



#### HIS MAJESTY SENDS CABLE

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, on the occasion of the anniversary of his country's independence day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings along with his wishes of good health and happiness to the president and his country's people further progress and prosperity. -ONA



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#### TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

### OMAN

## Daymaniyat Islands opened to visitors

**1** Omani children below the age of 16 have to pay just one rial to stay overnight at the Daymaniyat Islands Nature Reserve. With the islands reopening to tourists, the Environment Authority has announced the fees. >**A3**

### WORLD

## Russia rolls out COVID-19 vaccine

**2** Russia began distributing its COVID-19 vaccine on Saturday, with Moscow as the focal point for people to participate in the first mass vaccination against the virus. The Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine will be distributed at 70 clinics around Moscow. >**A6**

### MARKET

## World food prices close to 6-year high

**3** World food prices jumped to an almost six-year high in November, according to an index published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The index said prices for several food products had risen significantly. >**B1**



# OMAN LIKELY TO GET FIRST BATCH OF COVID-19 VACCINES SOON

Times News Service

Oman is waiting for the vaccine to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration of the United States

**MUSCAT:** Oman is likely to receive COVID-19 vaccines in the last week of December, an official at the Ministry of Health has said.

This comes after the UK government approved the use of vaccines made by Pfizer. British regulator MHRA approved the roll out for mass vaccinations which are likely to begin within the next few days. The UK has ordered 40

million doses already, of which 10 million will be available soon, reports said.

Speaking to the *Times of Oman*, a senior official at the Ministry of Health said, "There are two international organisations - EMA (European Medical Agency) and FDA (Food and Drug Administration). Because the EMA gave approval, the UK can use the vaccine. The Ministry of Health has made an evaluation of all the COVID vaccines available around the world.

One of the conditions we have for Oman to use the vaccine is that it should receive approval from these international organisations."

#### Conditions for approval

Explaining the conditions required for approval and use of the vaccine in Oman, he added: "Since Pfizer was founded in the USA, we require the United States FDA to give it approval. We are waiting for that approval to come. For us to use the vaccine,

the company that made it must receive approval from the country in which it has been manufactured. Since it has already received approval from the EMA, I expect Pfizer will receive its approval during this week. When the FDA gives approval, then it can be registered for medical use in Oman. This is the procedure we follow in Oman. Once approval has come, then the Sultanate will make arrangements to import it into the country." >**A3**

BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA

## Foreign minister holds bilateral meetings

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Oman's Foreign Minister met with counterparts from Gulf Cooperation Council countries Bahrain and Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of the Manama Dialogue organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister met with Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of



Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the sidelines of the activities of the 16th session of the Manama Dialogue 2020," the Omani Foreign Ministry said.

#### Issues of common interest

"During the meeting, the historical relations between the two countries were emphasised, and the common desire to strengthen them in all fields were expressed. A number of issues of common

interest were reviewed," added the ministry.

At the conference, which is held from 4 to 6 December, Al Busaidi also held discussions with his counterpart from Saudi Arabia.

"Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi met with Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, on the sidelines of the activities of the 16th session of the Manama Dialogue," the statement said.



Welcoming wadis of the Sultanate

A4

## Bahwan International Group Launches



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# Made in Oman campaign receives praise from public, private sectors

The campaign aims to spread awareness about the variety of products manufactured in the country

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Representatives from the leading government and private sector companies have praised the Made in Oman campaign in spearheading efforts to promote local products in the country's supermarkets.



**LOCAL PRODUCTS:** The campaign is organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in collaboration with several other public and private-sector bodies. - Supplied picture

Organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, in collaboration with several other public and private-sector bodies, including

the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the Public Authority for SME Development (Riyada) and the Public Authority for Industrial Estates (Madayn),

the Made in Oman campaign aims to spread awareness about the variety of products manufactured in the country, and find opportunities for them to market them in places

frequented by the public.

Commenting on the Made in Oman campaign, Nasima bint Yahya Al Balushi, the head of the team tasked with promoting the campaign, at the ministry, said, "Omani products have a good reputation abroad in terms of quality. Products of a competitive standard made in Oman include building materials and food products, as well as many others exported to more than 130 countries across the world.

Adding to this, Saleh Al Shanfari, CEO of Oman Food Investment Holding Company (OFIC), and the chairman of the Food Security Company at OCCI, said, "It is very important to raise community awareness about the availability of Omani products, and its importance in terms of being the best option for consumers, as they meet the required Omani specification standards."

"The need to display Omani products in a special area in large hypermarkets is required," added Said bin Abdullah Al Kharousi, the chairman of the board of director of the Omani Farmers Association. "They must be kept separate from foreign goods, and ensure packaging processes are set up for them, so that they appear distinctive to customers."

Shedding light about the importance of promoting Omani products, Adnan bin Mohammed Al Alawi, the CEO of the Oman Dates Production and Packing company, said, "The sustainable availability of the raw materials required in the manufacture of these products, as well as making them through modern technology and setting up proper standards that are in keeping with those used in local and regional markets will ensure our products are more easily accessible to foreign markets."

## WELCOME VISITORS

## SAF Museum opens its doors from today



Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Sultan's Armed Forces Museum will reopen its doors to the public on Sunday, 6th December 2020, adhering to the health requirements and precautionary instructions issued by the Supreme Committee tasked with controlling the spread of the COVID-19.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Defence said, "The Sultan's Armed Forces Museum welcomes distinguished visitors

starting from Sunday, 6th December 2020 from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, with adherence to the necessary precautionary health measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic."

The museum contains artefacts and exhibits that indicate the growth of the Sultan's Armed Forces over the years.

Visitors can also see the manuscripts, models and weapons that tell the long tradition of Omani military history.

## SOS INTERNATIONAL

## Oman among safest countries for travel

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** SOS International Consulting has ranked the Sultanate among the safest countries to travel in the world in 2021, according to the World Travel Risk Map for 2021.

A statement issued by Oman News Agency (ONA) said, "SOS International Consulting ranks the Sultanate among the safest and least risky travel destinations in the world, according to the World Travel Risk Map for 2021, which it recently issued."



SOS International Consulting has ranked Oman among the safest destinations for travel.

## NCSI DATA

## Producer price index in Sultanate declines

**MUSCAT:** The Sultanate's Producer Price Index (PPI) fell during the third quarter 2020 by 9.4 per cent compared to the same period in 2019.

The statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that the prices of oil and gas products registered a drop of 10.7 per cent while non-oil products fell by 2.5 per cent.

The drop in the prices of oil and gas products is ascribed to the decrease in refined oil products by 24.9 per cent while the drop in the prices of crude oil and natural gas products stood at 8.3 per cent.

The drop in non-oil products is ascribed to the decrease in the prices of the group of manufacturing industries by 3 per cent while the prices of mining products, electricity and water group



fell by one per cent. The prices of mineral products, machinery and equipment decreased by 6.3 per cent and the prices of other movable products dropped by 4.4 per cent. The products of the group of food, beverages and textile, increased by 4.6 per cent while the prices of fish products, fruits, vegetables and oils increased by 8.3 per cent and the prices of ready-made garments, textile and shoes increased by 4.4 per cent.

— ONA

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**OMAN** is known for its resplendent wadis. Exploring the unspoilt beauty of the wadis is one of the main attractions for tourists visiting Oman. According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "Wadis form a unique environmental system characterised by variety, diversity, and a wealth of natural attractions. Within this fertile environment, people have lived in the wadis of Oman for thousands of years."

Wadi Al Arbiyeen in Rustaq is considered one of the most spectacular wadis in Oman. The deep pools at the edge of Al Hajar mountains, the palm trees, mango orchards, and banana farms make it a must visit place for visitors. Wadi Al Hawqayn is another picturesque wadi located between Muscat and Rustaq. It has year-round flowing springs and streams, as well as cool waterfalls and palm trees. On the road to Sur from Bidbid lies the lush green Wadi Bani Khalid.

Located in South Al Sharqiyah, it's known for having magnificent views, ample lands adorned with green trees and lakes, gigantic mountains, as well as tumbling waterfalls. In South Batinah, Wadi Bani Kharus in the Wilayat of Al Awabi is one of the most fa-



mous valleys known for cultivation of many fruit trees and agricultural crops. It abounds with various plants, flowers, medicinal herbs, and wildlife. There are many falaj system, water springs, various rock formations and archaeological inscriptions on some stones and old houses.

Wadi Darbat in Dhofar during Khareef showcases the richness and colour of Dhofar's landscape. Surrounded by beautiful attractions like caves, springs and waterfall, it is located few kilometres behind Taqah. Wadi Al Qahfi, Wadi Al Khoudh, Wadi Muayden, Wadi Bani Awf, Wadi Damm, Wadi Danak, Wadi Dimma, Wadi Ad Dayqah, Wadi Andam, Wadi Tiwi and Wadi Shab are some of the other significant must visit wadis of Oman.





