

TRADE..INDUSTRY..AGRICULTURE..

Accord with Jordan

The Sultanate of Oman and Jordan signed an agreement on Tuesday to develop relations in trade, industry and agriculture.

The agreement was signed by Col. Salem bin Abdulla al Ghazali, Minister of Commerce and Industry and his Jordanian counterpart Dr. Rajai al Mashar at the Ministry's headquarters in Ruwi.

The accord provides for the setting up a joint committee which will devise ways to promote economic cooperation between the two countries.

By Muzaffar Mohammad

Talking to newsmen after the signing, Col. Salem bin Abdulla al Ghazali said the agreement, which reflects the desire of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and His Majesty King Hussain to bring their countries closer, will provide a framework to regularise economic relations.

The joint committee set up under the agreement will set the economic relations between the

COMMITTEE WILL BENEFIT PRIVATE SECTORS

two countries in the right direction, he said, adding that the agreement will provide impetus to private sectors of both countries to increase contacts for mutual benefit.

The Minister said he looked forward to his next meeting with his Jordanian counterpart in Amman to follow up the points discussed and agreed in Muscat.

He expressed the hope that the agreement will serve as a symbol of ideal relations between the two brotherly Arab countries.

Dr. Rajai al Mashar thanked Colonel Ghazali for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded him and his companions in Muscat. He said the extensive talks between the two countries culminated in a final agreement which



The signing and, below, the meeting at the Chamber.

will pave the way for establishing joint ventures in the private sector.

The two sides, he said, agreed to the need to identify fields in which there is a possibility of setting up joint ventures.

Dr. Rajai said the talks centred on ways to promote commercial exchanges between the private sector which will enable businessmen of the two countries to know about their import and export needs.

He said to introduce Jordanian products to the Omani people his country will hold an industrial and tourist exhibition in Muscat in the second half of this year.

The Jordanian Minister said during his detailed talks with agriculture marketing authorities the two countries have agreed to exchange agricultural products to help farmers of both countries their pride.

The second meeting of the Oman-Jordan Committee will be held Amman when Col. Salem bin Abdulla al Ghazali will attend.

Earlier in the morning the two minister met at the Oman



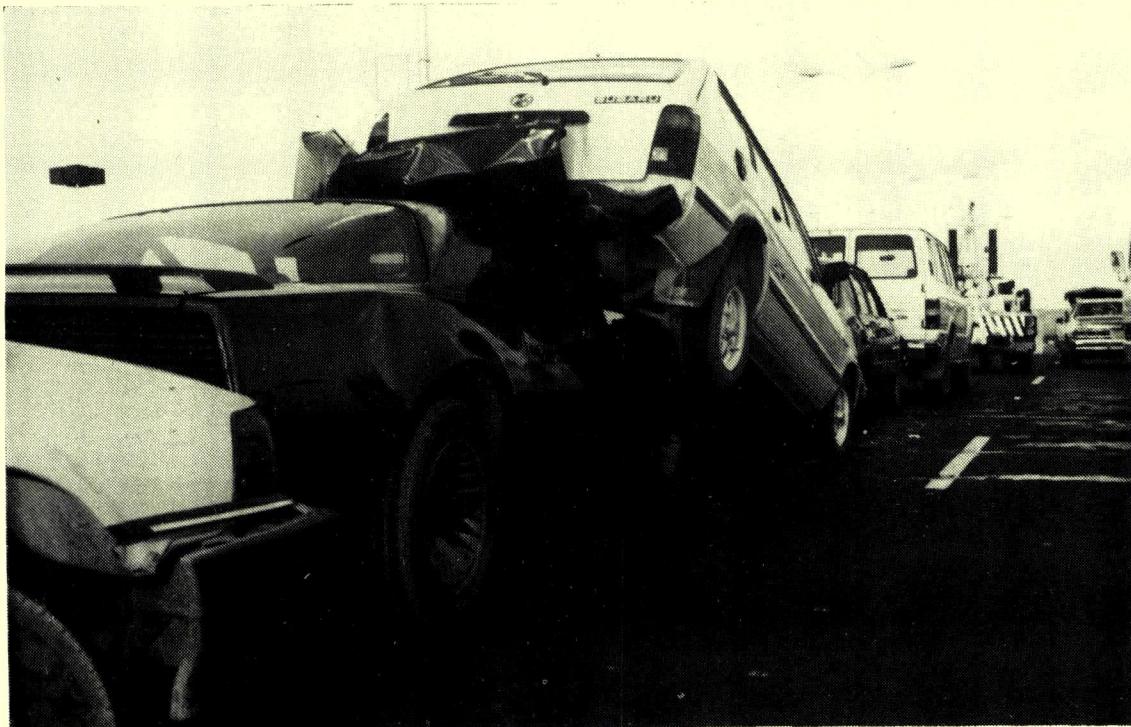
Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with officials and leading businessmen of the two countries. The meeting discussed ways of promoting cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.

