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NIP IN THE AIR



Motorists approaching the Wadi Kabir flyover on Wednesday morning were in for a surprise to witness sudden formation of fog. Most parts of Oman are seeing pleasant weather with the maximum daytime temperature in Muscat hovering between 20°C and 25°C. In its forecast for Thursday, the Public Authority for Civil Aviation has said that the skies will be mainly clear over most parts of Oman with chances of late night to early morning low level clouds or fog patches formations along the coastal areas of Sea of Oman (V K Shafeer/Muscat Daily)

Council of Ministers approves to set up National Recruitment Centre

Muscat - The Council of Ministers on Wednesday approved the setting up of the National Recruitment Centre to expedite the rate of employment in Oman.

The Council of Ministers issued a statement which reads as follows:

"Within the context of the government's continuous follow-up of a programme to provide more employment opportunities to Omanis, the Council of Ministers reviewed, in its session held today, the executive stance of employment of national manpower.

"The Cabinet decided to activate employment track in various sectors of the state.

"The setting up of a National Recruitment Centre has been approved, combining both public and private sectors, with a view to expedite the rate of employment and tackling any obstacles or challenges that might obstruct this track. All matters related to this centre will be finalised before the end of February 2019."

ONA

Diam to install 250,000 smart meters in Muscat

Pilot smart water meter project in Musandam a success; 500,000 people part of the Diam network

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Public Authority for Water (Diam) will install 250,000 smart meters in Muscat beginning March as part of a two-year project. Diam plans to make Muscat one of the smartest cities in the water sector. It is also planning to launch an app by the end of this year to pay bills.

Speaking exclusively to Muscat Daily, Hilal Ali Saif al Abri, Metering Manager - Muscat at the Directorate General of Customer Services in Diam, said, "As part of a pilot project we are installing smart meters in Musandam. The project began in November and is seeing the installation of 9,500 smart meters.



Hilal Ali Saif al Abri

The project will get over by February."

Abri said that the pilot project in Musandam began with the installation of ten water meters. "It was done on an experiment basis. The project was carried out by a team of Omani experts from Diam in cooperation with an Omani company.

"We chose Musandam as

many of the homes there are located in remote areas and in the mountains. It takes us lots of time and effort to visit such areas to take meter readings."

Talking about the purpose of the project, he said, "The smart meter system will enable Diam to obtain accurate, hourly meter readings from customers automatically."

The number of consumers in Oman as part of the Diam network has touched 500,000, going up by ten per cent annually. He said that the new system automatically collects consumption data from water meters and transfers them to a central database for billing, troubleshooting and evaluation.

Continued on page 03

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Australia announces closure of controversial detention centre

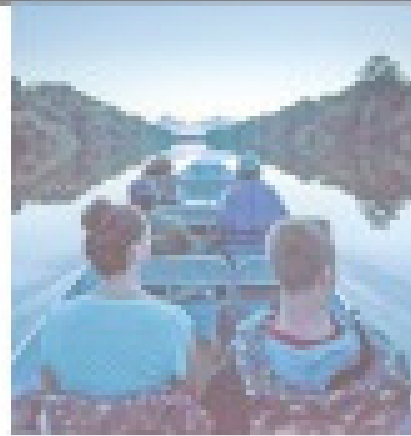
KENYA

You can sleep under a starry African sky from your tent at the Masai Mara in the heart of the savanna. Or you can stay in a luxury lodge with a private pool and spa. Take a morning safari to see the big game in the savanna. Or you can stay in a luxury lodge with a private pool and spa. Take a morning safari to see the big game in the savanna. Or you can stay in a luxury lodge with a private pool and spa. Take a morning safari to see the big game in the savanna.



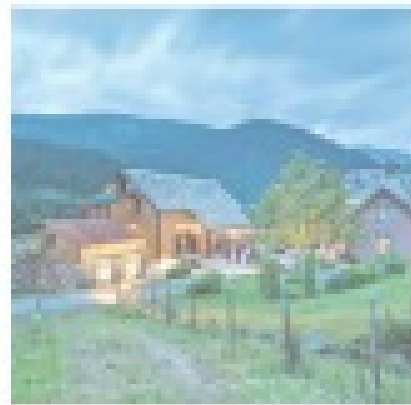
CHAD

From wildlands to water, Africa's vast and varied landscapes offer a wealth of experiences. From the vast savannas of the Serengeti to the rugged mountains of the Atlas, Africa has something for everyone. From the vast savannas of the Serengeti to the rugged mountains of the Atlas, Africa has something for everyone. From the vast savannas of the Serengeti to the rugged mountains of the Atlas, Africa has something for everyone.



VIETNAM

With its rich history and diverse landscapes, Vietnam offers a unique experience. From the bustling cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to the stunning beaches of the south, Vietnam has something for everyone. From the bustling cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to the stunning beaches of the south, Vietnam has something for everyone.



THE BALEARICS

After a tumultuous few seasons in which Formentera, Ibiza, Mallorca, and Menorca were almost overrun with tourists, Spain has taken strides toward restoring a sense of lazy, languid idyll to its islands. For one thing, it banned Airbnb last year and put an end to new hotel licences in hopes of curbing overdevelopment. The openings across the Balearic Islands that were grandfathered in are now countering the thump-thump nightlife reputation Ibiza created. In the fortified, Gothic centre of the city of Palma de Mallorca, you'll find Es Princep, a contemporary vestar hotel with ocean views, and the intimate and artful Can Bordoy. (You won't see a DJ at either.) On Formentera, there's Etosoto, an organic farm with ten beachside rooms. Experimental Menorca, a nine-villa estate surrounded by wild gardens, also opens this summer. Of course, getting to the archipelago is half the fun

THE PANTANAL, BRAZIL

It's not a well-known water source, but the Pantanal in Brazil is a vast wetland area that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. From jaguars to pink river dolphins, the Pantanal is a biodiversity hotspot. It's not a well-known water source, but the Pantanal in Brazil is a vast wetland area that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. From jaguars to pink river dolphins, the Pantanal is a biodiversity hotspot.



NORWAY

From the fjords to the mountains, Norway offers a stunning landscape. From the fjords to the mountains, Norway offers a stunning landscape. From the fjords to the mountains, Norway offers a stunning landscape. From the fjords to the mountains, Norway offers a stunning landscape.