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# His Majesty the Sultan issues two Royal decrees

**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Thursday issued two Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 129/2020 conducts some transfers and placements in the diplomatic corps.

Article (1) transfers Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal bin Saud Al-Busaidi, Oman's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and appoints him as the Sultanate's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Article (2) appoints the officials named below as indicated against their names:

1 Abdullah bin Nassir bin Musalam Al-Rahbi as the Sultanate's Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League.

2 Moosa bin Hamdan bin Moosa Al Ta'ee as the Sultanate's Ambassador to the United States of America.

3 Sheikh Hilal bin Marhoon bin Salim Al-Ma'amari as the Sultanate's Ambassador to Jordan.

4 His Highness Sayyid Faisal bin Turki bin Mahmoud Al-Said as the Sultanate's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its Permanent Representative to the Islamic Cooperation Organisation.

Article (3) appoints the following as indicated against their names:

1 Saleh bin Suleiman bin Ahmed Al-Harthy, Oman's Am-

bassador to Kenya, as the Sultanate's Non-resident Ambassador to Eritria.

2 Mubarak bin Salim bin Ali Al-Zakwani, Oman's Ambassador to South Africa, as the Sultanate's Non-resident Ambassador to Madagascar.

3 Ali bin Abdullah bin Salim Al-Mahrouqi, Oman's Ambassador to Tanzania as the Sultanate's Non-resident Ambassador to the Seychelles Republic.

4 Dr. Mohammed bin Said bin Khalifa Al-Busaidi, Oman's Ambassador to Japan as the Sultanate's Non-resident Ambassador to Australia.

Article (4) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. 130/2020 on appointing a Permanent Representative of the Sultanate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Article (1) appoints Dr. Hamad bin Saif bin Ali Al-Hamami as the Sultanate's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

-ONA

# First postal stamp bearing the image of His Majesty launched



The inauguration took place during a ceremony organised by Oman Post in cooperation with the National Museum

**MUSCAT:** At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, on Thursday launched the first postal stamp superimposed by His Majesty Sultan Haitham's picture.

HH Sayyid Bilarab also launched a commemorative stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the blessed Renaissance march.

The inauguration took place during a ceremony organised by Oman Post, one of Asyad Group companies, in cooperation with



the National Museum.

The first issue of His Majesty Sultan Haitham's postal stamp reaffirms the allegiance of loyalty to His Majesty the Sultan and the perpetuation of his reign in Oman's glorious history and civilisation.

Then, HH Sayyid Bilarab signed

the First Day Cover of both postal stamps, in induction for the Early Issue of the new stamps.

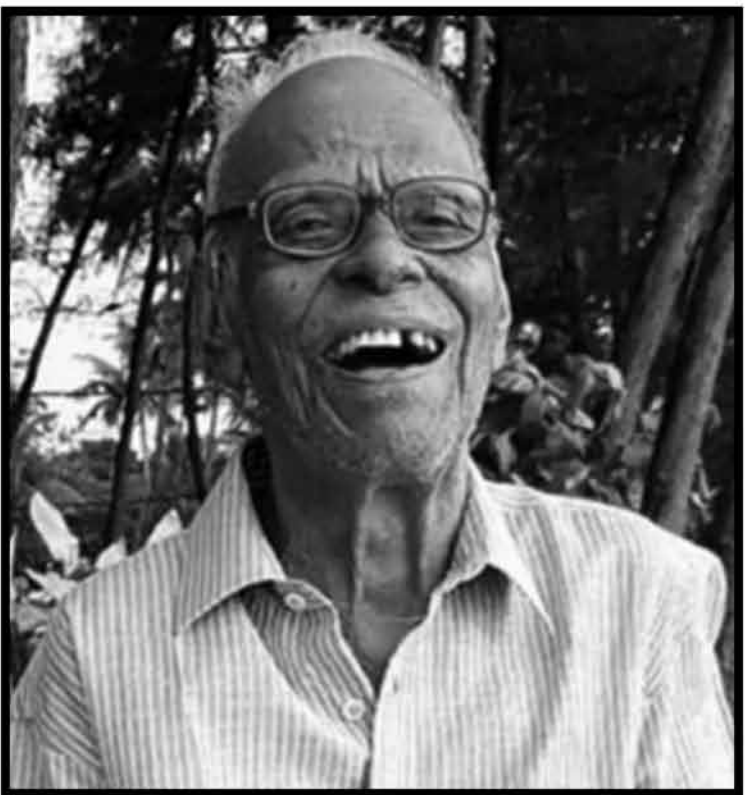
The 50th National Day Stamp, a golden plated issue, is superimposed by a picture of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and another picture of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour.

It also includes an image of Al Alam Palace, a landmark edifice of the blessed Renaissance witnessed by the Sultanate over a half century.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Royal family members and senior dignitaries from public and private sectors. -ONA

# CONDOLENCES

The Management and the Staff offer their Condolences on the sad demise of



**BALAKRISHNAN NAIR (1922 - 2020)**  
ON 03-12-2020

beloved father of our Managing Director Mr Suresh B Nair

May the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace & grant strength to family members to bear this irreparable loss

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## DIAM INITIATIVE

# Smart water meter project launched

**MUSCAT:** The Public Authority for Water (Diam) on Thursday celebrated the operation of smart water meters that were installed in the Governorates of Muscat and Musandam.

The linking of these meters to Diam's systems was done through the Internet of Things (IoT) technology in cooperation with the National Energy Centre (NEC) and the Omani Qatari Telecommunications Company (Ooredoo).

The opening ceremony was held under the patronage of Sultan bin Salem Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, in the presence of a number of ministers and under-secretaries.

The smart meters that have been installed are divided into two types: postpaid and prepaid. They were implemented in several stages, including the pilot, first and second stages. The smart meters project is expected to contribute to reducing water losses in the Governorate of Muscat by at least 20 per cent. Achieving this percentage will annually save about OMR42 million.

With the reduction of water losses, there will be no need to add a new station with a capacity of 100,000 cubic metres. -ONA

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# WORLD



Sultanate of Oman  
**MINISTRY CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH**

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects

| TENDR. No.       | Project Category | Location                                                                                                                            | Fees R.O | Grade In Tender Board Registration |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Re-Tender 2/2020 | Construction     | GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF GRANDSTAND WITH UNDERCROFT FACILITIES AND SPORTS HALL AT MUSCAT SPORTS CLUB IN MUSCAT GOVERNORATE            | 25/-     | Second Grade                       |
| Re-tender 3/2020 | Service          | RENOVATION OF GRASSED FOOTBALL PITCH WITH AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION FOR MUSCAT SPORTS CLUB AT MUSCAT GOVERNORATE                         | 25/-     | First & Second Grade               |
| Re-tender 4/2020 | Service          | CONSTRUCTION OF SYNTHETIC TURF FOOTBALL PITCH AND FLOODLIGHT TO MAIN GRASSED FOOTBALL PICH MUSCAT SPORTS CLUB                       | 25/-     | First & Second Grade               |
| Re-tender 6/2020 | Service          | RENOVATION OF GRASSED FOOTBALL PITCH WITH NEW AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION FOR MAJES SPORTS CLUB IN NORTH BATINAH GOVERNORATE               | 25/-     | First & Second Grade               |
| 13/2020          | Service          | CONSTRUCTION OF SYNTHETIC TURF FOOTBALL PITCH AND FLOODLIGHT TO MAJES SPORTS CLUB, NORTH BATINAH GOVERNORATE                        | 25/-     | First & Second Grade               |
| 14/2020          | service          | RENOVATION OF GRASSED FOOTBALL PITCH WITH NEW AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION FOR ITTIFAQ - IBRA Br. SPORTS CLUB IN NORTH SHARQIYA GOVERNORATE | 25/-     | First & Second Grade               |
| 15/2020          | Construction     | RE-PAINTING TO NIZWA SPORTS COMPLEX BUILDINGS                                                                                       | 25/-     | First Grade                        |

Companies, which are registered with the Tender Board and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Tender Board E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) until 19/12/2020. The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site at 9:00am 18/01/2021

A Tender Bond equivalent to 1% of the tender sum issued from a registered bank, in the prescribed form, in Sultanate of Oman and valid for 90 days should enclosed with the tender.

Any tender without the bond will be reject and the tender committee is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender received.

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24166670 or through email [etenderhd@ita.gov.om](mailto:etenderhd@ita.gov.om)

BRAKE FAILURE

## 16 killed, 27 injured as bus plunges off bridge in Brazil



**BRASILIA:** A bus in Brazil plunged off a viaduct from a height of 20 metres (70 feet) after a suspected brake failure caused the driver to lose control, before it crashed onto rail tracks below, killing at least 16 people, officials said on Friday.

Twelve people perished at the scene while four more died in hospital from injuries sustained in the tragedy, news portal G1 reported, citing the fire department.

