bank - has appointed Adeeb Ahamed, managing director of Abu Dhabi based LuLu Financial Holdings to the position of Advisor to its board members.

Ahamed, whose investments in financial services and digital payments span 11 countries in the GCC, Indian sub-continent and APAC regions, is an established and recognised industry name, known for his far-reaching contributions to the development of the global payments ecosystem. A member of the prestigious World Economic Forum’s South Asian Regional Strategy Group, Ahamed also heads companies in retail, F&B and luxury hospitality.

Al Maryah Community Bank, which started operations earlier this year, is a community oriented financial services provider committed to improving the



quality of life of the UAE community by operating with integrity and using innovative smart technologies.

The Board comprises leaders from diversified sectors of economy, and Ahamed’s inputs as an advisor will help improve the bank’s strategic direction. Al Maryah Community Bank is also heavily invested in digital solutions and elevation of user experience for the UAE community, and Ahamed’s vision for the payments ecosystem will be of much support in this regard.

## Omantel, WeCom team up to provide Virtual PBX

Omantel has announced its partnership with WeCom to launch Virtual PBX service, on the sidelines of GITEX 2021 last week in Dubai.

The initiative aims to support small & medium businesses as well as the Government across the sultanate.

The service, named Virtual PBX, is a type of IP Telephony system, which requires no ‘on-site’ equipment except phones devices if needed and a secured internet connection. It supports office phones, smartphones and Laptops/Desktops, a press release said.

The Virtual PBX solution will provide customers a pay-as-you-go model, thus eliminates the need to invest upfront on IP Telephony infrastructure as the current options in the market. Customers can scale up and scale down their number of users or branches as per their business requirements and Omantel will provide the ease of being One Stop Shop for all Telecom needs including SIP Services, IP Telephony Solutions (backend, Desk Phones etc.), Internet Services, Conferencing solution and many more.

Eng Baha al Lawati, Enterprise Unit Vice President at Omantel, said, “Customers using the new Virtual PBX product will be able to connect to the PBX platform Hosted within Oman through secured connections and enjoy the voice services along with PBX features on the go. As always Omantel ICT is one step ahead in bringing Future Technologies in Oman.”

Salim al Maamari, CEO at Wecom, added, “This partnership has been a crucial step for WeCom to play an active role in liberating the corporate sector.”

## Livspace joins forces with Alsulaiman Group

Livspace, India and South East Asia’s largest omni-channel home interior and renovation platform announced expansion into the Middle East in a strategic joint venture with the Alsulaiman Group (ASG), Ikea’s operating partner in the region.

With its maiden joint venture built on top of the home improvement industry’s only technology platform, digital supply chain and most trusted managed-marketplace, Livspace will

aim to capitalise on the vast opportunities in home interiors and renovation segment in the MENA region starting with KSA, a press release said.

With its award-winning industry-first and only technology platform, Livspace brings homeowners, design professionals, vendors and brands together on a single managed marketplace. The company’s global experience, combined with the strong legacy of Alsulaiman Group, will



Anuj Srivastava

aid the brand in delivering world-class home interior and renovation solutions across the Middle



Saud Alsulaiman

East. ASG is expanding its range of products and services through investing and partnering

in innovative companies and startups that bring unique concepts to the region.

Anuj Srivastava, CEO and co-founder, Livspace, said, “We are thrilled to expand our operations in the Middle East with a strategic partnership of the caliber of Alsulaiman Group. As consumers move towards organised and trusted digital brands - sellers, suppliers, vendors and brands adopt digital platforms. Livspace will rapidly continue to

scale its business model across multiple regions and new markets across the globe starting with the APAC geography.

Saud Alsulaiman, Alsulaiman Group CEO, added, “This partnership with Livspace will allow us to expand the scope of the customer experience from the beginning of the design of the home to the end of implementation, in an innovative and unique experience to turn the dreams of homeowners into reality.”



## Muzn sponsors Islamic Finance News forum

Playing a pioneering role in the development of the Islamic finance industry, Muzn, National Bank of Oman's (NBO) Islamic banking window, recently sponsored the Islamic Finance News (IFN) Forum 2021.

Salima al Marzouqi, Muzn's head of Islamic Banking, was part of a panel entitled 'Oman Vision 2040 and The Islamic Economy: Improving Livelihoods and Creating Prosperity'. The sixth edition of the annual forum brought together leading Islamic finance practitioners and regulators from around the region to connect, converse, and further develop

the market, a press release said.

Marzouqi said, "Oman's Islamic finance industry continues to flourish, while playing an ever-expanding role in the country's vision for economic diversification and development. As the sultanate's first Islamic banking window, Muzn is committed to supporting this role, particularly through social impact products and strategies that promote entrepreneurship and financial inclusion in Oman."

The forum opened with a keynote address by Abdullah Salim al Salmi, executive president, Capital Market Authority.



## ATM to focus on ethical tourism brands

RX Global, organiser of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), has revealed that 2022 could witness a resurgence in brand conscious travellers, following commentary it received from delegates attending its 2021 in-person and virtual seminars about responsible tourism.

"The feedback we received, has enabled us to identify a particular profile of traveller, that now actively looks for ethical brands to follow and wants to see tangible evidence of that brand practicing what it claims to be, a press release said.

"This potential vertical shows a combination of characteristics attributed to outdoor adventurers, wellness, eco-tourists, digital nomads on 'workcations', experiential tourists and socially aware travellers," said, Danielle

Curtis, exhibition director ME, Arabian Travel Market.

"Naturally we will be showcasing this emerging trend during our 2022 hybrid event which takes place live and in-person at the Dubai World Trade Centre between May 8-11, 2022, with a virtual edition on May 17 and 18, 2022.

"Our conference programme for ATM 2022 is still being created but already we have sessions that will address the challenges facing airlines, hotels and other destinations, in the near future, such as health and safety, technology and equity in health, education, and economic opportunity," added Curtis.

During the aviation seminars at ATM 2021, experts felt that short haul leisure breaks would be the first to recover.

## Omantel supports Asyad Logistics Challenge

Asyad Group, the global integrated logistics solutions provider, has announced Omantel, the sultanate's leading telecommunications services provider, as the official technology partner for the upcoming Asyad Global Logistics Challenge.

The competitive event will be held from November 2 to 4 at Expo 2020 Dubai, as part of a line-up of activities Asyad Group has organised in collaboration with Hypermotion Dubai, which includes the Global Hackathon Challenge and the Logistics Start-up Challenge. It comes as part of wider efforts to showcase the role of the public and private sectors in positioning the sultanate on the global map, a press release said.

Juma bin Saleh al Uraimi, acting group chief commercial officer at Asyad Group, said, "Through this event, we look forward to engaging our local part-



ners to promote national talent, nurture innovative ideas and encourage entrepreneurship. Working alongside Omantel will provide us with an unprecedented opportunity to address challenges in the logistics sector, while promoting the sultanate as a logistics destination."

Baha bin Mohammed Ridha al Lawati, vice president of Omantel's Enterprise Business Unit, added, "This collaboration is part of Omantel's efforts to promote best practices in the digital transformation sphere and enhance entrepreneurship and competitiveness of the logistics sector globally. By participating in such events, we continue to support national projects and start-ups."

# Oman Oasis Win Gold winners announced

Marking the successful completion of yet another exciting promotion, Oman Oasis announced the third and final round of winners of its 'Win Gold' promotion. With the first two draws stirring a lot of excitement amongst customers, the third and final draw was an eagerly anticipated announcement.

With two draws conducted in June and July, the final draw was held on 16 August and witnessed 344 winners. The key prizes included a number of gold bars to be won along with other exciting prizes. The winner of the 100 gm gold bar was Faisal Abbas, who expressed his joy and gratitude to Oman Oasis whereas Hasib Vazhayil Peedika celebrated on winning a 50 gm gold bar. Ibrahim al Wardi and Issa Abdul-



fattah Alatar were the lucky winners who each walked away with a 25 gm gold bar. Apart from the gold bars, the third and final draw also gave away 4gm gold coins to 80 winners and RO10 worth of

shopping vouchers to 100 winners, while 160 more winners received Oman Oasis 24x500ml cartons.

The 'Win Gold' offer which commenced on May 16, ran until August 15, giving customers ample time to register and win. With a total of 1061 winners spread through the three draws, Oman Oasis ensured that all its customers had more chances to win from its range of exciting prizes.

With the completion of another successful campaign that attests to the brand's commitment to reward its customers, Oman Oasis will continue to remain dedicated to coming up with more innovative offers for its esteemed customers.

