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Message from Bahrain received

MUSCAT — Dr Fatima bint Mohammed al Balushi, Bahraini Minister of Human Rights and Social Development, received a written message from Shaikh Khalid bin Omar al Marhoon, Minister of Civil Service dealing with bilateral relations. The message was delivered by Abdullah bin Mohammed al Aamri, the Sultanate Ambassador accredited to Bahrain when received by the minister yesterday. They also discussed bilateral ties. — ONA

Medical conference on heart diseases

AL BURAIMI — A medical conference on heart diseases was held here yesterday by Oman Heart Association (OHA) jointly with Al Buraimi Hospital.

The chief guest was Shaikh Yahia bin Hamud al Maamari, Al Buraimi, governor. The conferees discussed scientific papers on latest medical breakthroughs in treatment of heart diseases. Dr Jawahir al Yazidiya, Executive Director at Al Buraimi Hospital, noted that fast changes in life styles were responsible in large part for emergence of heart diseases and associated illnesses. She said the conference would shed light on up-to-date treatments of heart medical problems.

Dr Kathim Jaafar Suleiman, OHA Deputy Chairman, said the association seeks to upgrade cardiology practices and has so far held around 34 scientific meetings besides courses on cardiology. He said OHA currently prepares for hosting the 9th conference of Gulf heart association here in January.

Anaesthetics, intensive care meet in Ibri

IBRI — Ibri Referral Hospital held its 2nd conference on anaesthesia and intensive care yesterday in collaboration with Oman Society of Anaesthesia and Critical Care.

The conference discussed themes on intensive care and heart disorders associated with intensive care patients.

Camel race organised in Adam

ADAM — The first qualifying race of the current season was held at Seih al Sariya racetrack in the Wilayat of Adam.

The race was organised by Oman Camel Racing Association. Camels from around the Sultanate competed in 18 rounds of the race. The two best camels in each race qualify for GCC-level competitions. Prizes were distributed for the best six winners in each round. — ONA



SAHAM — A camel show race for Al Batinah pedigree was run at Al Fulaj yesterday under the auspices of Khalfan bin Saleh al Naabi, Adviser at the Ministry of Sports Affairs. Saham Club organised the event in which more than 100 privately-owned she camels took part. — ONA



AS many as six people were killed and four others sustained serious injuries in a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a trailer truck at Makhaizna in Wilayat of Al Jazir yesterday. — ONA



SA sponsors Oman Web Awards 2011

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — Sohar Aluminium (SA) has decided to sponsor the Engineering and Manufacturing category of the Oman Web Awards. This is part of SA's endeavour to be associated with excellence.

The Engineering and Manufacturing sector in Oman is a cornerstone of Oman's 2020 vision to diversify its economy away from oil and gas dependency. By sponsoring this category SA believes it is contributing in its own way to help the diversification process.

SA's website won the second prize in the 2010 edition of the OWA and hopes to see more glory in this year's showpiece.

The CEO of Sohar Aluminium, Henk Pauw said: "The World-Wide Web has become an even tighter entity than it

ever was before and organisations need to use it effectively to ensure their business reaches its customers. The Oman Web

Awards encourages corporates to maintain a strong presence on the web and motivates developers by challenging them to innovate and deliver award-winning websites. We hope to see something new this year and expect an exciting contest on the cards."

Sohar Aluminium was formed in September 2004 to undertake a landmark Greenfield aluminium smelter project in the Sultanate of Oman.

Jointly owned by Oman Oil Company, Abu Dhabi National Energy Company PJSC — TAQA and Rio Tinto Alcan, Sohar Aluminium reached full capacity on February 19, 2009. It currently produces 375,000 metric tonnes of aluminium per year.



Port of Salalah, Truckoman and Maersk Line support Nabs

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — Nabil al Busaidy, better known as Nabs, is about to embark on another adventure in a bid to become the first Arab to walk to the South Pole.

The build up to his latest adventure began this week as he visited five schools in Muscat before setting out on a country wide tour to once again raise money for charity and encourage the youth of Oman to follow their dreams.

The Port of Salalah, Truckoman and Maersk Line have given their support to Oman's

pioneering adventurer, backing him all the way in his endeavours.

A Maersk Line refrigerated shipping container or 'reefer' is being transported by Truckoman to give the opportunity to the Sultanate's schoolchildren to experience the harsh conditions of the Antarctica and its sub-zero temperatures.

Temperatures inside the container can be set to -20C which, for those brave enough to want to experience it, will give just a small taste of what Nabs will endure on his adventure.

"The Port of Salalah is

excited to be a part of Nabs' trip to the South Pole," said Peter Ford, CEO of the Port of Salalah.

"We are happy to provide the financial and logistical support needed for his expedition and his school tour, and we have no doubt that Nabs will once again do Oman and its people proud in providing inspiration to the youth and succeeding in his historic adventure."

