

HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF KENYA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Kenyatta. His Majesty also wished the people of Kenya further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



HM SENDS CONDOLENCES TO KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait on the death of Sheikh Duaij Khalifa Al Abdullah Al Khalifa Al Sabah. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and grant his family patience. **-ONA**



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ARMED FORCES

HM greeted on Armed Forces Day by Sayyid Shihab

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik yesterday received greetings on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day (the 11 of December) from His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, reading as follows:

"Your Majesty, Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, peace be upon you. Upon the advent of the 11th of December (the Armed Forces Day) we, as Omanis, commemorate this eternal anniversary in Oman's history. It was the day when Your Majesty's heroic Armed Forces gave the best examples of sacrifice so that the nation could press ahead with its ever renewed renaissance. **>A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Mixed reactions to UAE weekend switch

1 As the UAE is set to adopt new four-and-a-half day working week from January 1, 2022, citizens and residents in Oman express a mix of reactions. **>A3**

WORLD

US imposes new curbs on China

2 The US has imposed new curbs and visa bans on people and entities tied to China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and North Korea. **>A7**

MARKET

Karwa Motors Duqm production facility

3 Karwa Motors, Oman's first-ever bus brand and manufacturing facility, recently commenced its new production facility, in Duqm. **>B1**



HIS MAJESTY HOSTS DINNER ON OCCASION OF ARMED FORCES DAY



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, hosted a dinner at Al Barakah Palace this evening on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

The ceremony comes as a felicitation by His Majesty, the Supreme Commander, to all military formations and units of the Armed Forces on this glorious day. It symbolises his Royal recognition for their great dedication in performing the sacred duty to defend the homeland, protect its se-

curity and ensure its stability and safety. It is a manifestation of the Armed Forces' role in safeguarding the national achievements to retain Oman's status as an oasis of security, harmony and peace under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan. The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, as well as some ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Royal Oman Police and senior military and civil officers. **-ONA**



AL NAHDHA HOSPITAL

Research study to help in critical care of COVID-19 patients

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A research project was carried out to observe the clinical characteristics of confirmed COVID-19 patients admitted at Al Nahdha Hospital.

A total of 102 patients were part of the study from the day of admission until the day of discharge or transfer to another tertiary care hospital for critical care.

Led by the Principal Investigator Dr Saud Al Harthi, Medical Doctor, Internal Medicine: Diabetes and Endocrinology, Al Nahdha Hospital, the project was funded within the COVID-19 research programme of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI).

According to Dr Saud Al Harthi,

Principal Investigator of the research study, the main objective of this study was to map the socio-demographic, clinical, laboratory, and radiological characteristics, as well as the treatment and clinical outcomes of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Al Nahdha Hospital in Oman. Additionally, factors associated with the severity of the disease were identified. The required data for the study were retrieved from the electronic health information system from March 3 to May 9, 2020.

Dr Saud explained that the team studied parameters included, demographic data (age, gender, nationality, employment, and referring institute), and risk factors (history of travel, smoking and alcohol consumption, obesity,



medical history of co-morbidities [diabetes, hypertension, coronary artery disease (CAD), asthma, chronic kidney disease (CKD), heart failure (HF), and any other chronic diseases]). The examined

treatment measures included antibiotics, antiviral therapy, corticosteroid therapy, respiratory support, and other supportive therapies according to the COVID-19 national guideline.

The research study stated that most patients, representing 84.3 per cent of the total sample, had no history of travel to countries with COVID-19 outbreaks.

"The majority of the patients were non-smokers (85.3 per cent) and non-alcohol consumers (87.3 per cent). Obesity was reported in only 15.7 per cent of patients, of which only 2 per cent had co-existing diabetes," Dr Saud said.

"Diabetes and hypertension were found in 39.2 per cent and 36.3 per cent of the study population, respectively and common

symptoms were dry cough (78.3 per cent), fever (76.5 per cent), and shortness of breath (69.6 per cent)," Dr Saud elaborated.

"Around 19 per cent of the study population required critical care and diabetes and chronic artery disease were significant predictors for requiring critical care," Dr Saud added.

"Despite some variations in the initial symptoms, most COVID-19 patients had respiratory symptoms where depending on disease severity, the treatment included antibacterial, antiviral, heparin, and steroids," he stated.

Results from this study can be directed to screen for vulnerable patients who may require critical care and initiate the required preventive management plans.



Dhuhr.....	12:05pm
Asr.....	3:06pm
Maghrib.....	5:27pm
Isha.....	6:42pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:19am

Oman marks Armed Forces Day

Oman is still racing with time to attain the prime of modernisation and prosperity for its citizens under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Saturday marks the 11th of December Anniversary, the Armed Forces Day. This historic occasion epitomizes the national accomplishments made by the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF).

The SAF has been celebrating the event since 1975, taking pride in the progress made within its own ranks and its national roles that set the stage for domestic development and prosperity.

On this glorious occasion, the SAF organises activities to showcase the modernisation of its units under the Royal patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

The 11th of December constitutes a luminous pedestal in Oman's military history. It was the lantern that lit the flame of peace and security in Oman, and it saw the launch of the comprehensive nation-building process.

This day will remain as a source of inspiration for values of truthful patriotism that enabled Omanis to reap the fruits of good deeds and proceed with spirited, unsubdued wills and invincible determination to revive the glories of Oman and shape its future.

The Armed Forces Day is a



strong reminder of the national epic masterminded by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said and realised by the valiant soldiers of Oman at the beginning of the country's renaissance, which has been gathering momentum every day within this well-guarded fort.

Oman is still racing with time to attain the prime of modernisation and prosperity for its citizens under the astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham

Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, May the Almighty Allah protect him.

On this memorable day, every Omani revels in the accomplishments of the SAF and cherishes its sacrifices in protecting every inch of the country's territory.

The SAF, today and every day, reiterates its firm resolve to uphold its sacred duty of protecting the gains and sanctities of the nation. -ONA





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Mixed reactions in Oman to UAE weekend switch

Supporters as well as opponents of the move have their own separate arguments

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As the United Arab Emirates is set to adopt new four-and-a-half day working week from January 1, 2022, citizens and residents in Oman express a mix of reactions. "It is an excellent and courageous decision that contributes to the wheel of development," Suleiman Al Khalili, said.

Hilal Al Sarmi, a member of the Shura Council however expressed disagreement, "I am not with this decision because Friday for Muslims is a holy day when people used to spend the morning with their families and then go to perform Friday prayers."

"The decision may be from the point of view of those concerned in the United Arab Emirates to keep pace with global economies and also to keep pace with weekends of the other economies and they have their role in this decision, but as Islamic countries I see that Friday remains a holy day for Muslims. I do not wish for the holidays to be changed."

Al Sarmi also said, "Some economists see that work on Friday coincides with the economies of countries and with the opening of banks and businesses, and it is said that countries that do not work on Friday face losses in the millions. But I do not think that the economic aspect has a major role and a direct relationship in this aspect. As we know that Arab country weekends are on Friday and Saturday, and there are no economic damages recorded or mentioned."

"Implementation of the decision from a social and religious point of view has a great harm, because people are accustomed to the weekend



Hilal Al Sarmi



Khalfan Al Touqi



Suleiman Al Khalili

on Friday and the Friday prayer. If Friday is a working day, many will fail to perform it. I think that it must take into account the values of Islam and the desire of Muslims," he went on to say. "I do not expect that the decision will be implemented in Oman, because the state is keen on the social and religious situation of the citizens and residents of this good country, because I do not expect that there will be much benefit in implementing it," Al Sarmi added.

Khalfan Al Touqi, an economic analyst said, "From my personal opinion, the decision cannot be applied to all jobs and commercial activities, but it can be optional for institutions and companies in the private sector." Al Touqi also said, "There is nothing wrong with its implementation, and we can suggest and support the implementation of this decision provided that the labour law legislation changes, meaning that the employer and employee are governed by clear legislation, as well as clear standards and criteria. This decision should be comprehensive and organised in all aspects."

"We can also study the examples that exist in the world and see what the economic and social effects are. If we see them tending to the advantages more than the disadvantages, then I certainly support the implementation of the decision," Al Touqi concluded.

Suleiman Al Khalili, a government employee said, "In my opinion, it is an excellent and courageous decision that contributes to the wheel of development, especially that the weekend will coincide with the global financial

markets. In addition to the fact that this system is in place in a number of Islamic countries with strong economies such as Malaysia and Turkey," Al Khalili added, "I do not expect that this decision will have a negative impact, on the contrary, it has positive effects on the economic and social aspects, and it does not conflict with religious matters, as there is a specific time for Friday prayers."

"In terms of implementing the decision in Oman, in my opinion, I see an important step that must be considered here in the country and studied with various aspects of its implementation," Suleiman Al Khalili said.

Eckhard Liebert, German businessman said, "A weekend swap from Friday to Saturday and Sunday has no effect with my private life, the adjustment was fairly easy right from the beginning."

"However, since most of my business activities are mainly in the Far East (Hong Kong and Shanghai) and Europe, I would welcome the weekend switch to Saturday/Sunday, but then again - it has worked so far, therefore it is not a big problem for me," Eckhard Liebert added.

