

SULTANATE WELCOMES SUDAN PEACE PACT

Muscat: The Sultanate welcomed the Sudan Peace Pact signed in Juba between the transitional government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Revolutionary Front under the patronage of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Ali bin Suliman Al Darmaki, the Sultanate's ambassador to Sudan, represented the Sultanate at the signing ceremony. **-ONA**



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OMAN COMMITTED TO PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

The Sultanate has reaffirmed that it is relentlessly working to achieve the objectives of sustainable development in the field of protection of natural resources by preserving biodiversity and natural life and by conducting a number of field research and studies for management of species. **>A5**



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PANDEMIC

City bus services to resume in Muscat today



Times News Service

MUSCAT: City bus services operated by Mwasalat will resume in Muscat Governorate from today onwards, after temporarily halting services to stop the spread of COVID-19.

A statement issued by the company said, "Dear valued customers we would like to inform you that city bus services in Muscat Governorate will be operational starting from October 4, 2020."

Safety measures

As part of returning to operations, Mwasalat will undertake a number of measures to keep its passengers safe, and its fleets clean. All buses will be sterilised on a daily basis. This includes seats, handles, and other parts of the bus at the beginning and

end of each trip.

To offset the costs of maintaining its fleet, the transport operator has raised ticket fares by 500 baisa on intercity buses, and by 100 baisa on city buses, while ensuring that hand sanitisers will be provided to passengers on all vehicles.

Passengers will only be allowed to board after their temperature has been checked, while the number of people allowed to ride on board will be limited, by ensuring alternate seats in vehicles are left vacant. All bus stations will also have the necessary measures implemented.

People who intend to travel on board the buses must wear a face mask, avoid standing for the duration of the journey, and commit to all precautionary measures issued by Mwasalat. **>A2**

HM OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF SHEIKH SABAH

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and his accompanying delegation on Thursday offered condolences to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, Al Sabah Ruling Family and the brotherly people of Kuwait on the death of the forgiven, by the will of Allah, the late Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, when Sheikh Nawaf received His Majesty the Sultan at the Emiri Airport. **>A2**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Dar Al Atta'a funds for Beirut blast victims

1 Oman Charitable Organisation CEO Ali bin Ibrahim Al Raisi received a cheque of OMR71,123 from Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, the Chairperson of Dar Al Atta'a Association. **>A3**

WORLD

Hospital stay for US President Trump

2 US President Donald Trump will be in hospital for the next few days after testing positive for COVID. **>A6**



MARKET

Over 1.7mn malware, email threats averted

3 In the first half of 2020, Oman tallied up to 2,599,031 email, URL, and malware threats. **>B1**

SAFE TRAVEL THROUGH THE SULTANATE'S AIRPORTS

A number of security measures have been implemented at airports in the country to limit the spread of COVID-19 disease



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expatriates returning to Oman have shared their experiences of coming back during COVID-19, after Oman's airports were allowed to reopen on October 1.

A number of security measures

have been implemented at airports in the country to limit the spread of the disease.

Indian expat Mohammed Akif was among the first to return, landing in Muscat in the early hours of October 1. He had first flown from Bangalore to Mangalore, where he boarded the flight to Muscat.

"Airlines are no longer offering to print tickets at the airport, you have to print them in advance and then go there," he said, recalling his journey.

"They aren't offering us baggage tags either: there is a machine in the airport that prints it for you, and you have to attach them to the

luggage yourself. After checking my temperature, I was allowed to go through a security check.

"The authorities in the Indian airports were quite strict," added Akif, who works in Oman as an HSE professional. "Yes, everyone had to wear masks, but they were very clear that social distancing

needed to be enforced. I was quite afraid, because I thought I too would become infected by COVID-19 during my journey... fortunately, though, nothing of that sort happened."

"On coming to Oman, my temperature was checked once again, and all the passengers who hadn't reserved their COVID-tests in advance had to stand in a queue," he said. "Two lines were formed: one for those who had to pay by card, another for those who paid cash. The cost of the test is about OMR19, but you need to pay OMR25 because they issue you a tracking bracelet that you have to wear during quarantine."

Passengers arriving in Oman have to download the Tarasud+ and HMushrif apps on their phone to help monitor them during their quarantine period in the country. Quarantine is mandatory for anyone spending more than a week in the Sultanate. **>A2**

WEATHER

Oman recorded 26% more rainfall last year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rainfall received in Oman rose from 74.7 mm in 2017 to 94.3 mm in 2019, reflecting a 26 per cent increase during this period.

According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the rainfall received in 2019 was also 16.7 per cent higher than it had been in 2018, when the country saw 80.8 mm of rain.

"December came first in terms of the highest amount of rainfall in the Sultanate in 2019, recording 1778.4 mm, while January recorded the lowest amount at about 185.6 mm," said the NCSI. "Marmul Airport station recorded the highest amount of rainfall in the Sultanate, with 433.6 mm in March 2019."



Oman saw adverse weather in 2019 that played a part in it receiving so much rainfall. Tropical Cyclone Hikaa made landfall in Oman on September 24 last year, while the first week of November saw the rare phenomenon of back-to-back storms forming in the Arabian Sea, as Tropical Storm Maha was formed just days after the birth of Cyclone Kyarr.

Explaining the increase in rainfall witnessed last year, Humaid Al Badi, a meteorologist from the Directorate General of Meteorology, said, "It depends on many atmospheric factors, both at ground level and in the skies, according to temperature, pressure and winds, as well as the surface temperature of the oceans, which in this case are the Pacific and Indian Oceans, as their activities affect Oman."

"All of this creates clouds and grooves of high pressure in the atmosphere, and also leads to cyclones and tropical situations over the Arabian Sea, the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Gulf," he added.

Adding to this, Kathryn Hansen of the NASA Earth Observatory said last year, "Of all tropical cyclones that occur around the planet each year, only seven per cent are in the North Indian Ocean. They infrequently brush the Arabian Peninsula, and the region can go years without a storm. "That said, 2018 brought more storms than usual, with three significant cyclones—Sagar, Mekunu, and Luban—bringing damaging wind and rain to Yemen and Oman," she added. "Cyclones tend to occur here in spring and autumn."



Majestic mountains, breathtaking wadis

A4

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:01pm
Asr.....3:24pm
Maghrib.....5:56pm
Isha.....7:06pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:45am



LATE EMIR OF KUWAIT

His Majesty offers condolences on death of Sheikh Sabah

KUWAIT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and his accompanying delegation on Thursday offered condolences to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, Al Sabah Ruling Family and the brotherly people of Kuwait on the death of the forgiven, by the will of Allah, the late Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, when Sheikh Nawaf received His Majesty the Sultan at the Emiri Airport this afternoon.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere and heartfelt sympathies on the immense loss of the departed Emir, praying to the Almighty Allah to have mercy on his soul, to rest him in peace in heavens and grant Al Sabah Family and the brotherly people of Kuwait fortitude to bear the loss.

In his turn, the Emir of Kuwait expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan and his accompanying delegation for their ardent sentiments. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect His Majesty the Sultan, grant him continued good health and spare Omani people all harm.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during condolence offering by an official delegation comprising the following:

His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan, His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al-Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Oufi, Head of the Private Office, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, Dr. Abdullah bin Nassir Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousuf, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Dr. Saleh bin A'amir Al Kharousi, the Sultanate's Ambassador to the State of Kuwait. — **ONA**



MWASALAT

< FROM A1 Resumption of bus services

The resumption of bus services inside the capital region comes just a few days after Mwasalat announced the return of intercity bus services, which began on September 27. "In order to ensure the efficiency of the gradual return of intercity bus services, we illustrate the most important details, which include the following," said Mohammed Al Youssefi, the company's head of Planning Section for Public Intercity Transport.

"Services will resume to various governorates of the Sultanate, with the exception of Route 100, Muscat to Salalah, and Route 201, Muscat to Dubai. "500 baizas will be added to the price of each ticket bought on intercity bus services, to make sterilisation and continuous cleaning possible," he said.

SAFE TRAVEL

< FROM A1 Passengers asked to pre-book PCR tests before landing in Muscat

"The test only takes about 10 to 15 seconds," recalled Akif, who is currently undergoing domestic quarantine at his company-provided accommodation in Al Khuwair.

"The doctor puts a swap up your nose to take a sample of your fluids. To be honest, it is a little painful, because immediately afterwards, it caused tears to well up in my eyes. I have left my contact number with the team there, and they will contact me if my results are positive."

Among those who returned was Pakistani national Mushtaq Ahmed, who is employed in Salalah.

His company organised all of the documentation for him, enabling him to safely make the journey to Oman.

"I didn't take a COVID test before leaving Pakistan for Oman, but it is now being recommended for all passengers coming to the country," said Ahmed, who is from Lahore.

"Planning your journey can be troublesome, but fortunately, my company provided me with a ticket so there was less hassle for me. I am currently quarantining in my home here, and will start work once I finish."

Passengers coming to Oman must ensure they have insurance to cover the costs of COVID-19 for up to a month.

Travel agents are offering insurance to people who book tickets with them, as was the case with Ilyas Sayeed, a native of Hyderabad in India.