Chris Fidler, Group General Manager of Truckoman and Premier Logistics Muscat, is very pleased to be able to assist Nabs. "Although we will not be providing primary

support to Nabs on his expedition, we are extremely happy to be able to provide one of our newest vehicles to transport the reefer container throughout Oman and hopefully this support will spur Nabs on through the challenges he faces in the South Pole."

Vasu Devan, Sales Manager at Maersk Line Oman added, "We think this is a great concept which we are happy to support."

It's wonderful for these children to meet with Nabs and experience the conditions of the South Pole first hand".

5th dive challenge for the disabled from Oct 14

By A Staff Reporter

MUSCAT — An international team of dive instructors, doctors and helpers will arrive in Muscat on October 14 to give handicapped people the chance to try out diving in the pool of the Marina Bandar Rowdha Muscat.

The first dive challenge for disabled was held in March 2009 at the Oman Dive Centre in Muscat. Due to its great success and the immense interest, the Ministry of Sports Affairs asked the dive challenge team to organise such events on a regular base in different cities of Oman.

Sur and Salalah have been the next destinations during the year 2010 and in 2011 the dive event was held in Nizwa from

March 13 to 16. The next destination is Muscat and Sohar.

The leader of the team is Tariq al Khabori who is supporting the society of disabled people since 1984. Due to his continuous efforts and initiative over the past years the team will soon be organised in the ODDA "Oman Disabled Divers Association" inspired by former events in co-operation with European diving organisations. This association is now under formation with a rapidly raising number of members.

In former times diving was considered as dangerous sport but nowadays scuba diving is one of the most popular water sport activities in the world for young and old.

In many countries diving is already part of therapies for

handicapped people as "inwater activities" have a positive influence on the body and empowers the mental and physical fitness. Post incident depressions can be healed and disabled people motivated to get back to social activities.

Stefanie Trier, one of the founding members and diving instructors, says that "During my long time of teaching I came across some handicapped students. One of them had only one leg. Although I was sceptic in the beginning and thought that he will not be able to keep up with the other students, I was very surprised that the handicapped turned out to be one of the best students during the course, extremely disciplined and eager to do all exercises in high performance."

This experience motivated

me to become a diving instructor for handicapped people.

All team members are sacrificing their annual holidays to travel to the Sultanate to teach disabled people diving. When asked Gundula Blohm, Kathleen Bates and Tom Wysenbach, instructors who are coming on a regular base what motivates them to participate, the answer is: Seeing the total joy and excitement in the eyes of the handicapped under water and after the dive is an extreme pleasure.

Meeting people who never thought in their entire life that they will once scuba dive and get the possibility to discover the beautiful underwater world of Oman is pure satisfaction.

Not only the inwater training but also the qualified and competent surface assistance



is very important for the handicapped. Saif al Rawahi and Nina Gail are helping the participants with enthusiasm to get their equipment prepared, they do surface briefings and bring the disabled safely in and out of the water. They are also taking care of the handicapped after

their water experience and are giving help and explanations if needed.

One of the most important team members are Dr Roswitha Prohaska (President of the Austrian Society for Diving and Hyperbaric medicine) and Dr Wilhelm (President of the German Society for Hyperbaric Medicine). Both are dive instructors and are taking care of safety.

Only people are allowed in the water who went through a medical check-up and questioning. Depending on their evaluation up to three dive instructors are taking care of one disabled diver. Mentally retarded, blind, deaf as well as paraplegics can join the event as long as there is no contra-indication existing.

Andrea Blinzler, a physi-

otherapist working in Muscat, is also part of the team and eager to improve the life of handicapped people in Oman with water therapies.

The aim for this year is to get disabled into the open sea who are really keen on taking a complete diving course. The fun should not be limited to the pool experience.

To ensure that disabled people will have continued access to diving in the future we will need to have a team on a permanent base in Muscat. The aim is to train 2 or 3 Omanis up to the diving instructor level and let them run diving courses for handicapped on a monthly base, says Tariq.

Euro Divers announced that they will train Omanis complimentary to support the aim. It is good to see that more and more

Omani's are showing their interest in our events and work and are joining "our team".

Sayyid Nasr bin Badr bin Hamood al Busaidy, who is a passionate diver himself, is now part of our team and is supporting the team.

Dr Yousuf al Baluchi from Royal Navy of Oman is one of the new members. With him the team has now a professional doctor with profound knowledge and experience in diving medicine.

The dive challenge in Muscat and Sohar would not have taken place without the financial support of local companies and the team as well as the society of disabled people in Oman is very thankful to Nawras, Omantel, Bank Sohar, Euro Divers, Y-Oman and Qalhat-LNG for their contribution.