AVIATION

Muscat-Doha route seats up with three new daily flights

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Three additional daily flights will be operated between Muscat and Doha by Oman Air in partnership with Qatar Airways.

Making the announcement, Qatar Airways said that the new flights will add to the existing daily flight from Muscat, enhancing connectivity and travel options via the award-winning Hamad International Airport (HIA).

The new flights will start on 7th December 2021 and gradually increase in frequency on 10th and 15th December, ensuring a seamless travel experience for passengers with connecting flights beyond Doha.

Oman Air will operate a state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft offering 258 economy seats and 30 business class seats.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker said: "We are pleased to expand our partnership with Oman Air and continuing to lead on the resumption of international travel.

"These new flights will offer greater travel options to passengers from Muscat to destinations across the world and benefit from enhanced connectivity offered by the Qatar Airways and Oman Air strategic alliance."

Oman Air CEO, Abdulaziz Al Raisi, said: "Adding three more frequencies between Muscat and Doha is an important milestone both for our strategic alliance and the post-pandemic travel recovery. Widening travel options for Omani citizens and residents, the newly added flights will also make it easier for travellers from around the world to visit Oman and Qatar in one trip and enjoy the genuine Arabian hospitality our countries are famous for."

In addition to the flights to Muscat, Qatar Airways operates three weekly flights to Salalah, Oman's southern jewel famous for its breathtaking landscapes



Oman Air will operate a state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft offering 258 economy seats and 30 business class seats.

ness Class Airline Lounge, World's Best Business Class Airline Seat, World's Best Business Class On-board Catering and Best Airline in the Middle East.

The airline continues to stand alone at the top of the industry having won the main prize for an unprecedented sixth time (2011, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021). The airline's hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA), was also recently recognised as the 'Best Airport in the World 2021', ranking at number one in the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2021.

In addition to this, Qatar Airways is the first global airline in the world to achieve the prestigious 5-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating by Skytrax. This follows the success of Hamad International Airport (HIA) as the first airport in the Middle East and Asia to be awarded a Skytrax 5-Star COVID-19 Airport Safety Rating.

These awards provide assurance to passengers around the world that the airline's health and safety standards are subject to the highest possible standards of professional, independent scrutiny and assessment. For full details of all the measures that have been implemented on board and at HIA, please visit qatarairways.com/safety.

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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The snaps beautifully capture the different cultures and religions coming together for the union of the star couple.



A story on pictures from Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif's wedding reached 51,000 people and had 3,468 engagements on Facebook.

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517 VIEWS

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The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi had 517 views and 25 likes on Instagram

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

2,500 VIEWS

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The Out & About weekend video had 2,500 views and reached 10,000 people on Facebook.

The Out & About weekend video



The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi



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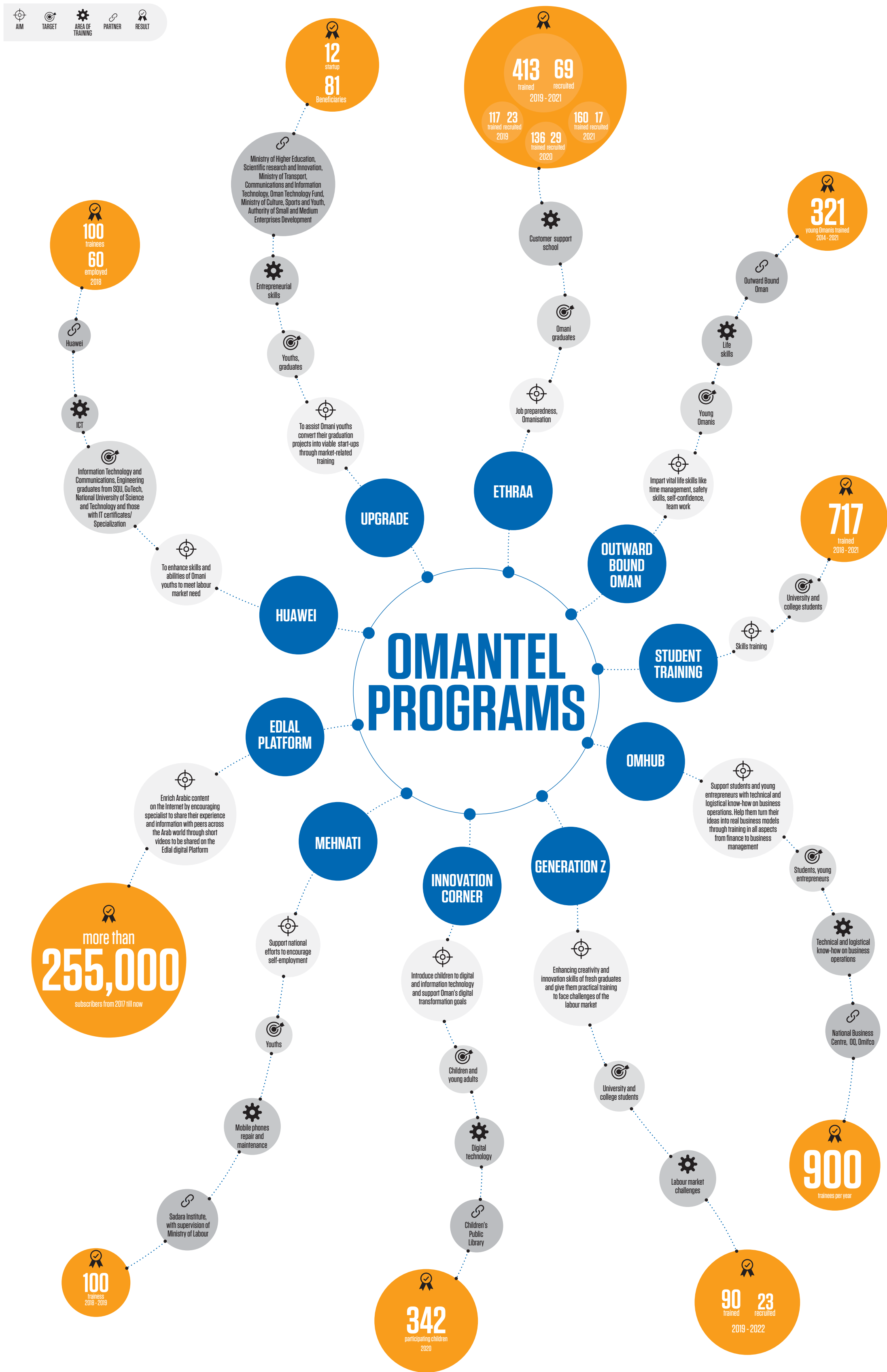
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WORLD



US imposes new curbs on Myanmar, China, North Korea

Five other countries, including Russia, were also targeted by the punitive measures

WASHINGTON: The United States on Friday imposed extensive sanctions and visa bans on dozens of people and entities tied to China, Myanmar, North Korea and Bangladesh.

This action was carried out to mark Human Rights Day. Five other countries, including Russia, were also targeted by the punitive measures. Canada and the United Kingdom joined the US in imposing sanctions related to human rights abuses in Myanmar. The US also imposed new sanctions on North Korea.

What are the reactions to the sanctions?

“Our actions today, particularly those in partnership with the United Kingdom and Canada, send a message that democracies around the world will act against those who abuse the power of the state to inflict suffering and repression,” Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said in a statement.

China’s embassy in Washington denounced the move, saying it represented “serious interference in China’s internal affairs” and a “severe violation of basic norms governing international relations.”



PUNITIVE MEASURES: Canada and the United Kingdom joined the US in imposing sanctions related to human rights abuses in Myanmar. The US also imposed new sanctions on North Korea.

The measures are the latest of US sanctions timed to coincide with US President Joe Biden’s two-day virtual Summit for Democracy.

Biden said at the summit that commitments from more than 100 world leaders would help push back against rising autocracy. “This is going to help seed fertile ground for democracy to bloom around the world,” Biden said in a speech at the summit.

Who has been targeted by the sanctions?

The US has added Chinese AI company SenseTime group to an investment blacklist of “Chinese military-industrial complex companies.”

The US Treasury accuses the company of having developed facial recognition programmes that can determine a target’s ethnicity with a particular focus on identifying Uyghurs, an ethnic group.

SenseTime is close to selling 1.5 billion shares (worth \$767 billion, €678 billion) in an initial

public offering. After news of the Treasury restrictions, the company began discussing the fate of the planned offering. UN experts estimate more than a million people, mainly Uyghurs and members of other Turkic minorities, have been detained in recent years in a system of camps in China’s Xinjiang region.

Also on the list is the European Institute Justo in Moscow for sponsoring work visas for construction workers from North Korea, as well as four junta officials from Myanmar. **bw**



Study shows Omicron variant may be milder than delta

CAPE TOWN: Scientists in South Africa say they see no sign that the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is causing more severe illness.

“Preliminary data does suggest that while there is an increasing rate of hospitalisation ... it looks like it is purely because of the numbers rather than as a result of any severity of the variant itself, this Omicron,” Health Minister Joe Phaahla said on Friday.

