

H M issues Royal Decrees on NCSI, State's Administrative Apparatus

National Centre for Statistics and Information to report to Council of Ministers

Muscat - His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued two Royal Decrees on Sunday reading as follows:

Royal Decree No 14/2022 introduces amendments to the State's Administrative Apparatus.

Article 1 stipulates that the amendments attached to this decree will apply to the system of the State's Administrative Apparatus promulgated under

Royal Decree No 75/2020.

Article 2 cancels all that contradicts the amendments attached to this decree or contravenes their provisions.

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

Royal Decree No 15/2022 introduces amendments to Royal Decree No 31/2012 on the establishment of the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Article 1 replaces the text of Article 1 of the aforementioned Royal No 31/2012 as follows: A

centre called National Centre for Statistics and Information will be established and will report to the Council of Ministers.

Article 2 - The term 'Minister of Economy', wherever it has occurred in the system of the National Centre for Statistics and Information, will be replaced with the term 'Council of Ministers'.

Article 3 cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article 4 states that this decree will be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

ONA

E-payment option made mandatory for eight activities

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) has announced that it is now mandatory to provide electronic payment facilities to customers in eight business activities, including sale of precious metals and foodstuffs.

The move is aimed at comprehensive digital transformation through cooperation and integration between MoCIIP, the Central Bank of Oman, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Protection Authority and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

H E Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, has issued Ministerial Decision No 386/2022 to this effect.

The business activities that must provide electronic payment facilities to customers include sale of foodstuff, gold and silver, vegetables and fruits, electronics, building materials and tobacco products, besides activities in in-



(Muscat Daily)

dustrial zones, shopping complexes, malls, gift markets and restaurants and cafes.

MoCIIP confirmed that consumers can choose the payment option - electronic or cash. The ministry called on all businesses to provide electronic payment facilities in their stores and outlets before the decision comes into effect.

The decision was issued on April 14 and comes into effect 30 days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

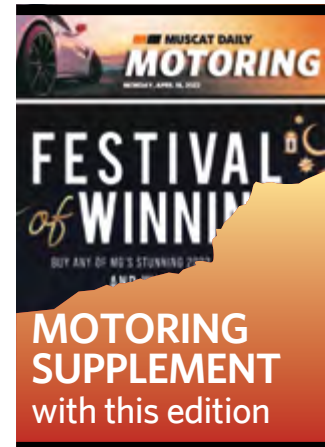
It also states that violators will be fined RO100 and given 20 days to make arrangements to provide e-payment facilities.

Welcoming the decision,

Nasseal al Hosni, an economic analyst, said the move will reduce 'hidden trade' (illegal practices), stimulate economic activities and boost domestic trade. "It will also compel companies to be accurate in their tax filings."

According to Hosni, additionally the decision will help the Ministry of Finance and the Tax Authority apply taxes on businesses.

While welcoming the decision, Marhoon al Saidi, a private sector employee, hoped it is extended to all market sectors. "People will carry less cash which will be better for safety and security."



Employers urged to pay salaries early for Eid

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Employers in the sultanate have been asked to pay salaries early for the month of April on account of Eid al Fitr.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Labour (MoL) announced that all private sector establishments in Oman should consider paying their employees for the month of April no later than Thursday, April 21.

'Private sector establishments subject to the provisions of the Labour Law promulgated by Royal Decree No 35/2003 are urged to disburse salaries of their employees for the month of April 2022 no later than Thursday, April 21, 2022,' a statement issued by MoL said.

Oman to debut at Venice Biennale

Our Correspondent
Muscat

A pavilion of the sultanate will debut at the 59th Venice Biennale, set to take place from April 23 to November 27.

'Oman will put up an exhibition featuring artworks created by three generations of Omani artists,' ONA said on Sunday.

This participation aims to achieve partnership and integration among local and international institutions in cultural fields and highlight the sultanate's role in the world's cultural map.

The works of Omani artists

The works of five Omani artists - Anwar Sonya, Hassan Meer, Budoor al Riyami, Radhika Khimji and the late Raiya al Rawahi - will be presented in the biennale

engaged in modern and contemporary visual art will be presented in the exhibition.

The multimedia exhibition will feature the works of five artists - painter Anwar Sonya, often described as the 'godfather' of Oman's contemporary art scene; Hassan Meer, founder of the experimental Omani artists' group

The Circle; photographer and video installation artist Budoor al Riyami; Radhika Khimji, whose feminist work features sculpture and textiles; and the late Raiya al Rawahi, sound installation artist who died in 2017 from cancer aged just 30.

The exhibition will be curated by Aisha Stoby, an art historian

who focuses on modern art from Oman and the Middle East.

To coincide with the exhibition, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth will organise a series of cultural programmes, focusing on mentorship, internships and a lecture series to boost youth engagement in the sultanate's creative sector and kickstart its contemporary art scene.

The Venice Biennale is an international art exhibition where participating countries present national pavilions displaying a selection of its best and most famous contemporary artists.



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Our Correspondent

Muscat

Salalah resident Khalid al Shanfari said, "Begging has become a wide-



It's important to combat and eliminate this activity completely. The exploitation of children for begging is common. It is a painful scene when a small child holds out a hand for money, not to forget the psychological damage to the child

DR AHMED SAID AL JAHWARI

He added that the law stipulates that anyone found begging in a public or private place will face imprisonment of not less than two months and not exceeding a year. Offenders can also be fined not less than RO50 and up to RO100. Expats caught begging are deported.

Abu Sa'id al Khudri reported: The Messenger of Allah said, 'Verily, Allah has people He redeems in every day and night of Ramadan. Every servant among them has a supplication that will be answered.'

The hadiths highlighted here throw light on the status of the blessed month, its merits, rewards and special offers, as well as the Prophet's example in Ramadan.

Meanwhile, Royal Oman police urged citizens and residents to avoid engaging with beggars in order to prevent the practice as it is against the law.

The Internal Tender Committee of Duqm Industrial Land Company LLC., hereby announces the following Tender:

Taking into consideration the following:

All specialized companies that wish to participate in the tender must deposit the tender amount into the bank account of the Company (details of the bank account is set out hereunder) and submit the original payment receipt of the tender along with a copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate and the contact details of the authorized individual (business card) to the address presented below:
From 08:00 - 14:00 (Sunday – Thursday).

Payment Information:

Bank Transfer:

Complete Tender documents should be submitted in sealed envelope with red wax with tender number and title and addressed to the "Chairman of Internal Tender Committee". The envelope should not make any reference to the bidder details.

All applicants are required to submit the Tender in the Tender box in the main office of Port of Duqm Company at or before 02:00 PM on the assigned date for submission of the Tender. Tenders submitted after the above-mentioned date and time shall not be considered.

- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest offer or any other offer without any justifiable reasons.
- The company reserve the right to issue the order either in part or full for the quoted items without any justifiable reasons.
- The company reserve the right to reject the tenders not complying with the tender documentation requirement. For any clarification, please contact us through tenders@portofduqm.om

Duqm Industrial Land Company LLC.
PO Box: 2409, PC: 111, Sultanate of Oman,
Almashreq Building, 18 November Street, N. Azaiba
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Mild asanas and pranayama help to balance the body's cycles during the fasting days, reducing migraines and headaches

Muscat - During Ramadan, the holy month of devotion, gratitude and self-discipline, it is important to keep the body and mind strong. Fasting, when accompanied with effective yoga practices, has shown to be a powerful source of detoxification and strength. In order to assist ladies in achieving mindfulness and relaxation during the month of Ramadan, Aasana Yoga Studio in Muscat has introduced 'Ramadan Yoga' sessions.

Yoga is an effective detoxification and purification technique for the mind and body. Milad asanas and pranayama help to balance the body's cycles during the fasting days, reducing migraines and headaches. "When combined with fasting, breathing techniques such as Kapalabhati and other yoga techniques produce immediate results. These calm the mind, lowering stress and boosting focus and sleep quality," said Shobha Naik, lead instructor at Aasana Yoga Studio.

and remain calm," said Maymwona al Mahrazi, a participant of the Ramadan Yoga sessions.

Mahesh Naik, who has been running Aasana Yoga Studio for the past four years, said, "We wanted the women who regularly practise yoga with us to continue doing so during this month, as well as facilitate new women to embark on this journey that improves the quality of life."

While the primary goal of fasting is to become closer to God and demonstrate empathy, it is also beneficial for cell regeneration, weight management, and maintaining a young and healthy lifestyle. Yoga provides comparable advantages, and practicing it while fasting can have remarkable effects.

"I have fibromyalgia and constant migraines, yet I feel completely different after these Ramadan Yoga sessions. Because of my illness, I used to find it difficult to move and had little energy during the days of fasting, but practising yoga has truly been a



With relaxing asanas and mild stretches, these sessions have been specially designed for women who are fasting to help them to continue yoga during Ramadan. "These yoga sessions during Ramadan have been really helpful. These have not only made me feel active during the day while fasting but also given me mental strength to deal with stress."

magical experience for me," said Heidi Elborlossey describing her experience with the sessions.

Yoga is an ideal way to gain a positive outlook and spontaneity in life during this holy month, when the entire country is blanketed in a peaceful atmosphere, eliminating distractions and focusing on religion, introspection and family bonding.

9 pacts worth over R03.5mn inked to develop Dakhliyah

Our Correspondent
Muscat

As part of a plan to implement His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's directives for the development of governorates, Sheikh Hilal bin Saeed bin Hamdan al Hajri, Governor of Dakhliyah, signed nine agreements to implement several projects in the governorate on Sunday.

An official in the Dakhliyah Governor's Office said that as part of the Governorates Development Programme, Dakhliyah's governor signed nine agreements worth more than R03.5mn to develop and improve municipal services in all wilayats of the governorate.

Agreements were signed for the design and paving of internal roads in the wilayat of Bahla, construction of an air-conditioned market for vegetables and fruits in the wilayat of Nizwa, setting up of a modern irrigation system from the Faraq Bridge to



The agreements include one to design and pave internal roads in Bahla and construction of an air-conditioned market for vegetables and fruits in Nizwa

Hey al Turath bridge, and the construction of a sewage treatment plant line from Manah to Manah Public Park.

According to the official, agreements were also signed for the establishment of kiosks for the sale of local products in the Jabal Akhdar region, the establishment of air-conditioned waiting shades in the wilayats of Bahla and Al Hamra, and the supply of maintenance parts for lighting poles and

equipment for Dakhliyah Municipality.

"The Governor's Office will issue tenders to implement 14 more development projects in the next few weeks. A number of investment contracts will also be signed in different locations in the governorate," said the official.

Fak Kurbah secures release of more than 440 prisoners

Our Correspondent
Muscat



Dr Muhammad al Zadjali

The Fak Kurbah initiative, which helps raise funds to pay off debts of people serving sentences in insolvency cases, has helped the release of 447 prisoners since the beginning of its ninth edition.

Dr Muhammad bin Ibrahim al Zadjali, chairman of the Board of Directors of Omani Lawyers Association and supervisor of the Fak Kurbah initiative organised by the association, said that the initiative, since the launch of its ninth edition on March 23, has so far released 447 debtors who were imprisoned or were about to be imprisoned because of civil, commercial, labour or Sharia'a claims.

Zadjali added that the initiative is pressing ahead with its humanitarian work, emphasising the focus of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the importance of charity in society as well as reflecting the cohesion and solidarity of Omani society.