"The health insurance provided by most companies in Oman does not include coverage for the coronavirus, so I had to take this out myself," he said.

"Of course, you can book your insurance through a broker in Muscat if they provide it, but it was a lot easier to just get it done from the travel agent through at the time of booking my ticket. There was no hassle in getting any of this done."

Oman Airports has recommended passengers pre-book their PCR tests before landing in Muscat, to reduce waiting times once they arrive. Bookings can be done at <https://covid19.moh.gov.om/#/> traveler-reg.

The link also enables arrivals to complete their payments ahead of travelling.

"It is a pretty hassle-free process, but it can be challenging for people who are not computer-literate or not familiar with technology," added Sayeed. "They will need some help in booking their tests."

Follow safety protocols

Another recent returnee, Raghavendra Naik, said the flight crew made sure everyone on board followed the safety protocols issued to prevent infection from COVID-19.

"Everyone had to wear masks and gloves," he said. "It was a little different to what we normally do when we go outside otherwise, because normally, we just wear a mask, maybe carry some hand sanitiser, and that's it. On the plane, however, a lot of people were also wearing face masks."

"We weren't served the regular meal either," added Naik, who comes from Mangalore. "We were given a snack box that had a sandwich and a piece of cake, which was placed on every seat. Once we'd finished with it, we had to keep the box in the seat pocket in front of us, and the crew would take it."

The reopening of airports means Omanis and residents can also fly out of the country and return.

Imran Khan will be travelling to Mumbai on 15 October to meet his family, having last seen them before the pandemic began.

"I have four children, and they keep asking about me, so it has been very difficult to spend life without them," he said.

"Every time we speak on the phone, the first question they ask me is when I am coming to see them. It has not been possible for so long, but now I have been given the chance to go on a scheduled leave of 45 days.

"I will get a PCR test done from here before leaving, so that I do not have to quarantine in India," added Khan.

"But my advice to those going to their home countries is to get another test done shortly after landing, because the surfaces in the airports and other areas through which you pass come into contact with a lot of people, and despite the best efforts of everyone to keep things clean, you never know how you might get infected."

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Booklet on birds highlights Oman's natural heritage

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing its efforts to raise awareness on the Sultanate's unique environmental heritage, the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) has released a new booklet, 'Raptors of Oman'.

Available online for free, the booklet offers an introduction to the various raptors, or birds of prey, found in Oman, their diet, status and ways to identify them.

Written in both English and Arabic, it includes fun illustrations to appeal to children, too. Made possible with proceeds from the 'Wild Oman' art exhibition by Violet Astor, this booklet is part of ESO's efforts to engage the public and bolster Oman's conservation commitment to the important raptors that live here seasonally or year-round.

Maia Sarrouf Willson, Research & Conservation Manager at ESO, said, "The Sultanate is a stronghold for a number of raptors whose declining populations are a cause for concern, several of which are listed as endangered or vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Our research work continues to focus on ensuring their survival and resources like this booklet are important ways to transmit knowledge and love for these magnificent birds, and ultimately, contribute to their conservation. We have collaborated with the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group to ensure it reaches a wider and diversified audience".

Contributor Dr. Michael McGrady, Director of International Avian Research, added, "Global threats to raptors are varied, and include habitat loss and degradation, changes in food availability, human disturbance



Around 39 species of raptors are found in the Sultanate.

and persecution, and illegal trafficking. Climate change is likely to affect raptors, too.

"In Oman, disturbance, persecution, electrocution, decline in prey populations and food availability, and inadvertent poisoning are the main threats. As they play a key role in the eco-system, the protection of these species is not only important to Oman, but to the rest of the world."

Around 39 species of raptors occur in Oman, either as residents or visitors, including the Egyptian Vulture, the Steppe Eagle, the Lappet-faced Vulture, the Saker Falcon, the Sooty Falcon, the Eastern Imperial Eagle and the Greater Spotted Eagle. 11 species are featured in detail in the booklet, with photos and illustrations. The other 28 species are listed in a table format along with their status in Oman and their IUCN conservation status. The booklet is part of a wider campaign from ESO, which includes field surveys, satellite tracking and outreach activities. A panel discussion with prominent raptor experts was organised online to launch the booklet.

To view the 40-page booklet along with a downloadable poster, visit http://eso.org.om/UserFiles/files/Raptors_Booklet_Online.pdf

Dar Al Atta'a raises over OMR 71,000 for Beirut blast victims

The fund raising campaign had the partnership of a number of other organisations as well as artists

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Chief Executive Officer of Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO), Ali bin Ibrahim Al Raisi received a cheque of OMR71,123 from Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, the Chairperson of Dar Al Atta'a Association, for the victims of the blast that recently hit the port of Beirut in Lebanon resulting in a number of deaths and injuries to several others besides the destruction of a number of houses, commercial stores and other buildings.

The amount was raised through a campaign run in partnership with Muscat Auction, Jawahir Oman, Dar Al Aseel, Falafil Restaurant, Zahr Ellaymoun Restaurant and Hali Gifts. The campaign also saw the participation of artists Maryam Al Wahaibi, Buthaina Al Aliyani, Omaima Al Hinai, Shamsa Al Harthi, Halima Al Balushi and Rebeca Nigrinis.

Dar Al Atta'a extended their thanks to all individuals and establishments for their contributions that added to the success of the campaign. Dar Al Atta'a has earlier organised relief campaigns



SUPPORTING A NOBLE CAUSE: Maryam bint Issa Al Zadjali, the Chairperson of Dar Al Atta'a Association, handed over the cheque to Ali bin Ibrahim Al Raisi, Chief Executive Officer of the Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO). Photo-Supplied

for Gaza Strip, Yemen, Syria and Rohingya refugees within the Association's belief that Oman is an integral part to the international community and that the support

to others during crises reflects the values of the Omani society.

It is worth mentioning that the Disaster Management Programme is one of the key programmes of

Dar Al Atta'a and is concerned with the support and assistance during crises at the local and international level in cooperation with Oman Charitable Organisation.

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Minister inspects city project in the Wilayat of Liwa



MUSCAT: Dr. Khalfan bin Said bin Mubarak Al-Shu'a'ili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning has paid an inspection visit to the new city project in the Wilayat of Liwa of North Al

Batinah Governorate to acquaint with the work progress and phases of the project.

The new city project comprises 2,963 residential plots on a total area of 1,256 hectares. -ONA

BEAUTIFUL
OMAN

AL KHABOURAH:
MAJESTIC
MOUNTAINS,
BREATHTAKING
WADIS



WHERE: Located about 176 kilometres from Muscat, the wilayat of Al Khabourah is in the North Batinah Governorate. It stretches from the borders of Saham in the north to Al Suwaiq in the South and Al Dhahirah in the West. There are 198 villages in this wilayat.

WHAT'S SPECIAL: Known for its archaeological landmarks, nature and history, Al Khabourah has many castles of which Al Khabourah Castle is the most famous one. It is one of the top tourist destinations in the Sultanate and is located little less than 2 kilometre from the main centre of Sohar. The castle has a courtyard at the centre and the main entrance is located on the northern side. The wilayat also has many wadis of which Wadi Al Hawasnah, Wadi Al Sarmi, Wadi Shafan, Wadi Halhal, Wadi Miha Bani Kayoum and Sanaa Bani Ghafir are the significant ones. Wadi Al Hawasnah and Al Gaizain village are two popular tourist attractions. While Wadi Al Hawasnah is known for its natural water pools, Al Gaizain village is popular for its lush foothills, majestic mountains and breathtaking wadis. One can also see terraced farms here that adds to the beauty of the place. The lush greenery of Wadi Al Homdh is quite an attraction. There are also a number of valleys and trees of many kinds. Palm, lemon and various types of fruit bearing trees grow here. Al Sihra, Al Qala, Khadra Al Makatim, Sanaa Bani Ghafir and Miha Bani Kayoum are some of the villages visited by tourists.

LIVELIHOOD: People living here are engaged in agriculture, sheep herding, fishing, Khanjar making, weaving, pottery, copper, leather industries and other traditional handicrafts.





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FRENCH BANK

Oman’s diversification hailed

PARIS: A report issued by “Societe Generale” Bank of France has hailed the actions and measures taken by the Sultanate to put the national economy in the right track as well as the efforts on diversification of economy.

The report said that to reduce dependency on raw materials, the Sultanate has set actions for diversification of its economy within Oman Vision 2040 Plan which aimed to increase investment in the sectors of tourism, financial services and ports’ activities.

The report said that Oman has, since 2004, witnessed exceptional economic development, which is ascribed to utilisation of its oil reserves, however, the growth rate decreased in 2019 to 0.5 per cent. According to the latest IMF’s forecasts, the total gross domestic product (GDP) of Oman due to COVID-19 is expected to dip to 2.8 percent in 2020 and to rise to 3 per cent in 2021 with the expected recovery from COVID-19 impacts and due to increase in natural gas production, the report added. —**ONA**

UN CONFERENCE

Oman committed to protecting biodiversity and natural life

MUSCAT: The Sultanate reaffirmed that it is relentlessly working to achieve the objectives of sustainable development in the field of protection of natural resources by preserving biodiversity and natural life.

