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### Three-and-a-half decades of excellence

HIRTY five years in the life of a human being is the epitome of youth, vigour and maturity. The thirty fifth anniversary in the life span of a daily newspaper is in no way different. Today, as we celebrate Times of Oman's 35 years of glorious and uninterrupted hegemony in the world of news, there is little wonder if you, our readers, find that we are truly made of steel, stones and woods, which have withstood so valiantly the acid test of time for the past three-and-a-half decades.

But there are also some other matters, which perhaps have eluded your notice and we call them the "soft powers" — something which cannot be seen but felt more than palpably. They are the dream, the ambitions, the aspiration to fly high and free into the azure sky, and the determination to make it big sooner than later. And we must admit that these soft powers have played a far greater role in ensuring the spectacular success of the Sultanate's one of the biggest success stories — the continued leadership of *Times of Oman* for the past 35 years.

Times of Oman, fondly called Times by its readers, associates and patrons, made its presence felt on February 23, 1975 and was the leader from that very moment. Today, thirty five years later, it is not just going strong but also rules the market and society alike. Times' hegemony in Oman's media firmament is defining, so much so that its contemporaries take pride in the fact that they also ran with us.



The Times owes its origin to the glorious legacy that was set rolling by our dynamic and visionary leader, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. The meteoric pace of development in Oman's social, political, economic and cultural arenas, set by His Majesty, necessitated a newspaper of international outlook. And it was here that Times of Oman found its niche as an umbilical link between the world and

Long ago, more than 35 years, we heard a song, *I'd love to change the world*. It is this song we can today best relate to where our thoughts and efforts have been taking us for the past 35 years - a constant source of inspiration that kept the soft powers burning. And what has evolved during the past 35 years is the fact that we at Times of Oman have been able, at least to some extent, to bring in some percep-

The *Times* has played pivotal role in the evolution and emergence of the media industry in Oman, which hitherto was not well organised. *Times* also played a crucial role in broadening the horizon of the print media and flourish of the English language press in

Today, it is a wonderful feeling for us to see that 35 years have gone by like the tears of angels that fall upon the earth silently through the ether. It has been truly an honour beyond words for us to have had the association of some incredible professionals who have worked with *Times of Oman* during the past 35 years, to have received impeccable support of the patrons and the blessings of the Almighty

As we look to the future and step into the bold new 36th year, we reiterate our commitment and pledge to keep the legacy of *Times* alive, whatever it takes. We pledge that we shall not be found wanting in diligence to keep you informed of the latest around

### **Anniversary offer**

EING born on 23rd of February has never been so rewarding to you earlier. Today, you are the chosen one as your birthday coincides with that of the leader - Times of Oman.

As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Times of Oman today, we have got more than one reason to make our readers, subscribers, well wishers and patrons happy and keep smiling for one full year. We wish to celebrate our birthday with you - our readers and subscribers

If your birthday is on February 23 and if you are an adult surprise gift for you is a FREE subscription of Times of Oman for one full year. So what are you waiting for? Claim your free subscription: contact

us with proof of your date of birth (resident card, driving licence or passport). This offer is limited to the first 35 people to contact us with details

We have special gifts for others as well. On our 35th anniversary, we offer you an additional one-year free subscription of *Times of Oman* with every new annual subscription. So, in effect, you get two-

year subscription for just RO35. Subscribing to *Times* of *Oman* is a must, for, it is the only newspaper in the Sultan-ate that offers insurance coverage to its subscribers

This special subscription offer will remain valid for just three days starting at 8.30am on February 23 to 1pm on February 25.

### **HM** greets **Brunei, Guyana**

MUSCAT | His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has sent a cable of greetings to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, of Brunei Darussalam on his country's

### Holiday on **Saturday**

MUSCAT | Ministries and government departments will remain closed on Saturday, 12 Rabie Al-Awal 1431 AH (February 27, 2010) on the occasion of the Holy Prophet's birthday (PBUH), according to a decision issued by Sayyid Ali bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, minister of Diwan of Royal Court and chairman of the Civil Service Council yesterday. **Page 3** 

### It's Persian **Gulf: Tehran**

TEHRAN | Iran has threatened to ban airlines from using its airspace if they refer to the waterway between Iran and Arab states as the 'Arabian' instead of 'Persian' Gulf.

The unusual move reflects tension in the region over Iran's dispute with the West and the position of Arabian Peninsula states caught between ties to Washington and fear of Tehran.
Gulf Arab states share US

anxiety that Iran seeks to develop nuclear weapons. Most of them offer facilities to US forces and some have heavily purchased US weaponry in recent years.

"The airlines of southern Persian Gulf countries flying to Iran are warned to use the term Persian Gulf on display boards," Road and Transport Minister Hamid Behbahani said in comments in an Iran newspaper.

"Otherwise they will be banned from Iranian airspace for a month the first time and upon repetition their aircraft will be grounded in Iran and flight pernits to Iran will be revoked," he added. - Reuters

### Speeding claims eight lives in 24 hours

Pedestrians bear brunt of rampaging vehicles in five accidents across Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT | Speeding has claimed eight lives in the Sultanate in the past 24 hours, ROP officers said vesterday. At least four people have been injured in the accidents.

In a gory accident that occurred early yesterday, three pedestrians were run over by a speeding car in Wadi Kabir.

said driver, who lost control of the car, crashed his vehicle onto a

tree after it ran over the three

people.

The driver and another person in the vehicle sustained injuries under the impact, officials said.

### **Turning turtle**

Meanwhile, a pedestrian was killed near Al Mawaleh flyover in the Wilavat of Seeb when a car ran over him while he was trying to cross the road yesterday, ROP said.

In the Wilayat of Quriyat

in Muscat governorate, one person was killed when the speeding vehicle he was travelling in turned turtle after the driver lost control.

The driver sustained minor injuries in the accident.

In another accident in the Wilayat of Al Khaboura in Al Batinah, a pedestrian was run over while trying to cross the road yesterday.

Meanwhile, in yet anoth-

er accident that occurred in the Wilayat of Ja'alan Bani

Bu Hassan, two people were killed when their vehicles collided near Falaj Al Mashaikh yesterday

### Crushed

Both the vehicles were crushed under the impact of the collision, officials said.

ROP has appealed to the drivers to obey traffic rules besides advising pedestrians to be alert and exercise caution while trying to cross the



Mangled remains of the car which mowed down three pedestrians in Wadi Kabir yesterday. Photo by Jun Estrada/Times of Oman



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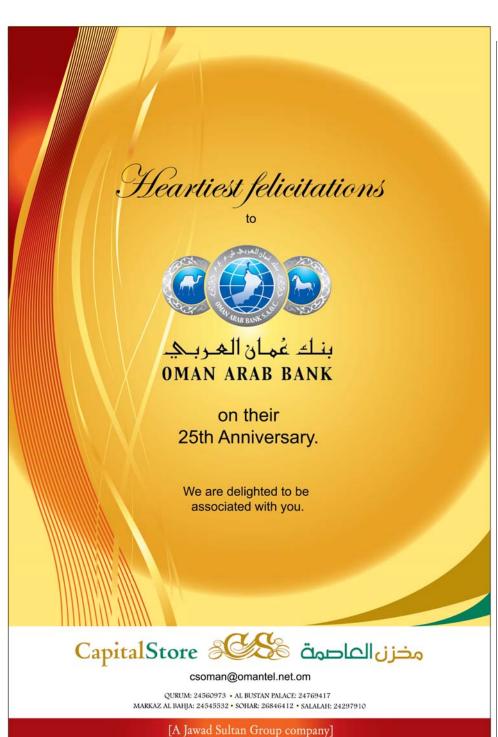
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## Bahraini PM and crown prince discuss bilateral ties with Alawi

Alawi leads delegation to Oman-Bahrain Joint Committee meetings

MANAMA | Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, prime minister of Bahrain, received here yesterday Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, minister responsible for foreign affairs, who is currently on an official visit to Bahrain, leading the Sultanate's delegation to Oman-Bahrain lount Computer meetings.

Joint Committee meetings.

At the meeting, Alawi conveyed greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to Prince Khalifa along with his best wishes of good health and happiness to the prince and the Bahraini people further progress and prosperity.

Prince Shalifa also asked Alawi to convey his greetings to His Majesty the Sultan along with his best wishes of good health and happiness to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

"Prince Khalifa reaffirmed

"Prince Khalifa reaffirmed that deep-rooted relations between the two countries. The relations between the two countries will witness further progress, thanks to the efforts of the officials of both the countries and the joint committee," he said. He called for promoting these relations at the bilateral and Gulf level.

Prince Khalifa also reviewed the regional and international developments with Alawi.

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, crown prince and deputy commander-in-chief of Bahrain also received here yesterday Alawi

During the meeting, Prince Salman described the Oman-Bahrain relations as brotherly and strategic, which His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain were keen to enhance them.

ed for the



nism that encourage further joint investment cooperation between the two countries and establishing economic ties between the Sultanate and Bah-

He also praised the performance of Oman-Bahrain joint committee to achieve interest of both countries.

Earlier, Alawi was seen off by His Highness Sayyid Mohammed bin Salim Al Said, head of the Protocols Department at the Foreign Ministry and charge d'affaires at the embassy of Bahrain to the Sultanate. The committee will discuss various aspects of economic, investment, educational, cultural, media, social cooperation between the two countries, including ways of promoting cooperation. — ONA



### **CONGRATULATIONS**

to

### Mr. Suresh K. Virmani

Managing Director, Bahwan Engineering Group on being bestowed with the distinguished honour of

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### Dance, music foster better understanding, says Mallika

The artiste and activist will inaugurate the first Indo-Oman Folk Art Festival on Thursday

BY MRUDU NAIK

 $\textbf{MUSCAT} \ | \ \ \text{Sharing} \ \ \text{of} \ \ \text{folk}$ dancing can lead to a greater understanding between countries, according to artiste and activist Mallika Sarabhai

Speaking to Times of Omar during her recent visit to Oman, Mallika said dance and music creates better understanding among people.

"Folk dancing, especially goes beyond territorial, cultural and language boundaries," she

Mallika Sarabhai who is a dancer, choreographer, publisher, activist, writer, actor, communicator and director of Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, will inaugurate the first Indo Oman Folk Art Festival on February 25.

tow-day will be held at Marah Land

The other chief guest is film director Priyanandan. The Indo Oman Folk Art

Festival is being presented by Idam Muscat, a socio-cultural organisation in association with nbassy of India and Harmony Music Centre

The Indo Oman Folk Art Festival has the support of In-



With classical dancing you need intellectual rigour to understand it, but with folk dancing it is participatory and goes into the realm where joy is what takes over

Mallika Sarabhai

dian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Ministry of Heritage and Culture of

Explaining that folk dancing came out of the people and not out of gurus or text books, she said, "it is a means to express an outpouring of joy or celebration from people. That is why it

breaks down all barriers" With classical dancing you need intellectual rigour to un-

takes over. Of course, we have made it to something on stage but in its true character it is participatory," she added.
Elucidating that folk danc-

ing it is participatory and goes

into the realm where joy is what

ing breaks down prejudices, she said, "I think that is the celebration and events such as this initiative will lead to better perceptive between countries' She also called on the need to archive folk related events.

Mallika pointed out that it is important to learn folk dances in the context it was born. "If a fisher community does a dance then there are reflections of the fisher communities' occupation in that dance. Unless you understand that context you are missing out on a whole lot of socio cultural relevance," she

Stressing that it is important that children understand the roots of the dance, she said, "I always tell people who learn dancing to know about what they are doing, where is it coming from, why it is a particular tune and other things."

"It is only then the real understanding of cultural celebration will come about," she

Insisting that every culture has to be alive, she said, "otherwise it would be in the museum. The greatest strength of India is we are not in a muse-um. Our 2,000 years of history is alive and well so don't need

### **Seminar seeks to improve** skills of Arabic teachers

MUSCAT | Yahva bin Saud ister of education, presided over the opening ceremony of the Arabic language seminar 'World expertise in learning and teaching Arabic language', at the Golden Tulip Hotel yes-

Those present at the function included undersecretar-ies, director-generals, experts, Arabic language educationists from different countries, heads of departments, supervisors and teachers from different educational regions.

Dr Muna bint Salim Al Jardaniyah, Education Ministry undersecretary for education and curricula, in her speech said that the seminar is part of the Education Ministry's endeavour to develop occupational skills of Arabic teachers. curricula experts, supervisors and educationists.

She further said that the seminar coincides with the 'World Mother Tongue Day',



which falls on February 21 A debate titled 'The role of Arabic language in building an integrated character', will take place during the seminar.

The seminar seeks to identify actual needs of those in charge of teaching Arabic, the learning and teaching Arabic.
A documentary titled 'Arabic language is a nation identity, was screened. Some working papers were also presented on modern experiences of Arabic curricula. — *ONA* 

ON ROAD

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### **Extensive drive to lure European tourists to Oman**

MUSCAT | Oman's Ministry of Tourism, Oman Air and the four- and five-star hotels in Muscat have masterminded a strategy to attract visitors from the United Kingdom and Europe, with a campaign to be launched next month.

Dr Rajiha bint Abdulamir bin Ali, minister of tourism, said that the campaign, under the theme 'Now is the time,' has been made possible by a level of positive cooperation and focus unseen in the in-

dustry before.
"As a result, we have an exiting and highly competitive campaign that will demonstrate that our national carrier and leading hotels are working in Oman's interest. This is a step towards greater industry profitability," she

Dr Rajiha pointed out that the marketing efforts in the UK and Europe have been aimed at creating awareness about Oman as a destination with hotel and airfares offered differently by many compa-

paign offers highly competitive 6- and 7-day holiday packages, return airfares and accommodation under a single campaign banner.

Packages will be com-mon-rated across Europe in a further effort to attract more first-time visitors. The campaign will run from April 12 to October 1 and will be officially launched at ITB Berlin, Europe's largest travel show from March 10-12.

#### Special funds

The Ministry of Tourism will provide special funds to support the campaign. This will be used for overall promotional effort. This fresh campaign with leveraged promotions will draw attention of international tourists to Oman," Dr Rajiha added.

tical marketing is made possible by Oman Air's European expansion with services to Munich, Frankfurt and Paris since October last year, adding to daily services to Loncampaign, its largest ever to a single campaign.
Peter Hill, chief executive

of Oman Air, said, "The airline is delighted with the initiative. It's exiting and puts into practice everything Oman Air is trying to achieve: working effectively with our industry partners to position Oman as the preferred destination in the Gulf. This is a welcome step in the way we market Oman as the airline spreads its wings," he explained.

Speaking for the hotels in-volved in the campaign, Arbind Shrestha, general manager of Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa said, "the time and demonstrates that the industry is working with a single vision. We also need to look forward and apply this experience to future tactical campaigns involving more

hotels and tour operators."
The Tourism Minis Ministry and Oman Air will be meeting Oman's hotels in coming weeks to finalise a summer campaign for Salalah and the GCC states. — ONA

### **HM** greets **Brunei** and Guyana

• From Page 1 His Majesty the Sultan expressed his greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and his country's friendly people further progress and

prosperity.

His Majesty the Sultan expressed his greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to Sultan Hassanal Bolpeople further progress and

prosperity. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said has also sent a cable of greetings to President Bharrat Jagdeo of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on the occasion of his country's Independence Anniversary

His Majesty expressed his greetings and best wishes to President Jagdeo and his country's friendly people. - ONA

### **Holiday on** Saturday

• From Page 1 Sayyid Ali extended heartfelt greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion wishing him good health happiness and a long life and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

Manpower Minister Sheikh

Abdullah bin Nassir Al Bakri private sector on the day. Work will resume on Sunday The directive allow

plovers and employees to agree on work arrangements during the holiday if necessity arises

All employees extend heartfelt greetings to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on this happy occasion. — ONA



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### Japanese embassy to host workshop on animation

Times News Service

MUSCAT | In a way to intromation in Oman, the Embassy of Japan will organise a lecture and a workshop on animation led by a famous animation di-rector, producer and animator from Japan Hajime Kamegaki.

Seiji Morimoto, Japanese ambassador to the Sultanate. while briefing the press said that Kamegaki will give a lecture on the Japanese pop cul-ture with particular emphasis on animation. He will also brief on his extensive career in ani-

The Embassy of Japan, with funding from the Japan Foundation, will organise the lecture today. "The audience will have the opportunity to meet Kamegaki after the lecture and get acquainted with animation. The lecture is open to anyone interested in Japanese animation and pop culture," said Mo-

The workshop on animation character drawing by Kamegaki will be held tomorrow for 20



Seiji Morimoto, Japanese ambassador to the Sultanate, briefing the press yesterday.

artistes and CG specialists interested in Japanese animation. The workshop will be organised by the Embassy of Japan in cooperation with STUM and with funding from the Japan Foundation.

At the workshop, Kameg-aki will demonstrate how to draw animation characters using pencils (and pen-tablet on PC if necessary). Participants are expected to draw animation characters using either pen

or pen-tablet on PC. Kamegaki will guide participants and then evaluate their drawings.

"Experiencing the culture is much more valuable than just hearing about it," noted Mori-

### Spotlight on Japan

"The scholarships provided by the embassy for Omani students will definitely enrich the personalities of these young Omanis. For those who are not

eration with the Japan Founda-tion and Publishers Association for Cultural Exchange, is preparing Japan's first participa-tion in the 15th Muscat International Book Fair

fortunate to get the scholar-ships, they can still experience

the Japanese culture in the Sul-" he added.

other noteworthy event that will be organised to highlight

the Japanese culture. This event will be organised by the Sultan

Qaboos University College of

Commerce.
The embassy in close coop-

'Spotlight on Japan' is an-

'The Japan Foundation carries out activities related to international cultural exchange and thereby contributing to the enhancement of world culture and mutual understanding," Morimoto pointed out.

"The Embassy of Japan in Oman is making efforts to organise various cultural events to commemorate with His Maiesty the Sultan's 40th anniversary Japanese movies will be screened at the Muscat Film Festival," Morimoto added.

### **Oman-India trade expected to touch** \$2.5b this year, says ambassador

Times News Service

MUSCAT | Anil Wadhwa Indian ambassador to the Sultanate hosted an event on 'Trade with India and Indo-Oman Business Opportunities' recently, at the Crown Plaza in

Over 150 participants from Sohar included officials from government departments. wilayats, chamber of commerce and CEOs of various companies in

The seminar highlighted the economic relationship between India and Oman dated back to 18th century. "The Indian community in Oman is contributing towards skilled investments in the country and ranks the fifth largest source of imports (about 5.4 per cent) into Oman," Wad-

Wadhwa informed the audience that India's bilateral trade with Oman has touched an impressive figure of \$2 billion last year and is expected to touch \$2.5 billion this year. "The most commendable fact is that the growth of bilateral trade has been achieved at the time of global crisis," he added.



India's major items of imports into Oman include tex-tiles, garments, machinery and equipment, electrical and electronic items, chemicals, iron and steel products: also transitional items like tea, coffee, spices, rice, meat and seafood

### Omani exports

Major Omani export commodi-ties include urea, LNC (through spot purchase), polypropylene, lubricating oil, dates and chromite ore.

The Oman-Indo milestones of bilateral cooperation include the establishment of the Oman India Fertiliser Company (Omifco), India's largest joint venture abroad which started in August 2002: L&T heavy

engineering - a joint venture between the Zubair Corpora-tion and Larsen & Toubro Limited, Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL), a company promoted by Bharat Petroleum orporation Limited and Oman Oil Limited: and the Gas Authority of India Limited (Gail). which has signed a master gas sale purchase agreement with Qalhat LNG in December last

There are more than 130 Indian companies operating in the Sultanate in different sectors including oil and gas, manufacturing, IT and telecom, construction, real estate and consultancy, healthcare, banking and financial services.

A number of Indian business

tination because of its political and economical stability and its openness to invite businesses

### 30 Omani firms

Likewise, more than 30 Omani companies are now also operating in India. These include MB Holding, Bahwan Cvbertech, the Oman Investment Fund, National Hospitality Institute, Nisma Aircon International, Raha Poly-products, Oman Chemical & Pharmaceutical Company and Khimji Ramdas.

India posted an unprecedented average annual growth of 8.8 per cent during 2003-2004 to 2007-2008. Despite the global slowdown, Indian economy grew by 6.7 per cent in 2008-2009 and is expected to clock 7.2 per cent growth in 2009-2010.

India's foreign exchange reserves are fifth largest in the world, touching an all-time high of \$314.6 billion in May 2008. Forex reserves for the week ending January 2009 stood at



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### A riot of colours herald the arrival of spring in Oman

Reaching there may be an uphill climb, but once you make it to Wekan, a sequestered mountain hamlet overlooking the Gubrah Bowl, the view will surely blow your mind

WADI MISHTAL | It's spring in Oman ... but, we can hardly make that out. However, if you happen to be in Wekan, a sequestered mountain hamlet overlooking the Gubrah Bowl, you will find a riot of colours flowers heralding the arrival of

In February, colours of blooming trees and their fragrance adorn this settlement and its surroundings of less than 500 people. It's almost as if nature has painted the area in snow-white and pink. The Gubrah Bowl is almost like a hidden valley in the middle of the mountains, surrounded at all sides by steep limestone cliffs rising to some 2.000 metres

Getting there is pretty haz ardous The climb to Jabal Akhdar is a cake-walk compared to this. From Nakhl one has to take the Rustaq route and then turn left to Wadi Mishtal. Take this left turn onto the graded road heading towards the mountains

After driving through a winding, narrow gorge, enter the Gubrah Bowl, ignoring the right turn to Wadi Bani Harras and Fig. After about 13km, south-southeast across the plain, the road curves around to the right, up towards the hills. From here you will find villages perched high up on the mountainside. In fact, looking up at the tiny concrete buildigs perched right up there on the mountains, the three of us,



about natural flowers in Oman. wondered how and why these people had decided to set up dwelling there. But even after going up there, breathing in the beauty and interacting with the people in the village, we couldn't find an answer

Back to the route: Ignore

the left turn to Hadash and follow the meandering road up towards the southwest and you will see a sharp turn to the right to Wekan.

The view from Wekan is stunning and after an uphill climb, a profusion of colours greeted us. This Omani oasis is of this village is the spring flowers which make Wekan such a delightful place in February

There is a walkway where ople can go trekking. The walk from Wekan to Hadash, a wonderful circuit, makes for a rewarding experience. For just the falai where the houses end and the gardens begin. This will lead you all the way up the slope with gardens on either side, and you can trudge along admiring nature's bounty — flowers, green fields and the flowing until, perhaps half hou later, you reach the end.





### They are anywhere and everywhere... Them stray dogs



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BY FAHAD AL MUKRASHI

MUSCAT | The city of Muscat has a problem. A real problem, a genuine one. It's a bit intimidating, but can be tackled. It's about dogs roaming around in packs, scaring one and all. It's about groups of stray dogs occupying your apartment car parks. It's about dogs snarling, barking at you when you walk home after a night shift. It's about young kids running back home from the streets after they have spotted these beasts. Yes, it's the spectre of stray dogs taking over our city that is haunting us. It's a nightmarish, awful feeling.

Stray dogs or free-roaming dogs are perhaps the common-est animals that we human beings encounter in our daily lives. They belong to a canine race known as the Pariah Dog, which has existed all over Asia and Africa ever since human beings started living in settle-ments, that is for about 14,000 years. According to the society the welfare of stray dogs (WSD), these dogs are mostly scavengers, eft-over for survive on b posed at municipal waste-bins. The WSD says the stray dog population in a city would correspond to "the size and character" of the human population in any given area. Exposed garbage and presence of street dwellers actually encourage the multiplication of the stray dog population.

But why hate them?

stray dogs as a menace basibecause they frighten us. Most of us are even afraid of a dog that barks. That's why people have dogs in their houses, to keep away unwanted

Dog bite is not a pleasant thing, it could infect one with the dreaded rabies. Rabies is a viral disease which a human may get from being bitten by an animal infected with the rabies virus. It's said rabies kills one person every 10 minutes more than 55,000 people every year globally.

So now we know why people fear stray dogs. The easiest method, to eliminate these dogs was thought to be mass killing. But it was not a very effec-

tive method because once a place was cleared off stray dogs the vacuum would be filled by other packs within weeks. And dogs multiply by the dozen in no time. Then people thought of a more benign, humane method — mass sterilisation. The sterilisation programme is carried out by non-government organisations in collaboration with the municipal corpora-

The World Health Organisation recommends mass vaccination of dogs as the only effective way to eradicate human rabies. Mass vaccination has led to a significant decrease in human rabies deaths in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and India. The sterilisation programme includes anti-rabies

The scene in Muscat

Muscat though a clean city compared to other cities in the world, is still not free of stray dogs. We can see packs of them roaming the streets in most parts of the city.

Dogs, coming down from ills in Hamriya opposite to old Government Girls High School, have become than a menace and life threatening for residents. Dogs keep roaming in lanes near the main road day and night not allowing children, women and pas-

to see stray dogs moving all over the place, especially since they move around in packs of more than 15 at a time, which is a major cause of concern for those who live

Malik Al Muharrami

in our area



Ishaaq Al Maawali, a Seeb resident, says: "We do have this problem of presence and pro-liferation of stray dogs in residential neighbourhoods, which is a major cause of concern for the residents." He adds, "There were some children, our neighbours, who were viciously attacked by these dogs. Most residents are terrified because of this. We are also afraid of the diseases that these dogs may spread among people.

Malik Al Muharrami, an-

other resident of Seeb, says: "It's a scary scene to see stray dogs moving all over the place, especially since they move around in packs of more than 15 at a time, which is a major ause of concern for those who live in our area.

Huzeim Al Manei of Al Khoud voices his concern: "I am afraid to go out at night to the shop or any other place because of the proliferation of stray dogs everywhere. These dogs bark so loudly at night that they even disturb our sleep.
"On one occasion when I

was returning home, a pack of dogs attacked me, but fortunately. I escaped unhurt. But then when I think of the inci-dent, it was scary, and because of this I have some kind of a phobia, you can call it dog pho-

. Aziz Al Hazrami says: "Stray dogs may also infect

us with diseases that spread through their saliva, especially because they frequent the garbage bins.'

Talking about the stray dogs that frequent his neigh-bourhood, Ahmed Al Balushi says: "Stray dogs are found on the streets from dusk to dawn. People are tired of this menace. But what bothers us most is that they often target women

### Solution sought

Saud Al Salmi, a government employee, says: "A serious intervention by agencies responsible for eliminating stray dogs is necessary. The municipal-ity must take urgent measures to prevent their proliferation. Their number is increasing by the day. It's scary. They are everywhere."

Dona Komi from Al Ghu-

bra, says: "There needs to be an animal shelter for these dogs. The municipality must capture them and put them in such shelters. Shooting these dogs down is not the right solution to this problem.

She adds: "The other solution that can be worked on is to relocate these stray dogs remote areas away from residential areas as an acceptable agreement between human beings and the dogs."

Ibrahim Al Hsani of the media department in Muscat Mu-nicipality says: "The Muscat Municipality intends to take action to get rid of this menace. Some plans and procedures are being envisaged in cooperation with the ROP to find a solution

to this problem."
Shedding more light on the matter a source at the ROP says: "The plan to kill stray dogs is renewed every three months for the police special task force, which is coordinated with the General Administration Operations, Police Leadership task and Muscat

The source adds: "There is a change in schedule of killing these dogs in accordance with the emergency situation and killing stray dogs is not that easy because these dogs live near residential areas. So we have to be doubly careful not to injure people while shooting down stray dogs.



### Oman Air's formal launch of flight to Colombo on Friday

Times News Service

MUSCAT | Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate, will com-memorate its flights to the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo on Friday.

Peter Hill Flights to this destination were launched in Novem-ber last year with four weekly frequencies between Muscat

Eng Sultan Hamdoon Al Harthy, president of the Muscat Municipality, will be the chief guest at the launch function. A high-level delegation from Oman Air led by Oman Air Chief Executive Officer Peter Hill, along with other senior management team will be in Colombo for the

purpose.

To commemorate the new service. Oman Air will organise a press conference for

Sri Lankan media on Thursday and a gala dinner at Hotel Cinnamon Grand for the top officials of Sri Lanka and the travel trade members on Friday

This event will give the invitees an opportuni-ty to interact with Oman Air's top management.

Peter Hill says: "Sri Lanka has proven to be a welcome addition to the ever expanding Oman Air network. We have reasons to believe that our customers are thrilled with this destination, as Sri Lanka has everything a tourist wants to explore, experience and see. Together with the new A330 aircraft that are deployed into this segment and the spectacular natural beauty that the place is known for, our valued customers can surely have an enjoyable holiday.

### **ROP** conducts course for NBO personnel

MUSCAT | In keeping with its objective to constantly enhance and introduce unique training programmes for staff, National Bank of Oman (NBO) invited Royal Oman Police personnel to address staff on 'Effective Branch Management'.

The course was organised at the NBO Head Office Learning Centre for branch managers of

Major Bakheet Ubaid Al Saadi Royal Oman Police and other officers of the Civil



Defence Force, addressed the group. The sessions covered fire prevention and fire fighting and equipment and other significant safety aspects.

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Successful candidate qualities include:

with auditors and allied tasks

will be a distinct advantage

NBO staff members wholeheartedly participated in the session which they found to be informative and beneficial Salim Al Barwani, NBO

opment Division), encouraged participants to be interactive

the opportunity provided by the bank. NBO is well known



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Qualified candidates, please send your CV to

### and will be based in Muscat, reporting to the Group The selected candidate is expected to join in about 30 days. A leading regional company is looking for an Interested candidates may send their CVs to financemanageroman@gmail.com on or before 28 February, 2010. almawridhr@gmail.com creations presents

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### WE ARE ASHAMED

S global citizens, it was a moment of great shame and ignominy for all of us. Our heads hung in disgrace last week when Israel, in a shameless display of jingoism and complete disregard for humanity, celebrated its self-claimed triumph in Operation Cast Lead — the war on Gaza. The Jewish media unanimously hailed the war on Gaza — the worst crime perpetrated against innocent civilians in post World War II period — as a major military triumph, a combat victory over Israel's worst enemy, the Hamas. At least two Israeli soldiers, Arik Diamant and David Zonsheine, who joined millions of affronted global citizens at Israel's celebration of crime, have raised some serious doubts about Zionist media's claims to combat victory. In their joint post in *The Guardian's* website they said: "Hardly any combat against Hamas took place during the operation. As soon as the operation started, Hamas went underground."

It is time today that we take a fresh, long and hard look into the war and get our perspectives right over arguably one of the most significant wars of the first decade of the new millennium. There was virtually no combat with the Hamas during the duration of the one-sided attack and slaughtering of the Palestinians. The entire bulk of devastation and casualty were inflicted on the hapless Palestinian civilians by air strikes, artillery shelling and sniper fire. Israeli air force bombarded 'one of the most crowded places on earth, striking civilian targets such as homes, schools and mosques, and ultimately leaving a trail of more than 1,300 casualties, mostly civilians, over 300 of whom were children.' We must now accept the truth that the Israeli attack on Gaza was in no way a military combat against Hamas but slaughtering of civilian Palestinians.

Operation Cast Lead, contrary to Israeli media's claim, was a total failure. Arik Diamant and David Zonsheine were unequivocal in their belief that the real objective was not to stop the firing of Qassams missiles but to overthrow the Hamas government. As such, the operation failed. Hamas in Gaza is stronger than ever. The Qassam missile problem, they said, had been solved long before the operation started. Israel today has no acceptable rationale to justify its attack on Gaza, excessive use of force during the operation and dimension of the devastation it wrought. The impunity with which Israel butchered Palestinian civilians and the celebration of the crime's first anniversary indeed make our heads hang in shame as much as it put Diamant and Zonsheine into great mortification.

### GOING ON ITS KNEES

ID US President Barack Obama muster adequate courage to defy China over his recent meeting with Dalai Lama? True, Obama went ahead with his scheduled meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader, and that was indeed an apparent show of defiance — but an apparent show only. Deep within, Washington's wilting under mounting Chinese pressures over the meeting has lately become more than evident. The weasel words of President Obama about the meeting, Washington's relentless efforts to hide Dalai Lama from the American media and White House's efforts to downplay the significance of the meeting all point to the fact that neither President Obama nor his administration really could stand up to the affronted China. The United States simply played it out very cutely with Dalai Lama and yet failed so miserably to assuage the frayed nerves of Beijing mandarins.

Obama's 'failure' to meet the exiled Tibetan leader, ostensibly under Chinese pressure last fall before his visit to China was a clear sign of Washington's efforts to appease Beijing. Contrary to the popular perception, Obama-Dalai Lama meeting, in fact, failed to become the symbol of the United States taking a tougher stand on China, at least on human rights issues. The meeting, which could have re-established hegemony of the American ethos over that of the fast spreading Chinese, presumably turned out to be a mere cute little meeting between two Nobel Peace prize winners comparing their Nobel medals and a discourse on Buddhism. Perhaps Kelley Currie is correct in her surmise that if the United States doesn't in all respects treat the Dalai Lama as the Tibetans' political leader, it seems pretty unreasonable to ask the Chinese to consider him their partner for substantive negotiations on the future of Tibet.



### OIMC WAITING IN THE WINGS

MUSCAT — The Omani International Marketing Company (OIMC), formed more than two years to provide essential marketing services to factories and industries based in Oman, will officially start functioning in the coming month. It will become operational with the arrival of its newly appointed General Manager Kazuyuki Hashi Moto from Japan, who will bring with him a wealth of experience and expertise.



Images from Abu Ghraib may have faded in the US but not in Arab world

### **Unfulfilled promises**

AST April we polled across the Arab World asking what Arabs thought was the most positive early action President Obama had taken to improve US-Arab relations.

High up on the list (barely topped by the decision to leave Iraq) was the president's pledge to close Guantanamo and ban torture.

That this issue would out poll Obama's early steps to forge a Middle East peace or his outreach to the Arab and Muslim worlds should not have been surprising.

Arabs have developed a healthy scepticism about the ability or desire of US presidents to deliver on promises to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace, but they are willing to believe that the US can change direction and alter its own behaviour on a matter that doesn't involve Israel.

And the issues of torture and the prolonged detentions of prisoners at Guantanamo and other sites around the globe were seen as deeply disturbing policies that the president could and should change.

For years now, our polls have established the degree to which America's treatment of Arab and Muslim prisoners has angered Arab public opinion. While the images from Abu Ghraib may have faded in the US, not so in the Arab

In a way, the entire enterprise resembled a hate crime, in that while the targets of the degrading treatment may have been individual men, the impact and the humiliation was deeply felt region-wide.

Guantanamo, the CIA's secret "black site" prisons and the practice of "rendition" only served to compound this disgrace, demonstrating both hypocrisy and the arrogance of power.

America might claim high ideals and advocate for human rights and rule of law, but our behaviour told Arabs that "human rights" did not apply to them, and "rule of law" did not apply to us, when we decided that we were above the law.

DR JAMES J ZOGBY

Against this backdrop, Obama's emphatic pledges to close Guantanamo and ban torture were well received and seen as signalling a dramatic departure from Bush-era policies.

It is, therefore, a concern that one year later Guantanamo has not been closed and other abusive practices have been retained.

Adding to this disappointment is the fact that while new information has come to light regarding the authorised and wide-spread use of torture against prisoners held at Guantanamo and other US-sanctioned "black sites" around the world, no one is being called to account

for their behaviour.

Facing stiff opposition from both
Republicans and members of his own
party, the president, it appears has settled on a plan that instead of closing
Guantanamo, would merely move it to
a new location, a maximum security
prison in Illinois.