In fact, early hospital data from the country shows less than a third of patients admitted to hospital during the latest wave linked to the omicron variant are suffering severe illness, compared with two-thirds in the last two waves.

In the past few days, a nationwide outbreak linked to omicron has been infecting around 20,000 people a day.

In the country’s worst-hit region — Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria — the number of cases rose by 400 percent week-on-week.

Tests showed that the Omicron variant was behind about 70 percent of the cases. South Africa alerted the world to omicron late last month, prompting alarm that the highly mutated variant could trigger a new surge in global infections. A small study from a South African research institute this week suggested that omicron could partially evade protection from two doses of the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine.

But the two companies say a three-shot course of their vaccine can neutralise Omicron in the laboratory. A similar UK study found that a third booster shot reduces by up to 75 percent the chance of experiencing mild COVID symptoms. **bw**

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

COVID pandemic has fed a frightening rise in inequalities: UN on Human Rights Day

GENEVA: Despite significant progress since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 73 years ago, the COVID pandemic has “fed a frightening rise in inequalities”, and laid bare “many of our failures to consolidate the advances made”, said UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet, in a message marking Human Rights Day.

Bachelet and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres took the opportunity to take stock of progress made, lessons learned, and put forward a new Agenda for Peace that presents a multidimensional vision of global security. “This is an agenda of action - and an agenda of rights,” Bachelet said.

“Our Common Agenda”, a framework set out by the UN Secretary-General in September 2021, is a new social contract firmly anchored in human rights, calling for renewed solidarity across the world.

The Agenda proposes to deepen collective action by addressing the root causes of insecurity, increasing investment in resilience and early warning systems, developing multilateral partnerships, and more sustained efforts in peacebuilding and fighting the effects of climate change.

Bachelet acknowledged that since the UDHR was first signed, “the world as a whole grew richer, and people lived longer. More children went to school, and more



women were able to gain a greater measure of autonomy. More people in more countries had more opportunities to break the shackles of poverty, class, caste and gender.”

Despite this progress, however,

she noted that over the past twenty years, a succession of global shocks and the onset of the pandemic in 2020 undermined these developments.

With the world “at a cross-

roads”, new threats have emerged to basic human rights, such as the pandemic, digital technology’s overreach, and the climate crisis, said UN chief Guterres, in his message for Human Rights Day, marked on Friday.

“Public space is shrinking. Poverty and hunger are rising for the first time in decades. Millions of children are missing out on their right to education. Inequality is deepening - but we can choose a different path”, he assured.

Guterres noted that recovery from the pandemic “must be an opportunity to expand human rights and freedoms, and to rebuild trust.”

Trust needs to be restored in the justice and impartiality of laws and institutions everywhere, he added, and dignity restored, together with the faith that “people can get a fair hearing, and resolve their grievances peacefully.”

“The United Nations stands for the rights of every member of our human family”, he continued, pledging that “today and every day, we will continue to work for justice, equality, dignity and human rights for all.” **ANI**

TORNADOES

Dozens feared dead after devastating tornadoes in Kentucky

KENTUCKY: Authorities in the US state of Kentucky have said they estimate some 50 people have died after devastating tornadoes tore through the area late on Friday night.

The tornadoes and strong storm systems are said to have ripped through Kentucky, neighbouring Illinois and Tennessee.

“I fear that there are more than 50 dead ... probably closer to somewhere between 70 and 100, it’s devastating,” Beshear said, adding that it was the “most severe tornado event in Kentucky’s history.”

Meanwhile, in Tennessee, the severe weather has killed at least three people, Dean Flener, spokesman for the state’s Emergency Management Agency, said in comments carried by the Post.

In Illinois, the tornado hit a warehouse of online retail giant Amazon, reducing a third of the structure to rubble.

Rescue workers were rushing through the early hours of Saturday to rescue the employees, who were working the night shift when the tornado hit. **bw**

COVID VACCINE

New Zealand man probed for having 10 vaccine shots

WELLINGTON: A New Zealand man has been labelled “unbelievably selfish” after he received up to 10 COVID-19 vaccines in one day.

The news website Stuff said the man, who has not been named and is now under investigation, visited several vaccination centers.

Local media reported that he was paid to take the shots on behalf of other people, pretending to be the individuals who had allegedly hired him.

The country’s Ministry of Health was taking the matter seriously, COVID-19 vaccine and immunization program manager

Astrid Koornneef told Stuff.

“We are very concerned about this situation and are working with the appropriate agencies,” she said.

“To assume another person’s identity and receive a medical treatment is dangerous,” Koornneef was cited by the New Zealand Herald as saying. “This puts at risk the person who receives a vaccination under an assumed identity and the person whose health record will show they have been vaccinated when they have not.”

The ministry would not say where the incidents took place but advised the man to visit a doctor for advice as soon as possible.

University of Auckland vaccinologist Helen Petousis-Harris told Stuff that studies did not cover such excessive doses so it was difficult to predict what might happen to someone who had 10 vaccines in a single day.

Petousis-Harris said the man was likely to feel rough for a day or two as his body mounts an immune response to the multiple vaccines. “It’s unbelievably selfish,” she added.

Malaghan Institute director and immunologist professor Graham Le Gros said the actions were “silly and dangerous.” **ANI**

ATTACK

Russia has no plans to launch attack on Ukraine, says Kremlin

MOSCOW: Russia is not planning an attack on Ukraine, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Greek TV channel ANT1 in an exclusive interview.

“No, the problem is very simple. Russia is moving its forces within its territory and we can move our forces in any direction we want and closer to the areas that could pose a threat [and currently] we see US warplanes landing in Ukraine and US military equipment approaching our borders,” Peskov said, when asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin was planning to carry out an attack on Ukraine. The Kremlin spokesperson also criticized Turkey for



selling its drones, which are used by Kiev in Donbas, to Ukraine.

“We have criticized Turkey for this, because we believe it is a problem that pushes Kiev and the Ukrainian government to choose a violent solution to solve their internal issues in the southeast. If Ukraine starts attacking its own people again, it will be another disaster for Europe,” Peskov noted.

Peskov was also asked whether the United States and Russia could ever become allies, however, the spokesman noted that considering the current situation “it would be hard to imagine such a thing.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin held a secured telephone call with his US counterpart, Joe Biden, on Tuesday, discussing the alleged gathering of Russian troops near Ukraine’s borders. Bilateral relations between Russia and the US as well as Ukraine have deteriorated amid media reports that Russia has built up around 100,000 troops near its border with Ukraine and accusations of planning an attack. **ANI**



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UAE

DOMESTIC TOURNAMENT

Oman Cricket launches D20, D10 League

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket has announced the launch of its new version of Domestic Tournament - Oman D20 & Oman D10 League in partnership with ITW Consulting DMCC. The Inaugural edition of Oman D20 will be played at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in Al Amerat from 21st December 2021 to 5th January 2022. The league will be played in a round-robin format between 8 teams with 2 matches on weekdays (4pm/8pm) and 3 matches on weekends (12pm/4pm/8pm).

Oman Cricket has signed ITW Consulting as their Partners for 3 years to promote its cricket and

showcase them to the highest level with Oman D20 and Oman D10 League to be played at least once a year.

The Oman D20 League will be exclusively broadcasted live on FanCode App and www.fancode.com. FanCode, India's premier digital sports destination for all fans, will continue to provide an unparalleled sports experience to sports fans through a plethora of features including interactive data overlays, fastest interactive live scores, in-depth sports stats and analytics, and real-time match highlights. The Oman D20 league would be also carried on Sports Eye (a regional cricket broadcasting portal) and other premium platforms globally.

DOHA: Tunisia and Qatar became the first teams through to the semi-finals after a remarkable day of action at the inaugural FIFA Arab Cup™.

Although the victors prevailed in very different ways, both profited from the big occasion bringing out the best in their big players. For Tunisia, that was Seifeddine Jaziri and Yousef Msakni - their in-form striker and talismanic captain - coming to the fore to provide the cutting edge in a tight 2-1 win over Oman.

The hosts, for their part, blew UAE away in a stunning first half in which Almoez Ali scored twice and earned a penalty, with Akram Aff adding his third and fourth assists of a sparkling tournament. Felix Sanchez's team now face a mouth-watering last-four meeting with either Morocco or Algeria, while tomorrow's second quarter-final – between Egypt and Jordan – will determine who progresses to face the on-song Eagles of Carthage.

Hope. then heartbreak

Oman were largely on the back foot against Tunisia, and managed just six efforts on goal to their opponents' 16. But of all the efforts from both sides, the underdogs produced the best of the bunch: a 30-yard rocket from Arshad Al Alawi that hauled his team level in truly stunning fashion.

The celebrations that followed this certain goal of the tournament contender were to be shortlived, however. Just three more minutes had elapsed, in fact, before Tunisia's lead was restored through Yousef Msakni's close-range header, breaking hearts that had been sent soaring by Al Alawi's moment of magic.