Regarding the number of re-

leased cases, Zadjali stated that the cases were distributed across all governorates, including 148 cases in South Sharqiyah, 77 in South Batinah, 70 in North Batinah, 45 in North Sharqiyah, 39 in Dhahirah, 30 in Dakhliyah, nine in Musandam, five in Dhofar and four in Al Wusta.

"We are looking forward to greater participation from all parties to extend a helping hand to insolvent persons and their families and contributing to bringing joy to their hearts, especially as we are approaching Eid al Fitr," Zadjali said.

SAYYID SHIHAB RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF CHINA



H H Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison H E Li Lingbing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Oman, on Sunday. The two sides reviewed areas of military cooperation between the two countries and means of enhancing them. They also discussed several matters of common interest (ONA)

Ministry of Transport seizes foreign trucks for violating Land Transport Law

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, in cooperation with Royal Oman Police, has seized foreign trucks for transporting goods in Oman without valid permits.

It stated that it stopped for-

ign trucks that were transporting goods as well remaining in Oman beyond the permitted time and violating the approvals issued to them. 'This is considered a violation of the Land Transport Law and its executive regulation. Currently, legal action is pending against all the registered violators,' a ministry statement said on Sunday.

'The ministry urges all companies and individuals benefiting from land transport services in Oman to contract with local transporters. The ministry will continue its inspection campaign on foreign trucks to check their compliance to Oman Land Transport Law and its executive regulation when it comes to entering Oman.'

MHT offers Sunaysilah castle in S Sharqiyah for development

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT) has floated a tender for management and development of Al Sunaysilah Castle in South Sharqiyah, with an aim to attract tourists and benefit from the presence of historical structures in the country.

The ministry confirmed that competing companies must submit a study that includes marketing the castle commercially and culturally, holding cultural workshops, organising artistic and cultural events, and introducing various activities to revive the castle.

Competing companies must also highlight the architectural uniqueness of the castle and involve the local community in various cultural and social events.

The competing companies should also develop a study for the establishment of a museum to promote the castle and take advantage of the castle's theatre to hold events to support domestic tourism and attract visitors.

The deadline for submission of bids is May 15, 2022.

The number of historical sites in the sultanate recorded a significant increase to reach 22,259 in 2020 compared to 7,064 in 2016, a growth of 215 per cent, according to the National Centre



Over 17,000 visit Land of Frankincense sites

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The number of visitors to the Land of Frankincense sites in the Governorate of Dhofar was 17,155 in the first quarter of 2022 compared to 16,679 reported in the same period of 2021, according to data released by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MHT).

The statistics indicated that the increase in the number of

visitors during the first quarter of this year was due to the re-opening of the Land of Frankincense sites to visitors after they were closed in January and February of 2021 due to the pandemic.

In the first quarter of 2022, Al Baleed Archaeological Park and the Land of Frankincense Museum received 8,005 visitors, Samahram Archaeological Site received 3,911 visitors, while Wubur archaeological

site received 5,239 visitors.

Al Baleed Archaeological Park, Samahram, the Shasir area and Wadi Dokka are registered on the World Heritage List under the name Land of Frankincense sites.

The Office of His Majesty the Sultan's Advisor for Cultural Affairs is developing several archaeological sites and providing these with utilities to serve the goals of cultural and archaeological tourism in Dhofar.

for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Statistics show that the governorates of North Batinah and Dakhliyah have the highest number of castles and forts.

According to NCSI data, Nizwa in Dakhliyah governorate received the highest number of visitors in 2020. Nizwa Fort received 143,767 visitors in 2019 and 44,047 in 2020, while Mut-

trah Fort received 14,781 visitors in 2020, Taqah received 4,457, Mirbat - 691, Khasab - 10,429, Bukha - 6,367, Buraimi - 1,068, Bahla - 11,304, Jibreen - 19,977 and Sunaysilah Castle - 1,395.



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specialized Companies in the field of tender shown below and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tender documents from the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender No.	No E-Tender	Description of Tender	Tender Fee	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date	Grade
PRE/22/029	2022/MM/QS-14	RFP for Replacement & Maintenance of Network Switches (Phase 1) (E- Tender)	Rial 25	08/05/2022	26/05/2022	Excellent
PRE/22/025	2022/MM/QS-15	Supply and Installation of Playground Equipment and Outdoor Fitness Equipment in Public Parks (E- Tender)	Rial 25	08/05/2022	26/05/2022	Specialiset
PRE/22/026	2022/MM/QS-16	RFP for Renewal of AMC for Muscat Municipality IT Infrastructure (E- Tender)	Rial 25	08/05/2022	26/05/2022	Specialiset

Tender Conditions :-

- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically accompanied with an electronic copy of abond issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat municipality. The bond shall be (1%) of the tender value valid for ninety (90) days starting from the date of bids submission. Any tenders which do not meet the required bond shall not be accepted.

- Tender Bonds shall be E-Bond and to be submitted through E-Tendering system, addressed to Muscat Municipality.
- For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
- For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).
- For technical support of E-Bond through e-tendering system please send an email to (csnad@gstb.gov.om) or call (+96824402200/24402330).

Maha Energy to drill six oil wells in Oman's Block 70

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Maha Energy, a Swedish international upstream oil and gas company, is planning to drill a minimum six exploration wells in Oman's onshore Block 70. The company has awarded the drilling contract to Global Business Services (GBS) in Oman for the well drilling campaign.

Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals awarded the exploration and development rights for the concession Block 70 to Maha Energy in October 2020.

Maha Energy has signed a letter of award with GBS in Muscat for the drilling of a minimum of six wells on Block 70, according to a statement issued by the company.

The letter of award is binding and precedes a drilling contract which is expected to be finalized in the near future. The drilling rig, GBS-1 (formerly OGI-4) is a 1,000hp super single top drive rig, built in 2010 and is currently located in Muscat, Maha Energy said in the statement.

"The rig will be prepared for the campaign and expected mobilization is in June 2022. The drilling program will consist of



two appraisal wells followed by four horizontal pilot production wells on the Mafrag structure," the statement said.

Jonas Lindvall, CEO of Maha Energy, said, "We are very excited about working with GBS on this project. The GBS-1 rig is an ideal drilling rig for this project

since it can move very quickly between well sites. We are also very excited about breaking ground on the Mafrag field and look forward with anticipation to the preliminary results of the pilot well tests."

Maha Energy said its immediate plans for the Mafrag oilfield

include obtaining important reservoir information to assist in developing a full field development plan. Information that will be acquired in the first two appraisal wells includes, but is not limited to, the oil water contact, petrophysical properties, cores and identification of possible water disposal zones.

"After the two appraisal wells are drilled and completed, four horizontal pilot production wells will be drilled. These four wells will be completed with state-of-the-art PCP pumps from Canada and then placed on an extended well test to further ascertain oil productivity," the company said.

Maha Energy was successful in securing Block 70, which contains the Mafrag heavy oil discovery, in a 2019-2020 bid round in Oman.

The Mafrag structure is a delineated heavy oil field that was extensively tested by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in 1988 and 1991.

Maha Energy stated that according to the independent reserve auditor Chapman Petroleum Engineering Ltd of Calgary, Canada, the Mafrag field may hold approximately 35mn barrels of recoverable oil.

Omantel names Fadhil as chief commercial officer

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Omantel, the leading integrated telecommunications services provider in the sultanate, on Sunday announced the appointment of Aladdin bin Abdullah Beit Fadhil as the new chief commercial officer with effect from April 1, 2022.

In a press statement, Omantel said Fadhil possesses an extensive experience in Oman's ICT sector and has served as the vice president of the consumer business unit at Omantel. Fadhil is a board member of Kuwait Mobile Telecommunications Company (Zain) since October 2020, and serves as the chairman of Infoline, a subsidiary of Omantel, which specializes in business process reengineering solutions and call center services.

"Fadhil's appointment comes as a reflection of Omantel's mission to encourage Omani talents and enable them to take on key leadership roles. Fadhil will put his expertise and experience to practice to lead the implementation of the business and marketing strategy, oversee various business units, and lead efforts to develop customer experience



Aladdin bin Abdullah Beit Fadhil

in Omantel," Omantel said.

Talal bin Said al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, said, "Fadhil's appointment comes during an important phase of Omantel's journey as we recently announced the launch of our new strategy, which will help prepare Omantel for the next phase of its growth and deal with current and future challenges."

"We are confident that Fadhil's appointment will further enhance Omantel's ability to maintain its leadership of the sultanate's telecom sector and support the company's efforts to achieve its growth objectives, while strengthening Oman's role

as the ICT portal in the region," Mamari added.

Expressing happiness over his new role at Omantel, Fadhil said, "The sultanate's telecom sector is growing at a rapid pace and the competition is increasing locally and internationally.

I will work with my colleagues as one team to further enhance the company's growth, strengthen its position as the sultanate's leading provider of integrated telecommunications services and enhance its leadership in the telecom sector."

Fadhil holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Sultan Qaboos University.

Forum discusses strategy of OIA's National Development Portfolio

Muscat - In continuation of its governance efforts to enhance the general performance of its companies and achieve better alignment and integration, Oman Investment Authority (OIA) organised the Rawabet Fifth Forum.

The event was attended by many high-profile professionals, including several ministers and undersecretaries, chairpersons and CEOs of OIA companies, and a number of specialists.

In his opening remarks, OIA president H E Abdulsalam al Murshidi said, "There are indicators of growth in OIA's National Development Portfolio. Currently, two sectors contribute to the profitability of this portfolio, most prominently the energy sector, followed by the logistics sector."

H E Murshidi pointed out that there are indicators of increased contribution of several other sectors in the National Development Portfolio in the upcoming years including tourism, food and fisheries, technology and mining sectors.

"Rawabet Fifth Forum is a vital stage in the timeline allocated for the Business Plan Cycle where OIA companies work on their five-year business plans. The companies will submit the first draft of their plans in August and the final draft in October 2022. OIA will, in turn, approve these plans by December 2022," he



added.

The forum began with an overview presentation discussing OIA's strategy in managing its National Development portfolio.

The event featured presentations from 12 OIA companies, including Omran Group, Oman Air, Oman Airports, Asyad Group, Oman Food Investment Holding Company (OFIC), Fisheries Development Oman (FDO), OQ, Mining Development Oman (MDO), Oman Environmental Services Holding Company (Be'ah), Namaa Group and Oman LNG. The forum also featured questions and answers sessions to encourage engagement and discussions among participants.

Rawabet's Strategic Pillar, the key topic of the forum, targets the alignment of OIA companies' plans with OIA's strategies and Oman Vision 2040. The objective is to achieve financial and operational sustainability while stimulating and enabling sectors

outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

The Strategic Framework also targets to enhance diversification when allocating capital resources and encourages the partnership with the private sector in new investments.

The strategy team within Rawabet has reviewed the strategies and business plans of the holding companies in the National Development Portfolio. Based on the current positions of the companies, its goals, and OIA's strategic priorities, the team has set key performance indicators for the boards of directors for its respective companies. Separately, the team is issuing OIA's Business Plan Guidelines, ensuring consistency and best market practice across its companies.

Rawabet program was launched by OIA in September 2020 and has since delivered many outcomes. Most prominently, it published 11 policies and guidelines, including the Code of Governance, the tender-

ing and procurement policy, investment policy, and divestment policy.

