

MUSCAT DAILY

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TWO NATIONS ONE VISION

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik welcomed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman al Saud of Saudi Arabia on his historical visit to the Sultanate of Oman which marks a new chapter in bilateral ties

COINCIDING WITH PRINCE MOHAMMED'S VISIT, 13 MOUS FOR JOINT PROJECTS IN PROMISING ECONOMIC SECTORS WORTH MORE THAN US\$10BN WERE SIGNED

SEE ALSO
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Bank Muscat powers digital transformation

Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, Deputy General Manager - Large Corporates, Bank Muscat explains how corporate banking in Oman is being rapidly transformed

What are the different Corporate Banking services offered by Bank Muscat?

As part of its efforts to enhance convenience and add value to services offered to the government, large corporates and SMEs, the bank has four exclusive corporate banking branches located in the major business hubs of the Sultanate. Staffed by talented and highly-experienced Omani nationals, these corporate branches are a one-stop shop for all types of business banking requirements, ranging from a simple account opening to availing of credit facilities and more complex transactions such as trade financing and the issuing of Letters of Credit. The bank's services are also available through other branches across the Sultanate as well as Corporate Online Banking. But most importantly, every corporate customer has a dedicated Account Relationship Manager - this ensures the prompt and effective resolution of their banking needs and requirements.

How is the shift to digital helping corporates?

The shift to digital has been gathering pace in recent years and the pandemic

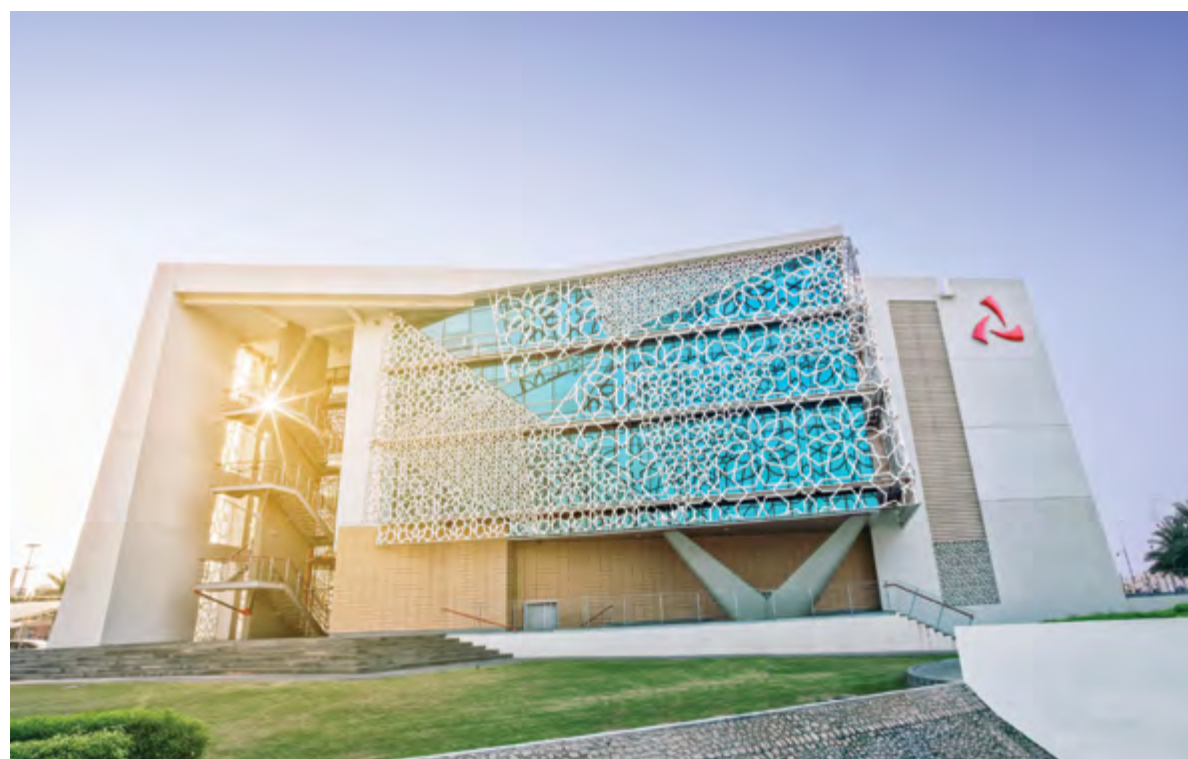
has given further impetus to this move. Digitalisation can help corporates speed up transaction, optimise the efficiency of their employees, minimise data-entry related risks in payment processes and improve security. It addresses the entire value chain of corporates by providing sophisticated analysis of data sets, real-time insights to ensure transparency and greater control for corporate customers to make better informed decisions.

Have online payments by Corporates increased in the recent past?

Previously, many corporates preferred transacting at our branches even though digital solutions were available. However, the social distancing norms brought about by the COVID-19 global pandemic have changed the way transactions are now done. In 2020, the bank processed transactions worth more than RO 2 billion on its corporate online platform. In 2021, the shift to digitalisation gained further momentum with around 2.8 million transactions amounting to over RO 3.8 billion being processed only through the corporate digital channels in the first nine months of the year. This rapid rise in corporate and institutional transactions have been powered by Bank Muscat's various digital solutions.

Could you please elaborate on the features and services available through the bank's new Corporate Banking website?

Bank Muscat's new Corporate Banking website is solution-oriented and features a modern design, simple and user-friendly content, easy navigation, and interactive application forms for the bank's existing and prospective customers to apply for availing banking products and services. In line with the bank's customer-centric strategy, it provides direct links to a large range of services and solutions offered by the bank including Corporate Online Bank-



The bank connects and engages with its customers at every touchpoint in the customer journey. I would like to stress that Bank Muscat is continuously trying to improve customer experience as part of its customer-centric vision

ILHAM MURTADHA AL HAMAID

What are the digital solutions available for large corporates?

The bank's digital solutions and services include the state-of-the-art Business-to-Business (B2B) Connect platform, which addresses the business requirements of large Government, institutional and corporate entities. The B2B Connect platform enables institutions and large corporates to build an efficient and robust payment and reconciliation system that is integrated with their ERP. Businesses also have the option of using

Bank Muscat's Corporate Online Banking. Available 24/7 in both Arabic and English language options through <https://www.bankmuscatonline.com>, the Corporate Online Banking platform facilitates real-time account details, transactions in local or foreign currencies as well as bulk payments. It must be noted that the online banking platform features the latest technologies with world-class security features. Bank Muscat also offers many other tailor-made digital solutions such as Remote Deposit

Capture (RDC) online cheque clearing solution and the Direct Debit solution.

What is the bank's Global Relationship Management programme?

The Bank's Global Relationship Management programme was launched in 2019 as part of its customer-centric vision, and has created synergies across different departments of the bank so as to provide customised solutions to corporate clients. The best part is that it enables the bank's corporate business partners to have a single point of contact at the bank through their dedicated Global Relationship Managers. The excellent response from our large corporate customers has been very encouraging, and has been helping us further fine-tune our customer-centric services and solutions to serve them better. The programme is enhancing the value proposition for different customer segments, based on the different needs of different segments.

What else can customers expect in the future?

Over the years, Bank Muscat has been working steadily to further improve its portfolio of services and solutions in line with its vision of serving its customers better, every day. We will continue to focus on digitising our services with the 'best-in-class' security standards. Our new services and solutions are based on customer feedback and needs as well as global trends. By capturing the Voice of the Customer, the bank connects and engages with its customers at every touchpoint in the customer journey. I would like to stress that Bank Muscat is continuously trying to improve customer experience as part of its customer-centric vision. We promise to keep on introducing new products, services and features that further enhance the customer experience and boost their confidence and trust in the bank.

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A number of areas and aspects of common interest will be discussed during the visit

Muscat - Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in the Sultanate of Oman on Monday on an official visit.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the welcoming party for the Saudi Crown Prince. When the jet of Prince Mohammed touched down at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the Royal guest at the foot of the ramp, welcoming him and wishing him and his official delegation a pleasant stay in his second home, Oman.

Alongside His Majesty the Sultan, Prince Mohammed was received by Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal al Busaidi, Minister of Diwan of Royal Court, Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Nu'mani, Minister of Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al Busaidi, Minister of Interior and Head of Mission of Honour, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sayyid Faisal bin Turki al Said, Ambassador of Oman to Saudi Arabia, and Abdullah bin Saud Al Anzi, Saudi Ambassador to Oman.

Flanked by two rows of Royal Guards of Oman, His Majesty the Sultan and Prince Mohammed headed to the vehicle and proceeded to Al Alam Palace.

During the visit, a number of areas and aspects of common interest will be discussed to serve the interests of the two countries, and to achieve the aspirations and hopes of the Omani and Saudi peoples for a more prosperous future.

Prince Mohammed is accompanied by a high-level delegation that includes Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Energy, Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd, Minister of State and Member of Council of Ministers, Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal, Minister of Sports, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef, Minister of Interior, Prince Abdullah bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Minister of National Guard, Prince Faisal bin Farhan al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Muhammad al Saud, Minister of Culture, Dr Musa'ed bin Mohammed al Aiban, Minister of State and Member of Council, and Dr Majid bin Abdullah al Qasabi, Minister of Commerce and Investment.

CROWN PRINCE ARRIVES WITH HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION



Oman, Saudi sign 13 MoUs

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Coinciding with the visit of Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, to Oman, 13 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for joint projects in promising economic sectors worth more than US\$10bn were signed on Monday.

The MoUs were signed by several companies owned by Oman Investment Authority and the private sector with their Saudi counterparts.

Three MoUs were signed by the OQ Group; one related to petrochemicals, renewable energy and green hydrogen with Saudi ACWA Power and Uber Products Company, and the second in the field of oil storage with Aramco Trading.

The OQ Group's third MoU is with Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) to develop the Duqm Petrochemical Complex project.

Asyad Group and the Saudi Maritime Transport Company



signed an MoU in the field of dry dock, logistics and maritime transport, while Minerals Development Oman signed an agreement with Saudi Maaden Company to assess exploration and development opportunities in the mining sector.

The Omran Group signed an MoU for investment in the Yeti Integrated Tourism Development with Dar al Arkan of Saudi Arabia.

An MoU was also inked in the field of fish farming between Fisheries Development Oman

and Saudi Naqua, and another between Muscat Stock Exchange and the Saudi Tadawul Group with the aim of cooperation in stock exchange operations and dual listing of companies.

The Oman ICT Group and the National Technology Group of Saudi Arabia signed an MoU in the field of information technology, while Khazaen Economic City and Naqel Express inked an agreement to establish a logistics complex in Khazaen City.

International Company for Project Development and Al

Khorayef Petroleum of Saudi Arabia signed an agreement in the oil and gas sector.

OQAL Oman and OQAL Saudi Arabia inked an MoU in the field of entrepreneurship.

The 13th MoU was between Omani Integrated Logistics Services and Saudi Arabia's Zajil in the field of logistics and transportation.

According to Badr al Badr, CEO of Saudi National Companies Promotion Programme, the value of the MoUs is expected to exceed US\$10bn.

RO595mn Oman-Saudi trade exchange in H1 2021

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The volume of trade between Oman and Saudi Arabia was RO595mn in the first half of 2021, according to the Government Communication Centre (GCC).

According to the GCC, Saudi Arabia was among the most important trading partners of the sultanate in 2020. It ranked second for non-oil exports, and second in the Gulf Cooperation

Council.

Saudi Arabia is a strategic partner in a number of economic projects in the sultanate, including the Salalah Independent Power Plant, Manah Power Plant, Salalah Independent Water

Desalination Plant, Ibri II Solar PV Independent Power Plant Project and the Saudi Development Fund.

Redha bin Juma al Saleh, chairman of Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (OCCI), informed that the visit of Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, to Oman is a reflection of the strong brotherly relations between the sultanate and the kingdom.

He explained that data confirms the increasing trade exchange between Oman and Saudi Arabia. The volume of trade rose from RO461mn in

2010 to RO960mn in 2020.

"There are great prospects of steadily increasing the volume of trade in the future. The opening of a road between the sultanate and the kingdom will have a positive impact in facilitating and increasing trade exchange," Saleh said.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has confirmed an increase in the number of Saudi companies in Oman from 467 in 2010 to 1,235 this year.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ



“Arak Medical Clinics extends warm welcome to Prince **Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud**, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to Oman. Your visit reflects the strong relations between Oman and Saudi Arabia,”

Dr Shaib Al Azmi



عيادات آراك الطبية
Arak Medical Clinics

مجموعة دكتور شعيب سالم العازمي

MoSD campaign raises child abuse awareness

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) has launched a campaign in Dhahirah governorate in its efforts to curb child abuse.

The campaign was launched on December 5 and will continue till December 12, an official of the ministry said. It is being held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and the Public Prosecution.

