

UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Chairperson of the Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science will hand over the UNESCO-Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation on 17 November 2021. **>A5**



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SUSTAINABLE OMANI PROJECTS SHOWCASED AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Sustainability Forest at Oman Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai hosts Omani projects of sustainable nature. These projects highlight a key theme of this global event namely sustainability. Among the projects showcased at the Oman Pavilion is the Million Date Palm Plantation Project. **>A4**



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SAYYID THEYAZIN RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF BAHRAIN



His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth received in his office yesterday Dr. Juma Ahmed Al Kaabi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A3**

GUARD AGAINST COMPLACENCY ON COVID-19: AL SAIDI

While calling the situation in Oman “comfortable and reassuring”, the minister advised precautions for all

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Al Saidi, Minister of Health, has underscored the significance of keeping guards against COVID-19.

While describing the epidemiological situation in the Sultanate of Oman as “comfortable and reassuring”, the minister advised citizens and residents to continue applying precautionary measures against the virus which, he said, has not yet disappeared from the world.

The lurking virus is developing new variants in European coun-



tries, Dr. Ahmed cautioned.

The minister, who is a member of the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19), valued the continuous support of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik to the health sector and the Royal directives His Majesty continues to give to the Supreme Committee.

The minister made the statement during the 27th press conference of the Supreme COVID-

ID-19 Committee held at the Education Ministry on Monday.

Dr. Ahmed received the third dose of COVID-19 vaccination in a bid to show concern for segments of society that are most vulnerable to the virus.

The minister said that the Health Ministry's Technical Team set standards for administering the third dose of COVID-19 vaccination after six months from the second dose due to the decline in antibodies. **>A5**

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
2 Dhofar University faculty among top 2%

1 Due to the Dhofar University's countless efforts in encouraging researchers to do research and serve the community and to achieve its vision and mission, two faculty members from the university have been selected among the top 2 per cent of scientists in the world. **>A3**



WORLD
EU's new Belarus curb framework

2 The European Council has amended its sanctions regime in view of the situation at the EU's border with Belarus, to be able to 'respond to the instrumentalisation of human beings' carried out by the Belarus regime for political purposes. **>A6**

MARKET
Demand keeps oil price above \$80

3 Crude oil traded comfortably above \$80 in November-2021, according to a new report. After strong gains in October, oil price volatility increased at the start of November-2021 with prices hovering above the \$80 per barrel mark, it said. **>B1**

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STANFORD

MEETING

OCCI INITIATIVE

2 Dhofar University faculty members selected among top 2% scientists of world

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As a result of countless efforts invested by the Dhofar University in encouraging researchers to indulge in impactful research to serve the community and to achieve the research vision and mission, two faculty members from the university have been selected among the top 2 per cent of scientists in the world by Stanford for the year 2021.

The exhaustive list containing more than 190,000 researchers from around the globe has been recently released by Stanford. Dr. Mazhar Ul Islam from the Department of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering has been selected for the second consecutive year under the Single-year impact indicator while Dr. Sameen Ahmed Khan has been selected for the first time under the career-long impact indicator.

Dr. Mazhar Ul Islam has completed his Ph.D. from Kyungpook National University, South Korea, and remained as Post Doc fellow and later contract professor in the same institute for 2 years. Dr. Mazhar Ul Islam has published

more than 90 articles in the field of nanomaterials, biopolymers, and nanocomposites in renowned International journals.

Also, he presented works at many national and international conferences. Dr. Mazhar Ul Islam contributions have acclaimed recognition from honourable subject experts around the world. His expertise is in the fields of Bacterial Cellulose, Composites, Nanocomposites, Polymerisation, Polymers, Biopolymers, Biodegradable Polymers, Biomaterials, Nanomaterials, Nanofibers, Polymeric, Biomaterials, Materials Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Polymer Chemistry, and Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Sameen Ahmed Khan has done his Ph.D. on the Quantum theory of charged-particle beam optics from the Institute of Math-

ematical Sciences, University of Madras, Chennai, India. He has single-handedly developed a unified treatment of light-beam optics and light polarisation using quantum methodologies.

This formalism describes the beam-optics and light polarisation from a parent Hamiltonian, which is exact and derived from the Maxwell's equations.

This new formalism was among the thirty selected by the OPTICA (formerly, Optical Society of America) for the Optics in 2016, highlighting the worldwide breakthroughs innovations in optics and photonics in that year. He was also selected as Senior Member for OPTICA for the year 2020.

He has authored four books; fifteen book chapters; and over seventy-five publications in journals and proceedings of repute along with over 250 publications on science popularization.

Dhofar University congratulates both faculty members on achieving this feat and is confident of continuing to produce impactful research of national relevance.

<FROM A1 Envoy received

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and means of enhancing them to serve the joint interests.

The meeting also discussed aspects of the existing cooperation in the cultural, sports and youth fields. —ONA

Omani-German trade forum today

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), in cooperation with the Arab German Chamber of Commerce and Industry will organise today the Omani-German Business Forum. The online forum comes within Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Initiative themed "OCCI: Global Communication". —ONA



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OMANI PROJECTS OF SUSTAINABLE NATURE

SHOWCASED AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI



DUBAI: Sustainability Forest at Oman Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai hosts Omani projects of sustainable nature. These projects highlight a key theme of this global event namely sustainability.

Among the projects showcased at the Oman Pavilion is the Million Date Palm Plantation Project. It has 11 farms so far that are spread in different regions of the Sultanate of Oman, such as Ibri, Nizwa, Al Safa, and Rahab. Each of these farms are home to between 10 to 100 thousand palm trees. The project aims to achieve food security and economic growth. With the funding of Oman Technology Fund, Engineers Malek and Younis from Wakan Tech are using drone technology to pollinate date palm trees, 300 times faster than traditional pollination.

Waleed and his team at Blue Waters Company and Fisheries Development Oman are developing a high-tech Fish Farming Station to further develop the aquaculture sector in Oman, benefiting from the length of the Omani coasts extending to 3,165 km and overlooking the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman, and ultimately fulfilling food security and economic growth. This project is one of several projects funded by Oman Technology Fund to support young Omani talents and harvest their potential.

The Sustainability Forest at Oman Pavilion also hosts a cooperation project between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. They join forces to harvest the power of wind to produce sustainable electricity. Set in Harweel, Oman, the Dhofar Wind Power Project is the first large-scale wind project in the Arabian Gulf region. This project is a collaboration between Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) and the Rural Areas Electricity Company of Oman (Tanweer).

Madinat Al Irfan, a sustainable urban development by Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran) is coming to life in the city of Muscat.

The award-winning design created by Omani architects is adapted to the urban habitat of Oman, attaining a unique standard for its residents, businessmen and tourists.

Madinat Al Irfan is the product of an exciting ambition to establish a new urban centre within Muscat. Situated in close proximity to the new international airport and enjoying excellent transport connections to the capital area and beyond, Madinat Al Irfan will become the gateway to Oman; creating a new downtown for residents, for business and for

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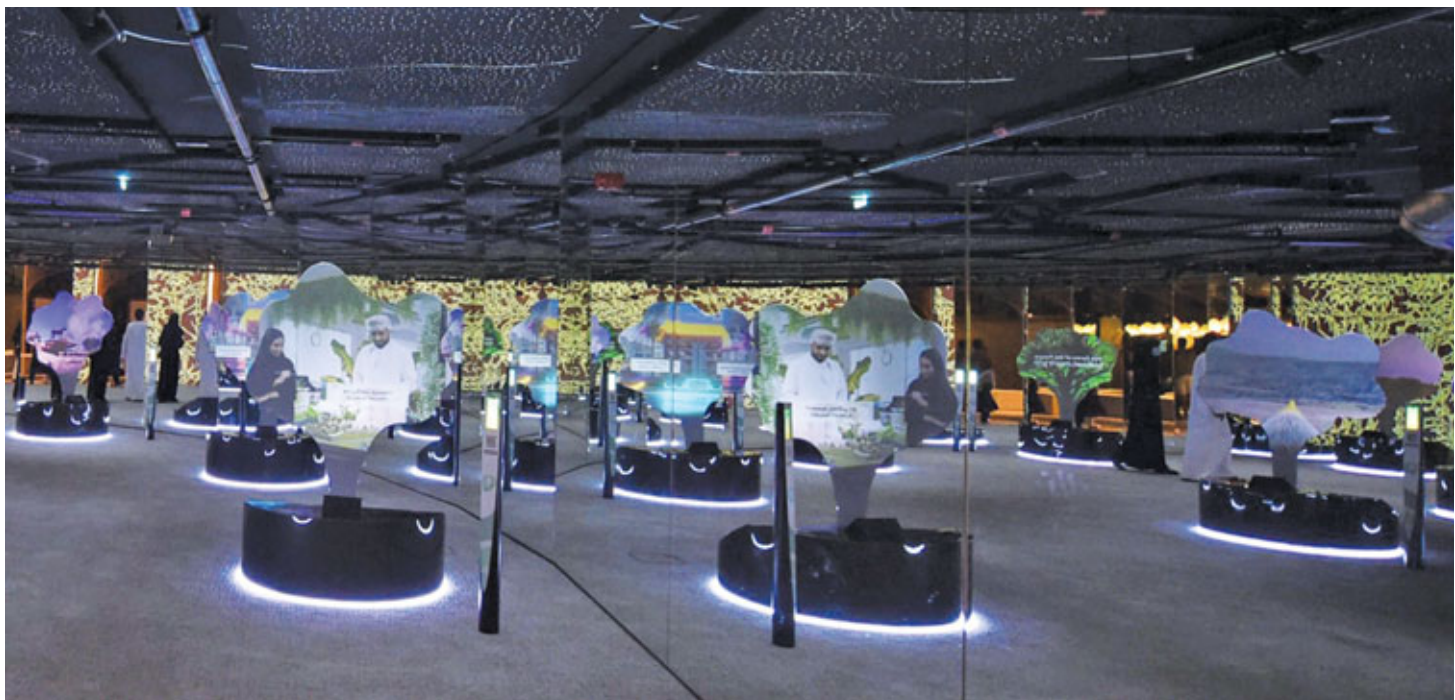
The Sustainability Forest at Oman Pavilion also hosts a cooperation project between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. They join forces to harvest the power of wind to produce sustainable electricity. Set in Harweel, Oman, the Dhofar Wind Power Project is the first large-scale wind project in the Arabian Gulf region. This project is a collaboration between Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) and the Rural Areas Electricity Company of Oman (Tanweer).

visitors. The city will establish an integrated, sustainable and inclusive community, catering for different ages, income groups, and ethnicities.