To facilitate the move and the continued detention of inmates, there are reports that the White House is working with a Republican senator to craft legislation that would allow for "prolonged detention without charge or trial"—a practice long used by Israel and criticised by the US and human rights organisations as a violation of international law and convention.

And while no new prisoners have been added to Guantanamo, it appears that this is because Baghram prison in Afghanistan is serving as the new Guantanamo, with prisoners captured in other countries being flown to Baghram for interrogation and detention.

The ban on torture has taken hold, but the sins of the past still haunt the Obama Administration's efforts. There are, for example, the problems associated with bringing to trial those prisoners who have been tortured.

Evidence against them derived from coerced interrogations will be viewed

as tainted and not admissible in a legal proceeding. There is also the possibility that trials would result in shining a light on the torture techniques used.

When Attorney General Eric Holder released the "torture memos" written by Bush Administration lawyers providing "legal justification" for a catalogue of grotesque "enhanced interrogation techniques" (read: "torture"), Republicans, led by the former vice-president launched a fierce assault on the Obama Administration.

Not wanting this debate to distract from his broader legislative agenda, the president blinked, indicating that he wanted to "look forward, not backwards", suggesting that there would be transparency, but no accountability for these crimes of the past.

This only served to embolden Republicans. In a recent television appearance, for example, the vice-president proudly admitted that he supported "water-boarding" prisoners. And at this weekend's annual gathering of conservative activists, the issue was the subject of jokes and cheers.

Further revelations of torture and other instances of past abuse of prisoners at Guantanamo, Baghram and "black sites" continue to appear in US publications making it more difficult for the Obama to portray the matter as "closed".

In the end, it appears that these deep holes inherited by President Obama are no less steep than other Bush-era legacies: two unfinished wars, a stalled and worsening Israeli-Palestinian peace process, a failing economy and a host of other domestic challenges.

When the poisoned well created by

When the poisoned well created by a partisan divide is added to this grim picture, the way forward is difficult to navigate. Credit must still be given to the president's good intentions, but it is now clear that it will take more than a year to undo the damage of the last eight.

■ The author is the president of Arab American Institute. Views expressed in the article are his



### A BALANCING ACT ON THE WEB

AST week, I wrote that a hastily published article on *The Times'* website highlighted a fear in newsrooms that the Internet, with its emphasis on minute-to-minute competition, is undermining the values of print journalism, which put a premium on accuracy, tone and context.

The offending article contained an anonymous political attack on Caroline Kennedy and broadcast vague allegations — highly exaggerated, it turned out — that she had nanny and tax problems

Those responsible for guiding nytimes.com, the most widely read newspaper Website in the nation, thought I had posed a false choice between speed and quality. "Bad calls happen in all kinds of time pressures," said Jonathan Landman, the deputy managing editor in charge of Web operations. "God knows, we've made notorious mistakes very slowly."

He said *The Times'* failure to treat the Bush administration's case for the war in Iraq more sceptically, and its coverage of Wen Ho Lee, who was accused of espionage before the case fell apart, were not based on snap, Web-driven decisions.

"Of course working fast increases the chance for error and clearly that is a danger to acknowledge seriously and address carefully," Landman wrote in a statement I have posted in *The Public Editor's Journal* at publiceditor.blogs.nytimes.com. "But absence of error isn't the only value.

If it was, we'd long ago have scrapped daily and weekly newspapers and magazines in favour of refereed scholarly journals. Speed is a value too. Speed gets information to people when they want it and need it."

He said, "Journalistic quality has always involved a combination of speed, thoroughness, authority, discovery, seriousness, humour and many other things that sometimes conflict with each other. The trick is to find the right balance."

Adam Nagourney, *The Times'* chief political correspondent, told me what life was like covering the presidential campaign for a round-the-clock news organisation.

He said he thought *The Times* got the balance right in weighing speed against accuracy and fairness, but he added that the hyper-competition — incorrect stories on competing sites "sending us off on time-consuming and ultimately fruit-less chases" — sometimes got in the way of richer reporting.

If the Kennedy story was a stark example of what can go wrong, *The Times'* coverage of the forced landing of US Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River six days earlier was a shining example of what can go right.

Two editors sitting side by side got word at almost the same time that a plane was in the river — lan Trontz in a phone call from Al Baker, a reporter at police headquarters, and Patrick LaForge from a post on Twitter. A bulletin headline went up on the newspaper's Website within moments.

Trontz began dispatching staff reporters and freelancers. "A heavy redundancy — that's what we do," he said. Eventually, there would be more than 20 *Times* reporters and photographers at the scene, with more at area hospitals; in Charlotte, the plane's destination; and at the pilot's home in California.

With feeds pouring in from the reporters, the paper began a three-layered approach to its written coverage. Ken Belson anchored the City Room blog, writing frequent updates, organised like news bulletins. Liz Robbins wrote a more traditionally structure.

tured news article for the Web.

LaForge, who edited Belson by looking over his shoulder as he wrote, said the blog was for readers obsessed with the story, hitting their refresh button every couple of minutes.

their refresh button every couple of minutes.

Robbins's article was for less-absorbed readers. Meanwhile,
Robert D. McFadden was writing a finely polished news article
for the next morning's paper.

The Times took advantage of the Web's interactivity, inviting witnesses to call in and be interviewed and to submit photos. Using new software for the first time, editors posted 17 pictures taken by the public

They included a dramatic shot snapped with a cellphone at the moment the plane hit the water. *The Times* also linked to video from MSNBC.

It was a huge story, but also, as LaForge said, a simple story, ideal for fast-moving coverage on the Web. If a few details were wrong at the outset — authorities first said there were 151 people aboard the plane — they could be quickly fixed, and they did not pose potential harm to someone's reputation, as the Kennedy story did. The Times worked a more tragic story in similar fashion last week, the crash of a Continental Connection plane near Buffalo.

Editors say *Times* standards are *Times* standards, regardless of the medium. But the Web is vastly different from a printed paper, and the truth is that its standards are different to some degree.

The language is sometimes looser, early editing is sometimes haphazard, readers can talk back — and not always civilly. *The Times* offers readers a rich Web experience, with written words, slide shows, video, audio, interactivity and pages of news background.

But at the core of it all is the scope, depth and authority of New York Times reporting. As it builds its Web future, The Times must take great care that none of the changes endanger that. — The New York Times News Service

### Reduce bad expenses

■ THIS has reference to the letter, Unprofessional management (February 15). I agree with the resentment expressed therein against hiking of fee by ISWK. It is the responsibility of the school authorities to implement expansion and developments without putting additional financial burden on the students and parents. The authorities must reduce redundant expenses on other heads.

Ahmed Yusuf Ruwi

### Unjustified fee hike

■ THE recent circular issued by the Indian School Wadi Kabir hiking the fee is an unilateral decision and cannot be supported

by any means. Time and again the school authorities boast of receiving handsome donations and funding from merchant communities. Why then is the school in need of increasing tuition fees. While in every other school, the principal acts also as the administrative and academic head, this school has appointed unnecessarily yet another person for the purpose. Such redundant appointments only add to the expenditures of the school, which are passed on to the students.

Parents Wadi Kabir

### Revamp intelligence

■ I APPRECIATE the confidence and determination of Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram, who said that India would protect every participant in the upcoming major sports events in the country. The militant group which claimed responsibility for Pune bombing has revealed that they





For my part I believe in the forgiveness of sin and the redemption of ignorance

"Insure with New India and be secure"

carried out the attack using hone-grown terrorists. Though the authorities are reluctant to admit intelligence failure, that is a reality. Chidambaram will do well if he could ask his intelligence network to pull up their socks and do some hard work.

> Soman Sanku Rustag

### Great tournament

CONGRATULATIONS to Indian social club for organising the Cricket Masti recently. The turn out of spectators with families clearly indicates that this tournament is gradually gaining popularity. These types of tournaments should find a place at least twice or thrice in the annual calendar of ISC and I personally feel that it can be organised in much more better way to attract more crowds.

Salih Thacher Al Khoud

### Thirty five years and going strong

CONGRATULATIONS to *Times of Oman* on its 35th year of existence. I have been going through *Times* at least over a decade, the rapid strides it made transforming itself to brace up to the ever changing global needs, to meet domestic aspirations is amazing. Catering to all sections of the society and making a good presence dwelling on A-Z; *Times* is undoubtedly in the forefront and No.1 daily newspaper in the Sultanate and it deserves a wide round of

■ RESIGNATION of Shyam Saran as adviser on climate to Indian prime minister showcases yet another unsavoury episode of personal politics with retired bureaucracy. This whole murky issue took the sheen out of an emerging India.

Ushadevi & Achyutha Laurel Wood Circle, USA

### The attack could have been averted

■ THE destruction of German bakery in the recent Pune attack was destruction of the city's one of the oldest heritage. It actually was everything that Pune represented. The attack could have been averted had the city police acted on prior intelligence. India seems to be caught in a web of terror.

> **hintan Bhos**l Ruv

### OMAN 7

## **Celebrating diversity of Omani cuisine, culture**

MyOman festival, seeking to promote Omani products, opens at Lulu

Times News Service

MUSCAT | MyOman festival, which began at Lulu yesterday, will showcase Oman's best products across diverse categories ranging from spices to frozen food to vegetables to garments to the first homegrown LCD television.

It was inaugurated by Mohsin Khamis Al Balushi, adviser to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

merce and Industry.

Shoppers will not only get their pick from the best Omani products, they will also get to participate in snapshots of Omani life, all throughout the period of this promotion.

The objective of the MyOman festival is to increase the level of awareness of Omani products and promote them by giving the right exposure through promotions and attractive displays.

The festival is being conducted jointly under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Tourism and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates.

lishment for Industrial Estates.

Already in its fifth year,
MyOman has become a stupendous success and it is gaining
in popularity every year. Some
of the companies and products
participating in this promotion
are all the major player and minor players.

Apart from the products themselves, there are a lot of events within the promotion to look forward to.

There will be live cooking demo to give customers a taste of the unique flavours of Omani cuisine; painting contests, quiz competitions to give people insights into the little known parts of Oman.





### Sultan Qaboos University

**Technical Affairs Department** 

#### NOTICE

Sultan Qaboos University has the pleasure to invite applications for the post of Cleaning Inspector. The applicant shall possess the following qualifications:

- 1. Post is open for females only and priority is given to qualified omani applicants.
- 2. Successful completion of grade twelve
- 3. At least four (4) years continuous work experience as Cleaning Inspector/Supervisor
- Knowledge in written and spoken English.
- High and genuine interest in the work.

Interested candidates may send their CV not later than two weeks to the address below

The Director, Personnel Affairs Sultan Qaboos University PO Box 50, PC 123, Al Khod Sultanate of Oman

E-mail: vacancy@squ.edu.om



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#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have the honor of presenting the annual report of

#### usiness environmen

Year 2009 was the tenth year of operation and the hospital increased its market share t

The private health industry has been facing a strong competition in the market especiall from Government health care sector as it provides free excellent services to national

ere are other private hospitals and private clinics/ polyclinics in Oman. But we are no ving any real competitor in the market due to certain unique advantages which we seess as a special health care provider. The other hospitals are seeing Muscal Private spital as a trend setter and supplement to their services with the differentiated and high

#### Business Performance Overview

The company's performance has been improving consistently during the last ten years. The Company registered revenue of RO 7,793,322- during the year as compared to RC 6,442,584- for the year 2008, an increase of 21%. This shows that the company is strongly establishing its market share in the Country. Outpatient and inpatient activities were increased to a good level. A number of key projects such as cardiac surgery, woman health service, re-opining of neo-natal intensive care and enhancement of emergency room services were launched during the year 2009. The Hospital has started Cardiac Department during the year and appointed new staffs for the same. The revenue from

The increased hospital revenue has resulted in achieving a cash profit of RO 667,328 during 2009 and an ultimate reduction in the Net Loss to RO 147,031 during 2009 at against a Net Loss of RO 213,012 reported for the previous year. The general increase in the staff cost, in line with the market conditions and also the increase in price oconsumables have pulled down the profitability of the company despite achieving highe

In year 2009 the directorate system was implemented at the hospital with organizational structure having clearly defined clinical and business heads for each business service. The structure has created accountability by pushing decision making closer to the interface of patient care with the result being the delivery of patient centered, high quality results are subject to the control of the c

#### Government Soft Loa

To cope up with the increased level of operations during 2009, the hospital required a higher level of working capital funding and the pressure on the available resources was so acute that the company had to default the Government Sot Loan installments due in 2009. However, as a short term remedy, the Company has taken steps for rescheduling the loan and for this purpose a 5 year business plan encompassing the introduction of new facilities and revenue generating activities and which will take care of loan renswments and related matters is under finalization.

#### 0--1-1

As approved by EGM in October 2009, the regulatory procedures are being followed increase the paid up capital from RO 6,099,269 to RO 8,299,269 by issuing 22,000,0 shares of 100 baizes each to the two major share holders through private placement. T

#### Future outlook

There was a continuous growth in revenue since the hospital is opened in the year 20 We expect the same trend to continue in 2010 also. The business plan in 2010 aims recruiting more salaried doctors and expand all the existing facilities to cater to the higher demand towards rendering specialized services.

The grown assumptions contained within the future outlook and infundations to a achieving the business targets are based on the hospital achieving certain key base objectives like, utilization of critical care services, to market emergency on services, it improve theatre utilization and expansion of Women's emergency and services.

The growth in outpatient consultations in the year 2009 was facilitated by moving certain non-hospital services outside of the hospital premises. Besides, some of the inpatients rooms are being used for outpatient activities. However, as of now, there is no further room for expension of outpatient activity in the existing premises and this has the common form of the construction of the property of the construction of the c

al accountability of modernizing hospital internal systems and di vard Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA) by end of

#### Thanks

generations of healthcare professionals and the vision of those who have steered forward. I would like to thank 'United Medical Services', who have been managing it hospital, officials at the Ministry of Health, Banks and also to all our dedicated staff ar managers for their work, without which a service provider like ours cannot survive.

We are grateful to the customers for their continuous support and encouragement a

MEI OMI

the excellent feedback we continuously receive from them on our services and

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos for his effort create peace, loyalty and stability factors well known to promote private sector in country. We are looking forward for more support from His Majesty's Government undivate health care service can be well established.

Awad Bamkhalef Chairman of the Board

BALANCE	SHEET	
	31 December	
	2009	2008
ACCETO	RO	RO
ASSETS Non-current assets:		
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	15,853,856	16.048.602
Current assets:		,,
Investments	808	3,002
Inventories	342,789	352,897
Accounts receivable and prepayments	1,384,210	1,033,540
Cash at bank and in hand	35,947 1,763,754	217,176 1,606,615
Total assets	17,617,610	17,655,217
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	17,017,010	17,000,217
STATETICEDETTO EQUITY AND EMBLETTES		
Shareholders' equity:		
Share capital	6,099,269	6,099,269
Special reserve	217,509	217,509
Revaluation reserve	10,693,298	10,864,454
Cumulative changes in fair value	(82,097)	(79,903)
Accumulated losses	(7,620,049)	(7,644,174)
	9,307,930	9,457,155
Non-current liabilities:	- 0,007,000	0,407,100
Term loan	3,498,125	4,120,845
Deferred government grant	816,875	1,094,155
Amount due to related party	900,000	900,000
Finance lease	5,902	5,353
	5,220,902	6,120,353
Current liabilities:		
Term loan	1,550,000	650,000
Finance lease	8,710	6,540
Bank overdraft	72,513	27,785
Accounts payable and accruals	983,035	1,183,347
Amounts due to related parties	474,520	210,037
	3,088,778	2,077,709
Total liabilities	8,309,680	8,198,062
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities Net assets per share	17,617,610	17,655,217
Net assets per snare	1.526	1.550

raniounts due to related parties		210,007
	3,088,778	2,077,709
Total liabilities	8,309,680	8,198,062
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities	17,617,610	17,655,217
Net assets per share	1,526	1.550
The table of the table of the table of the table of table		11000
INCOME STA	TEMENT	
	Year ended	Year ended
	31 December	31 December
	2009	2008
	RO	RO
Turnover	7,793,322	6.442.584
Operating expenses	(6,841,260)	(5,638,290)
Administrative and general expenses	(890,888)	(790,612)
Other income	7.283	14,544
Profit/(loss) from operations	68,457	28,226
Finance costs – net	(215,488)	(241,238)
Loss before tax	(147,031)	(213,012)
Taxation	(147,001)	(210,012)
Net loss for the year	(147,031)	(213,012)
Loss per share	(0.024)	(0.035)



### NATIONAL BISCUIT INDUSTRIES LTD. SAOG AND ITS SUBSIDIARY

Total current liabilities

Total equity and liabilities

Net assets per share

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have great pleasure in welcoming you t the twenty seventh Annual General Meeting of your company.

### Results for the ye

The Group was able to achieve a net profit of RO 171,727 as compared to

The Management's focus to retain the position of market leadership in Oman and efforts to consolidate export markets, endeavor of improving margins, efficiencies and reducing costs yielded good results in 2009, despite intense competition and higher freight incidence.

### Sales and Margins

The Group recorded sales of RO 8,434,104 in 2009 compared to RO 10,319,423 in 2008, a decrease of 18.3%. The Gross profit in 2009 was RO 1,239,548 compared to RO 1,210,447 in 2008 registering an increase of 2.4%.

NABIL brand enjoys a significant presence in Oman market and a good brand image in GCC and other countries. Our focused export drives have started to show results and in the years to come should yield in higher volumes, better price realizations and improved utilization of resources, on the assumption that the future Raw Material prices are stable, Moreover this year your company through contract packing entered the fresh potato chips market

### Overhead expenses

Initiatives taken to keep the overheads under control helped in improving the profitability. Various cost reduction measures adopted and better sales realization helped to improve the overheads' absorption in 2009. We intend to improve our performance overall in the years ahead.

### A' Nabil Food Industry LLC

The subsidiary has performed well during 2009 and we expect continue healthy performance.

#### Compliance with CMA Your company has been

Your company has been constantly monitoring and upgrading its internal control procedures and systems in compliance with local laws and regulations. As a part of this process, the internal controls, procedure manuals and guidelines as recommended by the Capital Market Authority, have been implemented from 2003 onwards. The Board through a process of internal audits, audit committees' regular involvement in the review process, ensures that the internal controls and procedures adopted by your company are effective.

### Corporate Governance

Your company confirms its compliance with the Code as required by Article 26 of CMA's Code of Corporate Governance and a separate note on Corporate Governance forms a part of this report.

#### Future Outlook

Your company shall drive growth by focusing on exports and tapping new markets, with improved operational efficiencies, which would help in improving the operating results. Your company has constantly modernized and upgraded its Plant and Machinery and this endeavor has resulted in increase in output without much increase in other expenses.

The Board expresses its gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said for his leadership under whose wise guidance; Oman has achieved economic, political and social stability. We also sincerely thank all the Ministries and Government Departments for their continued support to your company.

Finally, the Board thanks the Management and Staff members for their support in 2009 and look forward to continued progress for your company.

NOOH BIN MOHAMMED AI- ZIDJALY CHAIRMAN

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION at 31 December 2009

	RO	Company	NO	Company
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment Investment in a subsidiary	3,765,629	3,636,542 98,000		3,570,501 98,000
Total non-current assets	3,765,629	3,734,542	3,707,920	
Current assets				
Inventories	1,354,500	1,159,270		
Accounts receivable and prepayments Bank balances and cash	1,769,757 205,958	1,769,411 205,958	2,548,268 109,409	2,508,571 109,409
Total current assets	3,330,215	3,134,639	4,095,140	3,813,429
Total assets		6,869,181	7,803,060	
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES Equity attributable to shareholders of the Parent Company	4 000 000	4 000 000	4 000 000	4 000 000
Share capital Legal reserve Retained earnings	367,078 618,166	333,333	1,000,000 364,189 450,862	330,444
Non – controlling interest	1,985,244 16,217	1,673,689	1,815,051 14,683	1,578,656
Total equity	2,001,461	1,673,689	1,829,734	1,578,656
Non-current liabilities Non-current portion of long term loans Deferred Government grant	1,450,000	1,449,051	1,207,581	1,196,533 10,041
Deferred Government grant Deferred taxation	154 617	120 702	10,990	10,041
Employees' end of service benefits	141,435	136,378	135,757 125,032	120,157
Total non-current liabilities	1,746,052	1,725,211	1,479,360	1,454,509
Current liabilities				
Accounts payable and accruals	1,285,547	1,481,697	1,422,360	1,528,460
Bank borrowings				
Short term loan	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Current portion of long term loans Taxation	732,547 7,509	721,523	1,728,927 500,000 830,215 12,464	806,571

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 31 December 2009

1.985

3,348,331 3,470,281 4,493,966

5,094,383 5,195,492 5,973,326

7,095,844 6,869,181 7,803,060

1.674 1.815

4,448,765

5,903,274

1.579

for the year ended	31 De	cembe	r 2009		
	Group RO	2009 Parent Company RO	Group RO	2008 Parent Company RO	
INCOME Sales Cost of sales	8,434,104 (7,194,556)		10,319,423 (9,108,976)	10,319,423 (9,288,068)	
Gross profit Other income	1,239,548 24,777	1,112,529 40,086	1,210,447 31,857	1,031,355 43,486	
	1,264,325	1,152,615	1,242,304	1,074,841	
EXPENSES Selling and distribution General and administration Net finance costs	(525,554) (280,640) (260,035)	(521,306) (269,271) (255,001)	(516,129) (310,006) (244,307)	(512,023) (300,959) (238,808)	
	(1,066,229)	(1,045,578)	(1,070,442)	(1,051,790)	
Profit before taxation Taxation	198,096 (26,369)	107,037 (12,004)	171,862 (13,928)	23,051 (2,920)	
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	171,727	95,033	157,934	20,131	
Attributable to: Equity holders of the Parent Company Non – controlling interest	170,193 1,534	95,033	155,178 2,756	20,131	
	171,727	95,033	157,934	20,131	
Earnings per share	0.170	0.095	0.155	0.020	



### **Muscat International Bookfair Exhibition**

### **Oman International Exhibition Centre**

24 Feb. - 5 Mar. 2010

Browse at the largest literary-cultural event involving more than 500 publishers from 27 Arabic and foreign countries.

Attend simultaneous literary-cultural seminars and lectures by an elite group of international writers and intellectuals:

Daily from 10am to 9pm Fridays from 4pm to 9pm

For women and schoolgirls only on Sat., 27 Feb. and Mon., 1 Mar. from 10am to 4pm

For schoolboys only on Sun., 28 Feb. and Tue., 2 Mar. from 10am to 4pm

www.mctbookfair.gov.om

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▶ Page 13

### **ABSCONDING**



Indian : F 9370140 Absconding date : 29.01.2010 : National United Eng. & Contg. LLC

He who employs the above shall bear legal consequences. The absconding has the right to report inaccuracy of this statement any of the ministry of manpower offices within 15 days from now.

### Clashes erupt over heritage sites

Palestinians, Israeli troops clash in Hebron over Israeli plan to restore Tomb of the Patriarchs, Rachel's Tomb

**HEBRON** (West Bank) Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday amid outrage over Israel's plan to restore two flashpoint Jewish holy sites in the occu-

pied territory.

Dozens of youths hurled rocks at an Israeli military checkpoint in the city as troops fired tear gas and stun

grenades, a correspondent said.
"Approximately 100 Pales-

tinians were burning tyres and throwing rocks at IDF (Israeli military) soldiers," an army spokeswoman said, adding one soldier was lightly injured.

There were no reports of any Palestinians wounded, and the clashes had largely died down by the afternoon

The strike closed down

nops and schools.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sparked anger on Sunday when he said he hoped to include the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem in a \$100-million plan to restore national heritage sites.

The Ibrahimi Mosque was the site of the infamous massacre of 29 Palestinian worshippers in 1994 by Jewish extremist Baruch Goldstein who was himself later killed by Palestinians who had survived the shooting.

"We strongly condemn this decision which vet again confirms the Israeli government's determination to impose facts on the ground," chief Palestin-ian negotiator Saeb Erakat said by phone from Paris, where he was accompanying Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on an official visit.

"We call on the international community to consider this decision illegal," he said.

#### Contentious

"This Israeli decision is provocative for Muslims around the world and especially Palestinians." The Hamas movement rul-

ing the Gaza Strip also lashed out at the decision, with its Tourism Minister Mohammed Al Agha calling on Palestinians in Israel and the West Bank to make their way to the site and "defend" it.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, where the biblical figure Abraham is believed buried, is sacred to both Mus-lims and Jews and has long been the scene of tensions.

A few hundred hardline

Jewish settlers under heavy Israeli military protection have taken up residence near the site and converted part of the Ibrahimi mosque above it into a synagogue. The mosque was the site

of the infamous massacre of 29 Palestinian worshippers in 1994 by Jewish extremist Baruch Goldstein, who was beaten to death by survivors during the melee that followed the shooting. More than 160,000 Pales-

tinians live in Hebron, from which the Israeli military partially withdrew in 1998

The tomb of the Jewish

### Jordan slams Israel's provocative plan

AMMAN | Jordan yesterday of national heritage sites. condemned Israel's "provocative" plan to include two flashpoint religious shrines in the occupied West Bank in a list

"Jordan demands Israel cancel such provocative plans that would harm peace efforts in the region and anger mil-

world," government spokes-man Nabil Sharif said in a statement.

"Instead of creating a suit-

lions of Muslims around the able environment for peace and trust, Israel continues to take destructive measures. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. — AFP



#### NATIONAL BISCUIT INDUSTRIES LTD. SAOG **AND ITS SUBSIDIARY**

Invitation to attend Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

The Board of Directors of National Biscuit Industries LTD. SAOG. are pleased to invite the shareholders to the Annual General Meeting which will be held at the company premises at Plot No.202, Road No.2, Rusayl Industrial Area, Sultanate of Oman on Saturday, 20th March 2010 at 4.00 p.m. to discuss the following agenda:

- 1. To consider and approve the Board of Directors' Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2009.
- To consider and approve the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2009.
  To consider and approve the Auditors Report, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of comprehensive
- Income for the financial year ended 31 December 2009. To approve the sitting fees paid to Directors for the Board Meetings and Audit Committee Meetings attended for the year ended 31 December 2009 and sitting fees for Directors for Board and Audit Committee Meetings for the year 2010 as per attached annexure.
- 5. To approve the transactions with the related parties during the financial year ended 31 December 2009 as detailed in Note 14 to the financial statements as per attached annexure.
- 6. To appoint auditors for the year 2010 and to fix their remuneration.

Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association a shareholder may depute any other person in writing to attend and vote on his behalf. The proxy need not be a shareholder and the shareholder may revoke such proxy at any

The Company will deposit dividends due to shareholders, which have not been collected by them within 6 months of their entitlement with the Shareholders Trust Fund. Shareholders are requested to contact Muscat Depositors and Securities Registration Company SAOC for any enquiries with respect to their uncollected dividends.

In case of any enquiry, please contact Mr.Juma. A.Redha Al Lawati on GSM - 9947 2396.

### OMAN CERAMICS CO. S.A.O.G

P.O.BOX 46, SOHAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, P.C. 327, SULTANATE OF OMAN TEL: 26751317, 26751350 FAX: 26751280

#### **Audited BALANCE SHEET AT Board of Directors' Report** Sales Performance & Financial Results:

The sales revenue and other income for the year 2009 were RO 2,437,084 (RO 2,594,592 for ye 2008). The Company incurred a net loss of RO 118,725 (RO 162,455 Profit in 2008). The year 2009 was a difficult year for the Company as many markets, that the Company was operating in, suffered due to the slowing down of the real estate business. The Company has chalked out a fresh strategy for the year 2010 to come out of its current problems and to return to

The Company has adhered to the guidelines laid down by CMA on Corporate Governance. The Statutory Auditors had pointed out a few procedural matters relating to compliance during their audit. These have since been attended to.

n accordance with the Ministerial Decision 137/2002, all the Directors retired at the AGM held on March 22, 2009. Against the vacancy of seven Directors, seven valid nominations were received. Accordingly all seven were unanimously elected as Directors of the Company. The names of the Directors are given beginning of the Annual Report.

### System of Internal Control:

The Board of Directors has conducted a review of the System of Internal Controls and is satisfied that the system is adequate for the size and nature of this industry.

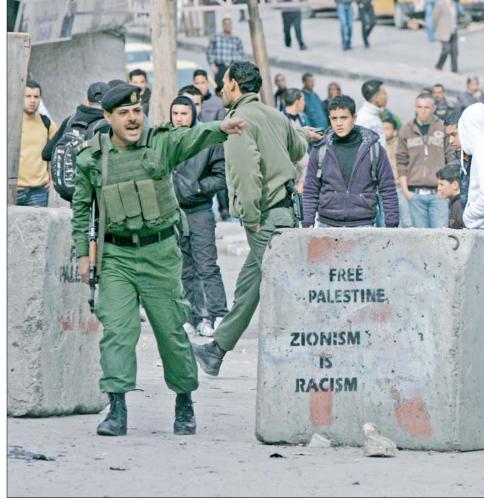
Our heartfelt thanks are due to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, CMA, MSM and other government organizations for their unstinted ank Bank Muscat for their wholehearted

Finally, on behalf of all the Shareholders, the Board of Directors and the Management of the Company, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to His Maiesty Sultan Oaboos Rin Said has put our country on a fast track path of development and prosperity.

### Amal Suhail Bahwa

	•	December		
		2009	2008 (As restated- Note 2.1 (b))	2007 (As restated- Note 2.1 (b))
ı		R.O	Ř.Ő	R.Ö
ı	ASSETS			
ı	Non-current assets			
ı	Property,plant and equipment	3,414,481	3,296,437	3,384,509
ı	Current Assets			
ı	Inventories	1,069,701	811,679	725,921
ı	Trade and other Receivables	763,998	924,578	928,689
ı	Term Deposit	100,000	100,000	100,000
ı	Cash and cash equivalents Total Current Assets	8,742 1,942,441	71,251	14,220
	Total Current Assets	1,942,441	1,907,508	1,768,830
	Total Assets	5,356,922	5.203.945	5,153,339
		0,000,000	0,000,000	41.00,000
ı	EQUITY			
ı	Share capital and reserves			
ı	Share Capital	1,892,196	1,892,196	1,892,196
ı	Legal Reserve	18,681	18,681	2,435
ı	Special Reserve	21,769	21,769	21,769
ı	Accumulated losses	(1,352,280)	(1,233,555)	(1,379,764)
	Total equity	580,366	699,091	536,636
	LIABILITIES			
ı	Non current liabilities			
ı	Borrowings	2,675,685	3,157,107	3.024.331
ı	Deferred Government grant	327,592	339.867	515.150
ı	End of Service benefits	72,693	66.685	63.405
ı	Total Non current liabilities	3.075,970	3.563.659	3.602.886
	Total Holl Gallent Inspiritor	0,010,010	0,000,000	0,002,000
	Current liabilities			
Į	Borrowings	1,218,062	668,570	549,721
ı	Trade and other payables	482,524	272,625	464,096
	Total current liabilities	1,700,586	941,195	1,013,817
	Total liabilities	4,776,556	4,504,854	4,616,703
	Total equity and liabilities	5.356.922	5,203,945	5,153,339
		2,700,022	2,200,010	2,700,000
	Net assets per share (R.O)	0.307	0.369	0.284
ı				

Income Statement for the year ended 31st December 2009					
	2009	2008 (As restated- Note 2.1(b))			
Revenue Cost of Sales Gross Profit	R.O 2,437,084 (1,719,649) 717,435	R.O 2,594,592 (1,741,136) 853,456			
General and administrative expenses Other income Profit from operations	(697,965) 15,654 35,124	(603,283) 62,256 312,429			
Interest Income Deferred government grant Interest Costs Finance charges Net	2,546 180,035 (336,430) (153,849)	2,880 162,428 (315,282) (149,974)			
(Loss)/Profit for the year	(118,725)	162,455			
Other comprehensive income for the year	<u> </u>				
Total comprehensive (loss)/ income for the year	(118,725)	162,455			
(Loss)/Earnings per share - basic and diluted(RO)	(0.060)	0.090			



Flashpoint: A Palestinian security force official dispersing protesters near the Ibrahimi mosque, a shrine holy to both Jews and Muslims, in the West Bank town of Hebron, yesterday. - AFP

matriarch Rachel is in an Israeli enclave in the West Bank town of Bethlehem surrounded by eight-metre (24-foot) high concrete walls

The last-minute decision to include the two sites in the announcement of the plan followed protests from right-

A government spokesman

insisted on Sunday the list of some 150 sites was not final.

UN Middle East envoy Robert Serry expressed concern about the Israeli plans and the resulting "heightened

**Occupied territory** "These sites are in occupied Palestinian territory," he said

"I urge Israel not to take any steps on the ground which undermine trust or could prejudice negotiations."

Peace talks have been suspended for more than a year over the issue of settlement construction in the occupied West Bank, including mostly Arab east Jerusalem, annexed

by Israel in 1967 in a move not recognised internationally.

The Palestinians have demanded a full settlement freeze before returning to negotiations, but Israel has only agreed to a temporary easing of growth that excludes east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians view as their future capital. — AFP

The wooden sarcophagus back to 1081-931

### **US to return pharaonic coffin to Egypt**

CAIRO | US authorities will return to Egypt an ornately painted pharaonic coffin smuggled out of the country more than 125 years ago, Egyptian Culture Minister Faruq Hosni

which was painted with in-scriptions to help its occupant in the afterlife, would be handed over to Egypt's antiquities chief Zahi Hawass next month Hosni said in a statement

Egypt had last year asked the United States to return the wooden coffin, which dates back to the 21st dynasty (1081-931 BC) and contains the remains of a man named Emus but about whom little else was known.

Yesterday, Hawass said US Immigration and Customs had contacted him in 2008 about the coffin after confiscating it from a Spanish merchant who had shipped it to Florida for

### No proof

nish dealer "has no papers proving ownership of to Egypt. the coffin, which indicates the coffin left Egypt illegally," the antiquities chief said in a statement

"An investigation by US authorities in Florida confirmed that (the Spaniard) has family ties with the special coordinator who owns the Egyptian museum in Barcelona," he said without elaborating.

Hawass added that no one appeared to own the coffin, which Egypt says was origi-nally smuggled out of the "It's for the best that it re-

turns to its original owners," Since becoming head of the

has brought 6,000 relics back Last week's DNA test-

ing unravelled some of the mystery surrounding the birth and death of pharaoh king Tutenkhamun, revealing his father was a famed monotheistic king and ruling out Nefertiti as

### **DNA** results

Egypt's antiquities chief has announced the results of the study involving DNA tests and computerised tomography (CT) scans on Tutankhamun's mummy at a packed media conference in the Egyptian Museum. The testing showed he died

Supreme Council of Antiquities in 2002, Hawass says he that the enigmatic boy-king was murdered He was also shown to have

suffered from a club foot and used a cane as a walking aid. Hawass said what seemed

as an injury to the back of Tutankhamun's skull, which some had taken as evidence that he was murdered, was in ers. — AFP

### YOUR TAKE

What would have prompted the after keeping it for 125 years? Tell us at yourtake@timesofoman.com



### Oman's most preferred water!

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### Two Iraqi families slaughtered

Gunmen kill 11 of two families in pre-poll violence; another 11 killed in and around Baghdad



Still in cart age: An Iraqi vendor riding a cart past election campaign posters in Baghdad, yesterday. — AFP

BAGHDAD | Gunmen brutally murdered two Iraqi fami-lies, killing 11 people in total including six children yester-day as a spate of attacks hit the country less than two weeks

The family members were killed in their homes in and around Baghdad, while another 11 people died in violence across Iraq, including three in a suicide car bombing and a police commando who was shot dead by a sniper.