Sultan bin Qais al Abri, director general of the Directorate of Social Development in Dhahirah, said the campaign will raise awareness on the role of child protection committees among members of society. It also aims to shed light on social issues such children's exploitation and online extortion.

"The campaign's programme includes a number of activities such presentation of a video about abuse, organising field visits, and distributing awareness brochures among school students in the governorate."

294 cases of child abuse in Q4 2020

MoSD has stated that 294 cases of child abuse were handled by child protection committees



1100 is a free line. We ensure full confidentiality of the complaint and the caller. Depending upon the complaint, it is forwarded to the relevant authorities

SULTAN AL ABRI

across the sultanate in the fourth quarter of 2020, with most cases being reported in Muscat.

Muscat registered 105 cases, followed by North Batinah (75), South Batinah (30), South Shar-

qiyah (23), Buraimi (16), Dakhliyah (13), Dhahirah (12), North Sharqiyah (11), Dhofar (five) and Musandam (four).

Additionally, 178 cases of abuse were registered through

the ministry's Child Protection Line (1100) during the same period.

"Some children need immediate social, psychological and medical treatment," the ministry official said, adding that there are cases which require immediate intervention by child protection officials.

"In such cases, the abused child is shifted to Dar al Wafaq in the Department of Family Protection. This house is dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of abused children."

Abri informed that the hotline service is operational 24x7.

"It's a free line. We ensure full confidentiality of the complaint and the caller. Depending upon the complaint, it is forwarded to relevant authorities."

The Department of Family Protection was established through Ministerial Decision No 330/2012 for the overall welfare of children. It is responsible for developing family protection plans and strengthening efforts to serve the family better, the official said.

"The department ensures the provision of stability and family cohesion, and provides a safe environment away from negative behaviour, and receives complaints via hotline to protect children."

Sayyid Asaad bids farewell to Russian ambassador

Muscat - On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, received in his office on Monday Dmitry Dugadkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Oman, to bid him farewell at the end of his tenure.

The ambassador expressed gratitude for the support he received from His Majesty the Sultan, the government and the Omani people, which enabled him to carry out his duty.



He wished His Majesty good health, happiness and long life, and the sultanate further progress and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty. Sayyid Asaad thanked the am-

bassador for the efforts he exerted in serving relations between the two nations and wished him success and the Russian people further progress. ONA

RENAISSANCE OF OMAN FOR DIWAN OFFICIAL



His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has conferred the Renaissance of Oman (Second Class) Order on Abdullah Shaban al Farsi, head of Administrative and Financial Affairs in the Diwan of Royal Court, in appreciation of his work. The order was handed over by Sayyid Khalid Hilal al Busaidi, Minister of Diwan of Royal Court, when he received Farsi in his office on Monday (ONA)

GCC hallmark marking 40th anniversary gifted to HM

Muscat - Sayyid Taimour Asaad al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Central Bank of Oman (CBO), received a hallmark commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a gift for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday.

The memento was handed over by Dr Mohammed Yousef al Hashel, Governor of Kuwait Central Bank, to Sayyid Taimour in his office.

Their meeting touched on aspects of cooperation between the financial and banking sectors and ways to develop integration among GCC monetary systems.



The meeting was attended by Tahar Salim al Amri, CEO of CBO, and Dr Sulaiman Abdullah

al Harbi, Ambassador of Kuwait to Oman. ONA

Economic stimulus meet held in Musandam

Musandam - The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) branch in Musandam organised 'Economic Stimulation Conference in Oman', in cooperation with the Oman Economic Association, on Monday.

The conference aimed to support the government's efforts to stimulate the national economy as per the collaborative approach adopted by Oman Vision 2040.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of H E Dr Said Mohammed al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

Raed Mohammed al Shehhi, OCCI board member and chairman of the chamber's branch in Musandam, said that the Economic Stimulation Conference



comes within the chamber's efforts to enhance the business and investment environment and revitalise Oman's economy.

The meet is within the framework of OCCI's role in supporting

private sector companies to overcome current challenges, and conveying their views to the authorities concerned.

The conference included sessions on the impact of govern-

ment incentives, monetary policies, the impact of interest rates, the business and investment environment, governance and policy integration. ONA

Oman, Cyprus hold round of political talks, review bilateral relations

Muscat - The second round of political talks between Oman and the Republic of Cyprus was held at the Foreign Ministry on Monday.

The Omani side was chaired by H E Sheikh Khalifa Ali al Harthy, Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, while Kornelios Korneliou, Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, chaired his country's side.



The session reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries as the two sides

stressed their keenness to continue promoting these in different fields. The two sides also

exchanged views on various international and regional issues of common interest.

The session was also attended by H E Sheikh Ahmed Salim al Shanfari, Ambassador

of Oman to Cyprus, H E Andreas Nikolaides, Ambassador of Cyprus to Oman, and other officials from both sides.

Delegation visits MSC

Later in the day, Korneliou and his accompanying delegation visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC) at Al Murtafaa Garrison.

They were received by Rear Admiral Saif Nasser al Rahbi, Commander of Royal Navy of

Oman, and head of Maritime Security Committee at MSC.

The guests toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies. Korneliou was also briefed on the role and tasks carried out by the centre within its national duties, and its coordination with relevant authorities in search and rescue missions for the safety of the maritime environment. ONA



Season Greetings!







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*Rates as on December 06
Source: xe.com
BRIEFS
German industrial orders go into reverse in October

German industrial orders dropped significantly in October after a revival in September, official figures showed on Monday, as continuing supply issues bedevilled industry.

The federal statistics office Destatis calculated that industrial orders in Europe's largest economy fell by 6.9 per cent in October compared with the previous month, after a small 1.8 per cent rise in September.

The indicator, which gives a foretaste of industrial production, was also down 1 per cent on the previous year, the first annual fall since September 2020.

Orders for capital goods fell 10.7 per cent, while those for intermediate goods fell 2.7 per cent compared with the previous month. Only orders of consumer goods rose, growing 4.3 per cent on September.

International demand suffered particularly in October, with orders from outside the European Union down 18.1 per cent, while domestic orders were 3.4 per cent higher than in September.



Steve Phimister speaks at the inauguration ceremony (Muscat Daily)



The inauguration ceremony took place under the auspices of H H Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said (third from right) (Muscat Daily)

PDO inaugurates its second largest oil and gas project

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) on Monday officially inaugurated the Yibal Khuff Mega Project (YKP), the most complex and second largest project in size in the company's history.

Under the auspices of H H Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, PDO celebrated the inauguration of the Yibal Khuff Mega Project at its Mina Al Fahal headquarters. The event was attended by several senior government officials, members of the company's board and executive committee and representatives from both public and

Yibal Khuff Mega Project will deliver 5mn cubic metres of gas per day and around 20,000 barrels per day of crude

private sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, H H Sayyid Shihab said, "Oil and gas industry remains the main enabler of the national and global economy. Indeed, the production start at PDO's Yibal Khuff Project is of high strategic value towards meeting Oman's growing medium and long-term oil and gas demands."

"This national mega and technically complex project involved Omani skilled workforce who

worked on the design, construction and commissioning as well as awarding contracts to Omani companies for the provision of goods and services. It certainly sets an example for the implementation of national projects, especially as Oman witnesses further growth and development in all areas under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik."

Spanning an area of 1.68sqkm within the Yibal cluster area, the

YKP is the second largest and most technically complex project in PDO's history - with COVID-19 adding another layer of complexity over the past two years of construction and commissioning activities. This project will be delivering 5mn cubic metres of gas per day and around 20,000 barrels per day of crude, in addition to extracting 235 tonnes of sulphur per day.

In his speech at the inauguration ceremony, PDO's managing director Steve Phimister said, "This venture is a world-class addition to our portfolio and was delivered with a remarkable safety record. As we transition to a full-fledged energy company, this trailblazing project will be es-

sential in powering the country, generating revenue for the nation, and funding research and development for renewables and investment in greener energy installations and infrastructure."

He said, "We are proud of everyone who worked on this project from the company and our contractors Petrofac, Galfar and Arabian Industries as they demonstrated commitment and perseverance to overcome logistical, technical and operational challenges to deliver on promise and ensure this project's safe and timely delivery."

The YKP project has achieved several significant firsts, including the first to deliver the tallest column ever fabricated for PDO

in Oman. This 'Made in Oman' acid gas recovery unit absorber stands at 48m high, four meters in diameter, and weighs 291 tonnes. The project has also delivered one of PDO's first Steam Turbine Generators, taking the heat from some of the facilities' processes and using it to generate steam. The plant will be able to generate 13MW of electrical power, supplementing the 45MW of the Yibal Khuff Power plant. It is also the first project to allocate a scope for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Around 1,200 Omanis have been employed on site in the construction of the facilities, with a further 200 nationals deployed as fully qualified welders.

Expo 2020: Oman Pavilion attracts over 500,000 visitors

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai has attracted more than 500,000 visitors during the period from October 1 to December 4.

Some of the important personalities who have visited Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 include Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, Dr Nayef Falah al Hajraf, Secretary General of the GCC, and his delegation, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and the ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, UAE, as well as a number of European dignitaries.

The sultanate's participation in Expo 2020 is in keeping with efforts to portray Oman as a unique tourism destination, as



well as the country's deep-rooted civilization and cultural heritage.

Expo 2020 is a platform to promote investment opportunities in different sectors in Oman and interaction with the global community.

Omani Pavilion at Expo 2020 is hosting a number of activities, including scholarly, technical, cultural and economic symposiums.

There will be several week-long events that focus on specialised economic activities, including an Omani products exhibition, a small and medium establishments exposition and an investment week.

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Alizz Islamic Bank provides easy financing for Shaden Al Hail project

Alizz Islamic Bank has strengthened its strategic partnerships with real estate development companies in the sultanate by signing a new agreement with Shaden Development SAOC to provide easy and flexible financing facilities to customers who wish to buy an apartment in Shaden Al Hail Residential Complex, which is one of the most prestigious residential complexes in Muscat.

This agreement comes within a variety of housing financing options offered by Alizz Islamic Bank represented by the Retail Banking Department, all of which are in compliance with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia'a.

The signing ceremony of the agreement was held at the head office of Alizz Islamic Bank in CBD, Ruwi, coinciding with the sultanate's celebrations of the glorious National Day. The memorandum was signed by Mohammed al Ghassani, AGM – chief consumer banking officer on behalf of Alizz Islamic Bank, and Eng Abdul Rahman Ba Omar, board member of Shaden Development Company, on behalf of Shaden Development Company.

The signing ceremony was attended by the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, Suleiman al Harthy, and a number of senior management members.

According to this agreement, Alizz Islamic Bank will provide financing facilities to customers who wish to purchase an apartment in Shaden Al Hail project for eligible customers with exemption from profits and transaction fees for a period of up to 48 months or four years.



Shaden Development Company will bear the transaction fees and profits on behalf of customers during this period, as well as the Takaful insurance fees, with the possibility of extending according to the agreement that is also concluded between the customer and the developer. The validity of this offer is from November 18 to December 31.

Alizz Islamic Bank will provide

housing finance under the Diminishing Musharakah concept with a financing rate of up to 80 per cent of the value of the housing unit for eligible customers in accordance with the bank's policy, as well as the Debt Burden Ratio (DBR) and the approval of the valuation report for each financed unit from appraisers approved by the bank in accordance with the current procedures; and at a

rate of 90 per cent of the value of the housing unit for customers who take home financing for the first time in accordance with the applicable internal bank policies and procedures.

Alizz Islamic Bank offers financing facilities at a reduced profit rate with a very fast completion of banking transactions, as all services and products offered by Alizz Islamic Bank have

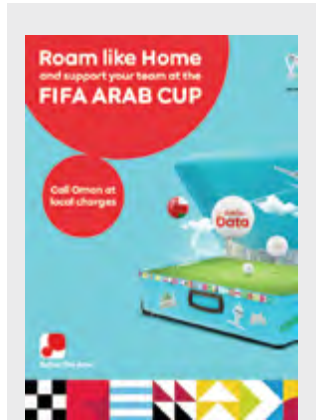
been approved by the Fatwa and Sharia'a Supervisory Board in accordance with the principles of the Islamic Sharia'a.

Under the principle of 'Diminishing Musharakah', Alizz Islamic Bank will enter into a Diminishing Musharaka agreement with the customer, whereby each party contributes to the Musharaka assets a certain percentage of jointly owning the property. The parts of

the bank and the customer that are joint in the partnership assets are divided into equal shares when the construction stages are completed, and the bank begins to transfer the ownership of its share in the real estate by selling its shares to the customer gradually, and the customer buys the bank's shares in the real estate from time to time by paying the sale price in scheduled installments. Accordingly, upon maturity of the participation, the ownership of the bank in the property must be transferred exclusively to the customer, and accordingly, the customer is considered the sole owner of the property.

