



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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GCC flays attack on Qatar US bases

DOHA: The 49th extraordinary meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) held in Doha has expressed deep regret and strong condemnation of the missile attacks carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran targeting the Al Udeid air base in Qatar.

The council said the attack constituted a blatant, unacceptable and dangerous Iranian violation of Qatar's sovereignty and airspace, as well as the principles of good neighborliness. "It also constitutes a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter, regardless of the pretexts and justifications." The meeting was

chaired by Abdullah Ali Abdullah al-Yahya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Council expressed its full solidarity with Qatar and its full support for the measures it takes to preserve its security and stability. The Ministerial Council condemned the continued Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and

the killing of civilians, affirming its rejection of the military escalation carried out by the occupying authorities in the north and south of the Gaza Strip, the expansion of their occupation of large parts of the Strip, and the prevention of relevant international organisations from delivering humanitarian (Cont. on page-2)



Akasa Air to start flights to Jeddah

KOCHI: Akasa Air will start international flights from Kochi airport on June 29. The first service will be to Jeddah and

back to Kochi. Initially, there will be four services per week.

There will be one service each on Saturday and Monday and two services on Sunday. The flight which starts on Saturday and Monday at 6.10 PM will reach Jeddah 9.55 PM. The return flight will reach Kochi at 6.45 AM the next morning.

On Sundays, first flight will leave Kochi at 3 AM and will reach Jeddah (Cont. on page-2)

FLIGHTS RESUME TO GULF, EUROPE

MUMBAI: Air India, Air India Express and IndiGo along with Gulf carriers like Qatar Airways started resuming flights to the MidEast and Europe following the re-opening of key airspaces.

This decision comes as airspaces in certain parts

of the MidEast gradually reopen after warring nations Iran and Israel agreed to a shaky ceasefire. Iran's attack on Qatar's Al Udeid US military base in Doha late Monday night – an act the Gulf state condemned as a flagrant violation of

its sovereignty, international law and the United Nations Charter – was immediately followed by widespread and significant impacts on commercial aviation across the MidEast and globally. Airlines and governments (Cont. on page-2)

Visa scammers caught in Dubai, 21 convicted, Dh25m fined

DUBAI: Dubai's Citizenship and Residency Court has imposed fines worth Dh25.2 million against 21 people convicted

in one of the emirate's largest residency visa fraud cases.

The suspects, of various nationalities, were found guilty of operating fraudulent companies to unlawfully obtain residency visas, which they later sold to 385 recipients. The network exploited legal loopholes by setting up dummy businesses that existed only on paper and never functioned as legitimate employers.

Counsellor Ali Humaid bin Khatem, senior advocate general and director of Dubai's Citizenship and Residency Prosecution, said it is one of the largest cases of misusing residency visas to exploit people. He said the investigation included 33 commercial establishments, which served as decoys for obtaining and misusing the visas.

"Most of the business licences under which the illegal establishments operated had been (Cont. on page-2)

Tata Group crosses \$30b brand value mark

MUMBAI: The Highly respected Tata Group held its spot as India's most-valuable brand and became the first to top \$30 billion in brand value (rising 10pc to \$31.6 billion), according to Brand Finance's 2025 rankings. The combined value of the country's top 100 brands rose to \$236.5 billion.

The report ranked Infosys, up 15pc to \$16.3 billion, as India's second most-valuable brand, continuing to lead the IT services sector. HDFC Group, now ranked third, saw its brand value surge 37pc to \$14.2 billion, solidifying its position as a financial services powerhouse (Cont. on page-2)



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A fragile truce

After the 12-day war, the ceasefire between Israel and Iran, announced by US President Trump, appears to be holding even as Israeli forces continue their war on Gaza. But the casualty count is really alarming. Iran alleges at least 610 people, including 13 children, have been killed and at least 3,056 others wounded since Israel launched its attack on June 13. In Israel, at least 28 people have been killed in Iranian strikes. This is apart from the massive destruction of properties on both sides.

In totality, Israel's present war on Gaza has killed at least 56,077 people and wounded 131,848, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. An estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the Oct 7 attacks and more than 200 taken captive.



According to an analysis by Brown University's Watson Institute of International & Public Affairs, US-led wars since 2001 directly caused the deaths of about 9.4 lakh people across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other post-9/11 conflict zones. This does not include indirect deaths, namely those caused by loss of access to food, healthcare or war-related diseases. These indirect deaths are estimated to be 3.6 to 3.8 million, bringing the total death toll, including direct and indirect deaths, to between 4.5 and 4.7 million and counting.