The worst incident occurred in Al Wehdah, a predominantly Shiite Muslim town in an eth-nically mixed area about 20km

southeast of Baghdad.

"The four gunmen arrived at 5am, they knocked on his door," Baghdad security spokesman Major General Qassim Atta told a news con-ference, referring to Hussein Majid Marbus, the father of the family that was assassinated.

"He opened the door, they asked him for money. He tried to defend himself and they killed him.

After that, they entered the house and they slit the throats of the mother, five daughters and one son.'

"We cannot exclude that some insurgent groups were using criminals to create strife

before the election.' Atta said the boy was seven years old, while the girls were eight to 15.

Four men, who were arrested at a checkpoint shortly after the murders, were presented to the media blindfolded and interrogated by Atta in front of

reporters.

During the questioning, one of the killers, who was named as Haleem, said the gunmen The execution-

occurred ahead of parliamentary polls on March 7, the second legislative elections since Saddam Hussein was ousted after the US invasion

style killings

had demanded 150,000 Iraqi dinars (\$130) from Marbus, a businessman.

"But he refused, so we killed him," Haleem said.

One knife, two guns, blood-stained gloves, cash and jewellery were recovered from the

### Beheaded

Atta's office had earlier said some of the family had been beheaded, but said instead at the news conference throats had been slit. The Arabic word for beheading, "dabbah," can also mean the slitting of the

A second family, com-prising a mother and her two daughters, was shot dead in their home in the mostly Shiite north Baghdad district of Al Hurriyah, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

"Both my sisters arrived yesterday to visit my mother. They killed them all," said Salam Al Saadi, a 28-year-old the murders, where blood from the victims was spattered on the floor and the walls.

ment departments.

Further north, in the restive northern city of Mosul

two Iraqi soldiers and two police were killed when their

respective checkpoints came

gunmen yesterday morning,

Neighbours in the area said masked gunmen entered the house around 10pm on Sunday evening, and a commotion broke out soon after.

The execution-style killings occurred ahead of parliamentary elections on March 7, the second legislative polls since dictator Saddam Hussein was ousted after the invasion.

#### Suicide attack

Meanwhile, in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi, a suicide car bomb struck an interior ministry detention centre, killing a man, his six-year-old son and a policeman, said a police of-ficer and a doctor at the city's hospital.

The attack left four other people wounded, including two policemen.

Ramadi, 100km west of Baghdad, was a key insurgent base following the invasion, but violence has dropped as local Sunni tribes have since 2006 sided with the US mili-

Violence was also seen in the centre of Baghdad, when a police commando was shot dead by a sniper in Saadoun street while he was checking a car for explosives, a journalist at the scene said.

A higher education ministry official and university professor Thamer Kamil was also gunned down while he was in the east of the capital, a police-

Five civilians were earlier wounded when several mortars hit Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which is home to

### **Dubai to dispose of 5,000 embryos**

DUBAI | A fertility clinic in Dubai is to begin next week disposing of about 5,000 human embryos on religious grounds, a newspaper reported

A 2008 federal law banned the storage of fertilised human eggs due to religion-based concerns over "mixing in the lineage" between families, the Khaleej Times said.

It did not elaborate but Islam calls for children to know the identity of their biological parents and to take their biological father's name

Eggs can be fertilised out-

side the womb during In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF), which produces excess fertilised eggs which can be frozen for future

An estimated 5.000 fertilised eggs are stored at the state-owned Dubai Gynaecology and Fertility Centre. - AFP



Muscat Municipality would like announce selling of used vehicles & heavy equipments & old spare parts through public auction on Thursday 25.02.2010 at 8:00am at the Old Dumping Area in Wadi Al Kabir. Conditions are as follows:

- Anyone who wants to participate should pay R.O. 300 (Rials three hundred only) for each vehicle as refundable deposit if didn't succeed.
- 2. Auction yard entrance fee (R.O. 2) non-refundable.
- The successful bidder has to pay directly the remaining amount in cash plus 3% of the total value as expenses of the bidding. In case the amount is not paid immediately, Muscat Municipality will seize the deposit amount and the buyer will bear all the legal responsibilities.
- The successful bidder, after paying the bid amount is obliged to transport all the equipment, vehicle purchased within the next two days after the bidding
- The vehicle & equipment will be on "as is where is basis" and can be inspected from Monday 22.02.2010 to Wednesday 24.02.2010 at the old Dumping area in Wadi Al Kabir.

police officials said.

The nationwide trail of bloodshed was completed

when two people, including a police lieutenant, were killed in

the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, also

security officials. - AFF



### **Exciting Career Opportunities**

Oman Methanol Company LLC (OMC), a USD 500 million joint venture company, has constructed the first world scale Methanol Plant in Sohar in the Sultanate of Oman. The state-of-the-art facility produces 3000 metric tons per day of Methanol and is owned through holding companies by Methanol Holdings Trinidad Limited and Omzest, Sultanate of Oman. OMC is looking for qualified personnel for the following positions. These jobs will be based at the company's offices in Sohar.

### **Operations Manager**

Job Profile: The Operations Manager will report to the CEO and will be responsible for the day to day aspects of the Company's production operations, together with supporting the CEO in strategic and other management issues.

### Specific areas of responsibility include:

- Management of the interface between OMC and the Operator Company.
- Management of the interfaces with OMC's key suppliers and utility providers. · Liaison with senior management in operations, co
- Management of procurement for non-Capital works, in accordance with segregation of duties with Commercial and Finance functions.
- Management of budgeted and unbudgeted expenditure for production and supporting functions. Establishment and maintenance of business workflow processes and
- coordination with other Senior Managers to ensure efficient implementation on the Company's IT systems.
- Managing and coordinating relevant Compliance aspects Preparation of annual budgets and five-year work plans for production and
- supporting functions, in conjunction with the Operator Company. nsuring ongoing technical integrity of the Company's metering infrastructure
- Representing OMC at various industrial and regional fora and within the

Sohar Industrial Port community. Eligibility: Omani candidates will be given preference over expatriates.

A proven track record in managing chemical production operations is the key requirement. Academic qualification required will be an engineering degree (chemical or mechanical preferred) or other professional technical qualification, with membership of an appropriate professional Institution expected. The applicant should have a minimum of 10 years experience, including demonstrated experience at senior level. The business language of OMC is English, and Arabic language skills would be advantageous as would previous expatriate experience. The candidate must have integrity, very strong interpersonal skills and presentation capability, a track record of delivery and must demonstrate potential for future development.

### Deputy Commercial Manager

Job Profile: The Deputy Commercial Manager will report to the Commercial Manager and will be assisting and deputizing for the Commercial Manager in all commercial aspects of the Company's operations.

### Specific areas of responsibility include:

- Management of the Company's supply chain, including procurement and
- administration of commercial contracts (mainly on SAP basis).
- Inventory management and reporting.
   Administration and reporting of sales and marketing.
- Supporting the Commercial Manager for the preparation of annual budgets and five-year work plans.
- Preparation of monthly and quarterly accounts statements in cooperation with the Financial Controller.
- Assisting the Commercial Manager in managing interface with Off taker and Shipping & Logistics consultants.
- · Managing and coordinating relevant Compliance aspects
- · Supporting the Commercial Manager and the CEO in strategic marketing and other management issues · Assisting the Commercial Manager in managing the Human Resources

Eligibility: Omani candidates will be given preference over expatriates

A proven track record in managing commercial operations is the key requirement. A professional commercial qualification is expected. The candidate should be degree level educated in an appropriate business discipline (MBA, Accountancy, Finance). The applicant should have a minimum of 7 years experience, including demonstrated experience at mid management level. The candidate must have strong interpersonal skills and presentation capability. Knowledge of the chemical industry is preferable, but not essential. Previous expatriate experience will be an advantage, as will English and/or Arabic

### Technical Assistant

language ability.

Job Profile: Under the supervision of the Senior Project Manager, the Technical Assistant will carry out day to day project engineering coordination and follow up of engineering, procurement and construction activities. He will assist in preparing project plans, procedures and reports and will coordinate and supervise the work in the plant and in the Sohar Industrial Port's commor corridors related to Oman Methanol Company.

Qualification: BSc in Mechanical Engineering (preferably with some experience)

Skills: Command over English with good verbal and written communication, structured and lateral thinking, willing to work in a hard project environment.

### **Administrative Assistant**

Job Profile: Under the supervision of the Operations Manager, the Administrative Assistant will carry out day to day administrative coordination,

- Drafting correspondence, responses and reports. · Preparation of administrative reports for approval.
- Responding to queries, ensuring appropriate feedback and follow up action.
- Making arrangements for meetings by confirming and setting up of venue and notifying attendees.
- Taking and finalizing minutes at meetings under the direction of th Chairperson.
- Preparation of requisitions for stationery, safety items, office supplies, travel and other items via the electronic system.
- Managing Purchase Requests, Requests for Quotation and Purchase Orders via the electronic system.
- Organizing travel arrangements and hotel accommodation. · Performing any other related duty as may be required.
- Qualification: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minimum

of three years working experience in office work. Computer capabilities shall include working knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel & PowerPoint), Internet

Skills: Command over English with good verbal and written communication. ability to communicate and represent issues clearly, secretarial skills for drafting  $memos, handling\ correspondence,\ record\ keeping\ and\ office\ administration.$ 

Oman Methanol Company LLC, Recruitment, P.O. Box 474, Falaj Al Qabail, P.C. 322, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman or online at recruitment@omanmethanol.com. Please note that only suitable applications will be acknowledged. Closing date: March 10<sup>th</sup> , 2010. If you do not hear from us within 30 days of closing date, your application was not successful. Previous applicants should not apply again.

### **Put Israel on terror list: Hamas**

GAZA CITY | Hamas urged put Israel on the list of countries supporting terrorism due to its alleged implication in the murder of a top Hamas rebel in Dubai last month.

"We call on the European Union to place the Zionist entity (Israel) on the list of countries supporting organised terrorism because it represents a danger to international peace," the Palestinian group said in a statement.

Hamas, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007, is itself designated a terrorist organisation by the EU and the United States.

The European Union had earlier expressed outrage at the assassination of Hamas commander Mahmud Al Mabhuh and the alleged use of forged EU passports in the killing, which has been blamed on Israel's Mossad

spy agency.

Mabhuh, a founder of Hamas' armed wing, was found dead in his hotel room in Dubai on January 20. Dubai police, accusing

Emirates on the European passports — six from Britain, three from Ireland, one from Germany and one from

The passports mainly be-

JERUSALEM | Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said yesterday there was "no proof" his country was involved in the killing of a top Hamas

rael is involved in this affair, and if somebody had presented any proof, aside from press stories, we would have reacted," Lieberman said in a statement

from his office.
"But since there are no concrete elements, there is no need to react."—AFP

longed to people with dual

and photos of 11 suspects who entered the United Arab nationality living in Israel who were shocked to learn of their being linked to the case.

EU foreign ministers voiced outrage yesterday at the assassination of a Hamas chief and the use of fake Eu-

## rebel in Dubai last month.

No proof: Lieberman

Avigdor Lieberman

Mossad, released the names



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TIMES OMAN

3rd Feb 2010 - 25th Feb 2010

### AT A GLANCE

### Punjab, Sindh agree on water distribution formula

ISLAMABAD | Irrigation Secretaries of Punjab and Sindh yesterday agreed on a water distribution for mula in their meeting in Lahore. They were of the opinion that water is a collective asset and no 'provincial' position should be taken on it, as reported by Dawn News on its website. Talks between Secretary Irrigation Sindh, Shuja Ahmed Junejo, and Secretary Irrigation Puniab Rab Nawaz Raiwa discussed the water issue as decided in an earlier meeting in Sindh

#### Pak official's escort kills biker

**ISLAMABAD** | A motorcyclist was killed and two others injured when a police van, escorting Punjab CM's Senior Adviser Sardar Zulfiqar Khosa, collided with them on Sunday in Lahore, a private TV channel reported in the night. One of the motorcyclists, identified as Maher Waqas, died on the spot, while Muhammad Riaz and Riaz Ahmed sustained injuries and were shifted to a nearby hospital. According to police sources, Khosa's convoy was on its way back from Darawar Fort after the opening ceremony of the final leg of the Cholistan Jeep Rally, where he was the chief

#### Taleban behead abducted Sikh

PESHAWAR | Taleban militants in Pakistan's lawless tribal belt kidnapped and beheaded a Sikh after relatives failed to pay ransom for his release, an official and a Sikh community member said yesterday. Jaspal Singh was one of three Sikhs abducted in Bara, a town in Khyber district, in late January, an administrative official said by telephone from the area on the Afghan border. His body was found on Sunday in the neigh bouring tribal district of Orakzai.

### **Royalist strike hits Kathmandu**

KATHMANDU | Shops closed and vehicles stayed off the roads in Kathmandu yesterday in response to a strike called by a party supporting Nepal's deposed king, the first closure by the royalists since the monarchy was abolished. The Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal that called the strike is demanding a plebiscite on whether the monarchy should be reinstated and whether Nepal should again become a Hindu nation.

#### Strong earthquake rattles Taiwan

TAIPEI | An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale rattled north Taiwan yesterday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, officials said. The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 1:21pm (0521GMT) was about 160km (100 miles) east of Suao on the northeast coast, at a depth of 28km (17 miles), the Central Weather Bureau said in a statement. There were no reports of damage. Earthquakes occur frequently in Taiwan, which lies on a seismically active stretch of the Pacific basin. — Arif Ali, Agencies



Islets of dispute: South Korean war veterans in military uniform shout slogans during a rally outside the Japanese embassy in Seoul yesterday denouncing Japan's claims to the tiny chain of Seoul-controlled rocky islands, known as Dokdo in Korea and Takeshima in Japan. South Korea renewed a call for Japan to stop making its claims over the disputed chain of islets midway between them as a local Japanese province observed a day for its territorial rights. — AFP

### **Blast in Pakistan's** Swat valley kills six

MINGORA (Pakistan) | A suspeople in an attack on a security forces convoy in a market area in the main town of Pakistan's Swat valley yesterday, police

The military launched a big offensive against Pakistani Taleban militants in Swat, a former tourist valley northwest of Islamabad, in April last year and largely cleared the fighters out after months of

"I've seen three vehicles destroyed by the blast," photogra-pher Hazrat Ali Bacha said by telephone from the site in the centre of the town of Mingora. Shops nearby were also damaged, he said.

Six people had been killed and several wounded in what appeared to have been a suieide bomb attack, said Farooq Khan, a senior police official in Last year's army offensive in the valley, 120km (75 miles) northwest of the capital, came after Pakistani Taleban militants flocked there to support a radical Muslim cleric trying to impose Taleban-style

The rebel takeover of Swat and their later march into an adjacent valley to the southeast, raised fears for the stability of Pakistan, a nuclear-armed US

ally.
The United States at one stage said the government appeared to be abdicating to the militants.

But the Swat offensive signaled the beginning of sustained action by the security forces to tackle the militants.

After Swat was largely cleared, the army moved into the Pakistani Taleban's main bastion of South Waziristan on the Afghan border in October. - Reuters

### Nato strike kills 33 Afghan civilians

US commander McChrystal expresses sadness; President Karzai terms attack completely unjustifiable

**KABUL** | A Nato air strike killed up to 33 Afghan civilincluding women and a child, sparking fresh anger from Kabul yesterday against US-led forces pressing a major offensive to defeat the Taleban.

Top US commander Stanley McChrystal, who has made winning Afghan hearts and minds the focus of plans to end the eight-year war in Afghanistan, was forced into another apology over civilian deaths after the third incident in a week

"We are extremely saddened by the tragic loss of innocent lives. I have made it clear to our forces that we are here to protect the Afghan people, and inadvertently killing or injuring and confidence in our mission. We will re-double our efforts to regain that trust," McChrystal

McChrystal spoke to Karzai on Sunday, expressing his "sor-row and regret for the tragic incident" and pledging to fully partner with the joint investigation, Nato said in a statement. McChrystal and his supe-

rior, General David Petraeus, mapped out an offensive last-ing 12-18 months that would strike beyond the current focus of operations in the southern province of Helmand.

But the third mistaken Nato air strike reported by Afghan officials in a week risked un-



I have made it clear to our forces that we are here to protect the Afghan people, and inadvertently killing

or injuring civilians undermines their trust and confidence in our mission

McChrystal | US commander

dermining the campaign's strategic goals. The government said four women and a child were among the civilians killed in Gujran district, Daykundi province, on Sunday when Nato forces mistook their convoy for Taleban militants

jured 12 people, came days after Nato rocket attack on a house killed at least nine Afghan civilians — for which General McChrystal also apologised.

Afghanistan's council of ministers, chaired by President Hamid Karzai, condemned the latest incident as "unjustifiable". In Kapisa province, just north of Kabul, militants fired a rocket-propelled grenade into a sedan vehicle yesterday, killing another civilian during a clash with military forces, the interior ministry said.

Civilian casualties are a sensitive issue in Afghanistan, where President Hamid Karzai and his Western backers are

tions. Last on Thursday, a Nato bombing raid in the northern province of Kunduz killed seven Afghan policemen, according to hospital and government officials.

On February 15, Nato acknowledged that five civilians were killed accidentally and two others wounded in an air strike in southern Afghanistan.

Karzai used on Saturday's opening session of parliament to repeat his call for civilians to be protected as 15 000 Afghan, US and Nato troops Operation Mushtarak (Together) in the southern prov-ince of Helmand into a second week. - AFP

## Tomorrow's

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Weighing the issue



### Politics hits turbulent seas in Bangladesh, defies expectations

The December 2008 election brought

hopes for political stability and possible

each headed by a strong-willed woman

from families long prominent in politics

cooperation among the top two parties -

DHAKA | Political feuds propelled by recent student unres and long-standing animosity among leaders have raised concerns among overseas donors and friendly governments about Bangladesh's impoverished long-term stability

Delegates at this month's Bangladesh Development Forum meeting committed — for now — to further assistance to the South Asian nation of 150 million people to reduce poverty and develop power, energy and infrastructure.

But they warned Bangladeshi participants against a bitterly personal and rigidly partisan political climate undercutting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's goal of making the country, where some 40 per cent of the population now gets by on under \$1 a day, a middle income nation by 2021.

### Competition

Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Director in Bangladesh, told the eeting that "Bangladesh's democracy has been hampered by excessive competition between the two major political parties
— a competition that has sometimes exceeded normal demo-

"Yes," said Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal Ab-dul Muhith. "Political division is harmful for development acmake parliament functional.

But even as the meeting was in progress, lawmakers from Hasina's Awami League and ex-prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nation-

- in a country whose near 40 years of independence have seen sporadic bouts of military rule and street fighting and violence between the parties alist Party (BNP) fiercely traded what parliament's speaker said were "unparliamentary and

staged several walkouts from the legislative body at the time of the aid meeting.

The BNP only recently started attending parliament at all, after a near year-long boycott, claiming unfair treatment by the Awami League, which

ids a coalition with a more

abusive" words, and the BNP

than two-thirds majority in the 345-seat legislature. The December 2008 election that brought the Awami League to power after a period of military-backed emergency rule was considered relatively fair and peaceful by Bangla-desh standards.

That brought hopes for political stability and possible cooperation among the top two parties — each headed by a strong-willed woman from families long prominent in politics — in a country whose near 40 years of independence have

seen sporadic bouts of military rule and street fighting and vio-lence between the parties.

Indeed, foreign direct investment in Bangladesh to-talled \$941 million in the fiscal year to June 2009, covering the run-up to the election and the first months of the Hasina government, compared to \$650 million in the previous year, the

Investment confidence It said investment confidence in Bangladesh also rose in the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year, although

figures were not available. However, a little more than a vear after Hasina was sworn in. many Bangladeshis say things are turning sour, and question whether investment flows will keep rising, as the top political parties continue at loggerheads and there are signs of increasing violent crime, much of it

linked to political groups. "Usually aid volumes depend on the mood of the donors but investment flows are linked to business and profit, which can be badly affected unless our acrimonious political leaders settle their disputes amica-bly," Badiul Alam Majumdar, an analyst and secretary of a prominent pro-democracy group, Citizens for Good Gov-ernance, said.

'A return to street violence and destructive actions could jeopardise democracy, development and the economy," he said.

"What we see today was not expected," said A.S.M. Abur Rob, a former minister and an ex-student leader of the 1970s.

"In a display of unending vengeance, politicians on either side of the divide look very eager to shower abuse ... on past and present leaders," he said. Rob said "rival leaders of-

ten use students loval to them as a ladder to power. They supply them weapons, drugs and support to break the law. This makes the students vi unruly money and power-mon

clashes among student political groups that at many universithan mini-mafias, competing for cuts from money-generating activities and for control of the campuses. - Reuters

He was referring to growing

**YOUR TAKE** 

Do you think the political instability in Bangladesh could become a

Tell us at yourtake@ti



Death for a killer: Cheng Ruilong, centre, standing before a court during sentencing in Foshan, south China's Guangdong province yesterday. Cheng was sentenced to death for murdering 13 people including three police officers over more than a decade, state media

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### INDIA 13

## Manmohan to ink extradition pact during Saudi visit

RIYADH | India and Saudi Arabia will discuss security cooperation and combating extremism in the region during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's maiden visit to the oil-rich Kingdom later this week when the two countries will also sign an extradition treaty.

Singh will lead a high-level delegation of senior ministers, officials and businessmen to Saudi Arabia from February 27 to March 1, and will hold talks with King Abdullah on a number of bilateral and regional matters of mutual concern.

Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Talmiz Ahmad told the media that the talks will also focus on Palestine, besides the situation in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen.

"Security cooperation will constitute the basis of our dialogue. Both countries are extremely concerned about the rise of extremism and violence, directly threatening our security," he said.

Ahmed said both are aware of connectivity of extremist forces that have sanctuary and safe haven on Af-Pak border and are seeking to penetrate other countries, the envoy said.

"India is concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia is concerned about the situation in Yemen." he said.

The two countries will sign an extradition treaty, a number of Memoranda of Understanding and agreements on transfer of sentenced persons, scientific and technological cooperation, peaceful use of outer space and cooperation in the IT sector, he said — PTI



Police detaining a pro-Telangana lawyer protesting near Parliament House on the first day of the budget session in New Delhi yesterday. - PTI

### Telangana lawyers outsmart Delhi cops

In major security breach, protesters reach parliament doorstep, block traffic on the way

NEW DELHI | Pro-Telangana fury reached dangerously close to the doors of Parliament yesterday when around 200 protesting lawyers from the region broke the police cordon in a major security breach.

Shouting slogans for a separate state, the lawyers under the aegis of Telangana Lawyers Joint Action Committee (JAC), first assembled at Jantar Mantar at one end of Parliament street

for the 'Chalo Parliament' demonstration and managed to reach just 100 metres away from the highly protected building after hoodwinking the police. The lawyers were later arrested by police.

The protesting lawyers removed their black coats and silently walked towards Parliament, less than one km away. The protestors later broke into small groups and once they

reached close to Parliament, they donned the coats again and reached the nearby Parliament House annexe shouting slogans around 3 pm shortly after the end of the first day of Budget Session of Parliament.

However, police managed to stop the agitators 100 metres away from the Parliament House after Delhi Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) swung into action.

Raising slogans like 'Bring Bill for Telangana State', some protestors even managed to break the cordon again and run towards Parliament House but

sonnel.

For almost 90 minutes, the protestors blocked the traffic on the stretch near Parliament. Security personnel later herded the protestors to police vans after arresting them.

were caught by security per-

The Telangana issue also echoed both inside and outside the Parliament House.

Congress MPs from Telangana region demonstrated in front of the Parliament shouting slogans in favour of separate state. Showing placards, they also protested inside the Central Hall after the contentious Telangana issue did not find mention in President Pratibha Patil's address. — PTI

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### CM Rosaiah denies 'match-fixing deal'

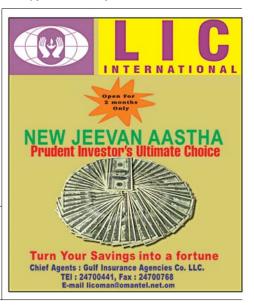
VIZIANAGARAM (Andhra Pradesh) | Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister K. Rosaiah yesterday mocked at the allegation that he and Leader of Opposition N. Chandrababu Naidu had entered into a 'match-fixing' deal to suppress the Telangana issue from being raised in the State Assembly.

Former Minister and senior Congress leader T. Jeevan Reddy, who had of late been vociferous in demanding a separate state, alleged Rosaiah and Chandrababu had entered into a deal to stifle the Telangana voice in the ongoing Budget session of State Assembly.

Asked to react to allegation of Jeevan Reddy, Rosaiah said: "Chandrababu is a young man, like my predecessor Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. I am unlike him. Any match is played between people of the same age group. I can neither play matches nor fix them."

Rosaiah, however, lamented that responsible leaders were levelling such allegations on issues that ought to be discussed "within the four walls." "Our party high command will take care of such people," he said.

Rosaiah was in Vizianagaram as part of his two-day official trip to north-coastal Andhra to initiate development works. Rosaiah said there was no timeline for the long-overdue Cabinet expansion. Similarly, there was no timeline for filling up nominated posts. "All this will be done according to the need," he added.



### 'Govt will tackle rising food prices'

President Patil says common man 'at core of promise for faster growth'; 'Maoist violence cause of concern'

**NEW DELHI** | Admitting that there has been an "unhappy pressure" on prices of food products, the government yesterday promised to tackle the problem even as it expressed confidence that it will aim at a growth rate of 8 per cent in the coming fiscal and 9 per cent in the next.

Declaring that the common man is at the core of government's promise of faster growth, President Pratibha Patil said highest importance was being given to ensuring relief to the common man on food prices.

In her customary address to joint sitting of Parliament marking the beginning of the Budget Session, she said the 'aam aadmi' had to be protected against the ravages of the worst ever global economic crisis since the Great Depression and against the failure of the monsoon in large parts of the country.

### Serious issues

The president, who spoke at length on a variety of issues, made it clear India was ready to explore a meaningful relationship with Pakistan if it "seriously addresses the threat of terrorism and takes effective steps to prevent terrorist activities against India".

Recalling Jawaharlal Nehru's words that 'the service of India means...ending poverty and ignorance...and inequality of opportunity', she said, "Our country stands at a historic turning point. Never before were we so close as we are today to realising our national aspirations..."



President Pratibha Patil, accompanied by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Vice President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Hamid Ansari, Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pawan K. Bansal, proceeding to address the joint session of parliament yesterday. — PTI

On the issue of internal security, Patil said the government remains vigilant against all forms of challenges posed by terrorism

"Zero tolerance of terrorist activities is our principled policy. We have to keep constant watch and innovate against global terrorist groups," she said.

The overall internal security, law and order, and the communal situation remained largely under control last year, she said.

Though infiltration of tar.

Though infiltration of terrorists from across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up, she said the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in the North East. However, Left wing extremism continues to be a significant cause of concern. Patil said.

### Purchasing power

Turning to the issue of rising prices, she noted that while the country's government was able to avert any threat to food security, there has been an "unhappy pressure" on the prices of food grains and products.

Patil said they were also a sort of reflection of growing purchasing power in the countryside.

"They are also to some extent a reflection of the implementation of our schemes of inclusive growth involving payment of higher procurement prices to our farmers and the impact of higher public spending on programmes of rural development, which have successfully raised incomes in rural areas," the president said.

"Higher prices were inevitable given the shortfall in domestic production and prevailing high prices of rice, cereals and edible oils globally," the president said.

Conveying her condolences to kin of those who lost their lives in terrorist act in Pune, she said these "cowardly acts" strengthen our resolve to meet with added vigour the challenge posed by such violence. — PTI

### **Devaswom board, Hindus honour Hassan Rawuther**

BY JAYAPRAKASH K. Kerala Correspondent

KOCHI | In a rare show of communal harmony, Hindu organisations and the Travan-core Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages temples in central and southern Kerala, yesterday accorded a grand reception to T.M. Hassan Rawuther, who turned 90, in the temple town of Ambalappuzha, near Alappuzha.

Rawuther was welcomed by the pilgrims, who sprinkled rosewater and applied sandal paste on his forehead.

For past 50 years, Rawuther has been receiving the custom-

ary pilgrim group, which visits Sabarimala temple on the last week of the annual pilgrimage from November to January, at the mosque in Erumely, a small village town about 40km from the Sabarimala temple.

The group, on its way to Sabarimala, makes a stopover at the mosque dedicated to a Muslim chieftain, Vaver, who was a close confidant of Lord Ayyappa, the presiding deity at Sabarimala temple.

### **Devotional service**

Rawuther who receives the group at the mosque accompanies it to the nearby Ayyappa temple.

After a break of two years, Rawuther, who regained his health, was active this season in discharging this devotional service.

### Communal harmony

"Honouring Rawuther for his service is akin to that of offering prayers to Lord Ayyappa," says Kalathil Ramachandran Nair, leader of the group.

The Sabarimala temple is not only one of the biggest pilgrim centres in the country, but is also a shining example of communal harmony. Vaver is a sub-deity at the hill shrine. Nearly 40 million pilgrims visit the temple during the pil-

grim season offering prayers at Vaver temple too with equal fervour

Like the main Ayyappa temple, the Vaver temple is also owned by TDB, but manned by a thangal, Muslim priest. A portion of revenue from the temple goes to family of the thangal. Only the member of the family is permitted to perform pooja at the Vaver temple.

Lord Ayyappa is believed to

Lord Ayyappa is believed to be the son of Lord Siva born to Mohini, who is an incarnation of Lord Mahavishnu. The presiding deity of Ambalappuzha Sri Krishna (Mahavishnu) temple is considered the mother of Lord Ayyappa.



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### 'Jihad call by Pak elements disturbing'

Nirupama says terrorism will be focal point of talks beginning Thursday

**LONDON** | India yesterday said it is "disturbed" by the call for jihad by certain elements in Pakistan and made it clear that terrorism would dominate the forthcoming Foreign Secretarylevel talks.

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said here that India has consistently maintained that Pakistan should bring perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to trial expeditiously.

"We have been telling them that they should dismantle terror infrastructure on their soil and it was in this connection that Pakistan's Foreign Secretary (Salman Bashir) has been invited for talks in New Delhi on February 25 for a dialogue," she said.

She was delivering the key note address at the third International Institute for Strategic Studies-MEA Dialogue, Perspectives on Foreign Policy for a 21st Century India.

### 'Complex relationship'

Rao, who will hold discussions with Bashir in New Delhi on Thursday, said India is "disturbed by the call for jihad by certain elements in Pakistan."

"Pakistan has taken certain steps against terrorism in a selective manner which is meaningless," she said.

In response to a question about the outcome of the talks, Rao said: "I will comment about the talks after the meeting."



Pakistan has taken certain steps against terrorism in a selective manner which is meaningless

Mohammad Saeed, accused of masterminding the Mum-

bai attacks, had said the only

solution to problems between India and Pakistan is the "lib-

eration of Jammu and Kashmir, failing which radical groups

would resort to the "option of

Nirupama Rao | Foreign Secretary

She described the relationship between India and Pakistan as "complex" and said India has taken repeated steps to stablise the relations

stablise the relations.

The Foreign Secretary's comments come in the backdrop of militant outfits based in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir calling for 'jihad' against India.

### credible threat to sport events

Govt says no

**NEW DELHI** | The government yesterday said there is no credible threat to any of the sporting events in the country and maintained that the government was taking maximum precautions to ensure foolproof security.

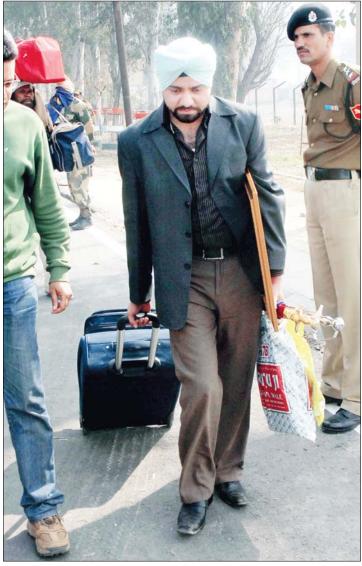
"At the moment, there are no credible threats to any of the sporting events in India. But, we take all the precautions and we will continue to take all the maximum precautions in the coming months also," Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said here.

According to Pillai, the government has not received any "new" threats.

#### Review

The ministry had recently decided to review the elaborate security arrangements for the hockey World Cup beginning February 28, the Commonwealth Games and the Indian Premier League after the Pune blast, the first major terror attack in the country in 14 months.

Home Ministry sources had said the main concern is over World Hockey Championship as any terror incident in the run up to the event may lead to withdrawal of participating nations. — PTI



Taranjeet Singh, a Pakistani Sikh visiting India, on his way back to his country on receiving the news of killing of his uncle and brother by Pak Taleban, at Attari near Amritsar yesterday. – PTI

## Govt condemns Sikh beheadings

Krishna says 'such barbaric acts will take us back to medieval times'; conflict over nationalities of victims

NEW DELHI | India yesterday condemned the killing of two Sikhs by Taleban in North-West province of Pakistan and said such "barbaric acts" will take "us back to medieval

"Government of India condemn this barbaric act," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said here when asked about the killing of two Sikhs, who were kidnapped a month ago for ransom.

"We condemn this barbaric act of Taleban who have taken into custody three of the Indian nationals. The message that I have received which needs to be updated is that one has been done away with and other two are kept under captivation," he

said.

Though the minister described these Sikhs as "Indian nationals", the reports from Pakistan have been maintaining that they were locals living in that area.

An estimated 10,000 Sikhs lived in the NWFP and in the tribal belt, particularly Aurakzai Agency, till the Taleban imposed 'jiziya' or religious tax on them last year. Most members of the community then fled to cities across Pakistan.

### Violent methods "Violent methods will take us

back to the medieval times,"

Krishna said.

According to the reports from Pakistan, some more members of the minority community are still in the custody of the Taleban.



BJP MP Navjot Singh Sidhu, Punjab BJP chief Ashwani Sharma, state Health Minister Laxmikanta Chawla along with hundreds of party workers protesting against beheading of three Sikhs by Pakistani Taleban. at Attari near Amritsar vesterday. – PTI

Minister of State for External affairs Parneet Kaur speaking to media at her residence also said "Its deeply Unfortunate, we condemn the killing outrightly."

"Last time Sikhs were threatened to pay Jazia and Pakistan had said it is its internal matter, I appeal to Pakistan to take strict action" said Parneet Kaur. Thousands of Sikh Members have been living in NWFP for over 200 years. Many of them living in Khyber are reportedly paying Jazia tax an Islamic tax collected by non Muslims

Muslims.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee
(SGPC), the highest decisionmaking body of Sikhs has severely condemned the beheading and strong protests and
demonstrations are planned

outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Congress condemned as "extremely unfortunate" the killing of Sikhs in Pakistan and said it expects the government to take up the matter with the neighbouring country.

### 'Protect minorities'

"We condemn the killings. It is extremely unfortunate...We expect the government to talk to Pakistan to protect lives of the minorities," party spokesman Manish Tewari told reporters outside Parliament House.