As for customers who wish to take advantage of this exceptional offer and do not hold accounts with Alizz Islamic Bank, all they have to do is contact the customer service centre or visit the nearest branch of Alizz Islamic Bank, as the housing finance requires transferring the salary to the bank and enjoying a varied array of financing services provided by Alizz Islamic Bank, whether at the level of housing or personal finance, all of which are in accordance with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia'a.

It is worth mentioning that Alizz Islamic Bank signed during the last period a variety of agreements with various real estate developers in order to provide a wide range of housing finance options for customers. Alizz Islamic Bank intended to stay close to its customers and listen to them and then take their desires and opinions and translate them into reality to realize every dream they deserve.



Ooredoo's roaming bundle gets better

Heading to Qatar for the FIFA Arab Cup? Then share more of the goals and more of the fun, with Ooredoo's enhanced Qatar Passport Weekly bundle. Fans can now get unlimited data for just RO5, so that friends and loved ones back home can also soak up the atmosphere and excitement, with no limits. Valid from November 30 to December 30, all prepaid and postpaid subscribers will also be able to enjoy 'Roam Like Home' and get local voice rates on roaming, applicable to both local calls and calling back to Oman.

Ooredoo's Passport bundles offer a fantastic data and voice experience. Available for all Hala and Shahry users, there's no better way to enjoy stress-free travel, with extra data to a huge range of popular destinations.

Customers can subscribe through Ooredoo app, or through USSD by dialling *141*401 # for postpaid or *141*501# for prepaid, and should check for the confirmation SMS before starting to use the bundle.

Italian Design Day celebrated

In celebration of the Italian Design Day, the Embassy of Italy in Muscat in collaboration with the Scientific College of Design, is organising a two-day workshop by the Italian architect Paolo Uboldi, testimonial of Italian Design for Oman 2021, on 'Sustainability and Urban Space' on December 6, 7 at the college's theatre.

This edition highlights the quality of urban life thanks to new materials, quality architecture and livable public space. Uboldi, considered as one of the most talented representatives of the new generation of Italian architects, shared his experience in promoting the reuse of materials in construction and the dialogue between space and people in



urban areas.

The workshop shed light on the role of design in shaping new urban spaces, transforming ex-

isting cities, as well as how design can improve the quality of life during the pandemic. The students will be around Muscat

to capture photos of what is their perception of sustainability and will put together ideas on how to improve the surroundings in their city.

This workshop by Uboldi represents one part of the solid partnership between Italy and Oman in the field of design, where Italy is ready to share its expertise, know-how and technology to support the sultanate's Vision 2040 in the field of design and urban development.

The Italian Design Day initiative is supported by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through its embassies worldwide to promote design as a key element of the Italian lifestyle.

Mazoon Electricity gives safety tips for using water heater

With advent of winter season and as part of its plan to spread awareness about electrical safety among customers, Mazoon Electricity Company, the leading electricity provider in Oman, has stressed that the maintenance of the electric heater is one of the most important preventive measures against the dangers of electrocution.

Mazoon Electricity has urged customers to seek the assistance of licensed electricians to install electric heater and apply all safety precautions while installing electrical



connections.

Asking customers to ensure

the safety of the electric heater connections to avoid shock, it urged them to guarantee that the appliance has proper earthing.

As a safety measure Mazoon Electricity also explained the importance of turning on the heater well before use and switching it off before using the water.

These awareness efforts come within the framework of the company's objective to spread safety awareness among customers to exercise safe practices when using various electrical appliances.

Bank Muscat's Al Jawhar Privilege Banking offers unrivalled benefits

Bank Muscat's Al Jawhar Privilege Banking opens a world of opportunities and unrivalled benefits to its customers making it one of the most popular Premier Banking options in Oman. As the leading financial services provider in the sultanate, Bank Muscat is keen to provide a banking experience that is in line with customer expectations and global banking trends.

Speaking about the various benefits and privileges available to customers, Abdulnasir al Raisi, deputy general manager - Premier Banking, said, "Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers enjoy an excellent banking experience based on Recognition, Rewards and Solutions. The bank is continuously launching new products and



services in response to customer feedback and global banking trends.

"We look forward to warmly welcoming new customers to our unmatched Privilege Banking services, which are in line with the bank's customer-centric vision."

Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the 'VISA Xperience App' on their smartphones.

They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of



RO800, the chance to win a fixed salary prize of RO500 every month for a year as well as other exclusive and high value Al Mazyona prizes that are especially reserved for them in the 2021 Al Mazyona scheme.

Al Jawhar Privilege Banking

customers who maintain a minimum balance of RO10,000 in their accounts are automatically entered into the monthly draws for 20 prizes of RO5,000 each. Al Jawhar customers will also be excited to know about the draws for 10 special prizes of RO20,000 each, which are re-

served for them in the upcoming End-of-Year draw. It should also be noted that Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit cardholders receive 1 per cent cashback as a reward on their local and international purchases.

They can also make high-value purchases from a number of local merchants and pay for these purchases in 12 monthly instalments at zero per cent interest through the bank's Easy Payment Plan. Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit Cardholders can access 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to the lounges at Muscat and Salalah airport.

Al Jawhar VISA Platinum Credit Cardholders are also eligible for a complimentary Dragon Pass and a 'Meet and Greet' service with 15 per

cent discount at over 450 global destinations.

Al Jawhar VISA credit cards allow customers to enjoy the best in class complimentary travel insurance which include includes travel accident insurance as well as insurance for lost baggage and money, cancellation, travel delay, delayed baggage, personal liability, legal expenses and loss of passport and access to free medical and legal referral services worldwide.

Al Jawhar Privileged Banking customers can access the bank's vast range of services through a number of channels including Internet and Mobile Banking, ATMs, CDMs and branches across the country, in addition to the contact centre, which is available 24/7.

be'ah closes cell in Al Multaqa landfill

Oman Environmental Services Holding Company 'be'ah' has completed the closure of the first cell in the Al Multaqa Engineered Landfill in Amerat. This landfill cell closure is the first of its kind in the region. Landfill cell closure is carried out when a cell reaches its full capacity. The process ensures long-term protection to environmental and human health from leachate, odour and gases.

be'ah carried out the final closure following international best practices wherein the process is rolled out in a phased manner. As a new cell is constructed the previous cell is closed using engineered capping and gas extraction systems.

The company stopped receiving waste and halted operations in the cell after it reached its capacity. It then proceeded to cap the cell by placing protective layers in top of the intermediate cover. The layers were then covered with soil and riprap.

The next step was gas extraction and flaring. Landfill gases consist mainly of CH₄, a greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming. To



reduce the harmful impacts from emitted gases on the environment and on public health, gases

are extracted from closed landfills for either treatment or reuse. These gases are commonly

re-used in electricity generation and are flared in case they cannot be reused.

Active extraction within the cell is also necessary to prevent build-up of gas pressure. Gas is

extracted using wells installed in the cell which are connected to pipes that deliver it to the flare

system which has a capacity to burn of 2000m³/hr.

The system's flare unit is specifically designed for combustion of landfill gases and for the generated quantity of the gas from the cell. be'ah has ensured that every component of this system - control, gas monitoring and calibration - meets industrial standards.

be'ah also ensured that that the final cell cover was compliant with US-EPA design requirements. The company will continue environmental monitoring such as groundwater and vegetation checks in and around the closed landfill site for a period of 30 years.

The post-closure phase of the decommissioned landfill includes long-term care to minimise its impact on the surrounding environment. Landfill cover material will be allowed to settle and re-grade as necessary while cave-ins will be filled to prevent accumulation of stagnant water.

Sites of decommissioned landfills have potential future uses like recreational parks, golf courses, playgrounds, etc.



'HIMMA' holds workshop for Zubair executives

The 'HIMMA' programme, which aims to develop and empower high-potential Omani talents within The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries, recently conducted a workshop for executive directors. This followed the completion of the programme's first and second courses and looked to discuss the project proposals submitted by the participants. In addition, it was targeted to test the appropriate projects, as per its economic feasibility, to be implemented across various companies of the group.

Commenting on this workshop, Hilal Omar al Siyabi, chief corporate services officer at The Zubair Corporation, said, "The projects discussed today are intended to improve the quality of performance and are aligned with the programme's objectives of optimal investment in human capital. This is made possible by providing the appropriate environment for national competencies to enhance creativity and continuous development in their career path."

"We are in the process of implementing these projects on ground across the different companies and institutions that are part of corporation's subsidiaries. The 'HIMMA' programme was designed to be one of the main pillars of The Zubair Corporation's strategy, in the field of developing and managing human resources within the group companies. This programme is integrated with the human resources development programmes and initiatives that were previously implemented by the corporation. The Zubair Corporation aims to enter into a new stage of excellence and sophistication by spreading the spirit of challenge and motivation amongst employees. By further enriching innovation at work, we can look forward to enhancing productivity," he added.

Gerry Woods, instructor of HIMMA Programme from Impact Management Services (IMS) said, "The importance of this workshop stems from the objective to ensure the success

of 'HIMMA' programme by surveying the opinions of executive directors. This plays a vital role in the success of the institutional transformation process of The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries."

Moussa al Moussawi, one of the executive directors participating in the programme, said, "The workshop was very interactive, especially concerning the discussion of the projects proposed by the 15 employees, who were participating in the programme. These are in line with the objectives of the Oman 2040 vision as well as the future vision of The Zubair Corporation."

The Zubair Corporation recently celebrated the reception of the first batch of employees participating in the HIMMA programme to develop promising Omani competencies, which comes under the slogan 'Towards a promising career future' one of the initiatives launched by the Taskforce for Empowering High-potential Omani Talents team in The Zubair Corporation.

BRX put car run on new sustainable fuel through its paces in Umm al Quwain desert

Nine-times World Rally Champion Sebastien Loeb believes that thorough testing in the UAE this week at the wheel of a car powered by a new sustainable fuel can boost his challenge for a first Dakar victory next month.

The world's most successful rally driver and his Bahrain Raid Xtreme (BRX) team-mates Nani Roma and Orlando Terranova have been taking part in a second wave of tests in the Emirates at the wheel the Hunter T1+.

Roma, twice a Dakar winner, and 2013 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge champion, put the Hunter T1+ through its paces in the Umm Al Quwain desert last week before Loeb and Argentinian driver Terranova took over yesterday.

"This is extremely valuable testing as we have all the conditions here that we're going to face in the Dakar," said Loeb, accompanied by co-driver Fabian Lurquin.



"Added to that, it's a perfect opportunity for us to work together to concentrate our efforts on navigation which is where the Dakar will be won or lost."

Terranova, partnered by Dani Oliveras, commented, "It's my first time in the new car and it is great to experience it in the same conditions as we will find on the Dakar in four weeks' time. Dani and I have been working on our navigation as it will be crucial in Saudi Arabia not to make any mistakes."

Roma and his co-driver, Alex

can be used as an alternative to petrol and diesel in road transport, and immediately make a contribution to fighting climate change.

Over two weeks at the Dakar, the cars will race 8,500km across the deserts of Saudi Arabia, starting in Ha'il and finishing in Jeddah, with a mid-event rest day in Riyadh.

T1+ cars run on larger tyres, with increased suspension travel and a wider track. The car now benefits from 37" tyres on 17" rims, with suspension travel increased from 280mm to 350mm and the body width increased from 2m to 2.3m to accommodate this. These changes have necessitated a radical redesign of the Hunter, and Prodrive has used this as an opportunity to make further improvements, including a larger windscreen for improved visibility and a refinement of a number of systems throughout the car.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds offers till Dec 25

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of 260 retail outlets spread across 10 countries, has launched the 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds Festival' in Oman. The festival brings unprecedented opportunities to win free gold coins with jewellery purchases.

Customers can get free 1g gold coin on diamond jewellery purchase worth RO400 and free

1/2g gold coin on diamond jewellery purchase worth RO250. The above offers will be running till December 25 across all outlets in Oman.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled the latest collection of jewellery in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. These designs have been incorporated as a part of various

brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewellery and Precia - Gem Jewellery

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate. Established in 1993 in the In-

dian state of Kerala, Malabar Gold & Diamonds today has a strong retail network of over 260 outlets spread across 10 countries, 14 wholesale units in addition to offices, design centres and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East & USA.

With an annual turnover of \$4.51bn, the company currently ranks one among the largest jewellery retailers globally.

China pavilion at Expo Dubai 2020 ushers in 'Shanghai Electric Day'

The China pavilion at Expo Dubai 2020 ushered in 'Shanghai Electric Day' on December 1. Shanghai Electric is building the phase four of Mohammed bin Rashid Solar al Maktoum Park that is aimed to be the world's largest and biggest solar power project.

The 12bn dirham phase that is constructed by Shanghai Electric on a landscape of 44sqkm is a combination of three Technologies, the Central Tower Concentrated Solar power plant (CT CSP), Parabolic Trough Concentrated Solar power plant (PT



CSP) and Photovoltaic solar power plant (PV) comprising a total of 950 megawatts (MW) of

clean energy.