Is the 12-day Israel-Iran war really over – and who gained what? Since Sunday, the MidEast has lurched from escalating war to a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Iran. A truce seems to be holding and what US President Donald Trump called: "The 12-Day War" between Israel and Iran seems to be over – for now. Meanwhile, Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Iran's leaders have all claimed that the pause in the conflict happened on their own terms. So, what's the truth? What did Israel achieve? Did Iran manage to defend its strategic assets? And is the truce a pathway to peace?

Both Israel and Iran have claimed victory, with Iranians holding celebrations in Tehran and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claiming a triumph that will stand for generations.

Though there is no strong reaction from the Arab world, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has condemned Iran's attack on the Al Udeid Air Base hosting US forces in Qatar and renewed its calls for the end of Israel's war on Gaza. The silence by Saudi Arabia is self-explanatory as Saudi's friendship with the US is at its strongest point now. Oil diplomacy in general has turned weak with countries catching up with alternate source of energy. Even at the height of the war, crude prices have turned sluggish.

At last a Trump-brokered ceasefire is in place for now. But what really happened? and did any side emerge stronger? Or is it a win-win situation? Only the coming days can answer this million dollar question.

LIPSYNCH

"The strongest of all warriors are these two — Time and Patience." — Leo Tolstoy (War and Peace)

Saudi's tourism soars

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia welcomed approximately 116 million domestic and international tourists in 2024, a six percent increase compared with the previous year, according to the Ministry of Tourism's Annual Statistical Report.

The report revealed that total domestic and inbound travel spending reached around SR284 billion in 2024, an 11pc year-on-year growth. The

surge reflects the Kingdom's growing appeal as a global travel destination and the effectiveness of its sustained investment in tourism infrastructure, cultural offerings, and streamlined visitor experiences.

A record-breaking 30 million inbound tourists visited Saudi Arabia in 2024, an eight percent increase over 2023, the highest number ever recorded. **(Cont. on page-7)**

GCC flays attack...

(Cont. from page-1) aid and operating medical facilities. The Council stressed the need to

resume negotiations to reach a ceasefire and provide assistance to civilians.

The Ministerial Council commended the capabilities of the Qatari Armed Forces in confronting the attack launched by Iran on Qatar, emphasizing that the security and stability of Qatar is an integral part of the security and stability of all GCC states, and that any threat to any member state is a direct threat to all GCC states. The Council reiterated its categorical rejection of any infringement on the sovereignty of Qatar or any threat to its security and stability.

Akasa Air to start...

(Cont. from page-1) at 6.45 AM. The return flight will leave Jeddah 7.45 and will reach Kochi at 4.45 AM. The second service will leave Kochi at 8.45 PM and reach Jeddah at 1.10 AM. The re-

turn flight will land at Kochi at 10.10 AM.

On June 29 and July 6, only one service will be there. The flight will leave at 5 PM and will reach Jeddah at 8.45 PM. Return flight will be at 9.45 PM and reach Kochi next day morning at 6.45 AM. On Sundays from July 13 there will be two services. The aircraft will be Boeing 737 MAX. There will be 186 economy class seats.

Visa scammers caught in...

(Cont. from page-1) secured by furnishing fictitious addresses. The aim was to undermine and exploit residency and labour regulations for unlawful gain," bin Khatem said in a statement.

Officials from the General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs in Dubai discovered the companies and reported them to the Dubai Public Prosecution. "The arrests followed extensive monitoring, follow-ups and inspections of the companies' purported offices," bin Khatem added.

Tata Group crosses \$30b brand value mark

(Cont. from page-1) following its merger with HDFC Ltd.

Meanwhile, Adani Group emerged as the fastest-growing Indian brand in this year's rankings, with its brand value soaring 82pc. The sharp rise is driven by the conglomerate's aggressive infrastructure push, expanding green energy

ambitions, and growing brand equity among key stakeholders, the report noted.

The title of India's strongest brand was retained by Taj Hotels, with a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 92.2 out of 100 and a coveted AAA+ rating for the fourth year in a row. Its continued strength is supported by steady international growth and a reputation for premium service excellence.

This was followed by Asian Paints, which ranked as the second-strongest Indian brand this year with a BSI score of 92/100 and an AAA+ brand strength rating, whilst also maintaining its status as the strongest paints and coatings brand ranked globally. Amul took third place with a BSI score of 91.2/100 and an AAA+ brand strength rating.