He said the incident was a clear message to those who draw a distinction between good Taleban and bad Taleban and added that this "medieval thought (of beheading) needs to be crushed with resolute firmness". — Agencies

### AT A GLANCE

### Photos with veil: SC seeks poll panel help

NEW DELHI | The Supreme Court expressed reservations in allowing publication of electoral rolls with Muslim women in burga or their names without their photographs. "If we give privilege to one candidate, millions of other candidates will come. The problem is if an order is passed by this court, thousands of applications will come and it will cause problems," a Bench comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan and Justices Deepak Verma and B.S. Chauhan said. The Bench has asked the Election Commission and petitioner M. Ajmal Khan to suggest a workable solution without touching the religious aspect.

### Chidambaram still the FM?

NEW DELHI | Old habits die hard! It has been over a year since P. Chidambaram took over as home minister but for a top banker he is still the boss. "Honourable Finance Minister..." thus began State Bank of India chief O. P. Bhatt in his address while referring to Chidambaram after receiving the J.R.D. Tata Corporate Leadership Award. As the audience and those on the dais, including Chidambaram burst into laughter, Bhatt realised his mistake and sought an apology saying, "Old habits die hard. He was my previous boss, the best boss I ever had."

### Maoists for ceasefire

KOLKATA | The Maoists have made a conditional ceasefire offer asking the government to halt the offensive against them for 72 days and involve mediators for talks. "States and the Centre should not indulge in violence between February 25 and May 7 and concentrate on development of tribal areas," top Maoist leader Kishenji said over phone.

### Lt. Avadesh gets relief

NEW DELHI | Lt Gen Avadesh Prakash yesterday got relief from the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), which quashed Court of Inquiry (COI) proceedings against him the Sukna scam and ordered a de novo probe into it.

### War games with China

NEW DELHI | The IAF is planning to hold joint war games with the Chinese in 2012, even as it prepares to showcase its capabilities to fight a war during "day, dusk and night" on February 28 in Rajasthan. The planning for exercise with China had commenced and the exercise will be held keeping with its policy of joining an international war game biennially, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal P.V. Naik said. — PTI





### AT A GLANCE

### **Endeavour ends space** shuttle fleet's 130th mission

CAPE CANAVERAL (USA) | Space shuttle Endeavour and its six crew members wrapped up a 14-day construction mission to the International Space Station Sunday with a precision touchdown in Florida. Ending the space shuttle fleet's 130th mission, Endeavour landed three miles (5km) from where it blasted off on February 8. "Welcome home," astronaut Rick Sturckow radioed to Zamka from Mission Control in Houston. "Congratulations to you and the crew on an outstanding mission." The space station, a \$100 billion project of 16 nations, has been under construction since 1998.

#### Haiti toll could reach 300,000

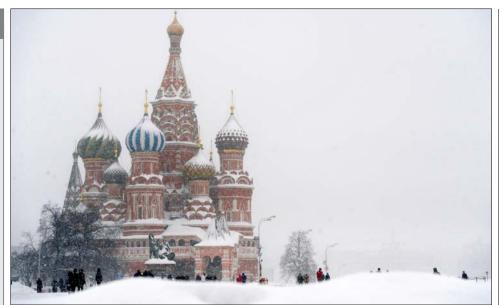
**CANCUN** (Mexico) | The death toll from Haiti's January 12 earthquake could reach 300,000, Haitian President dent Rene Preval said in an appeal for international aid at a summit of Caribbean leaders. Haitian officials had previously put the death toll at 217,000, but Preval advanced the higher 300,000 estimate on Sunday in a speech to leaders of Mexico and the 15-member Caribbean Community (Caricom.) "I am calling for a great coalition of forces to assist us," he said late on Sunday. "Please, help the more than one million Haitians who every day sleep in the streets," he said.

### **Germany arrests three suspects**

**BERLIN** | German police have arrested three people suspected of helping a radical group whose followers have confessed to planning attacks on US targets in Germany, prosecutors said yesterday. The federal prosecutor's office said it suspected two men whom it identified only as Alican T. and Fatih K., and one woman, Filiz G., of supporting the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU), a group often linked to a rebel movement that originated in Uzbekistan.

### Dutch queen, premier meet

THE HAGUE | Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende met Queen Beatrix yesterday to chart the way forward after his government collapsed over the Netherlands's role in Afghanistan. Balkenende held 90 minutes of talks with the head of state at her working palace in The Hague early yesterday, government spokeswoman Fridy van Hapert said. Thereafter, the queen was to meet the leaders of the two Dutch houses of parliament, political party chiefs and the deputy president of the council of state advisery body. "The queen is obtaining advice before she can determine what the next step will be," government spokesman Henk Brons explained. — Agencies



Buried under snow: Russians walking near St. Basil's Cathedral under heavy snowfall on Red Square in Moscow yester-

### **British rig to start** drilling off Falklands

was due to start drilling off the Falklands yesterday, a move likely to ratchet up tensions with Argentina which claims the disputed islands, the BBC reported, citing the oil com-

The platform has been towed to a point about 100kilometres north of the islands in the south Atlantic, the BBC said.

There are an estimated 60 billion barrels of oil in the Falklands but a spokesman for Desire Petroleum which is carrying out the drilling, said the amount that would be of commericial use was probably far

Argentina and Britain went to war over the archipelago in 1982, with the loss of 649 Argentine lives and 255 British military personnel.

Buenos Aires, which has

pushed for years to reopen negotiations on the islands' sovereignty, is furious that the British are about to begin drill-

Argentina escalated the row last week by ordering all ships heading to the Falklands through its waters to first seek permission from Buenos Aires before appealing to other regional powers to follow suit.

Britain has tried to down-

play the row, but Argentina won backing from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday, who urged Britain to give up the Falklands and said "the time for empires is over." Argentina was hoping yesterday to win more support from its regional allies at a meeting in Cancun.

Desire Petroleum insisted yesterday their interest was

### Former Turkish military chiefs held

Detentions heighten army-government tensions; armed forces chief General Basbug delays visit to Egypt

ISTANBUL | Turkish police detained former heads of the air force and navy and other senior officers vesterday in an investigation into an alleged plot to undermine the government and

trigger a military coup.

The swoop, one of the largest in European Union candidate Turkey against the secularist armed forces further raised ensions between the ruling AK Party and the military, which has been implicated in several alleged plots in the past year. Former Air Force Com-

mander Ibrahim Firtina, former Naval Commander Ozden Ornek and ex-Deputy Chief of the General Staff General Ergin Saygun, were among those held, broadcasters said.

Current armed forces chief General Ilker Basbug delayed a trip to Egypt as a result, broadcaster CNN Turk reported. In total seven serving officers and seven retired officers were de-

Interior Minister Besir Atalay, accompanying Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan on an official visit to Spain, said he was being kept informed of developments, state-run Anatolian news agency report-

NTV said the suspects held

in Ankara were being flown to Istanbul for questioning over the "Sledgehammer" plot after police raids in the cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir

Neither police or the military had any immediate com-

Financial markets showed little reaction to the detentions, but Wolfango Piccoli from the Eurasia political risk consultancy said they looked set to trigger another escalation in the tense relations between the

military and the AK Party.
"The government is embroiled in an open and bitter ary and the military, raising the risk of a head-on confrontation that would badly damage political stability "Piccoli said

Such detentions would have been unthinkable in the past for the military, which has ousted four governments in the last 50

### Waning power

However, its powers have waned in recent years due to democratic reforms aimed at securing EU membership.

Other senior military officers have been indicted on charges of planning a separate plot to overthrow the AK Party

According to previous media reports on the Sledgeham-mer plan, denied by the military, the army had plotted to provoke Greek fighter jets into shooting down a Turkish military jet. Turkey and neighbouring Greece have longstanding territorial disputes and came close to war in 1996 over an is-

tions have improved in the last decade. The alleged plot also involved planting bombs in mosques and museums in Istanbul to stir chaos. Last month

let in the Aegean, though rela-

Taraf newspaper said it had obtained 5,000 pages of docu-

ments and tapes on the plan which was aimed at justifying an army takeover in 2003.

The military has said documents quoted by the paper were part of a military training seminar but were never meant to be carried out and were not part of a conspiracy.

cide with rising political ten-

#### YOUR TAKE

Do you think Turkey's ruling party is right in going after the former military heads?

Tell us at yourtake@timesofoman.com

### **NOT A VERY PLEASANT EXPERIENCE**



A passenger who refused to be tested in the body scanner introduced yesterday for experimentation at Paris' Charles de Gaule international airport being checked before departing to the United States. The controversial scanner is capable of peering through clothes to create three-dimensional images of passengers to reveal any concealed

### Tymoshenko keeps up pressure on Yanukovych

Seeks early vote on government to throw president-elect off balance

KIEV | Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko sought yesterday to force a quick parliamentary vote she hopes will back her government before President-elect Viktor Yanukovich has time to muster support to bring it down.

The move by the fiery 49-year-old premier indicated that, though she had reluctantly dropped a legal challenge to Yanukovich's election she intended to throw up as many hurdles as possible to him con-

solidating his power.
The Regions Party faction of Yanukovich, whom she refuses to recognise as legitimate win ner of this month's presidential runoff, said on Friday it planned a vote of no-confidence in the government in early March after his inauguration Feb. 25.

### **Enough signatures**

yesterday it had collected enough signatures to force the vote this week before his swearing-in.

"The faction of our bloc in parliament is insisting on a quick consideration of this question ... no later than Wednes-day," Oleksander Turchynov, first deputy prime minister and a close aide of Tymoshenko's, said in a statement.

Tymoshenko's BYuT bloc appears to feel that the Yanukovich camp, which is busy preparing for on Thursday's inauguration will not have time to

The faction

of our bloc in parliament is insisting on a quick consideration of this question ... no later than Wednesday

O. Turchynov

muster the necessary 226 votes for it to succeed this week She still runs the risk of the

vote going against her. But if it is held this week and fails. Yanukovich's camp will find it more difficult to put together a coalition in parliament to force her out. This would provide a psychological boost for end dramatically dropped her attempt to get a Ukraine high court to back a new presidential runoff vote on the basis of her allegations of electoral fraud — Reuters



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  Commercial office space & showroom in CBD.

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  Two bedroom apartment with A/c's in Azaiba.
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### **Swiss man goes** free in Libya, other to jail

**TRIPOLI** | Two Swiss businessmen left the shelter of their country's embassy in Tripoli yesterday after Libyan police surrounded the building, apparently avoiding a major confrontation in a row which has drawn

in governments across Europe.
In Brussels, Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger said the police had threatened to storm the embassy if Tripoli's ultimatum to hand over the two men was not heeded, and many EU ambassadors had gone to the building "to show solidarity".

One of the two men, Max Goeldi, emerged alone from the embassy building to be met by a police general and a senior Justice Ministry official, who drove him off to start serving a four-month prison sentence for immigration violations.

Earlier, the other Swiss citizen who had taken refuge in the embassy, Rachid Hamdani, came out. His lawyer said he was being taken by car to neighbouring Tunisia after Libyan authorities gave him clearance to leave the country

Spindelegger, attending a meeting of EU foreign ministers, said an escalation of the row had been avoided. "Last night there were many intense none calls," he told reporters It was announced there was a deadline - either hand over the convicted Swiss citizens or the embassy would be

### **Obama unveils new** health reform plan

To break deadlock and stop Republicans from derailing his agenda

WASHINGTON | President Barack Ohama unveiled vesterday his own plan to overhaul the US health care system in a last-ditch effort to break the deadlock in Congress and prevent the Republicans from derailing his agenda.

A combination of bills already adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Obama plan aims to provide cover for 31 million uninsured Americans and crack down on exorbitant premium hikes by insurers.

As promised it was pub-lished on the White House website 72 hours before a key "summit" with Republican leaders who have sought to block the reforms in a bid to stall Obama's agenda ahead of key mid-term elections in No-

#### Trump card

The plan is widely seen as an attempt by Obama to transform his top domestic initiative from a political liability into a trump card to outwit Republicans who have built their resurgence on blanket opposition.

Obama is hoping to tap into a new supply of political sup-



It claims it would reduce the US budget deficit "by \$100 billion over the next 10 years and about one trillion over the second decade by cutting government overspending and reining in waste, fraud and abuse

port arising from the recent de-cision by Anthem Blue Cross of California to raise premiums by as much as 39 per cent from

His plan grants the federal government greater power than the House and Senate bills to block such hikes and envisages the creation of a new monitoring body made up of health

industry experts. It claims it would reduce the US budget deficit "by \$100 billion over the next 10 years — and about one

After months of wrangling, the House of Representatives

trillion over the second decade

by cutting government over-spending and reining in waste,

fraud and abuse "

vear but they must be combined into a single piece of legislation for Obama to sign into law

That process has stalled since the Republicans gained the power to thwart Ohama's plans indefinitely last month by capturing a Massachusetts Sen ate seat to break the Democration Party's 60 seat majority.

#### Leverage

He may, however, benefit po-litically whichever way the meeting turns out, a factor that has some Republicans smelling a trap. If his foes compromise on radically different versions of health care, the president will likely get the credit, and finally get his signature reform through Congress.

But if they simply block him, Obama can say Republicans thwarted the bipartisan-ship that voters across party lines tell pollsters they want to see. Publication of the plan was significant in itself with Obama finally taking ownership of the health reform legislation, as pundits have criticised him for allowing Democratic lawmakers to dictate the content so

#### **UNEASY CALM**



Students having lunch on the campus of the University of Free State in Bloemfontein. The multi-lingual chatter of South African students on the lawns of the University of Free State belies the tensions exposed in an explosive race trial that opens tomorrow. In February 2008, the once whites-only university in the heartland of the conservative Afrikaans community, the Free State region, was rocked by the emergence of a racially-charged video shot by students that outraged the nation and raised questions about integration in South Africa. The video showed a mock initiation ritual, with four white students making black cleaning staff eat food which had been urinated on, while making crude statements against racial integration. At the university, the mostly teenage students have put the incident behind them and are not even aware of the upcoming trial. The video was shot at a male hostel in an apparent protest at racial integration in student residences — prompting a national outcry in a country still recovering from its racist past. — AFP

### Participate in TIMES & OMAN Weekly Quiz and Win Panasonic LCD TV **Answer the Quiz and Win:** What is the capital of Sweden? A. Beijing B. Stockholm D. Mexico City C. Ottawa How to participate in the Quiz? SMS Q1 your answer and send it to 90018. Example: if your answer is A. Beijing, then type Q1 A and send it to 90018 All correct entries will be entered into a draw to choose the winner The Roless The deadline for entries is on Wednesday 24/02/2010 at 10:00 am for this quir. I will be chosen randomly by a computerised system from all the right answers sent to 90018. The name of winner for the previous quiw will be announced in Times of Oman (Shabiba news H/A)roum. Winner will be contacted by Times of Oman staff and must claim the prize within the publication of the result. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited and no further correspondence will be entertained in this regard. Winner will have to produce their original National 1D Card/Resident Card/Passport and sign receipts to claim their prizes. Participation in this quiz is subject to acknowledgment of the terms and conditions mentioned here. Each SMS to 90018 will be charged 200be for post paid and pre paid. The draw will be held on Wednesday 24/02/2010 8 Answer TAMIMAH TELECOM khabar The Quiz TIMES OF OMAN

### US steps up call for civilian rule in Niger

Junta has given guarantees that the country will be returned to constitutional democracy through dialogue

stepped up calls yesterday for a peaceful and early transition from military to civilian rule in uranium-rich Niger where a military coup has overthrown

President Mamadou Tandja.
The appeal came after the junta promised to hand over power to civilian rulers and return the west African state to democracy as soon as politicians agreed on a new constitution and hold polls.

"The United States continues to support the hopes of the Nigerian people to see constitu-tional order re-established and a peaceful transition leading to prompt, fair and transparent elections," said a statement in French from the US embassy in

Washington had already called on Friday for a speedy

### Appeal

on-governmental organisations yesterday echoed the ap-"We call on the military to keep their promise to restore

democracy as soon as possi-ble," said FUSAD, an umbrella organisation for local NGOs

The junta gave an interna-tional delegation "necessary guarantees" that the country

TBILISI | The United States is

carefully exploring an offer by

ally Georgia to use its territory

to supply arms to international

forces in Afghanistan, US en-

voy Richard Holbrooke said

Georgia, keen to strengthen ties with Washington strained

by war with Russia in 2008

says its strategic position in

the South Caucasus offers a

valuable alternative to existing

routes into Atgnamsum.
times targeted by militants.
the White

House's special envoy to Af-

yesterday.

The junta has promised a transparent process and that at the end of free and fair elections

power will be handed over to a democractically elected government, as was done in 1999

Colonel D. Hamidou | Top military leader

would be returned to constitulogue among all political parties and the civil society movement culminating in elections.

But the military rulers pro-vided no timeframe in their talks with UN and African envoys in Niamey on Sunday. The military said it stepped

in to break the impasse as it became apparent political dialogue between Tandja and his rivals had stalled. Had the country's laws not

been violated, the military officers said they would not have stepped forward. ECOWAS chairman Mo-

hammed Bin Chambas said United Nations and African envoys who visited Niamey at the weekend discussed with

**Georgia offers US arms-supply route** 

ghanistan and Pakistan, said

during a visit to Georgia it was

up to military commanders to

decide the best way to supply

effort to reduce the dependency

on a single lifeline into Afghan-istan, and again we are very

grateful to Georgia for having

opened up these opportunities

which are being carefully ex-

logistical issue that involves

many considerations and they

(military commanders) are

"This is a very complicated

"But this is a very important

troops

members of the junta how the country can get back to "normal constitutional life as quickly as possible".

"They have given us the necessary guarantees and all this will be done with the participation of civil society and the political parties," said the head of the 15-member Economic Community of West African States

### **Promise**

The junta has promised a transparent process and that the end of "free and fair elections power will be handed to a democractically elected government, as was done in 1999" said Colonel Djibrilla Hamidou Hima, one of the top military leaders

studying it very, very carefully," he told reporters after

observing training for Georgian

troops heading to Afghanistan

with Nato for the Western al-

liance to use its airspace, road

and rail infrastructure to send

supplies to Afghanistan through

ments. Saakashvili, his stand-

ing in the West damaged by

an assault on Georgia's rebel

South Ossetia region in 2008

that sparked a brief war with

Russia. - Reuters

Georgia has an agreement

in April.

### on March 5

AT A GLANCE

15 killed in

**Afghanistan** 

bomb attack

ghanistan) | An influential Afghan leader

was among 14 people killed in a suicide bomb attack targeting a gath-

ering of tribal elders in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, police said. "There was a suicide bombing today in which

14 people including Haji Zaman Ghamsharik were killed," Colonel

Abdul Ghafour, a police

Brown to testify

spokesman said

JALALABAD



LONDON Prime Minister Gordon Brown will give evidence to a public inquiry into the Iraq War on March 5, officials for the probe said yesterday. Brown will be the most high-profile witness at the inquiry since it questioned former prime minister Blair pearance will come just weeks before an election expected in Mav.

### **Bus collision in** Peru kills 23

LIMA | A collision between two buses in Peru yesterday killed 23 people and injured 40, including several who remained trapped in the mangled wreckage. police said. The acci-dent occurred near the town of Viru, in Peru, on a highway. — Agencies



### **Omantel's gift** to soccer fans

Company buys 80 per cent tickets to ensure free entry



We have taken the step to help ensure that as many Omani fans as possible can get together to cheer our team in this vital game. Victory against Kuwait will help with qualification for the Asian Cup finals which will be held in Doha in 2011

Hamdan Moosa Al Harasi | Senior manager 🥕

MUSCAT | Omantel has announced that it has bought 18,000 tickets — around 80 per cent of those available - for the forthcoming crucial Asian Cup match between Oman and Kuwait on 3 March to ensure free entry for fans.

The company is a major supporter of the Omani Sports in general and the national football team in particular and has made this generous gesture to ensure a packed house of Omani soccer fans to cheer on their side in the make or break

Omantel has taken the initiative just two weeks after launching its new enhanced brand and "Together" tagline as another positive step towards

together across Oman.

Hamdan Moosa Al Harasi, Senior Manager Events and Sponsorship at Omantel said: We have taken the step to help ensure that as many Omani fans as possible can get together to cheer on our team in this vital game. Victory against Kuwait will help with qualification for the Asian Cup Finals that will be held in Doha in 2011.

"Omantel has a tradition of supporting the biggest sport-ing events in the Sultanate and backing Omani football at a national level and through the Oman Mobile League and we are delighted to be able to give every fan the opportunity to at-

tend this game free of charge."

He explained that now Omantel has bought around 80% of available tickets for the match. supporters can simply turn up on the evening of March 3 and be admitted to the game free of

'It is also another excellent high profile sporting opportunity for Omantel to promote its new enhanced brand and "Together" tagline following the recent sponsorship of the highly successful Tour of Oman cycling race," added Mr. Al Harasi.
Following the launch of the

enhanced brand , Omantel has already launched its new web-–www.omantel.om that brings together all the customer requirements for fixed, mobile and internet services on one easy to use and navigate

### Swimmers, divers honoured by OSA



Well done: OSA chairman Taha Al Kishri honouring one of the achievers of the season at a

MUSCAT | Oman Swimming Association (OSA) held its annual function at the Al Makan Café in Jawharat Al Shatti in Ourum, Taha Al Kishri, chairman OSA, Ministry of Sports Affairs officials, Swimmers and Divers from the national team, attended the function.

The Swimmers and Divers who achieved great results last year were honoured during the short briefing.

last year, it is important to have in Musannah this year were

functions of this magnitude to encourage the swimmers and divers to bring in more glory to

the country "We at OSA are seriously committed to working towards achieving more glory.
"We feel that by organising

such functions it's a chance for us to encourage these sports persons to bring more good results." Kishri said.

Omani Olympians Ayman Al Kulaibi and Khalid Al Kulaibi who are currently training for the 2nd Asian Beach Game took the new role as OSA chief that is scheduled to take place

also honoured during the function. Speaking about OSA's preparations for the Asian Beach Games, Kishri said the association is working hard with the coaches to achieve positive results for the elusive championship.

'We are working very closely with the coaches and we are also monitoring the preparations on a weekly basis and I can assure you our swimmers can bring in medals and out the country on top," informed Kishri who is also in the Organ ising Committee Board of 2010 Muscat Beach Games

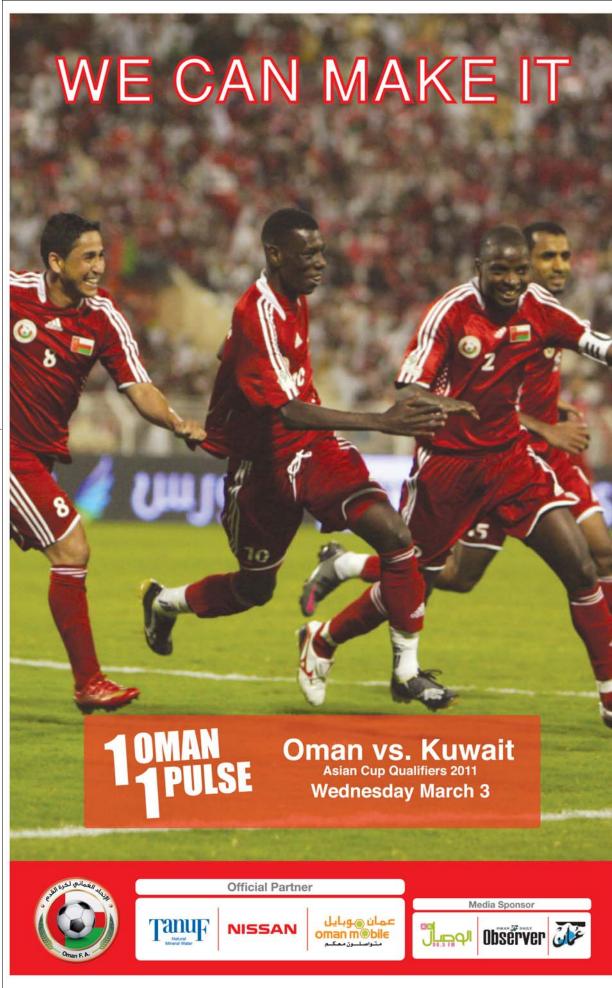
### Sri Lankan Club to hold scrabble tournament

MUSCAT | The Sri Lankan Community Social Club will hold an Open Scrabble Championships on Friday, March 12 at the Ruwi Hotel. Scrabblers

ous fun playing their favourite game. The tournament boasts two divisions for adults and three divisions for all children from 9.30am to 5pm.

The senior players will play eight gruelling rounds from 8am to 6pm. The tournament format is a computer-

for all divisions. Scrabble has been a long-standing feature conducted by the Sri Lankan Community Social Club. Entries close on March 10. ScrabSri Lankan Community Social Club through Namiq Azar on 92574576, Dudley Senanayake on 99470690, or Sonny





Ruwi High Street: 24790241 Qurm (AL\_Araimi) complex): 24564364 seeb (Markaz ALBahaja): 24537708

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### **MUSCAT SPORTS**

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### Inter desperate to stop the rot against Chelsea

LONDON | Jose Mourinho might not be Italian football's favourite import but he will be flying the flag for Serie A tomorrow as his Inter Milan side pions League knockout round

Italy's struggles in Europe's prime club competition were underlined last season as Inter, totally dominant at home for four years, were swept aside by Manchester United to go out at the first knockout stage for the third season running. Now, leading the way in Serie A again, Inter take on England's table toppers at the San Siro with former Chelsea boss Mourinho bestriding the tie.

Holders Barcelona are in action today where their stranglehold on German clubs and VfB Stuttgart's weakness against Spaniards points to only one eventual result. French champions Girondins Bordeaux travel to Olympiakos Piraeus today while Sevilla will have to dig out their thermals for their tomorrow trip to CSKA Mos-

It is the San Siro, though, which draws the eye as two Champions League-winning managers of contrasting personalities go head-to-head.

Mourinho won the compe-

tition with Porto before going close with Chelsea, while Londoners' latest import, Carlo Ancelotti, lifted it twice with AC Milan. Outwardly the two men could not be more different as Mourinho delights in making waves them riding then for all he is worth, while Ancelotti seems content to go about his work in a businesslike, under-stated manner. The two men were anything but friends as they clashed in previous Milan derbies but Mourinho knows better than anyone that Chelsea are no longer cowed by big-name reputations. Having recovered from an end-of-year domestic wobble, they are now four points clear. — Reuters

### **Ronaldo spurs Real to victory**

Athletic Bilbao keeps the pressure on with 4-1 win over 10-man Tenerife at San Mames

MADRID | Cristiano Ronaldo inspired Real Madrid to an entertaining 6-2 victory over Villarreal that moved them within two points of La Liga leaders Barcelona on Sunday.

The Portugal forward was constant threat and led the charge with a thunderous free kick after 18 minutes before having a hand in four more

After Kaka converted a penalty in the 21st, Ronaldo helped set up Gonzalo Higuain for a double, laid on Kaka's second and won a penalty at the end scored by Xabi Alonso. Barcelona crushed Racing

Santander 4-0 on Saturday and have 58 points from 23 games Real are on 56 and third-placed Valencia, who host Getafe on Monday, have 43.

"Cristiano has played very well but the important thing is what the whole team has done," Argentina striker Higuain told

reporters."We are delighted with the performance today after what happened in Lyon. We need to keep playing this way from now on."

#### Positive result

Real coach Manuel Pellegrini needed a positive result after severe media criticism of the 1-0 Champions League defeat at Olympique Lyon in the week. Ronaldo set them on the way when he forced a foul on the edge of the area and arrowed a vicious free kick into the top corner for his 12th league goal of the campaign.

Real were awarded a penalty when Higuain was tripped and Kaka netted from the spot

Villarreal pulled one back as Marcos Senna curled a superb free kick over the wall in the 31st minute before Ronaldo broke wide in the 54th and the two-goal cushion. Villarreal



Tackle: Cristinao Ronaldo being challenged by two Villareal

engineered a neat second goal from Brazilian Nilmar in the 66th minute but had no answer to Ronaldo's power and pace. The Portuguese sent Marcelo down the left and he crossed for Higuain to net his 14th league goal of the campaign in the 71st and then Ronaldo dribbled down the wing and set up Kaka for the fifth.

The former Manchester United player also won a penalty near the end which Alonso

Earlier, seventh-placed Athletic Bilbao kept up their push for the European places with a 4-1 victory over 10-man Tenerife at San Mames. The islanders, who have only managed two points on their travels all season, had defender Jose Antonio Culebras sent off after 17 minutes and Bilbao's Fernando Llorente scored from the resulting penalty. Gaizka Toquero, Andoni Iraola and Igor Gabilondo sealed a win which gave the Basques 36 points from 23 matches.

Sporting Gijon also won 3-1 at Real Zaragoza, Malaga were 2-1 home winners over Espanvol and Osasuna drew 1-1 with Real Valladolid. Inconsist-ent Atletico Madrid, who last weekend became the first side to beat Barcelona in the league this season, fell 1-0 at Almeria. Pablo Piatti scoring in the 87th minute. - Reuters

at the club before moving on to Brescia, AS Roma and Al Ahli

in Qatar. Upon his switch to coaching he won six trophies in

his first season in charge at Bar-

celona. Qatar's Bid Commit-tee CEO, Hassan Abdulla Al

Thawadi, welcomed Guardiola onto the Qatar 2022 team and

hailed his recent achievements

with FC Barcelona as well as

his commitment to youth de-

## AUTOMOBILE SERVICE CENTRE

### AT A GLANCE

### AFC U-14 Festival of Football kicks off in Doha

DOHA | It is the Festival of Football season once more and the first of five boys events kicked off at the Aspire Academy in Doha, Qatar on Sunday. The first week of the Festival is more focused on education with coaches and referees taking part in courses to prepare them for the matches towards the second week. On Sunday, the Coaching 'C' Certificate course started, with referees due to start their sessions today. There will also be a head coaches workshop on February 26 and 27 before the matches start.

#### Ronaldo to help flood-hit Madeira

MADRID | Portugal international Cristiano Ronaldo has offered his help to the island of Madeira, his birthplace, after floods there left at least 42 people dead. "It's where I grew up and where my family live," Ronaldo told the Real Madrid website on Sunday after his side's 6-2 La Liga victory over Villarreal. "I couldn't believe what I saw on the television. I want to help in any way I can." After scoring the opening goal at the Bernabeu, Ronaldo lifted his shirt to display a vest with Madeira written on it

#### Ferrero makes it two in a row



BUENOS AIRES | Juan Carlos Ferrero completed a perfect two-week tour of South America with a 5-7, 6-4 6-3 victory over fellow Spaniard and top seed David Ferrer in the Buenos Aires Open on Sunday. Former world number one Ferrero, the second seed, had won the Brasil Open in Costa do Sauipe last weekend, having chosen the clay court tournaments in South America as part of his bid to climb back up the rankings. The resurgent 30-year-old will return to the world's top 20

### Gibbs to play for Yorkshire

on Monday when updated rankings are issued.

LONDON | Veteran South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs is to play Twenty20 cricket for Yorkshire from June, the English county announced yesterday. Gibbs, who has played 245 One-day Internationals and international T20 matches for his country, will join the power for the dwarting of the country. the county for the duration of their campaign in the Friends Provident Trophy. "I've always enjoyed playing cricket in the UK and have very good memories of Headingley as I got my first World Cup hundred there in 1999," the 35-year-old said.

### Poulter wins WGC championship

**TUCSON** | Ian Poulter beat Paul Casey 4 and 2 in an all-English final to win the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship on Sunday. With the win in the 36-hole final, Poulter earned his 10th professional victory worldwide, but his first both in the United States and in a World Golf Championships Casey finished runner-up for the second consecutive year, Colombian Camilo Villegas beat Spaniard Sergio Garcia 5 and 4 to finish third in the event.

### Querrey wins all-American final

MEMPHIS | Sam Querrey came back from a set down to overhaul fellow American John Isner 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 and win the Memphis Championships on Sunday. Querrey was two points from defeat in the second set tiebreaker but rallied to win it 7-5 and then carried the momentum into the third, breaking his opponent twice to seal his third career title and first of the season. The American pair, named in the US Davis Cup team to take on Serbia, are friends and frequent practice partners. - Agencies

### Guardiola becomes Qatar 2022 bid ambassador

dary FC Barcelona coach, Josep Guardiola, is to become an ambassador for the Qatar 2022 Bid, it was announced recently.

Guardiola, whose team won the 2009 Uefa Champions League, spent two years playing for Qatar's Al Ahli Club, and recently returned to the country after leading his team to the Fifa Club World Cup title in Abu Dhabi, the sixth trophy of an historic season. "I am very pleased to be representing Oatar's 2022 World Cup Bid," Guardiola said upon his appointment. "I believe this is a truly unique bid, and a wonderful opportunity to spread the magic and the benefits of the world's favourite game across the globe. Having played in Qatar myself between 2003 and 2005, and having grown to love the country and greatly appreciate Qatar's football develop ment and infrastructure invest-ment, I believe the time is ripe for the first World Cup to be held in the Middle East. My experience in Oatar, as well as the outstanding organisation and football passion we witnessed in the UAE during the Clubs World Cup, makes me confident that Oatar and the Middle East can host a spectacular, passionate and unforgettable

World Cup that embraces all the Fifa ideals." As a Bid ambassador, Guardiola will be attending events to voice his support for Qatar's World Cup ambitions, as well as giving the leadership technical advice on staging the world's biggest tournament. He joins a high profile list of Bid ambassadors including the World Cup legends Gabriel Batistuta, Ronald De Boer, Roger



I am for Qatar: Josep guardiola with Hassan Al Thawadi, CEO of Qatar 2022, left, and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, president of the Qatari FA.

Milla, Sami Al Jaber and Bora Milutinovic. Guardiola, a graduate of FC Barcelona's famed La Masia youth academy, captained Spain to the Gold medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Two years later he was part of the Spanish squad finalists Italy in the 1994 World Cup quarterfinals. At club level he won all major titles with FC Barcelona, including the Spanish League, Spanish Cup as well as the European Champions League in 1992. He captained

MUSCAT | Muscat Duty Free

(MDF) trounced Omasco by 8

wickets in a National Bank of

velopment. "We are honoured to work together with Josep to bring the World Cup to Qatar in 2022," Al Thawadi said.

MDF trounce Omasco

"More than any of his as-tonishing successes, though, we are delighted to have him on our team. Everywhere he goes, Josep will bring across our message that a World Cup in Qatar in 2022 will give sporting hope to millions of children across the Middle East.

loss of 8 wickets off 19 overs.

Major contributions coming

from Prashanth Katpadi who

Brief scores: Arrow Overseas - 135

for the loss of 7 wickets lost to Attic

Outdoors - 136 for the loss of 8 wick

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Proud duo: Oman Sail's Mohammed and Akram.

### **Oman sailors excel**

MUSCAT | Mohammed Al Alawi and Akram Al Wahaibi held off strong competition from a first class interntional fleet to win a bronze medal at one of the largest sailing regattas ever held within the GCC

Oman Sail National Sailing Team, who are now one step closer to achieving their aim of medalling at the Asain Beech Games, being held in Muscat in December. This achievement is outsanding as these sailors have only been sailing for 8 months and this is team's first major international regatta.

The Sail the Gulf event is becoming a key regatta in the international sailing calendar, with 186 competitors from over 28 countries. There were ten races sailed in four days, with the majority of races being sailed in light conditions. Mothey have the patience and skill. The fact that Mohammed and Akram have only recently teamed up together makes their success even more distinctive. "It was very competitve

and nobody believed that we have been sailing for 8 months where most of our competitors have sailed for more than 4 vears. This makes us very happy, but we know this is just the beginning and we are confident that we have a lot to learn and achieve in the next few years. said Mohamed Al Alawi, Hobi Sailor of Oman Sail

"Even though we have only been sailing together for a few weeks we instantly clicked when we started to sail together. We have complete understanding of each others roles in the boat and we respect each other," said Akram Al Wahaibi.