The Omani delegation at the talks included Col. Salem bin Abdulla al Ghazali, Dr. Omer bin Abdul Munim al Zawawi, His

Majesty's Advisor; Said bin Nasser al Khussaibi, Chief Executive of the Public Authority for Marketing Agricultural Produce, board members of the Chamber and leading businessmen.

• Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood al Said received the Jordanian Minister of Industry and Commerce on Tuesday.

Nine-car pile-up at Qurum



Nine cars were badly damaged in this pile-up near Qurum flyover on Wednesday last week. Drivers and passengers injured in the accident were admitted to hospital, according to a spokesman for the Royal Oman Police. Picture by Saeed Suleiman Al-Baluchi.

Traffic Week again soon

Oman's Traffic Week Committee was to meet yesterday at the Directorate-General of Traffic, Seeb, to discuss preparations for the third AGCC Traffic Week to be held from March 15 to 22.

The meeting was being chaired by Col. Abdul Aziz bin Awad, the Director-General of Traffic.

Members of the committee include representatives from the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Education, and the Capital Municipality, the Petroleum Development Oman, and the Royal Oman Police.

LATEST

Muslim guerrillas said two wounded Israeli captives seized in South Lebanon had been moved to a safe place, while Israel vowed to find the two soldiers.

The Islamic Resistance Front said in a statement released in West Beirut that its prisoners were officers who were moved to a safe place where they are still having medical treatment.

Two people were killed and three badly injured when a car carrying an Indian singing group crashed in the United Arab Emirates.

Killed were Indian businessman Raju Nasrat, who sponsored a UAE tour by the group from Kerala State, and Alayamma Jacob, mother of singer Leena Jacob.

The sources said Leena Jacob was in a critical condition and leader singer Karan-galaphu George Marcos in stable condition. The driver, Tony Amjad, was paralysed from the waist down.

The car apparently blew a tyre and overturned near Al Ain.

Inside - nine pages of business news

Royal Decree

Under Royal Decree number 20/86 Omani nationality is to be granted to the following:

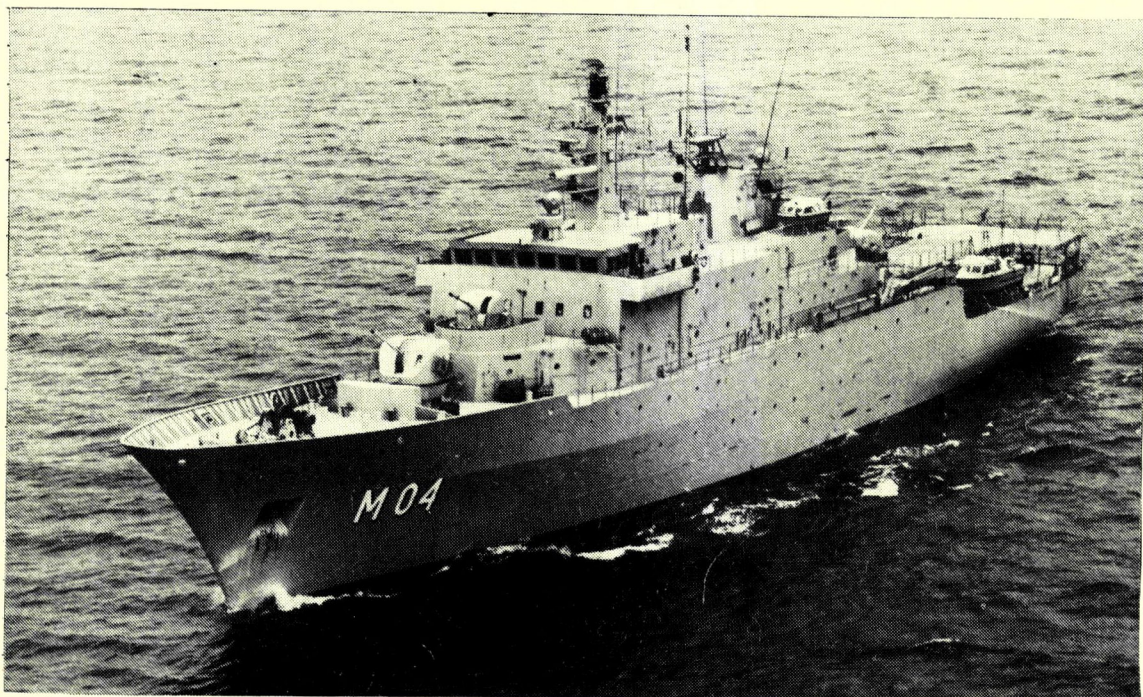
Soheir bint Abdul-Salam bin Ahmed, Rashida bint Ismail bin Abdul-Rahman, Laila bint Deeb bin Abdul-Hay, Fatma al-Zahra bint Sayed Hafez, Zayanah bint Khamis bin Aly Al Gahdamy, Suzanne Elizebath bint Foudour, Rashid bin Salem bin Aly Al Eibry, Wahida bint Salem bin Aly Al Ebry, Mubarak bin Ahmed bin Aslam Al-Obtani Al Hadramy, Qalabes bin Malgy bin Narandas, Tashar bin Qalabes bin Malgy, Heimant bin Qalabes Melgy, Shamaa bint Zaki Al-din bin Abdul haleem, Nair Aly bin Aktar bin Neyaz, Kamal bin Ashraf bin Abdul Raazzak, Neffissa bint Hashem bin Sol-eiman bin Hosni, Mona bint Mohammed bin Yousef, Mirvat bint Mahmoud bin Abdul Jawad bin Mohammed Al-Gawhari, A'alia bint A'mer bin Mohammed Shamlan, Nonowa bint Rahed bin A'zzan, Rabia bint Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Nabhani, Zakia bint Sayed Ali, Batoul bint Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed, A'aeshah bint Saleh bin Sabet, Khalid bin Hussain bin Khisay, Khalid Aziz bin Mayan Abdul-Aziz.

