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Greetings to Egypt

HIS Majesty Sultan Qaboos has sent a cable of congratulations to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on the occasion of October 6th Anniversary. His Majesty expressed his sincere congratulations along with his best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to President Mubarak. — ONA



Thanks from Ukraine

HIS Majesty Sultan Qaboos received a cable of thanks from President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine in reply to His Majesty's congratulatory cable on the occasion of his country's independence anniversary. President Yanukovich expressed his utmost thanks for His Majesty's congratulations. — ONA



ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT: Forty-six days left for the opening of the Muscat Expressway, which is considered as one of the giant projects that would be opened to coincide with the Sultanate's 40th National Day. The Muscat Municipality lent great attention and exerted relentless efforts to design the Expressway, which contains high bridges matching the standard of world bridges. — Picture by Faisal al Balushi

Sultanate's development based on solid principles

MUSCAT — The Gulf, Arab and international media gave wide coverage to the Royal speech by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos at the annual convening of the Council of Oman on Monday. They hailed the speech which illuminates the path to the welfare process led by His Majesty the Sultan.

Arab and international news agencies and newspapers highlighted the speech and quoted the statements related to internal and foreign policies, development and construction in the Sultanate.

Bahrain News Agency (BNA) highlighted the speech stressing on the solid principles of the Sultanate in co-operation with countries and peoples based on mutual respect, common interest, non interference in others' affairs and not accepting interference of others in the Sultanate's affairs.

BNA quoted: "Oman's modern Renaissance began from the Governorate of Dhofar

and it was there that the first steps were taken towards the achievement of its hopes. His Majesty affirmed that the Sultanate is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its progress, during the course of which its achievements in many fields are plain for all to see and have changed the face of life in Oman, enabling it to assume a position of eminence in both regional and international levels."

BNA added that during the last period the "Sultanate has been able to realise much of what we had aspired towards. Everything that has been achieved within a precise balance between preserving the best elements of our heritage, in which we take pride, and the demands of the present day which require us to adapt to the spirit of the modern age — while at the same time corresponding to its civilisation, science and technology and benefiting from the latest developments in various spheres of life." ■ To page 4

Steps to tackle juvenile delinquency

MUSCAT — Various measures from both family and from the society are pre-emptive in tackling the perils of juvenile delinquency in the region was the message that the three-day workshop on child delinquency being held here yesterday, has to convey.

Organised by the Ministry of Social Development represented by the Department of Public Events at the Direct-

orate-General of Social Welfare and the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in the GCC states, the workshop also gave a first hand view of the remedial actions to be taken by the authorities concerned, social workers and other institutions to the delegates from all countries.

"Education and religious commitment are two other factors where we need to focus

on," says Dr Mustafa Hijazi, Professor of Psychology. "Providing poor education is tantamount to lack of education which will invariably contribute to juvenile delinquency," he added, pointing out other factors such as adherence to religious values, divorces, over-dependence on domestic workers to bring up children, can make another young criminal. ■ See page 4

Nod for GCC Consultative Authority headquarters

MUSCAT — The Finance Ministry okayed three agreements worth RO 6,058,000 as part of the government's plans and programmes to implement various development projects.

The agreements included the construction of the GCC Consultative Authority's headquarters worth RO 3,993,000 (RO 3.99 million) to be completed in 571 days, construction of Al Tufail bin Amr Basic Education School which includes 24 classrooms in the Wilayat of Al Musanaa and worth RO 2,280,000 (to be completed in 379 days) and the construction of Alaya Fida Basic Education School for Boys which includes 10 classrooms in the Wilayat of Dhank worth RO 785,000. — ONA

Call to preserve water resources

MUSCAT — The Muscat Green Days Conference on 'Education for a Sustainably Built Environment,' which began here yesterday has brought together 40 speakers from the construction, energy, environment and research sector who began discussions on ways to save energy today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In his wide-ranging presentation Dr Saif bin Rashid al Shaqsi of the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, said Oman has limited water resources and 30 per cent of what it gets in terms of rainfall is lost in deserts and sea. To meet the deficit in the water supply, the government is working out an integrated water resources management strategy, involv-

ing best practices based on the principles of sustainability.

He said agriculture accounts for the largest consumption of water in Oman. Some of the deficit in water supply is met by virtual water imports. Virtual water content of a product is the volume of freshwater used to produce the product, measured at the place where the product was actually produced. ■ Details, P4