The Arabian Leopard is a rare breed of tigers present scarcely in the Arabian Peninsula. The number of the critically endangered creatures in the world does not extend beyond 200 leopards. Therefore the Office for Conservation of the Environment at the Diwan of Royal Court in Oman took measures to preserve the wild creature in its natural habitat, Dhofar, knowing its value and importance to the wildlife and the environment in the region.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Diwan of the Royal Court, is making persistent efforts to preserve and protect the Arabian Leopard from extinction. These relentless efforts have contributed to the stability of numbers of the Arabian Leopard and the conservation of sustainability of its natural habitats in Dhofar.

The Oman Pavilion at Expo



2020 Dubai also showcases the first Botanic Garden in Oman and the largest in the Arabian Peninsula. The garden exclusively hosts the country's native plants.

Oman Botanic Garden is a world-class development of the Diwan of Royal Court in Oman, currently operated by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

The garden houses unique plants, landscapes and cultural traditions of Oman. Located just outside of Muscat, Oman, near Al Khoudh village, the garden will be situated on a 430 hectare protected natural area, surrounded by the Northern Mountains of Oman. The garden is currently under construction and when it opens, it will showcase all the native plant species of Oman in a series of carefully created, naturalistic habitats from the dry deserts to the rich monsoon cloud forests. The garden will also showcase the traditionally cultivated crops and the many ways that people use plants in Oman.

Be'ah, a government owned company specialised in waste management has transformed Al Amerat Landfill in Muscat, Oman, to become an engineered landfill, which migratory birds use as a feeding stop during their travels. This move underscored the significance of the sustainable and environmental aspect in Oman.

The Oman Pavilion also sheds light on Oman's spectacular beauty that never fails to astonish its visitors. The marvelous beauty of Oman is a breathtaking portrayal of the monsoon's foggy rainfalls in the Governorate of Dhofar, moving to the winter's golden desert sands in the Governorate of South A'Sharqiyah and ending with the spring's green valleys, the tourist season in Oman is an ongoing journey of exploration.

The pavilion also hosts the Frankincense Crystals Section that shows knowledge-based eco-

economic projects, such as e-Mushrif Inc., which is Muscat based IoT and Artificial Intelligence (AI) product provider.

It uses a locally developed and engineered system to allow parents to track their children's ride on the school bus, ensuring their safe travels. During the Covid-19 pandemic, e-Mushrif's products "Rased" and "Sahala" managed the quarantine of patients and returning passengers.

The Sultan Qaboos Academic Chair for Quantitative Water Management is present at the Oman Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai to lay emphasis on sustainability at the pavilion. The Chair is one of 16 academic chairs and scholarships spread across prestigious universities around the world, focusing on different majors, in the name of the late Sultan Qaboos. The Utrecht University Chair in the Netherlands researches the similarities and differences in water problems, and solutions in the wet deltas of the Western

world, as well as the extremely dry areas in the Middle East.

Dr. Fatma Al Maamari, winner of the 2019 L'Oreal-Unesco for Women in Science Fellowship, is using spintronics technology to develop an eco-friendly substitute of Rare Earth Elements. Rare earth elements are used in technology devices, smart phones, television screens, laptops and much more. Not to mention that the current method of extraction possesses great danger to the environment.

In an affirmation of the theme on Connecting Minds being a key theme of Expo 2020 Dubai, the Oman Pavilion highlights the uses of frankincense extending from personal use, to religious, spiritual, and medical uses. Frankincense is scientifically proven to fight cancer, depression, and asthma. Frankincense is still used as a disinfectant when burnt. Additionally, the frankincense oil was historically used by ancient civilizations in the mummification process. -OMA

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PROGRESS OF WORK

SQU Council holds first meeting of academic year 2021-2022

MUSCAT: The Council of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) yesterday held its first meeting of Academic Year 2021-2022 under the chairmanship of Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Chairperson of the SQU Council.

The meeting looked into the progress of work at the SQU and related updates.

The SQU Council studied the outcome of implementation of different decisions and recommendations. It reviewed the SQU policy and regulations designed to improve performance and commended the efforts made to regularize and standardise internal procedures.

The SQU approved the Master's



Plan programme for orienting vocational guidance at the Department of Psychology, College of Education, in a manner that complies with standards of this specializa-

tion in world universities, as well as global accreditation criteria of relevance.

This is in addition to other legal and regulatory issues.

The meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Dr. Fahd Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of the SQU, Deputy Chairman of the SQU Council. -**ONA**

OMANI GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Expo displays unique fossils found in several governorates of Oman

SALALAH: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), opened on Monday the Omani Geological Heritage exhibition, themed 'Sustainability and Job Opportunities'.

The exhibition is held at the Museum of the Frankincense Land in the Governorate of Dhofar and will run till 15 December 2021.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition, which coincides with the 51st National Day celebrations, was held under the patronage of Sheikh Muhana Saif Al Lamki, Deputy Governor of Dhofar.

Assistant Director General of Museums at the Ministry of Herit-



age and Tourism told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the exhibition includes various corners specialised in the geological sector. The exhibition displays unique fossils dating back to different geological eras and found in several governorates of Oman. -**ONA**



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

<FROM A1> Ban to continue on group events

The third dose, he explained, will be given to frontline workers and patients suffering from chronic diseases. The minister added that the third dose is not a mere booster: It is necessary for those afflicted with chronic diseases or those who receive treatments that weaken immunity like cancer and HIV patients.

The decision to ban group events is still valid, said the minister, who urged walis and the departments concerned to take necessary action (in case of breach) as defined by the Supreme Committee.

The minister pointed out that the Supreme Committee is following up the situation locally, regionally and internationally due to concerns of a probable new wave of infection, which indeed happened in some countries in the world.

Dr. Ahmed ruled out any likelihood, for the time being, of shutting down airports or suspending air flights from any destination.

PCR test

He said that the Sultanate of Oman put in a request to exempt GCC citizens from PCR test during the last meeting held in the Kingdom of Bahrain. So far, no consensus has been reached, but Oman strives to find a way out to endorse this request due to the GCC countries' vicinity.

A working team has been formed for each governorate to follow up vaccination in the educational sector, said the minister, adding that no exemption from the second dose will be granted to those aged above 12 years.

In reply to a query, the minister said that any person who got two doses of any vaccine will be given Pfizer vaccine for the third dose. If that person wishes to take the third dose from AstraZeneca, he or she has to take technical consultancy before that.

Dr. Ahmed said that COVID-19 examinations in the Sultanate of Oman's health establishments are of two types: a quick test whose results appear after 4 hours, and another one



whose results come out after 12 to 16 hours.

The Ministry of Health is following up the situation for a reduction of vaccine prices.

Meanwhile Dr. Amal Said Al Maani, Director of Infection Surveillance and Control at the Ministry of Health, spoke about challenges in the battle to stem the virus, curb its spread and prevent the ability of variants to mutate.

Dr. Amal said that third dose of COVID-19 vaccination will be administered to specific segments that meet certain conditions for such a dose.

Specialists, among them pediatricians and public health physicians, indicate that children's wearing face masks has no side-effects.

They also affirm that the efficacy of the vaccine for children aged 5 to 12 years is the same as the efficacy of the same for adults.

According to the (laboratory) third experiments of Pfizer company, no serious complications have been registered.

In his turn, Brig. Mohammed Nassir Al Kindi, Director General of Operations, Royal Oman Police (ROP), has affirmed that the ROP will continue implementing the Supreme Committee's decision and that its personnel are deployed in all locations to ensure abidance by the announced precautionary measures. Still, some individuals do not abide with the decisions. -**ONA**

ASSIGNED BY HM THE SULTAN



Dr. Madiha to hand over prize on environment

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Dr. Madiha Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Chairperson of the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science will hand over the UNESCO-Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation on 17 November 2021.

The award handing-over ceremony will be held on the sidelines of the UNESCO 41st session of

the General Conference in Paris.

The 16th edition of the prize will be handed over to mark Oman's celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the award.

Initiated in 1989 as the UNESCO-Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation, it is awarded for outstanding contributions by individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organisations in the field of the environment. -**ONA**

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Omani Women's Day marked

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Social Development celebrated on Monday the Omani Women Day, which falls on 17 October, every year.

The celebration was organised under the patronage of Dr Laila bint Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development who expressed her delight over the celebration organised to honour the Omani women.

She also pointed to the achievements bagged by the Omani women in the various spheres.



She said that the Omani women were honoured through nomination by an evaluation committee for a number of women from the military and civil sectors who excelled in the various fields. -**ONA**

HOCKEY LEGEND

Meeting to pay tributes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A condolence meeting will be held for former Oman hockey coach Saiyed Ali Sibtain Naqvi on the Indian Social Club premises on 16 November, 2021

at 4.00pm. Sibtain Naqvi passed away on Wednesday. All are kindly requested to attend the meeting. Naqvi rubbed shoulders with some of the greatest Indian players and was close to hockey legend Dhyan Chand.

SHABAB OMAN II LEAVES KSA

Shabab Oman II vessel left King Abdulaziz Port of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Monday to Salman Port in the State of Bahrain, a voyage of 125 nautical miles to reach the port in Bahrain on Tuesday. -**ONA**



Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

48,454 REACH

Oman Cricket announced that it is geared for the 9th Round of the Cricket World Cup (CWC) League 2 Championships.



Story on Oman cricket team leaves for Namibia

A story on Oman cricket team leaves for Namibia reached 48,454 people and had 1,820 engagements on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

6,800 VIEWS



Video on Unsung Heroes for 51st National Day

The Video on Unsung Heroes for 51st National Day had 6,800 views and reached 25,700 people on Facebook.

📷 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

758 VIEWS



Morning Minute video on release of the new postage stamp

The Morning Minute video on release of the new postage stamp had 758 views and 49 likes on Instagram.

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DEATH TOLL RISES

Death toll from Travis Scott's concert rises to ten

WASHINGTON: The death toll from Travis Scott's tragic Astroworld music festival in Texas has gone up to ten: a 9-year-old boy who had been on life support has passed away, a family attorney said.

"The Blount family is grieving the incomprehensible loss of their precious young son. This should not have been the outcome of taking their son to a concert,



what should have been a joyful celebration. Ezra's death is absolutely heartbreaking. We are committed to seeking answers and justice for the Blount family," Ben Crump said in a statement, as quoted by KTRK-TV on Sunday. Ezra Blount's family told KTRK-TV that the 9-year-old boy passed away on Sunday.

The ninth victim of the tragic concert, Bharti Shahani, died on

Wednesday of last week. There were about 50,000 people in attendance at the festival on November 5, where a crowd surge started late in the evening during Scott's performance.

Eight people, including two teenagers under the age of 18, were pronounced dead the night of the concert. Over two dozen people were hospitalized, including five minors. **ANI**



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European Union agrees to new framework for Belarus sanctions

The European Union accuses the regime of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko of flying migrants to the Belarus-Poland border

MINSK: European Union foreign ministers on Monday adjusted the types of sanctions that the bloc can impose against Belarusian authorities.