Fans respond to Kebaier's call

Tunisia didn't merely dominate on the field; they were also on top in the stands, where their fans

A group of football players in maroon jerseys are celebrating a goal. They are huddled together, with some players jumping and others embracing. One player's jersey has the name 'AFIF' and the number '11' visible. The background is a blurred stadium filled with spectators.

made up the bulk of the 21,329 Education City crowd. As the final minutes ticked down, with tension rising and Oman pushing for an equaliser, Mondher Kebaier decided to make full use of this numerical advantage. Having turned to all four sides of the ground, waving his arms frantically in a plea for backing, the Tunisia coach would have thrilled at the response that followed. The noise levels immediately lifted but there was visual inspiration for his tiring players, too, as their supporters spent the entirety of stoppage time waving their phones, flashlights on, in an attractive, eye-catching show of support.

Catalogue of errors sets the tone

UAE don't normally concede many goals and Akram Afif isn't in the habit of mis-controlling

the ball. This made the first half at Al Bayt, typified by the error-strewn nature of Qatar's sixth-minute opener, all the more surprising. Mohanad Salem kicked off the catalogue of errors by tripping over the ball, allowing Almoez Ali to steal in and set up Aff seven yards from goal.

And then, when Qatar's nimble-footed No11 looked to have blown the opportunity with an uncharacteristically loose touch after beating the keeper, there was one final, costly mistake as Mohamad Alattas booted his attempted clearance against team-mate Ali Salmin. The ball duly ricocheted back into the Emirati net, setting the tone for a horrendous first-half for Bert van Marwijk's usually defendable defence. Qatar, of course, simply went from strength to strength, with each goal that followed seemingly more slick

and impressive than the last.

Possession without penetration

UAE ended the group stage having enjoyed more possession than any other team, but with fewer goals (3) – by some distance – than any of their fellow quarter-finalists. That familiar theme played out again tonight, with the half-time statistics a powerful – and for the Emiratis, painful – reminder of how meaningless monopolising the ball can be.

UAE ended that opening 45 with a 73 per cent share in possession, yet hadn't managed a single shot on target. Their efficient, clinical opponents, needless to say, had an altogether different story to tell, having used their more modest share of the ball to register six efforts on target – five of which flew into Ali Khaseif's net. **FIFA**



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India Global Forum UAE will be organised in Dubai on December 13 and 14. The event, to be hosted at Taj Dubai, and co-hosted by the Embassy of the UAE, New Delhi, and Consulate General of India, Dubai, will see participation from lawmakers, government officials and senior leaders of Unicorns from India and the UAE.

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ENERGY FORUM

The energy industry must look beyond uncertainty about the shape of future energy demand and invest in clean energy technologies across all energy sources, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum Joseph McMonigle said in a speech.

Karwa Motors a success story on Oman’s diversification push

The new facility is built on a site covering approximately 600,000 square metres and in its first phase comprises 40 working stations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As Karwa Motors commenced production at its new state-of-the-art facility in Duqm recently, it became a success story in many ways for the diversification of the Omani economy.

It emphasises four key objectives in its business model, namely: Creating In-Country Value (ICV), Localising Global Standards and Technologies, Contributing to the Economic Development of Duqm and Oman, and Youth empowerment through direct and indirect employment in the transportation industry.

Commenting on the operations of the facility, Dr Ibrahim Al Balushi, CEO of Karwa Motors said, “This factory is a cornerstone of our commitment towards sus-



tained economic growth for the coming decades – to set the stage for what will become the beacon of automotive and industrial progress in Oman.”

Dr Ibrahim Al Balushi added, “Located right here at one of the Sultanate’s most prominent gateways to the world, our facility will now serve as the country’s first foray into bus production. With our technology transfer partners, we aim to introduce several innovations and industry-leading production practices and technologies to Oman, setting the benchmark for all future production facilities to come.”

The new facility is built on a site covering approximately 600,000 square metres and in its first phase comprises 40 working stations. These are staffed by a team of highly skilled workers who form



SIGNIFICANT: By opening a vehicle manufacturing plant at a port as strategically significant as Duqm, Karwa is creating valuable opportunities for the birth of new SMEs and empowering the abundant young Omani talent in the country. - supplied picture

and manufacture the buses, install their various parts, paint, and check their quality.

This new facility is responsible for the production of three Karwa branded bus models – initially focusing on the school bus, with the intercity coach and city bus to follow in the coming year. The company hopes to achieve an annual production of 500 buses in its first year.

Commenting on the buses, Dr

Ibrahim Al Balushi said, “In the first phase of our ramp-up, we plan to focus on producing the first of three Karwa branded buses and which we are proud to say constitutes our first prestigious order; as they will be used at the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Doha next year. Later next year, we will introduce the intercity coach and the city bus.”

The value Karwa Motors, as a company and brand, bring into the country is, however, not restricted

just to customers and staff. By opening a vehicle manufacturing plant at a port as strategically significant as Duqm, Karwa is creating valuable opportunities for the birth of new SMEs and empowering the abundant young Omani talent in the country.

These could include anything from vehicle logistics and automotive engineering and design, all the way to OEM parts manufacturing; each of whom Karwa aims

to avail the services of and support in the future.

“The launch of this facility is a truly historic moment, not just for us at Karwa, but also for the nation. The launch heralds the beginning of a new era in automotive production in the country. We can now collectively look on in pride as our label ‘Made in the Sultanate of Oman’ reaches out across the globe on Karwa made buses,” concluded Dr Ibrahim Albalushi.

WORLD’S FIRST

Germany green lights Mercedes-Benz’s partly automated driving system

MUNICH: Mercedes-Benz will next year introduce what it considers the world’s first semi-autonomous driving system on the German market after receiving regulatory approval, the carmaker announced on Thursday, potentially paving the way for the Daimler AG subsidiary to begin offering its Drive Pilot system elsewhere around the world.

The system allows the driver to focus on other activities while the car is in heavy traffic or on congested highways, the German car manufacturer said in a statement.

‘Milestone’

“With this milestone, we are once again proving our pioneering work in automated driving and also initiating a radical paradigm shift,” Daimler Chief Technology Officer Markus Schäfer said.

Schäfer also said that as soon as legislation in China and the United States was in place, Mercedes-Benz would offer the system in those markets too.

The announcement comes after Germany’s Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) gave the green light to the system which will be offered on the high-end Mercedes-Benz S-Class luxury sedan in the first half of 2022. Historically, Mercedes has tended to



AUTONOMOUS DRIVING OPTION: The “Drive Pilot” system means a driver can focus on other activities while the car is in traffic. Now that it has KBA approval, Mercedes will be offering the autonomous driving option in the first half of 2022. - dww

introduce its technological innovations on this long-running model first. It’s by no means the most accessible new Mercedes, costing a minimum of €126,830 (around \$143,000) on the German market after taxes.

The KBA approved the system based on technical requirements laid out by the United Nations.

“The KBA is setting nation-

al, European and international standards in road safety on the road to autonomous driving,” said KBA President Richard Damm in a press release.

Capped at 60 kilometres per hour

According to Mercedes-Benz, there are over 13,100 kilometres (8,140 miles) of highway suit-

able for the Drive Pilot system in Germany.

The KBA gave the system the all-clear for driving speeds of up to 60 kilometres per hour (37 miles per hour). Germany’s motor watchdog has yet to decide whether to approve it for speeds of up to 130 kilometers per hour, or a lane-change assistant that would automate overtaking another car. -dww

UNCERTAINTY

Omicron scare: Firms rethink return-to-office plans

NEW YORK: Companies of all sizes are rethinking their plans to send workers back to the office as the new Omicron variant adds another layer of uncertainty.

Extra precautions

Alphabet’s Google and the nation’s second-largest automaker Ford Co. are among those once again delaying their return-to-office plans, while other businesses whose employees have already returned are considering adding extra precautions like requiring masks.

Officials in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway and Sweden also have asked people in recent days to work from home if they can because of concerns about the variant.

Meta, formerly known as Facebook, and ridesharing company Lyft separately announced Tuesday that they’re letting workers delay their return when offices fully reopen early next year.

Meta still plans to open its headquarters at the end of January but will allow workers to delay their return as late as June. Lyft says it won’t require workers to come back to its offices for all of next year, though they will fully reopen as planned in February.

Janelle Gale, vice president of human resources for Meta, said the latest decision recognises “some aren’t quite ready to come back.”

The moves are the latest indication of how difficult it is for companies to set firm plans for their

employees’ mandatory return as worries about a spike in new cases or new variants keep shifting deadlines. This fall, the delta variant spurred many big companies to postpone a mandatory return to early next year.

Curves

“A year and a half ago, we thought this would be for a very short time,” said Jeff Levin-Scherz, population health leader at Willis Towers Watson, a global advisory firm. “But the pandemic has thrown us many curves, and employers need to continue to be nimble.”

The firm’s survey of 543 employers with 5.2 million workers showed on average 34 per cent of remote-capable employees

remain remote, but that would decline to 27 per cent by the first quarter of 2022. However, the survey was conducted before news of omicron surfaced.

Delayed plans

The delayed plans are yet another blow to already struggling restaurants, bars, dry cleaners and other businesses that rely on office workers as patrons. Particularly hard-hit are those in downtown or midtown areas of cities like New York dominated by office buildings that remain largely empty.

