




 24.0° C -5.2° C
 Dhankuta Jumla

FOREX	
US Dollar	132.98
Euro	145.63
Pound Sterling	169.60
Swiss Franc	156.01
Australian Dollar	88.91
Canadian Dollar	99.16
Singapore Dollar	99.86
Japanese Yen (10)	9.18
Chinese Yuan	18.55
Saudi Arab Riyal	35.46
Qatari Riyal	36.46
Thai Bhat	3.81
UAE Dhiram	36.20
Malaysian Ringgit	28.61
Korean Won (100)	10.12

Exchange rates fixed by Nepal Rastra Bank

SHARES	
Nepse (in percent)	2,120.62 _{pts} 1.51%
HIGHEST GAINERS	
HPPL 10	TPC 10
MBJC 10	MMKJL 10
TVCL 9.99	
MODERATE GAINERS	
HDL 0.2	MPFL 0.17
HIDCL 0.16	SMB 0.11
SHL 0.08	EBLD85 0.02
MODERATE LOSERS	
NBLD87 -0.13	SICL -0.07
PRVU -0.06	NICAD8283 -0.05
SBL -0.04	NMBD87/88 -0.01
HIGHEST LOSERS	
MMF1 -9.53	NUBL -4.31
SIGS2 -2.91	NICFC -2.71
SBCF -2.53	MKLB -2.49

BULLION		PRICE PER TOLA
 Fine Gold		Rs 119,200
 Silver		Rs 1,420
SOURCE: FENEGOSIDA		

■ BIZLINE

Africa’s biggest diesel, aviation fuel refinery starts production

LAGOS: Africa’s biggest diesel and aviation fuel refinery built by the continent’s richest man has started production, the company said on Saturday, calling it a “big day for Nigeria”. The 650,000 barrel-per-day Dangote refinery could be a game changer when fully operational by helping end Nigeria’s reliance on fuel imports. The delayed megaproject built by Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote said it hoped the products would be on the market this month, but it was not clear when the refinery will reach full capacity production or start refining petrol. The facility sits on 2,635 hectares (6,500 acres) of land at the Lekki Free Zone on the edge of Lagos city and cost an estimated \$19 billion, according to local media. **(AFP)**

UK remains ready to act against attacks on shipping: Cameron

LONDON: Britain remains ready to act to “defend freedom of navigation”, foreign minister David Cameron said on Sunday in the wake of joint US-UK air strikes on Yemen. “We’ve demonstrated that we’re prepared to follow words and warnings with action and that is incredibly important,” Cameron told broadcaster Sky News. He suggested further strikes could occur if the Huthi rebels, who control much of Yemen, continue to target ships in the Red Sea. “We have to act. Not acting is also a policy and it was a policy that wasn’t working,” he said. “It’s not just the goods that are coming to this country... it is also grain ships on their way to Ethiopia and Sudan to feed some of the poorest and hungriest people in the world.” **(AFP)**

Ghana secures debt deal as part of IMF loan

ACCRA: Ghana has reached an agreement with external creditors for a debt restructuring that was key to its \$3 billion credit line with the IMF, the government and the lender said. Facing its worst economic crisis in decades, Ghana agreed to a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help shore up its public finances and better manage its heavy debt load. Ghana’s economic outlook will be a major part of campaigning for the presidential election in December when President Nana Akufo-Addo’s New Patriotic Party will seek an unprecedented third term in office. Ghana received its first \$600 million tranche of the IMF loan in May last year. **(AFP)**

Go First’s lenders seek investor bids by January 31

MUMBAI: Lenders to India’s Go First have set Jan. 31 as the deadline for financial bids to acquire the airline, two banking sources said on Sunday. Go First filed for bankruptcy protection in May but lenders have more recently been considering liquidating the airline after failing to secure new investors. “Banks have decided to give the resolution process another go and allow those suitors who have shown prior interest a chance to submit a concrete bid,” said a banker with a state-run bank that has exposure to Go First. **(REUTERS)**

India agrees to address Nepal’s concerns on trade and transit treaties

>> Continued from page 1

According to SAWTEE research, Nepal can’t afford to continue to provide tariff-free access to Indian agricultural products. Therefore, select primary agricultural products, including cereals, must be removed from the list of primary products on which both countries are currently providing reciprocal tariff-free access.