In his word to the attendees Zhao Hui, the project director of

Shanghai Electric, said, "Shanghai Electric is proud to take part in this phase four of the Mo-

ammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Solar Park. This project represents the values, vision and mes-

sage of UAE in gathering the world for a better future. And we assure to provide clients with the best energy solutions for a greener planet."

With only 62m shorter than Paris's famous Eiffel tower, the CSP constructed tower in Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Solar Park project is considered to be the tallest in CSP with 262m high. And the total area of phase four is equal to 6,162 football fields. It is being implemented by Noor Energy 1 PSC. After the project is into opera-

tion, it will reduce 1.6mn tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

The construction of the phase four project began in 2018, making it the largest phase built in the Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model. The park has a planned production capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030, with investments totaling AED50bn. When completed, it will save over 6.5mn tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

Iran ready to continue nuclear talks

Tehran, Iran - Iran said on Monday it was ready to resume nuclear talks but based on draft proposals it submitted last week, accusing Western powers of stalling negotiations in Vienna.

Last week, the Islamic republic returned to international talks in Vienna aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal after a five-month pause.

On Wednesday it submitted two draft resolutions on the lifting of US sanctions and nuclear-related measures.

But at the weekend the United States, as well as European participants at the Vienna talks, accused Iran of back-tracking.

A senior US administration official said the proposals 'walked back any of the compromises that Iran had floated' during the previous six rounds of negotiations.

The official accused Iran of seeking to 'pocket all of the compromises that others - the US in particular - had made and then ask for more'.

On Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh hit back.

"Our texts are fully negotiable," he told a news conference about the draft proposals, also charging that the other



Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh

parties 'want to play a blame game'.

"We are waiting naturally to hear the other side's opinion concerning these texts and whether they have a real [counter] offer to make to us in writing," Khatibzadeh added.

The seventh round of nuclear talks ended on Friday after five days in Vienna, with delegations returning to their national capitals and expected to go back to Austria next week.

Khatibzadeh said the negotiations were expected to resume

'at the end of the week', without elaborating.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also hit out at Iran on Friday, saying nuclear talks had stalled because Tehran 'does not seem to be serious' about returning to the table.

Blinken warned that Washington would not let its adversary prolong talks while continuing to advance its nuclear ambitions, and would pursue 'other options' if diplomacy failed.

"What we've seen in the last couple of days is that Iran

right now does not seem to be serious about doing what's necessary to return to compliance, which is why we ended this round of talks in Vienna," Blinken told a virtual conference of world leaders.

The landmark 2015 nuclear accord was initially agreed between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. The deal is aimed at putting curbs on Iran's nuclear programme to ensure it could not develop an atomic weapon, in exchange for sanctions relief for Tehran.

programme is peaceful.

Working to lift sanctions

Hard pressed due to sanctions, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi vowed to tackle the country's economic woes and said his government was working to lift sanctions, in a television interview on Sunday marking his first 100 days in power.

He listed inflation, high prices and tax evasion as among the top challenges facing his government. "The government is doing everything to achieve economic

Our texts are fully negotiable. The other parties want to play a blame game. We are waiting naturally to hear the other side's opinion concerning these texts and whether they have a real [counter] offer to make to us in writing

SAEED KHATIBZADEH

But it began unravelling in 2018 when then US president Donald Trump pulled out and reimposed sanctions, prompting Iran to start exceeding limits on its nuclear programme the following year. Iran has always insisted that its nuclear

stability and a predictable market," he said. "Lifting sanctions is being pursued with vigour."

"The people are well-aware of the situation in the country when I took the reins of government," the President said.

AFP



A woman with two of her children in front of their durable shelter in Al Jameya camp, Sudan (UNHCR)

30% of Sudan's people will need aid next year: UN

Khartoum, Sudan - Thirty per cent of Sudan's population will need humanitarian aid next year, the UN warned in a report on Monday, saying the rate is 'the highest in a decade'.

It blamed Sudan's economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, floods and disease and the fact Sudan, one of the world's poorest countries, also hosts millions of refugees and internally displaced people or IDPs.

The UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said 14.3mn of Sudan's population of 47.9mn, including both citizens and refugees, will require humanitarian assistance next year.

This is about 800,000 more people than this year, the report said, adding that 'the number of people in need in Sudan in 2022 is the highest in the past decade'.

More than half of the vulnerable population are women and children.

Sudan has nearly 3mn IDPs after decades of conflict, including in the western

region of Darfur where fighting from 2003 left 300,000 dead according to the UN.

The country also hosts nearly 1.2mn refugees and asylum seekers, 68 per cent of them from South Sudan which seceded in 2011.

Sudan has been grappling with political turbulence that worsened following the April 2019 ouster of president Omar al Bashir after mass protests against his rule.

Since then Sudan has been ruled by a transition government, until more turmoil hit in October.

Military chief General Abdel Fattah al Burhan seized power and detained Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on October 25 but, after international condemnation and mass protests, re-instated the premier in a November 21 deal.

Sudan has recently also suffered runaway inflation and embarked on tough economic reforms, including slashing subsidies on petrol and diesel and launching a managed currency float.

AFP

Olaf Scholz names Germany's first gender-equal Cabinet

Berlin, Germany - Olaf Scholz, due to be elected this week to succeed Angela Merkel as German Chancellor, on Monday named the country's first gender-balanced Cabinet, with women taking key security portfolios.

Scholz, a Social Democrat (SPD), unveiled his party's lineup for the first government led by the centre-left in 16 years, with outspoken pandemic expert Karl Lauterbach tapped as health minister.

"Equality is important to me and that is why of 16 ministers there will be eight men and eight women," said Scholz, who describes himself as a 'feminist'.

After the Greens, partners in the incoming coalition government, named their co-leader Annalena Baerbock as foreign minister, the SPD's Christine Lambrecht, until now justice minister, will take on the defence brief.

"All foreign missions will con-



Designated German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (far left) speaks to the media along with members of the country's future Cabinet at the headquarters of their social democratic SPD party in Berlin on Monday (AFP)

tinually be under review," Lambrecht said following the NATO debacle in Afghanistan, calling for every operation to have a 'clear exit strategy'.

Regional MP Nancy Faeser will become Germany's first woman interior minister, saying her top priority would be tackling the country's 'biggest threat: Right-wing extremism' after a series of deadly far-right attacks.

Lauterbach, a prominent but divisive figure who has consistently called for tougher measures to stop the spread of coronavirus, will be the government's point-man to fight the pandemic.

Scholz said he was certain 'most Germans' wanted Lauterbach in the job.

"Care givers and doctors deserve to see [healthcare] as a top

priority in German policy," Scholz said, as many hospitals report their intensive care units are at the breaking point with a surge in COVID patients.

Scholz's SPD won the September 26 general election and last month sealed a deal to form a coalition with the ecologist Greens and the business-friendly Free Democrats.

AFP

Four Iraqi Kurdish fighters killed in attack

Baghdad, Iraq - Four Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters were killed in an attack blamed on the Islamic State (IS) group, a security official said on Monday, the third such assault in less than two weeks.

Five other peshmerga fighters were wounded in the violence late on Sunday in northern Iraq that targeted an outpost north of Kirkuk, the source said.

Kurdish army forces confirmed the deadly attack but did not say how peshmerga fighters were killed in wounded, in a statement accusing IS of responsibility.

It was the third attack blamed on IS militants in less than two weeks against the Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq. On Thursday, IS claimed responsibility for an assault south of the Kurdish capital of Arbil that killed at least nine peshmerga fighters and three civilians.

AFP

Iraqi fishermen caught in net of water frontiers

Al-Faw, Iraq - On the banks of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, Iraqi fishermen live in constant fear of arrest by Iranian and Kuwaiti forces for mistakenly straying across frontiers with former enemy countries.

About 15km from where the mighty Tigris and the Euphrates rivers merge and flow out to the Gulf lies the fishing port of Al-Faw.

The port town has been on the front line of two wars that have shaped Iraq's modern history - in the 1980s against Iran and then after Saddam Hussein's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

On the opposite bank of the Shatt al-Arab, the green-white-red flag of Iran flutters in the wind, alongside portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic republic, and his successor as supreme guide, Ali Khamenei.

"We have a lot of problems with the Iranians," said Abdallah, an Iraqi fisherman who preferred



This file photo shows an Iraqi fisherman with a bucket of fresh catch from a boat in the southern Iraqi port city of Al-Faw on October 26 (AFP)

not to give his surname.

"If we cross the border because of the current, they arrest us."

In the past, the border along the invisible median line of the Shatt al-Arab has been a casus belli.

In September 1980, Saddam's forces invaded after scrapping the 1975 Algiers agreement that aimed to put an end to disputes over the borderline.

After the 2003 US-led invasion, Iraq and Iran said they wanted to return to the agree-

ment, against the backdrop of growing Iranian influence in its Arab neighbour.

Arrests and fines

Iraqi fishermen at Al-Faw, such as Tareq Ziad, complain of 'being harassed' by both Iran and Kuwait.

When their boats leave the Shatt al-Arab and head for the open seas of the Gulf, they often find themselves in Kuwaiti and Iranian waters because of the currents.

The Iranians 'put you in prison and make you pay a fine of US\$3,000. That is what happened to my brother a few days ago. He was arrested by an Iranian river patrol and he paid US\$3,000', Ziad said.

The head of the fishermen's union in Al-Faw, Badran al-Tamimi, said they have 'no support from the [Iraqi] government'.

Kuwait also arrests Iraqi fishermen who 'inadvertently' ven-

ture into the territorial waters of the emirate, he said.

"Yesterday evening, I went to the Kuwaiti border to bring back three fishermen who were arrested. This week, I have been there three or four times," Tamimi said.

A Kuwaiti security official, on condition of anonymity, told AFP: "People seized in the border areas are handed over, in good health, by the ground forces, in coordination with the Iraqi side."

The fishermen of Al-Faw also have environmental challenges to grapple with.

"We go out to sea for eight to 10 days and when we return, we've caught between 500kg and one tonne, compared to three or four tonnes 20 years ago," complained fisherman Abdallah.

Fishing expeditions have become much shorter and the boundaries are closely monitored by Iraq's neighbours.

AFP

Hong Kong government warns WSJ of ‘incitement’ in editorial

Hong Kong, China - Hong Kong's government has warned the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) it may have broken the law by publishing an editorial that said casting blank ballots was one of the ‘last ways’ for residents to voice dissent.

The warning letter, which the US media outlet published on Monday, comes as China's ruling Communist Party transforms the business hub into something more closely resembling the authoritarian mainland.

Erick Tsang, Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, took exception to an editorial the *Journal* ran last week titled: ‘Hong Kong Says Vote - or Else’.

The editorial previewed the city's upcoming legislature election slated for this month that reduces Hong Kong's already limited democratic opportunities.

‘Boycotts and blank ballots are one of the last ways for Hong Kongers to express their political views,’ the *Journal* wrote in its editorial.

In his letter, Tsang said he was ‘shocked’ to read that sen-



Campaign staff hold placards of Edward Leung-hei, who will run in the upcoming Legislative Council election in Hong Kong on November 28 (AFP)

tence and warned that Hong Kong banned ‘inciting another person not to vote, or to cast an invalid vote’.

“We reserve the right to take necessary action,” Tsang said, adding that would pursue perceived offences ‘irrespective whether the incitement is made in Hong Kong or abroad’.

Under a new legislative election system imposed by Beijing, only pre-vetted candidates can stand for office. Twenty of the 90 legislature seats up for grabs are directly elected - down from half.

Most of the city's pro-democracy opposition figures are either in jail, have fled overseas, been barred from standing or have declined to take part in the December 19 polls.

Sensitive to any move that might cast doubt over the legitimacy of its new ‘patriots only’ political model, Hong Kong's government recently made it an offence to encourage people to boycott local elections or incite them to cast invalid or spoiled ballots. That law does not make it illegal for individuals to void ballots or refuse to vote.

Last week authorities issued arrest warrants for two Hong Kong activists living overseas for using social media to call on people not to vote. Three others within Hong Kong have been arrested for the same offence.

The anti-corruption watchdog has warned pollsters that asking residents whether they intend to boycott the polls could be an offence.

Officials have also warned that organising a boycott of elections could violate the city's national security law.

AFP

Myanmar junta chief halves Suu Kyi jail term to 2 years

Yangon, Myanmar - Myanmar's junta chief reduced the prison sentence of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to two years on Monday, after she was jailed for four years for incitement against the military and breaching COVID-19 rules.

Suu Kyi (76) has been detained since the generals staged a coup and ousted her government on February 1, ending the Southeast Asian country's brief period of democracy.



This file photo shows Aung San Suu Kyi reviewing a guard of honour during her visit to India, in New Delhi (AFP)

She has since been hit with a series of charges, including violating the official secrets act, illegally importing walkie talkies and electoral fraud, and faces decades in prison.

On Monday Suu Kyi was sentenced to two years for incitement against the military and another two years for breaching a natural disaster law relating to COVID-19, junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told AFP by phone.