Minister's UK visit

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah left for Britain on Monday at the head of a delegation to the Omani-British Joint Committee meeting. He was accompanied by the Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq al Said.

Blood donors

Twenty-nine employees of the Ministry of Communications donated blood at the Ministry's headquarters at Darseit. It was collected by personnel from Khoula Hospital's Central Blood Laboratory.



Swedish warship visits Sultanate

Eleven women trainee naval officers are visiting Oman as part of the 203-member crew of the Swedish minelayer HMS Carlskrona which docked at Mina Qaboos on Monday.

The three-day visit is the first by the Swedish Navy to the Sultanate and is part of an extensive training expedition which started in December last year. The Carlskrona is now on its way back to its base in Sweden after calling on various ports in the Middle East and Far East - as far as away as Shanghai.

By Fermin D'Souza

The women naval cadets are the first batch undergoing officer training in the Royal Swedish Navy after the Navy began accepting women cadets in 1984. For most of them it is their first voyage following which some will receive their commissions in December and the rest in April next year.

"They have been doing a great job," said Carlskrona's captain, Commander Gustaf af Klint, adding that they tried to give them an all-round experience.

After initial curiosity and what Commander Klint diplomatically called "discussions" in naval circles, the women have been accepted as equals by their male cadets. There is no discrimination in duties except that women are not permitted to do duty on submarines and as pilots.

The Carlskrona, now on its fourth foreign voyage, will have covered 23,000 nautical miles at

the end of the 103-day trip. The vessel has called at Rotterdam, Cartagena in Spain, Djibouti, the Maldives, Port Kelang, Brunei and Shanghai on its outward trip. Returning, it has stopped at Hong Kong and Colombo.

After leaving on Friday, the vessel will make one halt at Alexandria before sailing to its base in the city of Karlskrona, after which it is named.

"The voyage has been a good one with the weather almost as good as we expected in the Indian Ocean which was a little more windy," said Lieutenant Commander Leif Lindheimer, second in command.

The Muscat halt is particularly nice as they have more spare time than usual to spend seeing the city and going swimming and diving, their main interests.

The 3500 tonne Carlskrona, a combined minelayer and training vessel, is the largest and most modern ship of the Royal Swedish Navy. Built by the Swedish shipyard Karlskronavarvet AB, it was handed over to the Navy in March 1982.

On its current voyage, which serves the dual purpose of training cadets and showing the Swedish flag, it has a total crew of 203 comprising 47 officers 108 cadets, including the 11 women, and 48 conscripts.

Health drive in Bahla

A health awareness programme, which will focus on child immunisation, the importance of breast feeding, nourishment and oral rehydration therapy, will be organised in the villages around Bahla.

The Public Health Unit in Bahla is busy preparing for it with the coordination of Bahla Development Work Group.

Debates, lectures, film shows and other programmes are to be held in Al Aqeer, Sankam, Al Aish villages in the Wadi Al Ula and Safil. The unit will also visit villages such as Harmat, Dan, Mewal, Seih-al Mash, Sint and Sumt in Wadi Ula.

The PHU in Bahla organised a number of educational debates within the framework of the National Child Health programme. The programmes were attended by many citizens.

Sumayil Public Health Complex organised similar debates.

Tunisian message

Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, Qais bin Abdul Munim al Zawawi received a message from Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed M'Zali dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Tunisia's Ambassador in Muscat Abdullah al Areef.

Sweden to have embassy in Oman

Sweden is to set up an embassy in Muscat soon. It will start functioning from July 1. Sweden's non-resident Ambassador to Oman told reporters on Tuesday.