Additionally, the program launched the ICV initiative 'Qimam,' which focuses on generating locally produced goods and services according to clear guidelines.

Qimam aims to increase Omanisation, develop Omani competencies, and supply local products to encourage and develop local industries. Rawabet also succeeded in launching several initiatives to support SMEs, enable them, and enhance their contribution to the national GDP.

Since its formation, Rawabet was able to carry off over 400 joint interactions between OIA and its companies, involving over 70 OIA specialists and 300 specialists from OIA companies. It also held several workshops with chairpersons of the boards and CEOs of OIA companies. Moreover, it organized over 40 seminars relevant to general governance frameworks.

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EU embargo on Russian oil and gas will take 'several months'

Brussels, Belgium – The EU is working on broadening sanctions on Russia to include oil and gas embargoes but such measures would take "several months", European officials told AFP. The bloc recently announced a ban on Russian coal in a first step against Russian energy exports – together, Moscow's main hard currency earner. But the coal sanction only kicks in from mid-August, and would hit around eight billion euros (US\$8.7bn) in Russia's sales abroad, annually.

Russian oil and gas sales to the EU account for a far higher amount of revenue: between a quarter of a billion to a billion euros per day, per different estimates.

Public and political opinion in the EU is swinging towards a total energy ban as Moscow's war in Ukraine grinds on and yields discoveries of atrocities.

An EU official involved in discussions on cutting Russian energy imports said the European Commission is "thinking about options". Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen has already come out publicly in favour of targeting Russian oil.

But, the official said, "adopting measures on oil means undoing existing contracts, finding alternatives and preventing circumvention".

"That can't be don't overnight. It requires at least several months."

Outrage over war

Building EU outrage over the war is sweeping aside hesitation by the member states reliant on Russian oil and gas, such as the bloc's biggest economy Germany, and Italy, Greece and Austria.

Some EU countries, such as Lithuania, have already announced national bans on Russian oil and gas.

One option to quickly stall



Russia says EU unlikely to fully replace its oil and gas in next 5-10 years

Moscow, Russia – The EU countries are unlikely to be able to completely replace oil and gas from Russia in the next 5-10 years, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak wrote in his article for the Energy Policy magazine.

"The resolution of the European Parliament on banning import of Russian energy resources notes that the decision should be coupled with an action plan aimed at guaranteeing the security of the EU energy supply.

However, key industry players agree that they will unlikely succeed in completely replacing Russian oil and gas in the next 5-10 years," he noted.

According to Novak, Russia



Alexander Novak

accounts for 30 per cent of oil supplies and 40 per cent of gas supplies to the EU countries, while the share of Russian coal in total European imports is about a third of all purchases. According to him, in addition to the US, the EU is considering producers from Qatar, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait as possible importers of hydrocarbons. At the same

time, OPEC has already stated that the countries of the alliance will not be able to compensate for the decline in Russian oil supplies to the world market, Novak emphasized. "That means that a reasonable alternative to energy sources from Russia hardly exists today.

Taking into account Russia's share on the market, it becomes obvious that without its energy resources it is impossible to talk about guaranteeing Europe's energy security. Therefore, now the fate of European industry and the comfort of EU citizens entirely depend on the rationality of the decisions of EU leaders," he wrote.

TASS

ate, by cutting supplies to Europe, or – as President Vladimir Putin said this week – selling more to Asia.

In any case, it's clear that European industry and consumers will have to consume less oil and gas – something economists call "demand destruction". "Cutting demand will have an impact with price hikes," another EU official said, echoing comments from several ministers in the bloc.

They noted that the EU's main ally in the sanctions, the US – which a month ago imposed its own ban on Russia's energy imports – is leery of petrol price rises for American drivers. "What's more, if Russia sells oil snubbed by the Europeans to other buyers, the sanctions won't work," one EU official said.

The Europeans and Americans are looking to avoid the sanctions being weakened by China and India.

Brussels is telling Beijing and New Delhi the EU would find it "difficult to accept partners who undermine the sanctions," one EU diplomat said.

EU unity

At the same time, the EU is intent on preserving unity among

Germany to reduce imports of Russian gas

Berlin, Germany – Germany has released nearly US\$3.2bn to acquire floating liquefied natural gas import terminals, the finance ministry said, as it seeks to move away from dependence on Russian gas. "Dependence on Russian energy imports must be reduced quickly and sustainably," tweeted Finance Minister Christian Lindner. "Floating LNG terminals make an important contribution to this, for which we must provide funding," he added.

A total of 2.94bn euros has been made available for the lease of these huge LNG carriers, the finance ministry told AFP.

Europe, and Germany in particular, is counting on LNG to reduce its dependence on Russian imports after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Some 20 countries export this liquefied gas which is transported by ship, and whose three largest suppliers are Australia, Qatar and the United States. Liquefied to take up less space, the LNG is regasified on arrival for distribution.

The mobile terminals, known as Floating Storage Regasification Units (FSRU), allow for converting LNG carried by a tanker into gas and injecting it into the pipeline network. In recent years, Germany has imported an average of 55 per cent of its gas from Russia via onshore pipelines.

This share was reduced to 40 per cent by the end of the first quarter of 2022, in favour of higher imports from the Netherlands, Norway and of LNG, according to the economy ministry.

Unlike several European countries, however, Germany does not have an onshore terminal to process imported liquefied gas. For the time being, it relies on terminals in other EU countries, which limits its import capacity. However, the government does not consider it realistic to be able to do without Russian gas before mid-2024.

AFP

China's economic growth under threat as virus takes hold

Beijing, China – The mounting cost of China's zero-Covid policy threatens to derail Beijing's ambitious GDP target, analysts say, as supply chains snarl, ports face delays and Shanghai remains mired in lockdown.

Growth in the world's second-largest economy was already slowing in the latter half of last year with a property market slump and regulatory crack-downs, leading policymakers to set their lowest annual GDP target in decades for 2022.

But analysts told AFP the figure of 5.5 per cent would be tough to achieve with stay-at-home orders halting production and stunting consumer spending in key cities.

Experts from 12 financial institutions polled by AFP forecast GDP growth of 5.0 per cent for the full year.

They expect a figure of 4.3 per cent for the first quarter, just above the 4.0 per cent recorded in the three months prior. Official first-quarter data will be published today.

"China's economy saw a good start in January and February with less energy constraints, domestic demand recovery... fiscal stimulus, and resilient exports," said Gene Ma, head of China research at the Institute of International Finance.

But surging virus cases in March and lockdowns have "se-



This photo taken on April 10 shows people wearing personal protective equipment transferring face masks and medicine in Jilin, China (AFP)

verely disrupted supply chains and industrial activities", he added.

The analysts predicted the coronavirus outbreak would reverse the gains made earlier in the year.

Carmakers this week warned of severe disruption to supply chains and possibly even halting production completely if a lockdown in business hub Shanghai continues.

Premier Li Keqiang said this week that state support should be stepped up and tools including cuts to the reserve requirement ratio for banks could be tapped to help virus-hit sectors.

Other major cities struck by Covid outbreaks include southern tech powerhouse Shenzhen, which went into full lockdown for almost a week in March.

"The hit to retail sales could be even bigger, as dining-out services – around 10 per cent of retail sales – were temporarily suspended in a few provinces," Goldman Sachs said in a recent report.

But economists expect bigger consequences of the lockdowns to surface in April data and bog down growth.

With infections found in dozens of cities, Beijing has dug in its heels on the zero-Covid approach, which involves stamping out clusters as they emerge while conducting mass testing and isolating positive cases.

This has resulted in strict movement curbs in Shanghai for around two weeks now as the financial hub logs tens of thousands of cases daily – most asymptomatic.

The city is home to the world's busiest container port and while operations are running, intercity travel restrictions and a shortage of truck drivers have snarled the passage of goods.

The daily flow of freight vehicles along highways has "weakened sharply" since the start of April, Capital Economics senior China economist Julian Evans-Pritchard said in a recent report.

Shanghai authorities have come under fire for allowing cases to spike and for failing to ensure supplies of fresh food reach all residents.

"Shanghai is a lesson, and local governments from other parts of China may become more sensitive to domestic flare-ups," said Tommy Xie, head of Greater China research at OCBC Bank. "If they want to lock down, they will try to lock down earlier rather than later," he told AFP.

More short-term disruptions from Covid will likely arise, he added.

Controls in other coastal cities will also remain tight, said Dan Wang, chief economist at Hang Seng Bank China.

"It is not impossible for us to see maybe dozens or even more than 30 cities on lockdown at the same time," she said.

"The economic cost is very high."

AFP

Tender Advertisement for Sale of Miscellaneous Materials TDR#0001

Item Details	Unit of Measurement	Quantity for Sale
Steel Scrap Mixed Grade (CS)	Ton	30 (+/-)
Used Items (Steel Beds, Soft Bedding, Hand tools, Electricals & Hydraulic tools) etc.	EA	96
Used Electrical various Items	EA	31

Time of Tender Form collection

For Enquiries & General Conditions

Tender forms can be collected from Falaj Office from 17 April 2022 (Sunday) till 28 April 2022(Thursday) Working Hours: 8.00 AM till 02.00 PM, Working Days: Sunday to Thursday.

Tender Closing Date: 30 April 2020(Saturday)

Note. All Material available for inspection at our warehouse, Phase 07 Sohar Industrial Area,(Near to Misco).

Descon Engineering Oman LLC Supply Chain Department PO Box: 2741,Postal Code 111, Falaj Al Qubail,

Building# 18,Block# 03, Near Muscat Bakery, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman. Contact persons: Syed Bagh Ali Shah, Lead Supply Chain: +968 91451464/ bagh.shah@descon.com Mohamad Hanif Rana, Manager Workshop: +968 72777503/ <Hanif.Rana@descon.com>

OUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Tender Fee is OMR 10 (Non-Refundable).
2. Letter of Authorization required from company for tender form issuance.
3. Sealed Tender should be submitted to our Falaj Office within bid closing dates.
4. Quote required for serial number wise & Lumpsum quote will not be accepted.
5. All Scrap and Material shall be made available on "as is where is" condition. Company bears no liability w.r.t. its transportation, handling, usage / disposal or further sale.
6. Bidder shall comply to all EHS requirements of Company for which necessary guidance shall be provided by Lead EHS & Lead Supplychain.



Al Mouj Golf named 2nd best golf course in Middle East region

Al Mouj Golf has achieved a top two ranking across the Middle East and North Africa carried out by the Golf World 100 Panel of *Today's Golfer* magazine.

The Championship 72-par, 18-hole course is surrounded by 2km of uninterrupted coastline overlooking the Sea of Oman and is set against the backdrop of the majestic Al Hajar Mountains.

The setting earned Al Mouj Golf full marks with judges describing it as 'outstanding' when assessing it on the aesthetic value of its surrounding views, the course itself as well as its atmosphere.

The panel which is made up of 12 golf experts from around the world, also said that the Greg Norman-designed course 'is a contender for our World Top 100 as is beautifully presented and Oman has a course to be exceptionally proud of'.

This is the first time *Today's Golfer* magazine has carried out the rankings and, its Golf World 100 editor Chris Bertram, said, "This is our favourite work by Greg Norman, who made fine use of a wonderful Gulf-side site to create hole after memorable hole."

"Rarely do you go for long with hitting towards, alongside or over the edge of the water. That is very rare in the Middle East and sets Al Mouj Golf apart."