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| REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NINE MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              | UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION At 30 September 2021 |                             |
| On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am happy to present the un-audited interim results of the Company for the nine months period ended 30 September 2021.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |              | 30 Sep 2021                                                    | 30 Sep 2020                 |
| Results for the period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |              | RO                                                             | Audited 31 December 2020 RO |
| During the period, the Company has achieved sales revenue of RO 13,958,396 (30 September 2020 RO 16,571,741).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |                                                                |                             |
| Revenue for the period was lower due to the global Covid pandemic and resulting in lower demand from consumers and restrictions in the marketplace. Further, higher sales and demand for health and hygiene care products due to covid in 2020, has now reduced and returned to normal level during current year.                                                      |              |                                                                |                             |
| Despite of cost control measures gross profit margin decreased, as raw materials prices have gone up compared to the last year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |                                                                |                             |
| The Profit after tax for the period is RO 114,192 compared to RO 971,387 in the corresponding period of last year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |                                                                |                             |
| The Company's flagship brand BAHAR is maintaining its market position in Oman.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |                                                                |                             |
| Omanisation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |                                                                |                             |
| The Company's efforts to improve the Omanisation at various levels of the organization including the senior and middle levels, with adequate training inputs, continued during this period. The Omanisation percentage was maintained at above 45%, including senior levels of the Company.                                                                            |              |                                                                |                             |
| Compliance with Internal Regulations and Control System                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |                                                                |                             |
| The Company has in place an internal control system, commensurate with the size and nature of its business. The Company utilizes the services of an internationally reputed audit firm, for conducting periodic internal audit and the Audit Committee reviews the accounts at regular intervals. The Company complies with all the local laws and regulations.        |              |                                                                |                             |
| Future Outlook                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |                                                                |                             |
| The current Covid environment has created unprecedented challenges, which resulted in less consumer demand for our category of products. All of our retail customers including hypermarkets are showing declines in year-on-year sales. To reduce this impact, NDC is focusing on controlling costs and introducing new products that closely meet consumers' needs.   |              |                                                                |                             |
| We are seeing a gradual return of sales in near future however, there is uncertainty of raw materials and packaging costs. With oil prices increasing over 2020, the Company expects rise in prices of raw and packaging materials.                                                                                                                                    |              |                                                                |                             |
| Acknowledgement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |                                                                |                             |
| On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I thank His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said for his continuous support and encouragement to the industrial sector in the Sultanate of Oman.                                                                                                                                                                   |              |                                                                |                             |
| I would like to express gratitude to all the Ministries for their cooperation. I would also like to thank all the shareholders for their confidence reposed in the Board of Directors, the Auditors for their cooperation and support and our employees for their dedication and efforts.                                                                              |              |                                                                |                             |
| Redha Baqir Al Lawati<br>Chairman, Board of Directors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |                                                                |                             |
| Note:<br>1. The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder on request either in Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt of the request.<br>2. Shareholders and investors are advised to read the full financial statements.<br>3. Certain comparative figures have been reclassified in order to conform to the presentation for the current period. |              |                                                                |                             |
| UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the period ended 30 September 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |                                                                |                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 30 Sep 2021  | 30 Sep 2020                                                    |                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | RO           | RO                                                             |                             |
| Revenue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 13,958,396   | 16,571,741                                                     |                             |
| Cost of sales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | (10,304,422) | (11,510,751)                                                   |                             |
| Gross profit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3,653,974    | 5,060,990                                                      |                             |
| Selling and distribution expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | (2,469,208)  | (2,804,856)                                                    |                             |
| Administrative and general expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | (893,731)    | (945,814)                                                      |                             |
| Other operating income                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 59,459       | 33,975                                                         |                             |
| Profit from operations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 350,494      | 1,344,295                                                      |                             |
| Finance costs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | (216,039)    | (202,996)                                                      |                             |
| Foreign exchange gains/(loss)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | (111)        | 3,568                                                          |                             |
| Finance costs –net                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | (216,150)    | (199,428)                                                      |                             |
| Profit before tax                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 134,344      | 1,144,867                                                      |                             |
| Taxation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (20,152)     | (173,480)                                                      |                             |
| Profit and total comprehensive income for the period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 114,192      | 971,387                                                        |                             |
| Basic earnings per share                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Bzs 7        | Bzs 57                                                         |                             |

# Greece blames Turkey after four migrant children drown in Aegean

Athens, Greece - Greece on Tuesday blamed Turkey for a migrant boat sinking in the Aegean that claimed the lives of four children, noting that Ankara should prevent smugglers from risking peoples' lives at sea.

"Tragically in spite of the best efforts of the Hellenic coast-guard, four children - all between the ages of three and 14 - are confirmed dead, one person is missing, 22 were rescued and are being cared for ashore," Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said in a tweet. "The Turkish authorities must do more to prevent exploitation by criminal

*The Turkish authorities must do more to prevent exploitation by criminal gangs at source*

NOTIS MITARACHI

gangs at source. These journeys should never be allowed to happen," Mitarachi said.

The coastguard told AFP that among the 22 people rescued in rough seas near the island of Chios were 14 men, seven women and another child.

In a statement earlier, the coastguard had said 27 people were thought to be inside the boat, according to the survivors.

Coastguard patrol boats, a NATO vessel, nearby ships and fishing boats and two helicopters were participating in the search.

According to the UN refugee agency UNHCR, over 2,500 people have crossed the Aegean



Migrants disembark from a coast guard vessel after a rescue operation on the Greek island of Chios on Tuesday (AFP)

## UAE urged to probe deportation of African workers

Beirut, Lebanon - Amnesty International on Tuesday called on the United Arab Emirates to investigate what it said were racially motivated detentions and deportations of African migrant workers and for appropriate restitution.

Last month, the Gulf state said it arrested 376 men and women on June 24-25 for various crimes, including human trafficking, prostitution, extortion and assault.

Those arrested were found

to be involved in these crimes,' the Interior Ministry said in a statement at the time.

It added that many of them had been deported, with 50 remaining as they did not have proper travel documents.

But Amnesty said in a statement on Tuesday that those arrested were not given a chance to challenge their deportation and had been mistreated by the authorities.

'In detaining and arbitrarily deporting hundreds of African

nationals en masse, based on racial targeting and with no legal due process, the UAE violated international law,' the London-based rights group said after interviewing 18 deportees.

'All of them described a pattern of racial targeting in the apprehensions, noting that those rounded up were almost exclusively Black.'

Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty's deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa, said the

UAE authorities 'must investigate this appalling incident in view of providing the victims prompt restitution of their belongings and redress for the shameful treatment they were subjected to prior to their deportation', according to the statement.

The oil-rich Gulf nation is reliant on the cheap labour of millions of foreigners, mostly from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and African countries.

AFP

from neighbouring Turkey this year, compared to over 9,700 in 2020. Over 100 people died or are missing in migrant boat sinkings last year, the agency's data show.

Greece blames Turkey for not taking sufficient action to curb smugglers who send out migrants in unsafe boats and dinghies from its shores.

"This is the reality of the exploitation of migrants by criminal gangs in the Aegean - unscrupulous smugglers putting lives at risk in heavily laden unseaworthy dinghies off Chios," Mitarachi said on Tuesday.

AFP

## Egypt President lifts state of emergency

Cairo, Egypt - Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al Sisi on Monday announced the lifting of the state of emergency in place since deadly militant attacks on Coptic Christian churches more than four years ago.

The North African country has been under a state of emergency since April 2017 bombings of two Coptic churches by an Islamic State group affiliate that killed more than 40 people.

Coptic Christians account for around 10 per cent of Egypt's population.

"Egypt has become, thanks to its great people and its loyal men, an oasis of security and stability in the region," Sisi said on Facebook.

"This is why I decided to cancel the renewal of the state of emergency throughout the country," he added.

Under a state of emergency, police powers such as arresting and holding citizens are extended and constitutional rights such as freedom of speech and assembly are curtailed.

Egypt has for years been battling an insurgency. The attacks have been largely concentrated in the northern Sinai Peninsula, but occasionally struck elsewhere in the country.

Since February 2018, the authorities have been conducting a nationwide operation against IS militants, mainly focused on North Sinai and the country's Western Desert, towards the border with Libya.

Rights groups say the state of emergency coupled with the government's effective protest ban since 2013 has helped it in crushing dissent.

AFP

# Iraq blames Iran for drastic decline in river flow

Darbandikhan, Iraq - Iraqi officials warned on Tuesday of a drastic drop in the flow of water in a river from Iran due to low rainfall and dam-building in the neighbouring Islamic republic.

The Sirwan river begins in Iran, flowing to Darbandikhan Dam in northeastern Iraq before going through the rural province of Diyala and joining the Tigris.

"There has been an unprecedented decline," said Rahman Khani, the director of Darbandikhan Dam. "The water level has fallen by 7.5m in one year."

The drop was attributed both to low levels of precipitation and 'the building of more dams in Iran which retain water', he said.

Khani said the dam had this year received 900mn cubic metres of water - a fraction of the annual average of 4.7bn cubic metres.

The decline had led to a 30 per cent fall in electricity production from the dam, he added, warning against the impact on agriculture in Diyala province.

The situation has prompted Iraq's Water Resources Minister Mahdi al Hamdani to call on his government to file a complaint against Iran at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson refused to comment on the matter.

Aoun Thiab, a senior advisor at the Water Ministry, said Iran was 'violating international law by diverting a river flow' based on the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention on the use of water that cross international borders.

Thiab acknowledged however that seeking justice would be 'a political decision and not a technical one'.



This photo taken on Tuesday shows the Darbandikhan Dam after the water level fell by 7.5m in one year, in northeastern Iraq (AFP)

"The waters of the Sirwan river have been completely cut off," he said.

Iraq - which relies on Iran for much of its electricity - has suffered extreme water shortages in many areas in recent years.

This is owing in large part to upstream dam-building in Iran and Turkey, but also to factors relating to climate change and droughts, which have affected the wider region.

Iran has also suffered due to low rainfall, experiencing its own decline in water levels due to droughts, according to a report from the Iranian space agency cited by Mehr news agency.

AFP

## Tehran hit by worst drought in 50 years, reports 97% drop in monthly rainfall

Tehran, Iran - Iran's capital is suffering its worst drought in half a century, a water resources official said Tuesday, citing a 97 per cent drop in monthly rainfall compared with last year.

Tehran has had 0.4mm of rain since September 23, compared with 14.3mm over the same period in 2020, said Mohammad Shahriri, deputy director of the company that supplies the region.

"Groundwater and surface water are at a critical state and

there has not been a similar drought for the past 50 years," he was quoted as saying by Iran's ISNA news agency.

The five dams supplying water to the capital are at less than a third of their capacity, holding just 477mn cubic metres of water instead of 2bn cubic metres.

In September last year, the reserves held 729mn cubic metres of water.

Water consumption in the agricultural sector has gone up by 14 per cent compared with

last year, and by 8 per cent for industry.

Hydroelectricity generation has dropped by 40 per cent in the past six months, according to Shahriri.

Tehran is home to around 9mn people.

In July, deadly protests broke out in the drought-hit southwestern province of Khuzestan after people took to the streets to vent their anger over water shortages.

AFP



Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani (AFP)

## Qatar Emir pledges 'equal citizenship' after vote controversy

Doha, Qatar - Qatar's emir pledged 'equal citizenship' on Tuesday after some people were excluded from participating in the country's first legislative elections, sparking rare debate in the wealthy Gulf country.

Only descendants of Qataris who were citizens in 1930 were eligible to vote and run for 30 of the 45 seats in this month's Shura Council polls, disqualifying members of families naturalised since then.

"To promote equal Qatari citizenship and translate it into practice... I have instructed the council of ministers to prepare the appropriate legal amendments to ensure the achievement of this goal," Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani told lawmakers at the new council's opening session.

In his first remarks on the issue, he called for combatting 'tribal bigotry vis-a-vis public interest or loyalty to the homeland'.

This 'negative aspect of tribalism' was surprising, he said, in apparent reference to isolated

protests during the run-up to the elections.