"The [European Council] today amended its sanctions regime in view of the situation at the EU's border with Belarus, so as to be able to respond to the instrumentalisation of human beings carried out by the Belarus regime for political purposes," an EU statement said.

The EU accuses the regime of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko of flying migrants, most of them from the Middle East, to the Belarus-Poland border, where they seek to enter the bloc's territory.

"Today's decision reflects the determination by the European Union to stand up to the instrumentalization of migrants for political purposes. We are pushing back on this inhuman and illegal practice," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.



SANCTIONS: Poland has said thousands of migrants are stranded on its border with Belarus and reported breaches of the barrier there.

What will the measures against Belarus include?

The move means measures will include airlines and travel agents allegedly involved in the standoff at the Belarusian borders with EU member states Poland, Latvia and Lithuania.

EU headquarters said the bloc "will now be able to target individuals and entities organizing or contributing to activities by the Lukashenko regime that facilitate illegal crossing of the EU's external borders."

Those affected by the sanctions will be named in coming days.

European Commission Pres-

ident Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc's sanctions will include measures against airlines. "Coming days will be decisive," she told a conference in Munich.

"We are also trying to help the countries of origin," she added.

Von der Leyen also said that Russian President Vladimir Putin has influence over Belarus and "he needs to use this influence."

What is the row with Belarus?

Poland has said thousands of migrants are stranded on its border with Belarus and reported

breaches of the barrier there.

Western governments accuse Minsk of luring migrants to his country and sending them to cross into the EU in retaliation for earlier sanctions.

The bloc imposed those sanctions in response to a Belarusian crackdown on dissent in the wake of last year's presidential election.

The EU slapped Minsk with further sanctions earlier this year after Belarusian authorities forced a Ryanair flight to land in Minsk and arrested a dissident journalist who was on board.

What does Belarus say?

Minsk has repeatedly denied the accusations and said Warsaw was deliberately escalating tensions.

Lukashenko had warned that Belarus could cut off natural gas flows from Russia to Europe if the EU imposed further sanctions. But the Kremlin distanced itself from that threat.

On Monday, Belarus state news agency Belta quoted Lukashenko as saying that Minsk is trying to persuade migrants living in camps near its western border to return home.

"Active work is underway in this area, to convince people: Please,

return home. But nobody wants to go back," Lukashenko said, as quoted by Belta.

Lukashenko also threatened to send the migrants via the Belarusian state-run airline Belavia to Germany if Poland does not provide a "humanitarian corridor."

"We will send them to Munich by our own planes, if necessary," he said.

Last week, Belavia announced that it would not allow Iraqi, Syrian and Yemeni nationals to fly from Turkey to Belarus, following a similar Turkish decision.

What is the current situation at the Poland-Belarus border?

Migrants are camped out in freezing cold weather and dire conditions.

Polish authorities have reported at least nine deaths near the border with Belarus — including a 14-year-old Kurdish boy who died of hypothermia. "The death toll will be rising, as it's getting colder by the day," said DW correspondent Barbara Wesel in Poland.

Poland put the number of people on the border at between 3,000 and 4,000, with more arriving every day.

"More and more groups of migrants are being brought to the Kuznica border crossing by Belarusian forces," Poland's Defense Ministry said on Monday.

It has been difficult to verify reports of what exactly is happening at the border due to Poland's state of emergency, which bars most journalists and aid workers from accessing the area.

While Poland heightened security and increased troops at the border, Belarus has conducted military drills with its key ally Russia near the border. **bw**

EXPO 2020

Expo 2020 Dubai announces over 3.5mn visits up to mid-November



Times News Service

DUBAI: Expo 2020 Dubai has announced its latest visitor numbers, with an incredible 3,578,653 individual visits achieved by November's half-way point, only six weeks into Expo's six-month run.

The announcement comes after a packed weekend at the site, with stellar music, sport and cultural performances taking place. K-pop stars Highlight and Punch took to the stage on Friday night for the KITE (or K-pop in the Emirates) showcase, along with Fela and the Kalakuta Queens – a spectacular show dedicated to the life of Nigerian musical maestro and political activist Fela Kuti. Middle East mega-stars Nancy Ajram and Ragheb Alama performed under a full Al Wasl dome, wowing the crowds as part of Expo's latest Infinite

Nights sessions, while eight-time Olympic gold medalist and former sprinter Usain Bolt arrived the following morning, with the Gatorade ambassador hosting a family fun run at the site for charity.

Add spectacular national day performances – including Mexican tenor Javier Camarena, world-renowned Les Ballets de Monte Carlo and Jordanian artist Omar Al Abdallat – and it has been a jam-packed week at Expo.

And more is on the way. Expo's fourth Theme Week, with debates and panel discussions centred around Tolerance and Inclusivity, got under way on Sunday, and will feature talent and performances from a range of cultures and backgrounds.

The highlight is Expo's all-female Firdaus Orchestra, which will perform music from world cinema and TV on International

Day for Tolerance on 16 November, and take to the stage again on World Children's Day on 20 November in a show that will encourage children to explore, thrive and connect with musical pieces they know and love, such as classics from Beauty and the Beast and Aladdin.

Sales of the November Weekday Pass, priced at just AED 45, are going strong, along with entries to the Explore Expo 2020 Dubai, Explore the World raffle to win one million Emirates Skywards miles and a host of other prizes.

Virtual visitation also rose to 15.7 million since 1 October.

Expo 2020 Dubai runs until 31 March 2022, inviting the world to join a celebration of unity, opportunity, creativity and sustainability that will help to shape a better, brighter future for everyone.

BORDERS OPEN

India opens its borders to vaccinated foreign tourists

NEW DELHI: India opened its borders to vaccinated tourists from over 90 countries on Monday.

The Health Ministry published revised guidelines for international travelers to streamline the process of tourists entering the country. It said foreign tourists entering India would have to be fully vaccinated or test negative for the virus within 72 hours of their flight. They would also have to follow COVID protocols at all times.

While some travelers would have to undergo COVID-19 tests on arrival, people from certain countries that have agreements with India for mutual recognition of vaccine certificates can enter India without taking a COVID test on arrival.

This means that travelers from several countries, like the US, the UK, and most European nations, can walk out of airports across Indian cities without taking a test.

Though India allowed entry



to foreign travelers on chartered flights last month, this is the first time the country is opening its borders to those arriving on commercial flights in months.

India locked down its borders March 2020, and hasn't issued foreign visas since. Now, it plans to encourage travelers to visit the country by issuing 500,000 free visas through next March.

With more than 35 million reported infections, India is the second-worst-hit country after the US. However,

India's daily cases have fallen significantly, with infections hovering at just above 10,000 for over a month. Nearly 79% of India's adult population has received at least one vaccine dose, while 38% has been fully vaccinated. **ANI**

NEW VARIANT

New variant of COVID-19 Delta strain detected in Norway

OSLO: A new variant of the Delta strain of the coronavirus has been detected in Norway, which is assumed to be no more infectious than other strains, the NRK broadcaster reported on Monday, citing the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH).

The NIPH reported the first case of the Norwegian version

of the Delta virus in late June, and since then it has spread around the country, according to the news.

Experts believe it to be no more dangerous than the regular Delta virus, and the existing vaccines do not lose their efficiency against it, the NRK noted.

"We have no data that the

vaccine does not work against this variant, there are no significant reasons for concern," Karoline Bragstad, a senior researcher at NIPH, was quoted as saying.

The variant has been recognized internationally as AY.63 and labelled as "first seen in Norway," the broadcaster said. **ANI**

SPORTS



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Babar named skipper as Indian players miss cut in ICC Most Valuable Team

Stars from champions Australia, runners-up New Zealand, semi-finalists England and Pakistan feature in the star-studded line-up



DUBAI: No Indian cricketer featured in the ICC men's T20 World Cup Most Valuable Team of the Tournament as players from six teams were named on Monday following the conclusion of the show-piece event.

Stars from champions Australia, runners-up New Zealand, semi-finalists England and Pakistan as well as Sri Lanka and South Africa feature in the star-studded

line-up. Opening batter David Warner, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and seamer Josh Hazlewood all made the cut for Australia after helping steer their side to their first-ever ICC Men's T20 World Cup title.

There are also spots for England ace Jos Buttler as wicket-keeper, Pakistan's Babar Azam as captain, New Zealand left-armer Trent Boult and Sri Lanka star Wanindu Hasaranga -- the tour-

naments' leading wicket-taker -- in the line-up.

According to ICC, the side was pulled together by a selection panel featuring commentators, former international players and journalists.

"As with any team selection, there will be varying opinions and robust discussion on the final composition of the squad. The panel respects that, and we encourage the strong debate that will ensue,"

said Ian Bishop, who was one of the members of the selection panel.

"This team was incredibly difficult to select over such a highly competitive tournament. Selections were based predominantly on the Super 12 onward to the final," he added.

Warner, who was named as the Player of the T20 World Cup, came into the tournament in uncharacteristically patchy form but laid those demons to rest in style with a power-packed set of performances.

The left-handed Australian opener racked up a tally of 289 runs -- the second most of the tournament -- at a healthy average of 48.16 to help propel his team to victory in Sunday's Dubai final.

Warner struck 65 against Sri Lanka in the Super 12 stages, before a breath-taking 89 not out against the West Indies and then 49 against Pakistan in the semi-finals placed his team on the cusp of global glory.

And his 53 in the final provided the perfect support act for Mitchell Marsh -- 77 not out -- as Australia chased down a total of 173 to clinch their maiden ICC Men's T20 World Cup crown. **ANI**

Dravid oversees first practice session as Team India prepares for series opener

JAIPUR: Team India's newly-appointed head coach Rahul Dravid along with captain Rohit Sharma hit the nets on Monday as the team took part in a practice session at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

Men in Blue are set to clash with New Zealand on November 17 in the first game of the three-match T20I series. Along with Dravid were Paras Mhambrey and batting coach Vikram Rathour as the trio hit the field to kickstart the practice session. The T20I captain Rohit Sharma was then seen engaging in a chat with Mhambrey and Rathour.

Ravichandran Ashwin, Deepak Chahar, Mohammad Siraj, Rishabh Pant, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel were among those attending the training session.

India will play a T20I series with New Zealand and then follow it up with two Test matches. The T20Is will be played on November 17 in Jaipur, November 19 in Ranchi, and November 21 in Kolkata. The two Tests will be played in Kanpur (November 25-29) and Mumbai (December 3-7).

Earlier in the day India T20I



deputy KL Rahul said that the long-term focus of the side will be the next World Cup but every series from this point is equally important.