Al Mouj Golf which is Oman's first links-style course and has hosted the Oman Open (European Tour) Championship, has attracted many other recognitions and accreditations since it opened in 2011. Titles include Winners of the IAGTO sustainability award for community value and Audubon and GEO Certification for strong leadership in sustainability and golf.

Commenting on this achievement, Nasser bin Masoud al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said, "It's wonderful to see Al Mouj Golf achieve global recognition once again. It really is one of the shining jewels in the Al Mouj Muscat crown and awards like this can only elevate its reputation further. It is also a great demonstration of how we continue to provide the very best amenities and lifestyle experiences."

"Sports tourism and the leisure sector remain very much central to our strategy for sustainable growth and our incomparable setting will always be an important differentiator for Al Mouj Muscat."

In addition to its playing attributes, Al Mouj Golf also has a long-term commitment to environmental and sustainability awareness and implementation, and is one of only 20 across the globe to have been awarded dual certification for its work on nature, resource preservation and the community.

Home to 173 different bird species, it has become a haven for wildlife.

VLCC launches non-invasive body contouring treatment

VLCC, a widely recognised brand for its comprehensive portfolio of wellness and beauty services and products, announced the launch of a new non-invasive body contouring and slimming treatment in Oman, which uses US-FDA approved laser technology to remove excess fat from the body without any surgical procedure.

The VLCC Lipo-1060 treatment uses the very latest laser appliance of a very specific wavelength, enabling non-invasive body contouring and slimming without pain and ensuring that only fat cells are eliminated while the skin is protected.

The technology used in the treatment has been clinically proven for consistently reducing the fat contour in the abdomen and other areas of the body, with an excellent safety profile in all skin types1.

The effect of the treatment is enhanced by vacuum technology



Vandana Luthra

and can be delivered in only 25 minutes per session, with no recovery time required. Safe and hygienic, the process is specifically designed to protect the skin from heat of laser and requires no human touch.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch of the new service, Vandana Luthra, founder, VLCC said, "In its over 30-year legacy of technical expertise, performance and operational excellence

in the wellness and beauty services and products domain, VLCC has always led the way, in the 12 countries across Asia and East Africa where it operates, when it comes to introducing the very latest in technological advances. The VLCC Lipo-1060 treatment is another example of this."

The treatment is supported by expert advice on nutrition and daily diet planning as well as physical activity regimen, which is customised for each individual depending upon their respective body composition, dietary habits and medical condition, if any.

The whole programme is conducted by specialists, including nutritionists, physiotherapists and laser experts, under the supervision of a medical doctor.

VLCC is the first wellness and beauty company to introduce this high-technology based treatment in Oman.

LFH's Adeen Ahamed joins Emirates Board for Overseas Investors

As part of its efforts to bring new perspective to its economic vision for the UAE, the UAE International Investors Council (IIC) has announced the nomination of Adeen Ahamed, managing director of Abu Dhabi based LuLu Financial Holdings (LFH), as an independent member of the Emirates Board of Directors for Overseas Investors.

Founded in 2009, the IIC comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Economy, with Abdullah Bin Touq al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy, as its Chairman. The Council was formed with a vision to act as a link between UAE international investors and the government to enhance competitiveness of UAE international investments and to overcome all types of challenges.

Speaking about his nomination, Adeen said, "I am honoured to be chosen to play a key role in the UAE's economic development. The UAE has shown amazing resilience and innovative governance during the time of the pandemic and new perspectives will help to reinforce the country's foreign investment outlook. As a proud resident of



Adeen Ahamed

the UAE, it is my privilege to contribute to the development of this nation and I look forward to working with fellow members of the IIC."

Adeen, who also helms the hospitality investment company Twenty14 Holdings, brings to his appointment considerable global and regional advisory experience. He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the Al Maryah Community Bank UAE, the Regional Strategy Group of the World Economic Forum and the World Tourism Forum, Lucerne.

His financial services company operates a network of over 245 physical branches across 11 countries, including 83 branches of LuLu Exchange in the UAE and the digital payments product, LuLu Money.

Radisson Hotel Group, Oman embraces month of Ramadan

As the holy month of Ramadan approaches, Radisson Hotel Group is embracing this divine time with a range of iftar and suhoor offers for individuals and corporate guests to break their fasts with their friends and families. They have created a variety of experiences from luxury to lifestyle celebrations for guests.

This Ramadan, explore the essence of traditional and International favourites with your friends, colleagues, and loved ones as Radisson Hotel Group brings bring's to you their iftar and suhoor offers. Curated with some of the most delectable options, our hotels are offering everything you need to enjoy a truly exquisite iftar during the holy month.

Radisson Hotel Group is putting a lot of promotions and deals to for the upcoming Ramadan period. We looking forward to attract our local market to come and enjoy beautiful iftar in one of the hotel's restaurants," says Panos Panagis, district director of Radisson Hotel Group, Oman.

Experience the Spirit of Ramadan at Hormuz Grand Muscat, A Radisson Collection Hotel

The culinary team at Hormuz Grand Muscat has curated special traditional iftar buffet spreads at the Straits restaurant. Offer not to be missed: Dine for five and pay for four.

Discover the enchanting flavours of Arabic and International cuisines at Bab Al Hind's irresistible royal buffet this Ra-



madan. For booking, call 99529742

Discover the flavours of Ramadan at Radisson Blu Hotel, Muscat

Savor an extensive buffet of traditional Arabic and International dishes along with a selection of beverages at Olivos restaurant or gather with your friends and family at Lazy Lizard to enjoy live stations and beverages. For reservations, call 9723 5800

Celebrate Ramadan at Park Inn by Radisson, Muscat

Enjoy a traditional Ramadan iftar buffet at the Palm restaurant or have a private iftar with us at Sama Terrazza rooftop tent with live Arabic music. For reserva-

tions or inquiries, call 95531606 for iftar offerings and 2450 7888 for special stay package.

Immerse in Ramadan traditions at Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar

Celebrate Ramadan with our traditional iftar buffet at Al Zafaran restaurant from 6:30pm until 11pm. For reservation and inquiries, 26640000

Ramadan at Park Inn by Radisson Duqm

Indulge in a special Ramadan buffet inclusive of soft drinks, juice and hot drink. For reservations or takeaway, call 2208 5700

We look forward to being part of your celebrations this Ramadan!

ahlibank receives Leadership in Youth Development Award

ahlibank's ongoing efforts to empower local youth with Career opportunities that include orientation and on-job-training programs as well as soft skills training which enhances their management and leadership skills, found validation with the prestigious 'Leadership in Youth Development Award' at the *Alam Al-Iktisaad's* Sustainability Leadership Awards, which was co-located at the Oman Forum 2022, held recently at the Al Bustan - A Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Organised by *Alam Al-Iktisaad*, Oman's leading Arabic business magazine, under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the 11th edition of Oman Forum was presided over by H E Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim bin Said al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

ahlibank's 'Leadership in Youth Development' Award reflects its ongoing youth and graduate development initiatives, specifically Himam programme. It is structured as a career intensive modular program over two years to equip young graduates with relevant banking knowledge as well as vital skills for a professional career in support of the future vision objectives, Oman 2040.

Since its launch in 2015, the programme has trained and recruited more than 64 young



graduates who were enrolled in various divisions at the bank. This two-year programme boost candidates' self-confidence by engaging them in competitive work environments that complements their learning from their university education.

Accepting the Award on behalf of the bank, Hana al Kharusi, general manager of corporate banking and chairperson of the Talent Management Committee, said, "This is a moment of recognition for the team of professionals that work tirelessly to train young graduates with skill building exercises that are in tune with current requirements of the job market. ahlibank is at the forefront of youth development programmes with Himam, and

our focus is on attracting budding high potential talents of our country and providing them with the tools required to unlock their true potential.

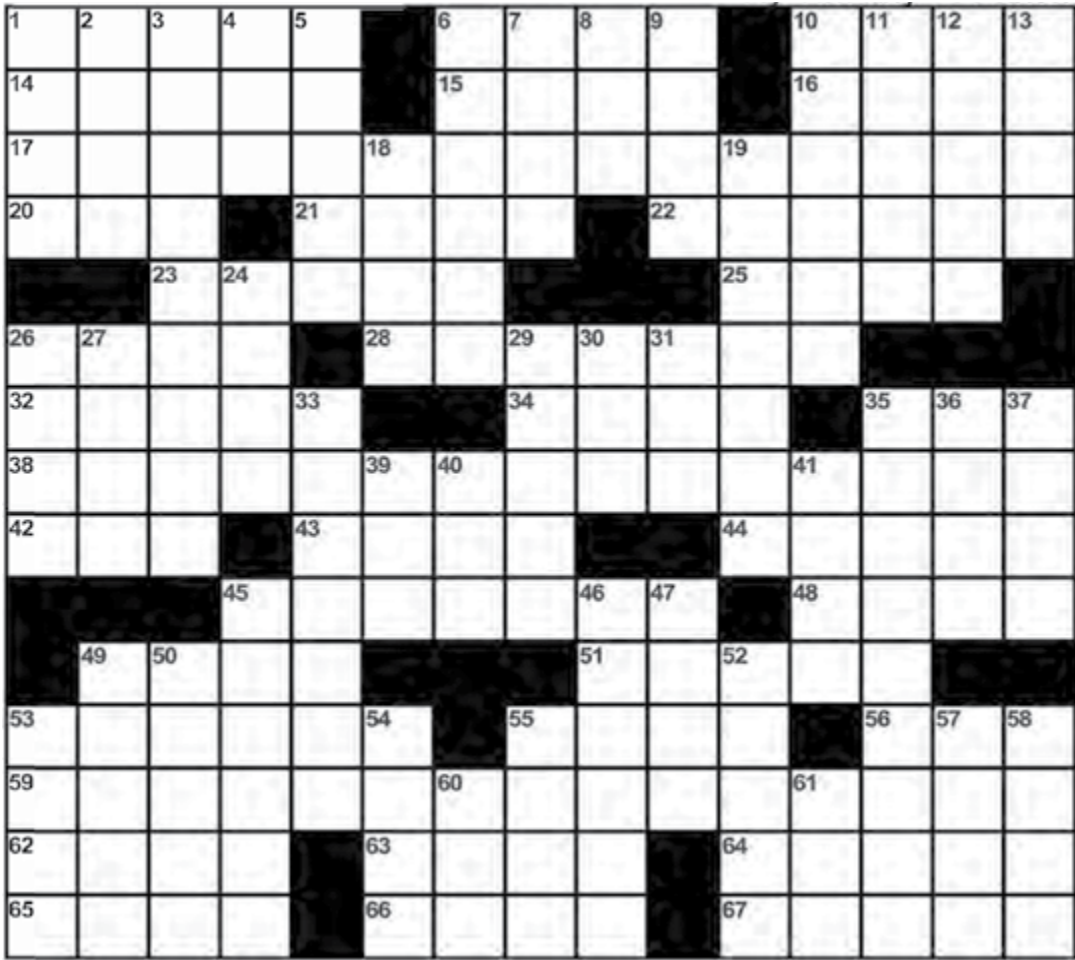
We do not just train our chosen candidates in the workings of the sector; we also provide them with hands-on experience from experts as well as exposure to projects and various challenging problem solving opportunities, so as to empower them to take on responsible jobs. We have, and continue to uphold the importance of developing young talents and nurturing their skills."

ahlibank has been able to achieve success and excellence through Himam programme as it includes a specific approach

and scope of training, which includes workshops on the basics of banking, on-the-job rotation, project management, skill-refinement activities and one-to-one guidance sessions with experienced mentors, among other interactive schedules.