Oman (NBO)-sponsored 'F' Division T20 match played remained unbeaten on 29 (3 fours), Vikas Sharma 26 (31 during the week end at the Uniballs, 4 fours) and Janaradanan versity Grounds. Batting first J. 25 (20 balls, 3 fours). Tenson Omasco were restricted to 147 Abraham and Sumesh bagged 2 for the loss of 7 wickets off the wickets each conceding 14 and 24 runs respectively off 4 overs

20 allotted overs. Afaque Khan made 47 (45 ballls, 5 fours) while Zaheer Hussain made a cameo 23 (10 balls, 1 six and 4 fours) and Bharadwaj chipped in with 23 (22 balls, 3 fours). Biju Krishnan picked up two wickets conceding 25 runs off Thanks to a second wicket

partnership of 99 runs between Mohammed Ijaz 90 (44 balls, 2 sixes and 15 fours) and Ashfag Khalifa 36 not out (32 balls, 4 fours) helped MDF reach their target off 15 overs.

Brief scores: Omasco

147 for the loss of 7 wickets lost to MDF - 150 for the loss of 2 wickets. Points: MDF - 2 points (4 games – 8 points) and Omasco – Nil points (5 games Nil points)

### Attic Outdoors win

At the same venue Attic Outdoors defeated Arrow Ove by two wickets in a Hassan Juma Backer Contracting & Trading Company LLC-sponsored 'G' Division T20 match organised by OCC. Batting first Arrow Overseas were restricted to 135 for the loss 7 wickets at the end of 20 overs with Prasobh 39 (26 balls, 7 fours) and Omani player Qayoom Al Balushi 23 (27 balls, 2 fours) making useful contributions. Vikas Sharma was the pick of the bowlers ending with figures

of 3 for 19 off 4 overs.
Attic Outdoors in reply managed to reach 136 for the

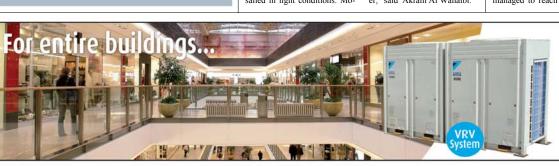
#### ets. Points: Attic Outdoors - 2 points (5 games - 6 points) and Arrow Overseas Nil points (5 games – 6 points).

Al Hassan lose

Oman Orix registered a 30-run win against Al Hassan in an Omzest Mercedes-sponsored 'E' Division T20 match played at OAC IV during the week end. Invited to bat Oman Orix did well to reach 195 for the loss of 7 wickets off 20 overs with Sarfaraz Abdul making a top score of 70. Other useful contributors were Tahir Anwar 55 (1 six and 8 fours) and Matiullah 30 (2 sixes and 2 fours). Shahbaz Ahmed and Ghulam Abbas claimed 2 wickets each conceding 36 and 41 runs re-

spectively off 4 overs each Requiring a fraction of under 10 runs per over Al Hasan managed to reach 165 for the loss of 5 wickets at the end of 20 overs, thanks to a solid unbeaten 78 (55 balls, 9 fours) from wicketkeeper Nasir. Skipper Kasif Mohammed claimed 2 wickets conceding 24 runs while Sarfaraz Abdul claimed 2 for 40

Brief scores: Oman Orix - 195 for the loss of 7 wickets beat Al Hassan - 165 for the loss of 5 wickets Points: Oman Orix - 2 points (6 games - 4 points) and Al Hassan - Nil points (6 games - 2 points)





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### **McDonalds** cricket final on Friday

**MUSCAT** | The finals of the McDonalds Cup will be held on Friday, February 26 at 4pm, with the prize distribution on March 2 which will be held at CCC McDonalds. Of the 40 teams that participated 12 teams have made it to the pre-

During the weekend ten matches were worked off in the McDonalds Cup which was held at the Bausher grounds with Enhance, Assarain, Mercury Team Oman, Taiseer Electronics, Baladiya, National Warriors, Al Khoudh, Royal Friends, Zain, Royal Challengers, STS and Extreme Exploits making it to the pre-quarters. In the matches that were held last week STS beat Muscat Pharmacy by 35 runs STS making 72 for 2 and Muscat Pharmacy scoring 37 for 6. Samad Al Shaan lost to Extreme Exploits by 32 runs, Samad scoring 38 for 8 and Extreme Exploits making 71 for 4.

Al Khoudh CC beat Al Bustan by 17 runs, Al Khoudh made 62 for 5 where as Al Bustan made 46 for 7. Mercury Team Oman overcame Al Seer ets. Al Seer made 36 for 8 and

for 1. Enhance thrashed Times Travel by 8 wickets, Enhance making 57 for 2 where as Times Travel made 56 for 5. Tower Logistics lost to Assarain by 8 wickets, Tower Logistics mak-ing 29 all out and in reply Assarain made 30 for 2.

Friends and Enhance Challengers, Royal Friends trounced their opponents by 10 wickets enhance Challengers making 30 for 9 where as Royal Friends made 33 for no loss.

Taiseer Electronics Orbital Challengers in to orbit by beating them by 9 wickets, Orbital Challengers making 31 for 8 and Taiseer Electronics 35 In the last match of the day

Baladiya CC dumped Suhail Bahwan Automotive beating them by 16 runs. Baladiya scor ing 49 for 5 and in reply Suhail Bahwan Automotive making 33 for 3. The top performers received McDonald's free meal coupons as prizes. Dr V S Kumar general manager Mustafa Sultan Exchange Company along with Param Tosh Kumai Singh, branch manager, Musta-fa Sultan Exchange Company, Ghala branch was present to



Suhail Bahwan team with the tournament's sponsors

### Pakistan out to revive fortunes at World Cup

It is a tough test for us, but we have prepared extensively and hope that by winning the World title we will revive our hockey, says Ashraf



Arrived: Pakistan's hockey team members pose for a photograph upon their arrival at Wagah border, - Reute

LAHORE | Pakistan's hockey team left for New Delhi yes-terday for the tenth World Cup starting next week, with the one-time world champions hopeful of a comeback after years of disappointment.

An 18-man squad led by full-back Zeeshan Ashraf will play arch-rivals and hosts India on Sunday in the opening game, amid diplomatic tensions between the neighbours.

"It is a tough test for us, but we have prepared extensively and hope that by winning the World title we will revive our hockey," said Ashraf.

Pakistan, who have won a record four world titles, have faded badly in the last decade.

Their last major title was in 1994 at the World Cup in Australia and they finished eighth at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, their worst-ever placing.

The tournament hosts are hardly faring any better and

have not won a major title since the Moscow Olympics in 1980. "We are hoping that this

World Cup revives Asian glory," said Pakistan Hockey Federation secretary and team manager Asif Bajwa before the team's departure. "Pakistan and India are two

important countries in Asian hockey and must do well to lift the standard." Pakistan boast the services

of penalty corner expert Sohail Abbas, who has a world record tally of 306 goals. This will be the Pakistan hockev team's first visit to India

since 2006, and Bajwa said the players will be heading to India as "ambassadors of peace." "Players have always been ambassadors of peace and we hope to play hockey without any fears and hope that Indo-Pak sporting ties are revived,"

said Bajwa "When Pakistan plays India

it always sparks interest and I hope it's a very good match which gives a kick start to the event.

The two nations suspended slow-moving peace talks, but the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries are due to meet on Thursday for the first official talks between the South Asian rivals for 14 months.

Reports of threats to sporting stars visiting India also sparked concerns, but Pakistan's team was cleared to travel to New Delhi last week after a delegation visited the Indian capital and assessed security arrangements. After facing India, Pakistan play Spain on March 2, England on March 4, South Africa on March 6 and Australia

on March 8 in Group B. Group A comprises defending champions Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea Canada, Argentina and New

### **New Zealand** confirms

WELLINGTON | The

New Zealand men's hockey team will travel to India for the Hockey World Cup after receiving security assurances over threats against foreign sports teams and athletes, officials said yesterday.

land chief executive Hilary Poole said the team would travel as scheduled to India from Perth in Australia after receiving advice from the New Zealand government and an independent security adviser. — AFP

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### India to test run C'Games security at hockey WC

NEW DELHI | India will im-World Cup next week as it testahead of the Commonwealth Games in October, officials said yesterday. Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said Delhi police and paramilitary forces will provide the bulk of the security presence, with armed commando escorts for the teams as they travel to and from the national stadium. "The World Cup hockey is a test case for the Commonwealth Games," Pillai told foreign journalists.

Concerns over security at the hockey tournament and the Games were fuelled by a bomb blast last week in the western city of Pune that killed 15 people. It was the first maior attack on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai assault that left 166 dead. Special police commissioner Neeraj Kumar, who attended the briefing, said airspace above the national stadium would be patrolled by the Indian Air Force with other armed assault teams circling the venue in helicopters. The stadium in central Delhi has already been sealed off to the public and is dotted with surveillance cameras, explosives detectors

and sniffer dog teams. Although Pillai stressed there had been no "credible threat" to the hockey World Cup, Kumar said contingency plans were in place in case of a biological attack. The 12-nation tournament begins on Monday and runs for two weeks. The

Commonwealth Games, the biggest sporting event in India since the Asian Games in 1982, will be held in New Delhi from October 3-14. "For the Commonwealth Games, we will have a complete lockdown of venues, hotel and roads used by the participants," added city police chief Y.S. Dadwal said.

#### **Backbone**

Dadwal said a part of his 97,000-strong police force will form the backbone for the security for the upcoming sporting events. Last Tuesday, the Hong Kong-based Asia Times Online news website said it had received a warning from Al Qaeda-linked rebel Ilvas Kashmiri about attacking sports events in India. The extremist reportedly warned competitors against going to the hockey World Cup, Indian Premier League cricket tournament in March and the October Games

Hockey India said no team has threatened to pull out of the World Cup. Any pullout or disruption for India would be blow as it gears up to host the Games, the biggest sporting event since the Asian Games in 1982. Organisers hope that a successful competition could open the way to an Olympics bid, though preparations have been marked by severe delays. — AFP

#### YOUR TAKE

Do you consider India can offer a safe World Cup and Commonwealth Games? Tell us at yourtake@ti







Omantel buys tickets to gift to enthusiastic soccer fans ► FOOTBALL | PAGE 17

Ronaldo spurs Real Madrid FOOTBALL | PAGE 18

### Injury-hit Al Nahda open **AFC Cup campaign today**

To face Bahrain's Al Riffa at Seeb Stadium; HM's Cup champions Saham play away tie

Times News Service

MUSCAT | A depleted Al Nahda will take on Bahrain's Al Riffa in the Group E AFC Cup adventure today. The Oman League champions who are already without some of their star performers who are recuperating injuries will be relying on their new foreign

is side's lack of exposure at a continental level. "The problem players.
"There is no doubt we are low on confidence because we that we have is our players are missing few of our players due to injury but you cannot give that as an excuse. This is football and you have to be ready for anything on any given day," said Al Nahda coach Mohsin Darwish speaking to reporters at the Seeb Sports Stadium yesterday.

Al Nahda is second in the

on-going OmanMobile League but are 10 points away from topping the group

#### **Coach positive**

However, Mohsin is pleased to have quartet Mohamad Al Shamsi, Salem Al Shamsi, Nasser Al Shamli and Saeed Al Najadi available again.

Mohsin underlined positive result against Al Riffa will set the tone for what he hopes will prove to be a fruitful campaign. "The game is very important for us since it's the first game in the competition," he added.

"I'm confident that the players are going to produce a good performance and get a

Al Riffa on the other hand, is fresh on confidence after winning the Bahrain's King's Cup while they also top the

mestic League table.
But the worrying factor



list but they still have some of

the best players. We are not

here to play a fun game. We

will take them strongly because

they are a strong contender,'

**Saham on song**Meanwhile, His Majesty's
Cup winners Saham will take

on Al Karamah in their away match at the Khaled bin Al

Waleed Stadium today. Saham

will make their debut in the

AFC group A when the two

sides square-off today but Al Karamah missed out on a place

in the after losing 1-0 at home

Garrido said.

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Asian battle: Al Nahda and Al Riffa coaches at the media-briefing in Seeb Sports Stadium

when his team face the Omanis. The first match is always hard as all teams are aiming to register a good start and we are well aware of this," said Karamah coach Mohammed

"The first match is always hard as all the teams are aiming to register a good start and we

are well aware of this," he said.
"Saham are at the moment going through a bad period but they have won the HM Cup title and this means they are a

to the best of our capabilities to produce a good performance and win in front of our fans. However, we should not underestimate our opponents as there are no small teams in football," he said.

Coached by Yaqoub Al Zaabi, Saham is hopeful of springing a surprise on the opening day. "Playing against Al Karamah is not an easy task," admitted Al Zaabi who replaced Syrian coach Mohamad Hawali earlier this month. "It's our first

players that they can put in a good performance and register a good win, especially as it is an away game

"Our form in the local league is not so good as we have lost several matches recently. However, we can bounce back in the AFC Cup and hopefully we can fight to qualify for the

knockout stage.
"The players concentrate and produce their best performance if they want to get a win and hopefully, we get these three points

### Hockey activities in Oman get FIH pat

Honour to be bestowed on Anil Wadhwa, Dawood Al Raisi and Mustafa Mallalah

Times News Service

MUSCAT | The International Hockey Federation (FIH), as part of the plans to popularise hockey and encourage those involved in developing the game in the Gulf region, has decided to honour all those who have been contributing to the development of hockey in the Sultanate.

Recognising the new initiatives being taken by the Oman Hockey Association (OHA) to improve hockey and attract the youth to the game as well as the individu-als who made immense con-tribution, the FIH lauded all their efforts in a recent communique to the Oman hock-

ey's governing body.

The much-deserved appreciation comes from no less person than Tayyab Ikram, a long-serving FIH official who has been associated with Oman hockey as an FIH Coaching Manager as well as the Continental development officer (CDO).

Conveying the FIH's appreciation of hockey activities in Oman, Tayyab Ikram hailed the OHA Chairman Dawood Al Raisi and General Secretary Mustafa Malallah Al Lawatia, while also praising the Indian Ambassador Anil Wadhwa's contribution

to the game.
In his letter, he made a special mention of the services rendered by Anil Wadhwa, who has been instrumental in organising the Dhyan Chand Day (hockey legend) and to introduce hockey in schools.

The OHA officials have



decided to celebrate the news following a request by Team Coorg, a popular local hockey team, who have planned an honouring ceremony

As per the plans submitted by Team Coorg Manager B Kuttapa, the ceremony will include an exhibiton match between the Oman Veterans XI and Team Coorg on March 14 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher.

**Ceremony**Though the highlight, obviously, will be honouring of two OHA officials and the Indian Ambassador.

Anil Wadhwa has agreed to preside over the function as well as don the colours and take part in the game. Team Coorg has called on all hockey lovers to turn up for the match and support the cause.

The Omani Veterans team will include players from the PDORC. The chairman of PDO Hockey Club, Roland has assured his support for

In view of the World Cup that is to take place in New Delhi, the environment will

be all the more suitable to attract a big crowd. Meanwhile, it is learnt the OHA will hold a board meeting today to fi-nalise the appointment of India's K K Poonacha as the

national team head coach.

The OHA officials are scheduled to meet seek the support of Minister of Sports Affairs Ali bin Masoud al Sunaidy for the appointment of the coach and get a green signal to participate in the 2010 Asian Games qualifying tournament to be held in Bangladesh from May 7 to 15.

As the deadline (February 28) is nearing, things don't look encouraging but the OHA board still has hope to confirm participation.

Meanwhile, His Majes-

ty's Cup champions Al Nasr seems to be on target for a big exposure. The team is preparing to participate in the Asian Clubs Championship to be organised by Sri Lanka in the

irist week of June.

If all goes well, Oman hockey will venture into international action after a lull, iring the former goals Alexander. since the former coach Alan

Sinclair departed.
The OHA also confirmed that Al Nasr coach Moham-med Al Battrani's nomination has been accepted by the FIH for the High Performance coaching course. The course will be organised in New Del-hi from March 5 to 11 during

the Hockey World Cup.
Abdulrahman Al Raisi, the former coach and manager, will travel to New Delhi as an observer and will be attending the Games along with Mohammed Al Battrani.





## TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 | PAGE 21









More is not merrier: A Reliance Industries petrochemical plant in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Increase expected in India's crude refining capacity by 2013, barring delays or

Of refining capacity a year being added by China, which

**US** seeks

to lower oil

imports

RIYADH | The US

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said during a

visit to Saudi Arabia, the

world's biggest crude

overall oil policy that's not in conflict with

Saudi Arabia's interests

the Nobel Prize-winning

physicist told reporters

in Riyadh. Fossil fuels

will be part of the supply

mix for the biggest ener-

a long time, he said. Chu this week will also visit the UAEs and

gy-consuming nation for

Qatar, all members of the

um Exporting Countries.

which supplies 40 per

cent of the world'

Bloomberg

The goal is part of an

producer.

### **Refining margins to** come under pressure

Asian capacity sees huge rise; new refineries biggest risk to profits as producers increase supplies of petrol and diesel, says Goldman Sachs

Refining margins, or profits from turn-ing crude oil into petroleum products, may remain "under pressure" because of a large increase in Asian refining capacity, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said in a report.

Refining margins relative to West Texas Intermediate crude prices will "come under pressure as Opec spare capacity enters the market in the second half of 2010," David Greely, an analyst for the bank, said yesterday. WTI, the benchmark used for New York Mercantile Exchange futures contracts, will trade in a "new" \$85-\$95 a barrel range this year, Gold-

About 800,000 barrels of refining capacity was opened in Asia last year, including plants in China and Reliance Industries's new Jamnagar refinery on India's west coast.

Another 1.5 million barrels may come on stream this year, with a majority in those two countries, JPMorgan Chase & Co. said in a note to clients in December.India's capacity to turn crude oil into fuels such as petrol and diesel may increase by about 1.3 million barrels a day by 2013 barring delays or cancellations, Poten & Partners said on February 5.

New refineries are the big-

gest risk to profits, as producers increase supplies of gasoline and diesel. Any rise in refining margins during the coming maintenance season should be a selling opportunity for refinery hedgers, Goldman said.

"For 2011 and beyond we believe that crude will be the bottleneck to the system rather than refining, which will squeeze margins from the crude side through backwardation, suggesting refiners should also look for potential time spread hedges," Goldman's Greely said.

### **Fundamentals**

Improving fundamentals will "tighten WTI time spreads," and contribute to oil moving into a higher trading range from the "low-\$70 to low-\$80 range" it has been in since October, the

report said. China may see an oversup-ply of oil products this year as the country adds 31.5 million tonnes a year of refining capacity. China National Petroleum Corp. said on February 4. Crude processing rates are expected to remain high this year as refiners

take advantage of the fuel-pricing mechanism introduced in December 2008 that guarantees them a profit, CNPC said.

China processed a record 374.6 million tonnes of crude oil last year, or 7.5 million barrels a day, China Mainland Marketing Research Co., which compiles data for the government, said on January 10.

'Overcapacity in refining will be the biggest issue facing integrated oil and gas companies globally and particularly in Asia," Sanjeev Gupta, Ernst & Young's co-leader for oil and gas in the Far East, said in January.

Reliance Industries, India's

biggest company by market value, had its earnings forecast cut by JPMorgan in a January re-port because of the outlook for lower earnings from processing bank had lowered the outlook for the Singapore refining margin, a regional benchmark, to \$4.50 a barrel this year from Crude oil traded little changed near \$80 a barrel in New York dollar slowed last week's advance in prices.— Bloomberg

► See also Page 23

### **Cost-cutting efforts by oil majors likely** to falter as drilling surge stokes inflation

Petroleum industry faces challenge of finding geologists, engineers

LONDON | BP Plc and Royal Dutch Shell Plc may falter in their campaigns to save billions in oil and gas project costs as a resurgence in drilling and demand for engineers threaten to

revive inflation in the industry. Crude prices doubled to near \$80 a barrel in the past year, prompting producers to

resume projects put on hold during the recession. "Oil price inflation and cost inflation are highly correlated, albeit with some delay," said Paul Wheeler, a London-based managing director in the oil and gas group at investment bank Jefferies International, "The oil industry is always people constrained. It's one of the biggest challenges: a lack of young engineers and

BP Chief Executive Officer Tony Hayward said Europe's largest oil company will try to cut costs further this year after saving \$4 billion in 2009. Shell's Peter Voser aims to trim expenses by \$1 billion.

The respite the economic crisis brought on costs may prove temporary as producers spend more to recover oil from deepwater reserves, tar sands and gas-bearing rocks.

The beneficiaries of increased drilling will be oil services companies like Schlum-

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### Gulf Bank narrows yearly loss to \$97.5m

Hit by aggressive non-performing loans provisioning

KUWAIT CITY The Gulf Bank, Kuwait's second largest lender, yesterday posted a loss of \$97.5 million in 2009, remaining in the red for the second year in a row but by a much narrower margin.

In 2008, the bank posted a loss of \$1.24 billion, mainly due to losses incurred from trading in derivatives, compared to profits of \$450 million in the previous year, according to a statement on the Kuwaiti bourse's website.

The bank incurred a loss of \$73 million in the fourth quarter of 2009 alone.

The bank itself gave no detailed explanation of the results. But after sustaining losses in the first nine months of last year, it said these were caused by aggressive provisioning against non-performing loans.

Bank assets dropped to \$16.5 billion at the end of 2009 from \$17.2 billion a year ago. while shareholders' equity rose to \$1.4 billion last year after slumping to just \$132 million

In October 2008, Gulf Bank said it lost \$1.3 billion from derivatives deals when a number of its clients defaulted due to the global financial crisis

But in January last year. it raised an equal amount by doubling its capital, with the state-run Kuwait Investment Authority, the Gulf emirate's sovereign wealth fund, acquiring a 16 per cent stake in the bank. — AFP



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## Bank Sohar sees SMEs as 'engines of growth'

Redesigns its business unit to strategically focus on this vital sector

#### Times News Service

MUSCAT | Bank Sohar participated in the 2nd Annual Small and Medium Enterprises Conference and Exhibition organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OCCI).

The event with the theme "Opportunities and Challenges." was held over three days at the Oman International Exhibition Centre. The S&ME Conference was organised to bring into focus the opportunities and the challenges facing the small and medium enterprises in the country. The Conference also organised an exhibition for the sector.

sector.

"It was important for us to support and be present at the Small & Medium Enterprises Conference & Exhibition, said

R. Narasimhan, DGM & Head Wholesale Banking.

"The SME sector has been of immense interest to us from the time we opened for business." he added.

With the objective of positioning the bank strategically for this sector, we redesigned our business unit as the Emerging Corporates Banking Division. This department is located at Azaibah quite close to the industrial cluster located at Ghala, he said.

This division is headed by an AGM, Kamal Hassan Al Murazza, a senior banker with a team of professionally qualified and experienced relationship managers, he added.

"We at Bank Sohar, understand the problems of the small and medium enterprises and are in the position to be a mentor to them — right from the concept and feasibility stage through in-



Officials at the SME conference

cubation and eventually to the status of a stable business entity" he said

tity," he said.
"We are conscious of the fact that these emerging corporates are the engines of growth for the country and the backbone of the economy. They also

provide enormous employment opportunities to young Omanis. Providing these enterprises with opportunities to start up, develop and achieve their potential results is a significant contribution to the economy,"

### صندوق التوازن الاستثماري investment Stabilization Fund

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### Dear Unitholders,

On behalf of the Investors' Committee of Investment Stabilization Fund ("The Fund" or "ISF"), it is my pleasure to share with you the annual results of the Fund for FY 2009, from 1st February to 31st December 2009. The Fund achieved its main objective to help stabilize the Omani stock market as well as reported a growth of 18.7% as presented in the audited NAV of 1.1876 to each 1 Riyal invested in the Fund or similar growth to each unit.