Former president Win Myint was also initially jailed for four years on the same charges, which the US later blasted as an ‘affront’ to justice.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing later ‘pardoned’ the sentences of both to ‘two years imprisonment’, according to a statement read out on state TV.

They would serve their sentences under the house arrest they have been kept under in the capital of Naypyidaw, the statement said, without giving further details.

On Monday evening residents in parts of commercial capital Yangon banged pots and pans - a practice traditionally associated with driving out evil spirits but which has been used since February to show dissent against the military.

Suu Kyi's incitement conviction related to statements her National League for Democracy

party published shortly after the coup condemning the generals' takeover.

The COVID-19 charge is linked to last year's election, which the NLD won in a land-

slide, but the details are not clear with the government imposing a gag order on the court proceedings.

Journalists have been barred from attending the special

court hearings in Naypyidaw and Suu Kyi's lawyers were recently banned from speaking to the media.

In recent weeks, other senior members of the NLD have re-

ceived long sentences.

A former chief minister was sentenced to 75 years in jail, while a close Suu Kyi aide was jailed for 20.

Suu Kyi also faces multiple corruption charges - each of which carries a possible sentence of 15 years in prison.

Monday's verdict was on ‘the soft charges which the regime could have spared her, but chose not to’, independent analyst Soe Myint Aung, said.

The military seems to have doubled down on its highly oppressive approach toward the NLD and Aung San Suu Kyi herself

SOE MYINT AUNG

“The military seems to have doubled down on its highly oppressive approach toward the NLD and Aung San Suu Kyi herself.”

The pardon was ‘more stage managed than even the sentencing itself’, International Crisis Group's Myanmar senior advisor Richard Horsey told AFP.

“If it was an attempt at magnanimity, it has fallen flat.”

Amnesty International immediately condemned the original sentences against Suu Kyi.

“The harsh sentences handed down to Aung San Suu Kyi on these bogus charges are the latest example of the military's determination to eliminate all opposition and suffocate freedoms in Myanmar,” said Amnesty deputy regional director for Campaigns Ming Yu Hah.

AFP



This image-grab taken from the rally's live feed shows a man jumping to grab Eric Zemmour (inset) as he walks to the stage during his first campaign rally in Villepinte, near Paris on Tuesday (AFP)

France's Zemmour injured after rally marred by fighting

Paris, France - French far-right presidential candidate Eric Zemmour was left lightly injured after being assaulted at his first campaign rally on Sunday where fighting also broke out during his speech in front of thousands of supporters.

The 63-year-old author and television commentator suffered a wrist injury when a man grabbed him violently as he made his way towards the stage at a giant exhibition centre north-east of Paris on Sunday afternoon, an aide said.

The rally was his first official campaign event since his announcement last Tuesday that he would seek to unseat centrist President Emmanuel Macron in next April's election.

“The stakes are huge: If I win it will be the start of winning back the most beautiful country in the world,” Zemmour told the crowd in Villepinte which cheered his anti-immigration rhetoric loudly.

Shortly after he started speaking, fighting broke out and chairs were thrown at activists who stood up with ‘No to Racism’ written on their T-shirts.

“We wanted to do a non-vio-

lent protest,” Aline Kremer from the group SOS Racisme, which organised the stunt, told AFP. “People jumped on them and started hitting them.”

A crew from the critical *Quotidien* nightly TV news show was also booed and briefly removed by security, with hostility to the media a feature of Zemmour's and other speeches at the event.

The rally was seen as a chance for the best-selling author to regain momentum after opinion polls showed support for him falling over the last month.

“We're hoping that by announcing his candidacy and with this rally that it will relaunch him a bit,” said Maxence Mike, a 22 year old student member of the ‘Generation Z’ support group.

Zemmour, who has two convictions for hate speech, claimed there were 15,000 people at the rally, although organisers had previously talked of 12,000.

Polls suggest that voters currently believe Marine Le Pen, the veteran leader of the far-right National Rally party, would make a more competent president than Zemmour.

AFP

Indian mourners defy curfew to bury civilians killed in botched action

New Delhi, India - Hundreds of mourners in India defied a curfew on Monday to bury 14 civilians shot dead by the army during a botched ambush and confrontation with a crowd angered by the attack.

An elite military commando unit shot dead six coal miners returning to their homes in remote northeastern Nagaland state on Saturday, believing they were targeting insurgents.

Another eight people were killed by troops when they were confronted by a furious crowd, with a soldier also killed and a military vehicle set alight.

Hundreds of locals carried the victims' coffins to a public ground in Mon district to conduct prayers, ignoring a round-the-clock curfew and internet blackouts imposed after the violence.

The mourners were later joined by Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, who has slammed the military over the killings and ordered an investigation. Street protests across the state were held for a second day on Monday, the morning after a candlelight march for the victims in state capital Kohima.

AFP

Indonesia's Mount Semeru erupts again

Lumajang, Indonesia - Indonesia's Mount Semeru spewed more ash on Monday, hampering the search for survivors as aerial images showed the extent of the devastation unleashed by the volcano's deadly weekend eruption.

The biggest mountain on the island of Java thundered to life on Saturday, ejecting a mushroom of volcanic ash high into the sky and raining hot mud as thousands of panicked people fled their homes. At least 15 were killed.

Aerial photos showed entire streets filled with grey volcanic ash and mud, which had swallowed many homes and vehicles, including whole trucks. Indonesia's national disaster agency



Villagers salvage what they can from their damaged homes at Sumber Wuluh village following a volcanic eruption from Mount Semeru that killed at least 14 people, in Lumajang on Monday (AFP)

said 27 people were still missing. “I'm still hoping my son will be found... Every time I hear victims

have been found, I hope it is my son,” said Maskur Suhri of Sumberwuluh village, who was col-

lecting palm tree sap when Semeru erupted. “There's a very small chance

he survived... Maybe it's my son's fate, but I still hope he will be found, even just his body.”

Fresh volcanic activity on Monday hampered search efforts, forcing rescue teams to pull out from some areas.

“There was a small fresh eruption and it could endanger the evacuation teams,” said rescue worker Rizal Purnama.

Dangerous thick plumes of smoke continued to emerge from areas blanketed by the volcanic ash, while rescuers in hard-hats tried to dig through the mud to try and find survivors - and recover bodies.

Their task was made more difficult as the volcanic debris had started to harden.

AFP

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Vaccine developer warns of ‘more lethal’ pandemic



A woman walks past signage outside a pop-up vaccination centre for the COVID-19 vaccine or booster, in Hammersmith and Fulham in Greater London on Friday (AFP)

London, UK - The lead developer of the Oxford/AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine warned the next pandemic could be ‘more lethal’, urging better preparedness in a speech set to be aired on Monday.

Sarah Gilbert, who is credited with saving millions of lives through her role in designing the jab, said the world must build on key lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This will not be the last time a virus threatens our lives and our livelihoods. The truth is, the next one could be worse. It could be more contagious, or more lethal, or both,” Gilbert said in her draft Richard Dimbleby Lecture, to be broadcast on Monday evening.

“We cannot allow a situation where we have gone through all we have gone through, and then find that the enormous economic losses we have sustained mean that there is still no funding for pandemic preparedness.”

“The advances we have made, and the knowledge we have gained, must not be lost,” Gilbert was set to say.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca jab, which was the first coron-

South Africa President urges vaccines ‘without delay’

Johannesburg, South Africa - South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday urged citizens to get vaccinated as the country battles an unprecedented surge in cases driven by the new Omicron variant.

The number of daily infections rose five-fold in the space of a week, from 2,828 on November 26 to 16,055 last Friday.

About a quarter of tests for coronavirus have been positive, compared to just around 2 per cent of those tested a fortnight ago.

“We are experiencing a rate of infections that we have not

seen since the pandemic started,” President Ramaphosa warned in his weekly newsletter.

Omicron, detected by South African scientists ten days ago, ‘appears to be dominating new infections’, he said.

“I call on all South Africans to go out and get vaccinated without delay,” he said.

Ramaphosa, whose country is the worst-hit in Africa for COVID-19, last week hinted at making coronavirus vaccines mandatory.

So far 14.8mn people have been fully vaccinated in South Africa.

AFP

Italy imposes new rules on unvaccinated people

Rome, Italy - People in Italy unvaccinated against COVID-19 can no longer go to the theatre, cinemas, live music venues or major sporting events under new rules that came into force on Monday.

Only those who have recently recovered from COVID-19 are exempt from the rules, which represent a significant tightening of restrictions in the face of rising infections.

New measures are also being enforced on public transport, with a so-called Green Pass showing proof of vaccination, recent recovery or a negative COVID-19 test now required even on local services.

A man in his 50s was fined €400 for not having his pass on Monday morning as he got off a bus near Piazza del Popolo in Rome, according to the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper.

“I don’t have it because I wanted to get vaccinated in the next few days,” he was reported as saying.

A record 1.3mn Green Passes were downloaded on Sunday ahead of the change.

Meanwhile in Rome at the weekend, new rules requiring face masks to be worn outdoors in the busiest shopping streets came into effect.

AFP



Tourists wearing face masks walk along Red Square in central Moscow, amid the COVID-19 pandemic on October 20 (AFP)

Russia reports first Omicron infections

Moscow, Russia - Russia has registered its first two cases of the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus in its nationals returning from South Africa - where the variant was first detected - the country’s health agency said on Monday.

Two citizens who returned to Russia from South Africa have been diagnosed with the Omicron coronavirus strain, the Rospotrebnadzor health agency said in a statement.

The agency said that all Russians returning from South Africa and its neighbouring countries are tested at the border and placed in special observatories.

Any people exhibiting symptoms or testing positive after a PCR test are then quarantined in infectious disease hospitals, Rospotrebnadzor said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday gave his government a week to prepare an action plan for fighting the new variant, which is more transmissible than the dominant Delta strain of the virus.

Last week the backers of Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine said that development was already under way on an Omicron booster, with fears growing that earlier vaccines will be less effective against the variant.

Russia, one of the worst-hit countries by the pandemic in the world, has in recent weeks come out of its latest surge of the coronavirus driven by Delta.

The country has reported more than 9.8 mn infections and 282,462 deaths from the virus - the highest toll in Europe. But Russia’s statistics agency, which counts COVID-19 deaths based on a broader definition, says fatalities passed 520,000 by the end of

October.

Despite developing several homemade vaccines, Russia has struggled to inoculate its population, with jab scepticism running high.

As of Monday, just 40 per cent of Russians were fully inoculated.

Russian authorities have also refrained from re-introducing the kind of strict lockdowns seen in Europe in a bid to support Russia’s economy,

Two citizens who returned to Russia from South Africa have been diagnosed with the Omicron coronavirus strain

ROSPOTREBNADZOR HEALTH AGENCY

contributing to the high toll from the virus.

First Omicron case in Argentina

Argentina has registered its first case of the new Omicron coronavirus variant, in a traveler from South Africa, the Health Ministry announced.

The infected person (38) and fully vaccinated, had travelled to the African country for work, and returned to Argentina on November 30, the ministry said in a statement late Sunday.

Four people who had been in contact with the traveler were placed in preventive isolation, even if tests have so far come back negative.

Argentina has registered more than 5.3mn coronavirus cases and over 116,600 deaths.

AFP

Putin lauds India with eye on military and energy ties

New Delhi, India - Russian President Vladimir Putin lauded India as ‘a great power’ on Monday as he arrived in New Delhi to bolster military and energy ties with a traditional ally being courted by Washington.

It is only the Russian leader’s second trip abroad since the coronavirus pandemic began - he skipped both the G20 and COP26 summits this year - after a June summit with US President Joe Biden in Geneva.

“We perceive India as a great power, a friendly nation and a time-tested friend,” Putin said in the Indian capital alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In its efforts to address a rising China, Washington has set up the QUAD security dialogue with India, Japan, and Australia, raising concerns in both Beijing and Moscow.

India was close to the Soviet Union during the Cold War, a relationship that has endured, with both calling it a ‘special privileged strategic partnership’.

Putin’s visit was ‘hugely symbolic’, said Nandan from the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation thinktank.

“There has been a lot of speculation about the nature of the India-Russia relationship and whether it is fraying because of Russia’s closeness with China and India’s with the US, but this visit puts all that to rest.”

Nonetheless Putin has to contend with complex regional dynamics, with tensions mounting between New Delhi and Beijing, traditionally an ally of Moscow, following deadly clashes in a disputed Himalayan region.

“Russia’s influence in the region is very limited,” said Tatiana



India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin before a meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday (AFP)

Belousova of OP Jindal Global University in Haryana, ‘mostly because of its close ties with

China and unwillingness to act in dissonance with the Chinese regional interests.’

The Kremlin said last week the talks will be dominated by defence and energy issues, with

the boss of Russian energy giant Rosneft, Igor Sechin, also attending as a ‘number of important energy agreements’ were on the table.