The bank has realised the importance of guiding the enormous potential of youth by offering training and development initiatives that contribute to achieving a long-term impact on the overall development of the country. ahlibank is committed to continuing to provide training and development opportunities to enhance the skills of its employees and graduates in various disciplines.

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1) Place to store heirlooms

6) Rowing team, e.g.

10) "I know the way!"

14) Kitchen decentralizer?

15) Start to focus?

16) Like a noted ranger

17) Case for an Alaskan trooper?

20) Dutch_ disease

21) Carve in stone

22) Carpenter's plane

23) Contradict

25) Type of pilot

26) Bad aroma

28) Dry red wines

32) Indian princesses

34) Dress for 32-Across

35) Mud bath locale

38) Censor's action on a weird radio call-in guest?

42) Certain female kin, informally

43) On the safe side, at sea

44) Continental monies

45) Neat

48) Nota _ (Latin phrase)

49) Central A/C outlet

51) "The Age of Anxiety" poet W.H.

53) Jeweled headpieces

55) Christiania, once

56) Old Pontiac muscle car

59) Certain officer aseas?

62) Alternatives to lagers

63) Learning method using memorization

64) Lackluster finish

65) Foolhardy

66) Low poker pair

67) More mud bath locales?

DOWN

1) Highest point

2) Plane or c-clamp, e.g.

3) Certain brasses

4) Suffixes with "arm" or "road"

5) Angler's basket

6) A TM button

7) Baseball legend Babe

8) Biblical ending?

9) Trials and tribulations

10) Duplicates

11) Emotional states

12) Start of something

13) Not even once, poetically

18) Narc chaser?

19) Trellis pattern

24) " ... 15 miles on the_ Canal"

26) Eyeballs, to a poet

27) Surrealist Salvador

29) Daisylike bloom

30) "Go team!"

31) " ... _he drove out of sight"

33) Michigan State athlete

35) Tanzania wildlife reserve

36) Latin American laborer

37) Anagram for "peas"

39) Up there in years

40) Society-page word

41) Bumpkin

45) Strong inflow

46) They come together in a wink

47) Time of "comfort and joy"

49) Kind of concerto

50) Facilitates

52) Guarantees the failure of

53) Alpine transport

54) Arrange in alphabetical order

55) "Beetle Bailey" dog

57) London gallery

58) Aces, sometimes

60) "... what?"

61) Common house pet

NOTE PAD

OVERS ALAS AFRO
BISON GOBI GOIN
ENATE IBEG ARGO
YOU CANNOTHAVE
KEG THEIST
PROSIT ARIA GOO
RAVEL SCAN SNIP
EVERYTHINGWHERE
SIRE OINK HIRER
ESP LUNG COPSES
THOLES FRO
WOULDYOU PUT IT
OREO IRAN ERODE
WORN NEWT EGGON
NOSY GAPS SEALS

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

 **ARIES** MARCH 21-APRIL 19

Don't worry about the rumors. Yes, the powers that be might be thinking of making some big changes, but they have their eye on you for some bigger and better things. You've been a hard worker for as long as you've been there, and fortunately, you've been in the mood to work even harder over the past few weeks. You'll be very glad you did very soon.

 **LEO** JULY 23-AUGUST 22

The only problems you'll have today will be caused by your unpredictable energy. Your mood could be swinging a bit wildly, and it could be difficult for people to hang on for too long. Expect some folks to go their own way. But don't worry. These rapid changes are nothing that you can't get a handle on before the end of the day. If your mind wanders off like it's destined to, just go with the flow and try to enjoy.

 **SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER21

It's been tough going between you and a dear one lately. You might even be so badly at odds that you're beginning to wonder if the damage isn't irreparable. Well, it's not. You'll need to do some fancy footwork to bring the two of you back together again, but you will definitely be able to pull it off. Use that famous sense of humour to get the show on the road.

 **TAURUS** APRIL 20-MAY 20

Romance could well be on the agenda for you now, but there could be a few roadblocks along the way. Of course, roadblocks are only impassable if you refuse to work your way around them. If you're really interested in this person, you won't let anything separate you. Not what the neighbours might think, what your friends might say, or any differences you might encounter along the way. Think about common denominators.

 **VIRGO** AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Taking people at their word isn't a very wise thing to do today, because all that glitters is definitely not gold! Turn up your skepticism a little bit, and don't hesitate to doubt what you hear, especially if it sounds too good to be true. Keep your cards close to your chest, and don't give anybody clues about what you're thinking. Being critical of someone doesn't mean that you don't like or trust them. It just means that you're tough to impress.

 **CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

You've been thinking about how to better yourself, thinking very seriously about it. Of course, that's not an easy thing for you to do. You're famous for taking advantage of every opportunity that comes along, and of doing a darned fine job of it too. Still, there is one more venue that you'd like to explore, and it will definitely make you more "marketable." Why not get going on it now? All the cosmic lights are green.

 **GEMINI** MAY 21-JUNE 21

You've gone out of your way to pacify them, keep them happy, and do whatever you can to be cooperative. Still, members of your family don't seem to be all that appreciative of what you've done for them lately. You don't have to disown them, but you might want to sit them down and have a little chat. Talk about just how hard you've tried to keep the peace. It might not work, but then again, it might.

 **LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You might not be happy with the way the day starts, but if you resolve to go with the flow, stay calm, and let the cosmos handle the details, an awful lot could change to your liking by later in the day. In the meantime, if an argument arises over something that's really far less important than it's cracked up to be, it's up to you to use that knack for restoring balance to put things back into perspective.

 **AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Spending money will come easily to you now even if you don't really have it to spend. That doesn't mean you shouldn't treat yourself to something you'd enjoy, but if it's going to put you at risk of losing everything you have, you might want to think twice about it before you sign on the dotted line. If it's just a little something, don't worry about it. It's major purchases you should be wary of.

 **CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22

One of your friends is experiencing some relationship problems and it's affecting your friendship a bit too much in your opinion. They're distracted when they're with you and can only seem to talk about what's bothering them. It's no surprise that your patience is running low. Start a conversation with them. Remind them how much you care about them, but show them that by alienating you they aren't going to help themselves.

 **SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Stop feeling guilty about allowing yourself to actually relax for a little while. You've been doing nothing but working hard for months now, and you haven't whined or complained a bit. So isn't it time to be as kind to yourself as you would be to anyone else in your position? Give yourself a break, maybe even a whole night off. If you can't quite bring yourself do it just yet, plan to do it soon. And bring a friend.

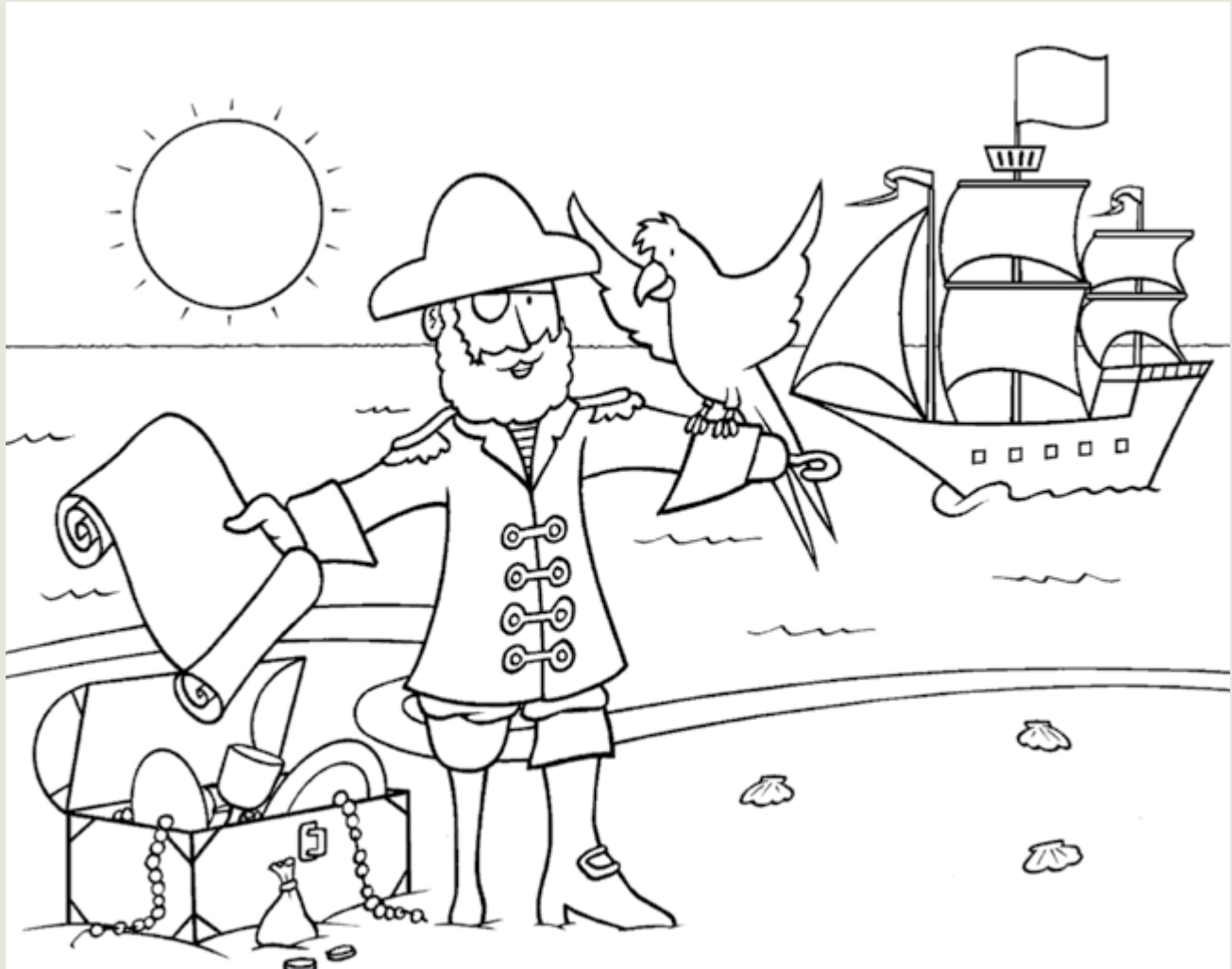
 **PISCES** FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Someone who's been a member of your crew for a while now could be at odds with the rest of the gang over a really petty issue. It might seem like you only have two options. The first is to try to help by doing everything you can to help make peace. The second apparent option, which might seem inevitable soon, is for you to see the depth of the problem and refuse to get in the middle. But isn't there a happy medium?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

01. A two decade long relationship was broken in August 2021 between what celebrated sportsman and the club he had played with all his sporting career?
- A. Lionel Messi
- B. Neymar
- C. Kylian Mbappé
- D. Sergio Ramos
02. The Russian choreographer and dancer Mikhail Fokin created which of these?
- A. La Boutique Fantasque (1919)
- B. Giselle (1841)
- C. Les Saisons (1900)
- D. Chopiniana (1907)
03. Under what name was the country of Umbuso weSwatini, or eSwatini, known internationally until 2018?
- A. Lesotho
- B. Swaziland
- C. Senegal
- D. Côte d'Ivoire
- Answers: 1. A 2. D 3. B

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

L	H	I	R
L	O	T	F
L	H	R	L
G	E	I	I

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

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

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

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

Over 20 wounded in new Jerusalem violence

The latest clashes take the number of wounded since Friday to more than 170, at a tense time

Jerusalem - More than 20 Israelis and Palestinians were wounded on Sunday in several incidents in and around Jerusalem's flash-point Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, two days after major violence at the site.