Qatar has a population of approximately 2.5mn, most of whom are foreigners and ineligible to vote. Qataris number about 333,000.

Candidates were required to stand in electoral divisions linked to where their family or tribe was based in the 1930s, using data compiled by the then-British authorities.

Some members of the sizeable Al-Murrah tribe were among those excluded from the electoral process, sparking a fierce debate online and sporadic protests.

Qatar signed a constitution into effect in 2005 with the aim of introducing democratic reforms.

The constitution banned political parties but provided for legislative power to be vested in a consultative council, or parliament, made up of 45 members, two-thirds of whom would be elected. The rest are appointed by the emir.

AFP

# Sudanese stand ground against coup as condemnation pours in

Khartoum, Sudan - Angry Sudanese stood their ground on Tuesday in street protests against a coup, as international condemnation of the military's takeover poured in ahead of a UN Security Council meeting.

'No to military rule', 'The revolution will go on' and 'Returning to the past is not an option', they chanted, a day after the armed forces seized power and reportedly shot dead at least four people.

On Monday soldiers detained Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, his ministers and civilian members of Sudan's ruling council, who have been heading a transition to full civilian rule following the 2019 overthrow of autocrat Omar al Bashir.

The subsequent declaration of a state of emergency and dissolution of the government provoked an immediate international backlash with the United States, a key backer of Sudan's transition, strongly condemning the military's actions and suspending millions of dollars in aid.

The UN demanded Hamdok's 'immediate release', while diplomats in New York told AFP the Security Council was expected to meet to discuss the crisis on Tuesday.

Announcing the state of emergency, Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al Burhan said the army had taken the actions it had 'to rectify the revolution's course'.

Meanwhile, Sudan's ambassadors to Belgium, France and Switzerland announced their defection on Tuesday.

They condemned the coup and declared their diplomatic missions as 'embassies of the Sudanese people and their revolution', according to the Information Ministry.

Despite the previous day's deadly violence, protesters remained on the streets of Khartoum overnight and into Tuesday.

Shops around the capital were shuttered following calls for a campaign of civil disobedience.

"We will only leave when the



Sudanese protest against the military coup overthrowing the transition to civilian rule in Khartoum on Monday (AFP)

*At least four people were killed and about 80 wounded as soldiers fired live bullets on protesters... outside the army headquarters*

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SUDAN DOCTORS

civilian government is restored," said 32 year old demonstrator Hisham al Amin.

## 'Betrayal'

Clashes erupted in Khartoum after Burhan's speech on Monday.

Internet services were cut across the country and roads into Khartoum were shut, before soldiers stormed the state broadcaster in the capital's twin city of Omdurman.

Demonstrators blocked streets with burning tyres and bricks, and marched waving the Sudanese flag and chanting anti-coup slogans.

The Information Ministry said soldiers 'fired live bullets on protesters... outside the army headquarters'.

At least four demonstrators were killed and about 80 wounded, said the independent Central Committee of Sudan Doctors.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed concern over the reported use of live ammunition against protesters.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said US officials had been unable to contact the detained prime minister.

The United States has suspended US\$700mn in aid.

A troika of countries previously involved in mediating Sudanese conflicts - the US, UK and Norway - said 'the actions of the military represent a betrayal of the revolution, the transition, and the legitimate requests of the Sudanese people for peace, justice and economic development'.

UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said the detention of

the civilian leaders was 'unlawful' and condemned 'the ongoing military coup d'etat'.

The European Union, African Union and Arab League also expressed concern.

## 'Existential moment'

Bashir, who ruled Sudan with an iron fist for three decades, is in jail in Khartoum following a corruption conviction.

He is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide over the civil war in Darfur.

A 2019 power-sharing deal after his fall saw Sudan ruled by a Sovereign Council of civilian and military representatives tasked with overseeing a transition to a full civilian government.

Jonas Horner from the International Crisis Group thinktank called the coup an 'existential moment for both sides'.

"This kind of intervention... really puts autocracy back on the menu," he said.

In recent weeks, the cracks in the leadership had grown wide.

Hamdok had previously described splits in the transitional government as the 'worst and most dangerous crisis' facing the transition.

In recent days, two factions of the movement that spearheaded demonstrations against Bashir have protested on opposite sides of the debate - one group calling for military rule, the other for a full handover of power.

Tensions have long simmered within the movement, known as Forces for Freedom and Change, but divisions ratcheted up after what the government said was a failed coup on September 21 this year.

One FFC leader warned of a 'creeping coup' at the weekend during a news conference in Khartoum that was attacked by a mob.

The mainstream FFC appealed on Monday for a nationwide campaign of 'civil disobedience'.

AFP



Ugandan police officers investigate at the crime scene following an explosion on a bus in Lungala, Uganda on Monday (AFP)

# Ugandan police blame ADF group for bus blast

Kampala, Uganda - Ugandan police said a blast on a bus on Monday evening that injured several people was a suicide bombing carried out by a militant from the ADF group, which was also suspected of plotting to attack 'major installations'.

"The incident was confirmed as... [a] suicide bomb attack, where the attacker died in the explosion," police spokesman Fred Enanga said on Tuesday.

The 23 year old bomber was 'on the wanted list of members' of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), he said.

The much-feared ADF, historically a Ugandan rebel group, has been accused of killing thousands of civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In March the United States officially linked the ADF to the Islamic State group.

The explosion on the long-distance bus near the Ugandan capital Kampala followed a bombing at a café on Saturday evening that killed one person and injured three others.

Enanga said they had established 'a high connectivity' between the two attacks.

"There are individuals or groups of individuals preparing these IEDs who [belong to] the same group of attackers," Enanga said, referring to improvised explosive devices.

Enanga said police had arrested a number of ADF operatives in the country, who were suspected of hatching 'a plot to carry out a major incident on major installations'.

"We strongly believe the attackers are part of the sleeper cells in the country, inspired by

ADF in close collaboration with the Islamic State," Enanga said in a statement following a press conference.

## 'Easy to defeat'

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni tweeted on Tuesday that the suicide bomber was part of the same group responsible for a foiled attack on the state funeral in August of Paul Lokech, an army commander who had led a major African Union offensive against Al Shabab militants in Somalia.

"We shall get all of them. The present shallow effort is easy to defeat," he said on Twitter.

The ADF is considered by experts to be the bloodiest of more than 120 armed groups that roam eastern DRC, many of them a legacy of two regional wars a quarter-century ago.

The DRC's Catholic Church says the ADF has killed around 6,000 civilians since 2013, while a respected monitor, the Kivu Security Tracker (KST), blames it for more than 1,200 deaths in the Beni area alone since 2017.

On March 11, the US State Department said the ADF were linked to the Islamic State under the name of 'ISIS-DRC' or 'Madina at Tauheed Wau Mujahedeen'. It named the group's leader as Seka Musa Baluku.

Police called Saturday's attack an 'act of domestic terror' and the Islamic State later claimed responsibility for that bombing.

Investigators said a 20 year old woman was killed and three others injured in the explosion at a popular roadside eatery.

AFP

# Gunmen kill 16 people in Nigeria mosque attack

Kano, Nigeria - Gunmen have killed 16 worshippers at a mosque in central Nigeria, a government official said on Tuesday, in the latest violence in the restive region.

Scores of gunmen on motorcycles stormed Maza-Kuka village in Mashegu district of Niger state on Monday and opened fire during morning prayers, said Ahmed Ibrahim Matane, the secretary to the government.

"The bandits shot dead 16 people inside the mosque while they were praying," Matane told AFP.

Three worshippers were injured in the attack, one of them critically, he added.

Matane said one other person was killed in nearby Kaboji village as the gunmen fled the area.

"We are still investigating the motive of the attack and we have despatched military and police personnel to the area," he said.

A police spokesman con-

firmed the attack but did not provide details.

Gangs of cattle thieves and kidnappers for ransom known locally as bandits have been terrorising communities in northwest and central Nigeria where they raid villages, killing and burning homes after looting them.

Although they are driven by financial motive, the gangs have been infiltrated by militants waging more than a decade-old insurgency in the northeast. Residents in several communities in Niger state have lately reported an influx of fighters from the northeast who have been taking over remote villages.

The gangs have increasingly been abducting students and schoolchildren to extort ransom from parents and authorities. More than 1,000 students have been kidnapped since December, but most have been released after negotiations.

AFP

# UN 'alarmed' as Somalia fighting displaces 100,000

Nairobi, Kenya - The UN warned on Tuesday of severe humanitarian problems in central Somalia after 100,000 people were displaced by fighting between pro-government forces and Sufi militants.

Fighters loyal to Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa (ASWJ) occupied the strategic town of Guricel earlier this month, before being driven out last week by national forces and paramilitaries in operations that killed at least a dozen people, including civilians.

"We are concerned, even alarmed, by the ongoing fighting in Guricel which is now continuing for the past few days," the UN Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, said.

"First and foremost, we are concerned by its humanitarian consequences, which have been severe. Reports are still initial but they signal nearly 20,000 families displaced, representing some 100,000 people."

He also warned of "very troubling reports of damage to hospitals and civil society facilities as a consequence of the fighting," adding that such attacks amounted to a violation of international humanitarian law.

The UN earlier said that many of those fleeing the violence had sought shelter in villages that are



A child stands next to a fence at their home in an informal settlement in the outskirts of Hargeisa, Somaliland, as the UN special representative for Somalia, James Swan (inset) warned of severe humanitarian problems in central Somalia (AFP)

already grappling with drought and water shortages.

Guricel is the second-largest town in the Galmudug region, which has witnessed a long armed struggle by the Sufi militia.

The ASWJ has controlled many of the major cities in Galmudug over the past decade, and efforts to broker a military and

political settlement to their feud with regional authorities have not succeeded.

The Sufi group's recent military advances in Galmudug coincide with upper house elections in the region, which is the last of Somalia's five federal member states to complete the long-overdue process.

The Horn of Africa nation has been struggling to hold elections and fend off a long-running insurgency, with Al Shabab militants regularly carrying out attacks across the country.

Swan said the violence in Galmudug was 'a distraction from other critical priorities, namely the completion of the electoral

process and the continuation of the fight against Al Shabab'.

Elections in Somalia follow a complex indirect model, whereby state legislatures and clan delegates pick lawmakers for the upper and lower houses of parliament, who in turn choose the president.