Another 27 people were hurt in the accident near the town of Joao Monlevade in the southeast-ern state of Minas Gerais.

Romeu Zema, the governor of Minas Gerais, tweeted: “Stunned. All my solidarity with the family and friends of the victims of this sad tragedy.”

**Six scramble to safety**  
Photos released by firefighters showed the smoking bus on its side atop train tracks beside the Piracicaba River.

Six people managed to scramble out of the bus before it fell, the driver among them, the fire department said.

On November 25, a total of 41 people died when a truck and a bus crashed into each other near the city of Taguai in the state of Sao Paulo. Between 2015 and 2019, an average of 30,000 people died every year in road accidents in Brazil, according to transport officials. **bw**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDERS



The Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (TANWEER) invites for the following tenders:

| Tender No       | Description                                                                                                          | Tender Price (R.O) | Grade         | Last Date of Buying | Last Date of Submission |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Tanweer-31/2020 | Operation and Maintenance of Saih Al- Khirat Power Station at Wilayat Thumrait - Dhofar Governorate                  | 1,637/=            | “A”           | 15/12/2020          | 31/12/2020              |
| Tanweer-32/2020 | Operation & Maintenance of Fershat Qatbeet Power Station -Dhofar Governorate                                         | 692/=              | “A”           | 15/12/2020          | 31/12/2020              |
| Tanweer-33/2020 | Construction of 33KV interlink feeder between ROP Complex PSS and MOD PSS at Mazuonah - Dhofar Governorate.          | 125/=              | “B and Above” | 15/12/2020          | 31/12/2020              |
| Tanweer-34/2020 | Replacement of Porcelain Insulator to Silicone Rubber Type at Wadisail Area in Wilayat Mahout - Al Wusta Governorate | 48/=               | “C and Above” | 15/12/2020          | 31/12/2020              |

**The Conditions:**

- Collection of Tender:** Interested and Specialized Companies and Establishments registered with Tender Board (valid certificate), Tanweer and Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) (valid certificate) may obtain the Tender documents from Procurement & Contracts Department, against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. The fees for the tenders shall be deposited on Tanweer account 0423010783090041 – Bank Muscat and for more information please contact via email address i.e. [tender.purchase@tanweer.nama.om](mailto:tender.purchase@tanweer.nama.om) , or call us on phone number : 24250824.
- Bank Guarantee:** The Tenderer should enclose original bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for an amount equivalent to (1%) of the tender value with a validity of (90) Days from the last date of submission and addressed to Rural Areas Electricity Company SAOC (Tanweer).
- Offers Submission:**
  - Original bids along Cover letter shall be placed by bidders inside the red waxed Tender's envelopes as communicated to bidders by Tanweer. Such documents must be serialized according to the numbers of the tender items.
  - Tender bids shall be provided separately on a CD Roms , along with original cover letters in each envelop. Bids and cover letters shall bear the bidder's official seal and must be signed in either blue or red ink, but not black. A true soft copy of the bids shall be provided on a CD in an inner envelope marked “Copy”. Bids who do not comply with these requirements will be overlooked.
  - Bidders shall write the following details on the cover of CD:
    - Tender name and number.
    - Tenders No. Tanweer -31/2020, Tanweer -32/2020 & Tanweer -33/2020 to be Addressed to the **Chairman of Tender Committee**, Tanweer.
    - Tender No. Tanweer -34/2020 to be Addressed to the **Chairman of Purchase Committee**, Tanweer.
    - Prequalification / Technical Proposal / Commercial Proposal /Bid Bond.
- Submission Location:** The Completed bids in CD should be deposited in the Tender Box at Tanweer Main Office at Wilayat Al Seeb, before 12:00 PM on the last date of submission.
- Tanweer without mentioning the reason is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender and not bond to refund tender purchase fees if you are not qualified to participate the tender.

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PULLOUT



## Trump orders withdrawal of most US troops from Somalia

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump has ordered the removal of most American soldiers from Somalia by early 2021, the Pentagon said in a statement on Friday.

Nearly 700 US soldiers are currently deployed in Somalia. They conduct training with local forces — including the elite Danab special forces — and assist them in their fight against the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group in counterterrorism missions.

There have been concerns that a withdrawal could weaken anti-Shabab forces and severely impact the security situation in the Horn of Africa nation.

However, the Pentagon said the US will “retain the capability to conduct targeted counterterrorism operations in Somalia, and collect early warnings and indicators regarding threats to the homeland.”

The Pentagon statement added that the US is not “withdrawing” or “disengaging” from Africa and that some forces could be repositioned outside of East Africa.

The rest of the troops will be repositioned from Somalia into neighboring nations, allowing cross-border operations by both American and partner forces in order to maintain pressure against violent extremist organizations operating in Somalia, the statement said.

“While a change in force posture, this action is not a change in US policy. We will continue to degrade violent extremist organizations that could threaten our homeland while ensuring we maintain our strategic advantage in great power competition,” the Pentagon said.

**Pullback ‘surrender to Al-Qaeda’: Congressman**  
Congressman Jim Langevin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, denounced Trump's troop drawdown in Somalia, calling it a “surrender to Al-Qaeda and a gift to China.”

“When US forces leave Somalia in response to today's order, it becomes harder for diplomats and aid workers to help people resolve conflicts without violence and loss of life,” the Rhode Island Democrat said.

Langevin also questioned the timing of the withdrawal, which comes ahead of elections in Somalia and amid a seething conflict in neighboring Ethiopia.

“Abandoning our partners could not come at a worse time,” he said.

The troop cut from Somalia is the latest in a planned global pullback of US personnel before Trump leaves office in January. The outgoing president recently ordered similar withdrawals from Germany, Afghanistan and Iraq. **bw**

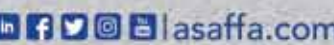


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CRICKET ROUND-UP

Prajapati helps Muscat to victory, Aqib powers Alpha to easy win

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Opener Kashyapkumar Prajapati struck a solid 84 not out, helping Muscat CT to a comfortable 5-wicket victory against Al Turki NMC in a Premier Division 50-over encounter at OC Turf 1 in Amerat on Friday.

Muscat made the right decision to bowl first, dismissing Al Turki for a modest 182 in the 49th over. Sindo Michael (34) and Gustav Burger (28) were the only notable scorers. Pacers Rajesh Ranpura and Munis Ansari bowled well, taking two wickets each.

Muscat was in a spot of bother at 3 for 2 in the first over bowled by Hemal Kumar Tandel before Prajapati found a capable ally in Ayaan Khan, putting on 73 for the fourth wicket before the latter fell for 33. Wasim Ali and Sandeep Goud departed without a significant contribution before big-hit-



Pradeep Kumar and Arun Pushpan of Awtad International

ting Naseem Khushi arrived to slam a quickfire 27 off 19 including two big sixes as Muscat sealed the win in the 32 nd over. Ajay Lalcheta and Tandel bagged two wickets each.

**Brief Scores (Premier Division):** Al Turki NMC 182 all out (Sindo Michael 34 - 1x4, Gustav Burger 28 - 2x4, 1x6, Rajesh Ranpura 2-9, Munis Ansari 2-23) lost to Muscat Ct 183 for 5 in 31.5 overs (Kashyapkumar Prajapati 84 - 12x4, 1x6, Ayaan Khan 33 - 6x4, 1x6, Naseem Khushi 27 not out - 3x4, 2x6. Ajay Lalcheta 2-28, Hemalkumar Tandel 2-60) by 5 wickets.

**Aqib powers Alpha to win**

In another Premier Division game on Saturday, Oman star Aqib Ilyas whacked a sizzling 122 to power Arm Alpha to an emphatic 124-run victory against AER at the same venue. Alpha then bowled

exceptionally well to bundle out AER for 148 in 40.5 overs thanks to superb spells by Bilal Khan (3 for 39), Sanuth Ebrahim (3 for 21) and veteran Khalid Rasheed (2 for 04).

Earlier, old fox Ghazanfar Iqbal was the pick of AER bowlers, taking 4 for 52 to keep Alpha in check.

**Brief scores (Premier Division):** Arm Alpha 272 for 9 in 50 overs (Aqib Ilyas 122 -8x4, 4x6, Ubaid Ullah 31 - 2x4, Kaleemullah 27 - 1x4, 2x6. Ghazanfar Iqbal 4-52) thrashed AER 148 all out in 40.5 overs (Azmatullah 30 - 2x4, Rubella Abdus 27 - 3x4, 1x6, Imran Rijvi 21 - 2x4, 1x6. Bilal Khan 3-39, Sanuth Ebrahim 3-21, Khalid Rasheed 2-04) by 124 runs.

**Kumar helps Awtad**

Pradeep Kumar's 4 for 29 was instrumental in steering Awtad International to an exciting 4-wicket win over ACT in a 50-over A Division League on OC Turf 2 in

Amerat on Friday. ACT failed to post a fighting total on the board, folding up for a disappointing 142 in the 38 th over. Only Qasim Ali (35) and Ghufuran Anjum (25) were able to spend some time on the crease as Kumar led the Awtad charge with a game-turning spell.

