



MUSCAT TEMPERATURE

MAX 37  
MIN 28

## 'Early screening vital to surviving breast cancer'



**SPREADING AWARENESS:** The conference was jointly organised by Aafiyaa Imaging and Diagnostic Centre LLC, a standalone ultrasound and mammography centre, along with Oman Association of Radiographers. It focused on radiological diagnosis of breast cancer and its role in the treatment plan.

From 1997 to 2009, **1,111 individuals were diagnosed with breast cancer in Oman.** Mammography is still the gold standard in early detection of breast cancer. Ultrasonography, MRI and PET also have their own roles



“Women over 40 years should go for mammogram regularly. Screening is very important. The best defence against cancer is early detection”

Yuthar Al Rawahy  
Chairperson, NACA

**MRUDU NAIK**  
mrudu@timesofoman.com

**MUSCAT:** Early screening is crucial in the fight against cancer, experts stressed here at an international conference, 'Update in Breast Imaging', at the Institute of Health Sciences in Wattaya.

Renowned radiologist Dr Hiral Jerajani Kamath said, "Breast cancer is an increasing global problem today. It is very important to detect breast cancer early as early cancers can be treated well and the prognosis of the patient becomes very good."

The underlying objective of the conference was to update medical professionals on different imaging modalities used in the diagnoses of breast cancer. The conference was jointly organised by Aafiyaa Imaging and Diagnostic Centre LLC, a standalone ultrasound and mammography centre, along with Oman Association of Radiographers.

Long time cancer awareness campaigner Yuthar Al Rawahy, chairperson of National Association of Cancer Awareness, spoke on the topic 'Why breast cancer screening?'

Expressing her concern over the increasing cases of breast cancer in Oman, she said, "We at NACA

strongly recommend that women over 40 should go for mammogram regularly. Screening is very important in the fight against cancer. The best defence against cancer is early detection."

Yuthar also spoke on the efforts of the Mobile Mammography Unit (MMU) of NACA, launched in early 2010, which has been offering free of charge mammography service to residents across Oman.

"We have done over 2,500 free mammographies to date," she said.

Dr Hiral explained that mammography is still the gold standard in early detection of breast cancer.

"Ultrasonography, MRI and PET have their own roles in contributing to imaging," she noted.

**Regular update**

Mohammed Ali Afifi, DG of Educational and Training, Ministry of Health, who was the chief guest, lauded the concept of conference saying medical sciences and technology in imaging is moving at a fast pace. "Regular update is very fundamental for those in the medical field," he said.

Khalifa Al Shayadi, president of Oman Association of Radiographers, said the importance of the radiological diagnosis on breast

cancer and its role in the treatment plan cannot be underestimated.

Dr S.K. Ramani, professor of radiology and breast imaging, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, spoke on 'Benign and Malignant Lesions on Mammography'. Dr Ramani also spoke on BIRADS, breast MRI and PET, and breast microcalcifications.

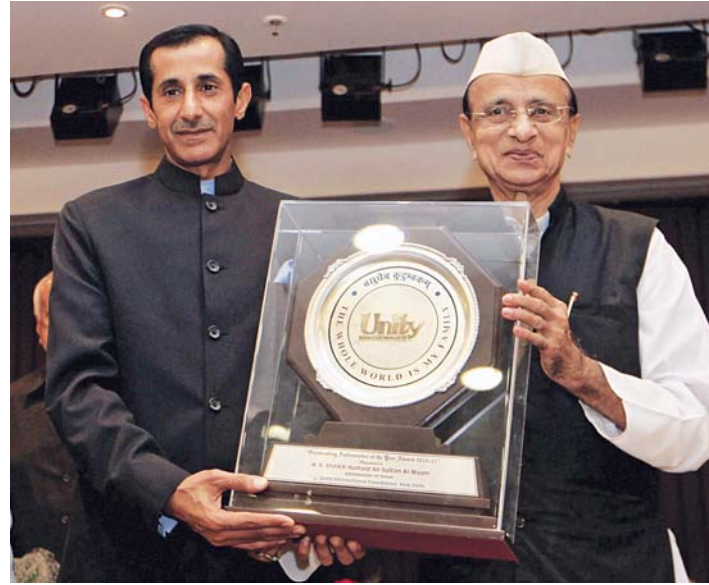
Dr Sukhpal Sawhney, senior consultant radiologist, SQUH, talked on 'Breast USG and Elastography'; Dr Taha Al Lawati, senior consultant surgeon oncology, Royal Hospital spoke on the treatment of breast cancer in Oman; and Bob Martin of the Hologic company focussed on the advances in mammography and spoke on 'Digital Mammography and Tomosynthesis'.

According to Ministry of Health statistics, from 1997 to 2009, 1,111 individuals were diagnosed with breast cancer of which 1,056 were females and 55 were males.