AFP

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# China locks down city of 4mn over rise in cases

About 23,000 residents in one housing compound in Beijing have been ordered to stay indoors

Beijing, China - China placed a city of four million people under lockdown on Tuesday, ordering them not to leave home except in emergencies, in a bid to eradicate a coronavirus cluster of just a few dozen confirmed cases.

Beijing imposed strict border controls after the coronavirus was first detected in China in late 2019, slowing the number of cases to a trickle and allowing the economy to bounce back.

But as the rest of the world opens up and tries to find ways to live with the virus, China has maintained a zero-COVID approach that has seen harsh local lockdowns imposed over handfuls of cases.

Tuesday's fresh restrictions came as China reported 29 new domestic infections - including six in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province in the country's northwest.

The latest outbreak has been linked to the highly contagious Delta variant, with the tally hitting 198 cases since October 17.

Thirty-nine have been in Lanzhou.

Residents of the city will now be required to stay at home, authorities said in a statement, with the entry and exit of resi-



Police officers man a checkpoint at the entrance to an expressway, where COVID-19 coronavirus test results are required for entry and exit from the city of Lanzhou, in China's northwestern Gansu province on Tuesday (AFP)

dents' strictly controlled and limited to essential supplies or medical treatment.

Bus and taxi services had already been stopped in the city, and state media said on Tues-

day that Lanzhou station had suspended more than 70 trains, including on key routes to Beijing and Xi'an.

A Southern Airlines representative told AFP that all its

flights from Beijing's Daxing airport to Lanzhou were cancelled due to public safety, with no resumption date given.

Health officials have warned that more infections may

emerge as testing is ramped up in the coming days to fight the outbreak, which has been linked to a group of domestic tourists who travelled from Shanghai to several other provinces.

## Northern outbreak

Strict stay-at-home orders have already been imposed on tens of thousands of people in northern China.

In Beijing - which reported three new cases on Tuesday - access to tourist sites has been limited and the prominent Lama Temple was shuttered, while residents were advised not to leave the capital unless necessary.

About 23,000 residents in one housing compound in Changping district have been ordered to stay indoors after nine cases were found there in recent days, local outlet Beijing News reported.

Community mahjong and chess rooms have been closed, and residents have been told to reduce large gatherings.

Organisers on Sunday indefinitely postponed a marathon at which 30,000 runners were expected.

Mass testing is under way in 11 provinces and authorities have suspended many inter-provincial tour groups.

While the country's case numbers are extremely low compared with elsewhere in the world, authorities are determined to stamp out the latest

outbreak with the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing just over 100 days away.

As part of China's strict enforcement of the zero-COVID policy, those deemed to have failed in controlling COVID-19 are often dismissed from their posts or punished.

On Tuesday, the official Xinhua news agency reported that the party secretary of Ejin Banner in the northern Inner Mongolia region had been sacked, 'due to poor performance and implementation in epidemic prevention and control'.

Hit by the latest wave, the city locked down about 35,000 residents from Monday.

Around 10,000 tourists were also placed under lockdown in Ejin, according to local media reports.

Six other officials were punished for their 'slack response' to the latest flare-up, state media reported, and a local police bureau deputy director was removed from their position.

Beijing police have launched three criminal investigations into alleged COVID-19 safety breaches, deputy director of the city's public security bureau said on Sunday.

AFP

## Hong Kong to further tighten travel restrictions

Hong Kong, China - Hong Kong will tighten coronavirus travel restrictions to bring it more into line with the Chinese mainland, its leader said on Tuesday, as the city extended its streak of more than two months without a major local outbreak.

The announcement came despite concerns from the international hub's business community that the city remains indefinitely cut off from the rest of the world, with one of the strictest mandatory quarantine regimes of any jurisdiction.

Most arrivals have to undergo 14 to 21 days of hotel quarantine.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Hong Kong will now go even further as she tries to persuade China's leaders to restore travel with the mainland.

"Soon we will... announce that most of the quarantine exemptions granted to specific groups of visitors coming from overseas and mainland will be cancelled," Lam said, adding only essential workers such as cross-border truck drivers would be allowed to make quarantine-free trips.

At present, Hong Kong al-



A general view of the central district of Hong Kong on Monday (AFP)

lows certain groups of people to skip quarantine or isolate at home. They include diplomats and business leaders as well as some mainlanders with Hong Kong resident cards.

Lam did not detail which categories would now be denied exemptions.

Last month, Hollywood star Nicole Kidman was allowed to skip quarantine to shoot a television show, a decision that sparked much public anger.

Lam has previously described reopening to the mainland as 'more important' than restoring Hong Kong's international travel links.

On Tuesday, she made clear Beijing expects the city to mimic its own strict restrictions.

"We are caught in a sort of dilemma because in order to resume some quarantine free travel with the mainland we have to ensure our anti-COVID-19 practices are more in line with the mainland practices," she said. "So if Hong Kong were to loosen border controls for people arriving from overseas or adopt with what other countries have done - so-called to live with COVID-19 virus - then the chances to travel with the mainland will be reduced."

AFP

## Coronavirus cases and deaths on the rise again in Europe

Paris, France - COVID-19 infections and deaths are on the rise again in Europe, with Russia, Ukraine and Romania registering the highest fatalities on the continent, an AFP tally showed on Tuesday.

About 1,672,000 new cases have been registered on the continent over the past week, an average of about 239,000 per day.

That was an increase of 18 per cent on the previous week, according to AFP's data, compiled from official sources from 52 countries and territories in the region.

The increase in cases was a 60 per cent jump from August and September, when were about 150,000 new registered cases per day, the data showed.

In the region, 42 countries saw an increase in new infections over the past week, with only seven countries clocking a drop.

The worst affected countries in terms of total new cases are Ukraine, Hungary and Poland.

When per capita infections rates are taken into account, Latvia, Estonia and Georgia are hardest hit. Kosovo, Luxemburg and Malta have seen the



Servicemen of Russia's Emergencies Ministry wearing protective gear disinfect Moscow's Savelovsky railway station on Tuesday (AFP)

sharpest declines.

The current numbers remain below the daily record for the region, which registered an average of 284,000 cases per day between November 2 and November 8, 2020. But Europe now accounts for 55 per cent of all new cases globally.

Latest data also confirmed that deaths are on the rise as well.

Data showed an average of 3,120 daily deaths on the continent in the previous seven days,

up 16 per cent from last week.

It's the first time deaths in the region have exceeded 3,000 daily deaths since May, though current numbers are still far from the record of an average of 5,735 deaths every day from January 14 to 20 this year.

More than a third of the deaths recorded in Europe are currently in Russia, which reported 1,051 deaths on average every day, followed by Ukraine (485) and Romania (420).

AFP

## Mexico City starts vaccines for minors

Mexico City, Mexico - Mexico on Monday began COVID-19 vaccinations for adolescents with chronic diseases in the capital, the latest step in an immunisation drive in one of the countries hit hardest by the pandemic.

Authorities in Mexico City said they had begun using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to inoculate minors with comorbidities aged between 12 and 17 years old.

Fifteen-year-old Paola Abigail Chocooj, who has diabetes, was among those participating, some in their school uniforms.

Her mother Ileana Silva said she had been 'very nervous' since the pandemic started that her daughter would be infected, but was now feeling 'a little bit calmer'.

The northwestern state of Baja California, bordering the United States, also began COVID-19 vaccinations for minors with serious illnesses.

The Mexican government did not include minors in its national immunisation plan, saying that exposing them at an early age to the vaccine could affect their immune systems.

However, a court ruled this month the policy must be changed so that minors aged 12-17 are widely immunised - a verdict the government said it is analysing.

Around 25mn school students returned to classrooms at the end of August, and some parents have taken legal action to have their children vaccinated.

The country of 126mn people has an official COVID-19 death toll of more than 286,000, the world's fourth highest.

Around 53.5mn adults have been fully vaccinated in Mexico.

AFP

## World failing to learn lessons from pandemic: Monitor

Berlin, Germany - Close to two years into the coronavirus pandemic, the world has still done far too little to respond and has failed to learn from its mistakes, a global health monitor said on Tuesday.

In a report launched in Berlin, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), an independent body set up by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, slammed the continued failings in the global response to the pandemic.

'If the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic was defined by a collective failure to take preparedness seriously and

act rapidly on the basis of science, the second has been marked by profound inequalities and a failure of leaders to understand our interconnectedness and act accordingly,' the report said.

The pandemic has exposed a world that is 'unequal, divided, and unaccountable', it concluded.

'The health emergency ecosystem reflects this broken world. It is not fit for purpose and needs major reform.'

The report, launched at the Global Health Summit in Berlin, comes as the number of deaths from the coronavirus nears five million, according to an AFP tally



People walk over a sign on the ground in different languages to wear protective face masks, in the city centre of Berlin in Germany (AFP)

of official sources.

Taking into account excess mortality directly and indirectly linked to COVID-19, the WHO

estimates the overall death toll could be two to three times higher.

The grim milestone ap-

proaches in the context of a sharp divide between wealthier and poorer regions in terms of vaccination rates.

### 'Deep shame'

World Trade Organization chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala pointed out earlier this month that, of more than six billion vaccine doses administered worldwide, only 1.4 per cent of people in poor countries have been fully vaccinated.

"Scientific advancement during COVID-19, particularly speed of vaccine development, gives us just cause for pride," GPMB co-chair Elhadj As Sy said in his foreword to the report.