"The long-term goal is to focus on the World Cup but we will focus on the process and every series from now on is important. We will try to see what combinations are perfect for us and can be used for the world cup but right now we will be focusing on one series at a time," said Rahul during a virtual press conference on Monday. **ANI**

SENSATIONAL VICTORY

Hamilton fined for alleged breach of sporting code

SAO PAULO: Lewis Hamilton might have recorded a sensational victory in the Sao Paulo Grand Prix on Sunday after fighting his way up from P10 on the grid, but after the race, a team representative from Mercedes was summoned to see the stewards over an alleged breach of the sporting code by Hamilton relating to his safety belts.

The issue is in relation to Article 4 of the sporting regs, which states: "Drivers must be properly restrained in their seat by safety belts in conformity with the technical regulations for the vehicle

concerned, at all times during a competition when it is mobile on a circuit, pit lane, special stage or competition course." Hamilton had stopped on track once he had crossed the line to grab a Brazilian flag from a marshal, before setting off again on his victory lap, and it appeared he may have loosened his belts in order to reach for the flag.

"After analysing the video footage, the stewards released their verdict, which was a 5,000 euros for Hamilton with an additional 20,000 euros which is suspended through the end of 2022," stated an official F1 release. **ANI**

TENNIS

Federer unlikely to play Australian Open but retirement not on cards, says coach

MELBOURNE: Swiss maestro Roger Federer is unlikely to play in the Australian Open as he recovers from injury, according to his coach Ivan Ljubicic.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion is still determined to return to tournament action at some point. He has been inactive since losing in the Wimbledon quarter-finals in July. Federer underwent arthroscopic right knee surgeries in February 2020 and May 2020. Federer has played five tournaments since having those surgeries, all of which came this



season. "I think the Australian Open is not a real possibility right now," Ljubicic told Stats Perform.

"I think there are very few chances, he is still recovering and knowing him, he wants to be sure he can play to win the tournament and be at 100 per cent. He will go step by step because he is 40 years old now and he needs to be patient. He cannot recover as quickly as he used to," he added.

However, the Croatian stated he was certain that Federer was not thinking about retiring just yet. **ANI**

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Campaign Period: Up to 30th December 2021. The above benefits are applicable for all purchases except RAC, Government Organisations & Ministries. *3 Years / 30,000 kms (whichever is earlier) covering 3 services at 1 Year / 10,000 kms service interval (whichever is earlier) for all models. *Free one year registration on all models. Vehicle specifications are subject to change without notice. Pictures & colours are indicative. For further details, please visit your nearest Lexus showroom.

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OMAN OIL PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by January 2022 reaching \$80.99, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 80 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$81.79. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,030.57 points, up 0.74 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34 per cent at 546.69 points. Ooredoo Oman was the top gainer, up by 3.37 per cent, while Al Anwar Investment, down 3.96 per cent, was the top loser.

Crude oil prices remain elevated as demand reaches pre-COVID levels

Expectations of a strong economic recovery across the globe provided underlying support to crude oil prices. These expectations were backed by the passage of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill in the US coupled with higher exports from China

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Crude oil traded comfortably above the \$80 per barrel mark during November-2021, according to a new report.

"After showing strong gains in



PRICE VOLATILITY RISES: After showing strong gains in October-2021, oil price volatility increased at the start of November-2021 with prices hovering above the \$80 per barrel mark. - **File picture**

October-2021, oil price volatility increased at the start of November-2021 with prices hovering above the \$80 per barrel mark," the Kuwait-based investment, strategy and research Kamco Invest said in its oil market monthly report.

Expectations of a strong eco-

nommic recovery across the globe provided underlying support to crude oil prices. These expectations were backed by the passage of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill in the US coupled with higher exports from China, Kamco said in its report.

The month started on a weak note with reports of higher crude oil inventory in the US that increased in six out of seven weeks, in line with trends in US crude oil production. US oil inventory has increased by 21.1 million barrels over the last seven weeks, accord-

ing to US Department of Energy data, to reach 435.1 million barrels. US oil rig count also showed a similar trend.

Weekly oil rig count data from Baker Hughes showed oil rigs increasing consistently over the last several months to reach a 19-month high level of 450 as of the week ended 5-November-2021. Data also showed US crude oil exports reaching the highest since July-2021 as a result of higher distillate outflows that was at a 4-month high level, according to Bloomberg.

With constrained production and higher exports, gasoline prices in the US reached the highest level since 2014. This added to rising inflation in the US that has reached the highest level in almost three decades at around 6.2 per cent. The US administration was under intensifying pressure to ban exports of crude oil and even refined products from the US that may make domestic fuel prices cheaper but would, in turn, discourage shale drilling.

The US EIA, in its latest Short Term Energy Outlook, increased its Brent spot crude oil price forecast for 2021 slightly higher to \$71.59 per barrel in 2021 from its previous forecast of \$71.38 per barrel. Next year's forecast was kept unchanged at \$71.91 per bar-

rel. Bloomberg median consensus estimates for Brent stood at \$80.0 per barrel for the fourth quarter of 2021 declining gradually to \$71.5 per barrel by the third quarter of 2022. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) crude monthly average recorded the biggest month-on-month increase since February-2021 at 11.1 per cent to average at a 7-year high of \$82.11 per barrel in October-2021. Brent crude averaged at \$83.54 per barrel, recording a slightly higher month-on-month growth of 12.1 per cent while Kuwait crude grade was up 10.7 per cent during the month to average at \$82.55 per barrel.

Meanwhile, demand remained strong across markets and reached near pre-covid levels at 101 million barrels per day, according to the CEO of commodity trader Mercuria Energy. However, he added that prices may not hit \$100 per barrel as the current oil market has the significant spare capacity with Opec+ and the possibility of the US adding another one million barrels per day would prevent oil prices from reaching such levels. These comments were in line with that of the CEO of Vitol who said that oil demand is expected to reach even higher levels next year and would exceed 2019 levels in the first quarter of 2022.

VITAL WATERFRONT

Construction work to develop Al Hafa Waterfront Project commence: ASAAS

MUSCAT: Muscat National Development & Investment Company (ASAAS) announced the commencement of construction works to develop the Al Hafa waterfront in the Al Hafa area in the Wilayat of Salalah, Governorate of Dhofar with a total area of more than 60,000 square metres.

ASAAS has assigned the main contractor to construct the traditional heritage souq (market).

Ahmed Salim Al Busaidi, Chairman of ASAAS Board said that the partial operation of the market is expected to be in July 2022, while the full operation will be in 2023.

ASAAS is developing the Al Hafa area, a vital waterfront in Salalah and one of the most important landmarks of the Dhofar Governorate and one of the country's leading tourist attractions. A heritage souq with local architectural design elements will be an alternative to the current souq. This area will house many small and medium enterprises besides attracting some international brands to meet the needs of the visitors of this souq. - **ONA**



TOURIST ATTRACTION: ASAAS is developing the Al Hafa area, a vital waterfront in Salalah and one of the most important landmarks of the Dhofar Governorate and one of the country's leading tourist attractions. - **ONA**

SUPPORTING OMANI PRODUCTS

Committee for national industries development holds second meeting

MUSCAT: The Committee tasked with developing national industries and supporting Omani products held its 2nd meeting for 2021 under the chairmanship of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The meeting approved the technical specialised teams which support the committee in developing outcomes of the industrial strategy, supporting national products and increasing the added value to establish new industries.

The meeting also discussed the results and recommendations of the first meeting for 2021. It also touched on the ministry's one-month-long campaign titled "Made in Oman", which will start from November 19.

The committee supervises the implementation of the Industry Strategy 2040. It seeks to develop the converting industries and keep pace with technology and knowledge updates. It explores



INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY: The meeting approved the technical specialised teams which support the committee in developing outcomes of the industrial strategy, supporting national products and increasing the added value to establish new industries. - **ONA**

ways to inculcate the culture of industrial innovation, draft programmes and mechanisms for enhancing the contribution of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the industrial sector and im-

prove product quality.

The committee also specialises in drafting strategies, policies, procedures and principles for applying added value in the industrial sector, generating new investment

opportunities (to substitute imports and foster exports) and devising programmes for the promotion of Omani products quality to augment the volume of sales in local and international markets. - **ONA**

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY



Workshop on building NAT CAT insurance programme held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Under the guidance of the Capital Market Authority (CMA), Oman reorganised a workshop for senior leaders within the insurance community in Oman, part of the Oman Insurance Association, on November 10, to progress on the journey towards building a NAT CAT (natural catastrophes) insurance programme for Oman.

The workshop discussed local, regional and international insights with discussions and interactive sessions, and was conducted by Oman Re in collaboration with Willis Re, which is a leading global consultancy firm with in-depth technical expertise and possessing comprehensive experience within NAT CAT insurance programmes.

Speaking at the event, Ahmed bin Ali Al Mamari – Vice President, Insurance Sector, CMA, said, "This is a positive step in the right direction towards building a NAT CAT programme for Oman as directed by the royal decree issued by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The strong response to the workshop in 'Building Resilience' underlines the urgency towards the industry's collaborative efforts to arrive at solutions that protect the insurer and the insurance companies. We believe this program would help narrow the gap between insured and economic losses and contribute to the stable growth of Oman towards Oman Vision 2040. On behalf of CMA, I would like to thank all participants from the insurance community and Oman

The workshop discussed local, regional and international insights with discussions and interactive sessions, and was conducted by Oman Re in collaboration with Willis Re

Re for taking the initiative to help build a secure future."

In his concluding remarks, Romel Tabaja – CEO, Oman Re said, "We thank the CMA for their guidance, and all the members of Oman Insurance Association and other participants for their time and efforts to participate in this workshop. We are grateful to see the strong response to the proposed plans for developing the NAT CAT programme and we are excited to collaborate with the industry to make it a success. The recent cyclonic storm that impacted the country severely is a reminder of the immediacy for such a framework, and we are confident that together, we will build a resilient future for Oman."

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Ooredoo Oman was the top gainer, up by 3.37 per cent, while Al Anwar Investment, down 3.96 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,030.57 points, up 0.74 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34 per cent at 546.69 points. Ooredoo Oman was the top gainer, up by 3.37 per cent, while Al Anwar Investment, down 3.96 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC was the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 379 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.88 million, with more than 10.83 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 11 advanced, 8 declined and 19 remained unchanged.