Nepali jute products have been subjected to anti-dumping duties in India for the past seven years. In theory, according to SAWTEE, dumping is said to occur when goods are exported for less than they are sold in the domestic market or third-country markets, or at less than the production cost. Nepali jute products manufacturers say they are not doing so.

India is Nepal’s largest trading partner, accounting for more than 65 percent of its total trade.

According to the Department of Customs, the year-on-year imports from India to Nepal, in 2019-20, jumped to Rs735.29 billion.

It further increased to Rs971.60 billion in 2020-21. Imports started ballooning and crossed the trillion mark in 2021-22, reaching Rs1.20 trillion, the highest-ever on record.

The imports, however, dropped to Rs1.02 trillion in the last fiscal year that ended in mid-July 2023.

Likewise, exports from Nepal to India in 2019-20 were at Rs70.10 billion, which increased to Rs106.37 billion in 2020-21.

Exports, too, kept increasing and reached a historic high of Rs155.22 billion in 2021-22. In the past fiscal year, exports dropped by 31.26 percent to Rs106.68 billion.

The trade deficit with India, currently, stands at Rs921.16 billion.

Trade experts said that increasing trade deficit, failure to participate in the value chain, presence of non-tariff barriers, preference erosion and adverse impact of the treaty on primary and agriculture sectors are the emerging trade issues between Nepal and India.

A press statement issued by Nepal’s Industry Ministry on Sunday said India is ready to address the issues raised by the Nepal side to ease cargo



POST FILE PHOTO

Nepal’s trade deficit with India currently stands at Rs921.16 billion.

movements through the Biratnagar-Bhairahawa border points.

Discussions were held on removing weight restrictions for cargo trucks plying the Kakarvitta-Phulbari-Banglabandha trade highway by reviewing the transit treaty, according to the statement.

Also in the agenda were expanding Indian railroads to the integrated checkpoints in Bhairahawa and Dodhara-Chandani in Mahendranagar, which are currently under construction. Similarly, Nepal and India discussed setting up well-facilitated food labs at major Nepal-India trade border points including Panitanki, Joghani, Nautanwa, Nepalgunj road and Banbasa.

The food labs can be established at customs points or elsewhere, the state-

ment said.

The meeting agreed to conduct a fourth phase technical meeting to review the trade treaty between Nepal and India for the expansion of bilateral trade and to minimise Nepal’s rising trade deficit.

According to a press statement issued by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu, there were extensive discussions on ways to bolster trade and investment ties.

“Both sides discussed mutual market access for pharmaceuticals and Ayurvedic products. The Indian side highlighted the need for an intellectual property rights regime under the Paris Convention for encouraging foreign direct investment,” said the press statement issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu.

The agenda also covered discussions on the review of the Treaty of Transit and the Treaty of Trade, proposed amendments to existing agreements, strategies for enhancing investment, harmonising standards, and synchronised development of trade infrastructure, according to the press statement.

“One of the highlights of this meeting was the focus on bilateral initiatives aimed at further strengthening the seamless cross-border connectivity between India and Nepal through the construction of new integrated check posts and railway links,” the press statement reads.

“Both sides were committed to implementing these initiatives, reflecting the shared vision of prosperous bilateral trade.”

Galli Maps wins NYEF Startup award



■ POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, JAN 14

Galli Express Pvt Ltd has bagged the NYEF Startup Awards in the finale held on Friday. The award carries a cash prize of Rs400,000.

Galli Maps, Galli Express’s flagship product founded by Raj Bikram Maharjan, is the most detailed map of Nepal that features information on house numbers, alleys and 360 views.