The latest clashes take the number of wounded since Friday to more than 170, at a tense time when the Jewish Passover festival coincides with Ramadan. They also follow deadly violence in Israel and the occupied West Bank in late March and early this month that has killed 36 people.

Early on Sunday morning, 'hundreds' of Palestinian demonstrators inside the mosque compound started gathering piles of stones, shortly before the arrival of Jewish visitors, police said. Jews are allowed to visit but not to pray at the site, also known as Temple Mount, the holiest place in Judaism and third-holiest in Islam. The police said its forces had entered the compound in order to 'remove' the demonstrators and 're-establish order'.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said 19 Palestinians were wounded, including at least five who were hospitalised. It said some had been wounded with rubber-coated steel bullets.

An AFP team near the en-



Israeli border police chase Palestinian youths in Jerusalem's Old City, on Sunday (AFP)

trance to the compound early on Sunday morning saw barefoot Jewish worshippers leaving the site, protected by heavily armed police.

Outside the Old City, in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, Palestinian youths threw rocks at passing buses, resulting in seven

people being treated for light wounds at Shaare Zedek hospital, the medical facility said.

Video released by the police showed two Israeli buses, their windscreens and side windows smashed in, driving down a road near the Old City as young men showered them with rocks. The

police said they had arrested 18 Palestinians.

Pope urges free access

Senior Palestinian official Hussein Al Sheikh said on Sunday that 'Israel's dangerous escalation in the Al-Aqsa compound ... is a blatant

attack on our holy places', and called on the international community to intervene.

The chief of the Hamas Islamist movement which controls the Palestinian enclave of Gaza meanwhile warned Israel that 'Al-Aqsa is ours and ours alone'. "Our people have the right to

The Palestinian Red Crescent said 19 Palestinians were wounded, including at least five who were hospitalised. It said some had been wounded with rubber-coated steel bullets

access it and pray in it, and we will not bow down to (Israeli) repression and terror," Ismail Haniyeh said in a statement.

Later on Sunday morning, mosques in Palestinian neighbourhoods of annexed east Jerusalem broadcast called for people to head towards the Al-Aqsa compound.

Weeks of mounting tensions saw two deadly attacks by Palestinians in or near the Israeli coastal city of Tel Aviv in late March and early April, alongside mass arrests by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank.

A total of 14 people have been killed in attacks against Israel since March 22, including a shooting spree in Bnei Brak, an Orthodox Jewish city in greater

Tel Aviv. Twenty-two Palestinians have been killed over the same period, including assailants who targeted Israelis, according to an AFP tally.

On Friday morning, police clashed with Palestinians in the Al-Aqsa compound, including inside the Al-Aqsa mosque, drawing strong condemnation from Muslim countries. Those clashes wounded some 150 people.

The United Nations has called for calm, a year after clashes in and around the mosque compound escalated into an 11-day war between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza.

Pope Francis called on Sunday for free access to the holy sites in Jerusalem and prayed for peace in the city. "May Israelis, Palestinians and all who dwell in the Holy City, together with the pilgrims, experience the beauty of peace, dwell in fraternity and enjoy free access to the Holy Places in mutual respect for the rights of each," he said in his Easter address. Despite the tensions, a few streets away from the Al-Aqsa compound hundreds of Christians staged a noisy parade through the alleys of Jerusalem's Old City to mark Easter.

AFP

N Korea tests new weapons to improve 'tactical nukes'

Seoul, South Korea - Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of a new guided weapons system to improve North Korea's 'tactical nukes', state media said on Sunday, capping days of celebrations surrounding the birthday of the country's founding leader.

The launch was the latest in an unprecedented blitz of sanctions-busting weapons-tests this year, which included firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range for the first time since 2017.

It also came just ahead of US-South Korea military training exercises - which have always infuriated Pyongyang - that were due to begin on Monday.

The 'new-type tactical guided weapon... is of great significance in drastically improving the fire-power of the frontline long-range artillery units and enhancing the efficiency in the operation of tactical nukes', the North's official KCNA news agency reported.

It said the test was successful, but did not specify when or where it took place.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected two projectiles fired late on Saturday, which flew 110km at an altitude of 25km, travelling at speeds of around Mach 4.

The United States was 'aware of the North Korean statement that they conducted a test of a long range artillery system', a Pentagon spokesperson said, adding it was monitoring.

Analysts had widely expected Pyongyang could conduct a nuclear test as part of events to celebrate Friday's anniversary of the 110th birthday of North Korea's founding leader - and Kim's grandfather - Kim Il Sung.

Expectations were heightened because of indications that Pyongyang had restarted work at one of its known nuclear testing sites.

Analysts said the weapon tested over the weekend appeared to be a new short-range ballistic missile - but no less significant. "This is North Korea's first tactical nuclear weapon delivery system, it would seem," said Ankit Panda, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



The test-fire of a new-type tactical guided weapon at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Sunday (AFP)

"You don't have to be particularly imaginative to put this two and two together."

Short-range but significant

Photos carried by the Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed a grinning Kim - surrounded by uniformed officials - applauding as he watched what it said was the test-firing of the weapon.

Kim gave a military research team 'important instructions on further building up the defence capabilities and nuclear combat forces', according to the KCNA report. Kim had also overseen in Pyongyang a series of events to celebrate Friday's anniversary, including a huge civilian parade, mass dance parties, and fireworks - but no military parade to show off the regime's new weapons.

At a key party congress in January 2021, Kim outlined a five-year defence development plan, calling for the development of higher nuclear technology and to make smaller and lighter nuclear weapons for 'more tactical uses'.

The remarks signalled a return to nuclear testing and Kim's rare attendance at a launch of a short-range missile - the first in more than two years - suggested 'particular significance', according to Panda.

North Korea had paused long-range and nuclear tests while Kim met then-US president Donald Trump for a bout of doomed diplomacy, which collapsed in

2019.

North Korea has tested nuclear weapons six times since 2006 and touted the success of its last and most powerful one in 2017 - a hydrogen bomb with an estimated yield of 250 kilotons.

Officials and analysts had widely predicted that North Korea may carry out its seventh nuclear test in the coming weeks.

Satellite imagery has shown signs of new activity at a tunnel at the Punggye-ri nuclear testing site, which North Korea said was demolished in 2018 ahead of the first Trump-Kim summit.

"This test of a tactical nuclear delivery system comes as indicators grow of significant reconstitutive work at North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site," said Panda.

With a new nuclear test, experts say Pyongyang will seek to miniaturise nuclear warheads to mount on its ICBMs.

South Korean officials have said Pyongyang could still stage a military parade or carry out a weapons test on or around April 25, the anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

South Korea and the United States regularly stage military exercises, but Pyongyang has long protested the drills as a rehearsal for war.

"This training is a defensive command post training using computer simulation, and there is no real military maneuver training," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said on Sunday.

AFP

Flood emergency lingers in South Africa

Durban, South Africa - Rains were expected to let up in South Africa's flood-ravaged east on Sunday after one of the deadliest storms in living memory killed nearly 400 and left tens of thousands homeless

Floodwaters engulfed parts of the southeastern coastal city of Durban and surrounding areas this week ripping apart roads, destroying hospitals and sweeping away homes and those trapped inside.

The city of 3.5mn was overcast but national forecaster with the South African Weather Service, Puseletso Mofokeng, said 'rainfall is actually clearing'.

"The rainfall is going to clear all completely as we move to Wednesday," he told AFP.

But recovery operations and humanitarian relief continued in the coastal city of 3.5mn whose beaches and warm Indian Ocean



Volunteers clean up massive deris at the Durban harbour following heavy rains, mudslides and rain and winds in Durban, on Saturday (AFP)

waters would normally have been teeming with Easter holidaymakers.

The number of flood-related emergency calls had decreased compared to early last week.

"Emergency services are still currently on high alert on Sunday morning," Robert McKenzie of the provincial KwaZulu-Natal emergency services told AFP.

It rained on Saturday and overnight, 'however now, it has stopped', said McKenzie.

Even so, emergency services were busy attending to a scene in the district of Pinetown where a house collapsed overnight.

"Fortunately now the flood waters have receded and (some) roads cleared. It's a lot easier to access the community," he said.

Christians congregated at churches across the city to pray for those affected by the floods as they celebrated Easter Sunday. Government and charities were marshalling relief aid for the more than 40,000 people left homeless by the raging floodwaters.

The government has announced an immediate one billion rand (US\$68mn) in emergency relief funding.

Deputy Social Development minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, said some 340 social workers had been deployed to offer support to traumatised survivors with many still missing children and other relatives.

The death toll rose Saturday to 398 while 27 people were reported still missing, the government said in a Saturday statement.

AFP

Libya's 'damouses' wait for tourists

Gharyan, Libya - Gharyan's unique underground houses were hewn into the mountainside centuries ago, and many lie abandoned, but residents of the Libyan town are hoping tourism can help restore their heritage.

"My great-great-great-great-great-grandfather dug this yard 355 years ago," said Al-Arbi Belhaj, who owns one of the oldest houses in the mixed Berber-Arab town south of Tripoli.

His ancestor would have used a 'tajouk' pickaxe to chip away at the ground before loading the rubble into a woven date-palm 'gouffa' basket to carry it away, he said.

Dug deep into the arid Nafusa mountains at around 700 metres above sea level, the home would have been protected against the scorching summers that bring temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius.

It would have also stayed warm throughout the often snowy winters.

The region's bedrock has a consistency that allowed the underground dwelling - known as a damous - to last for centuries without collapsing.

Some of the buildings are over



A view of the interior of a 'damous', a dwelling carved into Libya's arid Nafusa mountains, in Gharyan town, about 100km southwest of the capital, on February 5 this year (AFP)

2,300 years old, and ancient Greek historians mentioned their existence, according to historian Youssef al-Khattali.

The area also has burial sites dating back to Phoenician times, he added.

Today, Belhaj says he is the owner of the oldest underground home in Gharyan, a town where many residents have family records and property deeds dating back centuries.

The warren of rooms dug into

the rock around the courtyard once housed as many as eight large families, he said.

He was the last person to be born there, in 1967.

In 1990, like many people seeking more comfortable dwellings with running water and electricity, the family moved out of the home, but they kept ownership of it.

Now, Belhaj has renovated it and turned it into a tourist attraction. While late dictator Moamer

Kadhafi allowed tourists to visit the country on organised trips, visitors have been thin on the ground since his fall in a 2011 revolt, which sparked a decade of chaos.

But the region's Berber villages have continued to attract domestic tourists, and Belhaj is hoping that a return to relative stability could open the door to more visitors from Europe and elsewhere.

AFP

Ukraine vows to fight to the end in Mariupol as ultimatum expires

Kyiv, Ukraine - Ukraine on Sunday vowed to fight to the end in Mariupol after a Russian ultimatum expired for remaining forces to surrender in the southeastern port city where Moscow is pushing for a major strategic victory.

"The city still has not fallen," Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said hours after Moscow's deadline for fighters holed up and surrounded in a sprawling fortress-like steelworks to surrender passed.