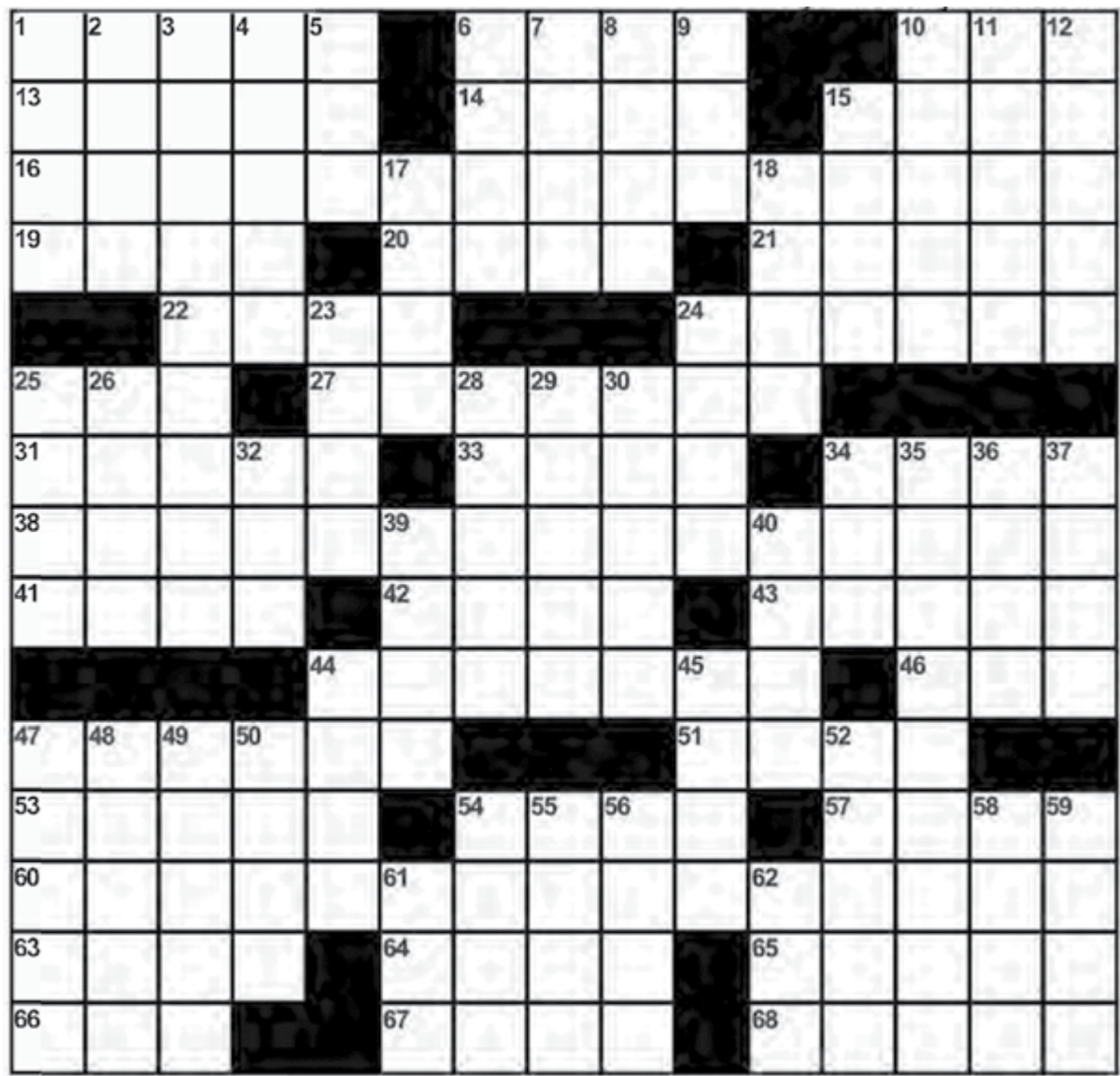
"However, we must feel deep shame over multiple tragedies - vaccine hoarding, the devastating oxygen shortages in low-income countries, the generation of children deprived of education, the shattering of fragile economies and health systems."

He also said that the millions of deaths from the pandemic was 'neither normal nor acceptable'.

"Sadly, there is scant evidence that we are learning the right lessons from this pandemic. Thousands continue to die every day, yet many talk and act as if the pandemic is over," he said.

AFP

DAILY CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

1) "Manage" lead-in  
6) Office note  
10) Lightning-fast punch  
13) Perform without preparation  
14) Met highlight  
15) MatadorA's adversary  
16) Appetizer: What Jesus fed 5,000 with  
19) Thought of nothing\_  
20) Mingo por-trayer Ed  
21) Speaks with much armwavmg  
22) Mushroom part  
24) Child's rocker, in childSpeak  
25) Convenient money source  
27) Repeated part of a song  
31) Jenny of weight loss  
33) Of the finest quality  
34) Hold firmly  
38) Entree: Cow-poke's staples  
COMBO MEALS  
41) Gives the once-over  
42) Active Sicilian volcano  
43) Neglects to in-clude  
44) Given a hard

time  
46) Sodom fugitive  
4 7) Lead-sharing actor  
51) Change course suddenly  
53) Computer char-acter code  
54) Do a secretary's job  
57) The majority  
60) Dessert: Birth-day party  
treats  
63) Standing in the military?  
64) Electric guitar attachments  
65) Change the hue anew  
66) Miner's find  
67) School adminis-tration?  
68) Nodded an-swers

**DOWN**

1) Like canaries that sing  
2) Word with "teen" or "matinee"  
3) Fellow pupil  
4) Hold, as atten-tion  
5) Award bestowed by the queen, for short  
6) Palindromic form of address  
7) Long-winged shore eagle  
8) USNA students

9) Clumsy one  
10) Candy and Han-cock  
11) Sharp, narrow mountain ridge  
12) Given to order-ing people about  
15) Onetime Rus-sian ruler  
17) Copycat's re-quest  
18) Stuff to pump  
23) "I conclude that ..."  
24) Took off quickly  
25) Cause for a massage  
26) Donahue or Aikman  
28) Purposely es-chews meals  
29) Colorful equines  
30) Year's chronicle  
32) Much-faked items  
34) Diamond, pearl or sapphire  
35) Sante Fe and Amtrak  
36) "And lead us not..."  
37) "Do you want to hear a secret?"  
39) Toothed wheel  
40) Foreshadow  
44) Barbershop floor collection  
45) All tied up  
47) City on the world's longest river

48) "Sesame Street" grouch  
49) Script part  
50) Bloodsucking insect  
52) "And now ..." sayer  
54) Starlet's dream  
55) Little tricksters

56) Farthest from first  
58) Type of terrier  
59) Shirts with messages  
61) "Dig in!"  
62) Towel off

**NOTE PAD**

H A S P L A P A Z M A P S  
U G L I E L O P E I S L E  
F A U N A I R E S S T A R  
F R E E A D V E R T I S I N G  
T R I E S C U R S E  
W A R R E N R Y E S  
A C H E A D I E U H A T  
F R E E D O M O F S P E E C H  
T E A O B E S E P A N E  
S P I N I B I D E M  
A P P L E C A N A L  
F R E E D O M O F C H O I C E  
T O T E G E N O A G N A T  
E M I T L A G O S U L N A  
R O T S E L A T E E A T S

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Most people do whatever they can to avoid stress, in any of its many forms. Some folks, on the other hand crave it, even thrive on it. You know someone who fits that bill, someone who just can't stand it when things aren't overdramatic. If you wake up feeling like they're trying to stir things up between you and someone close, listen to your instincts.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20-MAY 20

You know you're perfectly capable of doing nearly anything, so when the action starts to pick up at a crazy pace, you're more than game to keep up with it - gladly - even if you have to dog two jobs for a time. You may be doing more yawning than breathing for a while, so keep an extra pot of coffee brewing, so your peers don't think you're out partying all night long.

**GEMINI** MAY 21-JUNE 21

You're in the right frame of mind to truly express your feelings and let your people know what's really going on. Does that mean you've scheduled a poetry slam for tonight? That just isn't your style. You're just finally ready to talk about that one big issue that's been on your mind for far too long. Clearing the air should be considerably easier than you think.

**CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22

There's a good chance that some dark feelings that you and someone close have been blocking out could pop up and emerge in an extremely volatile way! This doesn't mean that you should expect things to get worse as the day wears on, but if something does come up when you least expect it, make sure you talk it through completely and work from the heart.

**LEO** JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Finances and possessions are much on your mind with good reason! Any financial plans meant to bring greater stability are about to work themselves out. During this process, you may find that someone you need to help you finish things off isn't quite as talented or reliable as you'd hoped. Before you let them have it, ask yourself if you've really got the time to get righteous.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

You've never been one to start fights -- especially between family members. For now, though, your own needs and those of the people closest to you might be in direct opposition. If you feel manipulated, you need to distance yourself from the situation as soon as you possibly can. There's no better way to handle things right now, especially if you can stay away until things cool down.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

If your instincts are acting up and you're not sure who you trust now, there's just one thing to do: Go with your gut, which has never disappointed you. Smile pleasantly (one of your specialties), and watch everything that goes down -- then track down someone you know you can trust, like a family member who's been there for you for as long as you care to remember.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Try to decide between your current sweetie and that new hottie who's so exciting you can hardly think clearly, especially because of your extreme fondness for competition. Usually, you'd keep things under wraps, but for now, you're irresistibly drawn to act like a sports hero to see which team makes the highest bid for your affections. Good luck to both of them.

**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Your favorite technique for helping to solve sizzling confrontations between friends, colleagues or family members is to start out with a little humour. Nine times out of ten, it works like a charm for you. Today's situation may just be the one in ten, though, so you almost certainly need to go one step further and help them find some common ground.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

If it feels like trouble in Paradise, remember first of all that there's no such thing as Paradise! Still, if anyone needs things to be kept calm, they can count on you and your famously down-to-earth demeanour. Since you've got both the time and the desire, go for it. What's the worst thing that could happen? You should still look like a hero in the end.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

If you feel like you're stuck between a rock and a hard place, just do what you do best. Think about the situation for a bit, then turn it around so you switch places with the rock. Once you make it clear who's responsible for the new situation and, more importantly, who can do it all over again you can tell people just how it's going to be from now on.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

A conflict so old you can't remember how it got started may be keeping you separate (emotionally, at least) from a loved one. Since neither of you is willing to admit responsibility, the dispute could start to cause equal parts of amusement and concern in those who know and love you both. How about dropping your pride first and seeing what happens next?