FLIGHTS RESUME TO GULF, EUROPE

(Cont. from page-1) temporarily closed their airspace.

India-UAE flight route is among the busiest air routes in the world, transporting thousands of passengers daily on both Indian and UAE carriers because of the large Indian diaspora living in the UAE. A long-term disruption of flights on this route can prove cataclysmic for airlines operating flights on this route.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia strongly condemned the Iranian attack, expressing full solidarity with Qatar and warning that such acts undermine regional stability and violate international law. Airlines were on fresh alert late Monday night after Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait

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Euro	99.49	101.6
Japanese Yen	58.97	59.91
Swiss Franc (CHF)	105.87	108.16
Canadian Dollar	61.97	63.37
Australian Dollar	55.55	56.79
Norwegian Krone	8.35	8.6
Swedish Krona	8.93	9.19
New Zealand Dollar	51.42	52.57
Hong Kong Dollar	10.74	11.07
Kuwaiti Dinar	286.3011	275.4095
Singapore Dollar	66.7	68.18
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.47	23.17
United Arab Emirates	23	23.66

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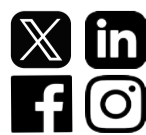
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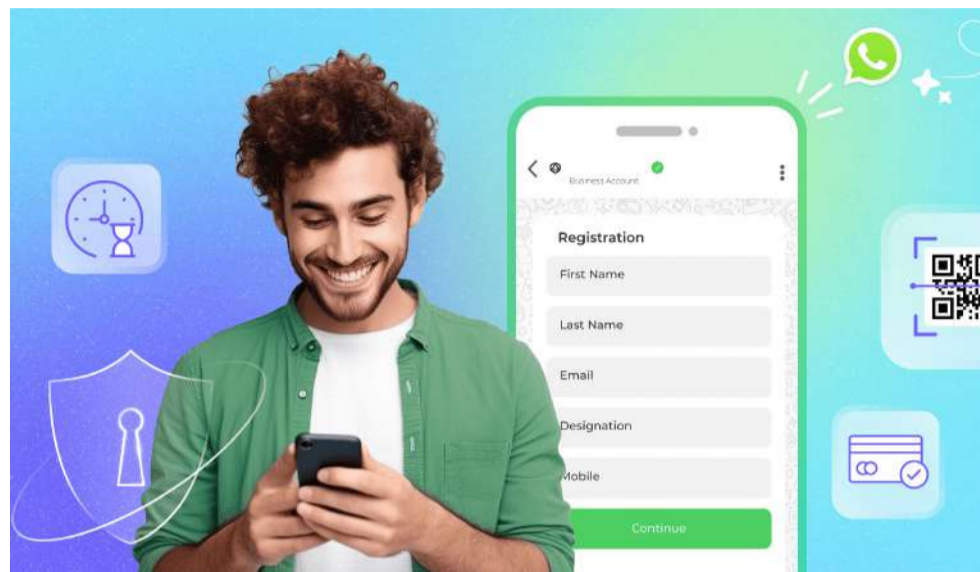
Dubai tenants can now complete Ejari rental registration on WhatsApp

Can you please explain the new initiative to allow clients to do Ejari registration on WhatsApp?

Dubai tenants can now complete their Ejari registration and update it through WhatsApp, eliminating the need for in-person visits for customers. The initiative has been launched by Injaz Real Estate Registration Trustee through its platform Aqari in collaboration with the Dubai Land Department. Through this

platform, users can connect with official Service Trustees in real time to expedite various processes, including personal and company information updates, title deed data amendments, property valuations, map issuance, ownership registration and more. This direct interaction eliminates the need for in-person office visits, offering a faster and more efficient experience worldwide.

Quoting DLD data, Allsopp & Allsopp said rental



renewal volume dropped by 19pc and value by 17pc month-on-month in May 2025. However, rental contract volume increased by 15pc and

value by nine per cent month-on-month. This suggests a strategic shift in tenant preference, with individuals increasingly exploring suburban ar-

eas for properties amidst ongoing rental price increases in prime locations.

"The Dubai Land Department firmly believes that partnerships and co-operation with the private sector are crucial for realising our ambitious objectives. Our aim is to reinforce Dubai's leading position in the global real estate market," said Khalifa Alsalfa, then director of the Real Estate Services Pioneering Department at Dubai Land Department.

Can a convicted employee still get end-of-service benefits?