Key Performance Indicator	rs	31st December 2009
Units held		106,718,537
Net Assets Value ("NAV") in RC		126,742, 682
Net Assets Value per unit in R	0	1.1876
Performance vs. Index	MSM-30	ISF (post Fees & Exps)
Growth since 1st Feb	32.31%	18.7%
6,000	- Killian + Mr.	
	~~~~	A CAN

Whilst the economic sentiments continue to show encouraging signs with strong recovery in the oil prices, the challenges for further stability to our market still remains and hence the role of the Fund will equally exhibit significant contribution in the coming year. During Q4 of FY2009, the average price of Oman Crude at USD 76 bl with oil prices expected to remain in the range of USD 60-70/bl, whereas Oman's fiscal budget is based on USD 50/ bl. However, the Government is likely to provide further impetus to boost the economic activities in Oman as they have been doing so over the past years.

The MSM-30 index gained 17% during 2009 on the back of 72% gain in the Industry Index followed by 42% increase in the Banking index and 7% gain in the Service sector index. The market breadth witnessed considerable improvement with daily average traded volume up to around 19 million shares from about 10 million shares in FY08.

The NAV of the fund rose by 18.7% for the period from 1st February 2009 to 31st December 2009. The Fund has also been successful in achieving one of its main objectives of stabilizing the market, an effort that landed the utmost support to many stocks and the sentiments as a whole.

The stability in Oil prices and the various Government initiatives has helped our endeavours without a doubt, and the overall improvement in the corporate sector sentiment portends also continued positive growth outlook and better market performance in the year ahead. We cannot rule out further volatility and challenges to maintain stability should the global or regional events have an adverse impact on the stability achieved last year.

Overall, the Fund has been successful in achieving its objectives of stabilizing the market; retaining investor confidence, attracted increasing liquidity in the market and capital appreciation to the Unitholders. Going forward, we will endeavor to focus on these objectives with your unparalleled support.

Therefore, I would like to thank our Unitholders who have shown faith in our capability to meet the objectives of the Fund. In addition, I would like to thank the Capital Market Authority and the Muscat Securities Market for their commitment to a well-regulated and transparent stock market. Further, thanks to our Portfolio Managers in recognition to their positive performance, as well as our recognition to the important role performed by other stakeholders such as the Administrator, Custodian and our Internal Coordinator for building and maintaining coherence and continuous support and thereby help us all to achieve our objectives and report good results for the year.

Above all, I would like to express our gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, whose visionary leadership continues to inspire us all.

#### Dr. Rashid bin Salem Al-Masroori

Chairman

Assets:	2009 RO
Assets: Cash and cash equivalents Financial assets Other assets	6,526,916 121,302,413 31,146
Total assets	127,860,475
Liabilities: Other payables	(1,117,793)
Total liabilities	(1,117,793)
Net assets attributable to unit holders	126,742,682
UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	
Represented by: Nominal value of units Premium on subscription Retained earnings	106,718,537 282,476 19,741,669
Total	126,742,682
Units in issue	106,718,537
Net asset value per unit (RO)	1.188

#### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME 2009 2,100,764 Interest income 677,650 2,778,414 Realized gain on sale of financial assets 6,667,172 Unrealized gain on financial assets 11,803,003 Net investment income **EXPENSES** Profit for the period before initial issue expenses 19,771,929 (30,260)Change in net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units 19,741,669 Basic earnings per unit 0.189

### TRA sends delegation to Bahrain for key meeting

Conference to discuss core issues relating to broadband services

#### Times News Service

MUSCAT | A delegation from Oman's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) left the Sultanate to the Kingdom of Bahrain for attending a two-day regional conference on broadband services.

The Manama conference is hosted by Bahrain Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and supported by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Arab Regulators Network (AREGNET) and South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa Telecommunication council (SAMENA), it said. The objective of the regional conference is to support opinion leaders in the region and the wider international community in their thinking and plans with respect to achieving competitive ubiquitously available and affordable high-speed broadband services.

The event plans to achieve this by bringing together policy makers to initially address the drivers for broadband networks covering economic development and social inclusion and then introducing regulators and operators to present current country specific case histories, the TRA statement said.

the TRA statement said.

These will then be followed by a panel session debating the pros and cons of the different solutions that have been presented. A panel session with all speakers will then explore and debate the alternatives and the issues discussed in the presented.

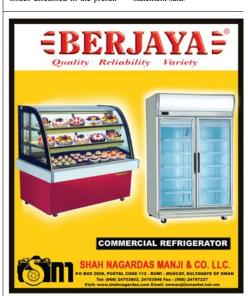




on their plans to achieve affordable high-speed broadband services

Mohsin Al Hafeedh

tations. The TRA delegation comprised of Mohsin bin Alawi Al Hafeedh and Naashiah Saud Al Kharusi, TRA members, the statement said



### Fund Custodian & Administrator

National Bank of Oman SAOG P.O. Box 751, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman, Phone (968) 2477 8610, Fax (968) 2477 8993. Email: gopal@nbo.co.om

Note: The complete accounts, either in Arabic, or in English as requested, will be sent by mail within 7 days of request to any Unitholder who requests the Bank at the above address. Fund Custodian & Administrator













### **India's Reliance Industries ups Lyondell-Basell** bid to \$14.5b

MUMBAI | Reliance Industries, owner of the world's largest oil-refining complex, raised its offer for bankrupt Lyondell-Basell Industries AF to about \$14.5 billion, according to two people with knowledge of the offer.

The revised bid allows Lyondell creditors to opt for cash or equity, said the people who declined to be identified because the talks are private. Reliance the Mumbai-based refiner and energy explorer controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani offered an undisclosed amount on November 21 to buy a controlling stake.

Buying would create a company with more than \$80 billion in revenue and give Reliance chemical plants and two oil refineries in the US and Europe.

The chemicals maker had rejected a revised Reliance bid that valued it at \$13.5 billion. the Wall Street Journal said on January 8.

"There are some synergies in taking control of the company and Reliance gets access to some Lyondell markets, but this is about at the top end of what you might want to pay for the company in our estimation, said Neil Beveridge, a Hong Kong-based analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein.

Reliance retreated one per cent to close at Rs972.95 in Mumbai. The benchmark Sensitive Index rose 0.8 per cent.
Reliance has gained 55 per cent in the past year, lagging behind the 83 per cent advance in the index. David Harpole, a Lyondell spokesman, declined to comment on the revised offer. Manoj Warrier, a spokesman for Reliance in Mumbai, declined to comment. Bloomberg



Deep truth: Schlumberger CEO Andrew Gould says future supplies of fossil fuels are increasingly dependent on breakthroughs in drilling techniques to access deposits in difficult-to-reach areas. - B

#### **ROCK BOTTOM REALITY**

- Schlumberger says the next oil and gas breakthrough will be through engineered drilling systems that optimise all the
- The acquisition, Schlumberger's largest, would be the biggest US merger this year, It's also the biggest purchase of an oilfield-services company
- A takeover may prompt anti-trust regulators to force asset sales to prevent Schlumberger from having too much marketshare in certain categories
- The takeover may lead Schlumberger to sell Smith's distribution business, which provides a range of supplies including

### Al Amal Fund TD Performance - MSM Index As on Date 22-Feb-2010 To invest in the Fund sms "AL AMAL" or call 96120072, 96117600 Visit: www.alamalfund.com فينكورب FINCORP The Financial Corporation Co. saos

### AT A GLANCE

### Honda president Ito set to step down as research chief in shuffle

**TOKYO** | Honda Motor, Japan's second-largest carmaker, said President Takanobu Ito will step down as head of the company's research and development division, a sign he has managed to cut its operating



over Ito's secondary role as president and director of the division in April, the company



#### **Etisalat studying acquisitions**

ABU DHABI | Emirates Telecommunications, the United Arab Emirates' largest phone company, said it is considering acquisitions in six countries, including Algeria. Etisalat, which expects foreign operations to account for 20 per cent of revenue in three years compared with less than 10 per cent now, is also studying a deal with Korek in Iraq, Chairman Mohammed Omran told reporters. Emirates Telecommunications Corp. said the Pakistan operations of the United Arab Emirates' largest phone company are "not doing that good," Omran said in Abu Dhabi yesterday

### Schlumberger to drill profits

Says \$11b purchase of Smith International will broaden service offerings and strengthen its competitive position as advances in drilling technology spur oil and gas production

NEW YORK | Schlumberger, the world's largest oilfield-services provider, said its \$11 billion purchase of Smith International will broaden its service offerings and strengthen its competitive position as advances in drilling technology spur oil and natural gas production.

Smith stockholders will get 0.6966 Schlumberger share for each Smith share they own, a value of \$44.51 a share based on February 19 closing prices the companies said yesterday in a statement announcing the allstock transaction

Future supplies of fossil fuels are increasingly dependent on breakthroughs in drilling techniques to access deposits in

difficult-to-reach areas, such as crude oil in ultra-deep water or natural gas locked in hard shale rock, Schlumberger Chief Executive Officer Andrew Gould

The company is based in Houston and Paris.

'The next breakthrough will be through engineered drilling systems that optimise all the components of the drillstring. allowing our customers to drill more economically in demanding conditions," Gould said. 'Smith's drilling technologies. other products and expertise complement our own, while the geographical footprint of Sch-lumberger means we can extend our joint offerings worldwide.

Smith, which owns the M-I Swaco drilling fluids joint venture with Schlumberger, is the second-biggest provider of drill bits, a "critical link" for Schlumberger in offering a full range of drilling products and services, RBC Capital Markets said on February 19 in a note

The acquisition, Schlumberger's largest, would be the biggest US merger this year, according to Bloomberg data. It's also the biggest purchase of an oilfield-services company since Bloomberg began tracking merger statistics more than

buy Smith, Schlumberger was

The Gulf in particular represents

a great investment opportunity for

Microsoft and we remain strongly

committed to this region. As a result, we are

investing in the Gulf by bringing one of our

largest technology events here that is set to

opportunities for professionals in Arab region

Ahmad El Dandachi | Country Manager, Microsoft Oman

put the UAE on the global map, providing

the logical buyer," said Dan Pickering, an analyst at Tudor Pickering Holt & Co. in Houston. "It was really integrating the bits together with fluids and the other Schlumberger product" lines, he said vesterday in

Earnings drop Schlumberger reported on January 22 that its fourth-quarter profit dropped 31 per cent to \$795 million compared with a year earlier. Smith posted a 90 per cent slide in net income to \$20.1 million in the same period.A takeover of Smith may prompt antitrust regulators Schlumberger from having too

categories said Philip Weiss an analyst at Argus Research in New York. Areas of overlap between the companies include directional drilling and logging of well results, Tudor Pickering said in a February 19 note to clients.

The takeover may lead Schlumberger to sell Smith's distribution business which provides a range of supplies including pipes for energy com-panies and had \$1.8 billion of sales last year, said Kurt Hallead, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets in Austin, Texas. He rates the shares "outperform" - Bloomberg

### Microsoft committed to reviving growth

Technology giant says introduction of innovative products and services will fuel regional economic revival

MUSCAT | Microsoft is investing in the Gulf by bringing to the region one of its largest technology events, Tech·Ed Middle East 2010, that runs from March 1-3 in the UAE and Ahmad El Dandachi, Country Manager, Microsoft Oman, speaks about the how the global technology giant is faring in the region amid the slowdown, the significance of the event and what attendees can expect

Q: Many companies in the region have tightened their purse strings when it comes to their IT budgets. Do you think this will impact your business in any way as you have so many launches com-

There is no doubt that the current economic situation presents difficult challenges current for businesses of all kinds, in every industry. As countries in every corner of the globe work to emerge from the economic downturn, Microsoft is committed to providing innovative technology products and services that will provide the fuel to help reignite the engine of e growth.

Because Microsoft does not build products that wear out, innovation is the lifeblood of how we stay in business. We believe new technology trends and innovation are the keys to helping companies manage the short and long tail of a downturn



and long-term. The premise is to 'do more with less' and this is a continuous dialogue that Microsoft is having with our customers and partners in the

In what ways has the economic slowdown in the region impacted the regional ICT players' market strategy? Have the rules of the game been changed as a result of the slowdown? Organisations big and small are

looking for opportunities to cut costs, while driving revenue and seizing new opportunities much as possible While the first instinct may

be to slash IT budgets to shore up profits, there is tremendous opportunity to leverage existing IT resources as well as invest in new technology trends that save money and drive value. A new generation of technol-

forward-looking businesses to build information systems that are more flexible, more cost effective, and that enable people to understand and respond to changing business conditions greater insight and speed than ever before

Some of the tools that reduce computer energy usage and lower costs without hamnering organisational capabilities include virtualisation, unified communications and collaboration solutions all of which will be showcased at Tech-Ed Mid-

What is Microsoft Tech-Ed

Ten years ago, we had limited ways to reach developers, IT professionals and customers all So the idea of Tech-Ed was

born, where developers could get hands-on education about Microsoftproducts. At Tech·Ed, people using Microsoft products get to speak directly to the people making decisions about also to the ones who develop the products. It has become Microsoft's premier technical education event that takes place across select worldwide loca-

This year, the UAE is one of the 10 locations selected by Microsoft globally to host Tech Ed with the aim of connecting technology professionals to broad set of current and future Microsoft technologies, tools, platforms and serv-

Why did Microsoft choose the host Tech-Ed this year?

At Microsoft, we are committed to the Middle East region and its continual development as a competitive and dynamic place to do business

We support this vision by developing leading-edge technities for skills development and partnering with businesses and governments to spread the value of information and communications technology.

The Gulf in particular represents a great investment op-portunity for Microsoft and we remain strongly committed to this region.

As a result, we are investing in the Gulf, by bringing one of our largest technology events here that is set to put the UAE on the global map and provide exciting opportunities for technology professionals in the

and governments to help drive

What can the region's technology professionals expect from this year's event?

Attendees will go back to their offices with the knowledge and expertise that only three days at Tech-Ed Middle East can offer. They will receive the most comprehensive technical education across Microsoft's current and soon-to-release suite of products, solutions and services.

In addition, the event has ver a 150 different sessions with over 60 regional and global speakers and will pro-vide hands-on learning, deep product exploration and op-portunities to connect with industry and Microsoft experts one-to-one. It will essentially be a two-way street with users getting to understand what we are thinking and how to better use our software, and we get first hand feedback on our software to make it better.









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For Institutional enquiries, please contact Mr. Shakeel on 99423501



#### Renault: More to smile about

RENAULT has always been an automaker and a brand in tune with its times. It has built up its reputation, for more than 100 years, through innovative technology, a broad product line-up and racing wins. Today, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), sole importers of all Renault cars into Oman, would like to ensure that Renault's heritage and experience trickles down to the customers here. The Renault principle of safety is outlined in four basic points: Prevent, correct, protect and educate. Renault provides equipment that per-form auxiliary tasks automatically to promote the responsibility of drivers by warning them when they are not in a position to control their vehicle or when they put themselves in a position of potential danger. Examples are the visual and audi-ble seatbelt reminders and tyre pressure monitoring. The inherent handling and braking qualities of a vehicle are fundamental factors of overall dynamic, active safety and accident avoidance performance. Moreover, there is no other brand that has had a Five-star, E-NCAP rating awarded

to almost all of their models.

Renault has an impressive model range to choose from. With models such as the Logan, Clio, Symbol, Megane, Safrane. And Koleos – their first 4WD. One of the long time Renault customers, Mohammed al Balushi said, "I have been a regular customer of the Renault ever since Suhail Bahwan Automobiles got the dealership. In fact this is my third car, and so I decided to pick up their new and first 4WD, the Koleos."

There is no meaning in being the 'best' brand in automobiles if we don't care for the environment that we live in Environmental protection runs throughout the vehicle's life cycle. The car needs to be economical because the vehicles consume very little fuel but also because they bring customers affordable technology. It needs to pollute less like in lower CO2 emissions. Even the manufacturing has an eco-signature. Renault has made wide progress in reducing water and energy consumption, visual and noise pollution, and atmospheric and liquid waste

Performance of a vehicle has always been of key importance to a discerning customer. Renault boasts high performance parameters for each model compared to its class. The Get More philosophy goes with the aim of encouraging the launch of new, reliable, high-performance models available at a reasonable price. Renault won 113 Formula 1 races between 1979 and 2006 - one of the best achievers in the motorsports arena. In order to make this category accessible to as wide a range of drivers as possible, Renault Sport Technologies has designed versatile products in the form of the Clio Sport R27. The R27, an example of the performance technology, is available from SBA. Suhail Bahwan Automobiles is committed to supporting Renault's growth in the Sultanate through major emphasis on customer satisfaction and by providing world-class after-sales services in Oman. With a national network of more than 20 Showrooms, Service Centres and Parts outlets, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles has further built upon its legacy of trust excellent customer service and providing value for money to each of its customers. For more information, one can visit Renault Showroom in Qurum.

### JVC to add new projector

JVC has announced the early-March launch of the DLA-SH7NL, a 4K2K D-ILA projector. It incorporates three 1.27-inch 4K2K D-ILA display devices for high-quality imaging and dual ultra-high-pressure mercury lamps for 5,000 lumens of brightness. Combining superb definition and resolution with low-cost maintenance, the 4K2K D-ILA projector is expected to be widely accepted for planetariums, museums, simulator and medical institutions, as well as used for highspec designing and monitoring. The new model joins the DLA-SH4K, a 4K2K projector launched



in January 2008, and like its predecessor, the new DLA-SH7NL achieves ultra-high resolution of approximately 10 megapixels (4,096 x 2,400), more than four times full HD, plus a stunning 10,000:1 native contrast ratio. JVC's own 4K2K

### **High profits from Toyota Hiace**

AS THE largest selling range of buses, vans & taxis in Oman, Toyota Hiace continues to set the standard in performance, reliability & advanced features.

Now, the Hiace is available with 'never before attractive prices on last few 2009 models' in addition to every Hiace customer getting a chance to win high value gifts including Sony LCD TV, Sony DVD system, Sony Playstation, Nokia phones, Bose music systems, among others.

In Oman, the 5th generation model of the Hiace remains in a class of its own, whether one considers its powerful engine, body appearance, stability, cargo space, occupant comfort, safety or driver ergonomics...Hiace has it all.

"In Oman, who does not know of the Hiace? Everyone wants this pick-up for doing business. It is merely a question of when and how soon one can get it, that is all," asserts a proud owner. And this is only because Hiace satisfies the demands of every kind of

Whether it is the standard 15-seater bus, or the luxurious high roof bus, the high roof van or the standard van, the Toyota Hiace offers distinct advantages.

When the Hiace is to be used as a bus or coaster, a wide body and high roof are available. For use as a delivery van, customers have the choice of the standard version or a high-roof version with options of panel type and glass type (STD only) windows. Furthermore, most of these combinations are available in either petrol or diesel versions (2.7 twin cam 16-valve petrol EFI engine with VVT-i or 2.5 litre turbo diesel engine with the sophisticated 'common rail direct in-

jection' technology).

Tuned to meet the vehicle's dual usage either as a professional cargo hauler or as a people carrier, the Hiace suspension system provides the best possible ride comfort and handling.

A large volume 70-litre fuel tank offers long dis-

ance driving capacity.

Safety features include a crash resistant body, SRS dual airbags (on selected grades only), and Load Sensing Proportioning Valve (LSPV), amongst other features. No wonder then that Hiace is yet another favourite of the people, from Toyota.

In Oman. Toyota is a household name, a part of people's lives. On the one hand, Toyota offers endur-



ing quality. On the other, nothing comes close to it in terms of value-retention. It is no surprise; therefore that Toyota soars far above the rest, with a dominant market share and ever-expanding customer base.

The unmatched, nationwide parts and service support of Saud Bahwan Group makes Toyota's pride of place a reality. Toyota customers in Oman enjoy 6-year unlimited mileage protection, over 98 per cent parts availability and round-the-clock care, amongst many other exclusive privileges from the Group.

#### **SNIPPETS**

D-ILA devices deliver approximately 10 megapixels of high-resolution. Elaborate design offers operational flexibility and it weighs only about 50 kg. Both shortfocus and telescopic lenses are optionally available for extended projection applications. You can get more information about this projector and many others by contacting OHI Electronics, distributors of JVC in Oman.

### **Epica: Exceptional roominess**

NOT only is the Chevrolet Epica admired for its looks, safety, value and comfort, it offers exceptional value for money. It continues to raise the benchmark for its segment. It is well known for its strong power delivery, smoothness and lack of noise. Thanks to the in-line six cylinder-2.0 litre engine, it provides a vibration-free environment with outstanding noise-insulation. The interior is a sublime place to be when driving.

To achieve much of this quietness, the inner panels of the wheel arches have been coated with polypropylene to absorb noise, while engineers have closed any unnecessary openings in the bulkhead between the boot and passenger. As a genuine family saloon, the Epica easily seats five adults in comfort, making travelling a pleasure for all passengers. And it's particularly

High ...... Low ...... Value ..... Prev. Value ..... Diff ..... Diff ..... Diff ..... Diff ..... 6,798.17 ..... -70.64 .... -1.04



well equipped: the entry-level LS alone boasts electric windows all round with driver express-down, outside power wing mirrors and height-adjustable driver's seat with adjustable lumbar support. Remote central locking and alarm system with flip key, thermal insulation glass and fog lamps also come as standard.

It's as luxurious as it is comfortable, with soft, high-quality mouldings and chrome highlights. Also included are leather seats, climate control and a high-power MP3/CD system, all giving the car an executive feel, available even on the base model

Space, though, forms the cornerstone of the car and the enormous boot is among the biggest in its class. There is a wealth of utility compartments, from trays and cubbyholes to the innovative rear arm rest that doubles as a storage locker. Drinks holders are available at the front and back, and a sunglasses tray, handbag hook for the front passenger and 12V jack in the centre console further enhance the appeal of the Epica. The latter

can be used to power a laptop or DVD player.

The LT has even more to offer. Alongside the requisite leather upholstery are other high-calibre details including electronically controlled air-conditioning, cruise control, sunroof and rain sensor. The driver's seat is adjustable eight ways

A lightweight, rigid cell forms the basis of passenger protection. In the event of a collision, the energy from the impact is diverted into precisely defined deformation zones, and is broken down. Consequently, pas-

sengers are contained within adequate survival space.

In the case of a frontal impact, force is distributed over four load paths in different directions, considerably reducing its effect on the driver and front-seat passenger. A transverse beam of high-strength steel provides even more protection by preventing any part of the engine penetrating the passenger cell. Reinforcements in the doors and at the rear have been specifically designed and structured to withstand a crash, protecting occupants in the event of side or rear impacts

OTE Group is the exclusive dealer for Chevrolet in Oman offering excellent sales & after-sales service support on par with global standards with a nationwide

### SECURITIES MARKET

**REGULAR MARKET** 

Banks and Investm Services and Insur Industry Index	ance Index	2.736.5	62.707.65	2,709.20	2.736	.562	7.361.00
TRADING SUMMARY				IIn	Down	Faual	Sec Traded
12,015,405							

### **MSM** index ends lower

MUSCAT | The MSM Index lost 70 points to close at 6,728 points, 1.03 per cent lower. The total shares exchanged decreased by seven per cent to 12.015 million shares and the total value traded decreased by 31.1 per cent to RO 4.324 million. The market breadth was negative with 38 declines and only three advances out of 54 traded securities.

Amongst the sectors, Banking & Investment sector was the biggest loser and lost of 1.24 per cent to close at 9,655 points. Moreover, the Industrial sector and Services & Insurance sector went down by 1.04 per cent and 1.00 per cent to close at 7,603 and 2,709 respectively.

far Beverages (+4.15 per cent) and Oman Holding Interna-tional (+2.83 per cent) to close at RO0.276 and RO0.327. The top two losers were Oman Refreshment (-5.29 per cent) and Oman United Insurance (-4.47 per cent) to close at RO0.501 and RO0.278.

The top two traded were Global Investment (2.312 million shares) and Al Anwar Holding (1.411 million shares). The top two by value traded were Omantel (RO0.420 million) and National Aluminium (RO0.403 million).

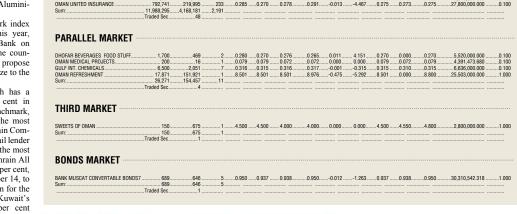
Bahrain's benchmark index advanced the most this year, led by Ahli United Bank on investor speculation the country's largest bank may propose a dividend similar in size to the one last year.

Ahli United which has a weighting of 18 per cent in the Gulf country's benchmark, since November. Bahrain Commercial Facilities, a retail lender and car seller, jumped the most since October The Bahrain All Share Index added 1.6 per cent, the most since December 14, to 1,537, bringing the gain for the year to 5.4 per cent. Kuwait's measure added 0.3 per cent and Qatar's gauge 0.1 per cent. Saudi's Tadawul Index gained 0.1 per cent and Dubai's measure fell 0.1 per cent. The Abu Dhabi index retreated less than 0.1 per cent. - Bloomberg

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### SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME .	TURNOVER.	TRADES	HIGH	LOW								MARKET CAP	
OMAN HOLDING INTERNATIONAL	15.391	5.030	8	0.330	0.323	0.327	0.318	0.009	2.830	0.324 .	0.311	0.323	35.970.000.000	0.10
OHOFAR CATTLE FEED	46.830	10.945	11	0.234	0.233	0.234	0.233	0.001	0.429	0.233	0.233	0.235	16.380.000.000	0.10
AES BARKA														
AHLI BANK														
AL HASSAN ENGINEERING														
AL SHARQIA INV. HOLDING													10.400.000.000	
													12.075.000.000	
VATIONAL GAS														
OMAN CHLORINE												0.380		
SHELL OMAN MARKETING	50	100	1	2 000	2 000	2 050	2.050	0.000	0.000	2 000			194 750 000 000	
SOHAR POWER													38.920.000.000	
													19.816.650.000	
FRANSGULF IND. INV. HOLDING													7.187.500.000	
													7.533.198.924	
													49.008.599.640	
DHOFAR INT DEV AND INV HOLD														
													361.054.000.000	0.10
AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS											0.318			
OMINVEST														
BANK SOHAR														
MAJAN COLLEGE		4,597												
JNITED FINANCE														
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IND														
OMAN INTERNATIONAL BANK														
AL BATINAH DEV. INV. HOLDING		2,467											6,120,000.000	
OMAN TELECOMMUNICATION														
BANK MUSCAT														
	512,647		138										90,919,400.000	0.10
NAT. ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS													19,505,012.450	
BANK DHOFAR													585,752,532.552	
/OLTAMP ENERGY														
OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY		41,633											132,756,000.000	0.10
SALALAH PORT SERVICES													93,515,448.000	
RAYSUT CEMENT														
DMAN CEMENT														
GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON													110,250,000.000	0.10
OMAN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE													31,300,000.000	
RENAISSANCE SERVICES	310.820	256.879	70	0.840	0.823	0.826	0.842	0.016	1.900	0.825 .	0.824	0.825	233.010.019.004	0.10
OMAN FISHERIES	49,793	6,809	18	0.140	0.136	0.137	0.140	0.003	2.143	0.138 .	0.137	0.138	17,125,000.000	0.10
DHOFAR INSURANCE	57.800	16.201	14	0.287	0.280	0.280	0.287	0.007	2.439	0.280 .	0.279	0.282	56.000.000.000	0.10
OMAN FLOUR MILLS													104.895.000.000	0.10
GULF INVESTMENT SER	939.230	108.565	107	0.119	0 114	0.116	0.119	-0.003	-2 521	0.117	0.116	0.117	6.825.813.172	0.10
OMAN AND EMIRATES INV. OM							0.236				0.228		14.015.625.000	
GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	2.312.092	235,606	124	0.103	0.101	0.102	0 105	-0.003	-2 857	0.102	0.101	0.102	30.600.000.000	0.10
AL JAZEERA SERVICES	64.950	16,431	26	0.255	0.251	0.253	0.261	-0.008	-3.065	0.254	0.254	0.255	15.484.681.069	0.10
AL ANWAR HOLDING														
													8.515.000.000	
DMAN UNITED INSURANCE														
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### INDIA Stocks

7	Hindalco Inds Oriental Bank HPCL REI Agro	.149.752.60	Athary Enter	304.15 -20.0 304.15 -19.9 34.63 -19.9 500.00 -18.5

### Sensex rises led by Jaiprakash

MUMBAI | Indian stocks rose after President Pratibha Devisingh Patil said the government aims to boost economic growth to nine per cent by 2012, boosting expectations spending will be increased in its annual budget this week. Jaiprakash

Associates gained 1.6 per cent as Patil said the government will spend more on roads, power, agriculture and rural development to accelerate growth in the world's second- most populous country after China. Tata Steel climbed 2.1 per cent.
"Economic growth will be

strong in our economy, there is no reason to doubt that," said Avinash Gunta an analyst at Bonanza Portfolio in New Delhi. "The government is likely to continue spending on infrastructure projects. This will lead to more jobs being



The Bombay Stock Exchange's Sensitive Index, or Sensex, gained 45.42, or 0.3 per cent, to 16,237.05. The S&P CNX Nifty Index on the Na-tional Stock Exchange rose 0.2 per cent to 4,856.4. The BSE 200 Index was little changed at 2,047.67.

Jaiprakash, a builder of dams, roads and bridges, rose 1.6 per cent to Rs131.85. Tata

Steel, the biggest producer of the alloy, gained 2.1 per cent to Rs572.75. Hindalco Industries, the biggest aluminium producer, rose 2.8 per cent to Rs154.15.

Shree Renuka Sugars, India's biggest refiner, rose 3.7 per cent to Rs186.55 after agreeing to buy 51 per cent of closely held Equipav Acucar e Alcool. — *Bloomberg* 

### **Indian rupee gains**

on speculation the government will announce steps to narrow its budget deficit to boost growth and lure investors to the nation's assets.

The credit rating of Asia's third-largest economy may be raised from junk if Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee provides a comprehensive plan to roll back fiscal stimulus and cut the budget deficit this week, Moody's Investors Service

"Recent measures by the government on the fiscal front. like decontrolling fertilizer prices, indicate budget deficit will be under control," said Krishnamurthy Harihar, Mumbai-based treasurer at the Indian unit of FirstRand "The budget will determine future fund flows."

The rupee appreciated 0.2 per cent to 46.215 per dollar as of the 5pm close in Mumbai, taking this year's gain to 0.7 per cent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It advanced to 46 earlier, the strongest level since February 17.

Urea rates were increased by

**MUMBAI** | India's rupee rose, 10 per cent from April 1 to help billion) the government spends on capping prices of fertilizers, according to Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika

> Offshore contracts indicate bets the rupee will trade at 46.25 to the dollar in a month, compared with expectations of 46 38 at the end of last week Forwards are agreements in which assets are bought and sold at current prices for fu-ture delivery. Non-deliverable contracts are settled in dollars rather than the local currency.

### **Bonds rise**

India's 10-year bonds rose the most in more than four weeks as yields near the highest level in 16 months attracted inves-

"Investors will be watching the budget now and the direction will be set by the borrowing program," said S. Srikumar, chief of fixed-income at stateowned Corporation Bank in Mumbai. "For now, there is no negative news so investors are attracted by the current yield levels." — Bloomberg



### Karachi stock index rises

KARACHI | Pakistan's stocks rose for a fifth day, led by Oil & Gas Development after the explorer found "sizeable reserves of hydrocarbon" in its exploratory well.

Oil & Gas gained 1.5 per cent to Rs120.94. The company discovered gas from Shah Well No. 1 at Hyderabad, Oil & Gas said in a statement to the stock exchange yesterday.

"The gas find news led to a positive sentiment in the market," said Asad Farid, an economist at AKD Securities in Karachi yesterday.

The benchmark Karachi

Stock Exchange 100 Index rose 56.64, or 0.6 per cent, to 9,953.07. The gauge has gained six per cent this year and is trading at 8.6 times future earnings. the lowest in Asia, according to Bloomberg data. Pakistan State Oil Co., climbed 1.6 per cent to Rs307.77. — Bloomberg





TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 | PAGE 25



Music has the power to shape a child's mind

► HEALTH | PAGE 28



## Welcome to FarmVille: Population 80 million



How did virtual chickens, £10 tractors and acres of soya beans become the world's biggest video game? FarmVille, the world's biggest social game, has almost 80 million players — that's around 20 per cent of all Facebook users; more than the number of people who use Twitter or, indeed, live in the UK

planted them this morning, after acquiring the seeds for the bargain price of 10 coins and being assured of their profitability as a crop. But I let the day get the best of I had work to do, lunch to eat, e-mails to read and when I finally returned to check on my plot, the fruit had flourished, matured and died in the space of just a few short hours. This is not the real world and these were not some mutant GM strawberries; in fact, they weren't really strawberries at all. This is FarmVille, a Facebook game for which I've been tillng digital soil all week planting crops made up of

mere bytes and pixels.

Perhaps you've only heard of FarmVille from vour cluttered Facebook news feed, informing you that so-and-so has just planted their 15th field of soybeans, or built their first barn, or earned a brightly coloured ribbon in recognition of their virtual agricultural achievements. Perhaps you've joined one of the Facebook groups that have been created in protest at the game's pervasiveness. But your protests would be in vain: FarmVille, the world's biggest social game, has almost 80 million players — that's around 20 per cent of all Facebook users; more than the number of people who use Twitter or, indeed, live in the UK. Some 30 million of them tend their crops daily. When the site allowed its gamers to exchange virtual Valentine gifts online, 220m were sent and accepted within 18 hours; to get that into perspective, it's worth noting that Hallmark sells approximately 200m e-cards

over the entire Valentine season.

The object of FarmVille (which was recently launched as a standalone game for Facebook-refuseniks on Microsoft's MSN Games platform) is to build and maintain your own virtual farm — pay virtual coins for seeds, plant virtual crops and earn virtual profits. As the game goes on, players can gross enough to buy tractors and livestock, construct outbuildings and expand their plot well beyond the borders of their browser window. The key to its success is social: if a player persuades their Facebook acquaintances to become their FarmVille "neighbours" they can be rewarded for fertilising their friends' fields or feeding their hogs.

ish men in darkened bedrooms, studying strategy guides for World of Warcraft and Halo. Now, thanks to FarmVille and other games like it, that demographic has shifted dramatically towards the mainstream, taking in office workers and stay-at-home mums, children and their grandparents. A recent survey concluded that today's average social gamer is a 43-year-old woman. Crucially for its players, it is free to join FarmVille and you can enjoy a long and fruitful relationship with the game without ever spending a

Crucially for its creators, there's a second opour real-world credit card to buy virtual goods and stay ahead of your friends in the FarmVille rank ings. Most of these digital ably priced, but

among the Valentine

gifts on offer was a limited edition, \$50 "diamond ring", which

romance, it would appear, is not

protects its recipient's crops from wither