Oman is also conducting a number of field research and studies for management of different species.

The Sultanate’s representative spoke during the participation at the UN Conference on biodiversity held in pursuant to the decision No. 47/562 of the 75th meeting of the UN General Assembly held via videoconferencing this year.



The UN Conference on Biodiversity aimed to shed light on the need for taking actions to put in place an international

framework for biodiversity for the period beyond 2020.

Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Amri, Head of Environment Authority represented the Sultanate at the conference who pointed to the country’s efforts on development and management of natural sanctuaries in partnership with the local communities and civil establishments and the private sector.

He also spoke on Oman Vision 2040 which he said focused among other aspects on preservation of environment and natural resources as the priorities of the Government of Oman to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. —**ONA**

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EMBASSY OF INDIA

Embassy of India to organise International Day of Non Violence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy of India in Muscat will, on October 5, hold celebrations which will be streamed live on its Facebook and YouTube pages, as well as on its official website.

With Gandhi’s birth anniversary – which falls on October 2 – also being marked as the International Day of Non Violence, the event will be held in collaboration with the Raja Yoga Centre for Self Development.

A statement from the embassy said, “Various dignitaries from Oman and overseas will join this year’s virtual celebration on Monday 5th, October.

Munu Mahawar, Ambassador of India will speak about the importance of the event. Sister Jayanti, director, Europe and Middle East, of the Brahma Kumaris, and the NGO representative to



Munu Mahawar, envoy of India.

the UN, will deliver the keynote address.”

From India, B.K. Asha, director of the Om Shanti Retreat Centre of the Brahma Kumaris, will deliver the felicitation address. Various dignitaries and youth from Oman will be joining in the celebration.

In celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy of India Muscat had organised various competitions

amongst the youth.

Gandhi influenced a lot of people with his ideals. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was deeply enlightened by concepts, which included ideals such as the ‘love your enemies philosophy’, which inspired him to fight for African-American rights without the use of weapons and violence.

Nelson Mandela, known as the father of South Africa, was also deeply influenced by Gandhi’s teachings. Mandela had called Gandhi one of the greatest influences in his life.

Former US President Barack Obama said in September 2009 that his biggest inspiration came from Gandhi. In a subsequent address to the Parliament of India in 2010, Obama said, “I am mindful that I might not be standing before you today as President of the United States, had it not been for Gandhi and the message he shared with America and the world.”



DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

The Chairman, Board, Management and employees of **C. Steinweg Oman LLC** express our deepest condolences to **His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah,** Emir of Kuwait, the Royal Family and the people of Kuwait on the sad demise of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, late Emir of Kuwait.

May the soul of His Highness rest in eternal peace.



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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

India's COVID-19 toll surpasses 100,000

NEW DELHI: With an increase of 1,069 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, the COVID-19 toll surpassed 100,000 in India on Saturday, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

With the latest increase, the COVID-19 toll in the country now stands at 100,842. Meanwhile, the country reported 79,476 new cas-



es, taking the tally of people infected with coronavirus to 6,473,545, the Ministry said.

The total COVID-19 count includes 9,44,996 active cases and 5,427,707 cured, discharged or migrated cases.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst affected by the pandemic with 261,313 active cases, 1,117,720 cured and discharged cases and

37,480 deaths.

Karnataka with 112,005 active cases is the next on the list. While 499,506 patients have been cured in the state, the disease has claimed 9,119 lives so far.

Kerala with 77,564 active cases is also severely affected, however, 135,144 patients have been cured in the state and 791 people have died due to COVID-19. **ANI**



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FRESH PRESSURE

Germany urges EU to impose curbs on Russia over Navalny poisoning

BERLIN: Germany on Saturday put the European Union under fresh pressure to impose sanctions on Russia over the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

"I am convinced that there will be no longer any way around sanctions," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told news portal t-online.

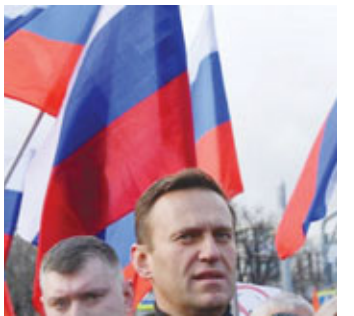
"Sanctions must always be targeted and proportionate. But such a grave violation of the International Chemical Weapons Convention cannot be left unanswered. On this, we're united in Europe," he added.

His comments appeared to contradict German political grandee and Parliament President Wolfgang Schäuble, who called for greater cooperation with Moscow in an interview with DW on Friday.

Novichok identified

Navalny, a fierce critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was hospitalised on August 20 after falling ill on a domestic flight in Siberia.

Two days later he was transferred to Berlin at the behest of his family after they held mis-



givings about his medical care in Russia.

The German government subsequently said a military laboratory had found "unequivocal" evidence that the internationally banned chemical nerve agent Novichok had been used in the attack on Navalny. The findings were confirmed by French and Swedish laboratories.

"If the result of the German, Swedish and French laboratories is confirmed, there will be a clear response from the EU. I'm sure about that," Maas said.

Navalny was discharged from Berlin's Charite hospital on September 23, with medics suggesting a complete recovery is possible. **rw**

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said

Trump, who has mild symptoms, remains in good spirits



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump will stay at a military hospital for the next few days after testing positive for COVID-19, the White House said on Friday.

In a statement, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said Trump, who has mild symptoms, remains in good spirits and has been working throughout the day.

"Out of an abundance of caution, and at the recommendation of his physician and medical experts, the

President will be working from the presidential offices at Walter Reed for the next few days," McEnany said, referring to a military hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.

"President Trump appreciates the outpouring of support for both he and the First Lady," the press secretary added. White House communications aide Alyssa Farah told CNN that Trump has not

transferred his power temporarily to Vice President Mike Pence under the 25th amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

"The president is in charge," she said. Trump announced on early Friday morning that he and his wife, Melania, had tested positive for COVID-19 shortly after confirming a close aide to him had contracted the virus.

In a new memo, White House physician Sean Conley said Trump "remains fatigued but in good spirits" as of Friday afternoon.

"As a precautionary measure he received a single 8 gram dose of Regeneron's polyclonal antibody cocktail. He completed the infusion without incident," Conley wrote. "In addition to the polyclonal antibodies, the President has been taking zinc, vitamin D, famotidine, melatonin and a daily aspirin."

The doctor added the first lady "remains well with only a mild cough and headache" and that the remainder of the first family are well and tested negative for COVID-19 on Friday.

Pence, other members of Trump's cabinet, and several of his senior advisors have taken COVID-19 tests and the results were negative. 2020 Democratic presidential nominee and former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden also tested negative for the virus.

"This cannot be a partisan moment," Biden tweeted on Friday afternoon. "We have to come together as a nation." **Xinhua**

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Nadal wins 96th French Open match, Wawrinka stunned by French wildcard

Nadal will face Sebastian Korda, the son of 1998 Australian Open winner Petr Korda, in the next round

PARIS: Defending champion Rafael Nadal stormed into the fourth round at the French Open with another straight-sets win, beating Italy's Stefano Travaglia 6-1, 6-4, 6-0 on Friday.

It was also the 96th victory at Roland Garros for the Spaniard, who is seeking a 20th Grand Slam title to equal Roger Federer's record.

"We are in a very strange situation, after a lot of months without much tennis, especially for me, that I didn't play in America, I don't know if it's a positive thing or a negative thing," Nadal said when asked how important it was to keep the early-round matches short and sweet.

"But I take it as a very positive thing. I am playing quite well to win against a player like Stefano today with this score.

"It's because I did a lot of things well. I played more aggressively than the previous days. I went to the net more often, and I hit a lot of winners," added the 12-time



WINNER: Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return during the men's singles third round match against Stefano Travaglia of Italy at French Open tennis tournament 2020 at Roland Garros, in Paris.

French Open champion, who needed only one hour and 35 minutes to see off his opponent.

Nadal will face Sebastian Korda, the son of 1998 Australian Open winner Petr Korda, in the next round.

The American youngster secured his first appearance in a Grand Slam round of 16 by beating

fellow qualifier Pedro Martinez 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 to advance.

Former champion and No. 16 seed Stan Wawrinka was the biggest star who saw his run at this year's Roland Garros end on Friday. The Swiss star was turfed out by French wildcard and world No. 239 Hugo Gaston 2-6,

6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 in a five-set battle lasting over three hours.

Gaston is to challenge third seed Dominic Thiem in the fourth round. Earlier in the day, the Austrian had claimed another straight-sets victory over 28th seed Casper Ruud, beating the Norwegian 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

"I'm very happy. It was a great match, I didn't make any mistakes. Casper is a really great player, very attractive to play, I think there were many good rallies, it was a good match from both of us," said the recently-crowned US Open champion.

The world No. 4, and two-time

finalist at Roland Garros in 2018 and 2019, reached the fourth round in Paris for the five consecutive years.

Simona Halep

In women's actions, top seed Simona Halep took sweet revenge on her opponent from last year's French Open defeat, trouncing American teenager Amanda Anisimova 6-0, 6-1 to progress.

