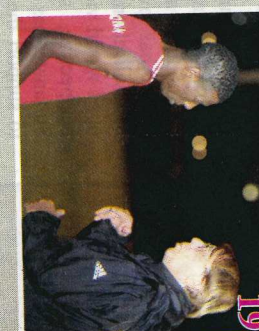




Thanks from Malta leader

HIS Majesty Sultan Qaboos has received a cable of thanks from President Dr George Abela of Malta in reply to His Majesty's cable of condolences on the death of Guido de Marco, former president of Malta. President Abela expressed his utmost thanks and appreciation for His Majesty's condolences. — ONA



Sultan Qaboos

AN agreement between the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education, and the University of Tokyo yesterday, naming the Sultan Qaboos Chair in Islamic Studies at the University. ■ Delta

Sultanate's foreign policy based on mutual respect

MUSCAT — Yusuf bin Sulthanate's government has always been keen on. During a press conference held at the Diplomatic Institute at the Foreign Ministry and before the journalists who took part in the coverage of the annual session of the Council of Oman, Alawi explained that there are a number of topics which make the viewer and listener feel comfortable and delighted, such as the scientific achievements and the developmental progress, while there are also topics that disturb him, such as wars, destruction and disputes among nations. He affirmed that the fundamentals of the Sultanate's policy in its relations with other countries are based on dialogue and mutual respect. Alawi underlined that His Majesty is always keen to see brothers overcoming their disputes whose causes are usually simple and can be solved. ■ To page 2

Water supply projects approved

New Civil Aviation building ♦ Vessel for Oman Refineries

MUSCAT — The Tender Board yesterday awarded tenders worth RO 139 million. The new projects are: construction of water transportation lines, tanks and a pumping station and linking them to the existing water networks in the Wilayats of Salalah, Tagah and Mirbat in Dhofar Governorate (RO 47,230,177); construction of water treatment plant with 50,000 cubic metres capacity per day in Darsait in Muscat Governorate (RO 37,018,412); construction of a new building for the Civil Aviation in Muscat Governorate as part of Muscat International and Salalah Airports development project (RO 25,728,000); hiring a vessel for Oman Refineries and Petrochemicals company to transport oil products (RO 5,067,563); and opening and closing ceremonies of the second Asian Beach Games (RO 3,060,000). The projects included logistical requirements for medical laboratories and blood transfusion services of the Health Ministry (RO 2,865,065); correcting and updating data of the local ring of Oman Telecommunications Company (RO 1,312,000); and operation and maintenance of power and water desalination plant in the Wilayat of Masirah in the Al Sharqiyah Region (RO 1,189,600). Also included are temporary installations for the sites of the second Muscat Asian Beach Games 2010 in Barr al Jissah, Northern Al Hail, Al Qurum Natural Park and Al Rahbah Farm in Barka (RO 1,800,000); roundabout and pedestrian path in the Wilayat of Nakhal (RO 800,000); ■ To page 2

Green buildings can cut operating costs

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — On the second day of the Muscat Green Days Conference, under way at the Grand Hyatt Muscat, delegates took part in a workshop on 'LEED — Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design', presented by Mario Seneviratne, Managing Director of Green Technologies FZCO and LEED Facility Member, and Mentor of the US Green Building Council. "The two days' event aims to bring more awareness about sustainability and green building issues," said Boris Ritter, General Manager of Sesam Consultants, who is organising the event in co-operation with the German University of Technology in Oman. "Green buildings generate more money and lower the operating costs by around 30 per cent," said Seneviratne during the LEED workshop. Mario Seneviratne who is by profession a mechanical engineer holds LEED workshops in different locations, between Cairo and Shanghai and now for the first time in Muscat. Globally more than 54,600 buildings pursuing LEED certification and over 13,000 buildings are already certified, thus making LEED one of the most widely used rating systems. ■ To page 3

Oil prices hit five-month highs

LONDON — Oil prices rose yesterday, reaching five-month highs above \$85 here, as the dollar slumped, offsetting news of a bigger-than-expected increase in US energy inventories.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in November reached \$85.88 a barrel — the highest level since May 5. It later stood at \$85.57 — up 73 cents compared with Tuesday's close. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for November won 82 cents to \$83.64 a barrel. Earlier yesterday it struck \$84.09, last reached on May 4. Prices rose as the dollar slumped to a six-month low against the euro and gold hit



RUSSIAN TREAT: A virtual Russian treat to the spectators' senses is awaited at the Oman Auditorium of Al Bustan Palace Hotel today at 8.30 pm when the "Kalinka-Opera", a gala concert of Russian songs is going to be staged. (See page 3)

First full-scale EOR project

MARMUL — The official opening of the first full-scale Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) project in the south of PDO's concession area was held at a ceremony here yesterday. Held under the auspices of Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumayh, Oil and Gas Minister, the opening was attended by Shaikh Bakhit bin Salim al Maashni, Wali of Shaleem and Halanyat Islands, senior officials from PDO, Oil and Gas Ministry and local dignitaries. PDO's new Managing Director Raouf Restuici said: "This is a historic occasion for the company as it represents a new chapter in the company's development as this is the first full-scale enhanced oil recovery, or 'EOR',

— a project which establishes PDO as the region's leader in EOR technology. "The new project aims to add a further 8,000 barrels per day of oil production from the Marmul reservoir." He pointed out that the company's oil production has achieved high rates with the use of traditional technologies. Then the production started declining from a number of fields. This was the case at Marmul, the first big field discovered in PDO's southern concession area, which started producing oil in 1980. "After 20 years of production, the Marmul output started falling, but our sub-surface studies showed that there was still plenty of oil left in the ground. After studying a wide range of EOR technologies, the team identified polymer flooding as the optimum solution. This involves adding polymer granules to the water that is injected into mature fields to 'sweep' or push the oil towards

Muscat ceremony

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — The Asian Beach Games Organising Committee (MAOC) is hosting a celebratory event for the winners of the 2010 Student's Draw! test. The contest will be held during the summer holidays for children ages 6-16 throughout the country to show their talents.

Under the theme "2nd Asian Beach Games: The Eco-friendly Future of Sports," winners are asked to submit drawings including the elements of Oman's culture, heritage and the environment.

40 Nato trucks torched in raid

ISLAMABAD — Gunmen in Pakistan set fire to up to 40 supply trucks for Nato troops in two raids yesterday, police said, the latest in a series of assaults on the logistical backbone.

The attacks were launched on the same day the United States apologised to Pakistan for a Nato cross-border incursion in which US helicopters

Carbon atom pioneer

STOCKHOLM — Three scientists shared the 2010 Nobel Prize for Chemistry yesterday for forging a toolkit to manipulate carbon atoms, paving the way for new drugs to fight cancer and for revolutionary plastics.

Richard Heck of the United States and Eichi Negishi and Akira Suzuki of Japan were hailed for producing "great art in a test tube." The trio made outstanding contributions in organic chemistry, a field whose basis is carbon, one of the essential atoms of life and also of innumerable industrial synthetics. "It is important to emphasise the great role of carbon in their discoveries have for both



PHOTO: OMA

Prayer Timings Muscat

Dhuhr	12:00 pm
Asr	03:22 pm
Maghrib	05:54 pm
Isha	07:04 pm
Fajr	04:46 am