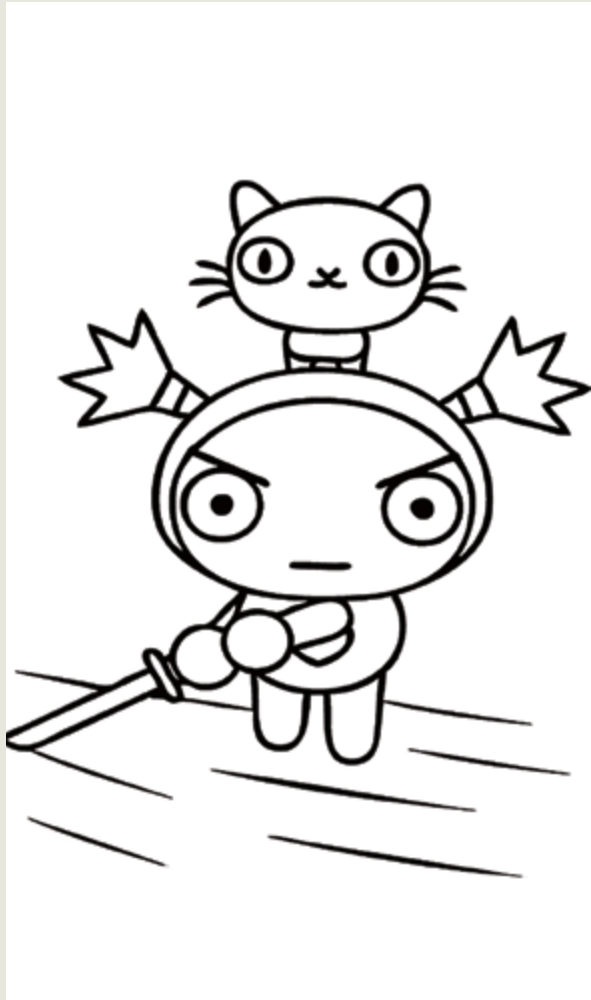


TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Penicillin was invented by
- a. Dr Jonas E. Salk  
b. Gregory Mendal  
c. Paul Ehrlich  
d. A. Fleming
2. Super conductivity is a phenomenon in which the resistance of a substance
- a. increases with temperature  
b. decreases with temperature  
c. does not change with temperature  
d. becomes zero at very low temperature
3. Pakistan left the Commonwealth in 1972, but rejoined as 49th member of the Commonwealth in
- a. 1984  
b. 1991  
c. 1997  
d. 2000

Answers: 1. D 2. D 3. B

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | E | S | E |
| R | D | A | D |
| M | R | R | I |
| A | D | M | E |

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

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

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

# Women's haven IN TALIBAN'S KABUL

It is one of the last places in Kabul where women can meet outside their households, a bubble of freedom and even frivolity away from the gaze of men. Mohadessa has kept her beauty salon open despite threats from Afghanistan's new rulers.

Since the Taliban seized Kabul in mid-August, many women have disappeared from public spaces, driven into private areas out of fear and sometimes very real threats. But Mohadessa's beauty salon has, for now, remained a place where women can relax among themselves outside the household and share their woes -- or forget them in favour of fun and fashion.

The oasis of feminine industry provides income for the staff and moments of indulgence for the clients, but its days may be numbered.

"We don't want to give up and stop working," the 32-year-old entrepreneur told AFP over the hubbub of women getting ready for a wedding celebration.

"We love that we have a job, and it is necessary for women to work in Afghan society -- many of them are the breadwinners for their family."

Customers are dropped off outside and whisked past posters advertising fashion and beauty brands that are now blotted out with white paint.

They quickly disappear into the shop through a heavy curtain.

Once inside, the women shed their headscarves and outer garments and their excited voices compete with the hum of hair-dryers as they choose their new looks.

## Screaming mob

The last time the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, between 1996 and the US-led intervention of 2001, women were obliged to wear the burqa. Also, under the Islamist movement's interpretation of Islamic law,

## BEAUTY SALONS

beauty salons were banned outright. And, just having painted nails meant a woman could risk having her fingers cut off.

Since the Taliban returned to the capital and declared their Islamic Emirate, however, the movement has been at pains to present a more liberal face to the world. Keen to secure international finance to head off economic disaster that could undermine their war gains, they have not rushed to reimpose restrictions on daily life.

That is not to say Mohadessa has not received threats. A Taliban mob has shouted abuse outside her shop, but she has made use of the legal limbo to continue.

"I can say that the women at this salon are courageous because they come to work with fear," she said. "Every day they open the salon, they come in, and they continue to work, despite this fear."

## Message of 'resistance'

On the day AFP visited, around 30 women had braved the climate of fear to come to the shop and prepare for a wedding, where the sexes are traditionally segregated during celebrations.

The women were clearly enjoying the rare chance to dress up and pamper themselves, with elaborate hair and eyelash decorations complementing a colourful make-up palette.

The bride's sister, English teacher Farkhunda, gazes at the results of an hour-long makeover. "Yes, it's nice. It's beautiful. It's my first real day out since the end of August," she said cheerfully. But under the splash of glittery eye-shadow, one of her pupils is immobile, taken during a gun and bomb attack when she was a teenager.

"You see my eye? I lost it on my way to school when the Taliban attacked us. But I am not scared of them. I don't want to talk about them. Today is for celebration," she said.

The light-hearted mood is as fragile as the delicate jewelled hair bands. At every movement of the curtain hiding the door to the outside world, the women stiffen and briefly fall silent.

None of the clients want to tone down their look, a stylised, ultra-feminine rebuke to the Taliban's looming curbs on free expression: dense foundation, long false lashes, dazzling colours and a China doll finish.

And 22-year-old Marwa (not her real name), with her asymmetric haircut exposing an ear dotted with piercings and decorative chains, sees a message of resistance in the stylings. "We are not people with blue burkas. We are not people with black burkas. That's not who we are," she said.

## 'Knife to my throat'

Some of the women dream of leaving, others of change. Farkhunda hopes she can get back to work while Mohadessa, determined to stay open, fears for her life.

She showed AFP a letter she believes comes from the Taliban's new Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, warning her to close down.

Her response: "Until they come and put a knife to my throat, I'm staying here."

AFP



In past years, women could visit beauty salons to take up beauty treatments (for festivals and wedding celebrations) without any inhibitions



## WOMEN IN KABUL PAMPER THEMSELVES WITH FEAR



Until they come and put a knife to my throat, I'm staying here

MOHADESSA

TENNIS ROUND-UP



# Major warm-up for Australian Open cancelled over virus

Melbourne, Australia - A major warm-up tournament for the Australian Open was cancelled on Tuesday, with organisers blaming uncertainty over COVID-19 rules players will face in Melbourne.

It is the second year the Kooyong Classic, normally played in the weeks leading up to the season-opening Grand Slam, has been scrapped because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kooyong president Adam Cossar said he was disappointed the event could not take place in

January 2022 but hopes it will return in 2023. "With the great deal of uncertainty over recent months about the arrangements that would be in place in January, it has not been possible to make the best plans to deliver the best and safest sporting (event)," he said in a statement.

Players are still awaiting clarification on whether they need to be fully vaccinated to participate at the Australian Open, also in Melbourne, and other tennis tournaments in the country.

Such a requirement would

*With the great deal of uncertainty over recent months about the arrangements that would be in place in January, it has not been possible to make the best plans*

ADAM COSSAR, KOORYONG CHIEF

cast doubt on nine-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic's ability to defend his title - he is one of many players who have refused to share their vaccination status.

A leaked WTA email this

week suggested unvaccinated players could take part provided they completed 14 days in hotel quarantine. Double-jabbed players would though enjoy 'complete freedom of movement'.

However, the Premier of

Victoria - the state where the Grand Slam is held - said he wanted all players to be fully vaccinated. "All the people who are watching the tennis at the Australian Open, they're going to be double-vaxxed, all the people that work there are going to be double-vaxxed," Dan Andrews told public radio.

"It stands to reason that if you want to get into the country to be part of that tournament, then you should be double-vaxxed as well."

AFF



Walter Smith

## Rangers great Smith dies at the age of 73

London, UK - Former Rangers and Scotland manager Walter Smith has died at the age of 73, the Glasgow giants confirmed on Tuesday.

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our former manager, chairman and club legend, Walter Smith," Rangers said in a statement. Smith is Rangers second-most successful ever manager, winning 21 trophies across two spells in charge.

Already at the club as assistant to Graeme Souness, Smith was appointed full-time manager at Ibrox in 1991 and won seven league titles in eight years to lead the club to a record-equalling nine consecutive Scottish league titles.

After a four-year stint at Everton and a brief spell as Alex Ferguson's assistant at Manchester United, he was appointed manager of Scotland in 2004.

In 2007, he returned to Ibrox, winning three more league titles and guiding Rangers to the UEFA Cup final in 2008 before retiring in 2011.

"It is almost impossible to encapsulate what Walter meant to every one of us at Rangers," said Rangers chairman Douglas Park. "He embodied everything that a Ranger should be. His character and leadership was second to none, and will live long in the memory of everyone he worked with during his two terms as first team manager."

"Winning ten top-flight titles as manager, five Scottish Cups and six League Cups, as well as leading his club to the UEFA Cup Final in 2008, he will be remembered by the football community across the world. His spells as Scotland manager as well as managing in the English Premier League underlined his credentials as one of the great modern day football managers."

"However, for Rangers supporters, he was much more than just a football manager. Walter was a friend to many, a leader, an ambassador and most of all-a legend."

Smith's playing career as a

defender at Dundee United and Dumbarton never hit the heights he would go onto enjoy in management.

His coaching journey began as assistant to legendary former Dundee United boss Jim McLean before spells as Scotland's U18 and U21 manager. Smith also assisted Ferguson as Scotland boss at the 1986 World Cup.

But it was at Rangers where he made his name. After five years as Souness' assistant, the latter's return to Liverpool handed Smith his chance to take the top job at Ibrox.

He signed the likes of Paul Gascoigne and Brian Laudrup as Rangers dominated

*He embodied everything that a Ranger should be. His character and leadership was second to none*

DOUGLAS PARK

Scottish football for nearly a decade. Smith's time at Everton was less successful as he battled for four seasons just to keep the Toffees in the Premier League.

But his close relationship with Ferguson endured and the two linked up again towards the end of the 2003/04 season as United won the FA Cup.

"Everyone at Manchester United is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Walter Smith," United tweeted.

Smith lost only four of his 16 games in charge of Scotland, but even a bright start to qualifying for Euro 2008 could not resist the lure of a return to Rangers in 2007.

Rangers reached the UEFA Cup final in his first season back, losing 2-0 to Zenit St Petersburg in Manchester. But they bounced back to win three consecutive league titles before Smith retired.

AFF

## Australia's Kyrgios to miss Davis Cup

Sydney, Australia - Mercurial talent Nick Kyrgios was omitted from Australia's Davis Cup team named on Tuesday, with world No 32 Alex de Minaur picked to lead the five-man squad.