Quickfox Consulting and PetMama Nepal shared the first runner-up prize, which comes with a Rs200,000 cash prize. Quickfox Consulting was represented by Sona Singh. The startup provides advanced RPA solutions, streamlining tedious, rule-based tasks for companies. This solution enhances

efficiency, elevates productivity, and sets higher customer service standards by eliminating manual errors and time-consuming processes.

PetMama Nepal led by Nikita Jalan is a one-stop pet care solution offering grooming, retail, a pet hotel, a pet bakery, and a dog daycare service. PetMama Nepal also bagged the Audience Choice Award of Rs50,000.

Meanwhile, Dursikshya Education, spearheaded by Krishna Pandey, bagged the Social Enterprise Award, which recognises the profound impact startups have on addressing social challenges and comes with a cash prize of Rs50,000. Dursikshya is an innovative educational organisation committed to advancing STEM education.

Syrian farmers abandon the land for steadier jobs

Agriculture was once a pillar of northeast Syria’s economy.

■ AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JAABAR AL-SAGHIR (SYRIA), JAN 14

After years of war, drought and economic crisis, Omar Abdel-Fattah was forced to rent out his farmland in northeast Syria, preferring a more stable job to provide for his family.

“It breaks my heart to see someone else working my land,” said Abdel-Fattah, 50, who grew wheat, cotton and vegetables in Jaabar al-Saghir, in Syria’s Raqa province, for three decades.

He said he had to abandon agriculture to make ends meet and provide an education for his eight children because he can “no longer keep up with the costs of farming”, including irrigation.

Agriculture was once a pillar of northeast Syria’s economy.

The region was the country’s breadbasket before 2011, when the government repressed peaceful protests, triggering a conflict that has killed more than 500,000 people and displaced millions. Now the effects of climate change—particularly rising temperatures and drought—along with spiral-

ling costs are dealing a heavy blow to agricultural production and the families that depend on it to survive.

Abdel-Fattah found a job at a water pumping station run by the area’s semi-autonomous Kurdish administration. It pays around \$70 a month, so he also runs a small shop on the side selling hardware and other items to get by.

Some of his relatives have also rented out their land, while others have left Syria because of the dire financial situation there, Abdel-Fattah said.

He urged the Kurdish administration and international agricultural organisations to provide “support and loans” for farmers in the area.

“This is the only solution to save agriculture, help farmers and encourage them to return to their fields again,” he said.

Across vast swathes of Raqa province, empty farmland sits beside cultivated fields where farmers and workers harvest crops, including potatoes and corn.

Syria has endured more than 12 years of civil war, and Raqa was the centre of the Islamic State group’s

Canada, facing housing shortage, to consider cap on international students

■ REUTERS

WINNIPEG, JAN 14

Canada is considering a cap on the number of international students allowed to live in Canada, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said according to a CTV report, as the government faces criticism for a housing affordability crisis.

Canada depends on immigration to drive its economy and support an aging population and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been ramping up annual immigration. The housing crisis has been blamed on an increase in migrants and international students fueling demand for homes just as inflation has slowed construction.

Miller said in a taped interview with CTV Question Period that the Liberal government is considering a cap on international students in the first and second quarters this year.

“That volume is disconcerting,” Miller is quoted by CTV as saying, referring to the number of international students in Canada. “It’s really a system that has gotten out of control.” He did not say how much of a reduction in international students the government is considering.

Miller’s spokesperson could not be immediately reached. Official data show there were more than 800,000 foreign students with active visas in 2022, up from 275,000 in 2012.

Canada is a popular destination for international students since it is relatively easy to obtain a work permit.

The Liberal government floated the idea of capping the number of foreign student visas in August, but Housing Minister Sean Fraser said then that the government had not yet made a decision of whether to pursue that option. Miller said he planned to discuss the problem with provincial counterparts. Trudeau’s Liberals have seen their popularity plummet after more than eight years in office, with polls placing them well behind the official opposition Conservatives led by Pierre Poilievre, who have criticized the government for not properly managing the housing issue.