At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR120,000 while local investors were net buyers for OMR113,000

followed by foreign investors for OMR 7,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,375.79 points, up 0.46 per cent. Ahli Bank, Bank Muscat, Bank Dhofar, and Sohar International Bank were up by 1.85 per cent, 1.66 per cent, 1.56 per cent, and 0.96 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Investment, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Global Investment Holding, Taageer Finance, and Al Sharqiya Investments were down 3.96 per cent, 3.39 per cent, 1.59 per cent, 1.35 per cent and 1.12 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,177.56 points, up 0.08 per cent. Raysut Cement and National Aluminium Products were up by 0.84 per cent and 0.68 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.52 per cent before closing at 1,634.61 points. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (R)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	360,000	132,252	1	0.380	0.376	0.358	0.368	0.356	0.012	3.371	0.358	0.352	0.358	0.100	239,547,477
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	90,000	9,900	1	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.002	1.852	0.110	0.107	0.110	0.100	214,462,321
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	666,782	326,987	37	0.484	0.492	0.484	0.490	0.482	0.008	1.960	0.490	0.488	0.494	0.100	1,751,492,648
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,787,258	187,621	24	0.105	0.106	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	313,956,540
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	89,540	21,490	5	0.238	0.240	0.238	0.240	0.238	0.002	0.840	0.240	0.240	0.254	0.100	48,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	109,100	80,702	15	0.736	0.740	0.736	0.740	0.736	0.004	0.543	0.736	0.736	0.740	0.100	555,000,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	4,276,100	590,560	86	0.138	0.139	0.137	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.000	0.137	0.137	0.139	0.100	32,706,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	40,000	12,414	5	0.310	0.312	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.308	0.312	0.100	250,409,422
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	103,620	24,515	10	0.237	0.238	0.231	0.237	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.238	0.231	0.240	0.100	78,416,832
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	304,500	121,216	9	0.400	0.400	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.000	0.000	0.398	0.394	0.400	0.100	87,560,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	5,900	1,750	1	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.352	0.352	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.324	0.346	0.100	21,543,904
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	665	450	1	0.676	0.676	0.676	0.680	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.676	0.676	0.000	0.100	46,920,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	136,000	59,661	14	0.438	0.440	0.430	0.438	0.438	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.420	0.436	0.100	103,547,580
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	174,474	87,237	18	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.100	27,500,000
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	175,000	14,178	10	0.081	0.083	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.084	0.100	8,100,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	20,000	2,660	4	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.134	-0.001	-0.746	0.133	0.132	0.133	0.100	11,905,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	130,500	11,489	17	0.088	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.089	-0.001	-1.124	0.088	0.088	0.090	0.100	7,920,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINS.	69,600	7,934	3	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.118	-0.004	-3.390	0.114	0.000	0.114	0.100	33,280,609
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	422,840	41,162	32	0.099	0.099	0.096	0.097	0.101	-0.004	-3.960	0.097	0.094	0.099	0.100	19,400,000
total		19	8,960,979	1,733,276	303											
Parallel Market																
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	5,900	307	3	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	35,094,146
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	12,149	633	2	0.052	0.053	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.053	0.051	0.053	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	90,000	11,700	4	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.002	1.563	0.130	0.125	0.132	0.100	389,525,687
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	100,000	7,600	1	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.076	0.078	0.100	16,890,240
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	87,770	12,861	9	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.685	0.147	0.145	0.146	0.100	4,935,003
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	2,580	4,515	2	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	0.000	0.000	1.750	1.700	1.850	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	20,000	1,820	1	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.091	0.091	0.094	0.100	182,028,464
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,500	104	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.064	0.069	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	2,500	220	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.088	0.091	0.100	49,251,971
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	54,000	4,104	4	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.079	0.100	15,426,970
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	10,853	1,281	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.120	0.100	9,605,525
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	94,929	8,923	5	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.090	0.095	0.100	210,273,585
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	100	10	1	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	474,984	23,270	9	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	3,000	388	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.099	0.100	19,800,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	126,860	11,264	8	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	58,273,546
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	724,000	52,552	16	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.100	15,512,070
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	46,000	2,872	5	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.587	0.062	0.060	0.062	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	20,000	1,880	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.096	-0.002	-2.083	0.094	0.090	0.099	0.100	12,220,000
total		19	1,877,125	146,223	76											

INNOVATIVE FINANCING, BANKING SOLUTIONS

Strategic pact signed to boost industrial growth, exports

DUBAI: Emirates Development Bank (EDB), a key financial enabler of the country's economic diversification and industrial transformation agenda, signed a strategic agreement with Dubai Industries & Exports (Dubai IE) to provide innovative financing and banking solutions to SMEs and corporates aimed at supporting the growth of UAE's industrial sectors and exports.

The agreement aims to boost strategic cooperation between the two entities in developing the industrial sector in Dubai and the UAE and provide opportunities for local and international companies to set up manufacturing and industrial facilities in the Emirate and boost the exports.

This partnership aligns with EDB's continuous efforts to enable the industrial transformation and economic diversification agenda in the UAE, build a knowledge-based economy.

SURVEY

China creates 11.33 million new jobs in its urban areas

BEIJING: China has created 11.33 million new jobs in its urban areas during the first 10 months of this year, achieving the target for the whole year in advance. From January to October, the country's surveyed urban unemployment rate averaged 5.1 per cent, said Fu Linghui, spokesperson for the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Monday.

China's surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 4.9 per cent in October, 0.4 percentage points lower than the same period last year, NBS data shows. The surveyed urban unemployment rate is calculated based on the number of unemployed people who have participated in the employment survey in urban areas, including migrant workers in cities.

"The surveyed unemployment rate among those aged between 16 and 24 has dropped for three consecutive months, showing that the employment situation of young people is gradually improving," Fu said, adding that the main reason is the gradual increase in the employment of college students.

"The policy of stabilizing employment continued, and the employment situation was generally stable," Fu noted. -xinhua

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

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Accountant with 10 yrs experience in Trading & Contracting, Oil & Gas, Building Materials, Manufacturing, Constructions & IT sectors. Expertise in Accounting, Finalization, Auditing, Budgeting, Costing, Payroll & VAT. NOC / Local release & Driving licence available.

Contact: 91183601
E-mail: suneel.suneel@gmail.com

PROJECT ENGINEER

Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.

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ENGINEER (IT)

Indian, Female, B.Tech, with 2+ years of experience in Oman as Coordinator and Marketing with valid Omani D/L. Looking for a job, Currently in Oman.

GSM : +968 71198240
Email: jc.clarrinda@gmail.com

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

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Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

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Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years Oman experience. Immediate. Contact 99283938.

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28yr old male Accountant currently in Oman with 4 yrs work experience looking for job related to Accounting/ Finance. Contact 94038082

Accountant with more than 6 years experience seeks suitable placement. 2 yrs valid visa available. # 94031834

Corporate Banking and Wealth Management professional with 4 years experience in premiere Indian Banks. Seeking opportunities in Finance & Consulting. Education: PGDM Finance and B.Tech. Contact: 9430 9593

Indian Male 33 MBA looking for Senior Accountant, Having 8yrs experience including 5 yrs in Oman. Presently in Oman with NOC. Contact 78275075 or Email: smumair4u@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian, 18 yrs experience in driving, sales, stores, aluminium fabricator holding Omani D/L. # 99743709

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Pakistani Male, 7 yrs Experience in MEP AutoCAD draughtsman looking suitable job position. Currently in Oman. Contact 79711912, 98994156

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

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Accounts/Finance Manager 29 years experienced, worked with reputed groups, expert in cashflow & budgeting, auditing etc. Contact 98803439

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

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Sudanese medical representative 3 yrs exp in Oman Market. # 93513927

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BE Mech Eng, 1 year Exp as CNC operator. Contact 95662773 Email: ajithm9642@gmail.com

Electrical Engineer having 4 years experience in oman with tanweer looking for job in field of electricity network maintenance, MEP, or project's have D/L. Contact 98005485, Whatsapp 78045691

Computer Science Engineering graduate with knowledge in Java and Django, currently on family visa, seeking suitable placement. Contact 93357544

Diploma, Electrical Engineer, Indian Male, 17 yrs of Oman Exp in 33/11KV/ LV Substation & OHL projects & maintenance experience with NOC & D/L. Contact 98049057

B.E civil engineer having 12 yrs Oman Experience looking for sub contracting jobs like plastering and all. Contact 79813309

Civil Diploma Engineer, Indian 12+years experience (Building, Roads & Dam) with D/L, Available in Oman till 20th Nov. Seeking Placement. 99107906, 97882917, +91-9747519961

Project Engineer (HVAC) Mechanical engineer graduate, Indian male, having 3 years of experience in MEP projects. Seeks suitable placement. Currently in Muscat. # 78347383 Email: tomvarghese1911@gmail.com

Sudanese Petroleum Engineer, MSc Mechanical Engineering: Renewable Energy, Seven Years O&G Experience. Contact 79006704

Indian male (24) Mechanical engineering 2 years (Oman) experience in oil and gas field with OQ approved permit authority with D/L. Currently available in Oman looking for suitable placement. Contact 72050244 Email: kssanju97@gmail.com

B.E civil engineer having 13 yrs Oman experience mainly in building construction looking for suitable position. Contact 72132426

ENGINEER

Indian, 6 yrs experience as Production Engineer (Steel fabrication /stores supervising and site installation, holding Omani License . Contact 99334770

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

Draftsman cum site engineer. 10 years Oman experience. NOC & D/L. Contact 92752215

Electrical Engineer, 9 years experience (7 years KSA and 2 years Oman). Experienced in HV substations and transmission lines, on Engineer Visa which expired on 19 Oct 2021. Ready to join immediately. # 94161509 Email: mubashirmiazi@gmail.com

Diploma Civil Engineer, (Bangladesh) total 10 yrs experience in Oman seeking urgent placement. NOC available & D/L. # 94025828

Srilankan Male Quantity Surveyor (HND QS-UK & Diploma in PM) with 3 years' experience. Looking for a suitable placement in Oman. Email: tmsafnas@gmail.com Contact 78149384

Male Civil Engineer having 15 yrs experience in Contracting project management, construction management, consultancy of mega building projects. 8 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 94234934. Email ayub.engr@yahoo.com

Electrical project manager (Btech) 14+ years experience in substation, OHL EPC projects upto 132kv with NOC and Omani D/L seeking placement. Contact 95290833

Electrical Engineer & PMP with over 15 yrs experience in Oman, UAE & India seeks suitable placement. 94029124 Email: rkdvb@yahoo.com

Indian male, 28 Mechanical engineer 2 yrs oman experience, with D/L Searching sales/engg jobs. Contact 98040564 sayujvc@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian Male having 20+ years' experience in UAE seek suitable jobs in Sales & Management preferably in pharmaceutical industries. GCC Driving License available. Contact 94289301, 95217432

Pakistani Male (5 years experience), M.Phil, Marketing and Sales Expert in the oil & energy industry. Skilled in Lectureship, Research, Business Administration. Contact 91102995 fahadikram96@hotmail.com

Indian male, BBA, 26 years, having 3 and half year experience in Sales and Marketing, D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 96550844 Email: arshaqrajan000@gmail.com