ing in perpetuity. My strawberries are still dead;

FarmVille was reared by the world's most successful stable of online social games, Zynga, which was founded in San Francisco in July 2007 and al-

ready has more than 500 employees and an estimated

annual revenue of around \$150m (£97m). Mark Pin-

cus, its 43 year-old founder and CEO - who named

the company after his deceased bulldog — is a serial

inner need to beat my Facebook frenemies The power of online social games first such a degree that Hasbro

web entrepreneur whose previous businesses include the early social network Tribe. "Our intent when we

founded Zynga," he says, "was to design a gaming experience for the mass market. Back in 2007 nobody

offered games on the web that were available and ac

cessible to everyone. They were confined to niches of

Maya Forrester, a 39-year-old human resources executive with 57 FarmVille neighbours, is less ro-

mantic about her reasons for loving the game. "It's the competition that got me hooked," she says. "I

don't have a farm fantasy, but FarmVille fulfils my

hardcore gamers.

apparent in 2007, with the spectacular rise and fall of Scrabulous, a wildly popular Facebook game that imitated Scrabble to

down; for a while Scrabulous catered to half a million users daily. Fa-

cebook had opened its site to exter-nal developers that year, allowing anyone with the necessary programming nous to create add-on games, services and other applications for its users' accounts. FarmVille relies on Facebook for its existence and without the social network its success would have been impossible.

"With Scrabulous," explains Chatfield, "people realised that a social platform like Facebook gives people ways to show off to, or compete with, their friends. It's so much more engaging to do something with people you know than to do it with strangers

### THE TOP ONLINE GAMES

#### **World of Warcraft**

WoW is the mother of all MMORPGs (that's "massively multiplayer online role-playing games" to you and me), and more than 11.5 million players have been sucked into the Warcraft world since it was first launched in 2004. The game's users pay a subscription for the privilege of becoming a swordwielding knight of the digital realm.



This online version of Scrabble began life in India in 2005, the creation of the Scrabble-loving Agarwalla brothers. When Facebook opened its platform to third-party developers in 2007, the network of Scrabulous lovers expanded to 500,000 daily users, with more than 800,000 people adding the game to their Facebook accounts.

#### **Second Life**

The virtual world of Second Life is not, technically speaking, a game. It has the same social pull as FarmVille, but none of the competitive goals. Its 18 million "residents" instead go shopping, hang out with friends, work, trade and even have romantic entanglements.

### **Pet Society**

Pet Society is the most successful game produced by Zynga's closest rival, Playfish. Played, like Farm-Ville, via Facebook, it allows users not to nurture a patch of land, but a series of animals, customising their appearances and keeping them fed and aroomed

### MyTown

MyTown has been described as "Monopoly for the real world". An iPhone app that mixes the digital world with the outside one, it works along similar lines to the "location-based" social network FourSquare, which allows its users to "check-in" to geographical locations. MyTown, on the other hand, allows you to "buy" and manage virtual versions of your favourite venues. Created by developers Booyah, the game now has more than 800,000

> but playing with friends is an incentive to be fair, and that brings the emotional rewards of competition. FarmVille is in the tradition of family board games, as are many of the most successful social games. These are not high-production, high-budget, high involvement games like World of Warcraft or Halo. They're low-risk, low-barrier games. Lots of people are playing FarmVille who never played a proper videogame before but now might

> Cassandra Innes has even made new friends via FarmVille, after visiting fan sites in search of neighbours. "I introduced one of them to my sister because they had similar interests," she admits. talking to my family more about our nutty farms than about normal things. We have long phone calls about it. The farm is like a comfort zone: it's easier to communicate about that than about who's going where for Christmas.

> According to Pincus, FarmVille derives more than 90 per cent of its income from virtual goods, but the ways it earns the other 10 per cent have caused controversy. "Zynga is very aggressive about finding techniques to keep people coming back and spend-ing money on games," explains Chatfield. "They compel you to feed a virtual beast." Zynga's

CEO was once quoted as saying that in the company's early days, he "did every horrible

thing in the book, just to get revenues".

Back in FarmVille, the players are concerned with simpler things than lead generators. Maya disapproves of some of her neighbours' approach to agriculture; particularly the factory-style farmers who sacrifice their integrity in favour of easy profits. Cassandra, meanwhile, is worried for the welfare of FarmVille's animals. "Some of my neighbours' farms are awful," she says. "Their whole plot is given over to crops. and their cows and horses are all squashed into a corner with no room to move. The game should be structured so that it's more animal-friendly and you get punished for having too many battery chickens.

Pincus would no doubt be overjoyed by the sincerity of his players' views on the game. "To be that impactful on, and that representative of, the culture totally excites me and my team," he says. "I love the idea that we can put out a game that's as popular as Seinfeld." — *The Independent* 

### Goa

THE movie revolves around three youths who sets out on a trip to Goa only with a mission to fall in love with a white woman, get married and go abroad. The twists and turns they come across in their mission makes up the story.

The movie begins in Pannapuram, a remote village near Madurai (the native place of Venkat Prabhu's family). Three youngsters Samikannu (Premji Amaran), Vinay-akam (Jai) and Ramarajan (Vaibhav) are callous who spend all their time doing nothing. Their acts invite the wrath of the villagers and the village panchayat decides that the three should never meet again in future for the welfare and peace of the village.

The trio decides to run away from the village and spend few days peacefully in Madurai. When they reach their friend's place they come to know that he has married a foreign woman whom he met in Goa and that he would be flying to London soon. This

CITY CINEMA - Al Shatti

Telephone: 24692656 (after 2pm) or Book online on our website

My Name Is Khan (Hindi)

3:30, 7:00 & 10:30pm Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol and Jimmy Shergill; CP No: 93 Arthur And The Revenge Of Maltazard

Arthur And The Revenge Of Maltazard
(Animation/Sequel) 3:30 & 5:30pm
Cast: Freddie Highmore, Mia Farrow and
Madonma, CP No.: 137
The Wolfman (Action) (For 15+)
7:15, 9:30 & 11:45pm
Cast: Simon Merrells, German Whelan and
Emily Blunt: CP No: 138
Ace Ventura Jr (Action/Adv) 3:30pm
Cast: Jash Flitter, Emma Lockhart and
Austin Rogers; CP No: 141
Sy Next Door (Action/Adv)
7:30 & 11:30pm
Cast: Jaskie Chan Alian Folley and Will

Cast: Jackie Chan, Alina Foley and Will Shadley; CP No: 129

Shadley, CP No: 129

Majnoon Amera (Arabic)
5:30pm; CP No: 136
Cast: Noura Rahal, Shams and Hiattem
Everybody's Fine (Comedy/Drama) 9:30pm
Cast: Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore and
Kata Backingsla

Kate Beckinsale CP No: 36

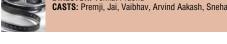
Telephone: 25545544 (after 2pm)

Aayirathil Oruvan (Tamil)

Cast: Karthik, Reema Sen and Partibhan
CP No: 80
Armoured (Drama); (For 12+)
10:00 & 11:30pm
Cast: Andre Jamal Kinney, Matt Dillon and
Jean Reno; CP No: 20
Chance Pe Dance (Hindi)
7:30 & 10:30pm

7:30 & 10:30pm Cast: Shahid Kapur and Genelia D'souza CP No: 21

CITY CINEMA - Sur



DIRECTOR: Venkat Prabhu

results in them deciding to try their luck in Goa. They set off with a plan to lure a white woman and marry her

They come across one Danny (Arvind Akash) who helps them with food and shelter in Goa and expose them to the party culture. Roshini (Piya) a singer in a hotel falls for Vinayakam, while Jesika (Melanie), a white lady follows Samikannu from Madurai attracted by his innocence. Now enters Dany's friend Jack (Sampath), a gay who has affinity for Danny

Soon Danny and Jack help the trio get an image makeover and start helping them in their mission. Ramarajan's life takes a twist after he comes across Suhasini (Sneha), a rich

CINEME

CITY CINEMA - Ruwi

Telephone: 24831809

My Name Is Khan (Hindi)

3:30, 6:30 & 9:30nm

Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol and

Jimmy Shergill

CP No: 94

Ishqiya (Hindi)

3:30, 6:30 & 9:30pm

Cast: Naseeruddin Shah, Arshad Warsi and

Vidya Balan CP No: 84

3 Idiots (Hindi)

3:30 6:30 & 9:30nm

R. Madhavan

CP No: 731

Internet Booking Available at

www.citvcinemaoman.com

FILM CITY

Telephone: Ruwi: 24831152

Qurum: 24560341 (9:30-1:00, 4:30-9:00pm)

Zameen Bipasha Basu Love

Yourself Pangaa Gang Siddharth The Prise Aamras Maharathi

Casino owner in Goa. They get attracted towards each other and eventually get married But the true colour of Suhasini is revealed and he manages to escape from trouble there with the help of his friends.

Vinayakam is finally convinced by Roshini's sincere love while Samikannu gets wedlocked with Jesica. After some twists and turns in the story, all ends well and the boys return to their village to start a new life Vaibhav has a surprise when he lands in Pannapuram in the form of Nayanthara.

Yuvanshankar Raja is the real scenestealer. A total of 9 songs including theme are peppy and interesting to listen to. Sakthi Saravanan's camera is equally appealing

Watch more movies now!

www.citycinemaoman.com

CITY CINEMA - Sohar

My Name Is Khan (Hindi)

3:30, 7:00 & 10:30pm

Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol and

Jimmy Shergill

CP No: 93 The Imaginarium Of Doctor Parnassus (Adven/Mystery)

3:30 & 9:15nm

Cast: Johnny Depp, Heath Ledger and

Jude Law CP No: 30

Carriers (Drama/Sci-Fic) (For 12+)

7:30 & 11:30pm

Cast: Chris Pine, Lou Taylor Pucci and

Piper Perabo CP No: 60

The Wolfman (Action) (For 15+)

3:30, 9:30 & 11:30pm Cast: Simon Merrells, Gemma Whelan and

Emily Blunt

CP No: 140

Alvin and the Chipmunks 2

(Comedy, Family)

5:30pm

Cast: Jason Lee and Zachary Levi

CP No: 745

Bedon Rekaba (Arabic) (For 15+)

7:30pm Cast: Randa El Beiheiry, Dolly Shaheen and

Hassan Hosny

CP No: 90

Telephone: 26840312/26843510

Website:



### **Al Bahja Cinema**

The Wolfman (Action) (For 18+) 2:00, 4:00, 8:00, 10:00 & 11:55pm Cast: Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins and Emily Blunt; CP No: 139 My One And Only (Comedy) (For 12+)

10:00pm Cast: Renee Zellweger, Chris Noth and Steven Weber; CP No: 133 Valentine's Day (Comedy) (For 18+) 6:00pm Cast: Jessica Alba, Kathy Bates and Jessica

Beil: CP No: 92 Beil; CP No: 92

Ace Ventura Jr (Action/Adv) 4:00pm
Cast: Josh Flitter, Emma Lockhart and Austin Rogers; CP No: 142

The Spy Next Door (Action/Adventure) 2:00 & 8:15pm; CP No: 130
Cast: Jackie Chan and Madeline Carroll Horsemen (Thriller) (For 12+) 11:55pm
Cast: Dennis Quiad and Ziyi Zhang
CP No: CP No: 27

CP No: 87 Majnoon Amera (Arabic) 6:00pm: CP No: 135

DIGITAL dts

### STAR CINEMA Film information:

24791641 24792360 Star Main My Name Is Khan (Hindi) 3:30, 6:30 & 9:30pm

Cast: Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol and Jimmy Shergill; CP No: 95 Star Mini 1 Star Mini 1
Namo Venkatesha (Telugu)
3:30 & 6:30pm
Cast: Venkatesh, Trisha and Brahmanand
Goa (Tamil) 9:30pm
Cast: Sneha, Arvind Akash and Premiji
CP No: 127
Star Mini 2
CLIOSED FOR BENDIVATION

CLOSED FOR RENOVATION Star Mini 3

Goa (Tamill) 3:30pm Cast: Sneha, Arvind Akash and Premji Gulumaal (Mal) 6:30 & 9:30pm Cast: Jaya Surya, Mithra Kurian and Nedumudi Venu

Www.isurf.co.com

▼ TABLE weather with mainly clear skies over the Sultanate with chances of and night to early morning fog patches over Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta region.

#### EXPECTED WINDS

Over most of the Sultanate winds will be northerly to northwesterly light to moderate.

#### SEA STATE

City

Londor Los Angeles

Moscow

Bangkol

New Delhi

Paris

WY666 WY654 QR170 EK866 EY384 GF560 MS930 RJ600 WY602 WY632 WY632 WY662 WY202 WY114 WY112 WY102 WY1902

WY904 WY906 WY906

WY381 LH618 QR168 EY388 WY682 IC685

CHITTAGONG
DUBAI-ABU DHAE
LUCKNOW
DOHA-BAHRAIN
SALALAH
BAHRAIN
MUKHAIZNA
DELHI

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BAHARIN
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-ABU DHABI
MALI-COLOMBO
PRANKFURT-ABU DHABI
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KHASAB-ARPAIN
DOWA-BA-TURBAT
ABU OHABI-MANGALORE
CAIRO
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2220 2225 2230 2235 2250 2255 2310 2315 2315 2320 2330 2330 2345 2359 LH618 QR168 WY682 EY388 WY422 IC685 WY672 WY636 LX242 9W534 WY610 PK229 9W540

Fairly Odd Parents Hannah Montana I Got A Rocket Wizards Of Waverly Place

Place
Place
Phineas & Ferb
1310
Suite Life On Deck
1335 Replacements
1355 American Dragon
1420 Kim Possible
Famous Five
1505 Fairly Odd Parents
1508 Phineas & Ferb
1555 Replacements

Place
1700 Hannah Montana
1725 Sonny With A

Chance
Fairly Odd Parents
Phineas & Ferb
Suite Life On Deck
Wizards Of Waverly
Place
Hannah Montana
The Replacements
Jonas

Jonas Suite Life On Deck Sonny With A

2115 Hannah Montana 2140 Wizards Of Wave

Place
2205 The Suite Life Of
Zack & Cody
2250 The Replacements

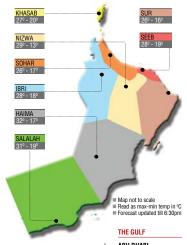
2250

Max Min

Slight along all of Oman coasts with maximum wave height of 1.25 metres.

#### SURFACE VISIBILITY

Good to moderate over most of the Sultanate becoming poor during fog.



ABU DHABI Max - 27 RIYADH Min - 13 Max - 27 MANAMA Max - 26 Min - 17

**KUWAIT CITY** Max - 27 Min - 16 DOHA Max - 28 Min - 18

### AIRLINES

WEDNESDAY ► TUESDAY

EDAGO LAHORE TRIVANDRE WY912 CHITTAN THE WAY THE WY912 CHITTAN THE WY912 CHITTAN THE WY912 CHITTAN THE WY913 CHITTAN THE

RIYADH ABU DHABI AMMAN-BEIRUT AHMEDABAD-BON JEDDAH ABU DHABI ZURICH-DUBAI COCHIN DUBAI

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COCHIN LONDON HEATHROW PARIS

DUBAI HYDERABAD-BANGALORE ABU DHABI-AMSTERDAM BAHRAIN MADRAS DELHI DOHA

### CHEDULES

English & Arabic

The Ugly Truth
The Time Travellers
Bruce Willis
Surrogates
This Is It - Michael
Jackson
Anywhere But Home
Ice Age 3 - Dawn of
the Dinosaurs

the Dinosaurs Michael Jackson - This Is It - Collectors



### MOVIES

0620 Bachelor Party 2: The

Someone Like You Bachelor Party 2: The Last Temptation 1110 1245

1420 1610 Alien 3 Detectives The Ramen Girl The Preacher's Wife Predator 2 Up Close & Personal Watching The 1745

Detectives 0250 The Ramen Girl 0435 The Preacher's Wife

STORE .

0600 The Collector 0800 The Screening 0830 The Screening 0900 Blackboard Ju 1040 High Society The Screening Room The Screening Room Blackboard Jungle World Bus. Today International Desk The Brief World Sport Prism World's Untold Stories 1800 1900 2000 2030 2100 2130

International Desk Quest Means Bus.

0100 Connect the World 0200 BackStory 0230 World Sport 0300 The Situation Room 0400 World Report 0500 World Bus. Today 0530 World Sport

ery Science - ST

0645 How Does That Work? 0710 Mean Green Machines 0740 One Step Beyond 0810 Robocar 0900 Scrapheap Challenge

Discovery

2200 2300

1930 Heir
130 Arena
1310 Home Is Where The
Heart Is
1435 Babes In Toyland
1510 Buona Sera, Mrs.
Campbell
1800 A Funny Thing
Happened On The
Way To The Forum
1935 The Burning Bed
2110 The Playboys
2300 Stigmata
0040 Speechless
0215 The Pope Must Die

0215 The Pope Must Die 0355 Hot Under The Colli 0520 Love, Cheat & Steal

Dangerously
0000 Tap
0155 Lost Angels
0355 The Screening Room
0420 Blackboard Jungle

1225 The Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn 1410 40 Carats

The Champ Bhowani Junction Wonderful World Of

The Brothers Grimm The Year Of Living

0605 Chowder 0630 Ben 10 0655 Best Ed 0720 Samurai Jack 0745 Cramp Twins 0810 Eliot Kid 0835 The Marvelous Misadventures Of Flapjack My Spy Family Chowder Best Ed Chop Socky Ch Ben 10: Alien Fo Bakugan Battle Brawlers 1000 Science Of Star Wars 1100 Mighty Ships 1155 How Does That Work? 1220 Sturt Junkies 1250 Robocar 1345 Green Machines 1440 One Step Beyond 1440 Science Of Star Wars 1355 Mighty Ships 1630 Cell Phone 1725 How Does That

1130 Fantastic Four: World's Greate Eliot Kid Eliot Kid My Gym Partner's A Monkey Squirrel Boy Robotboy Camp Lazlo The Powerpuff Girls Class Of 3000 Ed, Edd N Eddy Foster's Home For

GARLOOD HITCOOK

Foster's Home For 1525

A Monkey
1640 Squirrel Boy
1705 Eliot Kid
1735 George Of The
Jungle
1800 Skunk Fu!
1825 Fantstic Four:
World's Greatest
Heroes 1850 Bakugan Battle

1700 Bidaai 1730 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata hai 1800 Shraddha 1830 Mitwa - Phool Kamal

Work?
1755 Scrapheap Challenge
1850 Brailiac
1945 Man Made Marvels
2040 Rebuilding
Greensburg
2130 Pripect Earth
2220 How It's Made
21310 Mythbusters
0000 Rebuilding
Greensburg Greensburg
Greensburg
University

Brawlers

1915 The Secret
Saturdays

1940 Ben 10: Alien Force
2005 Casper's Scare

KIDS' CHOICE

2310 2335

0230 0255

Squirrel Boy The Marvelous

Chop Socky Chooks My Gym Partner's

A Monkey Ed, Edd N Eddy Skunk Fu! The Secret

Saturdays Ben 10: Alien Force The Life & Times Of Juniner Lee

Juniper Lee Camp Lazlo Samurai Jack Megas XLR Out Of Jimmy's

Head Chop Socky Chook Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends Cramp Twins George Of The Jungle Adrenalini Brothers

0610 Wizards Of Waverly Place 0635 Phineas & Ferb 0700 Higglytown Heroes 0710 My Friends Tigger 0735

1035 Handy Manny
10800 Special Agent Oso
10820 Imagination Movers
10845 Lazytown
10910 Mickey Mouse
Clubhouse
1000 Handy Manny
1025 Special Agent Oso
1045 Brandy & Mr

2230 American Dragon
2325 Kim Possible
2330 American Dragon
2325 Kim Possible
2330 Famous Orarents
0015 Painy Odd Farents
0035 Phineas & Ferb
0100 My Friends Tigger
And Ponny
120 And Ponny
1415 Special Agent Oso
0210 Imagination Movers
0231 Eazylow
0380 Mickey Mouse
0345 Handy Manny
0430 Brandy & Mr
Whiskers Whiskers
0500 Fairly Odd Parents
0525 Hannah Montana

9W539 9W529 WY201 WY673 WY231 9W529 WY271 WY661 WY3611 WY901 WY901 MS931 EY385 OR171 RJ601 WY603 WY903 WY903 WY253 WY381 WY253 WY381 WY253 WY381 WY381 WY383 WY663 PK192 IX816 WY401 DH886 WY905 9W533 WY101 WY121 GF563 IX534 WY3303 WY203 WY203 WY607 WY661 WY607 WY611 GF565 G9118 WY647 SV535 WY909 WY909 SALALAH
WY653 BAHRAIN
WY655 DOHA
WY653 AB UDHABI
WY653 AB UDHABI
WT6508 KARACHI-BANGKOK
KL450 ABU UHABI-AMSTERDAM
GF567 BAHRAIN
ICS24 MADRAS
ICS26 DELHI
GR169 DOHA
EY381 ABU DHABI-FRANKFURT
LH619 ABU DHABI-FRANKFURT

60 PHINEAS AND FERB AT 15:30 ON DISNEY CHANNEL

### S T A R WORLD Star World - Star Select

BODD Apollo 13
STOD Beach Aprina Imme
BODD Apollo 13
STOD Beach Aprina Imme
BODD Alman Autopsy
-Elephant
BODD Marban Mega Flood
1000 The Cowboy People
1100 Built For The Kill
1200 Apollo 15
Sarter Day Bodd
1310 Apollo 15
Sarter Day Bodd
1310 Apollo 15
Sarter Day Bodd
1400 Tornado
1500 Missed Approach S4
1600 Mumbal Mega Flood
1700 Cracking The Ice
Road 2
1800 Night Shift
2000 Apollo People
1000 Missed Approach S4
1200 Missed Shift

FACTUAL

FNE

**ERTAINM** 

ENT

0600 Boston Legal 0655 Dilbert 0700 The King Of Q 0730 How I Met Yo 0800

Boston Legal
Dilibert
The King Of Queens
How I Met Your
Mother
Rules Of
Engagement
Eli Stone
Murder She Wrote
Beewitched
7th Heaven
Dilibert
Boston Legal
Married With
Do
Beauly And The Gee
Whose Line Is It
Anyway?
According To Jim 0900 1000 1055 1100 1155 1200 1255 1300 1400

Anyway?
According To Jim
Friends
Everybody Loves
Raymond
90210
Ugly Betty
Lipstick Jungle 1430 1500 1530 1600 1700 1800

1900 Two And Half
2000 Whose Line Is It
Anyway?
2030 According To Jim
2100 Friends
2101 Friends
2101 Exproyed Loves
Exproyed Loves
Beauty And The Geek
2300 David Letterm
2355 Dilbert
0000 7th Heaven
0005 Married With
Children
1100 According To Jim

Animals 1140 RSPCA: On The Frontline

Animal Planet - Showth

0625 Animal Cops
Houston
0720 Lemu Street
0745 Monkey Life
1818 RSPCA: On The
1835 Vet On The Loose
18 Wildlife SOS
19 Pet Resoucinct
1 The Planet's Funniest
Animals
RSPCA: On The
Frontile

0000 Apache Helicopter 0100 Cracking The Ice Road 2 0200 Night Shift 0300 Tornado 0400 Meltdown in

0500 0530

Animal Planet

0600 IV) Plug
0630 The Playlist
0800 The Playlist
0800 The List
0800 The List
0800 The List
0900 IV) Tunes
1000 Double Shot
1400 Backtracks
1200 Loop
14100 Backtracks
1400 Backtracks
1400 Backtracks
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1630 The Playlist
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1800 The Playlist
1700 IV) Tunes
1700 IV) Plug
1800 The Playlist
1700 Loop
1800 Backtracks
1800 Loop
1800 Double Shot

Children
100 According To Jim
1130 Friends
1200 Beauty And The Geek
1200 Beauty And The Geek
1200 Whose Line Is It
1200 According To Jim
1200 Friends
1200 Wurder She Wrote
12555 Bewitched

This Zee TV

Balamory
Fimbles
Teletubbies
Bargain Hunt
Coast
Bargain Hunt
Coast
Word
The Weakest Link
Eastenders
Doctors
Bargain Hunt
Cash in The Attic
Red Oward
The Word
The Weakest Link
Lastenders
Jocotors
Jocotors
Bargain Hunt
Cash in The Attic
Red Oward
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Jocotors
Seatenders
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Jocotors
Seatenders
Juniey Mysteries 1730 Pet Hescue
1755 Vet On The Loose
1825 Wildlife SOS
1826 Wildlife SOS
1826 Wildlife SOS
1826 Pet On The
1920 Animal Cops
2015 Pet On The
2016 Pet On The
2016 Pet On The
2017 Pet On The
2018 Pet On The
2

0600 Bollywood Business
With Taran Adarsh
0630 Braham Kumari
0700 Baba Ramdev
0800 Kismat Ke Sitare
0800 Kismat Ke Sitare
0800 Bilya Hi Kijo
0900 Bilya Hi Kijo
0900 Bilya Hi Kijo
0900 Bilya Hi Kijo
0900 Choti Bahu
1100 Choti Bahu
1100 Choti Bahu
1100 Kismat Ke Sitare
0900 Bilya Hi Kijo
0900 Pavitar Rishta
1100 Choti Bahu
1100 Chhoti Bahu
1300 Jhansh Ki Rani
1310 Agia Mani Kani
1310 Agia Mani Maha Bilar
1310 Chhoti Bahu
1310 Agia Mani Maha
1310 Yahan Mani Ghar
1310 Zizak Kani Bauph
1310 Zizak Kani Bauph
1310 Agia Mani Maha
1311 Agia Mani Maha
1311 Agia Mani Maha Ghar
1311 Agia Mani Ghar

BIBIC

Coast Bargain Hunt Tweenies Fimbles Teletubbies Yoho Ahoy Balamory

0600 World Report
0700 Anderson Cook
0800 World Report
0800 World Report
0800 World Report
0800 World Report
0900 World Report
0900 World Report
1300 World Report
1300 World Report
1300 World Report
1300 World Sport
1200 World Bus. Today
1200 World Bus. Today
1210 World Sport
1200 World Report
1200 World Report
1200 World Report
1200 World Report
1500 World Report
1500 World Report
1500 World Report
1700 Amanpour
1700 World's Untold
Stories

1830 Pavitra Rishta
1900 ETC- Bollywood
Business With Taran
Adarsh
1930 Chhoti Bahu
1930 Pavitra Rishta
1930 Pavitra Rishta
1930 Pavitra Rishta
1930 Et Till Rajkumod
19230 Ex Till Rajkumod
19230 Ex Till Rajkumod
19230 Ex Till Rajkumod
19230 Ex Till Rajkumod
19330 Hansi Ki Rani
19330 Hansi Ki Rani
19330 Jahansi Ki Rani
19430 Pavitra Rishta
19430 Pavitra Ris

PLÛŜ

 STAR PUIS

 0600
 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

 0700
 Karishma Kaa

 Karishma
 Karishma

 0730
 Sabki Laadil Bebo

 0800
 Global Telemall

 0830
 Be Mein Nikkla

 Hoga Chand
 Hoga Chand

 0930
 Mitwa - Phool Kamal Kee

0930 Mitwa - Phool Kamal Ke
Re
1000 Raja Ki Aayegi Barat
1030 Yeh Rishta Kya
Kehlata hai
1100 Kis Desh Mein Hai
Mera Dil
1130 Tujh Sang Preet
Lagayi Sajna
1200 Hamari Devrani
1230 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
1330 Shraddha 1400 Raja Ki Aayegi Barat
1400 Raja Ki Aayegi Barat
1400 Raja Ki Aayegi Barat
1500 To Be Announced
1530 Tere Mere Sapne
1600 Mann Kee Awaaz
Prätgya

Pratigya 1630 Sabki Laadli Bebo

1900 Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil 1930 Raja Ki Aayegi Barat 2000 Tere Mere Sapne 2030 Sabki Laadli Bebo 2100 Bidaai 2130 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata hai Kehlata hai
2300 Mann Kee Awaaz
Pratigya
2301 Tujh Sang Preet
Lagayi Sajna
0030 Kis Desh Mein Hai
Meraa Dil
Veh Rishta Kya
Kehlata hai

kehlata hai
0200 Shraddha
0230 Sabki Laadii Bebo
0300 Raja Ki Aayegi Barat
0330 Hamari Devrani
0430 Karishma Kaa
Karishma
0500 Kis Desh Mein Hai
Meraa Dil

Ke 1900 Kis Desh Mein Hai









friend (frend), n. a person attached to another by feelings of affection.

What relation?

HENS: JAN IS JOAN'S MOTHER.

Joan is my



HE FOUND A LOOP HOLE.

WELL, YOU

GET A HARP, BUT YOU

WON'T LIKE

HOW WE GIVE

IT TO YOU.

by Dick Rogers

brother

Who is Bob, He is Jan's



### YOUR BIRTHDAY

BY STELLA WILDER

BORN today, you don't tend to reveal much about yourself to others, BORN today, you don't tend to reveal much about yourself to others, and whether you experience something good or something bad, you're likely to keep your feelings to yourself — celebrating, or drowning your sorrows, on your own. This isn't to suggest that you are anything like a hermit; on the contrary, you know how to mix, work and play with others quite well. But when it comes to how you feel about things, it is a different story; your emotions are your business, and you're not about to share them freely.

The danger, of course, is that it may actually be asking too much of yourself to harbour all that feeling without giving it any kind of outlet.

The danger, or course, is that it may actually be asking too much of yourself to harbour all that feeling without giving it any kind of outlet.

Also here, on this date are Sulvia Chase, naws correspondent; Beter Fonds, actor.

Also born on this date are Sylvia Chase, news correspondent; Peter Fonda, actor. Naruhito, crown prince of Japan; George Friedrich Handel, composer.



#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Don't overdo it in any respect. Even something small can be too much for you in the wrong dose.



#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It's a good day to practice what you preach. Others will be looking to you as an example, and will no doubt try to imitate you



#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You may be thinking back to a time when things were simpler, but it's all a matter of perspective. Even then, some things were complicated.



### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

The more you deny what seems clear to others, the more likely you will be to sacrifice some valuable power and control. Fess up if necessary.



### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Now is no time to be stubborn, especially when the truth is staring you in the face. Others seem to know what is going on with you.



#### **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're in a position of renewed authority at this time, but you'll want to be sure that you wield that authority with care and sympathy.



### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your eye for detail will serve you quite well, especially when you are called upon to finish what someone else could not



### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The comfort of your home is not to be undervalued right now. The more time spent under your own roof, the better. Seek solace from routine.



### **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

A collaborative effort surely pays off by day's end, but you may not be sure of the final tally until others have assessed your work.



### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are confident that you're correct, but in a certain situation you will have



### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Others are likely to gravitate toward you because of your overall humou



#### and outlook; they don't know that things are at an ebb. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Focus is the key to success. Make sure that you know just where you're headed, and when you should speed up and slow down.



O DATE LE ANY-MORE

YOU'RE

IN HELVEN.

MY NAME

IS RAJ.

FRIENDS

WRONG

I THINK

I DIED.

AM I IN

HEAVEN

OR HELL?



HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE

BEEN OUTSOURCING

SOULS TO US SINCE THE DEMONS AND ANGELS

UNIONIZED.

BUT THATS
GOOD,
ISN'T IT?
HOW COME
YOU LOOK
SO BUMMED
OUT?



AFFECTION!

ાંમુ

50.

IS THIS

GOOD OR

BAD?

From the clues, can you tell what relation Jan is to Joan?

is not my









ANSH VERMA February 2, 2006

Send us a colour photograph of the child (below 16 years) whose birthday you an celebrating, along with his/her full name, date birth, address, telepho number and parents' your name to Times of Oman, With Love, PO Box 770, PC 112, Ruy or through e-mail to elisure@timesofoman.

## KidSpot.

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## IS MILK A GOOD SOURCE OF MINERALS? OF MINERALS? COW'S MILK IS MILK IS NOTA 600D SOURCE OF MINERALS. MANGANESE, CHROMIUM, SELENIUM AND IN HIGHER LEVELS IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. THE IDEAL CALCTUM TO MAGNESTUM ON DETICIENTO AS TO 1. MILK IS 10 TO 1. RELYTING ON DAIRY FOR CALCTUM MAY LEAD TO MAGNESTUM OFFICIENCY. Health Capaules is not intended to be of a Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

### SUDOKU

### **HOW TO PLAY**

Fill the empty cells with the numbers 1 to 9, so that each number appears once in each row, column and area. — Seven Galaxies





### ACES ON BRIDGE

### Should you go this way or that?

"That's just part of his charm, Aunt Emma."

ENGLISH humorist, playwright and journalist Douglas Jerrold, who died in 1857, wrote, "Sir, you are like a pin, but without either its head or its point."

If you do not see the point of this will experience an uncomfortable feeling, perhaps akin to being pierced

by a pin.

West leads a trump. East wins

and returns a spade,

West leads a trump. East wins with his ace and returns a spade, West following suit. What now?
We could discuss the auction for several column inches, but six spades is a reasonable slam, despite the potential losers in spades, hearts and diamonds. After the defence begins with two rounds of trumps, it is tempting to play East for the heart queen, planning to take these 12 tricks: four spades, three hearts (with a winning finesse), two diamonds,

1000 in Greek numerals

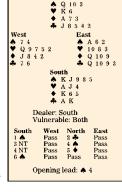
two clubs and a diamond ruff on the

two clubs and a diamond ruff on the board (after discarding a diamond on the heart ace).

However, there is something better, going after four spades, two hearts, two diamonds, three clubs and a heart ruff on the board. That requires clubs to split 3-3 or 4-2, or 5-1 with a singleton queen, which is 86.4 per cent — much better than a 86.4 per cent — much better than a 50-50 finesse. After winning the second spade

After winning the second spade, play off your club honours, lead a heart to dummy's king, ruff a club in your hand, cash the heart ace, trump the heart jack on the board, ruff another club, and draw East's last trump, discarding a diamond from the board. Finally, cross to the diamond ace and cash the club jack, throwing your diamond loser. You landed on the head of a pin!

— By Phillip Alder — By Phillip Alder





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### ACROSS

1 Hot beverage 4 Diminish

- 7 Ballad writer 11 Congeal
- 12 Deface
- 14 Verdi number
- 15 Star Pictures 16 Luli
- 17 Rodeo mount 19 Ultralight wood 21 Practiced Zen 22 Don Diego de la
- Vega 24 Calif. neighbour 27 Rum-soaked cake
- 28 Cycle 20 Ancient ecrolle
- 32 Spigot 34 Hideous monster
- 35 Lots and lots
- 36 Barely visible 37 Slack-jawed 39 Gator Bowl st
- 42 Blah (hyph.) 44 Listlessly
- 46 Bolted 48 Help out
- 50 In-flight feature 51 Line on a man 52 — Speedwagon 53 Large tawny cat 54 Hill builders
- 55 JAMA readers 56 Tijuana "Mrs"

### DOWN

2 George or T.S. 3 Mr. Greenspan 4 CPR pro 5 Fanny, in "Funny Girl" 6 Prickle

8 Immensely large 9 911 responder 10 New Year in Hanoi 11 Prods 18 Movie modul

7 Standards

20 Cry of surprise 23 Ginza purchase 25 Be very frugal 26 Ex-GI 27 So long!

29 Loud noise 30 Get ripe 31 Cookbook word

32 Vain dude 33 Retired 35 Stronger-tasting 37 Contented sigh 40 Andes ruminant

41 Jean Auel heroine 43 Probabilities 46 Monastic title 47 "Wolf Man" Chaney 49 - and dont's



### SCROLEX

SCROLEX is a unique word game puzzle. It combines the vocabulary testing and unscrambling of word puzzles with the fun and lateral thinking of crosswords. The name itself is its best description. SCR — Scramble, CRO — Crossword, SCROL — Scroll, LEX — Lexicon, EX — Exercise.

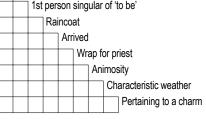
### Rules

- Clues are given for a word on each line.
- Each word must contain all the letters from the word above plus one more.
- No word must begin with the same letter as the word above it.

  Plurals ending with an 's' and proper nouns are not permitted.

  Slang words, spelling variants, dialect words and common usage shortened forms are permitted.

   Hadi Rizvi





### Music has the power to shape a child's mind

Learning an instrument enhances the brain's sensitivity to all sounds, including speech

CHOOLS which fail to make music a core subject are making a mistake as it has advantages for the growing brain and would help all children Parents may not appreciate the screeching of violins and recorders during the hours of practice, but new evidence suggests music lessons help children improve their language skills. Scientists have discovered that playing an instrument significantly enhances the brain's sensitivity to

Schools which fail to make music a core subject are making a mistake, because it has advantages for the growing brain and would help all children, including those with dyslexia and auneuroscientist Professor Nina Kraus said yesterday.

"Playing an instrument may help youngsters better process speech in noisy classrooms and more accurately interpret the nuances of language that are conveyed by subtle changes in the human voice," she told the American Association for the

Advancement of Science in San Diego, California.

'Cash-strapped school districts are making a mistake when they cut music from the curriculum," she warned.

Professor Kraus's team at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, have shown that the nervous system responds to the acoustic properties of speech and music with sub-millisecond precision. The effectiveness with which the nervous system interprets sound patterns is linked to musical ability

"Playing music engages the ability to extract relevant pat-terns, such as the sound of one's instrument, harmonies and rhythms, from the 'sound-" said Professor Kraus scape' "Not surprisingly, musicians" nervous systems are more effective at using the patterns in music and speech alike."

Professor Kraus's team had previously discovered sensitivity to sound patterns correlated with reading skill and the ability to hear speech against back-

The research also suggests that playing an instrument af-fects automatic processing in the brainstem, the lower part of the brain, which controls breathing, the heartbeat and responses they had discovered music can "fundamentally shape" brains in ways that may enhance everyday tasks, including reading and listening. Emma Hutchinson, the founder and director of The Music House for Children, a not-for-profit music teaching school in London, agreed music benefited children's academic development. Babies as young as three months could respond to different frequencies in mu-

A National Autistic Society spokeswoman said many children with autism respond well to music: "It seems that music can help children to communicate and interact with those around them, relax or to express emotions." -The Independent

skills, she said.











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### Hope for peanut allergy sufferers



N experimental treatment for peanut allergy in children has been so successful that scientists have been given permission to go to a full-scale clinical trial involving hundreds of young people who suffer violent immune reactions to the smallest traces of peanut in their food.

In a small pilot study, Andrew Clark of Cambridge University Hospitals demonstrated that it is possible to make affected children less sensitive to peanuts by carefully introducing tiny amounts of peanut flour into their diets. The National Institute of Health Research, part of the Department of Health, will fund a three-year trial costing £1m to establish whether the treatment works on a larger group of children with severe peanut allergy.

Dr Clark told the American

Association for the Advancement of Science in San Diego that the trial was "based on our successful pilot study, where we showed 21 out of 23 kids were effectively desensitised to peanuts ... The families involved in this study say it has changed their lives. It's dramatic. Before, they were checking every food label every time they ate food. They would worry it would cause a reaction, or even kill them, but now they can go out and eat cur-ries and Chinese food and everyday snacks and treats.

He told the meeting that under the "immunotherapy" approach the amount of peanut flour added to a child's food is gradually increased over weeks and months. By the end of the first year, most of the children in the study could eat up to 32

Dr Clark said. "Our longterm aim is to keep them going with weekly dosing — equiva-lent to five peanuts ... I think in two or three years' time we will be in a position where we have a treatment that works; but we are still working on a long-term cure". The hope is, he said, that with more research it might eventually be possible to build up long-term tolerance. — The Independent

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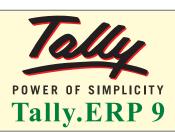
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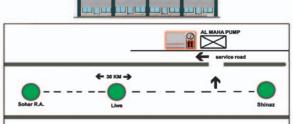


ARABIAN TRAINING CENTRE

PROGRESS GUARANTEED! Tel: 24497214, Fax: 24497339

### SHOWROOM AVAILABLE IN SOHAR





SHOWROOM (1050 Sq. M) AVAILABLE, SUITABLE FOR BANK BRANCHES, MONEY EXCHANGES, COMMERCIAL OFFICES, SHOWROOMS ETC.

**SOHAR - DUBAI ROAD** 

CONTACT VINESH 99438912



### SITUATION VACANT

### **SITUATION VACANT** Wanted urgently for a fast growing Construction co

#### 1. Project Manager - No 1

Should be degree in Civil Engineering and minimum 10 years exp in building construction and capable of handling independently various projects.

#### 2. Site Engineer - No 1

Should be degree in Civil Engineering and minimum 5 years exp. in building construction and capable of handling site independently

#### Contact - 99105043 or email: ideal.construction.standard@gmail.com

Required urgently for Courier Company Light Duty Driver Omani. Contact Ali: 92985015

Required urgently BE Civil Engineer with 5 yrs. exp., Civil Supervisor with 10 yrs. exp., Executive Secretary (male). Mail to m\_q\_k@live.com

**Business Development Executive** required with D/L, preferably with printing, advertising, stationery on office equipment experience, Email : printgraphicsoman@gmail.com, fax: 24704269

Required urgently an experienced A/C Mechanic. Contact 99243309 / 99421787

Wanted female Secretary with excellent command over English & Arabic, Omani Nationals with good PRO skills & driving license forward your resume to secaaintl@gmail.com

Required Omani Driver (L/V) with PDO license. Send resume at fax: 24786952 or contact 96465684

**Require Civil Engineering** Graduates experienced in road works. Contact 99449997 / 99460738

English medium school in Sohar requires Teachers, call between 6PM & 10 PM. Contact 92827450 / 26846340

A reputed trading company requires : Outdoor Marketing Manager lady, Office Secretary lady. Send CV by fax: 24702505

Require a Gym Trainer at residence. Contact 99323503

Urgently required female Accountant for a IATA approved, travel agency in Al Ghubra. Fax CV to 24613633 or 24537678 or mail to johnjac001@gmail.com

Full time Housemaid required at MBD for a Keralite family. Contact 99646815

Urgently required young dynamic sales person for an International Courier company, minimum 3 yrs exp. with valued Oman driving license contact immediately. Send your CV to Email: mctmanager@ gulfworldwideexpress.net, 24794087

Houseboys/waiters and house driver required for an Omani family in Muscat, English speaking, experienced persons. Please reply to fax No.24614144 or P.O.Box 200. PC 100 Muscat

Sales Executive with networking/ IT/Tele communication experience with Oman D/L. Contact 97052766 / 97792937

Urgently required Salesman with driving license, experience in gift items. Contact Post Box 2262, PC 112, Ruwi, Muscat.

Wanted Dentist with MOH license for old Dental clinic. # 96709414

Urgently required Graduate/ **Diploma Mechanical Engineers** with Gulf experience in Sales and Marketing of Structural and Architectural Metal Works, with Design background. Must have GCC D/L. Mail your C.V. to info@ mechanical-technical.com or Fax to +968 24711066.