Adecco chief says AI will create new jobs

■ AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ZURICH, JAN 14

Artificial intelligence raises serious concerns for jobs but it will also create new positions, the head of Adecco, the world’s biggest temporary staffing agency, told AFP.

From meteorologists to lawyers and screenwriters, generative AI capable of creating content—such as the chatbot ChatGPT—could change the contours of many professions.

But it will also create new positions, according to Denis Machuel, the chief executive of Zurich-based Adecco.

How will AI disrupt the world of work?

Machuel: “It’s probably the largest disruption and revolution that we’ve seen in decades. It’s going to be massive. And let’s be clear, no one really knows or can really anticipate with a precise view what’s going to happen in the next five years.

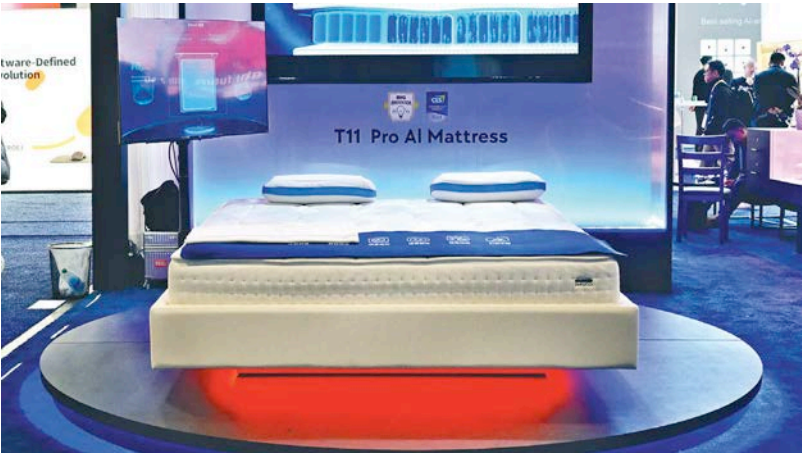
“All this productivity enhancement helps people do more but also destroys some of the jobs people are doing. There is definitely an element of jobs being created and jobs that are being

Are some jobs more at risk than others?

Machuel: “It’s probably a bit too early to precisely describe jobs that are fundamentally at risk. Because we have to look at the tasks behind them.

“If you only compute information, gather information and synthesise it, then your job is at risk, be it a job in finance, in legal, in business, because... it is what GenAI does.

“Probably white-collar workers will be more impacted than blue-collar workers—at least in the short term.



AFP/RSS

DeRUCCI’s T11 Pro AI mattress is on display at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

“Within the white collar space, the things that are linked to massive information management will be more disrupted than the skills that are linked to relationship building, to strategic thinking or problem-solving.

“However, we know that there are limits.

“Take the example of a lawyer or of a paralegal: computing an immense

number of legal decisions can be done by GenAI. “However, the deep and subtle understanding of a complex legal situation and problem-solving skills that are needed to put things together is still very human-related.

“Usually, the sort of mundane tasks that can be automated are not the most exciting for people to do. So if you can automate that, it gives

you more time to concentrate on the nicer things.”

How is AI used at Adecco?

“We’ve signed a partnership with Microsoft to create a career platform that will advise companies and workers on their path, supporting their reflection on the type of skills and jobs they could go for.

“Opening horizons on things people didn’t necessarily imagine but could be achievable for them. “There are quite a few workers whose skills are transferable. “The good news about GenAI is that there is a positive explosion of possibilities of upskilling and re-skilling through these tools.

“We’ve created a curriculum vitae maker with an AI-powered tool that helps people generate their own CV. “On the daily tasks of our recruiters, I was mentioning this chatbot that interacts with thousands of candidates very quickly.

“It gives the possibility for our recruiters to spend more time in the human relationship, and not in a database search. “That means a recruiter can spend more time with people than doing the mundane tasks.”