The delays come even as US health officials say early indications suggest Omicron may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to fuel hospitalisations. -BNA

RELOCATION



SUPPLY SNARLS: More and more US companies are moving their production and manufacturing facilities back home because of supply snarls and insufficient production capacity abroad. - dww

Why US companies are reshoring their business

WASHINGTON:

When Johnson & Johnson got rid of him, James Wyner was deeply hurt. His company, textile finisher Shawmut Corporation, had made many a buck in the past thanks to bilateral supply contracts. But in the mid-1990s, Johnson & Johnson decided to relocate its protective equipment production to Asia in a bid to cut costs.

As a result, Wyner had to let go 250 employees, with his plant in Massachusetts standing empty all of a sudden. “We saw that business go out of the door,” he told the business magazine *Fortune*.

Johnson & Johnson is not an exception. For decades on end, US firms have been shifting their production facilities abroad in pursuit of cheaper materials and labour. Globalisation has pushed down costs and widened profit margins considerably for many enterprises, with supply chains becoming the target of fierce competition as firms seek greater efficiency.

Systemic flaws?

As the pandemic rages on, people are now realising what a strange arrangement that has been. The fast upswing of the US economy, in general, is causing problems for many domestic firms who complain about a severe shortage of raw materials and suppliers. Intermediate products are not available, and microchips are extremely hard to get by. The coronavirus crisis shows that the optimisation drive of corporate

executives has its flaws.

Dysfunctional supply chains are increasingly becoming a headache especially for small and medium-sized companies which have little clout to set prices. Wherever goods are scarce, prices explode. Producer prices rose by 8.6 per cent in the US in October alone, marking the biggest monthly jump ever recorded. Even bigger enterprises are facing massive hurdles which according to analysts may not go away before 2024.

Consumer electronics giant Apple’s revenues tanked by \$6 billion (€5.3 billion) in the third quarter. Sports equipment firm Nike reported production stoppages in Vietnam, meaning it will produce 160 million fewer shoes. Toy company Hasbro is complaining about the rapid rise in freight costs, so is meat substitute producer Beyond Meat which has seen its shares falling considerably in recent months.

More and more firms are therefore cutting their costs and are reshoring their production to the US. As early as 2019, when the trade spat between China and the US was in full swing, American firms sought to decrease their dependence on the Asian market.

In March of this year, Intel announced it would pump some \$20 billion into two new semiconductor plants in Arizona. General Motors is reshoring its battery production to Michigan where a new hub for lithium-based products is to emerge soon. -dww

MARKET

Expert urges industry to invest more in clean energy technologies

Widely divergent scenarios of the future oil and natural gas markets, reflecting different pathways to net-zero carbon emissions, are contributing to market uncertainty, and raising hurdles to new oil and gas investments, Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum Joseph McMonigle told an audience at the World Petroleum Congress in Houston

HOUSTON: The energy industry must look beyond uncertainty about the shape of future energy demand and invest in clean energy technologies across all energy sources, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum Joseph McMonigle said in a speech.

Widely divergent scenarios of the future oil and natural gas markets, reflecting different pathways

to net-zero carbon emissions, are contributing to market uncertainty, and raising hurdles to new oil and gas investments, he told an audience at the World Petroleum Congress in Houston.

“To bridge these apparent gaps between scenarios and overcome price spikes and other unintended potholes further down the road, the world must scale clean energy technologies across all energy



INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM: Natural gas demand may grow by almost 40 per cent or drop by 30 per cent by 2040, according to different scenarios. - **WAM**

sources, including the petroleum sector,” he said.

The growing gap between main and alternative net-zero pathways reflect differences between current oil and gas demand dependencies and trajectories to hit the targets pledged under the UN Paris Agreement.

For example, natural gas demand may grow by almost 40 per cent or drop by 30 per cent by 2040, according to different scenarios, McMonigle said. Policy and technology pathways that affect energy markets are ever less certain, he added.

“While we all embrace the stellar rise of renewables growth across all scenarios, assumptions that govern the role of other sources in energy sector transformations differ even more strongly,” he told the assembled audience, who attended in person. As current price spikes show, there is real

work to do beyond renewables and electrification alone.”

“New business opportunities and jobs in the circular carbon economy focused on engineered and nature-based CCUS solutions will offer new returns and income streams if governments can get the incentives and regulation right,” he added.

The IEF has launched several initiatives that align with the climate ambitions of IEF member countries, reinforce market stability and create a more predictable environment for investment in sustainable solutions. These include initiatives on methane emissions measurement and carbon management technologies such as carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS).

“The IEF Methane Initiative equips IEF member countries with a standardised methodology to more accurately estimate emissions levels and present credible plans to reduce releases, or turn methane to value,” he said.

“Governments must green light CCUS to achieve shared goals to reduce emissions and increase affordable access to modern energy,” he added.

Assessments show that CCUS capacity needs to rise from around 40 million tonnes in operation today and, reach at least 5.6 billion tons per year by 2050 to meet Paris goals.

“That’s millions to billions of metric tonnes. The IEA’s Net Zero Report raises this to 7.6 billion tonnes per year by 2050,” he added.

The current volatility in energy prices is a signal that we need greater certainty over the shape of the future energy market, he said. **-WAM**

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DYNAMIC ALLIANCES

India Global Forum UAE to be held on December 13-14

NEW DELHI: India Global Forum announced that India Global Forum UAE will be organised in Dubai on December 13 and 14. The two-day event, to be hosted at Taj Dubai, and co-hosted by the Embassy of the UAE, New Delhi, and Consulate General of India, Dubai, will see participation from lawmakers, government officials and senior leaders of Unicorns from India and the UAE.

The event will showcase opportunities to build dynamic alliances with world-beating talent, technology, and business partnerships for lasting global impact. The event will also highlight the journeys and ambitions of Unicorns from India and the UAE.

Manoj Ladwa, India Global Forum Founder said, “We are hugely excited about delivering, as always, the most engaging event with both excellent physical and cutting-edge virtual interactions.” **-ANI/BusinessWire India**

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VIENNA HEADQUARTERED

Declaration of Cooperation of Opec, non-Opec oil-producing nations turns five

VIENNA: The Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) between Opec Member Countries and 10 non-Opec oil-producing countries turned five on 10 December 2021, said the Vienna-based organisation in a press release.

On this day in 2016, Opec Member Countries and Azerbaijan, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Equatorial Guinea (which later joined Opec), Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Sultanate of Oman, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan gathered in Vienna, Austria, at the Opec headquarters to embark on a new era of cooperation to support sustainable stability in the global oil market. Other producers attended the meeting in support of these extraordinary efforts.

The birth of the DoC built on the successful ‘Algiers Accord’, signed in Algiers, Algeria, on 28 September 2016 at the 170th (Extraordinary) Meeting of the Opec Conference and the subsequent ‘Vienna Agreement’, decided on 30 November of the same year in Vienna, Austria, at the 171st Meeting of the Opec Conference. **-WAM**

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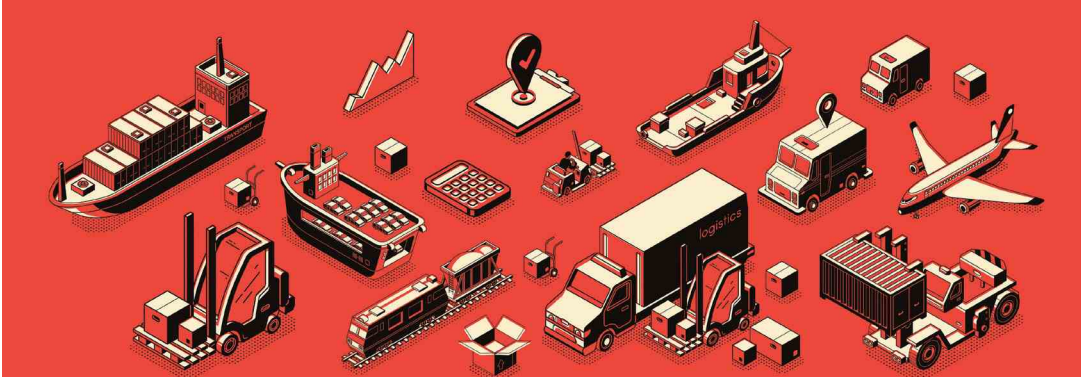
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- **Fire & Safety Engineer** - 1 No
- **Electrical Engineer** - 1 No

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Email: cmk_pnr@yahoo.co.in

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3-5 years experienced Sales Executive required for building material/ electrical/oilfield/PPE supply company, Muscat - Oman.

Please send your cv to: tradecircle18@gmail.com
<or> Whatsapp on +968-90252779

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Cook
with 5-6 years experience in Indian & Continental cooking.

Housemaid / Nurse
to assist elderly person in home.

House Driver
with Omani driving license.