Russia has long been a key arms supplier to India, which is looking to modernise its armed forces, and one of their most high-profile current contracts is for the long-range S-400 ground-to-air missile defence system.

The deal, worth over US\$5bn, was signed in 2018 and deliveries have reportedly begun, but it threatens to upend the burgeoning relationship between New Delhi and Washington.

The United States has threatened sanctions under the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which is aimed at reining in Russia, and the state department said last week that

no decisions had been made on any waivers for India.

“Our Indian friends clearly explained that they are a sovereign country and that they will decide whose weapons to buy and who will be India’s partner,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday.

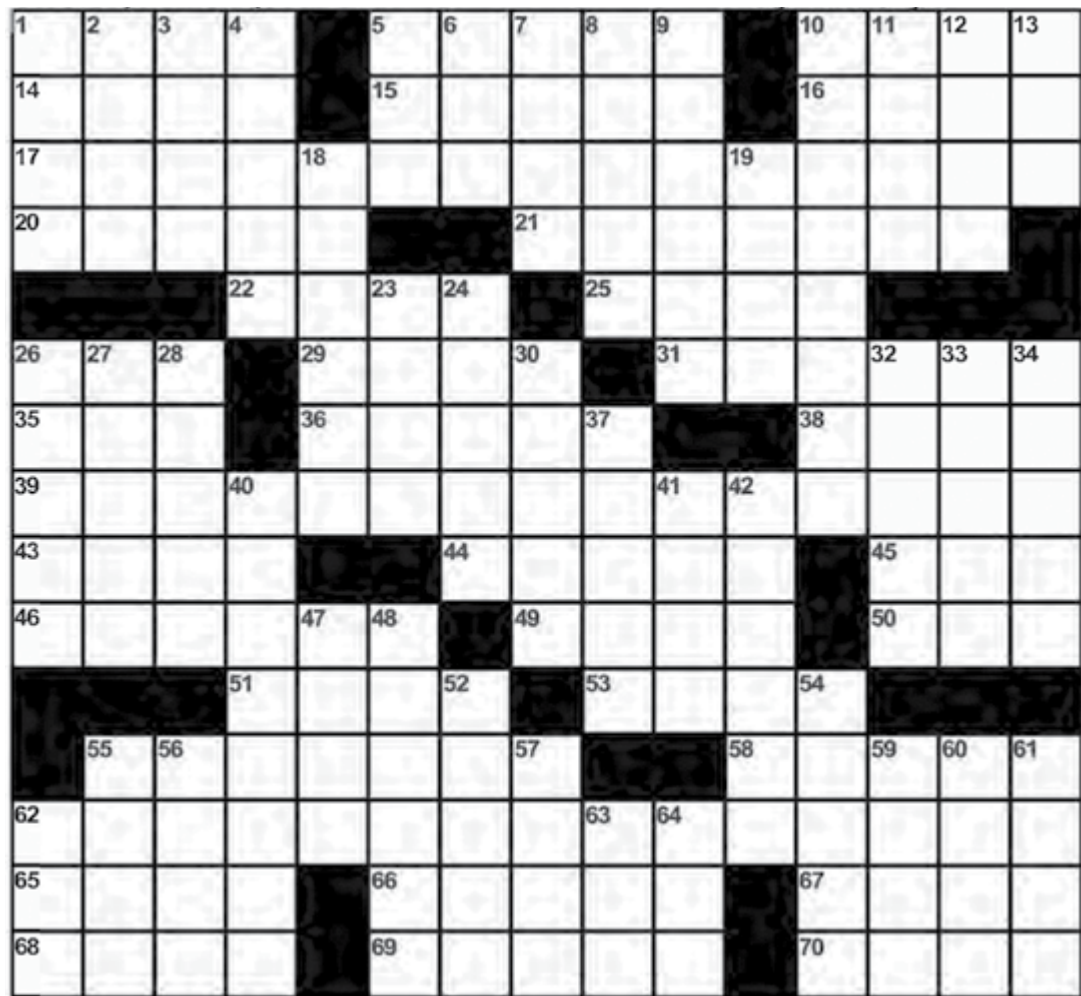
The two countries’ foreign and defence ministers held talks on Monday ahead of Putin’s arrival.

A number of agreements and contracts were signed on small arms and military co-operation, India’s defence minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

Moscow and New Delhi hold ‘identical or near-identical positions on the most important global and security issues’, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

AFP

DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1) Talk disrespectfully to
 - 5) Venomous black snake
 - 10) Large dining room
 - 14) Lake view from Toledo
 - 15) Certain graduate exams
 - 16) Digits in eleven
 - 17) Having many of your group attending
 - 20) Watts of the movies
 - 21) Plains shelters of old (Var.)
 - 22) Brought to maturity
 - 25) Predator's quarry
 - 26) Exact revenge on
 - 29) Sustaining an injury
 - 31) Monotony
 - 35) Pub quaff
 - 36) Fish by dragging nets
 - 38) Europe's tallest active volcano
 - 39) Offer a person encouragement, in a way
 - 43) Nut used in soft drinks
 - 44) Number of deadly

- sins
 - 45) Cambridge school
 - 46) Batter's position
 - 49) Pushing up daisies
 - 50) Swine spot
 - 51) Gets decked in
 - 53) Cowboy-boot attachment
 - 55) Place out of sight
 - 58) What strikers want
 - 62) Rich
 - 65) La Douce in a film
 - 66) EL_ (Spanish painter)
 - 67) Young Michael Jackson feature
 - 68) Recover from a sprint
 - 69) "For" words
 - 70) Alternatives to pumpnickels
- DOWN**
- 1) Secured with a needle
 - 2) A, in geometry
 - 3) Airtight storage tower
 - 4) Historic Alabama city
 - 5) Name for a stooge
 - 6) Renowned Dadaist
 - 7) Mini-market
 - 8) Electronic censor

- 9) Say with confidence
- 10) Winter melon
- 11) Penny bet
- 12) Some popular jeans
- 13) You'll trip if you drop it
- 18) Some are civil
- 19) Olympic event
- 23) Money in Madrid
- 24) Small drinks of liquor
- 26) Stares conspicuously
- 27) "Silas Marner" novelist
- 28) Car model that doesn't require gas
- 30) Coarse wool fabric
- 32) Entries in a list
- 33) Like fresh matches
- 34) Like some beers
- 37) Misery-company link
- 40) Applause part
- 41) Minimum-range tide
- 42) Bear up under
- 47) Business name abbr.
- 48) Einstein's "E"
- 52) Keep in the warehouse
- 54) Speeder's trap
- 55) Immunization fluids

- 56) Stately trees
- 57) Nights before
- 59) Far from certain
- 60) Needing liniment
- 61) Young winged god of the Greeks
- 62) Purchased hair?
- 63) Cooler contents, often
- 64) Spanish couple?

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

You know that old joke about how denial isn't just a river in Egypt? Right now, someone you know (or possibly you) could have just bought beachfront property on that old river. If you're avoiding an issue or trying to close your eyes when something is staring you right in the face, change tactics. Avoiding it might just make things worse instead of better. If someone close to you is the one who won't face facts, try to (gently) open their eyes.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

If you were a superhero, your name would be Captain Goodtimes. Right now you're determined to lead your crew to the biggest possible source of fun, and nothing is going to get in your way. If anyone can do it, you can. Just make sure all your day-to-day duties are out of the way before you get this party started. Like all superheroes, you have a sense of responsibility.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Every good tailor knows that the tiny things are what make a garment fit like it was made for you. All that care and attention can take a simple piece of clothing and turn it into a statement. There's something in your life right now that deserves that same kind of care and attention when it comes to even the smallest components.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Going berserk on someone if they say something that ticks you off is certainly an option, but it probably isn't the one to exercise if you want this person to stick around. Take a step back and a deep breath. Were they really out to insult you? Was it maybe just a slip of the tongue? While it's all well and good to stand up for yourself, you don't want to lash out if it was a genuine mistake. Be careful before making your next move.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Playing hide-and-seek when you were a kid was lots of fun, but right now it might just confuse things more than you'd like. If there's something on your mind, spit it out. Yes, speaking your piece can be tough and a little scary, but honest communication can't happen between you and a certain party until one of you starts talking. Expecting someone to read your mind just isn't fair, so speak up before it's too late.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

Have a little patience and hold back on any urge to push, and all the little details might just work themselves out. It's a hard stance to take, especially for someone who's as driven and hardworking as you are, but one of the tricks about life is knowing when to rest and take a step back, as well as when to push forward with all your effort. Now is a moment in which you should rest.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Emotions might be running high, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Think of it as a sign that it's time to do some mental house cleaning, especially when it comes to feelings or something in your past that you've put off dealing with. Address this situation now, and the future looks bright ahead. Avoid it, and it may keep cropping up in your life in increasingly uncomfortable ways. The choice is yours.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You're getting that "freeway feeling" again, as in you have a serious urge to merge. Is it time to take this relationship just a little bit deeper? Several signs do point to yes. So go ahead and trust yourself and the other person. This is exactly what the stars have ordered for you. However, just like merging on the freeway, there's no need to rush. Take it at a comfortable pace and be careful.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Ambition can be pretty heady, like an expensive perfume or that new car smell, and you're both drawn to it and a little afraid of it. Ambition, like most strong forces, is an excellent servant but a bad master. As long as you remain aware of your ambition and make sure it doesn't get too outsized, you should be just fine. So go ahead and reach for the stars. They're reaching back.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Does someone keep hanging around even though it's long past time for them to go? If that's the case, now is the moment for you to firmly (but gently) get them out the door, especially if you want to maintain cordial relations with this person. Remind them of that old proverb about how fish and houseguests both start to stink after three days. Don't be afraid to be assertive either. It's high time you had some space to yourself.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

They might just have to invent a new word for "magnetic" once they get a load of you. The power you exude could knock someone off their feet if you aren't careful (fortunately, you're almost always careful). Whatever it is you want to accomplish right now, you have more than enough resources to accomplish it, and then some. Your confidence is at an all-time high, and with good reason!



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Stop going in circles. Like being on a merry-go-round, it's lots of fun at first, but then after a few minutes you start to feel just a touch nauseated. Even if you're not sure where you want to go just yet, it's imperative that you clear your head before you make any big decisions. Take your time and move at your own pace while you're at it. Rushing into something could be a big mistake.

1. The headquarter of the International Committee of Red Cross are in

a. Geneva

b. Paris

c. Rome

d. Stockholm

2. The important industries of Rajasthan are

a. textiles and woollen

b. sugar and cement

c. glass and zinc smelters

d. All of the above

3. The member states of Benelux Economic Union are

a. Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg

b. Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Iraq

c. Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya

d. Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago

Answers: 1. a 2. d 3. a

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

I	S	S	A
A	L	S	O
U	R	S	I
E	B	L	T

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

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

WORD BUILDER

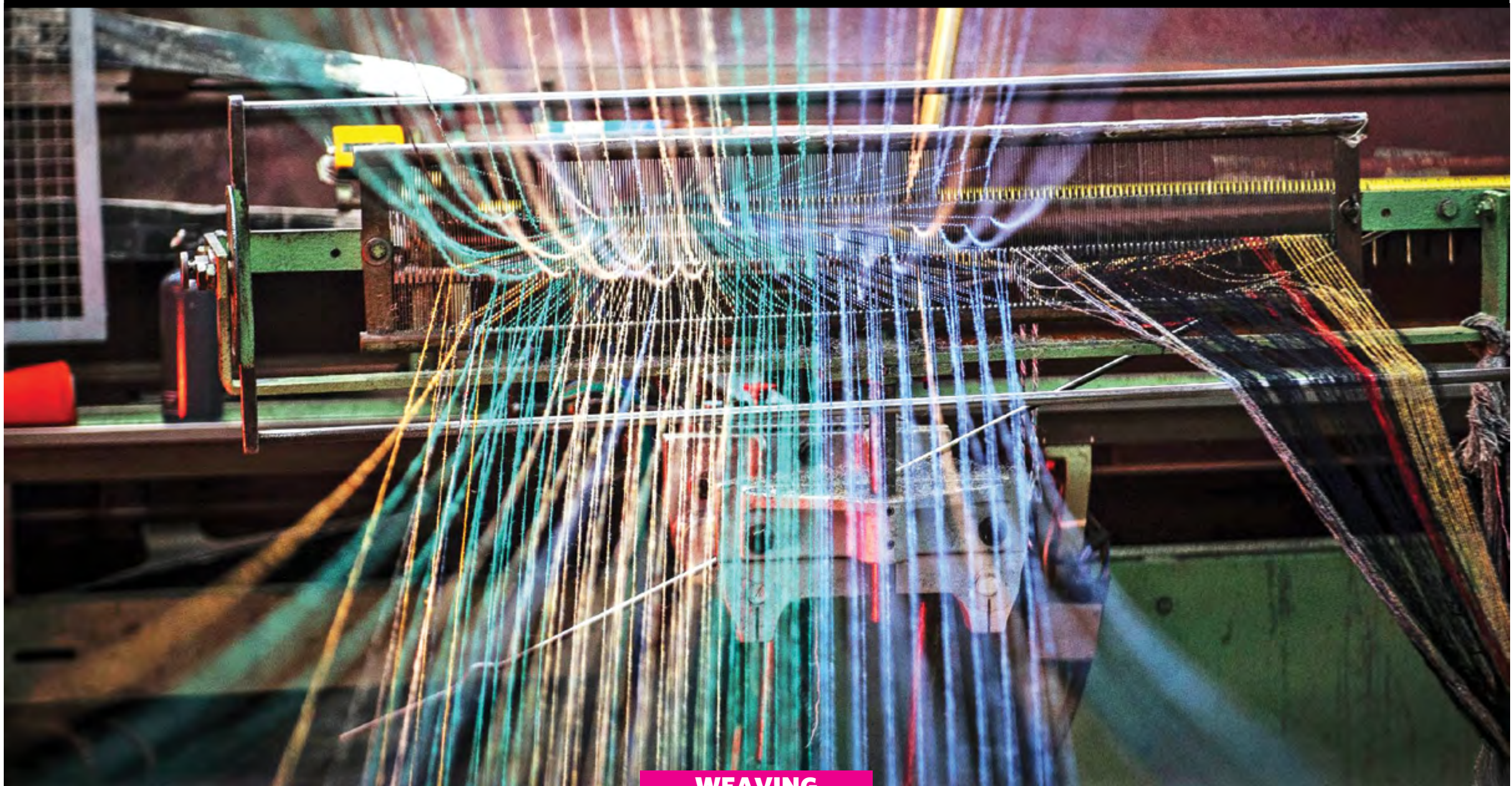


You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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