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 21 runs in 2nd T20, lead 5-match series 2-0

The Black Caps scored 194-8 batting first after being 111-1 at the end of 10 overs.



New Zealand's Mark Chapman bats during the T20 cricket international against Pakistan at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Sunday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HAMILTON, JAN 14

New Zealand overcame the loss of its captain in an innings that faltered late to beat Pakistan by 21 runs in the second Twenty20 international Sunday, taking a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

The Black Caps failed to build on the foundation of the first half of its innings, making 194-8 batting first after being 111-1 at the end of 10 overs. The batting slump followed captain Kane Williamson retiring hurt after 10 overs with a tight hamstring.

Pakistan also stumbled in the second half of its innings and was bowled out for 173 in the 20th over.

Williamson is making a managed return from a serious knee injury and New Zealand would fear any setback to his rehabilitation. But while he didn't field, Williamson was still padded up and apparently prepared to bat at the end of the New Zealand innings.

Finn Allen's 74 from 41 balls set a cracking pace early on in the New Zealand innings. Allen put on 59 in 5.1 overs with Devon Conway (20) for the first wicket and 52 in 4.9 overs with Williamson before the Kiwi captain

retired hurt on 26.

The innings began to falter at that point and New Zealand lost 3-35 between the 11th and 16th overs. Allen was out at 137-2, then Daryl Mitchell fell at 147 and Mark Chapman followed at 157 as the innings began to trend sharply downwards.

Mitchell Santner made a bright 25 before being wastefully run out as New Zealand lost its last seven wickets for 55 runs.

"It was a good surface which we've come to expect here at Sedden Park and the way Finn Allen and the boys at the top set it up was very pleasing," New Zealand's stand-in captain Tim Southee said. "But Pakistan pulled it back well and the two innings were quite similar in a way."

New Zealand was relieved Pakistan also produced an innings of two halves. It looked well on course to level the series when Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman made half centuries in an 87-run partnership for the third wicket.

Fakhar reached his half century from 23 balls with three fours and five sixes and seemed likely to follow Allen in providing the impetus for a substantial innings. But he was out at that

score and the onus once again fell on Babar to guide Pakistan home.

He made 57 and was the anchor of Pakistan's innings in the first international at Auckland on Friday when the tourists fell 46 runs short in a demanding run chase.

Babar followed his 31st T20 international half century with his 32nd Sunday, again as the bulwark of the Pakistan batting.

But he fell for 66 to the first ball of the 18th over when Pakistan was 153-5, needing 42 from the last 18 balls.

He was out to the bowling of speedster Ben Sears as he was in the first match and his dismissal again heralded the beginning of the end for Pakistan.

Sears, Adam Milne and Southee helped New Zealand put the brakes on Pakistan at the end of its innings. Milne took 4-33, Sears 2-28, Southee 2-31 and Ish Sodhi took 2-33 after conceding 19 runs from his first over.

"Milne was outstanding with the ball and Sears is a young guy who shows a lot of character at this level," Southee said. "I think Ish Sodhi shouldn't be overlooked in his effort to come back and get two vital wickets for us."

Defending champion Djokovic fends off first-timer Prizmic in 4 hours to advance in Australia

Djokovic has developed a record at the Australian Open that no man can match, with 10 titles among his unprecedented career haul.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MELBOURNE, JAN 14

Until he took on defending champion Novak Djokovic at Rod Laver Arena on opening Sunday in Australia, Dino Prizmic had never played a Grand Slam match.

The 18-year-old Croatian qualifier, who was born seven months after Djokovic made his Grand Slam debut in 2005, made it last as long as he could. He unsettled the 24-time major winner before Djokovic finished off the match 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4.

Djokovic has developed a record at the Australian Open that no man can match, with 10 titles here among his unprecedented career haul. He later said he'd been feeling "under the weather" for four or five days but credited Prizmic's talent.

The first set played out just about as expected. From there, it became quite a ride.