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

Fresh Indian NIT Chemical Engineer on resident visa with Oman D/L seeks placement in reputed companies: 96087321/93972362

Indian Male, MBA, BCOM having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340. Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

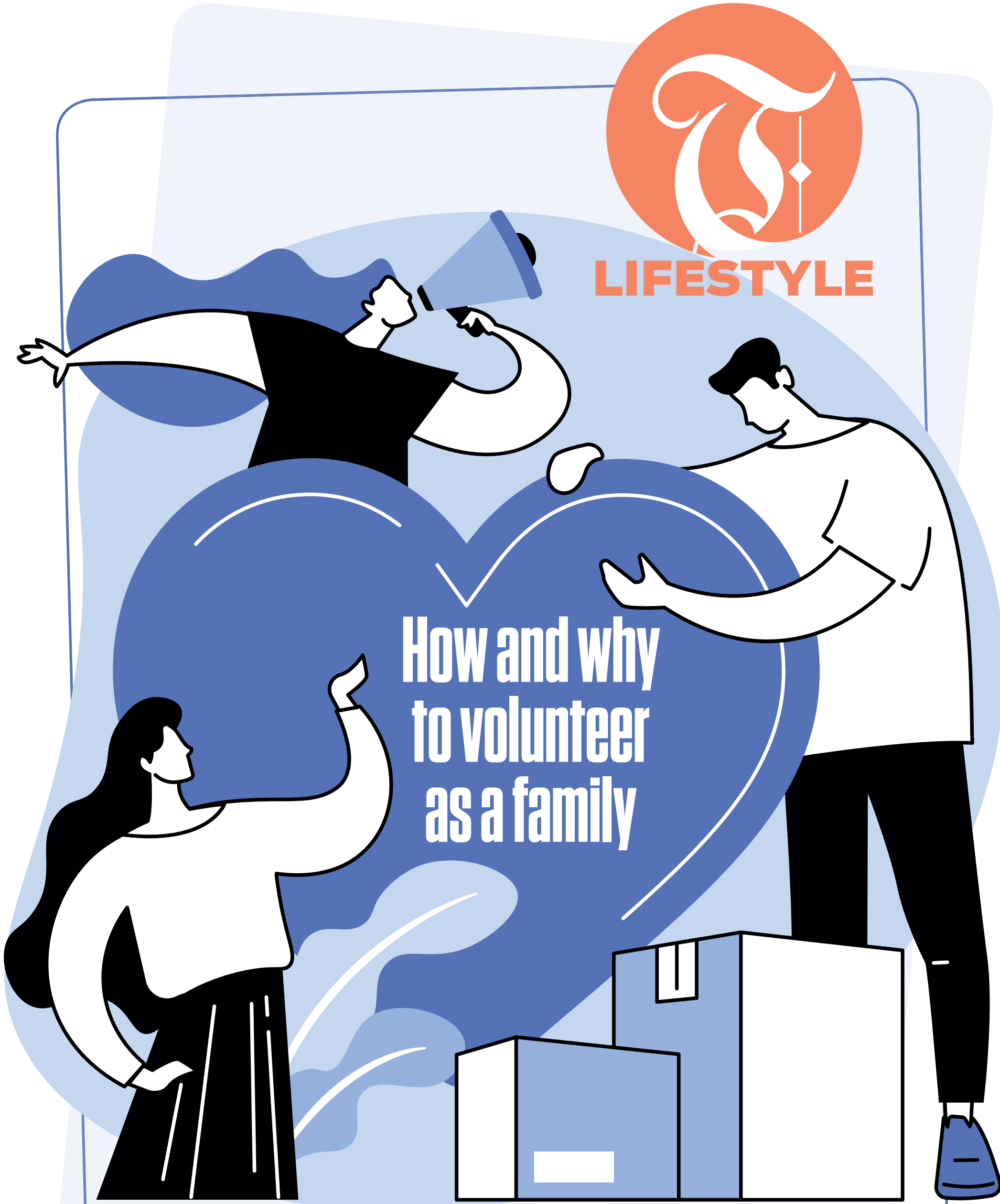
Salesman & electrification, 6 years' experience in The Sultan center, Oman. Contact 94438968

Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs. Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact +968 79975463 nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com

PURCHASE

Indian male, 17 yrs exp in commercial/Warehouse/inventory & procurement field seeks suitable position. Having D/L, Contact 98531104

Indian male (37), B.com 11+years of purchase & procurement experience in Oman with valid D/L & NOC looking for a suitable position. Contact 94038075



1

**CHILDREN LEARN
YOUR FAMILY'S VALUES**

It's always important to talk to children about what values your family holds. But one of the best ways to reinforce these conversations is to demonstrate your values in action. Volunteering shows your kids that you're dedicated, as a family, to promoting, supporting or furthering a certain issue — and that you're willing to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

2

**YOU SPEND
QUALITY TIME TOGETHER**

Volunteering is a way to bring together family members of all ages — parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and more — around a common mission.

3

IT BUILDS EMPATHY

Learning emotional intelligence is a crucial part of child development, and civic engagement can accelerate this process. When volunteering, you'll interact with those who share commonalities, like passion about an issue, and those who may be different from you, like people from communities outside your own. Understanding where people are coming from and hearing about their lived experiences helps children flex their empathy muscles now and later in life.

4

**YOU DEVELOP
IMPORTANT SKILLS**

Everyone can gain valuable skills through volunteering. There are the hard skills often needed for volunteer roles, like carpentry, computer programming, translation and other services, and the soft skills that come with volunteer positions, like social and communication skills.

5

**YOU BECOME
LIFELONG LEARNERS**

If kids always associate learning with school, they may see their educational journey come to an end when they graduate. Instead, show them that the world is full of learning opportunities. Through volunteering, they'll interact with new people from various walks of life, adopt new skills needed for the task at hand and discover how they can make an impact through their time, talent and efforts. -Statepoint

November 20, 2021 is Family Volunteer Day, a global day of service that empowers families to work together in support of their communities. Now more than ever, as we experience a global pandemic, and have a renewed focus on social justice and environmental challenges, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and advance causes your family cares about.

Here are a few of the extraordinary things that happen when families choose to volunteer together:



OMAN



Clinton may pick Baker as ME envoy

Story below

In this issue



Little and large show

US presidential transition is time for healing, unity

Weather

Mainly clear skies will prevail over the Sultanate. Temperatures are recorded in other cities: Muscat 31 (88), Abu Dhabi 29 (84), Dubai 28 (82), Riyadh 28 (82), Jeddah 21 (70), Bahrain 27 (81), Kuwait 27 (81), Doha 29 (84), Cairo 26 (79), Karachi 31 (88), and Bombay 32 (90).

TEMP	MAX	MIN
Saudi	31	21
UAE	32	22
Bahrain	30	22
Kuwait	30	21
Qatar	30	21
Norway	33	12
Solar	25	14
Suez	24	15
Tel Aviv	31	21
Moscow	29	14
Thailand	30	15
Beijing	29	14
Manila	29	14
Chennai	27	17
Hong Kong	33	17
Amman	31	18
Baghdad	34	24
Almaty	30	18
Madras	31	18



11 killed in German train crash

GERMANY — A German passenger train smashed into a derailed freight wagon straddling the track yesterday, killing at least 11 people and injuring 52, police said.

Thirty passengers were admitted to hospital in critical condition and 22 more suffered lesser injuries after the collision in Northern, on the main north-south line between Frankfurt and Hamburg.

Officials feared the death toll would rise. Rescue workers searched for passengers believed to be lying under a passenger coach which tumbled into an adjacent track.

A police spokesman said the freight train was heading south at 90 km an hour when the wagon broke free, derailed and came to rest straddling the parallel track.

The oncoming express train, carrying 300 people from Munich to Copenhagen via Hamburg, hurtled into the freight wagon seconds later "with dreadful force," Jobst Kneisel of the Bundesbahn (State Railways) told a news conference.

The passenger locomotive, whose driver was killed instantly, ploughed on another 80 metres before stopping with the freight wagon wrapped around it. Fourteen more freight cars attached to the first one were ripped from southbound track and flung into several passenger coaches, slinging them open. Two coaches bringing up the rear toppled down an embankment next to a highway.

"I have never seen such a dreadful heap in my life," said Bundesbahn board member Peter Maerchgenwunder.

"I feel like I've been born again," Swedish passenger Jorgen Andersson, who escaped with hardly a scratch, - *Reuter*

Egypt's peace drive throws up new ideas

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres discussed ideas yesterday to break a deadlock in peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The possibilities are there. The question is a question of time and negotiations but if God wills the gap will be closed," Mubarak told reporters after two hours of talks with Peres in the presidential palace in a Cairo suburb.

"There are ideas which were discussed and which will be discussed further by the foreign minister."

Neither he nor Peres would give details of the ideas, which appear to have emerged from three days of intensive talks in Cairo last week between officials and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Peres said before leaving the presidential palace or talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa:

"I would like to express my appreciation for the Egyptian role in playing in an attempt to bridge the differences between the Palestinian delegation and our own."

Egypt is trying to use its position as the only Arab state to have signed a peace treaty with Israel to rescue the year-old talks, which are dragging on in Washington with no progress.

At the heart of the deadlock between the Palestinians and Israelis is a major difference of opinion. The Palestinians want a settlement leading to an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israelis are determined to prevent this.

Diplomats say Egypt is urging

the Palestinians to concentrate with Israel on a five-year interim period of self-government in the occupied territories and not to press Israel now for commitments on the shape of a final settlement.

Syria, Jordan and Lebanon are also talking to Israel but even the little that has been achieved on these fronts has worried the PLO that other Arabs might reach an agreement before the Palestinians.

The United States launched the talks in Madrid, a year ago after months of tough diplomacy.

George Bush's defeat in this month's US presidential election has made it hard for Washington to revive the talks until after Bill Clinton takes office in January.

Mubarak, recalling the two years of frustrating negotiations it took to produce the Egypt-Israel peace treaty in 1979, told parliament on Saturday that it was too soon to despair.

He told reporters on Sunday: "The road is not blocked. The road is open. If there are obstacles, they will be removed and we will reach peace."

Egyptian diplomacy seemed to succeed in soothing Arafat, who arrived in Cairo accusing Israel of trying to wreck the peace talks.

Before he left on Friday, he said he had not given the Egyptians specific proposals to put to Peres but they had discussed some ideas "to create a constructive basis for pushing forward the peace process."

The PLO is officially excluded from the peace talks because Israel regards it as a terrorist organisation bent on destroying the Jewish state. In practice it directs Palestinian delegates. - *Reuter*

Palestinians mark Independence Day

JERUSALEM — Nidal Abu Ghabish decorated his car with coloured ribbons and white plastic doves and drove down east Jerusalem's main shopping street with horns blaring yesterday to mark Palestinian Independence Day.