Interested candidates can contact via telephone or WhatsApp on +968 99318929

ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED

For a Group of Companies based in Muscat, operations spread all over Oman.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Commerce Graduate, with Accounts as Major, Minimum 2 Years of Work Experience with NOC, Tally ERP 9 certified, Computer literate, knowledge of ENGLISH a must, immediate joining preferring available in OMAN, current work location at Al Khuwair

E Mail your updated CV to: notcllc@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Urgently required Stainless Steel Welder/Fabricator (Experience in SS finishing works including cutting, letter making and welding), ACP Worker and Sign Maker. Experience of 3-5 Years in similar field.
Contact 99014231
Email: jayakrishnanap@gmail.com

Looking For **Carpenter and Office Staff**. Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Furniture wholesale leading company requires a Salesperson with experience and Omani driving license. Kindly send CV to: furniture.company2021@gmail.com

Looking urgently for a well experienced building material sales man with computer knowledge.
Contact 92525406

Need experience **Sales Executive** for Gas field industry. Dood sales and communication Oman D/L needed. send cv on: osgcfinance@yahoo.com

DRIVER

Drivers for Light / SUV personal cars required. 2-3 years of experience. Interested candidates can email: deosil03@gmail.com or Call/WhatsApp: 92569177

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

Looking for a Skilled & experienced **Signboard Maker & a Engraving & CNC Router Machine Operator**.
Contact: +968 99112319

IT

A well-established IT company in Oman is looking for **IT Engineers** with at least 3-5 years working experience as an IT Support Engineer. Should have excellent skills on Microsoft Server, Cisco and Aruba Networking, IP Telephony, Software Applications and ready to join immediately. Send your CV to: itreq221130@gmail.com

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DOMESTIC HELP

Full time Housemaid required for Indian family of 3. Cooking Indian food and washing is the main job. Will be a well treated family member and compensation will include salary, free toiletries, food, accommodation, weekly holiday (subject to COVID safety), free WiFi, etc.
Contact: Mr. Jerry 92603674

JOB WANTED

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accountant seeking suitable placement Experience 15 years in Oman with Oman D/L. Contact 98895039

Multi-skilled Indian male, 25+ years (8 years GCC) well experience in Accounts / Administration / HR available to join immediately with release and D/L. Contact 96251394

Bachelor Degree with 7 years of experience in the Accounting & purchasing field. 4 years of experience in Oman seeks suitable job Available with Omani D/L. Contact 968 79399509
Email: suheb.a27@gmail.com

Young Indian Accountant, B.Com graduate having 3 years experience in Accounts looking for immediate placement. Contact 97092353

Senior Accountant, Indian Male, 12 Years experience in Oman, Having D/L and NOC. GSM 91469060

Senior Accountant: Indian Male, MBA Finance, having more than 12 year's GCC including Oman & Indian experience in AP, AR, Cash flow, VAT, BRS, Trade Finance, P&L, BS etc. With Valid D/L Contact 7970 2891
Email: shahoo.mhs@gmail.com

Senior Accountant, Srilankan Certified Business Accountant (CASL) with BBA Degree (Accounting specialized), 6+ years' experience, and capable of handling accounts up to finalization. Contact 79608588.
Email: mmmsthaq94@gmail.com

Part time accountant doing upto finalization seeking job. Contact 79102100

Sudanese male 32 Years, Senior accountant with 9 years' experience in Oman. Contact No. 94050251.
Email: danygalaxy184@gmail.com

ADMIN/HR

Indian male having 21 years HR & admin experience in Oman seeks suitable job. Contact 79329696

Indian male, 33 yrs old graduate, 10 years experience as an Office Assistant with Good English communication skills, is looking for a job in Muscat. Presently in Oman seeks job. Contact 90146616
Email: sranjithraj4@gmail.com

Indian female having 14yrs experience to handle Admin/Secretary/ Executive Secretary/Accountant-Office Co-ordinator & all office related works. Resume will be send on request. Contact 79630320

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman driving license and 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining.
Contact 79256679

Indian male with 20 plus years of experience in the field of administration/secretarial, looking for suitable post with NOC/transfer readily available. Contact 99637879 / 91539513.
Email: malekandy@gmail.com

Indian HR - Professional (MBA-HR with 14yr exp) 8yrs oman Exp(HR/ SAP/Admin) with Oman DL& NOC. Seeking openings in Human Resource & Admin jobs.
Contact: +968-78539053
Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

ARCHITECT

Landscape Architect, BLA (Honours), 27, Sri Lankan, experienced in Soft & Hard Landscape Design, Master Planning, 3D Visualizations and Site Inspections, seeks suitable placement in Oman. Contact 9550 7986
Email: duminduudara@gmail.com

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Indian Male, Graphic Designer, 15yrs+ experience. Looking for a suitable placement.
Contact +968 98693322.
WhatsApp: +968 99029672
Email: shoji074@gmail.com

Freelancer 2D / 3D Autocad Revit drafting MEP, Arch, B.Tech. Contact 99506977

Indian Male, Civil Draughtsman. 11yrs 8months of experience. 6yrs of Oman experience. Looking for a suitable placement.
Contact +968 9919 2490,
WhatsApp +91 8075337320
E-mail: tonymxx@gmail.com

MANAGER

Plant Manager with 25 years Exp for construction machinery is available for immediate joining.
Contact 79724650

MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

Diploma Mechanical Engineer & CNC VMC operator exp 3 yrs currently in Oman. NOC available. Contact 94227542.
Email dinithdas@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

10 yrs exp. in Accounts receivable plus 7 yrs in purchase, logistics & warehouse exp., Having D/L seeks suitable position. Contact 98531104

DRIVER

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience in Oman looking for job. Contact 79185382, 79141820

Looking for driving jobs, 3 year experience in Oman. Contact 94447012

Driver need job with own car. Contact 94722609

PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

Warehouse Incharge & inventory controller having 6 years experience with Oman D/L seeks suitable job. Contact 97915240

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Electronics & Communication
Indian Male looking for a suitable job in Oman. Presently in Oman.

Contact 78644119
E-mail: terancefranklin25@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor

Srilankan Male Quantity Surveyor (BSc QS (Hons) reading) with 4 years of Civil & ID experience in Oman. Looking for a job.

Contact: 92187572
Email: sifathhasan1995@gmail.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Indian, 23, (B.E Mechanical), fresher PG Diploma in Oil and Gas Piping and Pipeline, QA/QC, NDT, looking for suitable job.

Contact: 79056363, 99501396
Email: rejiakhil111@gmail.com

Project Manager - Civil

An Indian, Graduate Civil Engineer having 22+ yrs Exp. in Construction Sector on Buildings, Infrastructure & Electro-Mechanical Projects with Project Management/ Contracts Exp. looking for a Middle Management Position in the Consulting/Contracting Firm. Valid Engineer Visa & D/ L, NOC available/Transferable Visa.

Contact No. 91996650

MANAGER

MANAGER (Accounts / Finance / Real Estate /Admin & HR), MBA (Finance), PG Diploma in HRM, Bcom, 20yrs experience in Muscat. Can join immediately. NOC/RELEASE available.

Please contact: 91245950

OMANI HSE

Bachelor's degree in BA & IOSH. 10 years experience in HSE and O&M.

Contact +968 95555865

Mechanical Engineer
Sudanese mechanical engineering with 10 years experience, Firefighting & alarm system, Seeking a position as Mechanical engineer.

WhatsApp and direct phone call +968 94044896

Senior Accountant

Indian male M. Com with PG in computers, working as Senior Accountant in Oman with over 12 years with advanced knowledge in MS Dynamics, ODDO, Tally Erp/Prime (Tally customising with developer), looking for suitable position.

Contact on +96871551938

FINANCE

Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.

GSM: 92334161

Senior Project Manager / Project Director

Indian National, 18 Yrs. of work experience, Graduate Civil Engineer, Master's in Construction Project Management; Construction Law & Dispute Resolution from UK. Having expertise in Project, Contract & Claims Management. Experienced in Handling High End Hospitality, Residential & Commercial Projects from initiation till completion. Seeks Placement as Clients or Consultants representative in Oman.

Call / WhatsApp +971543499629

Executive Camp Boss/Logistics/Store/Procurement

Graduate with 10 years experience in Oman as camp administration-in-charge with Oman D/L & 15 yrs experience in Logistics/store/inventory control/ procurement exp in oil and gas field is looking for suitable position. Fully vaccinated, valid Oman gamca medical and ready to join immediately.

Whatsapp 0091 9656724161
Email - rajeshm117821@gmail.com

FINANCE MANAGER

Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies

Contact Number # 78556829

OMANI HR/PRO

Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.

Contact 97264447

FINANCE

MBA, Mcom, ICWA (inter) 21 years experience in Oman working as Manager in Business / Accounts / Finance / Operations. Looking for Senior positions in Business / Finance and Operations.

CONTACT: 96211885

SENIOR MANAGER SUPPLY CHAIN

Indian Male with +25 years of Experience in Supply Chain, Purchase, Sales & Distribution, MIS, Inventory & Credit Control seeks placement.

CONTACT 94619442

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER

MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

SALES / PURCHASE

Indian Male(31), MBA-Finance, 7 years experience as Sales Procurement Specialist, specialized in electrical & lighting for residential and commercial projects. Seeking suitable position. D/L available.

Email: gaisebukhari@gmail.com
Contact: 94560161

Senior Manager (HR/Administration/Operations)

Indian male, 42, MBA, 12yrs' experience with international exposure. Having GCC experience. Also having Experience in the Education Industry (India). Presently in Muscat. D/L Available.