Awtad slumped to 36 for 3 in the 9 th over but fought on to surpass the target in the 33 rd over, scoring 144 for 6. Opener Arun Pushpan topscored with a resilient 47 off 71 while Muhammed Waqas chipped in with a fluent 29 not out. Hafiz Irfan and Rajesh Devashya picked up two wickets each.

**Brief Scores (A Division):** ACT 142 all out in 37.2 overs (Qasim Ali 35 - 2x4, 2x6, Ghufuran Anjum 25 - 4x4, Pradeep Kumar 4-29) lost to Awtad International 144 for 6 in 32.4 (Arun Pushpan 47 - 5x4, Waqas Muhammed 29 - 5x4, Hafiz Irfan 2-23, Rajesh Devashya 2-36) by 4 wickets.

VAR is not damaging football, says FIFA President Infantino

VAR has consistently been a topic of debate among football pundits and the technology has been questioned whether it is hampering the game

**ZURICH:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino has backed the use of Video Assistant Referee (VAR), saying that the technology is not damaging the sport.

VAR has consistently been a topic of debate among football pundits and it has been repeatedly questioned whether the technology is hampering the game. "We have to remember VAR was introduced for the first time two years ago, not 20 years ago. VAR is helping football, it's certainly not damaging football," Goal.com quoted Infantino as saying.

After a meeting of the FIFA Council, Infantino also stressed that VAR is a new technology and it needs to be given time to make the game better.

"We must not make a confusion



**NEW TECHNOLOGY:** After a meeting of the FIFA Council, Infantino also stressed that VAR is a new technology and it needs to be given time to make the game better.

between VAR and maybe sometimes wrong decisions which are taken because of the wrong way in which VAR is used, maybe in some places because of the lack of experience of those who are using VAR," said Infantino.

"We have to take the pulse of what is happening out there, to take the criticism and analyse them. VAR is not an obligation, it's there to help," Infantino continued. "Those who don't want to use it, they are not obliged to use it. It helped referees in the World Cup,

it helps referees in many competitions and players and coaches agree," he added.

Last week, Liverpool vice-captain James Milner had said that he is falling out of love because of the VAR technology. He has also called for a serious discussion about the use of VAR in the Premier League.

"It is clear and obvious we need a serious discussion about VAR. Sure I am not alone in feeling like they are falling out of love with the game in its current state," Mil-

ner had tweeted.

Milner's remark had come as Liverpool looked set to claim all three points against Brighton. However, the Reds were denied the full three points as Andy Robertson appeared to catch Brighton forward Danny Welbeck inside the box when he attempted a clearance. The referee checked the footage and subsequently awarded Brighton a penalty.

Pascal Gross then converted to ensure the sides shared the points in a 1-1 draw. **ANI**

INDIA VS AUS



Jadeja 'grossly underrated', team will miss him: Kaif

**CANBERRA:** Former India cricketer and Delhi Capitals assistant coach Mohammad Kaif feels Ravindra Jadeja is 'grossly underrated' and Team India will miss the all-rounder after he was ruled of the remaining two T20I matches on Friday.

Kaif feels Jadeja, who provides much-needed balance to the side, has proved his importance in the limited-overs fixtures and Team India will miss the all-rounder in the upcoming games.

"For two successive games, Ravindra Jadeja showed why he is of so much value to India in white-ball cricket as he provides much needed balance. Even after 11 years he continues to be grossly underrated and deserves a lot more respect than he gets. Feel India will miss him dearly," Kaif tweeted.

After witnessing a slow start, it was Jadeja's cameo in the end which came in handy for India.

Off the 34 runs that came in the last two overs, 33 were scored by the bowling all-rounder as he tore into the Australian bowling in the last two.

Jadeja played a spectacular knock to power India to a defensible 161/7 but was hit on the helmet in the final over of the innings and the BCCI medical team decided to assess the player before allowing him to get on with proceedings.

Spinner Yuzvendra Chahal took the field in the second innings of the opening T20I as a concussion substitute for Jadeja. The all-rounder was eventually ruled out of the T20I series and pacer Shardul Thakur was named as his replacement.

India made a winning start to the three-match T20I series as they beat Australia by 11 runs in the first T20I in Canberra on Friday. The second T20I between the two teams will be played at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday. **ANI**

NZ VS WI

Jermaine Blackwood, Alzarri Joseph delay inevitable after Kiwis enforce follow-on

**HAMILTON:** Jermaine Blackwood and Alzarri Joseph scored half-centuries as West Indies looked to stage a fightback after New Zealand enforced the follow-on to maintain their dominance in the ongoing first Test here at Seddon Park on Saturday.

West Indies closed day three on 196/6 in their second innings after being made to follow-on in Hamilton. The side is trailing by 185 runs. After cleaning West Indies up for 138 in the first innings, New Zealand bowlers again wreaked havoc in the second innings. First Trent Boult dismissed John Campbell in the second over and then Wagner and Southee scalped three wickets in six deliveries to dismantle the West Indies top-order leaving them at 27/4. Skipper Jason Holder again failed to leave a mark as he left his side tottering at 89/6 in the 22nd over.

It seemed like New Zealand would wrap up a big win on day three itself, but Blackwood and Alzarri finished the day with a fighting partnership. The duo put on an



unbroken 107-run stand for the seventh wicket to end play at 196/6. Earlier, resuming the day at 49/0, West Indies got off to a worst possible start with Tim Southee dismissing Campbell in the first over. It went from bad to worse when Southee dismissed Shamarh Brooks in his next over and then Trent Boult struck his first of the match as West Indies slipped from 53/0 to 55/3.

Darren Bravo and Roston

Chase managed to battle through the next nine overs. Kyle Jamieson bowled Bravo with a beauty in the 39th over and then Neil Wagner had Chase trapped in front after a great review the very next ball as West Indies lost half the side with 79 runs on board.

Blackwood and skipper Holder stitched a 40-run stand before New Zealand bowlers again came to the party as Southee picked two wickets just after the lunch. **ANI**

IN MEMORY

Napoli stadium renamed after football legend Maradona

**NAPLES:** Italian side Napoli's San Paolo stadium has been renamed after Diego Maradona in memory of the late Argentina legend who led them to their only two Serie A titles during his seven-year run with Napoli from 1984 to 1991.

The Naples city council has unanimously approved a resolution that will change the name of Napoli's home stadium from Stadio San Paolo to Stadio Diego Armando Maradona," goal.com reported. Maradona had passed away on November 25 after suffering a heart attack at the age of 60.

Naples mayor Luigi de Magistris on November 26 had urged Napoli to rename the San Paolo Stadium after legendary footballer Maradona.

"Diego Armando Maradona, the most immense footballer of all time, died. Diego made our people dream, he redeemed Naples with his genius. In 2017 he became our honorary citizen. Diego, Neapolitan and Argentine, you gave us joy and happiness! Naples loves you!," Magistris had tweeted in Italian.

In another tweet, Magistris had said: "Let's name the San Paolo Stadium after Diego Ar-



mando Maradona!!!!

Maradona is a revered figure in Naples as led the city's club to two Italian league titles.

"With his immense talent and his magic, he honoured the Napoli shirt for seven years, giving it two historical championships and other prestigious cups, and receiving in exchange from the whole city an eternal and unconditional love," goal.com quoted a statement from Naples city council as saying.

Maradona captained Argentina to victory at the 1986 FIFA World

Cup and was widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time.

Maradona had begun his professional career with Argentinos Juniors at the age of 16 and he went on to become one of the greatest players to ever play the game of football.

He represented Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Napoli, Sevilla, and Newell's Old Boys as a player. Diego was considered the main player in taking Argentina to their second World Cup title in 1986. **ANI**

OIL PRICES GAIN

Oil prices advanced after the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its allies agreed to a slight production increase since January. Opec and its allies, a group known as Opec+, agreed to increase oil production by 500,000 barrels per day from January and said they would meet monthly to decide further output levels.

MARKET  
BUSINESS & FINANCE



AWARENESS LECTURES

The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn, represented by Madayn Industrial Academy, organised recently three awareness lectures on the topics of 'Advanced Investment Methods and Investment Evaluation Criteria', 'Omani Labour Law' and 'Cybersecurity'.

# World food prices hit six-year high: FAO



REPORT: The agency said an increase in prices was an extra burden for those whose income had fallen because of coronavirus. - DW

Leading the surge in prices was vegetable oil, rising 14.5 per cent month-on-month due largely to a jump in palm oil prices

ROME: World food prices jumped to an almost six-year high in November, according to the United Nations food agency. An index published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said prices for several food

products had risen significantly. The index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of food products, averaged 105 points in November compared with the previous month when it stood at 101 according to an adjusted figure. The monthly increase was the sharpest since July 2012, putting the index at its "highest level since December 2014," the Rome-based agency said.