WEAVING

SPINNING

weave

Tweed weaves a way from Scottish islands to catwalk

In the cluttered workshop of his home, off the coast of northwest Scotland, Ian Mackay patiently weaves a bright green wool, surrounded by bags of fabric, spools and tools.

He makes a steady clatter as he pedals his machine in the shed of his croft on the village of South Shawbost on the Isle of Lewis, watching closely for any defects.

"It's handwoven... or rather foot-woven," the 51-year-old weaver jokes in his sing-song accent typical of the Outer Hebrides.

Mackay spins wool for 10 hours a day, resting only on Sundays, when most shops and services are shut on the religiously conservative islands.

Once complete, his handiwork - authentic Harris Tweed - could be shipped to the other side of the world, as the rough woollen fabric becomes more popular than ever.

Long associated with the windswept Scottish islands, the textile's ecological and sustainable properties have inspired designers to be more environmentally friendly.

"It doesn't really matter how bad the weather is outside if you are weaving," Mackay told AFP as an icy November wind whipped across the ochre-coloured moor where sheep were grazing. "There's no point in being really fast, doing mistakes. You are better doing slow, quality work."

Such is its status, Harris Tweed, traditionally made from 100 per cent pure virgin - unrecycled - sheep's wool, is the

only fabric protected by an act of parliament.

The Harris Tweed Act 1993 stipulates that it "has been handwoven by the islanders at their homes in the Outer Hebrides, and made from pure virgin wool dyed and spun in the Outer Hebrides".

A distinctive Orb stamp globe with a cross on top certifies the fabric's origin and authenticity.

High fashion export

Harris Tweed, mostly woven with a plain weave, twill or herringbone structure, was originally associated with Britain's aristocracy and gentlemen farmers.

Jackets and plus-fours made from the durable fabric that can withstand harsh climates were a must for traditionally outdoor upper-class pursuits such as hunting and fishing.

But British designer Vivienne Westwood turned that image on its head by integrating it into her punk wardrobe in a subversion of culture and tradition.

Now other major brands, including Chanel, Dior, Yves Saint Laurent and Hermes, are making it a key element of their collections.

"Recently we have been working extensively with Polo Ralph Lauren in the USA," said Margaret Ann Macleod, sales director, for Harris Tweed Hebrides.

Seventy people work at the company's lakeside factory, where the wool is dyed and spun, then sent to some 120 home weavers, where skills have been



passed down for generations.

Once woven, it is returned to the factory 29km from Lewis' main town of Stornoway to be washed, dried and finished in Shawbost Mill. A third of the Shawbost factory's output goes to the UK, while two-thirds is exported to all corners of the world.

"We export extensively to France, Germany, Italy and a lot of other countries in Europe," Macleod said. "We also have a big export business in South Korea, Japan and the USA, and increasingly China has become a new export

market for us as well."

Colour and culture

In total, some 160 home weavers live in the Outer Hebrides, working hand in hand with three factories that produce a total of 1.5 million metres of the fabric every year.

Tweed, immortalised by Mr Toad, one of the main characters in Kenneth Grahame's 1908 classic novel 'The Wind in the Willows' is used to make jackets, trousers, coats, but also shoes, handbags, armchairs and teddy bears.

Fifteen years ago, the sportswear brand Nike chose Harris Tweed for a collection of trainers - a huge publicity coup for the Hebridean craftsmen.

But more recently the public has rediscovered the fabric in its dozens of different patterns and shades through popular television series.

From the aristocrats of Downton Abbey to the gangsters of Peaky Blinders and the royal family in 'The Crown', virtually everyone wears tweed.

"We start with about 60 colours and we blend each of these colours to create over 180 different yarn shades and they would reflect the landscape and the seascape of the Outer Hebrides - the rich browns are the tones of the moorland, the blue of the Atlantic Ocean," Macleod said.

"Young designers are coming and are looking for the colours. They are looking for authenticity, the fact that we are hand-weaving (and) creating our own yarns is really important to them."

"They want to capture a little bit of the island, of the Outer Hebrides in their creations as well."

AFP



HOME REMEDIES

KITCHEN Spa



Don't worry about winter and control your urge to splurge on cosmetics prepared from harsh chemicals – just turn to your kitchen wherein lies a host of solutions that are far better than those offered at spas.

Dry skin is often a seasonal problem in winter or summer, but if you do not take adequate care, it can lead to long-lasting conditions that may not appear appealing. Although your skin is often driest on your hands, arms, lower legs and sides of your abdomen, the locations where these dry patches form can vary considerably for each individual. It all depend on your age, health status, environment, and the amount of time you spend outdoors.

Apart from using moisturisers, you should also avoid certain things that tend to take a toll on your complexion, like scratching skin, using excessive air conditioning, shaving with blunt razors or without shaving gel, having hot baths, rubbing skin too hard when towel drying, using lotions that contain alcohol, sitting close to fires/heaters, etc. Try these easy remedies with ingredients from your kitchen:



Aloe Vera

Aloe vera gel acts as a great moisturiser because of its non-greasy texture and can double as an aftershave too. It also keeps away acne and wrinkles on the skin, making it firm. Scrape the gel from the leaf (make sure that you drain the resin from the leaf first, as it can irritate the skin) and blend it in a mixer to form the aloe vera gel. Once you've washed your face, you can apply it and don't need to rinse it off.



Almond oil/olive oil

Almond oil is extremely beneficial for the skin as it provides the appropriate moisture and maintains a natural glow. You can massage your face with almond oil and leave it overnight for the best results. Olive oil has healthy fats that are great for overall health, besides healing skin during winters. Olive oil can be used in combination with milk, honey or other natural ingredients to make a moisturising face pack.



Honey

Honey is one of those ingredients you just cannot go wrong with, even with daily use. It works across different skin types and leaves your skin feeling soft and fresh. Simply pat some honey on your face for 10 minutes or so and wash it off. You can also whisk it into some milk, apply it on your face, and wash it off once it's dry. Honey moisturises your skin, keeps away bacteria from your skin, and boosts your complexion.



Coconut oil

Coconut oil can do many good things for the skin during winter. For dry and dull skin, coconut oil acts as an excellent moisturiser. Simply warm up a few drops of oil and massage it on your face. You can leave it on for 15 to 20 minutes or even overnight, and wash it off with soap. Once in a while, add some sugar to your oil and use it to exfoliate your skin.



Milk

Raw milk actually works as a great toner for the skin. Loaded with antioxidants and lactic acid, it helps to even out your complexion and remove dark spots on your face. You can also combine raw milk with ingredients like papaya, honey, almond, or turmeric to help your skin glow. This is a great home remedy.



Oatmeal and milk

Make a paste of some oatmeal and milk. Apply it on the face, gently rub and let it dry. Then after few minutes, rinse it off. This will remove dead skin cells from your face and make it more glowing.



Banana face pack

If your face is too dry, apply a banana face pack. All you need to do is to mash a banana, add a little milk, honey, and lime juice to it, and apply this on your face. Wash with cold water after 20-30 minutes.



Yoghurt

Yoghurt is a natural exfoliator and one of the best home remedies for glowing skin in winter. It contains lactic acid that helps dissolve dead skin cells, an essential function required for moisture to penetrate the skin. It also firms the skin and moisturises it. You can mix it with a few drops of honey and lemon juice, too.



Cucumber

Cucumber is the best remedy to treat any type of skin problem. It is rich in water content, so you can either eat it directly or apply it on the face for refreshing results.



Eggs

Eggs with their multitude of beneficial properties also contribute to skin health during the winter season. The fatty acids and water content in eggs act as a moisturiser, while egg whites help to tighten pores because of their astringent properties. You can mix eggs with honey, olive oil or yoghurt and apply it as a face mask.

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Sunday 21 November to Thursday 3 December 2021 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)



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Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen (left) and Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton compete in the Formula One Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (AFP)



Lewis Hamilton (right) raises his trophy as second-placed Max Verstappen looks on, in Jeddah on Sunday (AFP)

Hamilton wins Saudi thriller, goes level with Verstappen for decider

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - Lewis Hamilton kept his hopes of an eighth world championship title alive with a thrilling victory in a dramatic and at times chaotic Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The result left the seven-time champion level on 369.5 points with title rival Max Verstappen ahead of the final race in Abu Dhabi next weekend.

Hamilton was behind Verstappen for much of the 50-lap race which was stopped twice because of crashes and interrupted numerous times by the safety car and virtual safety car.

But Hamilton, nursing a dam-

aged front wing caused by a collision with Verstappen, came through late, to claim his eighth win of the season and the 103rd of his career.

The title will be settled in Abu Dhabi, although if neither finishes in the points it will be Verstappen, who has nine victories, who will take the title.

"I have been racing a long time but that was incredibly tough," said Hamilton who gained an extra point for the fastest lap.

Verstappen finished second, 11.825secs behind in spite of being given a five-second penalty after colliding with the Mercedes star. He was later sanctioned by

10 seconds by the stewards although that did not impact his finishing position.

"Just trying to race and this sport is more about penalties

give Mercedes a 28-point lead in the constructors' championship.

Jeddah first

It was the first time that Jeddah

Verstappen finished second, 11.825secs behind in spite of being given a five-second penalty after colliding with the Mercedes star. He was later sanctioned by 10secs though that did not impact his position

than racing," said Verstappen.

Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas pipped Alpine's Esteban Ocon on the line for third place to

had hosted a Grand Prix and the problems that the drivers, including Verstappen, had had in practice and qualifying were apparent

again. It was also the first Grand Prix since the death last month of Frank Williams.

For once Mercedes made the perfect start. Having locked out the front row, they succeeded in holding Verstappen at bay.

The safety car made its first appearance on lap 10 when Mick Schumacher spun on Turn 22 and slammed his Haas into the wall.

Hamilton pitted immediately to switch tyres with Bottas following a lap later while Verstappen stayed out to take the race lead.

Red Bull's gamble looked to have paid off when the race was

red-flagged shortly after in order for repairs to be done on the crash barriers.

That handed Verstappen a 'free' pitstop and allowed him to begin from the front when the race restarted, ahead of Hamilton and Bottas.

When the race resumed, Hamilton slipped past Verstappen who then barged his way around the outside, going off the track, to regain the advantage.

Behind them Sergio Perez was clipped by Charles Leclerc's Ferrari, causing the Red Bull to spin off. That in turn triggered a domino effect with George Russell (Williams) and Nikita

Mazepin (Haas) also going off.

The stewards decided that Verstappen's manoeuvre was illegal and promoted Alpine's Ocon to pole for the third start of the race, with Hamilton in second and Verstappen in third.

The Dutchman was twice instructed to make way. In the second, Verstappen pulled over to let Hamilton pass and then immediately retook the lead.

A lap later Hamilton slipped past again to move back in front and this time, with Verstappen also hit by the five-second penalty, he was able to lead all the way to the chequered flag.

AFP



CELEBRATING OMAN 51st NATIONAL DAY



العید الوطني العُماني 51

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Rain washes out 3rd day of Dhaka Test

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Rain triggered by a weakened cyclone washed out the third day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan in Dhaka on Monday.