"After four years, we have not lost hope that a Palestinian state will be established one day," said the 23-year-old Abu Ghabish. "I am sure Yasser Arafat will visit Jerusalem."

He was among thousands of Palestinians who demonstrated in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to mark PLO chairman Arafat's declaration four years ago in Algiers of the still unrealised Palestinian state.

Abu Ghabish's car decorations were typical of those for Palestinian weddings, allowing him to avoid efforts by police to block celebrations.

At least three demonstrations in Jerusalem and one in the occupied Gaza Strip were broken up by Israeli troops firing tear gas or rubber bullets, police and Arab reports said.

Police said 13 Palestinians were detained in Jerusalem.

While a state remains a dream for Palestinians, a delegation from the occupied territories has negotiated with Israel for years to mark the Jewish state's offer of limited autonomy into a step toward independence.

Israel, which captured the territories from Jordan and Egypt in 1967, has refused to accept the creation of a Palestinian homeland.

The occupied territories are home to 1.8 million Palestinians, who have waged a nearly five-year revolt to end Israeli rule.

In Gaza City, the army opened fire with rubber bullets to disperse about 200 Palestinians who marched through the city carrying Palestinian flags and balloons in the red, white, black and green of the flag.

In the West Bank, about 50 masked Palestinians paraded through the town of Tulkarm, putting up flags and posters of Arafat that Israeli troops later ordered removed.

In Jerusalem, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to break up demonstrations in the old, walled city and on Saladin street, a main shopping thoroughfare named for the Muslim conqueror.

A special programme at the Palestinian national theatre in east Jerusalem, Bassem Sayigh, the son of the president of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, read a letter from Arafat saying "the state is within range of a thrown stone."

A folk dance troupe entertained, and activists handed out honey, and nut-laden Palestinian pastries, Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini told the overflow crowd of about 400 that "it is a historic time, after the end of the Cold War, when some nations rise up and other nations vanish." - *AP*

Sur lift His Majesty's Cup



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said awarding the championship trophy to a representative of the Sur team. - *ONA*

By A Sports Reporter
MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said presented Sur Club the coveted trophy following their narrow 1-0 victory over Seeb Club in the final of His Majesty's Cup soccer at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bawshar yesterday.

His Majesty also presented the Hockey Cup to Seeb Club who defeated Al Bostan in the final last week. Yesterday's match, which was attended by members of the Royal Family, ministers, government officials, and members of diplomatic missions in Muscat, also attracted a large crowd of supporters of both clubs as well as soccer fans from all over Oman.

Sur, who had lost His Majesty's Cup in 1973, had vowed under Italian coach Eddie Firmani last year to lift the trophy again. They fulfilled their promise yesterday, thanks largely to their Yugoslav import, Deji Glavensky, who scored the only goal of the match late in the second half.

Continued on Page 10

GCC defence chiefs push for joint force

Mitterrand preparing for ME trip

MUSCAT — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said yesterday his country could help push forward the Middle East peacekeeping process and break "the barriers of mistrust."

Dumas, in Bahrain on the second leg of a Gulf tour that is covering Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, underscored the French role a week ahead of a planned visit by President Francois Mitterrand to Israel and Jordan.

"France, like Europe, is concerned with the peace process, and France has often been urged to play its role and benefit the peace march, and each time it was ready to do so in line with its policy," he said, speaking through an Arabic interpreter.

He said France, he said, has no intention to introduce a substitute process. "It will do whatever it can, whenever it can, to enable the progress and to break down the barriers of mistrust," he said.

He was evasive about details, but while in Qatar ahead of Bahrain he was quoted as saying his country was keen to use its contacts to expand the participation in the negotiations, again without being specific.

The Bahraini, who urged a bigger role for France to induce progress at the US-led talks and to help lead to a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East, he said.

Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait are members of the Saudi-led group of conservative Gulf Arab countries. They have thrown their weight behind the peace process started by US President George Bush in the immediate wake of Operation Desert Storm.

France was a main party to the coalition that waged the Gulf war. Dumas said the UN trade embargo against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait could not be lifted until Saddam Hussein has complied with all demands of the Security Council. - *AP*

KUWAIT — Defence ministers of five Gulf Arab states endorsed yesterday that an existing joint force become the nucleus for a future Gulf army.

They also demanded that the force be able to share disputed islands in the waterway and accused Iraq of creating regional tension.

"We recommend that Peninsula Shield become a nucleus for a future force," Kuwait's defence minister, Sheikh Ali al-Sabah, told an almost press conference.

The recommendation will be weighed at a December summit in Abu Dhabi of GCC rulers.

Sheikh Ali said the defence ministers agreed that maintaining the 10,000-man force was the best of three options for forging a united Gulf front.

Sheikh Ali said the other two options were establishing a new independent force, and each state concentrating on developing its own army.

The Saudi-based force remained idle when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Since the Gulf war ceasefire, area states have signed bilateral accords with Western nations.

But the officials, after a two-day meeting did not announce any concrete steps toward forging a unified front against their giant neighbour.

One of the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Qatar, stayed away from the meeting due to an ongoing border spat with Saudi Arabia.

At the same time, the ministers condemn procedures taken by Iran in Abu Musa, procedures that don't agree with the Iranian statements that express the will for improving relations with members of the council.

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Royal cable

MUSCAT — His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of congratulations to King Hassan II of Morocco on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. - *ONA*

Convicts in treason trial freed

AMMAN — Two pro-Islamic Jordanian deputies convicted of treason and each jailed for 20 years a few days ago were freed from prison yesterday after being pardoned by King Hussein.

Friends are relatives of deputies Lath Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrah, who were freed from prison yesterday after being pardoned by King Hussein.

The two were each sentenced to 20 years' hard-labour on Tuesday for plotting to overthrow the king in an alleged Iranian-backed plot but were pardoned two days later in a general amnesty declared by the monarch.

Their jailed sentences, following an unprecedented five-week trial marked by recurrent prosecution testimony, hunger strikes and the resignations of defence lawyers, were commuted from death.

Over 100 people have been gathered at the gates of the jail waiting for the release.

Shbeilat, accompanied by his wife, children and parents, left straight for more celebrations in his hometown in southern Jordan without speaking to reporters.

"People are celebrating his innocence" — he has been unable to leave his car for 15 minutes because the crowds were gathered around cheering him, said a neighbour reached by telephone after he arrived in Tafila.

Gambols and music could be heard in the background.

Jordanian authorities generally turn a blind eye to unlicensed gun trading carried by bedouins.

Tafila, which along with the rest of southern Jordan, forms a bedrock of tribal support for the king, May 1990 and was powerless to prevent it.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday warned Iran against trying to dominate its Arab neighbours and said Egypt would continue its policies.

"Thank God that unfairness has been ended and the truth has been revealed," he said. "This is going to be the beginning of the success of his political life." - *Reuter*

Clinton may pick Baker as ME envoy

NEW YORK — Representatives of President-elect Bill Clinton contacted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently to sound him out on the possible appointment of James Baker as special Middle East envoy, a report said yesterday.

Time Magazine, citing unnamed sources close to the situation, said in a brief story that Rabin applied the notion of Baker as special envoy to manage the Middle East peace talks.

Baker was highly regarded by Israelis and Arabs alike in his job as US secretary of state for the Bush administration. He relinquished the post last summer at Bush's request to handle the president's campaign strategy.

Clinton has said he would try to name some Republicans to key posts in his new administration.

Other published reports have said former President Jimmy Carter has expressed interest in being named Middle East envoy.

Clinton and his transition team have remained mum on his possible choices for high posts in the new administration. - *AP*

NEWSBREAKS

Diana and Paul

LILLE, France — The Princess of Wales was closing her visit to France yesterday with an encounter with her boyfriend, former Beatles star Paul McCartney, the finale of a three-day trip that has shown Diana as curious, caring and fun.

The princess was wined and dined by the French premier of McCartney's classical Liverpool oratorio to finish up a day focusing on Britain in France's northern capital. The piece was being aired in the presence of McCartney as part of Lille's annual arts festival, this year devoted to Britain and the Commonwealth.

The French visit managed to maintain its "private" billing in contrast to the recent trip to South Korea by Diana and husband Prince Charles, dissected by the press for signs of marital troubles. Charles celebrated his 44th birthday on Saturday at home. - *AP*

Israel pulls big guns out of Lebanon

LEBANON — Israel has pulled out a few artillery batteries from its south Lebanon "security zone" but plenty of troops, tanks and firepower remain to his Hezbollah forces, security sources said yesterday.

They said the Israeli army withdrew three batteries of four guns each from the 15-km deep buffer zone each from the 15-km deep buffer zone each from the 15-km deep buffer zone.

They pulled out three artillery batteries last night but still have plenty left, said UN source in south Lebanon, adding that no tanks or troops had returned to the Jewish state.

Security sources said the departure of 12 big guns on Friday left about 45 extra Israeli artillery pieces in the zone after last week's buildup. They were brought in with tanks, troops and missiles which poured into the zone and along Israel's northern border after Hezbollah

(Party of God) rocket attacks into the Jewish state.

The buildup was the largest since the zone was set up in 1985 after Israel withdrew the bulk of the troops which invaded Lebanon in 1982 to expel Palestinian freedom fighters.

Lebanese residents of the zone said yesterday they saw no major change in Israeli strength and most new Israeli positions established for the reinforcements were still manned by tanks, artillery and troops.

Israeli officers said the army was reducing its presence in the zone after a wave of force because calm had returned. In northern Israel Reuter correspondents reported that witnesses said they saw convoys of tanks and troops return to the Jewish state.

The forces have thinned out somewhat, not a lot. But some did come out at the weekend," said a

resident of Kiryat Shmona, a town of 20,000 people near Israel's northern border.

The army officially declined comment about any withdrawal, refusing as usual to discuss details of troop movements.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday Israel was re-signing to a long struggle against the Iranian-backed militants who fired rockets at Israel last Sunday and Tuesday.

Two Hezbollah men, an Israeli soldier and UN peacekeeper from Nepal were killed in last week's violence.

A pro-Israeli source denied a report that Israel had pulled out most of its reinforcements. "This sort of news might be an attempt to make us feel before the Israelis hit us," he said.

"But we won't fall for that. We are still on alert."

Herzbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in remarks published on Saturday ruled out a full-scale Katyusha rocket war on Israel's northern settlements but said some might be fired to avenge Israeli attacks.

I say frankly that restraints and political reality do not allow a number of rockets at the enemy's settlements inside the occupied Palestinian territories," he said.

"But the reality on the ground sometimes dictates resorting to such a method."