The 2018 champion lost to Anisimova in the quarterfinals in Paris last year, but this time the Romanian needed only 54 minutes to complete a convincing victory.

"I think I played a really good match. I was very aggressive. I knew from last year I had to change something, so I really wanted to be better than last year and definitely, I was today," said the world No. 2.

The two-time Grand Slam winner committed just seven unforced errors throughout the one-sided encounter and broke her opponent's serve six times.

Next up for Halep is another 19-year-old youngster, Iga Swiatek of Poland, whom Halep defeated in the round of 16 here last year.

Third seed Elina Svitolina cruised past 27th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-4, 7-5 to advance to the next round. Argentinian qualifier Nadia Podoroska extended her stunning run on clay after the restart of the season, as the 23-year-old dispatched Anna Karolina Schmiedlova 6-3, 6-2 to become the first Argentinian women's player to reach the fourth round in Paris since 2011. **Xinhua**

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Padikkal, Kohli steer RCB to eight-wicket win over Rajasthan

ABU DHABI: Opener Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Virat Kohli guided Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) to an eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals here at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Saturday.

Chasing a moderate target of 155, RCB had a 25-run brief partnership for the first wicket. Shreyas Gopal provided the first breakthrough for Rajasthan as he dismissed Aaron Finch (8) in the third over. Skipper Virat Kohli then joined Devdutt Padikkal in the middle and built a huge 99-run partnership for the second wicket. Meanwhile, Padikkal scored his third half-century of the season. He played a knock of 63 runs before he was bowled by Jofra Archer in the 16th over.

AB de Villiers and Kohli had an unbeaten stand of 34-run and took the side over the line. Kohli remained unbeaten on 72 runs while ABD scored 12 runs.

Earlier, a late onslaught by Rahul Tewatia and a gutsy knock by Mahipal Lomror powered Rajasthan Royals to post a total of 154 runs in their allotted 20 overs.

Tewatia smashed three sixes and scored 24 runs at a strike of 200 to take Royals over 150 run mark. Royals smashed 37 runs in their last three overs.



EIGHT-WICKET WIN: Virat Kohli, captain of Royal Challengers Bangalore congratulates Devdutt Padikkal for scoring a fifty.

Opting to bat first, Royals got off to a flyer with Jos Buttler smashing boundaries early in the innings. However, Isuru Udana found an inside edge of Steve Smith's bat and the ball went straight onto his stumps in the third over.

Three balls later, a sharp catch by Devdutt Padikkal in the slips dismissed Buttler. Star batsman

Sanju Samson wicket in the next over added insult to an injury as Royals got reduced to 31/3.

Mahipal Lomror then Robin Uthappa in the middle and the dup put on a 39 run stand for the fourth wicket.

The partnership which revamped Royals' innings also witnessed a sluggish knock by Uthappa before he got out in the 11th

over. The right-handed batsman scored 17 off 22 balls. Yuzvendra Chahal ended Lomror's (47) knock in the 17th over.

The left-handed batsman played an important knock and rebuilt Royals' innings. In the death overs, Jofra Archer and Rahul Tewatia whacked some boundaries to take the Royals to a respectable total after a bad start. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Won everything possible with Manchester United, says Mourinho

LEEDS: Ahead of the Premier League fixture against Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho has said that he won everything possible with his former club.

Mourinho was in charge of United for two and a half-season and he was eventually sacked in December and was replaced by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The Portuguese manager had managed to win the Carabao Cup and Europa League in 2016-17, as well as the Community Shield in 2016 with Manchester United.

"The fans, they know that I gave everything that I could. I won what was possible to win, I didn't win what was not possible to win. I gave everything, I gave my life to the club and my professionalism like I always do," Goal.com quoted Mourinho as saying.

"Internally, lots of friends for life, lots of amazing people that I met in the club. I only have good feelings, feelings that I will have to forget in 90 minutes because for 90 minutes, they want to win, I want to win, that's football," he added.

Mourinho also said that he



would not be heading into the match against United with revenge on his mind.

"Revenge? I won so many times at Old Trafford as Man Utd coach and as an opponent coach. Revenge for what? Nobody treated me badly there, everyone was so nice to me," Mourinho said.

Tottenham is currently at the eighth position in the Premier League 2020-21 standings while United is at the 14th place.

Both Tottenham and United will lock horns against each other on Sunday, October 4. **ANI**

CRICKET

Felt really bad when Williamson got run-out: Priyam Garg

DUBAI: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) middle-order batsman Priyam Garg said that he felt really bad when Kane Williamson was run-out due to a mix-up in the match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

While batting first, Sunrisers Hyderabad were at 69/3 when Garg came to the crease.

There was a mix-up between Williamson and Garg in the middle and as a result, the New Zealand skipper lost his wicket. Williamson was quite animated after his dismissal and it would have definitely created pressure on Garg.

"I felt really bad, Williamson was set at that point of time, he is a very experienced player but he got run-out. It was a mistake. I was able to score runs so it was good. When I got back to the dug-out, Kane said well-played mate, don't worry and forget about the run-out," Garg told Abhishek



MIX-UP: Priyam Garg of Sunrisers Hyderabad plays a shot during match 14 of season 13 of the Dream 11 Indian Premier League (IPL) between the Chennai Super Kings and the Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Sharma in a video posted on iplt20.com.

Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by seven runs at the Dubai International Stadium on Friday. CSK failed to chase 165 and were restricted to 157/5.

Batting first, Sunrisers Hyderabad were in a spot of bother at 69/4 with David Warner, Jonny Bairstow, and Kane Williamson all sent back to the pavilion.

It was then that youngsters Abhishek Sharma and Priyam Garg got together for an 83-run partnership. Garg remained unbeaten on 51 while Sharma scored 31.

Garg made 51 runs off just 26 balls with the help of 6 fours and one six, while Sharma's innings was studded with 4 fours and one six.

"I just thought that I can take some time, after eight balls I was thinking that I need to hit a big

shot, I was looking to take chance against Ravindra Jadeja, so all was good," Sharma told Garg.

During the chase of 165, CSK found itself at 42/4 and it was then that MS Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja got together for a 72-run partnership. Jadeja went on to score his first IPL half-century, and Dhoni remained unbeaten on 47.

For Hyderabad, T Natarajan scalped the wickets of Jadeja and Ambati Rayudu and he once again showed the world that he is quickly becoming a death over specialist for the franchise.

Rashid Khan was also able to maintain a stranglehold over the CSK batsmen as he conceded just 12 runs from his four overs.

Sunrisers Hyderabad will next take on Mumbai Indians on October 4 while CSK will lock horns with Kings XI Punjab on the same day. **ANI**

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OIL PRICES SLIDE

Oil prices sank on Thursday as traders continued to worry about weak crude demand amid the COVID-19 crisis. The West Texas Intermediate for November delivery lost 1.5 US dollars to settle at 38.72 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



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PANDEMIC RECOVERY

Germany's economy was starting to struggle before the pandemic but the country's response means it is powering ahead of the rest again. This raises questions about a two-speed European economy.

Oman received over 1.7mn email and malware threats

During the first half of 2020, Oman tallied up a combined 2,599,031 email, URL, and malware threats detected by Trend Micro

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman has experienced 1,764,518 email threats, 644,303 URL victims, 3,108 URL hosted, and 187,102 malware detections, according to an annual mid-year roundup report by Trend Micro Incorporated, the leader in cloud security.

The report reveals COVID-19 related threats as the single larg-

est type of threat in the first half of the year. During the first half of 2020, Oman tallied up a combined 2,599,031 email, URL, and malware threats detected by Trend Micro.

In just six months, Trend Micro blocked 8.8 million COVID-19 related threats, nearly 92 per cent of which were spam delivered via emails.

Cybercriminals shifted their focus from January through June to take advantage of global interest in the pandemic. The risk to businesses was compounded by security gaps created by a completely remote workforce.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) saw 56,870,977 combined email, URL, and malware threats detected during the first half of 2020. Cyberthreats included 41,236,550 email threats, 13,181,016 URL victims, 2,392,097 malware detections, and 61,314 URL hosted threats.

"The high rates of cyberattacks in Oman and the GCC show that while the pandemic has dominated all of our lives during the first half of 2020, it's not slowing down



Assad Arabi, Country Manager - Oman, Trend Micro. - Supplied picture

the cybercriminals," said Assad Arabi, Country Manager - Oman, Trend Micro. "Oman's IT leaders must continue to adapt their cy-

bersecurity strategies to account for increased threats to their new normal. That means protecting remote endpoints, cloud systems,

user credentials and VPN systems, as well as refreshing training courses to turn that newly dispersed workforce into a more effective first line of defence."

In total, Trend Micro blocked 27.8 billion cyber threats in the first half of 2020, 93 per cent of which were email-borne.

Business Email Compromise (BEC) detections increased by 18 per cent from the second half of 2019, in part due to scammers trying to capitalise on home workers being more exposed to social engineering.

Ransomware

Among all the threats in the first half of the year, ransomware was a constant factor. Although the number of detected ransomware threats decreased, Trend Micro saw a 36 per cent increase in new ransomware families compared to the same time last year.