In Oman, mammography is offered at Royal Hospital, SQU, Khoula, Aafiyaa Imaging and Diagnostic Centre and the Mobile Mammography Unit. (The Mobile Mammography Unit (MMU) of NACA launched in early 2010 has been offering free of charge mammography.

### OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR

Bhishma Narain Singh (right), president of Unity International Foundation, presents the 'Outstanding Ambassador of the Year' award to the Sultanate's envoy to India, Sheikh Humain bin Ali bin Sultan Al Maani, during a function in New Delhi, yesterday. - PTT



### AVIATION SECTOR

## Passenger traffic through Muscat airport on upswing

**MUSCAT:** The total passenger traffic (including transit & transfer passengers) through Muscat International Airport up till August this year has increased by 13 per cent to 4,242,645 passengers compared to 3,740,234 passengers for the same period of 2010.

The number of arrival passengers increased by 16 per cent to 2,134,818 passengers during the same period this year compared to 1,839,233 passengers for the same period last year. The number of departing passengers also increased by 14 per cent to 2,061,458 passengers up till August this year compared to 1,812,956 passengers for the same period last year. The increase in arrival and departure traffic into Muscat International Airport is attributed to the increase in the number of flights by airlines operating into Muscat International Airport, such as Oman Air, FlyDubai and Air India Express.

In terms of air cargo traffic at



**BUSY HUB:** The total passenger traffic through Muscat Airport until August this year has increased by 13 per cent. - Supplied picture

Muscat International Airport, aviation statistics indicate an increase in the total unloaded and loaded freight by 3 per cent, with total shipment of 65,800 tonnes compared to 63,907 tonnes in the same period last year.

Salalah Airport showed an increase of 12 per cent in the total number of arriving and departing passengers to reach 337,286 pas-

sengers till August 2011 compared to 301,072 passengers for the same period last year.

As for the movement of air cargo at Salalah Airport, freight traffic has recorded a 5 per cent increase in total unloaded and loaded freight, bringing the shipment to 882 tonnes up till August compared to 841 tonnes in the same period last year. - ONA

### THREE NOT TO MISS

#### HERITAGE DAY

**1** Today marks South Africa's Heritage Day holiday and on Thursday over 300 South Africans in Oman celebrated with food, music and dancing. Heritage Day is a national holiday in South Africa when people of all races and creeds celebrate their country's traditions and cultures. The expatriate organisation, South African Group in Oman (SAGO) hosted the local festivities. >B2

#### WORKERS' WOES

**2** After going through the toughest times of their life in the Sultanate for the last few years, 22 blue-collar workers from India have lost faith and hope. Most of these workers came here to provide a better living for their near and dear ones back home. But now for daily survival they have to depend on money, which they earn by selling coke cans picked from garbage bins. >B2

#### DRUG DEALERS

**3** An official at the Management of Drugs Combating at the Directorate General of Inquiries and Criminal Investigation informed that the department has launched a special campaign to curb the consumption and trafficking of narcotics in the Sultanate. The programme includes the formation of squads to raid the hideouts of the traffickers and users. >B3

**DIWAN OF ROYAL COURT  
MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY**

Advertisement No. (95/2011)

Muscat Municipality invite submission for the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Date of Submission	Document Price
106/2011	Beautification work supply & fixing of interlock and kerbstone at Hellat Al Basrah-Muscat	19/10/2011	25 Rials
06/2012	Hiring of water tanker (5000 gln) for irrigation at Quriyat Park	19/10/2011	25 Rials
07/2012	Hiring of water tanker (5000 gln) for irrigation from welcome board to shell petrol station at Quriyat	19/10/2011	25 Rials
08/2012	Hiring of water tanker for irrigation from welcome board to Quriyat Park at Quriyat (2nd area)	19/10/2011	25 Rials
09/2012	Hiring of water tankers for drinking & irrigation at Haoyat Naghm Park in Quriyat	19/10/2011	25 Rials
10/2012	Hiring of sewage tanker (5000 gln) at Ghala	19/10/2011	25 Rials
11/2012	Hiring of sewage tanker (5000 gln) at Al Qurum Natural Park	19/10/2011	25 Rials

Companies and agencies who are qualified to tender for the above work are invited to contact the Directorate of Purchasing and Contracts at Muscat Municipality Head Office, Darsait in order to obtain the full tender documents. The document price quoted above is non-refundable.

Companies can purchase the tender document from Wednesday 21 September 2011 and must submit their offer, accompanied by a bond issued by any local bank in Oman to the value of two percent (2%) of the total tender value. The bond must be active for ninety (90) days starting from the date of submission. Any tender that doesn't include this bond will be rejected.

Documents must be enclosed in a plain envelope sealed with red wax (without showing any identity of the company on the envelope). Tenders should be addressed to H.E. Head of Muscat Municipality and deposited in the tender box near reception counter in Muscat Municipality, Head Office, Darsait by 10:00 A.M. on the above mentioned dates.

The Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Muscat Municipality  
Purchases and Internal Tenders Committee