Contact: 94326527
Email: sreekanth.kerala987@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

BE Electrical & Electronics Indian Male looking for a suitable placement in Oman. 5 years India' Exp in Protection/ Testing Engineer
Contact +919633154156, Email: vishnuvasudevan11@gmail.com

Site Engineer (3 year) experience as a supervisor and site engineer in addition familiar with calculating quantities, BBS, managing sites and budgets. Presently in Oman seeking a job. Contact 72646903, 79566531
Email: mohammedalip7p@gmail.com

Indian Female Civil Engineer (M.Tech) on family visa actively looking for: Civil Qs/ Planning / Teaching Job. Experienced in above jobs. Contact: +968 93455363, +968 96038658

Indian, 23, Civil Engineer, fresher with Oman D/L, looking for suitable job. Contact 95257524

B.E Civil Engineer, 8 years of Oman Experience in building construction, Looking for suitable position, NOC & D/L Available. Contact 79083823.

Indian Male B.E Civil 3Y experience currently available in Oman with NOC. Ready for Immediate join Looking Job. Contact 72651777

Electrical eng 10 years experience in O&M and projects , PMP, D/L looking for job. Contact 71543379

Civil Engineer having 3 years Indian experience as a site engineer, presently in Oman. Looking for suitable job. Contact 94130276

M. Tech Structural Engineer with 14 years experience in Oman with ministries & consultants seeks suitable placement. NOC & D/L available. Contact 92497704
Email: fahadca@gmail.com

Indian male, diploma in polymer technology, 2 year experience. Looking for suitable jobs in plastic factory /oil & gas. Contact 78353615.
Email: abdupklm@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, 25 yrs with 3 years experience in Site supervision, Quantity Surveying, Billing Currently in Oman looking for suitable job. Contact 72078636
Email: arunrajendran911@gmail.com

Civil Engineer, Indian, B.E Civil, having 11+ yrs Exp. Looking for a suitable position, valid GCC D/L, Currently in Oman. Contact 95085270
Email: fasee.syed@gmail.com

Civil Engineer (B.E) Indian Male (26) 5 years of GCC construction experience in an A grade firm with D/L. NOC available, Immediate joining. Contact +968 94781810

CIVIL ENGINEER

B.Tech graduate with 1+ years of experience working as a Site Engineer & Quantity Surveyor. Proficient in Quantity Survey, Quality Control, 2D Drafting, 3D Modelling & Project Management. Currently in Oman. Available to join shortly.

92408363
sawad.mohammed@outlook.com

Mechanical Engineer

Indian, 30, (B.E Mechanical) with 6 years Oman experience in design & supervision of HVAC & Mechanical systems for Comm./Resi. buildings, hotels, hospitals & hypermarkets looking for suitable openings. Valid D/L & NOC available.

Contact 95434381
email: shuhaibbusman313@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

BE Mech & MBA Marketing with (10 years Exp in Oman Sales) looking for suitable opportunity in manufacturing or trading industry.
Contact 9432 4991

Indian male experience in Sales and Marketing for 12 years with D/L looking for suitable placement.
Contact 92085257

11 years Oman Experience in Sales Marketing and Business Development. Looking for a suitable position.
Contact 91839393

12 years experienced person in FMCG industry, looking for a suitable placement. Holding valid Oman D/L. Contact 92428081

Indian, MBA (Marketing & Finance), with experience of 1year in Sales(India) seeking for a job & presently available in Oman.
Contact +968 79858680
Email: hidayathizy49@gmail.com

Indian, 7 years of experience as a FMCG Sales executive in Oman with Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 78642042

Indian, 12 years of experience as a Sales executive in Oman, FMCG & textiles. Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement.
Contact 91883131, 79871821

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KICKSTART A SUCCESSFUL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ROUTINE

When it comes to leading a healthy lifestyle, it's the small decisions and changes that have a great impact on our individual wellness journeys. Wellness is not just one thing. In fact, maintaining a healthy lifestyle goes beyond just physical health and appearances, extending into areas like a person's emotional, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing. To help bring out the healthiest, happiest version of ourselves, experts recommend addressing the whole person, mind, body, spirit and all.

To help you kickstart a successful health and wellness routine rooted in a holistic approach, consider the following tips from these leading health industry experts:

1 Practice mindfulness
Starting your day with a focus on mindfulness can contribute to easier and relaxed moments that translate into better days mentally and physically. "I wake up every morning at 6 a.m. and meditate for 15 minutes," says Kristin McGee, celebrity yoga instructor and mindfulness expert based in the US. Deep full breathing helps you anchor yourself in the present. "When we become aware of our breathing, we also calm our nervous system which helps us settle into a relaxed space and feel more awake and alive," McGee explains.

2 Focus on immune health
What we put into our bodies is critical and incorporating ingredients to help support our immune system is just one way to help us feel our best year-round. There are many ways to help support our immune function through nutrition, including incorporating nutrient-rich foods, such as oranges, carrots, red bell peppers and spinach, into your diet. These foods contain immune-supporting vitamin C - a nutrient synonymous with immune health. "A simple way to help support the immune sys-



The joy list makes it easy for you to remember what brings you peace and ease, and empowers you to make those changes yourself. Even when you're having a great day, you can still turn to the joy list for a way to keep the goodness and positive vibes going.

tem is with a dietary supplement," US based registered dietician nutritionist Shana Minei Spence says. "In tandem with a balanced diet, I recommend the Emergen-C Immune+ dietary supplement, which is packed with high-potency vitamin C, as well as vitamin D and zinc, so it makes supporting the immune system easy and delicious."

3 Choose your joy
When you're having a busy day, it is important to not lose sight of the joys in your life. Mental health expert and self-care advocate Yasmine Cheyenne suggests creating a list of three to five things that bring you joy. "The joy list makes it easy for you to remember what brings you peace and ease, and empowers you to make those changes yourself," Yasmine notes. Some things to include in a joy list can be going for a quick walk, playing games with family, watching a show or gardening. "Even when you're having a great day, you can still turn to the joy list for a way to keep the goodness and positive vibes going," Cheyenne notes.

4 Get moving
Staying active not only has a positive effect on your body, but on your immune health and overall wellness. There are many benefits when it comes to sweating, including helping to improve focus, mood, productivity and confidence. Fitness expert and healthy habit builder Jennifer Cohen from US says treat movement like you would any other important meeting in your day. "Schedule exercise in your calendar or daily schedule like you would an important appointment - this helps us keep our commitment to movement," says Cohen.
Start off with these small steps and gradually increase your efforts toward building a routine that works best for you. With the above tips in mind, you will find that implementing quick and easy habits helps to make a big, lasting impact on your overall health. -BPT



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ROUND-UP

PRISMA ANALYTICS AND CRYPTODATA TECH PARTNER IN EDAIN PROJECT

REALISING A RAPIDLY GROWING COMMUNITY OF FOLLOWERS FOR ITS AI-BASED EDAIN KNOWLEDGE ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

DUBAI: Prisma Analytics and CryptoDATA Tech are hosting a promotional event in Dubai, UAE on December 11, 2021, together with its strategic marketing partners at the Grand Hyatt Dubai.

We proudly announce that the go-to-market in the Middle East and GCC Region will be executed in partnership with Hot Point Premium Energy LLC under the supervision of Armin Wais and ChachieNassere Salim Al Yahmmedi.

Edain represents the quantification of data in a tangible form and the emergence of a new knowledge industry that is designed to be made easily accessible to any person with an internet connection.

The Edain knowledge ecosystem uses a Tradable License Key (TLK) that represents the measurement of a unit of knowledge with the purpose of creating value that can be capitalised through the tradable unit (EAI), providing user access to the knowledge generated by the Edain knowledge platform.

Powered by an innovative big data analytics engine called C+8 Technology, it has been developed according to, and on the basis of technological patents by Dr Hardy F. Schloer.

Edain is a transformative AI environment based on big-data analytics tools that will allow any desiring human access to the most complete repository of knowledge for the purpose of making decisions of any complexity more efficiently and fact-based.

The centre of the Edain knowledge ecosystem is its SDG Knowledge Vault.

The Knowledge Vault is a centralised data repository that stores all of the data collected and processed by Edain through its proprietary C+8 Data Model.

C+8 provides a few key features that allow for the scale of the Edain project to be able to be realised – all of which are breakthroughs in the field of data science by themselves.

Namely, C+8 Technology allows for data to self-organise in Edain's fully autonomous data analytics ecosystem.

Further, C+8 is able to generalise unstructured data, measure knowledge in a way that can be standardised and remove almost all human bias in its analytics process.

The end goal of Edain is to make knowledge available to humans as a utility, the same as many homes and businesses around the world have electricity and water distributed to their premises through well-developed grid networks.

In doing so, Edain intends to shrink the global knowledge gap that is the cause of many of the world's socio-economic problems that cause conflict between humans.

The end goal of Edain is to make knowledge available to humans as a utility, the same as many homes and businesses around the world have electricity and water distributed to their premises through well-developed grid networks.