Prizmic took the second set off Djokovic and went up a break in the third, stunning a capacity crowd, before the world's No. 1-ranked player broke back and took the set.

Prizmic didn't give up when he trailed 4-0 in the fourth, either, saving a breakpoint before getting a service break back. He saved three match points at 5-3 down and made Djokovic serve it out. He then saved a further two match points before it ended in 4 hours and 1 minute.

"He deserved every applause, every credit he got tonight," Djokovic said. "Amazing performance for someone that is 18 years old and never had the experience of playing on a big stage. Kudos to him."

The first of three Sundays — an extra day was introduced at Melbourne Park to try to reduce the number of post-midnight finishes — didn't have quite the desired outcome.

Fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev needed four hours to beat Thiago Seyboth Wild 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (6). He later admitted fears his first-round match against Seyboth Wild would end like his friend Daniil Medvedev's did at last year's French Open: in an upset.

No. 12 Taylor Fritz needed a medical timeout to get his left ankle taped in the second set before he recovered to beat Facundo Diaz Acosta 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in a seesawing four-hour match.

Frances Tiafoe, the 17th seed, beat Borna Coric 6-3, 7-6 (7), 2-6, 6-3 in 3 1/2 hours and Daniel Elahi Galan needed almost five hours to beat Australia's Jason Kubler 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-6 (8).



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning the third set against Croatia's Dino Prizmic during their first round match at the Australian Open at Melbourne Park on Sunday.

Djokovic's late finish meant defending women's champion Aryna Sabalenka didn't start until 11:41 p.m. local time. The No. 2 seed didn't waste much time until right near the end, ousting 18-year-old Ella Seidel 6-0, 6-1 in 53 minutes on her seventh match point.

The first match on Rod Laver was also over quickly, with Italy's Davis Cup star Jannik Sinner advancing after a 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 first-round win over No. 59-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp in 2 1/2 hours. It was his first match since a memorable November when he twice beat Djokovic and won the Davis Cup.

"Means a lot to me to start off with a win," fourth-seeded Sinner said in a post-match TV interview as a half-dozen fans dressed in carrot costumes cheered from the stands. "Physically, I feel good. I'm here in good shape. I think I can be happy for today."

Women's eighth seed Maria Sakkari admitted her relief after she beat Nao Hibino of Japan 6-4, 6-1, her first Grand Slam win since last year's Australian Open.

"I lost three first rounds in my last three Grand Slams," she said. "For me, it was a very difficult match today emotionally. I'm happy I managed to do the job right and play a good second set."

Also advancing were 2021 U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez, who beat 17-year-old Sara Bejlek 7-6 (5), 6-2 and No. 9 Barbora Krejickova, who rallied from a set and a break down to beat Mai Hontama 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Two 16-year-old players advanced to the second round: Brenda Fruhvirtova recorded her first Grand Slam win, overcoming Anna Bogdan 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Alina Korneeva — the Australian Open junior champion last year — who rallied to beat Sara Sorribes Tormo 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Another Russian qualifier, Maria Timofeeva had a 6-2, 6-4 win over Alize Cornet, who was appearing in a women's record 68th consecutive Grand Slam event.

Timofeeva will next face 2018 champion Caroline Wozniacki, who in her first Australian Open since becoming a mom advanced when 20th-seeded Magda Linette retired while trailing 6-2, 2-0.

Amanda Anisimova continued her comeback from a career break with a 6-3, 6-4 win over No. 13-seeded Liudmila Samsonova.

Rublev did it tough, wasting four match points in the fifth set. He then fell behind 5-2 in the match tiebreaker before winning eight of the next nine points to clinch it against a player on his Australian Open debut.

Seyboth Wild upset major winner Medvedev in the first round at Roland Garros last year and Rublev admitted he felt the momentum going the same way before he decided to relax and go for broke.


"For sure, I will not forget this one," said Rublev, who opened the year with a title in Hong Kong. "Thiago is a super dangerous player. Super talented. He's hitting so hard, so clean."