Global organisations have also been burdened by a significant spike in newly disclosed vulnerabilities. Trend Micro's Zero Day Initiative (ZDI) published a total of 786 advisories, representing a

74 per cent increase from the second half of 2019. Some of these came as part of Microsoft Patch Tuesday updates, which have fixed an average of 103 CVEs per month so far in 2020 - including the largest number of patches ever issued in a single month (129) in June.

Trend Micro also observed a 16 per cent increase in vulnerabilities disclosed in industrial control systems (ICS), compared to the first half of 2019, which could create major challenges for smart factory owners and other organisations running IIoT environments.

To effectively protect dispersed corporate networks, Gartner recommends businesses "refine security monitoring capabilities to reflect an operating environment where network traffic patterns, data and system access vectors have changed due to increased remote and mobile operations." Trend Micro XDR helps customers do exactly that by correlating security events across the entire IT environment, which is critical for holistic protection in the second half of 2020.

AUTO RESURGENCE SUMMIT

Conference explores solutions to establish well-developed digital business models

Times News Service

DUBAI: DP World, UAE Region and Jafza joined hands with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as event partners for the Auto Resurgence Summit 2020 that shed light on how the automotive sector can respond positively to the global pandemic.

Speakers highlighted the significance of creating a self-reliant, sustainable and stable market, emphasising the need to adopt measures like increased localisation, use of technology, new-gen mobility and increased participation in the global value chain. Ahmad Al Haddad, Chief Operating Officer, Parks and Zones - DP World, UAE Region participated in the 'Emerging, Enabling Strategies and Technologies for Supply Chain' session and explained how Jafza can facilitate India's auto export operations.

Jafza, the leading business and logistics hub in the Middle East, recorded business worth a total trade value of AED 38.8 billion and an increase of 5 per cent in its customer base year-on-year for 2018/2019 in the automotive sector. This sector plays an integral role in Jafza's success story. Its outstanding performance and exceptional connectivity have cemented Dubai's position as the preferred logistics and distribution centre for the automotive industry in the region.

The automotive and spare parts sector boasts more than 600 companies, including key players from over 65 countries. The segment employs over 7,400 employees, working in a facility that spreads over an area of 1.37 million square meters. Some of the principal customers include the world's biggest



AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR: DP World, UAE Region and Jafza joined forces with The Confederation of Indian Industry for the Auto Resurgence Summit 2020 to discuss ways to tackle the global crisis. - Supplied picture

names like Toyota, General Motors, Ford, Volkswagen, Daimler, Honda, Nissan Motor Corporation, among others.

The Indian connection

DP World's network spans a wide range of ports in the Indian subcontinent. It is the first global operator with a pan-India license in Indian freight rail industry and has expansion plans to enhance market access across Indian cargo centres. DP World India boasts of six terminals, seven inland container depots/ private freight terminals, five container freight stations, 20 rail rakes, two upcoming free trade warehousing zones and 1.5 million square meters of warehousing facilities. It has also been growing its logistics operations through a series of recent acquisitions in India. Unifeeder - through its Unifeeder Indian subcontinent (ISC) arm, majorly owned by DP World - acquired Transworld

Feeders and Avana Logistek.

Mohammed Al Muallem, CEO & Managing Director, DP World, UAE Region and CEO of Jafza said, "We were thrilled to be a part of the Auto Resurgence Summit 2020. Joining hands with CII was a great opportunity for us to tap the Indian market and reach out to our partners there. The pandemic has revealed the vulnerability of supply chains and demonstrated the need to have resilient ones."

"Businesses in the region and around the world have suffered extensively due to the global crisis. Import and export activities slowed down because several global factories shut and markets across the world are strictly adhering to lockdown measures."

"During such a challenging time, we believe that it is imperative for the automotive industry around the world to unite and support each other to tide over the turbulent business landscape."

Digitalising business landscape

Despite the global disruption, Jafza has employed technology-enabled solutions to optimise the supply chain. To facilitate ease of trade under one single-window "Dubai Trade," Jafza offers a tax-free business environment with reputable regulatory bodies. The 1,110 plus services are accessible online to over 180,000 registered companies. This outstanding digital model of communication has minimised the need for manual transactions and personal visits and reduced import and export time by 50 per cent.

Al Muallem added: "Technology plays a pivotal role at Jafza. The internet has proved to be a major catalyst in shaping human lives and digital profiles. The change in consumer behaviour has had a positive impact on the business. We foresee greater importance of the use of technology to ensure safety across the supply chain. The rebound may take some time, but, necessary enhancements need to be in place to earn the confidence of consumers."

Last year, DP World, UAE Region launched The India-UAE Bridge, a major project that aims to attract Indian trade and investments to its flagships, Jebel Ali Port and Jafza. Through this endeavour, DP World offers end-to-end solutions to companies and entrepreneurs and acts as a platform that allows ingenious Indian business minds to share their ideas with the Middle East and the world. The businesses will gain great exposure and avail the benefit of Jafza's excellent multimodal connectivity to shipping lines and services, through key ports in the region.

FORUM



VIRTUAL EVENT: InnovItaly UAE is a series of online live forums to discuss challenges and solutions in innovation for cybersecurity, space research, smart cities, life sciences, food technologies, renewable energy, water and circular economy sectors. - Supplied picture

Experts discuss ways to thwart cyberattacks

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The cost of global cybercrime is expected to exceed \$6 trillion by 2021 and the urgent need to protect critical infrastructure from cyberattacks was the focus of InnovItaly UAE session, where government, industry and academic experts from Italy and the UAE looked at how to address this issue.

The Embassy of Italy to the UAE is holding InnovItaly UAE in collaboration with Khalifa University and Dubai Future Foundation. The series of six, online live forums are being held between September and December and will explore opportunities to enhance bilateral cooperation between Italy and the UAE.

The first forum 'Cybersecurity: Towards a New Paradigm?' commenced with a welcome from Nicola Lener, Ambassador of Italy to the UAE, who said, "Innovation is the most powerful driver to develop the world economy. It is the backbone of our country and remains a priority for investment. New technologies, platforms, automation and networks allow the development of new business models and help countries to grow, which improves government services and international cooperation. The discussions that began today raised a number of issues around impacts of cyber-attacks and how we can foster cooperation between Italy and the UAE and nations worldwide to deal with such attacks."

Arif Sultan Al Hammadi, Executive Vice President of Khalifa University added, "We are proud to showcase our faculty expertise in cybersecurity and the related fields. We believe this forum, for the exchange of knowledge and

ideas, will further cement the strong relationship between the UAE and Italy."

Noah Raford from the Dubai Future Foundation commented, "Our priority is to look at how we are going to tackle the questions and challenges that arise and how they will benefit the region and the world. We provide direct support for companies and take pride in being a world-class destination for testing emerging technologies. We are considering what the next 20 years will look like and how we can explore international partnerships, such as those we have with the Italian public and private sector."

Mohamed Al-Kuwaiti, Chief of Cyber Security for the UAE government commented, "The UAE is moving towards a digital transformation and thanks to the vision of our great leaders, we want to build a safe haven for fostering all aspects to achieve the objectives of UAE Centennial 2071. Today in the cyber world, a network of thousands can be affected by just one click and we are working to build a culture of vigilance against such attacks. The UAE is ranked 1st in digital competitiveness in the Arab world and 12th globally. Digital transformation is at the heart of our national strategy and we want to create a safe and resilient network. We will help and support many businesses and we look forward to working together to build safe cybersecurity across our two nations and globally."

InnovItaly UAE is a series of online live forums to discuss challenges and solutions in innovation for the following sectors: cybersecurity, space research, smart cities, life sciences, food technologies, renewable energy, water and circular economy.

BUSINESS SURVEY

Germany's manufacturing industry profits rise

BERLIN: Earnings in Germany's manufacturing industry in September were "improving only slowly," according to a business survey published by the ifo Institute on Thursday.

The indicator showed a "slight improvement" from minus 43 points in May to minus 32 points in September, according to the survey among 2,200 German companies.

"The coronavirus crisis is still having a direct impact on industrial companies' earnings," said ifo expert Simon Litsche.

Clothing industry

The situation in the German clothing industry even "darkened further" in September as the indicator deteriorated to minus 94

points, according to the ifo survey which is conducted twice a year.

Year-on-year sales in Germany's clothing industry fell by almost 20 per cent in the first half of 2020, GermanFashion announced in August. According to the industry association, the COVID-19 pandemic had plunged the country's fashion industry into a "deep crisis."

China remained the strongest import country for the German clothing industry, although imports dropped by almost 18 per cent in the first half of the year, GermanFashion noted. After China, the main import countries were Bangladesh, Turkey and India.

The situation in Germany's important automotive industry

improved at a low level in September while in mechanical engineering, the indicator rose from minus 48 to minus 29 points, the survey found.

Interim hope

However, the Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA) said on Monday that "interim hope of a rapid economic recovery has given way to slightly increased scepticism" among many mechanical and plant engineering companies in Germany.

A survey among VDMA members showed that only 18 per cent of the mechanical and plant engineering companies in Germany expected a return to the pre-crisis levels in 2019 be-

fore the end of next year.