**Which prices have risen the most?**  
Leading the surge in prices was vegetable oil, rising 14.5 per cent month-on-month due largely to a jump in palm oil prices. The FAO described the increase as "stunning." Cereals, sugar, meat, and dairy also showed rises. The sugar price index was up 3.3 per cent month-on-month amid "growing expecta-

tions of a global production shortfall" as poor weather weakened crop prospects in the EU, Russia, and Thailand. Cereal prices were up by a more modest 2.5 per cent, although prices were almost 20 per cent above their level last year. The increases for meat and dairy were the least pronounced, both at 0.9 per cent above the figure for October. While meat prices were down 13.7 per cent on the same time last year, there were monthly increases for bovine meat, with a fall in poultry prices. **Pandemic hits some hard** The agency said an increase in prices was an extra burden for those whose income had fallen because of coronavirus. It said the COVID-19 pandemic was proving to be "an important driver of the

levels of global food insecurity." **Fragile conditions** "The pandemic is exacerbating and intensifying already fragile conditions caused by conflicts, pests and weather shocks, including recent hurricanes in Central America and floods in Africa," it said. The Food and Agriculture Organisation said that 45 countries, 34 of them in Africa, continued to be in need of external help to secure enough food. The agency noted a risk of above-average rainfall in southern Africa and East Asia. Meanwhile, in parts of Near East Asia and East Africa, there was an expectation of reduced rains. Both represented "conditions that may result in adverse production shocks," the agency said. - DW

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

## RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 4%

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent and maintained the policy stance at accommodative. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) made a unanimous decision to maintain status-quo after a three-day meeting that began on December 2. The reverse repo rate also remains steady at 3.35 per cent, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. He added that the MPC will maintain the accommodative stance "for as long as necessary." Das said the MPC was of the

view that inflation is likely to remain elevated with some relief in the winter months from prices of perishables and bumper kharif arrivals. Repo is the rate at which RBI lends funds to commercial banks when needed. It is a tool that the central bank uses to control inflation. Reverse repo rate is the rate at which the RBI borrows from banks. While there are some signs of a pick up in economic activity due to the staggered easing of a lockdown, there is a large degree of uncertainty amid a surge in coronavirus cases. - ANI

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

## US trade deficit widens in October

WASHINGTON: The overall US trade deficit widened in October to 63.1 billion US dollars, the US Commerce Department reported Friday. US exports rose by 2.2 per cent to 182 billion dollars in October while imports increased by 2.1 per cent to 245.1 billion dollars, according to the department. "Exports and imports in October reflect both the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued recovery from the sharp declines earlier this year," the department said. The overall trade deficit in October rose by 1.7 per cent from a revised 62.1 billion dollars in September. Year-to-date, the trade deficit rose 9.5 per cent from the same period in 2019, according to the department.

“

Export growth was broad-based and indicated that global growth and trade have continued to come back online despite rising virus case counts

Tim Quinlan and Shannon Seery  
Economists at Wells Fargo Securities

"Export growth was broad-based and indicated that global growth and trade have continued to come back online despite rising virus case counts," Tim Quinlan and Shannon Seery, economists at Wells Fargo Securities, wrote Friday in a note. "Exports, however, have a decent way to go in terms of a full rebound, remaining about 13 per cent off their pre-virus February level," they wrote, adding imports, boosted by strong domestic demand, are now less than 1 per cent off the pre-pandemic level. The trade data came as US labour market recovery is losing momentum due to a surge of new COVID-19 cases across the

country in recent weeks. US employers added 245,000 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate edged down to 6.7 per cent amid a slowing labour market recovery, the Labor Department reported earlier Friday. - Xinhua

PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT OMAN

## PDO to create 600 job opportunities for nationals over next four years

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has announced a partnership with integrated oilfield services provider Gulf Energy (GES) for the creation of 600 job opportunities for Omanis in its product line services in both Oman and abroad. As part of its long-established In-Country Value (ICV) programme and the continued creation of job opportunities for skilled Omanis, PDO has agreed with GES to employ 150 Omanis every year for the next four years in Wells Construction, Interventions and Industrial Services. This will help in localising these jobs and provide support in building Omani capabilities to reach their potential in both the local and international arenas. The Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) detailing this initiative was signed at a ceremony held under the auspices of Dr Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Rumhi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. The focus on both creating job opportunities nationally and internationally supports Oman Vision 2040 to shape a dynamic labour market that is attractive to talent and responsive to demographic, economic, knowledge and technical changes. PDO Managing Director Raoul Restucci, who signed the MOC with Gulf Energy, said, "Today's collaboration with Gulf Energy introduces a paradigm shift in

As part of its long-established in-country value programme and the continued creation of job opportunities for skilled Omanis, PDO has agreed with Gulf Energy to employ 150 Omanis every year for the next four years

PDO's partnership with its contracting community to create and sustain In-Country Value during these challenging times. Job creation for Omanis is very clearly a primary focus for ICV and its impact is not only witnessed by the country at large but by every single family of employed personnel who benefits from it. "Expanding building Omani capabilities beyond the local labour market is a milestone in developing global citizens who are competitive in the international labour market. This is closely aligned with Oman vision 2040 and supports the internationalisation of the Sultanate's capabilities abroad," he added. Vice President of GES in Oman Sultan Al-Ghafri, said, "The signature of this MoC coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Day of Oman and further demonstrates our commitment to developing the talented Omani workforce, not only in Oman but in the entire region. Our duty is to give back to our country and provide training, development and employment opportunities to the younger generation, who will enhance our presence in the region. "With the support of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in Oman and PDO, we have managed to reach one of the highest levels of Omanisation in the country while maintaining a superior level of service quality and new technology-introduction as evident by our performance in the latest contracts. Now, with the longer-term contracts, we can ensure we continue to invest in new resources and human capital to serve our country and create economic value for the Sultanate. "We are very proud to play a positive role in the economic development of Oman and the MENA region, a cornerstone of our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy. I would like to thank the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and PDO for their support of GES, and we look forward to creating more social and economic value in the Sultanate for many years to come," he added. - ONA

**SAUCTION  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tenders:**

| Tender No. | Tender title                                                                                                                    | Institutions eligible to bid and registered with the Tender Board | Last date for tender purchase online | Bid submission date       | Document price |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 43/2020    | Providing cleaning services to the building of the Directorate General of Labour in Dhofar Governorate                          | ---                                                               | Tuesday 29/12/2020 2:00 pm           | Sunday 17/01/2021 10 a.m. | RO 25/-        |
| 44/2020    | Providing cleaning and plant care services to the building of the Directorate General of Labour in North Al Batinah Governorate |                                                                   |                                      |                           | RO 25/-        |

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tenders' documents online through the following link, starting from Sunday 06/12/2020 at 07:30 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a tender bond for 1% of the total bid value in the form of a bank guarantee or certified cheque issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee, provided that the original bank guarantee shall be submitted upon request by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Sunday 17/01/2021.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

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# MARKET

## Lectures held on fundamentals of investment



**AWARENESS SESSION:** Madayn aims through the Madayn Industrial Academy to develop the skills of the national cadres. - Supplied picture

Madayn organised awareness lectures on investment methods, labour law and cybersecurity

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, represented by Madayn Industrial Academy, organised recently three awareness lectures on the topics of 'Advanced Investment Methods and Investment Evaluation Criteria', 'Omani Labour Law' and 'Cybersecurity'.

The programme on the 'Ad-

vanced Investment Methods and Investment Evaluation Criteria' was delivered by Salah Al Zakwani, Chief Investment Officer (CIO) at Shumookh Investment and Services Company - Madayn's investment arm. Al Zakwani elaborated on the investment fundamentals, effective methods to attract new investors, and criteria for evaluating investment projects.

Moderated by Dr Jamil Al Hina, Dean of College of Law in the University of Al Buraimi, the 'Omani Labour Law' programme defined the law, its concept and sources, general characteristics of the law, sanctions, among other related topics.

Moreover, Dr Abdullah Al Kalbani from the University of Al Buraimi presented the programme on 'Cybersecurity', which highlighted several aspects including computer evolution, cyberspace and cybercrime, digital drugs, and the reality of cybersecurity in Oman.

It should be noted that Madayn

Industrial Academy was established in 2019 to offer training opportunities for the national cadres to enhance administrative, financial and technical skills, boost their skills and raise their productivity, provide value-adding services to the investors in the industrial cities, and provide new job opportunities for the national cadres. Madayn Industrial Academy organises a series of training programmes and events that address the trending topics and challenges locally and globally.

The academy also organises training-for-employment in cooperation with the concerned bodies in this field. Madayn aims through the academy to develop the skills of the national cadres and complement the efforts made by the Sultanate to support training and Omanisation by providing scientific and practical training to the cadres to meet the needs of the industrial sector.