The unguided rockets are easily concealed, loaded on trucks or pickups, driven usually to a hilltop and launched with the barrel resting on a tripod. They have a maximum range of about 11 km. A Katyusha killed a 14-year-old boy in Kiryat Shmona on October 27 — only the second fatal rocket attack on the Jewish state from Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasion. - *Reuter*

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FEATURE



MUSCAT: The Oman Sailing Festival swept into Sohar last weekend for the next stop on a winter tour of the country. Encouraging communities to #SailWithUs, the festival offers free sailing and windsurfing lessons and beach clean-up events to help preserve the local environment for generations to come. Held at the Silver Jubilee Garden, more than 400 people of all ages took the chance to learn new skills and give back to the community on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 November 2021. Ali Al Shuhaimi, Centre Manager of Al Mouj Sailing School and co-manager of the Oman Sailing Festival, said, “We are really pleased that so many people came to Silver Jubilee Garden this weekend to try sailing, windsurfing and para sailing with our Sail Free programme. Oman has such a strong maritime tradition and we are making sailing accessible to the current generation. The



festival aims to encourage people to try a new sport, challenge themselves and either discover a new hobby or take the first steps towards a career on the water. The events to come at locations across the country will introduce

hundreds more people to the sport have a huge impact on the local environment as we inspire the community to care for the wonderful beaches in our beautiful country.” Next up is Musandam and Al Bassa Beach from 16-20 November



ber 2021 where local SMEs will have the chance to showcase their products to visitors over the five days. Following that, the festival moves to Sur Al Hadeed Corniche in Seeb, Muscat, from 26-27 November 2021. The festival will

then visit Sur from 3-4 December 2021, Hawana Salalah from 6-8 January 2022 and Duqm from 11-15 January 2022. This is an incredibly busy period for sailing for the nation. Oman Sail is currently preparing to host

the 2021 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 World Championships in Mus-sanah, kicking off on 16 November. The full calendar continues with Oman Sail's own Sailing Arabia – The Tour is back, starting once again in Mussanah on 24 November before heading south to Sur and Muscat, concluding on 5 December. The 2021 ICLA Radial World Championships gets underway in Mussanah on 29 November. The final event of the year is the prestigious 50th edition of the Youth Sailing World Championships, a highlight of the season being held in Asia for the very first time. The Oman Sailing Festival is proudly supported by platinum sponsor OQ, gold sponsors Oman Air and Salsabeel, and environmental partners Be'ah and the Environment Society of Oman. To pre-register for Oman Sailing Festival events, please visit www.omansail.com/sailing-festival-activities or search #SailWithUs on social media.





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ROUND-UP

Drive your ambition this National Day with special offers from Mitsubishi

From now until January 13, 2022, GAC is offering several benefits to customers on the purchase of their new Mitsubishi

MUSCAT: Commemorating the Sultanate's 51st National Day of the Renaissance, General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, has announced a new promotion covering the full line-up of Mitsubishi models. From now until January 13, 2022, GAC is offering several benefits to customers on the purchase of their new Mitsubishi. These include cash gifts of up to OMR 3,100, free insurance, six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance, and an RO 51 gift voucher on every purchase. Select models will also come with three years of free service. Every customer purchasing a vehicle will also be entered into a raffle for a chance to win 51 grams of gold each month during the 2 months promotion period (December 14 and January 14, 2022). Commenting on the promo-



tion, Manoj Ranade, the General Manager of GAC, said, "Our fans and customers deserve something truly special to commemorate the Sultanate's 50th National Day. Therefore we have made every effort to offer the best prices and benefits possible with this offer; thereby creating the perfect opportunity for our customers to celebrate this glorious occasion together with the Mitsubishi they have always wanted." Valid until 13 January 2022, this promotion applies to the Mitsubishi Xpander, Outlander, Montero

Sport, ASX, Eclipse Cross, Attrage, Mirage, and L200 models. Mitsubishi is offering each of these models with six years unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance, cash gifts ranging from OMR 1,438 up to OMR 3,100, and one year of free insurance on every model except L200. Customers can avail of 2 years/30,000 km free service on all models except Mirage and Xpander where customers will receive 3-years/51,000km free service. As a bonus, to commemorate the 51st National Day of the Renaissance, GAC will gift every customer purchasing a new vehicle during the offer period with a gift voucher worth OMR51 as well as a chance to win 51 grams of gold in an exclusive raffle draw each month during the 2 months promotion. "Every model in Mitsubishi's line-up is known for its reliability, comfort, safety, and an engaging driving experience. The purchase of any of these models, especially with the benefits of our ongoing offer, will be an excellent way to celebrate the country's 51st National Day with the entire family," concluded Manoj.

PROMOTION

Drive the thrill: Toyota Corolla Cross SUV with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: The Corolla Cross SUV is a pure stunner that takes style, performance, fuel efficiency and driving dynamics to even greater levels. The Corolla Cross SUV is built from the ground up with a TNGA platform, to encourage you to ascend to new heights. And to 'live elevated'. The Corolla Cross SUV is available with exclusive benefits including 1-year insurance or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR175 and service 2 years/20,000km (Whichever is earlier) (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply.) The campaign is valid up to December 30. Visit the showroom for exact details.



Sporting a bold profile, the Corolla Cross is powered to amplify arrivals. With a 1.8L engine paired to an electronically controlled CVT transmission. This hybrid electric vehicle produces dynamic acceleration and world-class fuel efficiency. A wide and tough stance is emphasised by the front grille resulting in a mature front expression. Together with the bumper, the double trapezoid form expresses a bold and stable design. The angular and wrap-around design of the headlamps integrated with daytime running lights, flow outwards from the grille. Highlighting its dynamic looks and

bolder stance. Sleek defined lines run along the side, culminating at the front of an aerodynamic cabin exuding a sophisticated impression. A muscular wheel arch adds to the sturdy looking lower body. A comfortable driving experience is made possible by the TNGA platform and is complemented by the large 17" alloy wheels. The solid forms of rear fenders are fused to the body, contrasting with the aerodynamically tapering cabin, which expresses an imposing stance. The rear spoiler not only contributes to vehicle performance but also increases the appeal of exterior styling. The Corolla Cross doesn't simply provide enough luggage space but also

achieves a lower luggage compartment opening making it easy to load and unload luggage. A smart and push start system allow you the freedom of just getting into your car and driving away. Consistent with its attractive and sophisticated exterior, the Corolla Cross has a well-detailed and spacious interior. That brings families together on every journey. Slim seatback gives adequate legroom for backseat passengers. The thin pillars and rear quarter window add to the roomier atmosphere of the Corolla Cross. The large rear door openings are a welcome feature. Ensuring passengers get in or out of the vehicle without any difficulty. 60-40 split rear seat offers

for more luggage space in case the need arises. Framed by the Optitron meters, a 4.2" TFT Multi-information display puts all the data you need at eye level. The upward protruding type 7" Display Audio System unit with T-Link connectivity matches a vibrant instrument panel. The Corolla Cross provides a safe and secure feeling to all occupants with a range of safety features. Including airbags for driver and front passenger, an anti-lock braking system, vehicle stability control for safer driving experiences. And the rearview camera and rear parking sensors to allow the driver to easily reverse into a parking spot.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Zain property Development signs pact with Spar

MUSCAT: Zain Property Development has announced the signing of a partnership agreement with SPAR Company to open its new branch. Zain Property Development, the leading Property Development company, announced the signing of an agreement with SPAR Company, one of the most famous supermarket chains in Oman, in the heart of Al Muna Gardens complex project located in the Wilayat of Bawshar in Al Muna area. The opening of the SPAR supermarket represents a new step added to a series of recent achievements witnessed by the Al Muna Gardens project, which is keen to provide an environment of luxury and luxury worthy of the residents of the distin-



guished real estate project.

Commenting on the agreement, Moosa Mohamed Al Raisi, Executive Director, said: "In high-end

places, residents are distinguished by their own tastes and also expect to find an environment that meets their needs. Therefore, we are very

pleased to welcome the opening of the SPAR supermarket in Al Muna Gardens and we are confident that our luxurious and growing project will contribute to the popularity of the SPAR store, in which we trust the quality of their services. While Chirayu Khimji, Director of SPAR Oman, said: "We are pleased to enter into a partnership with Zain Property Development Company through its project Al Muna Gardens and to be part of this unique residential destination." "SPAR stores have witnessed a wide spread and today we announce the opening of our 25th branch in Oman in one of the distinguished projects of Zain Property Development Company," he added.

LATEST PROJECT



Danube Properties' Dh475mn Skyz Tower provides ideal investment opportunity for investors

DUBAI: Danube Properties' latest project, the Dh475 million Skyz provides an ideal investment opportunity for investors who want to benefit from the current low price and a higher premium in two years when prices appreciate a high level. The company expects greater investor interest in the new project, which was the focus of its marketing and sales campaign at the Cityscape Global exhibition that took place at the Dubai Exhibition Centre within the Expo 2020 district from November 9 to 11. With prices starting from Dh399,000 for a studio, Dh599,000 for a one-bedroom apartment and Dh799,000 for a two-bedroom flat, buyers can expect to receive the keys after paying half of the amount through a 1 per cent monthly payment scheme - meaning they can start earning rents after paying only 50 per cent of the property. In other words, buyers can own the property with only 50 per cent of the price - the rest 50 per cent they can pay from the rental income! Buyers can approach the Danube Properties sales team at their Stand No C61 at the Dubai Exhibition Centre to benefit from the opportunity. "The Skyz Tower is an ideal property for end-users and investors who want a 2nd home in Dubai as prices of properties have started to appreciate due to higher investor demand," Rizwan Sajjan, Founder and Chairman of Danube Group, said. "Buyers of the properties can expect to benefit from 20 per cent

premium if they sell the property after two years when we will hand over the building to the buyers. This translates to a straight 15 per cent annual profit - making it a very high return on investment." Residential property prices in Dubai increased 4.4 per cent on average in the first eight months of the year, registering the highest annual growth since February 2015, according to real estate consultancy CB Richard Ellis (CBRE). Average apartment prices increased 2.5 per cent and average villa prices increased 17.9 per cent, CBRE said in its third-quarter market report recently. "But those shy away from investing - might miss the boat. Think of those who bought properties last year when the prices and market sentiment was the lowest in the middle of the pandemic - and made a killing by selling them at 30-40 per cent premium earlier this year - a solid return in just six months," Rizwan Sajjan says. "I urge the investors not to miss the boat this time. It is a golden opportunity - as property prices now are still 36 per cent lower than the previous peak of 2014. So, prices are still low and attractive. You may not make the same profit if you buy later." "The demand for new supplies and the demand for new homes will continue to rise. Therefore, it is the perfect time to buy a new home - to benefit from the surge in prices - to make good money either through re-sale or rent - that is expected to rise from 2023 onwards," Sajjan says.

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