The business situation for German machinery and plant manufacturers in China "continued to improve, albeit no longer as strong as in the previous surveys," VDMA announced last week. The mood brightened considerably as only 17 per cent of companies assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as great, compared with 46 per cent in April.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis hit Germany, the ifo indicator for the earnings situation in the German manufacturing industry decreased as the industry was hit by a recession. The indicator already turned negative at minus seven points in September last year. - Xinhua

MARKET

Oil prices slide amid demand worries

NEW YORK: Oil prices sank on Thursday as traders continued to worry about weak crude demand amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The West Texas Intermediate for November delivery lost 1.5 US dollars to settle at 38.72 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, while Brent crude for December delivery fell 1.37 dollars to 40.93 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange. The moves came as global COVID-19 cases surpassed 34 million.

"Many risks to a sustained recovery of oil prices remain, especially on the demand side," Eugen Weinberg, an energy analyst at Commerzbank Research, said in a note, adding "trouble is also brewing on the supply side."

According to a Reuters survey, overall OPEC production increased in September by 160,000 barrels per day as compared with August. - Xinhua

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Recovery raises questions about European economy

Germany's economy was starting to struggle before the pandemic but the country's response means it is powering ahead of the rest again

BERLIN: In 1947, two years after the end of World War II, the European economy was in severe trouble. "We are threatened with total economic and financial catastrophe," said then-French Economy Minister Andre Philip in April that year.

There were many problems but the biggest was Germany. Two years after the Nazis were defeated, Germany's recovery had in many ways already been remarkable — but economically it remained a basket case and Europe realised it needed its engine back. In part, the Marshall Plan's purpose was to restore the German economy to the heart of Europe.

By the start of the 1950s, the European economy was in miracle territory, with Germany's miracle burning brightest. The next two decades were among the most prosperous in history.

In 2020, the European economy also finds itself at a pivotal and potentially perilous historical moment. The pandemic is ongoing and the economic recovery — if we can even call it that — from the dire lockdown-hit first six months of the year is patchy.

Yet it is already clear that Germany's economy is faring much better than its closest European equivalents France, Britain, Italy



V FOR VICTORY: German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier wearing a face mask presents the government's updated 2020 economic outlook. - DW

and Spain. Its GDP fall for the lockdown quarters was substantially less than those countries while its recovery for the third quarter of the year is projected to be much better.

Why is Germany's economy faring better than its European neighbors — and will that be a help or a hindrance to the European economy going forward?

No lockdown, 'Bazooka' used instantly

According to Lars Feld, chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts, Germany's reasonably positive economic situation is driven by the fact that its lockdown was never as strict as elsewhere in Europe.

"Despite lockdown measures, an interruption of value chains or lower private consumption due to considerable uncertainty, the German economy continued a considerable part of its activity. For example, the construction industry had very low restrictions," he told DW.

Another major help is the massive financial support the German government has provided to businesses and citizens, something it was able to do after years of frugality in terms of its budget.

The "bazooka," as German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz called it back in March, amounted to close to €1 trillion (\$1.16 trillion) in aid when everything from state-backed loans to the country's much-admired Kurzarbeit scheme is included.

"The German economy has had more reserves than other European economies, be it with respect to fiscal space due to successful consolidation of public finances in the past or with respect to private firms which have a sound equity base in general," says Feld.

V for victory

That helps explain why the German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier was so bullish back on September 1 when, wielding graphs showing Germany's "V-shaped recovery" (a sharp drop followed by an equally sharp rise), he said, "The recession in the first half of the year was not as bad as we feared, and the recovery since the high point of the shutdown is happening faster and more dynamically than we had dared hope."

But it's not all plain sailing. Before the pandemic hit, Germany's economy was slowing down, anyway. Longstanding vulnerabilities in terms of exports and the car sector were being exposed by a slowdown in global trade and by

technological changes sweeping the auto industry.

One key sector that feels such headwinds keenly is that of the country's machine builders, a vital cog in Germany's export machine. For them, the pandemic has had a severe impact.

Even though factories weren't really forced to close in March and April, without foreign demand, orders fall.

That's why Germany's Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA) forecasts a drop in production of 17 per cent for its thousands of members in 2020, with a tiny rise of 2 per cent foreseen for next year.

"There are not so many orders in the books now," the VDMA's director of foreign trade, Ulrich Ackermann, told DW.

Yet the factors mentioned earlier, namely the fact that production was never shut down and that workers have been retained through government intervention, means that Germany's machine builders are in a stronger position than those in other countries.

"In general we are maybe in better shape than other countries, they had real lockdowns and that meant they could not produce any longer," says Ackermann.

Healthy man of Europe

If and when demand picks up in Germany's overseas markets, it appears likely that German companies will be readier than most to step in and meet that demand.

That brings us back to the central question of Europe's two-speed economic recovery. If the forecasts bear out and Germany's economic contraction this year is less than its French and southern counterparts, what will that mean?

Arguments between German and southern interests have dominated EU discussions on fiscal policy for the last decade. The recently agreed €750 billion Post Pandemic Recovery Fund was historic in that Germany agreed, for the first time, for a form of shared European debt. - DW

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CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

India's consolidated fiscal deficit may touch 13% of GDP: Report

MUMBAI: The consolidated fiscal deficit of the centre and state governments may touch 13 per cent of GDP in the current financial year, State Bank of India's research report Ecwrap said.

Fiscal deficit, the gap between expenditure and revenue, during April to August was at 109.3 per cent of the annual target estimated in Union Budget. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit was at Rs8.7 lakh crore.

"Given these numbers, sticking to the budgeted borrowing numbers of Rs 12 lakh crore indicates large expenditure cuts that will be clearly inimical to growth," said the report.

As per current trends, the government sticking to borrowing programme though will please the debt markets but looks challenging given the current exceptionally weak government finances. - ANI

Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz
G-Class (463 platform)
Model year: 2019-2021

Date of Campaign: 04.10.2020
Recall Segment: Electrical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
76	WDB4632761X307139	&	WDC4632761X333635	AMG G 63

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain G-Class vehicles (463 platform) the control unit of the differential locking module might not meet the specification. The electrical contact of a specific resistor might be impaired due to sulfur fumes originating from the axle oil.

If the resistor is impaired, the electrical currents calculated with this resistor would be recognized as too high. In consequence, the communication between the control unit and the locking actuator will be shut down. In this case, the differential locking status could not be reliably determined. According to the specified system strategy for locked differentials, both ESP and ABS systems would be deactivated.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will check the differential locking modules on the affected vehicles and exchange them, if necessary. The expected workshop visit for the check and replacement of the differential locking modules will take around three hours and will be free of charge.

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 04.10.2020 to get their car inspected.

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Looking for driving job. Experience 4 yrs. **Contact 79368044**

Looking for driving job. Experience 5yrs. **Contact 94395257**

Light driver with very well knowledge of Oman roads & areas.can speak English,arabic & Hindi. Looking suitable job. **Contact 79250786**

Looking for driver job. # 94447012

Bangaldeshi looking driver job. **Contact 99007210, 96409814**

Looking for heavy driver job. **Contact 94087276**

Looking for Driver Job. # 93227735

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

AutoCAD Draftsman well experienced Civil draftsman looking job.Available in Muscat.**Contact 99718163**

HOSPITALITY

Assistant Manager in customer service / 4 plus years experience in hospitality /oman / DL / Female seeks job. **Contact 79864612**

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ENGINEER

Indian BE Civil engineer, 8.5 yrs experience (06 yrs in Oman)in building construction & Industrial projects with Oman valid light DL & local NOC available, **Contact 98886175. Email ex.jgpprakasam@gmail.com**

5+ years of experience looking for job as Civil Engineer, ready to join immediately. **Contact 92146076. Email tauqir.akbar@yahoo.com**

Diploma in Electrical and Electronics on visit. seeking job , 20 yrs experience in Panel troubleshooting, panel development work, VFD ,Cranes service,Machine servicing . Can join immediately. **Contact 92375607, 92145430 Email: murugavel_maruthappan@yahoo.com**

MEP Engineer 15 Yrs, EXP. Arabic/ English D/L. **Contact 95752101**

HVAC Engineer/MEP coordinator, BE Mechanical Engineering, having 9+years of experience including 5+ years in Oman. Efficient in design BOQ, project follow up, valid Omani D/L. Looking for any full/part time job. **Contact: 91690765**

Diploma in Civil Engineer, 12 yrs experience. 8 yrs in Oman. **Contact 79078729**

Electrical engineer, experience 12 year in Oman. **Contact 98148034**

Planning Engineer currently working in Muscat, having a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering with 11 year's experience in Civil Construction. I'm looking for a well-established Company to gain a competitive edge in Oman. Valid GCC Driving License holder. **Contact 91007054**

Experience HVAC Engineer facility maintenance around 20years experience.**Contact 94307181 Email minhaj.mohamed@gmail.com**

IT

Indian female having 8 yrs experience in the field of software testing and administration looking for a suitable job. **Contact no : 91711326**