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ROUND-UP

OMR300,000 prize money for Meethaq Hibati's grand end-of-year draw

Meethaq is conducting a special campaign to increase customers' awareness to participate in the upcoming Hibati end of year grand draw

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat, has announced the countdown for its upcoming end-of-year grand draw, where 5 high-value prizes amounting to OMR300,000 will be given away.

Meethaq is at present conducting a special campaign to increase customers' awareness to participate in the upcoming Hibati end of year grand draw. Customers can increase their savings in the Hibati account to get more chances to win any of the attractive cash prizes.

Speaking on the occasion, Amor Said Al Amri, Senior Regional

Manager, Meethaq Branches, said, "We are delighted to see strong participation from Meethaq's esteemed customers in all the Hibati draws throughout the year.

"On behalf of Meethaq, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all our customers for placing their trust and strong confidence in the bank's services and products. As part of the grand draw, Meethaq is offering four prizes of OMR50,000 each and one grand prize of OMR 100,000, which is the biggest year-end prize amount by any Islamic Bank/win-dow this year.

"Five lucky winners will be chosen from amongst all Hibati customers. We wish all the very best to our customers in this special draw."

Unrestricted Mudarabah

Based on the Sharia concept of unrestricted Mudarabah, the cash prizes offered under Hibati's 2021 prize draw scheme are 'Hiba' (gift) from Meethaq to its customers and are paid out of Mudarib's (shareholders') own sources. The cash prizes are in addition to the profit share of Investment Account Holders (IAHs) in the General Mudarabah Pool as per the

declared profit rates.

Based on the concept of Mudarabah, customers with Hibati Savings Accounts enjoy a variety of benefits with Meethaq Islamic Banking, which includes competitive profit rates, attractive cash prize draws, Visa Debit Card, world-class digital banking facilities with no minimum balance charges. Meethaq ensures that each and every product goes through the process of Shari'a compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.



INSTILLING READING CULTURE

Youth Sada, BP Oman conclude third cycle of Reading Family programme



MUSCAT: In partnership with BP Oman, Youth Sada concluded its third version of the Reading Family programme with a closing ceremony held at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences in Ibri under the patronage of Hamed bin Hamdan Al Rubaie, representative of Wilayat Ibraiin Majlis A'Shura council.

The programme benefited a total of 400 children and aimed to instill the culture of reading, science and knowledge within the Omani community.

The programme included various activities and events such as the Reading Family Forum, the Reading Ambassadors Network, a book fair, the 'Rawafid' Training Programme (Youth Training Programme), My Child Reads sessions, 'Hakawati' sessions, a pic-

ture storytelling competition, and educational publications.

Shamsa Al-Rawahi, BP Oman social investment manager, commented, "The reading family programme, in partnership with Youth Sada, not only encourages reading among kids in the Al Dhahirah region, but it also allows them to expand their perspectives and knowledge on various topics, and influence the thinking of communities around them. The outcomes of these programmes are in line with our sustainability aims of driving education forward within our communities."

The Reading Ambassadors Network is considered as one of the main activities part of the Reading Family Programme, which aims to enhance the reading performance among kids aged seven to ten years

old. A total of 51 children participated this year in the Reading Ambassadors Network reaching a total of 4,007 books read.

The programme also offered My Child Reads sessions to 403 parents to encourage their children to learn reading.

The Reading Family Forum – which was part of the BP-sponsored programme – engaged 82 kids in academic workshops, games and recreational challenges. This year's forum was themed under the concept of 'protecting our environment'.

Additionally, 50 Omanis were trained in children's literature through the Youth Training Programme to train Omanis in delivering educational and reading programmes to children.

Shamsa Al Ghafri, Project Man-

ager at Youth Sada, commented saying: "At Youth Sada, we annually dedicate a group of programmes designed for young children's education. This year, a total of 196 children benefitted from the 'Hakawati' sessions and 70 children participated in the picture storytelling competition to enhance their creative writing skills and imagination. We are proud to announce that we will be publishing a booklet containing creative literature written by kids."

More recently, Youth Sada held a book fair as part of the programme – the first children's book exhibition in the Al Dhahirah region – where various libraries and bookstores participated such as 'Dar Al Fikr' library, Muhra World, Omomati Bookstore and Nawwar Store.

PROMOTION



Own Toyota Yaris hatchback with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Toyota's stylish and powerful Yaris hatchback is available with exclusive benefits that include service 2 years/20,000 km (whichever is earlier), 1 year insurance or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR125.

The campaign is valid until December 30 (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.)

Delivering a dynamic driving experience, the Yaris hatchback

is equipped with a 1.5-Litre engine with a 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of torque and is mated to the CVT transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency.

The Toyota Yaris hatchback has an attractive profile that is defined by a colour keyed radiator grille, colour keyed front & rear bumpers, colour keyed outside door handles, halogen headlamps, colour keyed power outer mirrors, LED high mount stop lamp, rear fog lamps, rear-window defogger, shark fin antenna and black luggage door garnish.

NEW STANDARD IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Muscat Electronics and Daikin launch new VRV series

MUSCAT: Muscat Electronics and Daikin Middle East & Africa have launched yet another energy efficient and economical air-conditioning solution - The VRV-X for High ambient Market at the Grand Hyatt Muscat Hotel-last evening. The splendid event-packed product launch was attended by more than 100 key consultants, developers and industry professionals from across Oman.

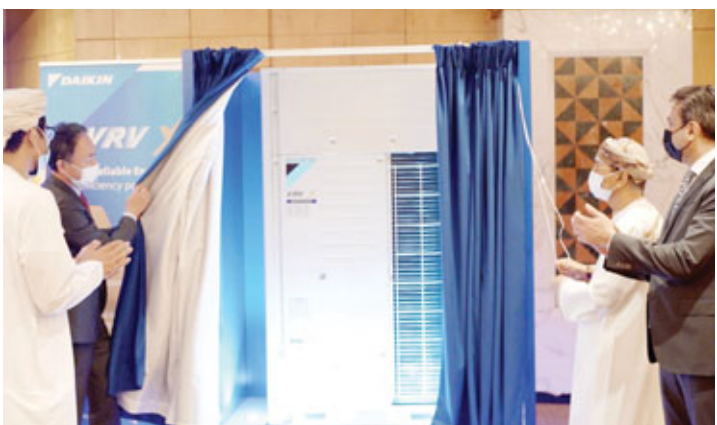
The new Daikin VRV-X was unveiled under the auspicious of Dr Mohamed Musa. Al Yousef – Chairman of Al Yousef Group and Masaaki Miyatake – President and Chairman, Daikin Middle east & Africa among other well-reputed personalities in the Sultanate's business fraternity and government institutions.

Daikin has always been committed to making advanced technologies affordable to the broader market without compromising on

energy efficiency, comfort, ease of installation and sustainable environment and the VRV-X is yet another innovative addition to their range of green air-conditioning solutions. This system sets a new benchmark for energy efficiency, as it features offers several revolutionary innovations like Variable Refrigerant Temperature (VRT), Refrigerant – cooled PCB, and the VRV configurator for simplified commissioning to mention a few. The system offers an enhanced lineup to meet an ever-widening variety of needs of both commercial and residential consumers.

Apart from the Daikin VRV-X a couple more green air-conditioning solutions, air purification systems, Mini VRV "VRV Apt", and service solutions were also introduced at the event.

"Daikin has been continuously setting the standard for climate control and air solutions since it



first introduced the VRV technology back in 1982. This major innovation created a whole new category in the air conditioning market for Variable Refrigerant Flow systems. The new VRV-X reinforces Daikin's industry leadership. With the launch of the new product solutions with Muscat

Electronics, we aim to further support customer's business, meet, and exceed their requirements and project needs, and provide the best efficiency and comfort standards in the market," said Masaaki Miyatake – Chairman & President at Daikin MEA

"With the Solution Plaza facil-

ity, which was inaugurated 2 years back, we urge our customers to visit and experience the new Daikin products and solutions as well", concluded Miyatake

Muscat Electronics, the distributor of the Daikin brand of air-conditioners in the Sultanate has been associated with Daikin for almost 40 years, providing total air-conditioning solutions to the citizens & residents of Oman. ME is a pioneer in sowing the seeds of innovative technologies in the Sultanate and is committed to meeting the challenges of global warming and the need for sustainable resource use. This includes bringing to Oman some of the most innovative, environment friendly and highly energy-efficient technologies in the air-conditioning sector, developed and invented by Daikin.

ME has received various recognitions including an award from Daikin Industries Ltd Japan for

achieving the largest sales of VRV systems in the Middle East.

ME boasts of a highly skilled design team for VRV, Cassette, ducted and packaged air-conditioning solutions among others. In addition, they have a well-trained installation team that installs and supervises all installations and commissioning. Muscat Electronics also has a very sophisticated service centre equipped with advanced computerised system analysis and the team is well trained and highly equipped.

360 degrees customer-care is the keystone to ME's wide success. Their policy is to listen to the customer's needs and to work with them to improve their lives through the use of advanced technology and a commitment to innovation, quality, design and value. This leads customers to fall their choice on Muscat Electronics and Daikin brand of air-conditioners.

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