**International** Mining Company requires an Omani National Planner/ Scheduler with experience of construction projects, for its office in Shatti - Al - Qurum. Fax CV at 24699637

Urgently required A/C Technician for a private firm in Muscat. Contact 95271668

Urgently required for a licensed Hotel in Muscat: Bar Waitress (Filipina with release letter), Receptionist (Omani), Security (Omani) with driving license. Contact 96622641

Required Foreman with driving license, A/C Mechanic, Electrician & Plumber, Carpenter, Mason, Driver, Painter, Helper. Release available person contact on 99383044

**Required Electrical Sales** Engineer - 1, Electrical Project Engineer - 1, Civil Diploma holders – 2, Surveyor cum Draughtsman - 1. Candidates having 3/5 yrs. experience & valid Oman driving license are preferred. Please send your CV to tls.oman@gmail.com

Required Export Manager: min. 5-7 yrs exp. in Electrical & building materials field with independent export sales & marketing knowledge. GCC/ Oman driving license is a must. Age should be less than 35 yrs. Send CV to vacancyinoman@yahoo.com or fax: 24810078

**Required Senior Sales Executives** : min. 3 to 4 yrs exp. in Electrical & building materials field with independent outdoor sales & marketing knowledge. GCC/ Oman driving license is must. Age should be less than 35 yrs. Send CV to vacancyinoman@yahoo.com or fax: 24810078

System Engineer- Medical Projects for an ISO 9001 certified company with BE/MCA in Computer /IT and minimum 2-3 yrs experience on Windows Server Implementation, Administration & Support. Hands on experience on Networks and Oracle implementation required, email resume to ideasinuse@gmail.com

Urgently required experienced Restaurant Manager (Indian) & smart Phlipino girl for reputed fast food Restaurant for immediate placement. Contact 99475177

Leading Industry in Russayl urgently requires the following staffs

#### **Senior Executive Sales**

Candidate with 3 to 5 years experience in selling furnishing items in Oman, with valid driving licence, capable of handling tenders, institutional sales.

#### Accounts Asst/ Accountant

B.Com/M.Com with minimum 5 years experience. Capable of handling routine accounting independently. Experience in Tally.

#### HR & Admin Manager

Energetic, experienced in HR & Admin, capable of taking over complete admin of a factory environment, with excellent experience in HRD.

> Interested candidates please apply with detailed cv and latest passport photograph to tplanter@gmail.com

Advertising company requires 21 individuals, multinational requires people for marketing, customer service & management English speaking professional dress 250-500 month. Call for personal interview – Sara 24488546

Teacher cum day care person "f" required for grade1 & kids, Indian Syllabus from 7.30 A/M - 4.30, 5days a week, transportation provided in Al Hail area. # 98578807

Urgently required Omani National for the position of Secretary female with knowledge of English & typing, Civil Engineers. Telecom Engineers. Electrical Engineer, Drivers. Send CV with photo & salary expectation to fax 24565337, email: nctp786@ hotmail.com, GSM: 99438360

Urgently required for reputed company: Quantity Surveyor. Contact: 99230254 / fax: 24400739. azad@socat.com

Urgently required well experienced mobile phone Technician & Salesman with local release. Contact 99474827

Required Aluminium Technician with release letter. Contact 99439710

Required immediately for a reputed Printing Press: (1) Sales **Executive with driving license** & Oman experience – 1 no. (2) Offset Printer (GTO) with min. 3 yrs. experience – 1 no. Contact 24815003 / 24816004

Required a male Photographer exp. in Photoshop with local release. Contact 92379555

**Urgently required Graphic Designer** having min. 2 yrs. experience thorough knowledge of Photoshop, Illustrator, Coral Draw essential. Contact 92195810

Wanted Beautician. Contact 95864273

Full time Housemaid required at Ruwi, Mumtaz area (baby care). Contact 99313669

A well reputed Company requires Sales Executive. Applicant must have bachelor's degree, English communication skills, proficiency in MS Office & 2-3 years experience in Marble Industry. Please apply to: info@rmgoman.com

Required experienced Lifting Equipment Inspector. Send your resume to below address & numbers. Email: inquiry@otisoman.com, fax: 24595992

shop (Keralite), local transfer.

Contact 95188968

Required Salesman for a furniture

Diploma holders (Civil), Accountant, Mason (brick/tile), Steel fixers, Shuttering Carpenter, Electricians, Plumbers, Auto Mechanic, Welder & Helpers. Contact 99317953 / 24420054 (Off), fax: 24424893. Email: saas2000@gmail.com

Wanted qualified Piano Teachers. Send CV to dorajeffry@gmail.com Housemaid wanted for family at Ourivat: company visa, free accommodation. Family without child, with food & other facilities, good salary. Contact 95563296

Consultancy office urgently needed registered Pilipino Civil Engineer & Architects with 10 yrs. experience (Oman or Philippines). Contact 99201222

Wanted QA/QC Engineer (Civil) familiar with ISO 9001 implementation & minimum 5 years experience in construction field. Send resume to sskpvr@gmail.com or fax: 24786952

A reputed Engineering Consultancy require Bachelor of Architect with 10 yrs. experience, Civil Engineer with 10 yrs. experience. #99227789, Email: mawttini@yahoo.com

**Urgently required Fabrication** Engineer (Diploma) experienced in Oman for a steel fabrication unit in Sohar. Contact Al Atlal Al Dahabia, Sohar. Contact 98145193

A reputed business firm require Civil Engineers & Oil field Mechanical Engineers. Should be bachelor with relevant experience of 2-3 yrs in Gulf countries. Please send your CV to Email: dawood@yasten.com

Lab Technician urgently required for a reputed medical complex in Salalah with MOH license with fax: 23294712

**Urgently required Sales Executive**, 5 yrs. experience in furniture industry, Oman driving license is must. Attractive salary, accommodation & company maintained car will be provided. Please apply before 28th February 2010. Contact 00968 98535035

Wanted Lady GP (full accommodation) with MOH license for polyclinic in Mabela. Contact 99754628. Terms & conditions negotiable.

### Wanted urgently 'COOK'

for an Omani family with experience in Omani, Chinese, Italian and Continental food. Send CV to fax 24567481 or email: alraid@omantel.net.om

### Experienced **House Driver**

(valid license) pleasing English speaking for reputed Omani family.

### Please fax CV to 24590212, contact 99365003

**Engineering Consultancy urgently** requires Architect Engineer with mini experience 5 years, Mechanical Engineer (Design, Supervision for HVAC, Plumbing & Drainage). Send your CV at ahmed305080@yahoo.com

Female Accountant cum Secretary with 4/5 years experience to handle all office works, preferred female staying in Wadi Kabir, mail CV at searchbest123@yahoo.com

**Leading construction Company** urgently require Omani Public Relation Officer (PRO) for their Seeb (Wadi Lawami Office). Contact 99279703 or fax CV to 24422458. Email: azatllc@gmail.com

Require locally available Civil Engineer with Diploma having valid Omani driving license with 2 years work experience in Oman. Contact Pradeep on 99470078/ Fax 24789041

Reputed Group in Muscat seeks a Female Executive Secretary with minimum 3 years experience in similar capacity. Send CV by email to hiba.ali985@yahoo.com or Post to P.O. Box 173, Mina al Fahal, P.C.116, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman,

Urgently required a Graduate Electrical Engineer experienced in HT/LT Line, Omani driving license for a well reputed organization. Email: mcsoman@gmail.com, fax: 24491598

### **SIT.WANTED**

Indian female, 22yrs, 3yrs exp. in customer service & collections (Call centre & BPO). BTECi Higehr national in Aviation Hospitality & Tourism, BBC learning English and BTS Seeking suitable placement. Contact: 98970624 E-mail- palki\_bali@yahoo.com

Female CA, Rank Holder in foundation looking for a suitable opportunity . Contact 95705429

Indian Male, 30 yrs, BA and Bachelors degree in hotel management. 7 yrs experience. Senior supervisor in 3 star hotel in Oman. Seeks suitable placement. Contact 92724364

Experienced Welder/ Fabricator available for immediate placement. Contact 99368603 / 98367606

MBA, Hotel management, 7 yrs. 5 star hotel experience, 27 yrs, currently working as Duty Manager in a reputed Hotel in Oman, good customer relation & excellent communication skill. Contact 92198526

**Indian male,** M.Com with 20 yrs. Oman exp. in Accounts & finance, upto finalization with D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 96463402

**Indian male,** 24 yrs, BE (Electronics & communication), Networking AS/400, 1 yr. experience in System Admin. Contact 0091 - 9788754754, 00914651 - 203767 (Austin), 00968 99528800

Accountant Indian National well experienced in all aspects of Accounting holding Omani D/L available for suitable position. Contact 96915455

Professional Designer in 3Ds Max, AutoCAD, V Ray, Photoshop, Adobe Premier (with 1 yr. experience) seeks suitable placement. Contact 95872416 / 97142628

Indian female, (Keralite) Beautician, specialized in Henna Designing seeks placement. Contact 96938293

Indian Male, 27yrs, B.Com, pursuing MBA, having 5 yrs experience in Sales & Marketing having valid UAE D/L Seeks suitable placement. Contact 99714516, email: breshnev6@gmail.com

Filipina Barista looking for a suitable job in Oman . Pls. call 92611977.

Filipina, Business Administration-Management Graduate; Excellent Administrative & Communication skills; with Accounting and Marketing background; Computer literate; well-versed in Microsoft office applications; seeking for a suitable office job in muscat. Contact 96128626

Indian Driver with 15 yrs. Oman experience seeks placement. Contact 97035124

Indian female, B.Com experienced in Accounting, seeks suitable placement in Accounts/ Administration. Contact 99321617

Having 25 yrs. Oman experience in Administration, Management, Purchase, Import/ Export cleaning/ forwarding, logistic, transportation, customer services & dealing with higher authorities of Govt. & private sector, on visit visa. Contact 92397850

female 11 yrs working experience (5yrs in UAE Banks) plus 5 years experience on finance assignments in Oman, holding valid D/L of UAE & Oman, available for immediate placement contact 92120174

**Sri Lankan Male** looking suitable placement as House boy, as a cook, Office boy or willing to work as anykind of Similar work, on visit visa. Contact - 95031497

Filipina Housemaid seeks part time job with European family. Contact 98697216

### SITUATION WANTED

Marketing Executive Indian male, 39 yrs, Graduate, 10 yrs. experience in Offset Print/ Advertising seeks immediate placement. Contact 96178290

**5 yrs. exp.** in Logistics & Sales, with D/L. Contact 92513526

Indian female, 27 yrs, B.Com Graduate with overall 6 yrs. experience in India & Oman, handling Secretarial, Accounts & Administration seeking a suitable position. Contact 92591884

Indian male, 27, BBM with 5 yrs. experience, having excellent communication skills & Computer knowledge, on visit.
Contact 96472932

Mason Shuttering Carpenter, furniture carpenter, steel fixer, electrician & plumber, heavy duty Driver, helper/ cleaners, A/C Technicians. Contact 95175192, Email: lama\_manpower@yahoo.

Housemaid, Beautician, Houseboy, Driver, skilled workers process Embassy agreement. Contact Mr. Jerry: 95175192, Email: lama\_ manpower@yahoo.com

Indian male, 42 yrs, Senior Designer Electrical overall 22 yrs exp.,11 yrs. in Oman, looking for suitable placement. Contact 98365288

**4 yrs. experience** building materials salesman looking for suitable placement. Contact 95326089

**Indian male,** B.Com + Tally exp. in Accounting seeking suitable placement. Contact 96674924

Part time job (cooking & cleaning) required in Kerala family or Tamil family in Ruwi / Wadi kabir.
Contact 97194600

Light Driver. Contact 97784123

18 yrs. experienced Indian male, 10 yrs as Administration, Computer, hardware, safety & hygiene seeks suitable placement. Contact 92186117, henstiongeorge@yahoo.com

Store, Logistics & Inventory 4+ yrs exp in Oman, male 29 yrs, Post Graduate, expert in MS Office & ERP software, seeks suitable job. Contact 95297497

Indian female 23 yrs (B. Tech, Computer Science) having 2.5 yrs exp. in US based MNC Co in IT support, presently available in Muscat on family visa. E-mail nikky.shaily@gmail.com, Contact 97649814

9 yrs. exp. in Sales & marketing – FMCG PRO having D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 98527249

Pakistani male, 30, under graduate, 4 yrs. work in Omani house, 2 yrs. in Office as Clerk, Office Assistant, language Arabic, English, looking for suitable placement. Contact 98611954

EM & P Supervisor, 15 yrs. exp. in Oman on visit seeking good placement. Contact 95386103

MBA (HR & Mktg.) with 2.7 yrs of exp. in sales, excellent communication skills, on visit visa. Contact 95834784, nawaz283@rediffmail.com

**Experienced** male Accountant Assistant, B.Com, PGDCA seeks placement. Contact 98201791 **25, female,** (IATA), 3 yrs. exp. in Accounts, Admin, Secretary, MS Office with Oman D/L. Contact 99659641

Indian female, 26, B.Tech, Elec. & communication, knowledge of Primavera, attested certificate, on family visa seeks placement. Contact 98386120

Diploma holder in Electrical Engg. more than 18 yrs. experience in MEP, Construction or maintenance seeks suitable placement, having valid Oman driving license & release available. Contact 92824134

Indian female, 30 yrs, B.Com, 2 yrs. experience in Oman, expert in Tally, MS Office (handle all office works) seeks suitable placement. Contact 97647010

MBA Graduate with 3+ years experience in Sales & Marketing seeks suitable placement.
Contact 99287740

Indian male, 29 yrs, MBA with 6 yrs. experience in HR & Admin, currently working in MNC – UAE, seeks suitable placement (in HR/Admin) valid UAE Driving license. Contact 0097150 3776215 / 00968 99501119,

email: alexaug@rediffmail.com

**Indian male,** 35, with 6 yrs. exp. in Sales of food stuff with Oman D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 92127160

**24, female,** B. Sc in Computer Science seeks suitable placement, with visa. Contact 99757079

Indian male, 23 yrs, MBA (marketing/ systems) with 6 months experience (India), on visit visa. Contact 98348083 / 92577929

Indian male, B.Com (E-Commerce), MBA with 2 yrs. Marketing experience, holding Oman D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 95186379, shanoob. mohammed@gmail.com

**Filipino** Housemaid looking for job. Contact 95422885

**Indian male,** 25 yrs, MBA (Mktg. & Fin) looking for sales ready to proceed driving license. # 95673646

Indian male, 27 yrs, working as Administration Assistant, experienced in tourism/logistic & general business administration, total 4 yrs. experience, looking for a suitable placement. Contact 98400844. meetjith@yahoo.com

**Light Duty Driver** with 19 yrs. experience in Oman, now in India seeks placement. Contact 99510231

**Diploma** in Computer Engineering, presently in Oman (Muscat) seeks immediate placement.
Contact 92089686

**BE** (Civil), 12 yrs. exp. seeking job as a Quantity Surveyor. Contact 98687742

Physiotherapist (B.PT) looking for opening, Indian female, 1 yr. experience, having family visa, awinstarly@gmail.com, contact 99359965

Indian male, having 15 yrs. exp. as a Supervisor cum foreman in Construction field, roads, building, reservoir & pipelines with valid Oman D/L seeking suitable position. Contact 92662408

**Indian male,** 29 yrs, seeks suitable placement in Photoshop suitable for all jobs. Contact 97784213

Engineer with Electronics & Telecommunication with 3 yrs. experience in Oman with driving license seeks suitable placement Contact 92006197, rizwan.218@ hotmail.com

Indian female, Degree, PGDCA, experience in Office Assistant. Seeks Suitable placement. # 98428656

Indian female, MCA, 4.5 yrs exp. in ASP.Net, SQL Server, C#, customizing ERP Solutions crystal reports, available with local release for immediate placement. Contact 92409458

Indian male, 29, with 7+ yrs exp. in ERP Implementation, SQL Server, Crystal reports, VB, looking for suitable placement, has valid Oman D/L. Contact 97048893

Accountant, ACCA certified Accountant Technician (CAT) partially qualified with 2.5 yrs. experience in Accounts upto finalization. Well versed in Tally/ Foxpro / Peachtree/ MYOB. Visa required. Contact 96075991

Female, Indian, PG in Fisheries, 10 yrs. experience as Quality Controller, looking for suitable placement. Contact 97236615 / 96297244

Male, Indian, 5 yrs. gulf experience in Automobile spare parts sales/ warehousing looking for suitable placement in any field. Contact 96297244

Indian male young B. Tech (Electronic & communications) graduate willing to join immediately seeks suitable placement.
Contact 92841979, dineshece2009@gmail.com

Hardware & networking 15 yrs exp. as Customer support Engineer/system admin, valid Oman D/L seeks suitable placement.
Contact 99751947

Export documentation expert, Indian male, 19 yrs experience, Marble export 7 yrs in Oman, textile export 6 yrs in Mumbai, bicycle export 6 yrs in India. Have Oman D/L. Contact 97416397

Indian male, 15 yrs gulf experienced Manager for plant/production/ shop floor/ business development & marketing, seeks suitable placement, release available. Contact 92686707

Indian Female MCA, 6 Years IT experience in Mainframe Technologies and 3 years of Oman Banking experience seeks suitable placements. Contact 92679910

Indian male, 37, Graduate with Oman D/L, 10 yrs. experience in Sales & Marketing, looking for a fresh opening in Sanitary wares or building materials. Contact 98650081

**Indian male,** 35 yrs, seeks suitable placement in Photoshop, suitable for all jobs. Contact 97784212

**Indian male, 25,** Civil Draftsman, AutoCAD, 3.5 yrs exp. in Estimating & drafting seeks suitable placement. Contact 97007847

Filipino, male Accountant, 40 yrs, having 16 yrs. exp. in Accounts (4 yrs. in Oman) upto finalization looking for suitable job. Contact 95521712 / 98238211

**Experience cook.** Contact 98154858

Indian male 27 years accountant 4 years experience in 5\* hotel Bombay. Searching for good job. Now on visit visa. Contact 96390500, 96052300(Hospitality sector preferred). Can do Accounts upto finalization.

MOH licensed Asst. Pharmacist female (280 seeks immediate placement. Contact 99283475, Email : hjob15@yahoo.com

Accountant, 10 yrs experience, good communication skills & Tally experience. Contact 95726035 with release.

Indian male, 24 yrs, ME (Structural Engg) presently working in India (Mr. Roy). Contact 0091 9994483696, 0091 – 4652230302, 00968 99528800

Indian female, 24 yrs, MBA finance, with good work experience in Accounts / Finance seeks suitable placement. Contact 95200905

Indian male, 31 yrs, M.Sc (IT & M), 8 yrs. industry experience administration, transcription having excellent customer service knowledge with good computer knowledge & desktop skills with good communication skills seeks placement. Contact 97332392, santoshunnithan@gmail.com

**Heavy Trailer Driver**, heavy duty Driver seeks placement with visa. Contact 99010108 / 92559388

Indian male, 32, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, NDT, ASNT II, 12 yrs. exp. with Oman D/L seeks suitable placement. Contact 98928454

**Diploma in** Civil Engineer (Oman attested) with release. Contact 92325895

**Female,** expat seeking for suitable placement. Contact 97740425

IT professional, MCA,.Net, SQL – Server, Crystal record with 8+ yrs exp. in India & GCC, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92931687

Indian female, MA, PGDBA on family visa, possess valid Oman D/L, 2 yrs. experience in Overseas Education line seeks suitable placement. Contact 96626580

Indian male, B.Sc, Maths, VB net, SQL, XML, & HTML, 2 yrs. experience Mortgage Industry (tax & insurance) looking for suitable job. Contact 92161313

**9 yrs. exp.** in Sales & marketing – FMCG PRO having D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 98527249

**Filipino** Housemaid looking for full time job with European with release. Contact 98479703

Indian male 30 yrs, B.Com Graduate, 7 yrs exp. in Oman Admin/HR/Purchase with Omani driving license seeks suitable placement. Contact 96153774

Indian male, 23 yrs, MBA, Finance, B.Com, 1 yr. experience in Computerized Accounting, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92797157 / 99096483

Indian male, MBA, with 2 yrs. experience seeks placement. Contact 97736763, Email: kumar.sreedep@gmail.com

School / College computer projects/ websites/ classes in VB, VB.Net, ASP.Net, Java will be done. Contact 92113681 Highly motivated Software professional, MCA, with more than 5 years of experience and hands on skills as Functional Consultant, Development / Testing seeks challenging position. Contact 9779 1746 or subhashg80@gmail.com

Indian female, with 8+ yrs. exp. in handling Recruitments & Admin (HR), worked in Muscat for 2 yrs. looking for the right opportunity. Contact 95244895

Indian female, 26 yrs, MCA, 3 yrs. experience in ASP.Net, C# Net, SQL Server seeks suitable placement, now on family visa. Contact 98559142 / 99822082

Indian male, 27 years, Post graduate in Management, 4 years GCC experience seeking position as sales Engineer, Channel sales, Customer service with Good communication, Presentation and IT Background. Contact 98402574. Email: georgecochin1981@gmail.com

Indian female, 28 yrs, Management Graduate, 3 yrs. experience as Senior Counselor with overseas education consultants, on family visa, seeks suitable placement. Contact 99191696

**Indian female,** 24 yrs, BA, B.Ed, 2 yrs. experience in Office seeks suitable placement. # 95492859

Accountant, Indian male, 5 yrs. experience in Oman, expert in Tally, MS Office seeks suitable placement. Contact 98834765

Qualified ICWA, MBA (Finance), 2 yrs. experience with 9 yrs. experience in Oman, looking for senior position in Costing, Finance, Accounting available for immediate placement. Contact 92144772

Indian male Graduate & Polytechnic Diploma in Electronics, word, excel, tally on visit visa seeks placement. Contact 95704993

26 yrs, Indian female, MCA (perusing HR) seeks immediate placement, currently on family visit. Contact 96459082 / 96778469

**Electronic** booking tools & IATA, with 2.5 yrs. exp. in IATA seeks placement. Contact 99695251

Indian male, sales executive, 8 yrs experience in building materials counter sales & outdoor sales seeks suitable placement.
Contact 99231499 / 98712854

Indian male, 34, outstanding performer with 13 yrs sales experience, 9 yrs. in Banking & Finance, domain with expertise in consumer & SME lending & wealth management, last employed with a fortune 500 MNC Bank as a Senior Manager with International experience (Dubai) on visit. Contact 95883679

Indian male, 28, 6 yrs experience in Oman with excellent Administrative, communication, computer & networking skills, with local release, seeks immediate placement. Contact 92300246

Housekeeping Supervisor, 28 yrs, Indian male, having 4,5 stars hotel experience as a HK Supervisor on family visit. Contact 97739270

Indian male, 23 yrs, B.Com, CA (Inter) pursuing 2.5 yrs experience in the field of Accounts & Auditing, upto finalization, having knowledge in MS Office, Tally 9, currently on visit visa. Contact 92605811 / 99502581

Indian male, 29, MBA, Mktg & HR, 5 yrs exp. in financial organizations looking for suitable openings. Contact 97795135

Indian male, 31 yrs, Diploma in Electrical Engineering, Electrical CAD, 9 yrs. exp. (5 yrs. in GCC) seeks placement. # 92497461

Finance & Administration
Manager, 30+ yrs exp. in
reputed companies in Oman,
US educated Indian male strong
leadership qualities & excellent
communication skills seeks
immediate placement. Contact
98289398

Indian female, MBA, B.Tech, (Chemical Engg.) 2 yrs. experience in HR & Administration, having good interpersonal skills, proficient MS Office, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92474376

Indian male, 22 yrs, B. Sc in hotel Management & Hospitality Science with relevant experience, excellent communication skills on visit, seeks suitable placement. Contact 92642137

Sr. Accountant, Indian, 14 yrs exp. (2 yrs. UAE) in Accounts & Finance, seeks suitable position. Contact 00971501023320, Email: sreenivaspotty@gmail.com

**Software Engineer** 5+ yrs U.S exp. (incl. business analyst) proficient in financial domain-java, j2ee & Oracle seeks job. Contact 97097105

**Diploma** in Civil Engineering, female, 39, looking for suitable placement. Contact 92435079 / 02056201

**Lab Technician**, 4 yrs experience in India & Oman on automatic machines seeks placement. Contact 96407375

Male, 29, BA, Graduate, 3 yrs. exp. in Oman, MCSE, DISM, looking for suitable job on visit. Contact 98973110

Indian female, 25 yrs, MBA in HRM & Marketing, 6 months experience in India, looking for suitable placement.
Contact 95966124

Indian female, 27, Oman experience, seeks placement in Admin, A/Cs or Marketing. Contact 97044709

Experienced AutoCAD Draughtsman knows 3D presently in Oman, seeks placement urgently. Contact 99858125 / 98310977

Indian male, 33 yrs, BA Graduate, 2 yrs exp. in Oman as a Store Incharge / Branch Incharge cum sales seeks suitable placement. Contact 99736140

Indian male, 32, M.Com, 6 yrs Accounts exp. (2.5 yrs. in Oman), knowledge in SAP, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96213202

**Experienced** multi-lingual Indian male sales executive with D/L seeks suitable position.
Contact: 92907602/92035297

Network Engineer, Male/29, B. Tech (Computer Engineering) CCNA, MCP Certified, 5 years experience, valid Oman D/L seeks Placement in Telecom/IT/Sales. Contact: 98951023 Email:sohel.mct@gmail.com

IT Manager, Indian having 20+ years IT experience seeks suitable employment with reputed company. Contact 95136653



### SITUATION WANTED

Indian Female Civil/Structural Design Engineer, B.Tech, PDO certified, with over 15 years rich experience in Oman with reputed international Engineering Consultancy firms, seeks new career opportunities. Contact 92569768

Indian male, 29 yrs, M.Com, PGDCA having 7 yrs. exp. in Accounts, stores & Administration seeking suitable placement. Contact 92715737

Indian female, 6+ yrs. exp. in J2EE, Oracle PL/SQL (with US based MNC), on family visit seeks suitable placement.
Contact 97163917 / 95290633

**Indian male,** knowledge of Tally upto finalization, auditing with other computer works. Contact 98207606

AutoCAD Draughtsman with 3 years experience with 3 D max need suitable placement. Contact 99857211

Young Indian male 27 B.Com working in Oman for 2 years exp in Administration & Sales, fluent in MS Office, Excel, Tally etc. looking for immediate placement in good firm. Contact 99753805, noushin82@gmail.com

Indian male 45 yrs, 24 yrs experience in various Military Hospitals in India as Nursing Asst. Duty with certificate & proficiently Graduation certificates & Defense Academy of Security, Safety & disaster management certificate, seeks suitable placement. Contact 95438402

Indian female B. Com, P.G.D.C.A, Tally, 3 years experience, seeks suitable placement in Accounts. Contact 99076057

**Male Nurse** with 4 years experience in India seeks placement. Contact 99334689

Having Oman Experience of over 25 years in Administration, Management, Purchase, Import / Export, Clearing/Forwarding, Logistic, transportation, customer services & dealing with higher authorities of Govt & Private Sector, on visit visa. Contact 92397850

Omani male, 23 years good in computer skills, good in designing with diploma seeks placement. Contact 99880670 / 99243644

Indian male, 24 years, Diploma in Civil Engineering, Presently working in India (Petron Civil Engg. Pvt Ltd (KSS) - MNC) seeks suitable placement. Contact - 00919632169134, prasobh1947@gmail.com

Indian male, MBA in Finance & Marketing, presently employed with ICICI Securities – Mumbai seeks suitable opening in Finance / Accounts department. rakeshnayak\_85@rediffmail.com Contact 99232509

15 yrs exp. Indian male Accountant (B. Com) (Audit, Accounts) seeks suitable placement. Exp. R.O 500 – RO 600. Contact 92975815

Indian female B.Com exp in Accounting, having computer skills looking for suitable placement in Accounts / Administration. Contact 98685919

Indian female MBA, B.Tech (Chemical Engg.) 2 yrs exp in HR & Admin seeks suitable placement on family visa. Contact 92474376, achal01zoting@gmail.com

Indian male 50 yrs having 20 yrs experience in store in charge and sales, accountant in FMCG Industry in Oman and Saudi, seeks immediate placement visit visa expire on 24.02.2010.

Contact 99524877

CA, Intermediate with 8 yrs. experience (3 yrs. in Muscat as Finance Manager) looking for suitable position in MNC in Muscat, holds Oman D/L. Contact 96415534

Qualified ICWA, MBA (finance) 24 years experience with 9 years experience in Oman looking for Senior position in costing, finance, accounting available for immediate placement. Contact 92144772

29 yrs Indian male B. Sc, B.Ed with 10+ yrs experience in printing press as Manager cum Marketing Executive, seeks suitable placement (visa required). Contact 97644712

Indian male 31 years more than 5 yrs experience in sales & marketing in Oman with valid D/L seeks suitable placement.
Contact 97201225

More than 9 years experience Housemaid seeking suitable job, only Omani high class family, western family only. Contact 92860871 / 92285174

Indian male 31 yrs, Salesman having 8 years experience (Oman) holding mobile technician certificate with D/L seeks placement. Contact 95129087

Indian female B.E (Electronics), 11 yrs exp, experienced in Institute management, Business development, teaching, planning & development activities valid Oman D/L with good communication skills. Contact 98598637

Indian male 30 MCSE 2003, Hardware & Networking working as System Administrator, having 7 years experience, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96289252

Indian male 25 yrs, B.Tech Electric & Electronics Engineer, NIT Calicut, with 2 years work experience in Infosys mainly in presales & entrepreneurial flavour in Muscat, seeks placement in Business Development/ IT. Contact 98907225, stebinj@gmail.com

Indian male 23 years BBA with CPFA (Tally, MS Office, peach tree, focus) seeks suitable placement. Contact 97362139 /95270180

Indian male needs suitable job for office boy /house boy/ salesman or any other job. Contact 95855704 / 98609034

Sr. Marketing Manager & Ex banker, 25 years Oman experience, seeking challenging & tuff job in sales & Marketing with Sr. position in any kind of sales & marketing area, has D/L since 1987.
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**Sri lankan male** who has experience in printing industry as a polar cutter looking suitable job in Muscat. Contact 98072681

Young Omani male have experience as PRO Clerk, Helper Supervisor & Admin supervisor & studied H.S.E, H2J courses & have P.D.O license looking for supervisor position. Contact 97264447

29 yrs, B.Com with 4 years exp in Accounts, good computer skills & SAP knowledge with D/L, seeks suitable placement. Contact 98244539

**Indian female** B. Sc, B.Ed looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 99336717 / 96451071

Indian male 25 B.Tech (Mech.) experienced in boilers/turbines, seeking suitable placement.
Contact 95696169 / 99046313

BE, EEE Engineer, 1st class with distinction Indian female 24 years, 2.5 yrs work experience in India seeks suitable placement. Contact 92663252, divgeet@gmail.com

MBA (Finance / System) with B.Com, young Indian female, 1 year experience with Infosys, Bangalore, presently in Muscat, seeks suitable placement. Contact 98277380

**Experienced** Sales Executive for medical / surgical Products having D/L, looking for a suitable opening. Contact 99539328

**Showroom** Salesman / Office Assistant on visit visa. Contact 99767528 / 98918634

**Indian male**, 24, 2 yrs. of experience in Hotel (service & front office) looking for a suitable placement. Contact 98414846

Indian male, 30 yrs, 6 yrs exp. in FMCG Sector in Oman with valid Oman D/L seeks Sales job. Contact 92059586

Indian male, 32, 11yrs.exp foreman-electro mechanical diesel genset, Compressor water pump, H.V and L.V maintenance. Contact 92561276

Indian Male 27 years MBA, HR with 2.6 months exp presently working in India, seek suitable placement in HR. Email: ppradeep@gmail.com Contact 99382139 / +919894643480

Indian female 25yrs, MBA in HR, knowledge in tally & MS Office, looking for suitable placement. Contact 99382139 email: deep\_christy@yahoo.co.in

Indian male, 27 years M. Com, CFA, 4 yrs experience in Accounts & Finance, seeks suitable placement in Accounts & finance. Contact 97293843

**Showroom** salesman/ Office Assistant on visit visa. Contact 99767528 / 98918634

Indian male with 2 yrs. experience working as a Storekeeper in a reputed food stuff company (handling all divisions), seeking suitable placement. Contact 99804974 / 99763514

Indian male, 32 yrs, B.Com, DBA, DOA with 10 yrs. experience in Accounts & Admin, credit collections, well versed in Tally, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96928563

Indian female B.A Economics, Diploma in computers application 12 years experience as an Accountant cum Computer operator (Kerala) seeks suitable placement. Contact 99531616 / 99604289

Accountant, Indian male 27 years BBA, Diploma in computerized financial accounting Tally, good computer knowledge 2 years of exp in Oman & 3 years in India as Accountant & Administrator seeks suitable placement. Contact 98151311 / 92709412

Indian male with 11 yrs exp in Auto finance & sales seeking suitable job, currently on visit visa. Contact 97786278 / 92910297

**Filipino House maid** looking for a fulltime job with European family with release. Contact 98479703

Electronic Engineer, with vast exp. in repair, installation of CIM, MATICA, card extrusion & plastic cards thermal printer fargo, electron, contact 00 92 321 2078621. Email: kamalbaig70@gmail.com

Indian female, BE (Electronics), 11 yrs exp. experienced in Institute Management, business development, teaching, planning & development activities, valid Oman driving license, good communication skills.

Contact 98598637

Indian male, 28 yrs, BE (Electronics & Communication Engineering) CCNA, MCSE presently working as a Desktop Engineer with a leading IT Company in Bangalore, seeking suitable job in Oman.
Contact 99672757

Indian Male, 32 years, Mechanical Engineer (Diploma + Post Diploma), Multiskilled, 10+ years of Sound experience with MNCs in Production + Sales, with Oman driving license seeks suitable placement in Sales or Production e-mail at planningoman@gmail.com

Indian male 58 highly seasoned professional in Admin / independent Secretarial functions, having over 32 yrs of experience and in Muscat since last 2 yrs seeks immediate change. Contact 96723985

Indian male 24 years extensive experience in Sr. position (Finance/ Audit/ ERP) valid D/L, seeks suitable placement can join immediately. Contact 98740742

Indian male 28 yrs, B.Com well versed in MS Office Tally & ERP system, 5.9yrs experience in banking, finance & accounting field now in Oman, seeks good placement. Contact 98039269

Accountant 27 years Indian male B.Com Computer, 6 years experience since last 2 years in Muscat, seeks urgent placement. Contact 96729783

An Omani lady Computer Engineering good in computer skills (hardware & software) ICDL, Web designing good in Photoshop. Contact 99243502 Accountant B.Com, 7 yrs experience in Accounts reconciliation unto finalization, knowledge in Tally, ERP / MS Office visa is must, salary is negotiable. Contact 99455163

Indian female 21 years, Diploma in computer hardware & maintenance, knowledge in software languages, on family visa in Sohar seeks placement. Contact 92967854

Indian male FICWA ACS, 42 years working as Finance Manager in FMCG company in Salalah having 17 years overall experience seeks suitable placement in Muscat. Contact 99288420 / 23289634

Indian male 35 years, 2 years experience in Pizza hut Oman, making: Pizza, pasta, salad seeks placement in same field & office boy work suitable. Contact 95377621, shams\_0005@hotmail.com

Indian male, B.Com, ACS, MBA (Finance), LLB with 17 yrs. experience in India & overseas is looking for a suitable opening. Email: sureshmenonacs@gmail.com

Net Programmer, Indian female 2 yrs experience excellent communication on family visa seeks IT jobs / Technical teaching freelance. Contact 92671045

Indian male 30 years M.Com ( Tally )having 10 years experience in Accounts up to finalization level & administration seeks suitable placement. Contact 96023965

Indian female, M.Sc, B.Ed (Organic Chemistry), 3 yrs. experience in teaching seeks placement in School. Contact 00.407818

Indian male, 32 yrs, 10 yrs exp. in Accounting upto finalization & Administration, well versed in Tally, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96928563

Indian female, Post Graduate in Business mgt, with 3+ yrs experience in HR / Secretary / Administration seeks suitable placement. Email ar8506@gmail.com

**Indian female** B. Sc, B.Ed looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 96451071

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Indian female B.Com MBA (Finance & HR) 24 years with good communication skills, good knowledge in computer, Tally MS Office, seeks suitable post in HR / Admin /Accounts. Contact 98242595

Indian female 23 with 1.2 yrs of experience as an Executive with good commutation & computer skills seeks suitable placement, has valid Omani D/L.
Contact 98055257

Indian male smart dynamic, 27 years Graduate, Computer literate, good PRO skills, 3 years in Oman, having valid Omani D/L, seeks challenging opportunity from any Industry. Contact 97026440

Reflexologist cum therapist 36 yrs Indian Keralite having 3 yrs exp presently working in India, seeks suitable placement. Contact 95098205 / 99224361

Indian male 27 years BBA, Diploma in computerized financial accounting Tally, good computer knowledge, 3 yrs. exp. in India & 2 yrs. in Oman as Accountant & Administrator seeks suitable placement. Contact 98151311 / 92709412

Indian male, 30 yrs, M.Com (Tally) having 10 yrs. experience in Accounts upto finalization level & administration seeks suitable placement. Contact 96023965

Young Omani male, experience as PRO Clerk, Helper, Supervisor & Admin Supervisor & studied HSE, H2S courses & have PDO license, looking for Supervisor position. Contact 97264447

Indian female, BA, Economics, Diploma in Computer Application, 12 yrs. experience as an Accountant cum Computer Operator seeks suitable placement. Contact 99604289 / 99531616

Indian male, 23, DIPCSE, MCSE & CCNA certified, 2 yrs. exp. in Networking administration jobs. Contact 97384282, vpsanish@gmail.com

Indian male, working in Tally upto finalization, seeks suitable placement in Office or at home. Contact 98207606

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Senior Accountant 32 years B. Com, DBM, DOA, DCFA with 11 years exp in Accounts & Administration well versed in Tally, seeks suitable placement. Contact 96928563

**Indian female** B. Sc, B.Ed looking for suitable opportunities. Contact 96451071

Indian male 27 yrs, BBA, Diploma in computerized financial accounting Tally, Good computer knowledge 2 yrs exp in Oman & 3 years in India as Accountant & Administrator seeks suitable placement. Contact 98151311 / 92709412

Young Omani male have experience as PRO Clerk, Helper Supervisor & Admin supervisor & studied H.S.E, H2J courses & have P.D.O license looking for supervisor position. Contact 97264447

**Indian Driver** with 15 yrs. experience in Oman, seeks placement. Contact 97035124

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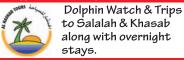
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**Keralite Jacobite** boy, 37 yrs, working in Saud Bahwan seeks suitable alliance, no demand. Contact 99117863

Keralite Ezhava boy, 32 yrs, Kollam (Dt), punartham, working as Sales Executive in a reputed Company in Muscat, seeks suitable alliance. Contact 95456694

**Doctor (BHMS),** 29 yrs girl, fair, height 5" presently in Muscat on visit visa looking for a suitable well educated Billava/ Thiya boy. Contact 95974611 / 92829188

Proposals invited for Tamil born again Christian Vellalar Pillai boy, 30 yrs, B. Pharm working in Muscat with good salary, seeks born again Christian working girl from same caste. Contact 99096902 / 99378113

Muscat NRE alliance available. Contact 99091975, www. kirubaichristianmatrimony.com, Email: paulmaha@yahoo.com

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Transportation. Contact 98706051

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transport from Al Ghubrah & Azaiba. Contact 99320854

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Mercedes 230 CE 85. Contact 95210552

### LOST

**Sosila Kademi** has lost Indian Passport No. F9132914. Finder please handover to ROP

**Santhosh Sasi** has lost Indian Passport No. E1676771. Finder please handover to ROP

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