



just a click away

The
1st
e-paper
in the region

www.timesofoman.com

ADVERTISEMENT









6 085010 120010



www.facebook.com/timesofoman

BEWARE! SOMEONE OUT THERE IS WATCHING YOU...

The Royal Oman Police has upgraded its strategy to curb traffic offences. The new offensive against habitual traffic violators is now being led by radars. >B3



WORLD'S STEEPEST ROLLER COASTER

People react as they ride the world's steepest roller coaster 'Takabisha' with a free falling angle of 121 degrees, at Fuji-Q Highland amusement park in Fujiyoshida, west of Tokyo. According to the amusement park, the 'Takabisha' is registered as the world's steepest roller coaster in the Guinness World Records and cost about 3,000,000,000 Yen (\$37,000,000) to build. The new attraction will be opened to the public from July 16. — Agencies



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

UPDATE

South Sudan gets ready for I-Day

1 Hours before south Sudan becomes independent, a mood of joyful expectation swept through its capital, with crowds dancing in the streets amid last-minute preparations for the historic ceremony. >A2

OMAN

A 'giant' threat for motorists

2 Heavy vehicles have become a major menace on the roads in the Sultanate. They account for a proportionately higher number of fatalities on the roads, calling for remedial measures. >B1

EXTRA

Simple ways to halt diabetes

3 Some lifestyle changes could be all you need to stave off this life-threatening condition or even reverse it. It is important to gear up rather early, instead of regretting later. >C7



ESSA BIN MOHAMMED AL ZEDJALI:
Salalah Tourism Festival reflects the true character of Oman
READ TOMORROW'S **VIEWPOINT**

Time up for eateries flouting health rules

Government inspectors all set to come hard on dirty food outlets

SALEH AL SHAIBANY
saleh@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: The government will soon hit hard on the restaurants and cafes that do not follow stringent hygiene rules. The move follows raids on dozens of eateries nationwide, and the outlets having failed on the criteria of ensuring basic health safeguards.

"Many eating establishments across the country were found violating health issues during our recent inspections. We want to make it clear that any restaurant which does not adhere to the hygiene rules will be immediately closed down," a health inspector from the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, told Times of Oman.

There are 25,000 eateries in the country, including the ones operat-



POINTS FOR YOUR PALATE

- There are 25,000 eateries in Oman, including those operated by global chains and hotels
- Around 35% of all emergency cases in hospitals are related to food poisoning, picked up from restaurants or cafes
- More than a third of the people who get food poisoning have been eating outside their homes
- Common complaints of food poisoning are vomiting and diarrhoea

get food poisoning have been eating outside their homes," a Ministry of Health official told *Times of Oman*.

Dirty kitchens, tables, items of cutlery and bad food preparation methods are among some of the offences government inspectors have on their check lists.

"The cooks also wear greasy clothes and don't wash their hands when they handle food. You would find flies in the restaurants and even rats and cockroaches running around in the kitchen. These things will not be tolerated any more," one inspector said, adding that a number of restaurants across the country have already been closed for failing to adhere to the basic health rules.

The common complaints of food poisoning are vomiting and diarrhoea which may lead to the hospitalization of the patient for up to two days, doctors say.

"Food poisoning cases increase during the summer since flies thrive in the heat while rodents and cockroaches escape the hot sun by getting indoors.

"Frozen food get defrosted very quickly when left outside and if left for too long, food such as meat, chicken and fish can start rotting quickly," food consultant Said Hadhrami informed.

ed by international chains and hotels. The sheer number makes the task of health inspectors harder.

"It is hard but we are up to the task and we will punish the offenders wherever they are, no matter how remote the restaurants are located in," the official made clear.

According to officials of the Min-

istry of Health, 35 per cent of all emergency cases received at the hospitals are related to food poisoning, picked up from restaurants and cafes.

"It seems that these eating places are very careless when it comes to maintaining general cleanliness. More than a third of the people who



Atlantis lifts off after glitch fixed

A11

'THE UNTOLD STORY'

'Imran Khan is a good bet for Indo-Pak peace'

MEHRE ALAM
newseditor@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Unlike the Taleban-friendly image that a section of the media portrays of him, Imran Khan is more of a peacenik, a new biography of the Pakistani cricketer-turned-politician says.

The book *Imran versus Imran: The Untold Story*, published by Falcon & Falcon Books Limited, says while Imran is not vulnerable to war-like emotions, he wants love to conquer the frontiers of war.

Imran learnt the power of 'Make Love, Not War' counterculture slogan during his Oxford days, says the book authored by Indian journalist Manoj Kumar, who writes under the pen name of Frank Huzur.

However, what in all probability is likely to raise the ghosts of the past in the context of the Indo-Pakistan relations is his observation on former Indian premier Atal Behari



MAKING A POINT: Imran Khan with Manoj Kumar, alias Frank Huzur.

Vajpayee's historic bus trip to Lahore in 1999. "The Lahore Declaration was doomed to die right from the start," Imran is quoted saying in the book.

Why? "Only pomp and splendour don't bring cheers on the ground. Nawaz Sharif acted once more unilaterally. His army Chief of Staff,

Musharraf and other service chiefs refused to welcome his decision to go ahead with 'Bus Diplomacy.' The Indian Prime Minister had the confidence of the entire nation, whereas Nawaz didn't have approval from his own army. Musharraf didn't join him at the Wagah Border," Huzur quotes Imran as saying in the book, which

is basically a 'political biography' of the erstwhile dashing cricketer.

It was Sharif's own decision to roll out the red carpet for the Indian PM, says the book, while adding that Nawaz wanted General Musharraf, Air Chief Marshal Parvez Memon and Admiral Fasih Bokhari to be present, clad in full military regalia,

to salute Atal Behari Vajpayee and shake hands with him. "His military chiefs had serious reservations. They were not happy about their Prime Minister compelling them to salute 'the head of government of an enemy country' and particularly one belonging to the Hindu fundamentalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)".

“

The Lahore Declaration was doomed to die right from the start

Imran Khan
Pakistani cricketer-turned-politician

Meanwhile, in an email interview with *Times of Oman*, Huzur shed some more light on Imran's views on India, where he continues to be hugely popular.

"He (Imran) often recommends his party workers to learn from the civilian institutions of India. I often heard him talking about the social empowerment of marginalised people in India."

Huzur added that while Kashmir may be hanging fire in his eyes, Imran wants dialogue and demilitarization to resolve the disputed issue.

"I believe Imran Khan is not one of the rabble-rousing politicians of Pakistan who often talk ill of India. Even while he has been a close ally of religious parties like Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat-Ulema-Islam of Qazi Hussain Ahmad and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, his 'pro-India stand' has been a moderating influence on these anti-India voices," said Huzur.