Kyrgios, 26, is widely seen as Australia's best player despite a world ranking of 91 and a Davis Cup career marred by poor discipline.

Team captain Lleyton Hewitt did not address Kyrgios' absence in his squad announcement, preferring to focus on the challenge.

"It's going to be really exciting to be back with the boys again at the Davis Cup finals," the two-time Grand Slam winner said. "Team selection



is never easy - we will be led by our No 1 Alex de Minaur, who has had a really consistent three to four years on the tour and has established himself as a top player."

The Davis Cup finals bring together 18 countries, run from November 25-December 5 and take place in Turin, Madrid and Innsbruck.

AFF

## Murray dumps out Hurkacz to book spot in second round

Vienna, Austria - Former world No 1 Andy Murray knocked out fifth seed Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 in the opening round in Vienna on Monday.

Murray had lost twice to Wimbledon semifinalist Hurkacz this year but broke his losing run against the Pole despite squandering a match point in the second set tie-break.

The three-time Grand Slam champion, whose ranking has tumbled to 156 after a series of injuries, will meet teenage Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz in the second round of a tournament he won in 2014 and 2016.

"It was a good match that could have gone either way," said Murray.

"I was disappointed to drop serve in the opening game of the



Andy Murray in action against Hubert Hurkacz in Vienna on Monday

third, but thankfully I was able to get the break back in the next game and from there I probably deserved to get over the line. It was a good win in tough circumstances."

Defeat for Hurkacz delivered

a big blow to his hopes of reaching the season-ending ATP Finals. He currently occupies the final qualifying spot but could be overtaken this week by Antwerp champion Jannik Sinner.

AFF

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## A line of racing cars on a track, with the lead car prominently displaying 'OMANTEL' and 'QATAR' branding. The cars are in a single file, moving away from the viewer. The lead car is white and orange, with 'OMANTEL' and 'QATAR' visible on its front. The track is grey asphalt, and there's a red and white curb on the right side.

A file photo of Ahmad al Harthy in action during the GT World Challenge Europe race earlier this season



Ahmad al Harthy (R) presents Hon Lujaina Mohsin Darwish a racing helmet at the signing ceremony held in Muscat on Tuesday

- Oman racer Ahmad al Harthy delighted after signing a deal with MHD-ITICS until end of 2022
- There could not have been a better brand ambassador for us: Hon Lujaina Mohsin Darwish

**Ashok Purohit**  
Muscat

Photos and video clips of Ahmad al Harthy proudly holding up his trophy on the podium of the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS Endurance Cup [formerly known as the Blancpain GT Series] at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain, from a few weeks ago are fresh in the minds of motorsports fans in the sultanate.

Finishing on the podium and flying the sultanate's flag at the top-level racing championships is not new for the 40-year-old experienced Omani star.

In Barcelona, Ahmad and his teammates Charlie Eastwood and Giacomo Petrobelli, claimed the third place in the Pro-Am class of one of the top European endurance races to conclude a coronavirus pandemic-interrupted season on a high.

A role model for Omani youth, Ahmad's energy and enthusiasm for motorsports is amazing and the passion to excel at the top keeps him getting stronger and stronger.

As the sultanate marked Omani Youth Day on Tuesday, one of Oman's leading business houses, Mohsin Haider Darwish (MHD), joined hands with one of the sultanate's best-known sportspersons for an exciting journey together.

Ahmad, undoubtedly, can inspire the Omani youth as he has a string of achievements to boast about.

Financial backing and corporate support are essential elements to drive campaign of top-class endurance racers and it is this very fuel that has been

provided by MHD-ITICS, the Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial and Consumer Solutions cluster of MHD LLC to Ahmad following a signing ceremony held at Al Bustan Palace - A Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Tuesday.

The partnership between Ahmad and MHD-ITICS will last at least until the end of 2022 and both he and Honourable Lujaina Mohsin Haider Darwish, chairperson of MHD-ITICS, were delighted about the new association.

Attended by a large delegation of MHD-ITICS senior management, including its CEO, Jayaprakash Menon, the deal augurs well for the motorsports fraternity in Oman.

Speaking at the event, Ahmad was hesitant to reveal plans for the next season but as he has been doing in recent times, confirmed that 'the championships and the series we plan to race in the coming season will be world-class'.

Ahmad told *Muscat Daily*, "We have set a high bar of performances over the years. Having raced in some of the biggest European endurance racing series, my aim is to target top European series in the coming season. "I still have the speed and the

results have been encouraging for me. It gives me a lot of confidence and I know I still can compete at the top. I love representing my nation and am proud to win laurels for Oman."

Hon Lujaina has been leading a resurgence of sorts in the Oman's sports scene. With her keen interest in developing not just women sports, but also contribute to the Omani youth and sports in general, through her corporate backing, she is eager to make an impact.

A leading businesswoman and the first elected woman board member of the Oman Football Association, Hon. Lujaina, said, “We are proud to associate ourselves with an exemplary Omani sportstar in Ahmad al Harthi, who has brought pride to Oman on the racing circuit. He is a role model for Omani youth and has created a name for himself across the globe.

"We plan to have a relationship beyond just sponsoring him in the races. We would like to raise awareness and

Ahmad al Harthy with the Pro-Am third-place trophy in Barcelona earlier this month

gain exposure abroad for MHD-ITICS and its brand, and there could be no better brand ambassador than Ahmad al Harthy."

Considered to be one of the most powerful Omani business women, Hon Lujaina added, "Ahmad represents our company's values to a large extent."

"His passion for the sport is like how we drive our company's performance and we too persevere to be the leaders in the market just as he aspires to lead and win races."

Ahmad said 'the signing of a deal with MHD-ITICS ahead of the start of next season is a big boost' as 'such deals help me figure out my season's campaign and decide on what races and series are best to compete in for me'.

"The partnership means a lot to me as this company has been supporting some of the top sportspersons like Ali al Habsi.

"This agreement encourages us to chase our goals together with the same passion and pride. Ultimately, we both wish to fly the sultanate's flag high in the season ahead," he added.

At the signing ceremony, Hon Lujaina put a MHD-ITICS logo on Ahmad's driving gear while the racing star presented her a helmet, with his autograph.

Earlier this year, Ahmad took part in the Asian Le Mans Series, the British GT Championship, 'Road to Le Mans' and the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS Endurance Cup.

Ahmad was a top-four GT class finisher in his maiden campaign in the Asian Le Mans Series, a race winner on his return to British GT in August and a podium finisher in the 'Road to Le Mans' in France before the third-place finish in Barcelona.

 @ashokmuscat

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

This was our plan, to bat first and put a big score...It's a really nice team and hopefully we'll keep winning

Mohammad Nabi  
Afghanistan captain, after his team's emphatic win over Scotland, on Monday



ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

Markram magnificent in clinical SA triumph

GROUP ONE

SOUTH AFRICA VS WEST INDIES

Dubai, UAE - South Africa rallied to complete a third successful chase against West Indies in four attempts and get their T20 World Cup campaign on track on Tuesday. Reeza Hendricks at the top of the order, set the tone for the chase along with Aiden Markram, who hit an unbeaten half-century.

South Africa's attack kept West Indies to a modest 143, despite an onslaught from Evin Lewis. Lendl Simmons was too slow, Chris Gayle did not come off and West Indies lost eight for 64 between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> overs to fall short of what might have been a par score - 160.

Hendricks' 39 laid the groundwork for South Africa, before an 83-run stand between Rassie van der Dussen (43 n.o.) and Markram sealed victory in the 19<sup>th</sup> over.



South Africa's Aiden Markram (C) plays a shot during his unbeaten knock of 51 against West Indies in Dubai on Tuesday

Lewis sparkles, Simmons doesn't

Lewis and Simmons laid a solid foundation for West Indies when they shared in their highest opening stand, 73, in a partnership of two parts. Lewis was the aggressor and smashed 56 off 35 balls, with all of his five fours and two sixes coming on the leg side, while Simmons bided his time,

scoring only in singles. Simmons was dropped on four by Klaasen and had crept to 13 off 28 balls when Lewis holed out to deep midwicket. Simmons was out three overs later for a 35-ball 16, the joint-longest in terms of balls without a boundary in T20 World Cups and the third slowest World Cup innings after facing 30 or more balls.

South Africa's comeback

With a platform to launch from, West Indies sent in Nicholas Pooran at No 3, to take on the spinners, above Gayle. That made it the first time Gayle has batted outside the top three for West Indies in a T20I. It didn't really work for either of them. Pooran scored 12 before being

caught by David Miller at long-off but Gayle was there as West Indies entered the final three overs, and had threatened with a six off Tabraiz Shamsi.

He became the first wicket in a good death-bowling effort from Dwaine Pretorius, who had Gayle caught behind off a slower ball before Anrich Nortje bowled Andre Russell with a pinpoint

yorker, Shimron Hetmyer was run-out, and Pretorius took two-in-two in the last over. South Africa claimed five for 22 in the last three overs.