The recent judgment about the car showroom being asked to pay a hefty amount as compensation to a buyer has drawn the attention of all car owners in the UAE. Can you please explain the implication of this judgment?

A car showroom has been ordered to return Dh68,000 to a customer, along with an additional Dh15,000 in compensation. A ruling from the Al Ain Court for civil, commercial, and administrative claims came after the showroom sold the customer's car, which had

been given to them in trust, but failed to hand over the sale proceeds.

The customer had given his car to the showroom under an agreement to sell it. He was asked to transfer the vehicle's ownership to the showroom to facilitate the sale process. The



customer agreed, but after the sale was completed, the showroom did not pay him the agreed amount.

The owner filed a lawsuit against the showroom, requesting the court to compel it to pay Dh68,000 for the sale price along with nine per cent annual interest from the date of the claim until full payment. He also demanded Dh30,000 in compensation for material and moral damages, in addition to legal fees and court expenses.

In his complaint, the plaintiff explained that he had agreed with the showroom to leave the car in their custody for sale at the best possible price. After some time, the showroom informed him that a buyer had been found and that the agreed price was Dh68,000, which the

customer accepted.

Later, the showroom told him the buyer wanted to apply for bank financing, which required transferring ownership to the showroom. The customer co-operated and used his digital ID to complete the transfer of ownership. However, despite completing the sale and receiving the money from the buyer, the showroom stalled payment and refused to transfer the amount to the original owner. This prompted the customer to take legal action. The court reviewed the evidence and found that the showroom had failed to fulfil its obligation. It ruled in favour of the claimant, ordering the payment of Dh68,000 and an additional Dh15,000 as compensation for the financial and emotional harm suffered.

Showroom ordered to pay Dh83,000 after selling customer's car without paying

I am a company owner. Four months ago, I filed a report with the Public Prosecution against an employee for disclosing information and stealing money from the company. Currently, a ruling has been issued by the criminal court against this employee convicting him. In this situation, does the employee stand to lose his end-of-service benefits? What is the appropriate action to take against this employee to force him to return the money he stole, in addition

to compensation? Should the lawsuit be filed before a labour court or a civil court?

Article 44 of Federal Decree Law No 33 of 2021 allows an employer to dismiss a worker without notice after conducting a written investigation in case the worker disclosed sensitive information related to industrial or intellectual property, which resulted in losses to the employer, missed opportunities or achieved a personal benefit for the worker.

As for his end-of-service benefits, it is a matter for the court to de-

cide. You have to file a claim before the labour court to recover the stolen money and request for compensation. The labour court has jurisdiction over all labour disputes. Article 54 of the Labour law states that if an employer, worker or any beneficiary thereof has a dispute concerning any of the rights entitled to any of them under the provisions of this decree, he/she is required to apply to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, which shall examine the application and take measures to settle the dispute amicably.

2025-2027 TAFI WESTERN INDIA LEADERSHIP TEAM



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Stricter visa rules in US, UK, Canada to boost Indian higher institutions

NEW DELHI: Tightening student visa norms in the US, UK and Canada is likely to aid Indian higher education institutions in the near to medium term, according to rating agency ICRA.

ICRA's analysis suggests that the credit profiles of these institutes, especially those catering to the medical stream, have witnessed

steady improvement in recent years.

ICRA projects the revenue of higher education institutions to expand by nine to 11pc in FY2026, similar to the growth estimated for FY2025, on the back of expanding seat capacities, improving enrolments and addition of courses.

With nearly 15-20pc of India's population

estimated to be in the 15-24 age bracket, and with improving literacy rates, the demand for higher education in the country is projected to increase over the next decade. While increasing cost of higher education has remained a deterrent, improved access to credit (education loan) for students vying for higher education from various financial

institutions has been providing support.

Additionally, the government of India's (GoI's) expenditure on higher education has doubled in the last 10 years, which, coupled with the rise in the number of universities from 642 in AY2011 to Rs 1,189 as of AY2025, has translated into a handsome revenue growth for major universities.

Saudi's tourism... (Cont. from page-2)

corded. Spending by international visitors soared to SR168.5 billion, a 19pc rise from the previous year. Domestic tourism also showed robust growth, with 86.2 million residents travelling within the Kingdom, spending SR115.3 billion and representing a five per cent increase in volume and value. Ahmed Al-Khatteeb, Minister of Tourism, said: "Tourism is no longer a supporting sector; it is a key economic driver that enables Vision 2030."