**'EBDA' PROGRAMME:** As part of the programme, the young Omani participants presented business models of their commercial products. - Supplied picture

## Capacity building programme organised for entrepreneurs

**MUSCAT:** In partnership with BP Oman, Al Rudha held the 'Al Hub'ta' event virtually, marking the conclusion of the third cycle of the 'EBDA' programme, a capacity building programme aimed to materialise entrepreneur's skills and ideas into real-life businesses.

The event was held under the patronage of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Yousef Al Ojaili, BP Oman president.

As part of the programme, the young Omani participants presented business models of their commercial products.

The programme included 25 participating teams that received specialised training and helped enable participants to enter local and international entrepreneurial competitions.

Shamsa Al-Rawahiya, BP Oman Social Investment Manager, commented, "Innovation and entrepreneurship are the two main pillars for business growth, and are well-enforced through the 'EBDA' programme. The programme opens doors for the young Omani entrepreneur to establish commercial projects and diversify our national economy."

The 'Al Hub'ta' event was an opportunity for the five highest-scoring teams to link and network with investors. It also allowed for the winning teams to market their products and services, and attract potential investment opportunities.

A variety of projects resulted from the programme which provides valuable services to our economy. For example, the medical 'Ta'afi' platform which provides online booking services for medical appointments, "Azba" entertainment application, "Tasweet" devised for online voting, and finally the service-related "Task It" platform which links the user with the relevant service provider.



“

Innovation and entrepreneurship are the two main pillars for business growth, and are well-enforced through the 'EBDA' programme. The programme opens doors for the young Omani entrepreneurs to establish commercial projects and diversify the national economy

**Shamsa Al-Rawahiya**  
BP Oman Social Investment Manager

form which links the user with the relevant service provider.

BP Oman supported other Al Rud'ha programmes since 2018 including the third cycle of 'Ideas Laboratory' and "Tfakur" sessions to enhance the value of educational laboratories that aim to develop business-oriented thinking in our society.

Mohammed bin Salim Al Wahabi, CEO of Al Rudha commented, "We are proud of the performance of our participants who continued to serve our community despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. We are delighted to have partnered with bp Oman, one of our first supporters since the launch of the programme."

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### OIL PRICES

Oil prices gain after Opec+ agrees on production increase

**NEW YORK:** Oil prices advanced on Friday after the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its allies agreed to a slight production increase since January.

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for January delivery gained 62 cents to settle at 46.26 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, while Brent crude for February delivery increased 54 cents to close at 49.25 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

OPEC and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, agreed Thursday to increase oil production by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) from January and said they would meet monthly to decide further output levels. It means the group would move to output curbs by 7.2 million bpd early next year, compared with current cuts of 7.7 million bpd.

Earlier this year, OPEC+ had made deep output cuts as the pandemic hurt global fuel demand and oil prices.

For the week, the WTI and Brent climbed 1.6 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively, based on their front-month contracts. - Xinhua

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 WhatsApp: 99878044/98048695

## JOB VACANCIES

### ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

**Urgent Requirement Accountants in Sohar part time/ full time**, visa available. Email: [career.hrdinfo@gmail.com](mailto:career.hrdinfo@gmail.com)

### ADMIN/HR

**Arabic speaking Public Relations Executive required** for Marketing. Email CV: [nmohamed@pmedia.me](mailto:nmohamed@pmedia.me). Contact 99314164

### CATERING

**Urgently required a cook & driver** for a respectable Omani family. Contact 91263783

**Indian Cook for private family** with experience in Continental & Indian dish. Contact 99202640

### DOMESTIC HELP

**Housemaid** for north Indian family in Al Falaj area. Contact 92187589

### ENGINEER

**Sales Engineer Mechanical** minimum 7 years experience in steel fabrication responsibility involves technical discussion with customers, cost estimation, quotations: Email : [hr@tisco.co](mailto:hr@tisco.co)

### MANAGER

**Property Leasing Manager.** Send CV to: [vepsupervisor@gmail.com](mailto:vepsupervisor@gmail.com)

### MECHANIC/TECHNIC

**Required Supervisor with aluminium fabrication / installation experience.** Please contact 78151414

**Turner, fabricator, GG welder.** Contact 96577877, 93937055

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System Integrator looking for

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# CONNECT

## JOB WANTED

**MECHANICAL ENGINEER**

**15 years experience, Oman Driving licence, Gulf experience 7 years, NOC available.**

**CONTACT 71174969**

**CIVIL ENGINEER**

Having 14+years of Experience in Building, Infrastructure and Road projects across GCC with valid Driving License. NOC available or ready to work on a secondment type of contract.

**Contact +968 95810220 ashins4u@gmail.com**

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**Contact 95193937**

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**Contact 94123939**

**Situation Required for Senior Legal Counsel**

Indian Lawyer with altogether 26 years’ experience (Muscat 12 years) having exceptional flair to draw up legal documentation in English and handling Arbitration needs apt placement.

**Contact Mobile # 96927575 Email ID: advsv50@gmail.com**

**Sr.CAD ENGINEER., B.Tech 34 Indian Male, 14 years Exp in Design & Drafting Field (Architectural, Civil & Landscape) with NOC Immediate Available.**

**Contact at 94136484, kannatvr86@gmail.com**

**Chief Accountant MBA**

**Indian Male With 16 Years’ Experience in all aspects of Accounting. NOC & Oman DL Available, seeks Suitable placement.**

**Contact: 97741485 Email: stm.crg@gmail.com**

**Execution Architect/ Finishing Manager**

36, Male in design/ execution at consultancy & contracting with 13 Work experience in Hotel/Office/ Airport/ retail in Construction/Interior fit-out Space seeking Suitable placement. Knowledge on CAD/ MS office/ Planning/ Tendering/ Estimation. D/L and NOC available immediately.

**Contact: 78371040; architdesign2020@gmail.com**

**FINANCE**

Indian, Group-Finance Manager, 19 years’ world class experience in Strategic planning, Finance, Accounting etc. Multiple Professional qualifications in Accounting and audit. Looking for Top/Senior management position in finance/ internal audit. Available to join shortly.

**Contact 99455353**

**I T**

**BCA Graduate** looking for placement in suitable IT company, having Oman Driving License. Presently on family joining visa.

**Contact on 93339660 for further details**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Indian, Male, having bachelor’s degree looking for position in Office Administration/ Document Control, total 22 years of experience, 19 years in Oman with Oman driving licence. NOC available.

**Contact No. 99757759**

**SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER CIVIL**

Graduate Civil Engineer 40 years experience in Housing, Township, Industrial, Mining, Petrochemical and port development, India, GCC and Africa. Looking for a Senior level position with Consultant/ Contractor.

**98878131 and 79448160 sadas\_s@yahoo.com**

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**PHONE NUMBER: 92955468**

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NOC, Oman Valid Driving License Looking for a suitable Job. **Contact 78227500 Email: muhdfahiz007@gmail.com**

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Qualified female candidate with B.E, MBA seeking a position in administration/back office/ management/healthcare/marketing having 6 years of experience.

**Contact 91481401**

**Internal Audit Professional MBA** from a reputed Indian University and over 10 years of Audit experience with one of Oman’s largest organizations and knowledge across various business verticals and operations. Also with experience in Financial and Banking Sectors. Seeking suitable placement. Willing to join immediately.

**Contact 96740556 or divyaroop.prakash@gmail.com**

**CIVIL MANAGER**

**Indian with 23 years experience in construction and project management with reputed companies and government organisations. D/L and local release available.**

**CONTACT: 97236220**

## JOB WANTED

### ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

**Senior account**, Indian male with 20 yrs experience upto finalisation of account on SAP,Excel,Tally. NOC & Oman DL available seeks suitable placement. Contact 97887472/71206125. Email as-ifkoman786@gmail.com

**Accountant (CA Inter) - Indian (male)** with 13 years’ experience in all aspects of accounting field. Oman DL. NOC available. GSM 94450401

**Indian Bcom graduate** Looking for part time accountant job. Contact 91019796

**Indian male B.Com** with 13 yrs Oman experience in accounts & finance, having valid Oman DL seeks suitable placement. Having good experience in focus ERP. Contact 95946853

**Indian Male Bcom, MBA**, 19 years experience in Finance and ERP, seeks suitable placement in Senior position. Contact 91190552/92243552.