Professional programmer in web, server, mobile & networking experience more than 7 yrs with 15 big projects developed innovation It strategies & solutions by analysing business needs. **Contact 97598800**

Smart Indian Female with 7+ years experience in IT Sales (Hardware & Software) having valid Oman DL. Looking for a suitable opportunity as IT Sales and Business Development in a reputed company. **Contact 968 78368961**

MEDICAL

General Physician 15 yrs experience, with MOH license need locum/ permanent or contract job preferably in Sohar region. Experienced in dealing paediatric, Geriatric, gynae & Obs, infectious diseases, diabetic, respiratory & cardiac illness. **Contact 93231964**

Sudanese Pharmacist, Female, 4 years experience in community pharmacy, pharmaceutical industry, GSM: 94533602

BE-Electrical + MBA (TQM), 37yrs/M, 14yrs of product management, QC & Sourcing experience in Oman, seek suitable placement. **M: 78180988, anju48@hotmail.com**

Civil Site Engineer/Inspector, total 12 yrs of experience out of which 6 yrs in consultancy firm supervision. looking for suitable opportunity.more preferably in a Consultancy firm with Oman DL.NOC available. # 78368484

Civil Site Engineer, Indian male. 34.diploma Civil engineer experience 12 yrs(9 years in Oman)(5.5 yrs in consultancy field).Looking suitable job with Oman DL. # 93746877

Indian male 23 years mechanical engineer with one year experience in manufacturing sector, presently on visit visa looking for a suitable opening. **Contact 94683565. ms001suhail@gmail.com**

BSc.Survey Engineer 5 years experience in construction, Pipeline, Infrastructure and road works. **Contact 96047403**

Indian male, 18 years experience in Electrical engineering & Procurement.Seeking projects & operation field Willing to join immediately with NOC Posses driving licence. BE E.E.E, MBA. **Contact 72324160. Email globaleng360@gmail.com**

Electrical engineer 7 years experience, CEP, Safety courses, Duqm Refinery experience, D/L, # 79474387

Project Engineer 14 yrs experience in EPC.Currently available in Muscat having NOC.Ready to join with 30 days. **Contact 94051915. Email tabish.alam@yahoo.com**

MANAGER

Indian, Finance Manager 20Yrs Experience, Trade finance - MIS - Budget - Planning - Auditing - Finalisation - Banking: 90473368, devan801@gmail.com

General manager / Sr.PM, 25+ yrs Indian professional (BE) MBA, PMP, INTD construction projects & organisation management, 5+ yrs in Oman. D/L, NOC available. **Contact 94634053**

20Yrs experienced Indian commerce graduate, 3 Years of Fleet management in FMCG sector, 7 years of Contracts, Transportation at Oil & Gas sector in Oman, and 10years of Administration in India. D/L & NOC available. Call/Whatsapp 94777651

Project Manager, 17yrs experience, 11 yrs in Oman on projects execution worked with reputed contracting companies,commerical ,residential& government projects. looking for suitable position.**Contact 99470854,94361538**

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job. NOC available. **Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.**

ACCOUNTANT

Indian male 31, B.Com & Diploma in Islamic banking & Finance, 8 years exp in Oman, looking for Accountant jobs. Can handle up to finalization. D/L & NOC Available.

Contact 98195964

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Mechanical engineer, male (25 yrs) qualified in MEP, NEBOSH, Autocad (Revit) seeking job. **Contact 79165700, 92015294. Email melvinsolomon16@gmail.com**

PURCHASE/LOGISTICS

Indian Male (MBA, Age-36 years), Procurement Specialist, having over 10 years of experience in Oman, is seeking for a suitable placement. NOC and valid Oman Driving license available. **Contact 96135707**

Senior Procurement Engineer, M.tech-Civil, Looking for a job, NOC Available, Immediate Joining, Indian Male, 38yrs, have over 16+ years UAE& Oman experience. **E. syedkamaalsaba@yahoo.com, Whatsapp +96871144578, Contact +917766019519**

Procurement specialist/logistic coordinator, 8+ yrs experience in Oman with MNC Oil & Gas co.D/L & NOC available. **Contact 96095376**

18 Years of experience in Purchase/stores/Admin & Inventory in Food & Beverage in Oman, looking for a placement in Wholesale, Retail or Hospitality Industry. Kindly contact me on 96010598

Indian M.com graduate holding Oman DL, 05 Years plus experience in purchase / Supply Chain in international restaurants / Franchisees looking for a suitable job. NOC available. GSM: 90197061 **Email shakeeb77721@gmail.com**

Indian Male 45 yrs with 16 yrs exp in Oman as Logistic Supervisor, seeks a job in Warehouse/Distribution/FMCG companies, GCC D/L. NOC can be arranged. **Mob: +968-71689224. Email truefails@rediffmail.com**

Procurement Officer 20 years experience in Oman looking for suitable position. **Contact 97903411**

Procurement officer with 19 yrs experience in construction. **Email u.bati307@gmail.com**

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Housemaid required for a Keralite family at Darsait. Should have experience in household work, baby care. **Contact 97332392**

Urgently required experienced South Indian male cook (Veg/ Non-veg) cum houseboy for Senior company official residence at Ghubra Area. Interested medically fit candidate. Candidate with Omani DL preference. # 99273774 / 99202278

SALES / MARKETING

Sales manager(MBA) with 6 years experience specialised in seafood and FMCG for HORECA and hyper-market sector looking for suitable position. NOC available. **Contact +968 78321364**

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with Driving License looking for suitable placement. **Contact 92085257**

Indian male, 18yrs of experience in outdoor sales of FMCG and electronics is seeking suitable placement. DL and NOC available. **Contact 91290046**

Indian Male 37 Years, Graduate in Finance Management . Oman 10 Years Experience. Interested in Sales & Marketing . Driving Licence Available . Looking for a Suitable Position. **Contact No. 78312303**

Salesman/office driver, 15 yrs experience. Valid D/L. Muscat area. **Contact 79818772**

B.E Civil Indian M 24 Y Sales Exp in Sales/Marketing/Team Lead/ Manager/Business Development. Available in Oman with NOC. Looking for Any Job. **Contact 78186546**

Indian Male 32, having over 9 years of oman exp in sales & Marketing ls seeking for a suitable placement. NOC & Valid Oman Driving license available **Gsm 92460904**

Filipino, male with more than 10 years experience in Oman as Sales associate, customer service, administrative office, real estate, rent a car, purchaser and Logistics with driving license. **Contact 97761075**

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Accounts and Finance Manager with MBA Financial degree, 13 yrs in Oman & 15 yrs. in other countries seeking immediate job with Family status. # 99883983 or **uthayakumaransaravanan@gmail.com**

18+ years experienced in Pre-press and Graphic Designing with renowned commercial Printing Press and Newspaper Publisher, male expatriet looking for placement, residing in Muscat. **Contact: 99663123 E-mail: deytapash@gmail.com**

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of Civil Construction, interior fit- out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. **Contact 95206259, 98857994**

Civil engineer 12 years experience in oman NOC available # 98047527

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs of experience.5yrs & 10 months of Oman experience. NOC available seeking suitable placement. **Contact 968 91226236 Email: tonymxx@gmail.com.**

MISCELLANEOUS (FOC)

Electrical engineer 6+ years HV/ LV experience, Doqm Refinery exp. IOSH+6 Safety courses D/L, **Contact 79474387**

Project engineer, B.tech-civil, India, 12yrs Oman exp in all kinds operation of civil construction, interior fit-out and electro mechanical field with valued Visa and D/L. **Contact 95206259, 98857994**

Accounts Manager working in a reputed company in Oman for 13 year's looking for immediate job. Release available. **Contact 99883983**

Mechanical Engineer (B.tech) having 5 years Oman experience as Sr Production And Procurement Engineer is seeking suitable job in Oman. Also have Oman D/L and NOC is available. **Contact 92138450 WhatsApp +919544074049**

Senior Copywriter with 21 years Oman experience seeks placement in Ad Agencies/Corporate Communications. Call 95234657.

Smart Indian, Professional with integrity, Arabic speaker, double Masters, excellent English, commercial acumen, strategy, 15 years rich Oman experience in Airport Project, Hospital, Media, EPC.99283938. NOC

Smart Indian, Arabic speaker, Excellent English, Masters-Journalism, Finance, Oman experience in Corporate/Marketing Communications, Press Releases, CSR Programs, Marketing, Customer Relations, Events, Campaigns, #99283938. NOC

Indian male, 31 Age, Single, B.E (Civil), 10Years experience in the construction field (7 years in Oman & 3 years in India), NOC available, seeking job for the post of Project engineer. # 79218189, **ganeshkumargk1188 @gmail.com**

IT System administrator Indian male 28 BE CSE CCNA graduate with 5 yrs experience in Indian looking for suitable job.On visit .**Contact 93674784**

23 Years Indian Male, Diploma In Mechanical Engineering. 1 Years work experience in Oman. Available on family join visa. Looking for suitable placement. **Contact 968- 79121923, 99224057**

An Experienced HR Professional (around 2 Years) seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, IT-Support, Data Entry or IT Teacher. Can Join Immediately.IELTS: 6.5-Bands. # 949773471 **Email hshakjaveed@gmail.com**

Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication - CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.**Contact 99636352**



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Indian Female, B.E. in Electronics & Communication + CCNA (Routing & Switching) fresher,studied in Oman, looking for suitable placements.Contact 99636352

Indian Male-43 yrs. Experience in trailer driver, GCC holding valid heavy licence.Seeking suitable job. NOC available. Mob - 99449686, 91- 9526956869.