"There's still our military forces, our soldiers. So they will fight to the end," he told ABC's *This Week*, with Moscow shifting its military focus to gaining control of the eastern Donbas region and forging a land corridor to already-annexed Crimea.

Russia's defence ministry said that there were up to 400 mercenaries inside the encircled Azovstal steel plant, calling on Ukrainian forces inside to 'lay down their arms and surrender in order to save their lives'.

Meanwhile, Moscow claims Kyiv has ordered fighters of the nationalist Azov battalion to 'shoot on the spot' anyone wanting to surrender.

'Dead end'

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said that if Russian forces kill Kyiv's troops remaining to defend the city, then a fledgling negotiation process to end nearly two months of fighting would be ended.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had already said the talks were at a 'dead end'.

Shmyhal said that Ukraine wanted a diplomatic solution 'if



Firefighters try to extinguish a fire in a residential building following bombardment in central Kharkiv on Sunday (AFP)

possible", but added: "If the Russians wouldn't like negotiations, we'll fight to the end, absolutely. We will not surrender."

While several cities are under siege, he said, not one - with the exception of Kherson in the south - had fallen. He said more than 900 towns and cities had been liberated.

As Russia scales up attacks on Ukraine's eastern flank, at least five people were killed and 13 wounded in a series of strikes in second city Kharkiv, just 21km from the Russian border and an

air strike hit an armaments factory in Kyiv.

Maksym Khaustov, the head of the Kharkiv region's health department, confirmed the deaths following a series of strikes that AFP journalists on the scene said had ignited fires throughout the city and torn roofs from buildings.

At one site, AFP saw a blood-stained coat next to a pool of fresh blood on the ground. A local reported hearing between six and eight missiles hit in the kind of strike that has become a

daily occurrence.

On Friday, shelling of residential areas of the city killed 10 people. On Saturday, a strike claimed two more lives.

'Inhuman'

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk urged Russian forces to allow evacuations from Mariupol.

"Once again, we demand the opening of a humanitarian corridor for the evacuation of civilians, especially women and children, from Mariupol,"

Vereshchuk wrote.

Zelensky said the situation in Mariupol is 'inhuman' and called on the West to immediately provide heavy weapons.

Mariupol has become a symbol of Ukraine's unexpectedly fierce resistance since Russian troops invaded the former Soviet state on February 24.

The UN World Food Programme says that over 100,000 civilians in Mariupol are on the verge of famine, and lacking water and heating.

AFP



Divers from the Tunisian navy at the sight of the sunken Xelo vessel, off the Gulf of Gabes, in southeastern Tunisia on Sunday (AFP)

Divers find no leaks from fuel tanker sunk off Tunisia

Gabes, Tunisia - Divers who inspected the hull of a tanker loaded with 750 tonnes of fuel that sank off southeast Tunisia detected no leaks on Sunday, officials said.

The Equatorial Guinea-flagged Xelo, which sank Saturday in the Gulf of Gabes, has settled on its side at a depth of almost 20 metres, the environment ministry said.

"No leak has been detected," it said in a statement.

The inspection was carried out by divers accompanied by the ship's captain and engineer, said Mohamed Karray, spokesman for a court in Gabes city that is investigating the sinking. The Xelo was travelling from Egypt to Malta when it went down.

The minister said the priority was to pump the diesel fuel and prevent any spillage or pollution.

As a precaution, protective booms have been placed around the wreck.

Environment Minister Leila Chikhaoui has also been at the scene in the port of Gabes to follow up on the incident.

Tunisian officials are investigating the itinerary of the tanker, which reportedly has

The Equatorial Guinea-flagged Xelo, which sank Saturday in the Gulf of Gabes, has settled on its side at a depth of almost 20 metres, the environment ministry said

With the scene sealed off by Tunisia's military, the defence ministry released pictures showing the vessel submerged on its side.

The crew of the Xelo had issued a distress call on Friday evening and sought shelter in Tunisian waters from bad weather before going down.

Tunisian authorities rescued the seven-member crew, who received first aid and were moved to a hotel.

Transport Minister Rabie Majidi said on Sunday that rescue workers had checked during the operation that the valves were closed, and the team of divers ensured they were sealed and intact.

"The situation is not dangerous, the outlook is positive, the ship is stable because luckily it ran aground on sand," he told reporters.

Turkish and Libyan owners.

The Tunisia branch of the World Wildlife Fund has expressed concern about another 'environmental catastrophe' in the region, an important fishing zone.

The tanker is 58 metres long and nine metres wide, according to ship monitoring website vesseltracker.com.

It began taking on water around seven kilometres offshore in the Gulf of Gabes and the engine room was engulfed, according to the environment ministry.

AFP

New clashes over anti-immigration rally in Sweden

Stockholm, Sweden - Plans by a far-right group to publicly burn copies of Q'uran sparked violent clashes with counter-demonstrators for the third day running in Sweden, police said on Sunday.

Litter bins, a bus and a car were all set on fire in a series of incidents in the southern city of Malmo overnight, police said in a statement.

"The situation calmed down towards 3am (0100 GMT)," police spokeswoman Kim Hild told SR public radio, adding that no officers were hurt, but a number of members of the public were slightly injured.

Nearly 20 complaints had been filed with police, including for vandalism.

There have been similar clashes in recent days over plans by the anti-immigration and anti-



Protesters build a burning barricade on a street during rioting in Norrkoping, Sweden on Sunday (AFP)

Islamic Stram Kurs (Hard Line) movement led by Danish-Swedish politician Rasmus Paludan to burn copies of the Koran in public.

The clashes on Saturday broke out after a rally by the group's supporters on Saturday.

Three police officers had to be taken to hospital after a riot broke out in the city of Linkoping in eastern Sweden on Thursday. Two people were arrested at that protest.

And on Friday, nine police officers were injured in similar clashes in Orebro in central Sweden.

In the wake of the string of incidents, Iraq's foreign ministry said that it had summoned the Swedish charge d'affaires in Baghdad on Sunday.

AFP

Afghanistan death toll in 'Pakistan strikes' rises to at least 47: Officials

Kabul, Afghanistan - The death toll from Pakistani military air strikes in the eastern Afghanistan provinces of Khost and Kunar has jumped to at least 47, officials said on Sunday, as Islamabad urged Kabul to act against militants launching attacks from Afghan soil.

Border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have risen since the Taliban seized power last year, with Islamabad claiming militant groups are carrying out regular attacks from the neighbouring country. The Taliban deny harbouring Pakistani militants, but are also infuriated by a fence Islamabad is erecting along their 2,700km border.

Tensions between the two neighbours deepened after Saturday's pre-dawn air assault which Afghan officials now claim

was carried out by Pakistani military helicopters.

The air strikes hit residential houses in Khost and Kunar along the border, Afghan officials said. Earlier officials had said Pakistani forces had fired rockets.

"Forty-one civilians, mainly women and children, were killed and 22 others were wounded in air strikes by Pakistani forces near the Durand line in Khost province," Shabir Ahmad Osmani, director of information and culture in Khost told AFP.

Najibullah, an official with the Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Khost said the death toll in the province was 48. "Twenty-four people were killed from one family itself," he said.

Jamshid, a tribal leader from Khost, also confirmed that more



Demonstrators take part in a protest against Pakistani airstrikes, in Khost on Saturday (AFP)

than 40 people had died. "I went yesterday with several people to donate blood for treating the wounded in Khost strike," Jamshid said.

Another government official in Khost on condition of anonymity said he saw '42 graves' of people killed, adding that a few people were missing.

"Faces and bodies of some were charred and beyond recognition," Abdul Wahab, a religious scholar from Khost who helped bury some victims said.

TOLO News, Afghanistan's leading private TV channel, continued to show gruesome footage of scattered blood and debris of damaged houses in the assault in Khost. On Saturday, officials had said five children and a woman had been killed in similar strikes in Kunar.

'Stern actions'

The Pakistani military has so far not offered any comment on the strikes, but on Sunday the foreign ministry in Islamabad urged the Taliban authorities in Kabul to rein in the militants.

"Pakistan requests the sovereign Government of Afghanistan to secure Pak-Afghan Border region and take stern actions against the individuals involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan," Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

It said seven Pakistan soldiers were killed in North Waziristan district on Thursday by 'terrorists operating from Afghanistan'.

Areas along the border have long been a stronghold for militant groups which operates across the porous frontier with Afghanistan.

AFP

IPHONE INDIANS

Brazil's indigenous influencers take their fight online, decrying how people seem to think that they need to remain frozen in time

INDIGENOUS INFLUENCERS

Clutching an iPhone in each hand, and sporting a feather headdress and traditional indigenous garb, Brazilian influencer Samela Awia, a member of the Amazon rainforest's Satere-Mawe people, checks out her latest video, then posts it online.

"Good stuff," says the 25-year-old after uploading the video, a recap of news from a tent city near the seat of government in Brasilia, where she and thousands of other indigenous Brazilians have been camped out since last week protesting far-right president Jair Bolsonaro's policies.

"Hi, this is Samela, coming to you from the indigenous camp," she tells her 54,000 followers in the mini-report, decked out in a coconut shell and crochet bustier, colourful beads and blue flower armbands.

"Come with me, I'll show you what's going on," says the self-described artisan and digital activist from Manaus, the city known as the 'capital of the Amazon'.

The indigenous camp, an annual event, has focused this year on mobilising public opinion against a series of Bolsonaro initiatives that critics say would be disastrous for native peoples

Our generation has a new form of resistance, the internet and social networks, and it's making a big difference

AWIA

and the environment, including bills that would sharply limit the creation of new indigenous reservations and open existing ones to mining.

In addition to the camp, however, young and tech-savvy indigenous influencers are increasingly taking their cause online.

"Indigenous leaders before us had other tools, other weapons to fight. Our generation has a new form of resistance, the internet and social networks, and it's making a big difference," Awia told AFP.

iPhone Indians

Brazil is home to around 900,000 indigenous people. They make up 0.5 per cent of the population, but play an outsize role in protecting the environment - experts say creating and safeguarding indigenous reservations is

one of the best ways to preserve the world's forests, key resources in the race to curb climate change.

Victims of mass killings and horrific abuses throughout the nation's history, indigenous Brazilians still often face violence, discrimination and rights violations today. Indigenous influencers see part of their role as combatting the prejudice their people face.

Tukuma Pataxo, 22, recently posted a video taking on a question he says he gets constantly "Aren't you too modern to be indigenous?"

"Are we supposed to be stuck in time?" he asks in the accompanying message, hitting out at the derogatory phrase sometimes applied to people like him - 'iPhone Indians'.

With 172,000 followers, Pataxo, who comes from the ethnic group of the same name in the northeastern state of Bahia, is a celebrity at the protest camp, where fellow demonstrators constantly stop him and ask to take a picture.

"Young people are super important in the (indigenous) struggle. Our elders started coming to Brasilia years ago as a way to fight for their land. They didn't even know where they were going or how to get here, but they came," says Pataxo.

"Now, we have a whole new platform with technology on our side, which lets us bring our fight to the entire world," he adds.