**Indian, Keralite male working as Senior Accountant** over 16 years Oman experience looking for a job. Contact: 95851920, 78258270

**Male 43 yrs , 20 yrs exp**, part time accountant until finalisation. Contact 95701595 (including Data Entry)

**A Sri Lankan with CPA** is looking for an opening. D/L and NOC are available. Contact 96083913

**Indian Male, B.com** with 12 years experience in accounts & finance with NOC and D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 95689281

**Accountant Indian Male, Mcom** 13 years experience in accounts with D/L and NOC seeks suitable placement contact 79506513

**Sr.Accountant looking for part time accounts job** after 5 pm upto finalization of accounts, location prefer Qurum to Mabela. #90935099

**Part Time Accountant:** Indian male looking for part time Accounts Job. Up to finalisation. Cont: 92574937

### CATERING

**Cook seeks job, 6 yrs experience in Oman.** Contact 79508817

### IT

**IT professional, MBA (IT)**, 22yrs experience, software, hardware, network, ERP. NOC available. Contact 99638010

**Bsc in Information Technology** with major computing and web engineering. Fresh graduate with internship in 2 companies Available in Oman with valid omani D/L Contact: 79720156. Email:samreen.anwar.3@gmail.com

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Maintenance forman (all rounder)**, 16 yrs Oman experience with DL. Contact 99501396

### ADMIN/HR

**Indian Male 43.y.o** seeking a suitable opportunity in Admin/Mktg/Ops Noc & D/L available. PH. 98274545

**Indian male with 21 years’ experience** in Oman seeks job for HR/ Admin. Contact 95425764

**Moroccan Experienced Business Development Manager** looking for a suitable position in Oman please Contact 93823132

**5 yrs experienced** Indian young male seeking for suitable job. currently in Oman with DL & NOC. Contact 79392848

**Indian female 4 year experience in Bahrain as assistant store manager, 1 year in Oman.** Noc available. seeking for customer service & administration job. Contact 97762261. Email mehnakpa@gmail.com

**Indian Male, 12 years working experience in Oman**, Job seeking for Admin/Secretary or any suitable post Holding Oman Driving License and NOC also available. Contact No. 79734085, vinrai99@gmail.com

**Indian Female**, 22 years Holding a Bachelors in Management. Fresher. Looking for suitable placement. Contact: +96893214644. Email hibaparry@gmail.com

**Indian male, 13yrs Oman Experience** in Admin, Purchase, Stores, Operations. NOC, D/L. #78363835

### DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

**Civil/MEP Draughtsman** (9 yrs experience in Oman) NOC available. Contact 94469729

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**Looking for driving job**, 8 yrs experience. Contact 79352646

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**Indian looking for driver job**, 14 yrs experience in Oman. # 99501396

**Looking for driving job.** # 91103996

**Light Driver #** 96091082

**Driver with 7 yrs experience.** Contact 96317701

**Looking for driving job.** # 98353328

**10 yrs experience in driving.** Looking for job. Contact 78286278/96517640

**15yrs experience** Indian L/D driver. Contact 98993526

**Light driver 6 year experience**, know Arabic and indian. NOC available. Contact 92731289

**Looking heavy driver job.** # 91703829

**Looking for driving job**, 6 yrs experience with car. Contact 96176918

## FINANCE

Indian Female (MBA Finance) worked as Asst. Finance Manager having more than 15 years of experience in Oman seeks suitable placement. NOC available.

**Contact 94953826 / 92824146**

**SENIOR MANAGER / PROJECT DIRECTOR – CIVIL ENGINEERING**

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**Contact: winnerdandd@gmail.com Mobile/WhatsApp 95150850, 79163390**

**EXPERIENCED IN MATERIAL MANAGEMENT** (MATERIAL COORDINATION, CONTROL PROCUREMENT, LOGISTICS, INVENTORY CONTROL) PLUS , MARKETING, NEED PLACEMENT D/L, NOC AVAILABLE. (MBA - International Business + Diploma in Materials Management).

**GSM: 95491377, psjanesh@gmail.com**

## JOB WANTED

### ENGINEER

**M/48 Indian, P.M Civil Engineer**, 28 years exp (Oman-18 yrs) seeks placement. Contact 99613098

**BE Mechanical** with overall experience of 5 yrs in fabrication & manufacturing industry. Ready to join immediately. Seeking position as production Engineer/QA/QC engineer position. Contact 78052560

**Diploma (AEI) Electronic & Instrumentation.** 2 years experience in Electronic system calibration service engineering looking for a job in Cement industry or Oil field structured any electronic system and equipment industry. Contact 99325186 / 91 9052738238. Email gundupavan32@gmail.com

**BE Civil Engineer**, 10 yrs experience (Oman) Construction, Oil & Gas. DL. Ready to join immediately. Contact 96455880

**Civil engineer Quantity surveyor**, 14+ years experience in infrastructure, Road & Building Projects, Oman DL, Gulf experience 12 years NOC available. Contact 97552659

**Mechanical Engineer**, Indian, having 5+ years Oman experience in procurement and Production field. Have worked with reputed Companies and Government firms. Also have Oman D/License and good knowledge in Autocad, CATIA. Seeking suitable job. Can join immediately. NOC available. Contact 92138450. Whatsapp : +919544074049

### MANAGER

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

**BM, with 26 yrs fmcg exp**, handling large distribution looking for better prospects. Contact 92696545

**B.Tech Civil Engineer** with 10+ yrs experience valid Omani D/L. Release available. Looking for suitable position. Contact 79023001

**BE Civil Engineer** 3+ years experience. NOC & Omani D/L available. Seeking job, can join immediately. Contact 95825919 Email abdulraheemaz@gmail.com

**Civil Engineer** (D.A.E 3 yrs) total experience 15 yrs in Oman 10 yrs looking forward to work as Project engineer with PDO passport H25 card & DL available. Contact 92286164

**B.Sc in Civil Engineering** having more than 12 years experience in Oman. Hand on experience in Ministry of Health, MOD, ROP and RCA prestigious project. Available in Oman with NOC and Valid DL. Contact 92180869, E-mail: mamuns02@yahoo.com.

### MEDICAL

**Indian Male 43.y.o** seeking a suitable opportunity in medical centers for Admin/Mktg/Ops. Noc & D/L available. Contact 98274545

**Indian male, 13yrs Oman Hospital Experience**, seeking Admin/Operations/Purchase/Stores, etc. NOC, D/L. # 78363835

### MECHANIC/TECHNIC.

**Having 19 yrs experience in Oman air conditioning technician** with DL seeking suitable placement. Contact 99637155

**Building maintenance forman, (all rounder).** 15 years gulf experience with oman Driving Licence. Contact 79200548

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## JOB WANTED

### PURCHASE/PROCUREMENT

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

**A Competent Commercial Professional** with 20+ years of experience in Procurement & Contract Management. Contact +968 98993356

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

### SALES / MARKETING

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

**Indian male looking for the post of Sr.Sales Executive.** 17 yrs experience with valid Oman licence. Contact 79285701

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ROUND-UP



# Meethaq Islamic Banking opens main branch at Airport Heights

With the opening of the new branch, the total number of Meethaq branches has reached 22 across all the governorates of the Sultanate

**MUSCAT:** In line with its pioneering role in providing services and products compatible with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia, and in continuation of its efforts to expand its network of branches in the Sultanate, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat celebrated the official opening of its main branch at the Bank Muscat head office.

The event was held in the presence of Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, and a number of officials.

With the opening of the new branch, the total number of Meethaq branches in the Sultanate has reached 22 branches across all the governorates of the Sultanate. These include 11 branches in the Governorate of Muscat and 11 branches in the other governorates. Also, Meethaq has the larg-



est Islamic banking network in the country and a network of 44 cash withdrawal and deposit devices. Moreover, Meethaq customers can also access the extensive network of bank Muscat ATMs and CDMs across the country.

Amor Said Al Amri, Senior Regional Manager, Meethaq, said that the new branch is designed to create a unique ambience and banking environment in line with the Meethaq brand values of partnership, transparency and trust.

Meethaq plans to further expand its network of branches as well as launch new products and services to complement the unique Islamic banking experience.

Meethaq Islamic Banking continues with its strong and consistent growth across all business activities. It retains its leading industry position in terms of asset size, deposit base and profitability as well as branch network and distribution channels.

The new branch also has a

Hafawa Centre for the benefit of Premium Banking customers and is staffed by well qualified and experienced Omani employees.

The branch, which works from 8 am to 2 pm, provides a full suite of retail banking operations and services such as home finance, auto finance and other retail financing facilities. The new branch has had an excellent response from customers because of its excellent location and accessibility.

Meethaq already has several

branches spread across the country including in Al Ghubra, Muttrah, Al Seeb, Qurum, Al Khoudh, Al Khuwayr, Salalah, Ibra, Sohar, Saham, Barka, Saham and 18 November Street. Branches are also operating in Nizwa, Bahla, Buraimi, Sinaw and Ibri, apart from a branch on the campus of the Sultan Qaboos University in response to the tremendous public demand for banking products and services based on Sharia principles.

As the pioneer of Islamic bank-

ing in the Sultanate, Meethaq has adopted best practices in Islamic banking and finance worldwide to provide a robust model that benefits its customers.