Hendricks makes the most of opportunity

Hendricks would not have played this game if Quinton de Kock had not pulled out, but Hendricks

| SCOREBOARD       |                                                                                                                       |         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| WEST INDIES      |                                                                                                                       |         |
| L Simmons        | b Rabada                                                                                                              | 16 (35) |
| E Lewis          | c Rabada b Maharaj                                                                                                    | 56 (35) |
| N Pooran         | c Miller b Maharaj                                                                                                    | 12 (7)  |
| C Gayle          | c Klaasen b Pretorius                                                                                                 | 12 (12) |
| K Pollard        | c van der Dussen                                                                                                      |         |
|                  | b Pretorius                                                                                                           | 26 (20) |
| A Russell        | b Nortje                                                                                                              | 5 (4)   |
| S Hetmyer        | run out                                                                                                               | 1 (2)   |
| D Bravo          | not out                                                                                                               | 8 (5)   |
| H Walsh          | c Hendricks b Pretorius                                                                                               | 0 (1)   |
| A Hosein         | not out                                                                                                               | 0 (0)   |
| Extras:          | (lb 2, nb 1, w 4)                                                                                                     | 7       |
| TOTAL            | 143 for eight in 20 overs                                                                                             |         |
| Fall of wickets: | 1-73, 2-87, 3-89, 4-121, 5-132, 6-133, 7-137, 8-137                                                                   |         |
| Bowling:         | A Markram 3-1-22-0, K Rabada 4-0-27-1, A Nortje 4-0-14-1, K Maharaj 4-0-24-2, T Shamsi 3-0-37-0, D Pretorius 2-0-17-3 |         |
| SOUTH AFRICA     |                                                                                                                       |         |
| T Bavuma         | run out                                                                                                               | 2 (3)   |
| R Hendricks      | c Hetmyer b Hosein                                                                                                    | 39 (30) |
| R van der Dussen | not out                                                                                                               | 43 (31) |
| A Markram        | not out                                                                                                               | 51 (26) |
| Extras:          | (lb 1, w 8)                                                                                                           | 9       |
| TOTAL:           | 144 for two in 18.2 overs                                                                                             |         |
| Fall of wickets: | 1-4, 2-61                                                                                                             |         |
| Bowling:         | A Hosein 4-0-27-1, R Rampaul 3-0-22-0, A Russell 3-2-0-36-0, H Walsh 3-0-26-0, D Bravo 4-0-23-0, K Pollard 1-0-9-0    |         |

TODAY'S MATCHES

GROUP ONE



BANGLADESH VS ENGLAND  
Abu Dhabi (UAE), 2pm

GROUP TWO



NAMIBIA VS SCOTLAND  
Abu Dhabi, 6pm

De Kock withdraws from S Africa team after refusing to take knee

Dubai, UAE - Quinton de Kock on Tuesday withdrew from South Africa's T20 World Cup match against the West Indies 'for personal reasons' after refusing to take the knee.

Skipper Temba Bavuma said the wicketkeeper-batsman, a former national captain, had made himself unavailable in their Super 12 game. The decision raised eyebrows as De Kock, 28, had previously refused to take part in the anti-racism gesture that has become a regular feature in most sporting events.

"Cricket South Africa (CSA) has noted the personal decision by South African wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock not to take the knee ahead of Tuesday's game against the West Indies," said a CSA statement. "The board will await a further report from team management before deciding on the next steps. All players are expected to follow this directive (to take the knee) for the remaining

games of the World Cup."

Earlier, the CSA said 'concerns were raised that the different postures taken by team members in support of the BLM (Black Lives Matter) initiative created an unintended perception of disparity or lack of support for the initiative'.

"After considering all relevant issues, including the position of the players, the board felt that it was imperative for the team to be seen taking a united and consistent stand against racism, especially given SA's history."

De Kock refused to take a knee in South Africa's Test series in the West Indies earlier this year.

'My own opinion'

"My reason? I'll keep it to myself. It's my own, personal opinion," he said at the time. "It's everyone's decision. No-one's forced to do anything, not in life. That's the way I see things."



South Africa's Quinton de Kock

Eoin Morgan's England took the knee along with the West Indies on day one of the ongoing World Cup and India and Pakistan followed on Sunday.

The South Africans playing in Tuesday's game took the knee before the start of the game.

"A commitment to overcoming racism is the glue that should unite, bind and strengthen us," CSA board chairperson Lawson Naidoo said.

"Race should not be manipulated to amplify our weaknesses. Diversity can and should find expression in many facets of our daily lives, but not when it comes to taking a stand against racism."

The statement further added, "Cricket is the second most watched sport globally and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, being held in the UAE and Oman, is the ideal platform for the Proteas to highlight the national

resolve to heal the divisions of the past."

De Kock is one of his country's star players and a regular choice across all three formats of the game. He has made over 10,000 runs and was briefly captain of the Test side before stepping down earlier this year.

'No division'

Others, including captain Dean Elgar, stood with right fists raised. De Kock stood with his hands behind his back.

However, black fast bowler Lungi Ngidi, who played in that game, insisted the team remained united. "It's not fair for me to speak for other people, everyone's entitled to their own choices in life. I've been very clear on my stance," he said.

"In terms of the team, there is no division at all. We play for South Africa which is all we are trying to do as players."

AFP

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

To lose Lockie [Ferguson] on the eve of the tournament is a blow. Lockie suffered calf tear and will be replaced by Adam Milne

**Gary Stead**  
New Zealand coach, after Lockie Ferguson was ruled out of the T20 World Cup, on Tuesday



**ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021**



**Dravid formally applies to become India's head coach**

Mumbai, India - Rahul Dravid has formally applied for the position of the Indian team's head coach on Tuesday, having been touted as the heavy favourite to get the role.

In addition to Dravid, former pacer Paras Mhambrey, and former wicketkeeper Ajay Ratna have applied for the positions of India's bowling and fielding coaches respectively. Earlier, Abhay Sharma, who has worked with Dravid at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and with India A and India Women, also applied for the role that will be vacated by R Sridhar.

Dravid had recently met BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah in Dubai on the sidelines of the IPL final between Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings. Ganguly and Shah are understood to have spoken to him about taking up the position once Ravi Shastri steps down at the end of India's campaign in the T20 World Cup 2021.

Cricinfo

# Two-in-a-row for Pakistan



Pakistan's Haris Rauf celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's Devon Conway during their T20 World Cup match in Sharjah, UAE, on Tuesday

**GROUP TWO**  
**PAKISTAN VS NEW ZEALAND**

Sharjah, UAE - Fast bowler Haris Rauf took a career best four for 22 to help Pakistan defeat New Zealand by five wickets and record their second successive win in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup on Tuesday.

Boosted by their brilliant performance in the ten-wicket rout of arch-rivals India on Sunday, Rauf inspired the 2009 champions to victory in front of a boisterous Sharjah crowd mainly comprised of Pakistani expats.

Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell both scored 27 for New Zealand, while skipper Kane Williamson made a laborious 25 off 26 balls as New Zealand were held to a below-par 134 for eight.

Veteran Shoaib Malik (27) and Asif Ali (26) came together with Pakistan wobbling at 87 for five and led the team to their target in 18.4 overs.

Pakistan had lost skipper Babar Azam to Tim Southee - bowled for nine in the sixth over - as the paceman took his 100<sup>th</sup> wicket in his 84<sup>th</sup> T20I.

He is only the third bowler behind Bangladesh's Shakib al Hasan (117 in 92 T20Is) and Sri Lankan Lasith Malinga (107 in 84) to take 100 or more wickets in the format. Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi trapped both Fakhar Zaman (11) and Mohammad Rizwan leg-before to leave

Pakistan reeling at 69 for four.

In between those two dismissals, Conway produced a brilliant diving catch at wide long-off to dismiss Mohammad Hafeez who attempted to lift spinner Mitchell Santner out of the ground. When Imad Wasim fell for 11, Pakistan still needed 47 off 31 deliveries.

It was left to Asif to hit two sixes off Southee in the 17<sup>th</sup> over to bring down the target to 24 off the last three. Malik reduced that to nine in two overs by hitting a four and a six off Santner.

Asif then smacked Boult for six before hitting the winning runs. It was Rauf who did much of the damage with the ball against New Zealand - sent into

bat on a sluggish pitch - improving on his previous best of three for 29, also against them same opponents last year.

Pakistan applied the pressure right from the start as left-arm paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi, whose three wickets against India earned him player of the match, bowled a maiden first over.

New Zealand reached 36 without loss when Rauf bowled Martin Guptill off his pads for 17. He also accounted for Conway and Glenn Phillips (13) in one over as New Zealand failed to lift the tempo at any stage.

There were no boundaries in overs 14 to 16 as even Phillips - who hit most sixes in the T20

| GROUP ONE |   |   |   |     |        |  |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|--------|--|
| TEAM      | P | W | L | PTS | NRR    |  |
| ENG       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2   | +3.970 |  |
| SL        | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2   | +0.583 |  |
| AUS       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2   | +0.253 |  |
| SA        | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2   | +0.179 |  |
| BAN       | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0   | -0.583 |  |
| WI        | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0   | -2.550 |  |

| GROUP TWO |   |   |   |     |        |  |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|--------|--|
| TEAM      | P | W | L | PTS | NRR    |  |
| PAK       | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4   | +0.738 |  |
| AFG       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2   | +6.500 |  |
| NZ        | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0   | -0.532 |  |
| IND       | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0   | -0.973 |  |
| SCO       | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0   | -6.500 |  |
| NAM       | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0   | +0.000 |  |

AUS: Australia, BAN: Bangladesh, ENG: England, SL: Sri Lanka, SA: South Africa, WI: West Indies, AFG: Afghanistan, IND: India, NAM: Namibia, NZ: New Zealand, PAK: Pakistan, SCO: Scotland

P: Played, W: Won, L: Lost, PTS: Points, NRR: Net Run Rate

blast in England this year with 36 - failed to clear the boundary.

Rauf also dismissed Santner (six) with the last ball of the final over. Shaheen finished with one for 21 while spinners Hafeez and Imad also took a wicket each.

Later Rauf, who was named the player of the match, said, "The team fielded very well and supported the bowlers. The fans supported us throughout and helped us to this win."

AFP

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

M Guptill b Rauf 17 (20)

D Mitchell c Zaman b Wasim 27 (20)

K Williamson run out 25 (26)

J Neesham c Zaman b Hafeez 1 (2)

D Conway c Azam b Rauf 27 (24)

G Phillips c Hasan Ali b Rauf 13 (15)

T Seifert c Hafeez b Afridi 8 (18)

M Santner b Rauf 6 (15)

Ish Sodhi not out 2 (2)

Extras: (b 1, lb 5, nb 2) 8

TOTAL 134 for eight in 20 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-54, 3-56, 4-90, 5-116, 6-116, 7-125, 8-134

Bowling: S S Afridi 4-1-21-1, I Wasim 4-0-24-1, Hasan Ali 3-0-26-0, H Rauf 4-0-22-4, S Khan 3-0-19-0, M Hafeez 2-0-16-1

PAKISTAN

M Rizwan lbw b Sodhi 33 (34)

B Azam b Southee 9 (10)

F Zaman lbw b Sodhi 11 (17)

M Hafeez c Conway b Santner 11 (16)

S Malik not out 27 (20)

I Wasim lbw b Boult 11 (12)

Asif Ali not out 27 (12)

Extras: (lb 1, w 5) 6

TOTAL: 135 for five in 18.4 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-47, 3-63, 4-69, 5-87

Bowling: M Santner 4-0-33-1, T Southee 4-0-25-1, T Boult 3-4-0-29-1, J Neesham 3-0-18-0, I Sodhi 4-0-29-2



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