AFP



Digital indigenous activists Tukuma Pataxo (left), of the Pataxo tribe, and Samela Awia (above), of the Satere Mawe Amazonian tribe, check their social media posts on their mobile phones at the Terra Livre Indigenous Camp in Brasilia



Al Harthy secures superb second on grid in GTE at ELMS qualifying debut



Ahmad al Harthy was in superb form in the first qualifying session of the 2022 season at Circuit Paul Ricard on Saturday

Muscat - European Le Mans Series debutant Ahmad al Harthy came up with an absolutely fantastic performance in the first qualifying session of the 2022 season at Circuit Paul Ricard on Saturday, to secure a front-row start in the GTE class for Sunday's four-hour race in the south of France.

Holding pole position with only two minutes of the session to go, the Oman Racing driver did improve his time further the next time around but just missed

out on a dream grid-topping effort by a mere 0.154 seconds in the No.69 Aston Martin Vantage GTE.

Strong and competitive during the pre-event build up along with team-mates Sam De Haan and Aston Martin factory driver Marco Sorensen, Al Harthy was happy with his qualifying show.

"I'm really happy with our qualifying", said Al Harthy, "We were very close to being P1 but a front row of the grid start is something great for my first

weekend in ELMS. It's a new format for me, a new car, so I'm happy with my performance and there is so much more to improve on. It's going to be a long race, so we're starting in the perfect place on the front row,

"From a teamwork perspective, we've all been working a lot to understand the car and understand our race pace. Hopefully everything will go to plan in the race. Once again, I am delighted to have qualified on the front row of GTE - a big thank you to

everyone at Oman Racing."

Beginning the week with two days of very productive testing at the Le Castellet last Monday and Tuesday, the Oman Racing trio returned to the track on Friday for the first free practice while Al Harthy gained additional track time in the standalone session for Bronze graded drivers - lapping second fastest in 1m55.106 seconds (274.81 km/h).

After another free practice on Saturday morning, where the No.69 Aston Martin was eighth

on the time sheet, the GTE qualifying took place early in the afternoon with Al Harthy behind the wheel - each squad's 'Bronze' drivers tasked with qualifying their respective cars for the weekend's race.

At the sharp end of the battle throughout, the Omani, supported by the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS, moved onto pole position with just two minutes to go thanks to a lap of 1m55.008 sec.

Oman end tri-series with dominant win

Bilal Khan took five-wickets to break Papua New Guinea's back after Jatinder Singh top-scored for Oman with a crafty 79

Dubai, UAE - Oman ended their four-game tri-series against Scotland and Papua New Guinea with a comfortable 85-run victory over the latter, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Batting first after winning the toss, Oman made 277 for 8, thanks mainly to Jatinder Singh's fine 79 and half centuries from Zeeshan Maqsood and Ayaan Khan.

Oman lost Kashyap Prajapati early, but a 124-run partnership

between the in-form Jatinder and skipper Maqsood placed them in total command. Jatinder took centre stage and led the scoring for his side with a magnificent 77-ball 79. Zeeshan played the supporting role to perfection while making 52 runs.

A late-middle order wobble followed, but Ayaan Khan ensured that the platform set earlier was taken full advantage of. He made an unbeaten, run-a-ball 62 and with some late help from Kaleemullah, powered Oman to

a competent total of 277 for 8. Norman Vanua was the pick of the Papua New Guinea bowling unit and finished with figures of 3 for 50 in eight overs.

Papua New Guinea's response with the bat however, fell well short. Charles Amini held his own for the duration of a valiant 60-run knock while Norman Vanua and Tony Ura chipped in with scores of 27 and 25 respectively but despite that they were bowled out for 192 with 5.3 overs to spare.

For Oman, Bilal Khan continued his stunning form with another five-wicket haul - his third in nine games. He finished the series with 13 wickets. Khawar Ali was the other one with more than one scalp to his name.

Bilal was ecstatic with his per-

formance.

"I'm always happy to bowl in Dubai. Whether it is with the old or new ball, in the middle overs or at the death, I always bowl with heart. I enjoy it and manage to pick up some wickets too," said Bilal, while collecting his player of the match award.

Referencing Jatinder and Bilal's current form and his take-aways from the tri-series as a whole, Zeeshan Maqsood said: "Jatinder is a top order batsman and when he scores, the job for the middle and lower order becomes easier. Similar case with Bilal as well. When he gets breakthroughs early on, the rest of the innings gets a little easier.

"In the tour, the pace bowlers have contributed a lot. Jatinder scored a lot of runs - a 100 and

two fifties. Even in the game against Scotland, we performed brilliantly and never gave up until the end. There are just a few niggles that we need to sort out but many positives to take forward," he added.

Oman lead the ICC Men's CWC League 2 table by 16 points, having played 16 games more than second-placed Scotland.

BRIEF SCORES:

Oman 277 for 8 in 50 overs (Jatinder Singh 79(77) 7x4, 2x6 Ayaan Khan 62(62) 2x4, 4x6 Zeeshan Maqsood 52(108) 3x4; Norman Vanua 3 for 50) beat Papua New Guinea 192 all out in 44.3 overs (Charles Amini 60(92) 3x4; Bilal Khan 5 for 54) by 85 runs



Bilal Khan was in fantastic form for Oman yet again, taking five wickets



Gerard Moreno is in danger of missing out the Champions League semi-final first leg against Liverpool

Moreno helps Villarreal to Getafe win but injured before Liverpool

Madrid, Spain - Villarreal's star striker Gerard Moreno could miss the first leg of their Champions League semi-final against Liverpool after he scored and then went off injured in a 2-1 win over Getafe on Saturday.

Moreno scored one goal and then made another against Getafe before being substituted in the second half, with a reported injury to his right hamstring.

The 30-year-old will undergo tests on Sunday to diagnose the

extent of the problem. Villarreal have 10 days before they play the first leg against Liverpool at Anfield. Moreno has endured a difficult year with injuries, having already suffered problems in October and February, when he was out for just over a month each time.

"We are going to see how serious it is, but it has been a bad year for him," said Villarreal coach Unai Emery after the game. "It's been frustrating for everyone, let's see how he is."

After knocking Bayern Munich out in the Champions League quarter-finals with a surprise 1-1 draw in Munich on Tuesday, Villarreal claimed victory against a Getafe side trying to secure survival in Spain's top flight.

Despite their Champions League heroics, Emery's team are adrift of the European qualification places, with this win taking them six points behind Real Sociedad in sixth.

AFP

Tsitsipas downs Davidovich Fokina to defend Monte Carlo Masters crown

Monte Carlo, Principality of Monaco - Stefanos Tsitsipas successfully defended his Monte Carlo Masters title with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in Sunday's final.

Third seed Tsitsipas hammered 21 winners and made only 11 unforced errors in the Monaco sunshine to win in an hour and 36 minutes.

It was the 23-year-old Greek's eighth ATP title and first in 11 months as he made the perfect start to the clay-court season.

"I'm very proud of the amount of belief I had in my game," Tsitsipas said.

"He fought in moments I didn't really expect him to fight and hit some incredible winners. I believe that's a great result against him."

He joins an illustrious list of players to win back-to-back Monte Carlo Masters, including Rafael Nadal, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Thomas Muster and Bjorn Borg. Tsitsipas, who beat Andrey



Stefanos Tsitsipas gave Alejandro Davidovich Fokina no chance (AFP)

Rublev in the Monte Carlo final 12 months ago, has now won four clay tournaments in his career.

He is gearing up for another tilt at the French Open title after losing last year's final at Roland Garros to Novak Djokovic despite leading by two sets.

Davidovich Fokina had

straight back with a magnificent forehand up the line to level the first set at 2-2.

The set remained on serve until game eight, when Tsitsipas broke as Davidovich Fokina fired a backhand into the tramlines.

The Greek star wrapped up the opener with a hold to love, capped off by an ace.

World number five Tsitsipas carved out two break points in the first game of the second set, and took total control of the final as Davidovich Fokina sent a baseline shot spinning long. The underdog continued to battle hard, though, breaking back in the fourth game as Tsitsipas framed a backhand into the crowd, with 22-year-old Davidovich Fokina waving his arms in delight.

But Tsitsipas continued to put the Spaniard under pressure and took his third break point of a marathon game to lead 5-4 and tee up the chance to serve for the title.

AFP

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CSK V GT

Miller, Rashid Khan star as Gujarat Titans beat CSK in thriller



BRIEF SCORES:
Chennai Super Kings 169 for 5 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 73 (48) 5x4, 5x6, Ambati Rayudu 46 (31) 4x4, 2x6; Alzarri Joseph 2 for 34) lost to Gujarat Titans 170 for 7 in 19.5 overs (David Miller 94 (51) 8x4, 6x6, Rashid Khan 40 (21) 2x4, 3x6; Dwayne Bravo 3 for 23) by 3 wickets

TODAY'S MATCH (6PM)
 VS 
RAJASTHAN ROYALS | KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Fiery Malik's four-for helps Sunrisers Hyderabad win four matches in a row

Mumbai, India - Speedster Umran Malik returned figures of 4 for 28 including a maiden 20th over to help Sunrisers Hyderabad to their fourth straight IPL win as they beat Punjab Kings on Sunday.

Malik, an up and coming Kashmiri quick who has clocked speeds of over 150 kilometres per hour (93 mph) in this edition of the Twenty20 tournament, claimed three wickets in the final over that also witnessed a run-out to bowl out Punjab for 151.

Punjab batter Liam Livingstone hammered 60 off 33 balls before falling to Bhuvneshwar Kumar who claimed three wickets to reach 150 Indian Premier League scalps.

In reply, Hyderabad rode on a fourth-wicket unbeaten stand of 75 between Aiden Markram (41) and Nicholas Pooran (35) to achieve the target with seven balls and seven wickets to spare.

Hyderabad were in trouble at 77 for three but Markram stood firm in Pooran's company and



Umran Malik took three wickets in his last over without conceding a run

finished the game off with a six in his 27-ball knock.

Kane Williamson's Hyderabad have been unbeaten after their opening two losses and

jumped to fourth in the 10-team IPL table led by Gujarat Titans.

Malik, 22, remained the hero after his dramatic last over of the Punjab innings when he took

three wickets including two on successive balls to be on a hat-trick on the final delivery which resulted in a run-out.

He became the fourth bowler in IPL history after Irfan Pathan (India), Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka) and Jaydev Unadkat (India) to not concede a single run in the 20th over. It was also the first instance of four wickets falling in an over without any runs.

Livingstone remained the lone batting performer for Punjab as he put on 71 runs with Shahrukh Khan, who made 26, for the fifth wicket before Malik's last over assault.

AFF

BRIEF SCORES
Punjab Kings 151 in 20 overs (Liam Livingstone 60 (33) 5x4, 4x6; Umran Malik 4 for 28, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3 for 22) lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad 152 for 3 in 18.5 overs (Aiden Markram 41 (27) 4x4, 1x6, Nicholas Pooran 35 (30) 1x4, 1x6; Rahul Chahar 2 for 28) by 7 wickets



Dinesh Karthik

Karthik targets India return

Mumbai, India - Dinesh Karthik said he was eyeing an India comeback after his unbeaten 66 off 34 balls powered Royal Challengers Bangalore to a 16-run win over Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

Karthik, a wicketkeeper-batter who has amassed 197 runs, stood out as he put on an unbeaten stand of 97 for the sixth wicket with Shahbaz Ahmed as Bangalore plundered 69 runs from the last four overs.

"I have bigger goals. I've been working really hard. My aim is to do something special for the country," man of the match Karthik, who last played for India in the 2019 50-over World Cup, said.

AFF



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