HOROSCOPE




ARIES (March 21-April 19)

A burst of activity could throw off your balance. Pace yourself when navigating these vibes, finding time for solitude this afternoon. You'll have a chance to knock down barriers tonight, though you'll want to prepare for what comes next.




CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Prioritize wellness as the day begins, even if doing so creates temporary imbalances in your schedule. You'll feel more at ease this afternoon, especially when you choose to operate from a place of compassion. Consider how your behaviours impact others.




LEO (July 23-August 22)

Try not to let uncertainty spoil your morning, dear Leo. This could lead to ego bruises, power struggles and shrouded confidence, making it important to touch base with yourself at a core level. Luckily, sweeter vibes prevail in the afternoon.



VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

Harmonious yet electrifying vibes flow this morning, dearest Virgo, paving the way for enlightening dreams. Just be sure to check in with your heart once you've awakened, understanding that you must nurture yourself before focusing on loved ones.




LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

Your mind may feel slightly out of sorts as the day begins. Do yourself a favour by staying quiet, avoiding arguments or distractions and focusing on to-do lists. Sweetness finds you later in the day, asking you to embrace love.




SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

Be mindful of your surroundings and the people who fill them, dear Scorpio. This vibe threatens a decreased self-awareness, while moody companions could cause you to disconnect. Luckily, clarity will be restored once afternoon settles in.




SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Emotions strain this morning, dear Sagittarius, making it important that you check in with your mood before dealing with others. Luckily, you'll feel more grounded and compassionate as the afternoon settles in, especially when you seek healing amongst nature.




CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

You won't be in the mood to play nice or fake pleasantries. Consider keeping a low profile if you feel agitated or blue, avoiding further conflict by nurturing your mind in private. Opportunities to say what you arise tonight.



AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

Take a break from the news, your screen and social media feeds. Take time to hone in on minor details that add up to beautiful pictures this afternoon, bringing a soothing and surreal energy to the table.



PISCES (February 19-March 20)

The morning brings forth strange and enlightening messages while you dream. Unfortunately, it may be hard to reclaim focus in the afternoon, making it important that you seize control of your thoughts by honing in on your responsibilities.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Fungi

6 Rock ledge

11 T'ai — ch'uan

14 Sports venue

15 Twangy, as a voice

16 Cereal grain

17 High standard

18 Aluminum company

19 Fast-food acronym

20 The lowdown

22 Enforcing power

24 "Walden" author

28 Diplomat's post

30 Backpacking

31 More crafty

32 Out of place

33 Crooks

37 Ben & Jerry rival

38 Prince Valiant's wife

39 Diving bird

40 Burst of gunfire

43 Authoritative doctrine

45 Please, in Germany

46 Dry red wine

47 Printed cottons

50 Knickknack stand

51 Lift

52 Discover

53 German physicist

DOWN

1 Printemps month

2 California's Fort —

3 Peggy or Brenda

4 Chromosome material

5 Prominent

6 Big mix-up

7 Angel's topper

8 Comp. bailout key

9 Mekong native

10 Heavy-duty truck

11 Steel mill fuels

12 Tool handles

13 Raring to go

21 Complain constantly

23 — Derr Biggers

24 Pickpocket

25 Like Gandhi

26 Gives a thumbs-up (var.)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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

4-28-23 © 2023 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

27 Pull apart by force

28 Ruling class

29 Talking bird

31 Dane's neighbor

33 Ribs, slangily

34 Silent flyer

35 Gossip's delight

36 Zip over the ice

38 Low voice

41 White wader

42 Hunter's need

43 Makes numb

44 Dot-com alternative

46 Geog. feature

47 Small farm

48 Oohed and —

49 Sketches

50 Lightweight quilt

52 Hack's customer

55 Startled cries

56 Witty remark

58 Boxy vehicle

59 Nonflying bird

60 Gray-clad soldier

61 Fabric meas.

SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