Every Meethaq product goes through Sharia compliance certification by the bank's Sharia Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman. Meethaq Islamic Banking has been recognised as The Best Islamic Bank in Oman for the year 2019 by Islamic Finance News.

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## Benefits on Toyota 2021 Land Cruiser

A global favourite that is integral to people's lives on virtually every continent, Toyota Land Cruisers can be spotted in every corner of the globe



**MUSCAT:** The legendary Land Cruiser has been the choice of pure 4WD SUV enthusiasts for many years. Its tough build, exceptional capability and engineering prowess to conquer any terrain has earned the Land Cruiser the status of the 'Pride of the Land'.

Customers looking forward to owning the Toyota Land Cruiser can benefit from cash gift from OMR2,000 up to OMR2,600 and 5 Years/ 50,000km service (whichever is earlier). (Prospective buyers are advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufactur-

ing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Please visit the nearest Toyota showroom for exact details).

A global favourite that is integral to people's lives on virtually every continent, Toyota Land Cruisers can be spotted in every corner of the globe. With legendary ruggedness and power, the Land Cruiser features a host of innovations that extend its mastery

over the toughest terrain.

Hailed as a timeless icon, the Toyota Land Cruiser has a loyalty unmatched by any other SUV. The product of over 60 years of global adventure, it is a sophisticated blend of off-road prowess, on-road comfort and unparalleled refinement. And it remains Totally Unchallenged.

Proudly carrying forward its

undisputed legacy of phenomenal all-terrain performance and reliability, the Land Cruiser indeed, is one of the most technically advanced four-wheel drive vehicles ever produced and is equipped with a series of advanced dynamic and handling features.

The Land Cruiser's driving control features extend to the Active Traction Control (ATRC), which

ensures excellent Vehicle Handling functionality. Further enhancing its versatility is the Hill Assist Control (HAC), which prevents vehicle rollback when stopping and then starting again on a steep incline or slippery surface.

The Crawl Control System helps maintain a low uniform vehicle speed by automatically controlling the engine output

and brake hydraulic pressure to reduce driver burden when in off-road conditions. At the heart of the indomitable 4WD Land Cruiser's capability is a 4.6-litre engine. A smooth and quiet drive results from the Land Cruiser's advanced 6-speed transmission.

Elevating the Land Cruiser's In-vehicle Entertainment to a completely new level is the 10-inch Navigation System with Multi Bluetooth connection & SIM card slot for Wi-Fi Hotspot, 6 Speakers and Rear Seat Entertainment System, Power backdoor (upper door only), New design front bumper spoiler with chrome garnish, Leather seats, Remote engine starter and Front sequential indicator.

The Land Cruiser VX is equipped with 5.7L, V8 engine, New design front bumper spoiler with chrome garnish, 20" Alloy Wheels, Chrome + Gloss black Radiator Grille, Premium Leather Seats, 9" Navigation System with 14 JBL Speakers, Qi-Enabled Wireless Charger, Multi-terrain monitor with 4 cameras and active height control.

In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality. No wonder that today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

### GBO AWARDS 2020

## Muzn named Best Islamic Banking Window 2020

**MUSCAT:** In recognition of its pioneering role in the Islamic finance industry, Muzn has been named the Best Islamic Window - Oman 2020 at the Global Business Outlook Awards.

As part of the National Bank of Oman (NBO), Muzn continues to set benchmarks for new and innovative Sharia-compliant products and services in the Sultanate. The annually-held international awards aim to recognise and reward excellence in business all over the globe, highlighting innovation, creativity and the drive to create value.

Salima Al Marzouqi, Head of Muzn Islamic Banking, said, "At Muzn, we see tremendous potential for growth in the area of Islamic Banking. As the first Islamic banking window in Oman, we have always sought to be pioneers in meeting the evolving needs of the market and providing our customers with exceptional service so that they can bank with us securely and with peace of mind.



As we continue to expand financial inclusion across the country, awards like this are a welcome testament to the trust that our customers place in us and fortify our journey moving forwards."

Established in 2013, Muzn provides an all-encompassing range of Shari'a-compliant banking services to deliver financial solutions to a growing customer base. The bank offers innovative, competitive and quality Islamic banking products and services while ensuring they are accessible to all.

### PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

## National Finance wins Alam Al-Iktisaad's Best Performing Company Award 2020



**MUSCAT:** National Finance, the largest diversified non-banking finance company in Oman, was recently awarded the Best Performing Company in Large Capital category by Alam Al-Iktisaad (AIWA). The prestigious award was presented by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion

at the Sheraton Hotel.

Juma Abdullah Al Khamisi, General Manager Support received the award on behalf of National Finance. Expressing his gratitude for the award, Al Khamisi said, "The award is a testament to our robust foundations backed by strong customer base, dealer relationships, business practices

and most importantly, experienced and committed workforce. He added, "We will continue to deliver excellent customer service across all our channels and focus our efforts to provide our clients with the fastest and easiest finance experience in Oman."

National Finance is the leading finance company in Oman. The

company provides a wide array of financial products through a nationwide network of 20 branches and digital platforms with a strong base of retail and corporate customers. Established in 1987, the company has built a reputation as the market leader trusted by thousands of customers across the Sultanate for their financing needs.

### THE FRIDAY QUIZ

## Purshottam Kanji Exchange in association with Studio.t launches weekly quiz

**MUSCAT:** Purshottam Kanji Exchange in association with Studio.t has announced the launch of The Friday Quiz with Vinay Mudaliar. A weekly online quiz series conducted by renowned quizmaster, Vinay Mudaliar, the quiz is open to participants of all age groups residing in Oman.

Hosted on Studio.t's Instagram and Facebook platforms, the weekly quiz will be held on every Friday at 5pm. Three questions will be asked by the quizmaster Vinay Mudaliar during the session every week. Participants will have to send their answers via direct messages, either on Instagram or Facebook. The first entry

with all correct answers will be declared the winner.

Purshottam Kanji Exchange will give away prizes worth OMR 100 to one winner every week. The winner of each week's quiz session will be announced on every Monday following the quiz. The exciting prizes, sponsored by Purshottam Kanji Exchange, will include tabs, cameras, phones, vouchers, lifestyle products and more.

To take part in the engaging weekly quiz, participants must follow @studiot.oman on either Instagram or Facebook. For the complete list of terms and conditions, visit [www.studiot.oman/events/the-friday-quiz](http://www.studiot.oman/events/the-friday-quiz).

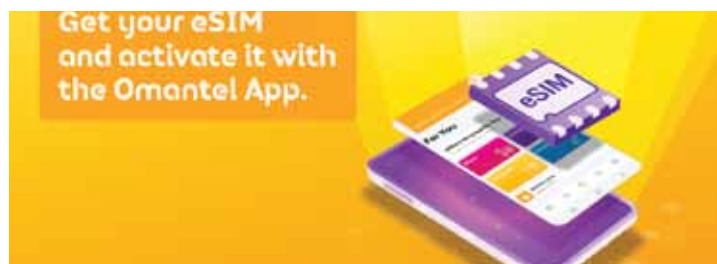
### NEW SERVICE

## Omantel offers e-SIM through its app

**MUSCAT:** Within the continuous efforts made to improve and enrich its customer's experience, Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecom services in the Sultanate, announced the introduction of the e-SIM through its mobile application.

The new addition to the recently upgraded mobile application, which was carefully designed, sets new benchmarking for enriching mobile users' experience. The application has now become an easy platform to get many valuable services including the eSIM.

"We are very happy to be the first in Oman in providing our customer with eSIM from the electronic channel thus eliminating the need to visit our outlets considering the limitation of movement and



restrictions due to COVID-19. Our customers can now buy new SIMs and select both the number and plan through easy and simple steps at their mobile phones, said Eng. Aladdin Bait Fadhil, Vice President of Omantel's Consumer Business Unit.

"To activate the service, you need to click the icon for new eSIM, ensure that the phone is

compatible with the eSIM, select the prepaid plan or postpaid plan, select the prepaid or postpaid number. The application will then request to submit a copy of the ID or passport or residence card together with a personal photograph. The system will verify the documents and then submits a summary of the purchase and payment orders after which the service will

be activated," Fadhil added.

"Omantel endeavours to enrich its customers experience by providing them with the best services and enhanced them with value-added services. Omantel customers can now benefit from the eSIM service subject that they have downloaded Omantel application on their smartphones.

Omantel is the Sultanate's first and leading integrated telecommunications services provider, enabling the digital society to flourish, allowing new ways of doing business and delivering a world of information, news and entertainment. While seeking to get optimum customer satisfaction, Omantel plays a key social role to provide the required support and subsidy to all sectors of the Omani society.

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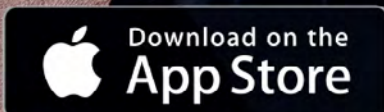
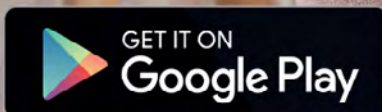
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