Match officials called off play at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at 2:00pm, with no chance of the weather improving for the day. Only 63.2 overs of play were possible over the first two days with Pakistan reaching 188-2 in their first innings, with skipper Babar Azam batting on 71 alongside Azhar Ali on 52.

Tajul Islam picked up both wickets to fall. Pakistan lead the two-Test series 1-0 after winning the first encounter in Chittagong by eight wickets.

Rafiullah steers Stallions to big win

Muscat - Rafi Ullah's all-round heroics helped Oman Stallions to a thumping 79-run victory against Yalla Shabab in a 50-over Premier Division League clash at Oman Cricket Turf 1 in Al Amerat on Saturday.

Rafi topscored with a scintillating 70 off 39 including 8 powerful sixes in Stallions' score of 258 all out in 48.1 overs. Opener Akshaykumar Patel batted well too, scoring an equally entertaining 66 off 42, spanking 7 huge hits over the fence.

Fast bowler Hassnain Ali was the pick of Yalla Shabab bowlers, taking 5 for 63 whereas Wasim Ali claimed 3 for 35.

Rafiullah and Mehran Khan struck twice in their opening spells reducing Yalla Shabab to 59 for 4. The side never really recovered from the early blows and was dismissed for 179 in the 36th over. Karan Sonavale was brilliant with the ball too, taking three late wickets for only one run. Young Wasim Ali was the main scorer with a fluent 74 off 73 that included 3 big sixes.

Sankaral's 66 guides Denmark to victory

Muscat - Sankaral Sasidharan's superb batting powered Denmark CT to a comfortable 46-run win over Mazoon Up in a T20 D

Division match at Muscat Municipality ground 2 on Friday.

Sankaral topscored with a magnificent 66 off 36 whereas his partner Muhammed Bashir struck 34 off 36 in an opening stand of 105 as Danmark went on to post 157 for 6 on the board. Fahad Mohamed picked up 4 for 26. Mazoon Up failed to put up a fight, folding up for a lowly 111 inside 18 overs. Bilalwal Ali was the only notable scorer with 37 off 26. Syamlal Sasidharan and Rajesh Ravindran bowled brilliantly, taking three wickets each.

Waseem Abbas bats Global to big win

Muscat - In an interesting D Division game at Muscat Municipality ground 2, opener Waseem Abbas struck a sizzling 77 off 37 to guide Global Corp Logistics to a big 80-run victory against OCT Al Mabela. Global Corp amassed 208 for 4 in 20 overs thanks to Waseem's brilliant batting. Azeem Abdul (46 not out off 26) and Marshall Bermeda (44 off 35) were the other main scorers.

Yorkshire appoint Gough as director of cricket after racism scandal

London, UK - Yorkshire confirmed the interim appointment of former England bowler Darren Gough as the county's new managing director of cricket on Monday as the cricket club attempts to rebuild following a damaging racism scandal.

The club came under intense fire over their handling of Azeem Rafiq's allegations of racism and harassment, with chairman Roger Hutton and chief executive Mark Arthur standing down.

On Friday, the county announced that 16 members of the coaching and medical staff had left the club, including first-team coach Andrew Gale and director of cricket Martyn Moxon.

Gough, 51, who had two playing spells with Yorkshire, captaining them in the second, has been appointed initially until the end of the 2022 season. "Like many, I have followed how the club handled the recent racism allegations with sadness and anger," said the former England paceman.

"I want to play my part in re-



Ex-England bowler Darren Gough

building cricket in Yorkshire and I am looking forward to working with the exceptionally talented group of players here. I am also aware of my wider responsibility to listen to everyone and ensure that every person who is associated with this club feels welcome, instilling values we want associated with the White Rose: honesty, straight-talking, hard work, integrity and excellence."

New chairman Kamlesh Patel praised Gough's 'infectious' enthusiasm.

AFP



CELEBRATING OMAN 51st NATIONAL DAY



العید الوطني العُماني 51



India's Virat Kohli (centre) holds the trophy after winning the second Test against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai on Monday (AFP)

India thrash Kiwis to top Test rankings

Mumbai, India - Indian skipper Virat Kohli hailed his 'clinical' side after they hammered New Zealand by 372 runs to win the second Test on Monday and clinch the series 1-0.

Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed a match tally of eight wickets - and 300th scalp on home soil - as India usurped the Black Caps as the world's top-ranked Test side.

New Zealand, who started day four on 140-5 in their chase of an improbable 540, were all out for 167 before lunch in Mumbai. It was tough on New Zealand's Mumbai-born spinner Ajaz Patel, who had made history with 10 wickets in the first innings.

New Zealand, who doggedly hung on for a draw in the opening match of the two-Test series, were undone by their batting after Ajaz's heroics.

They collapsed to 62 all out in their first innings and were never in the chase against India's spin force.

Kohli, who returned to lead India after he stepped down as national Twenty20 captain and a short break, said, "To come back with a win is a great feeling, returning as the captain it was a clinical performance, something we've seen time and again.

"You want individuals to step up, and guys did that. Even the first Test match was good, this

was better."

Ashwin, who struck three times in the final session on day three, sent back overnight batsman Henry Nicholls, stumped for 44, for the final wicket.

Jayant Yadav bowled Rachin Ravindra for 18 and struck twice in one over, as he returned career-best figures of 4-49.

Daryl Mitchell, who top-scored with 60, was the only bit of resistance for the tourists.

Lone performer

Ajaz, a left-arm spinner whose name went up on the Wankhede honours board on Saturday after his perfect 10, stood out with match figures of 14-225 - the best

ever by a bowler against India.

Ajaz remained the lone performer for New Zealand, who became the World Test champions after beating India in the title clash in June. His 14 wickets against India surpassed England fast bowler Ian Botham's 13-106 in Mumbai in 1980.

"It's a special occasion for me and my family. To be able to do that (10-for) is special," Ajaz said.

"I'm knackered but I'll use my quarantine time to recover. It's a different challenge to bowl back home. That's the beauty of Test cricket, it's about adapting your game plan and bowling accordingly."

AFP

SCOREBOARD		
India 1 st Innings 325	New Zealand 1 st Innings 62	
India 2 nd Innings 276/7d		
NEW ZEALAND 2 nd INNINGS		
Tom Latham	lbw b Ashwin	6
Will Young	c sub (SA Yadav) b Ashwin	20
Daryl Mitchell	c J Yadav b Patel	60
Ross Taylor	c Pujara b Ashwin	6
H Nicholls	st Saha b Ashwin	44
Tom Blundell	run out	0
R Ravindra	c Pujara b J Yadav	18
Kyle Jamieson	lbw b J Yadav	0
Tim Southee	b J Yadav	0
W Somerville	c Agarwal b J Yadav	1
Ajaz Patel	not out	0
Extras:	(b 9, lb 1, nb 2)	12
TOTAL: 167 in 56.3 Overs		
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-45, 3-55, 4-128, 5-129, 6-162, 7-165, 8-165, 9-167, 10-167		
Bowling: M Siraj 5-2-13-0, R Ashwin 22.3-9-34-4, A Patel 10-2-42-1, J Yadav 14-4-49-4, U Yadav 5-1-19-0		



England's captain Joe Root (left) with retired Australian cricket player Ian Healy speak during a press conference, in Brisbane on Sunday (AFP)

Root says England must not overburden Stokes on return

Brisbane, Australia - Captain Joe Root expects all-rounder Ben Stokes to play a major part in the Ashes but warned on Monday that England must manage his bowling workload on his hotly anticipated return.

The 30-year-old Stokes took an indefinite break from all cricket in July to prioritise his mental well-being and rest a fractured finger.

There was doubt whether he would travel to Australia, but England's 2019 Ashes hero was on the plane and is expected to start the first Test in Brisbane on Wednesday - handing the tourists a huge boost as they attempt to reclaim the urn.

"More than anything, it's really good to just see Ben back involved again in the frame of things and to see him come into the limited game time that we had, and to look as good as he did as well," said Root.

"You always know that when he gets into a game he always wants to put his mark on it and put a stamp on it. But yes, I think

there will be an element of managing expectations. You've got to trust his experience and, I suppose, our whole bowling group can work collectively to take those wickets and I'm sure Ben will have a big say in that."

It's been a tough ride for Stokes so far with rain limiting his preparations in Australia.

In his only intra-squad practice match he completed 10 overs, grabbing 2-31, then whacked 42 from 56 balls before retiring.

Stokes also revealed in a newspaper column last week that he took a nasty blow to his arm in the nets, and nearly choked on a tablet that had become lodged in his throat.

Root declined to confirm his starting eleven for Brisbane, saying he didn't 'feel comfortable' revealing team details yet despite Australia already naming their side. England must decide on an opening pair, with Rory Burns seemingly a lock-in, with either Haseeb Hameed or Zak Crawley accompanying him.

AFP



WA sports minister Tony Buti made a last-ditch bid for Perth to switch with Adelaide for the second Test

Fifth Ashes Test moved out of Perth; no change in order

Perth, Australia - The fifth Ashes Test will be relocated away from Perth after Cricket Australia confirmed it could not be held in Western Australia due to border restrictions in place.

There will also be no change in order of the Test matches - on Sunday the WA sports minister Tony Buti made a last-ditch bid for Perth to switch with Adelaide for the second Test - with the replacement venue to be confirmed in the coming days. Hobart is the narrow favourite behind having a second match at the MCG.

It could be that there will now be two day-night matches in the series given that broadcasters will have lost the primetime-friendly west coast slot which allows Test cricket to broadcast in the evening in other major cities.

A few weeks ago WA Cricket had been bullish about its chances of staging the Test with chief executive Christina

Matthews putting it as a '97 per cent' chance, but that receded quickly in recent days with the WA government insisting on 14 days quarantine for anyone associated with putting on the Test from outside the state including key broadcast personnel along with players' families.

"We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the WA Government, relevant agencies and Perth Stadium over recent months," Nick Hockley, the Cricket Australia chief executive, said.

"We are very disappointed that we are unable to stage the fifth men's Ashes Test at Perth Stadium.

"We did everything we could in partnership with the WA Government and WA Cricket to make it work under the current border and health arrangements, but unfortunately this was not possible," Hockley said.

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Team France wins Sailing Arabia-The Tour title



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Muscat - Team France claimed the Sailing Arabia - The Tour 2021 trophy with another win in the final leg at Al Mouj Muscat.

The debuting crew led from start to finish, winning seven of the ten days, said a press statement from Oman Sail, the organisers of the race.

Competition for places behind them was fierce but the fleet was ultimately unable to close the gap to the eventual winners. The winning teams were awarded at a ceremony held under the patronage of His Excellency Abdulsalam bin Mohammed al Murshidi, executive president of Oman Investment Authority.

DB Schenker, representing The Tour's official logistics partner and flying the flag of Germany with a mixed male and female Omani crew, never gave up - winning two days along the way and finishing second on five occasions - to finish second overall.

Oman Sail ended The Tour securing the third place with Oman Investment Authority coming fourth. Spanish team Barceló Mussanah Resort finished fifth and Nastro Rosa of Italy ended the race in the sixth.

The final leg of The Tour featured two days of racing. Team France earned another victory on the first day with Oman Sail in second and DB Schenker in third, giving them enough of a lead to secure the title.

With first place secured, Team France eased off on the final day which allowed DB Schenker to take the win and confirm their position as runners up. Oman Sail finished second on the day and sealed third place overall. Barceló Mussanah Resort finished third on the day with Team France fourth, Oman



The members of the Oman Sail Team celebrate the winning moment

Investment Authority fifth and Nastro Rosa sixth.

Antoine Rucard, skipper of Team France, said, "Today was the last day of Sailing Arabia - The Tour. We are a bit sad to go back to France, because there it is 3-4 degrees and, here, we are sailing in shorts and t-shirt! It

Rucard added.

Akram al Waihaibi, skipper of DB Schenker, said, "Today is the last day, we pushed hard and were aiming for the podium. We fought all the way and finished second thanks to our teamwork and the effort of our crew - Ibti-sam al Salmi, Nasser al Mashari

It was a good day for the team and a good way to finish with some guests on board, too. A good fight on the water with perfect conditions. We are really happy about this last day

ANTOINE RUCARD, SKIPPER TEAM FRANCE

was a good day for the team and a good way to finish with some guests on board, too. A good fight on the water with perfect conditions. We are really happy about this last day."

During Sailing Arabia - The Tour, he said that the team "had a lot of fun" and "discovered many beautiful places".

"It was super nice to look at many different places in Oman. Wadi Shab, a really nice place in Sur, souqs and mosques, and our guide took us to the best places!"

and Marwa al Khaifi. This has been a great experience for us and we hope to do even better next year."

Gilles Chiorri, Sailing Arabia - The Tour race director, said that the event was organised by a passionate team within Oman Sail, and was not only able to engage well-known famous sailors, but also diversify the port destinations in Oman and in the GCC to showcase an exceptional backdrop of progress and development.



Top three winners of Sailing Arabia - The Tour 2021

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