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

Diploma in Electrical Engineer (8 years Experience in Installati on of LT line, Vendor Coordination, Arrange Quotation from supplier for Tender/Work). Contact 91-9771492886

Filipino male w/ release. , with 8 years exp. in OMAN: ADMIN, accounting, purchasing, Knows Tally ERP 9 and microsoft's excel, 97890657, email: hernandezjanlouis27@gmail.com

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher(trained for 5 months)seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434.Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

AutoCAD Draftsman with 8 years of Oman Experience, Architecture & Structural drafting. N.O.C available Contact: 78253720

HSE OFFICER, 15 years experience.Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact WhatsApp-968-99626821

Accountant Indian Male 26yrs with MBA Finance having 5yrs experience, 3yrs in Oman looking for suitable position of an Accountant. NOC Available. GSM: 95394439. Email: mohdanas040@gmail.com

A Technical Graduate with around 2 Years' Experience in HR-Admin, seeks opportunity in HR, Administration, Desktop-Support(IT), Data Entry or IT Teacher.IELTS: 6.5-Bands.Contact/ WhatsApp: +968949773471. Email: hshakjaveed@gmail.com

Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman. licence. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194. Email:suhailbs@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer - NIT Surat, Gujarat, India - Oman resident with DL - one year work experience - Contact: 91756930

Indian male M.Tech(ECE) 4 yrs exp. as a Sales Engineer in Industrial Automation, PLC, SCADA with a valid Saudi D/L. Looking for a good opportunity. # 98240758 mohdrashidali87@gmail.com

Indian 15 yrs Oman experience B.Com ,ICWA9Inter) PGDBM head-ed Finance,logistics established Company. 93870808, 93883272

Electrical Engineer 4 yrs 6 months experience with NOC available. Contact 90863138. Email guntisiddharth@gmail.com

Female, Planning Engineer, BE Mech, 13 years experience with oil & gas Engineering Field and construction Projects seeking a suitable job Contact no : 97408929

B.Tech in Civil Engineering (structural), 23 yrs fresher(trained for 5 months)seeking job as structural Engineering, familiar with various software. Contact 78274434.Email mohammedarshadjunaid@gmail.com

Indian well experienced sr accountant or Chief accountant, looking for suitable placement. Contact 95362046. Email srjobinoman@yahoo.com

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Indian/male (28)/MBA/4 years' experience in procurement and coordination with valid Oman. licence. Available for immediate joining. Contact: 92536194. Email:suhailbs@gmail.com

Mechanical engineer - NIT Surat, Gujarat, India - Oman resident with DL - one year work experience - Contact: 91756930

Looking part-time housemaid job surrounding area of Ghobra / Aziba like cooking, washing & cleaning post-delivery support, baby care. contact 79293053.

Male, looking for a job in administration or office coordinator, extremely familiar with the Oman market Not looking into Sales or Marketing. Looking forward to hearing from potential companies. Having D/L. # 93264375 email: vpnandakishore@gmail.com

Draftsman 2 years' experience. Looking for suitable job (Indian male). Contact 968 93083224/919791452601. Email: elaison.c@gmail.com

Indian Female 10 years, experience As Cook, South Indian,Gujarati Special,looking For Part Time. Contact : 95795971

Indian Male (30), MBA-Finance, 6 years experience in electrical and lighting industry as Sales Executive-project sales (outdoor), specialized in lighting for residential and commercial projects. Contact 94560161. Email kaisebukhari@gmail.com

Situation Wanted* Mechanical engineer specialized in quality inspection with cswip 3.1 & ASNT LEVEL II certifications looking for an opening in oil & gas industry. currently in Muscat. # 96206400 or awrunedathil@gmail.com

Indian male Diploma (Cinematography) & BA English with 5 yrs of experience in sales and Marketing field Seeking suitable placement. currently in Oman on visit. Contact 78150989. Email: alexthomas927@gmail.com

B.Tech Electrical Engineer Indian male with 11 yrs of experience in contracting and consultant firms. Looking for job with Valid GCC driving licewnse available. Contact 968-94343694. Email: ymansoor2@gmail.com



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33 Year old Indian male With 12+ Years' Experience As Operation Supervisor Project Expeditor /Quality Control in Oil & Gas , Water Line Industry. Contact 596661571. nasir03ahmed@outlook.com

Filipino, female 41 B.Sc accounting mgt., with 10 years' experience in Oman: admin, accounting, finance, secretarial, ticketing. Knowledge with excel. 96901439 email lorelie_a@yahoo.com

B.Com Graduate with four years of experience in Sales & Marketing, two years in Oman, looking for suitable post. Contact 93568656

Diploma holder 5 yrs work experience Indian male 26, looking for Indoor slaes/merchandiser, office assistant. Contact 968-78093683, whatsapp-94158447

Indian male 29 yrs having 5 yrs experience in FMCG sales & marketing in Oman with D/L.Can join immediately. Contact 78057807. Email nazi70072@gmail.com

MA B.Ed in English language, Indian female, 5 yrs experience in teaching seeking suitable positions in schools. Currently in Oman on family visa. # 79716167, 24033571

HSE Officer, 15 years experience. Seeking job to join a reputed firm. Contact WhatsApp 99626821

Indian Male (30) 8 Year's Experience in Sales and marketing and Office Administration on visit ,seeking a challenging careers. D/L available. Contact 9412 2402 Email: shinto.samuelit@gmail.com

Indian male, 24years holding a bachelor's in management and Masters in finance, presently pursuing ACCA. Looking for relevant job, holding valid GCC driving license. Contact 98189064 Email shahahr806@gmail.com

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ROUND-UP



INTERNATIONAL CARRIER

Qatar Airways announces winter schedule with plans to expand network

DOHA: Qatar Airways announced its winter schedule in line with passenger and cargo demand and the continued relaxation of entry restrictions around the world. Having become the largest international carrier during this crisis, the airline has applied its unrivalled knowledge of global passenger flows and booking trends to load a reliable winter schedule passengers can trust.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, said, “We are proud to be the global airline passengers trust to take them where they want to go safely and reliably. This trust begins by offering an honest schedule of flights that is realistic of the current market conditions and entry restrictions around the world. Also, we ensure when entry restrictions change forcing us to postpone or cancel flights, we support our passengers with the most flexible and generous options to reschedule their plans.



“While no airline can predict with 100 per cent certainty how the market will recover or future entry restrictions, our unrivalled experience accumulated by becoming the largest international carrier during this crisis uniquely positions us to build a realistic schedule of flights with confidence. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have flown over 175 million kilometres taking home over 2.3 million passengers on over 35,000 flights. We have also

operated more than 400 charter flights across the world allowing us to stay up to date with the latest airport and national health procedures and maintain a finger on the pulse of global passenger flows, in particular in markets where we do not operate regular flights.

“Our strategic investment in a variety of fuel-efficient twin-engine aircraft, including the largest fleet of Airbus A350 aircraft, has enabled us to continue flying throughout this crisis and per-

fectly positions us to lead the sustainable recovery of international travel. As we continue to rebuild our global network, we remain focused on providing seamless, safe and reliable connectivity to our millions of passengers and ensuring we continue to earn their trust every time they choose to fly with Qatar Airways.”

By the end of 2020, Qatar Airways’ plans to rebuild its network to 124 destinations including 21 in Africa, 10 in the Americas, 42

in Asia-Pacific, 38 in Europe and 13 in the Middle East. Many cities will be served with a strong schedule with daily or more frequencies.

According to the latest IATA data, Qatar Airways has become the largest international carrier between April to July by fulfilling its mission of taking people home. This enabled the airline to accumulate unmatched experience in carrying passengers safely and reliably and uniquely positioned the airline to effectively rebuild its network. The carrier has stringently implemented the most advanced safety and hygiene measures onboard its aircraft and in Hamad International Airport.

Qatar Airways’ onboard safety measures for passengers and cabin crew include the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for cabin crew and a complimentary protective kit and disposable face shields for passengers. Business Class passengers on aircraft equipped with Qsuite can enjoy

the enhanced privacy this award-winning business seat provides, including sliding privacy partitions and the option to use a ‘Do Not Disturb (DND)’ indicator. Qsuite is available on flights to more than 30 destinations including Frankfurt, Kuala Lumpur, London and New York.

Qatar Airways operations are not dependent on any specific aircraft type. The airline’s variety of modern fuel-efficient aircraft has meant it can continue flying by offering the right capacity in each market. Due to COVID-19’s impact on travel demand, the airline has decided to ground its fleet of Airbus A380s as it is not commercially or environmentally justifiable to operate such a large aircraft in the current market.

The airline’s fleet of 49 Airbus A350 and 30 Boeing 787 are the ideal choices for the most strategically important long-haul routes to Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific regions.

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