Riyadh-based Ambassador Frank Belfrage said he will continue as non-resident Ambassador and the new mission would be headed by Charge d'Affairs Carlson. Sweden currently has a consulate in Muscat with an honorary consul general in charge.

Sweden had very good commercial and cultural relations with Oman, said Mr Belfrage, and it was increasing.

The estimated 250-strong Swedish community in Oman is also expected to increase as engineers and technicians from the Swedish telecom giant Ericson will be visiting the Sultanate to help develop a telecommunications network in rural areas.

The Ambassador, who met newsmen on board the visiting Swedish Navy vessel HMS Carlskrona, said he welcomed the visit as a new feature in cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Tribute to Omani-UK links

Foreign Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, Sayyid Haitham bin Tarek al Said paid tribute to Omani-British relations and described them as deep-rooted.

In an interview with "Oman Newspaper" Sayyid Haitham said that a meeting of the Omani-British Joint Commission, in London would give a fresh impetus to the existing bilateral cooperation.

Asked if there was any plan for an extraordinary session of the AGCC Foreign Ministers to discuss the consequences of the flare-up in the Iraq-Iran war Sayyid Haitham said that the situation did not demand such a session particularly when Iraq was said to have repulsed the Iranian attack.

He added that the AGCC Foreign Ministers will hold an ordinary session in Riyadh next month.

Electricity for 3 towns

The towns of Dank, Mazim and Yanqul and a number of surrounding villages will receive electricity for the first time by the end of the year when work on the laying of a 132 KV transmission main line between Ibri and Wadi Jizzi power station is completed.

The line is being laid by Civil Contracting Company and National Electrical Services, but local transmission lines will be laid by other firms.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water has ordered surveying and invited quotations for the internal network which will use low tension, 11 KV lines.

Ibri town will also be served by the Wadi Jizzi power station after the installation of the main line and internal network.

The town is now fed by a diesel power station. This station will be

closed down when Ibri is connected with Wadi Jizzi power station which uses gas turbines.

To serve Ibri and the other areas, the capacity at the Wadi Jizzi station is being increased by 54 MW to a total of 160 MW.

To Portugal

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has sent a congratulatory cable to President Mario Suarez on his election as Portugal's Head of State.

Envoy received

The Saudi Minister of Planning, Hisham Mohiyuddin al Nazer, received the Sultanate's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Abdulla bin Ahmed al Marhoon. They conferred on ways to boost bilateral ties.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Oman Aviation Services Company (S.A.O.) have changed their Registered Office Address to:

P.O. Box 1058

Central Post Office

Seeb Airport

Sultanate of Oman

Post

The Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones is planning postal services for the newly developed communities in the Capital Area.

The first two communities which are on the list of the Ministry for launching services are Wadi Kabir and Wadi Hattat.

Habib Hamdan, Director of Capital Area Post Offices said this week that until permanent places are found for post offices in the two areas there will be mobile post office vans.

Search begins for Brain of Dhofar

Salalah began its search for the Brain of Dhofar with its first round of matches in the British Council-'Times of Oman' Mastermind competition on Sunday.

Out of the four teams that contested the preliminary rounds, the Celts emerged victorious. They overcame the Maslins Marauders' challenge by 48 points to 42 and then went on to defeat the British Telecom team Odd Bods 52-42.

Earlier, the Odd Bods beat the British Airworks team Boomerangs 53-35, only to go down to the Celts later the same evening. The Celts now go on to play the SSF team on Sunday, February 23.

The second match the same evening will be between the British Sergeants' Mess and the Brain Drain.

By Fermin D'Souza

On March 2, the Oryx face SOAF Thumrait, winners of last year's Brain of Dhofar Cup. The second match of the evening will be between the British Council (Salalah) and Densa.

The next Sunday, March 9, Senior Stiffs play the Firqats and MOD Blue face the FF Team. March 16 sees SOAF Salalah taking on Taylor-Woodrow-Towell, while Pan Am play MOD Green.

The semi-finals and finals will be held at the English Speaking School, Salalah, on March 23. The winners then fly to the Capital Muscat probably in April for the Oman final.

Ruwi Hotel, the venue of the finals, will provide free accommodation to the winners of the Salalah contest on the night they face the Muscat finalists Co-optimists for the Mastermind Grand Prix Cup, donated by the "Times of Oman". The hotel's offer extends to Salalah questionmaster John Edwards and his

Education director's African mission

Ali Mohammad Said al Kindi, Director of Literacy and Adult Education at the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs left Muscat this week on a 20-day visit to Tunisia, Morocco and Somalia to see progress made by these countries in adult education.

During the visit which has been sponsored by Unesco the Omani official will see efforts made in eradicating illiteracy and the techniques adopted to propagate adult education.

Ali Mohammad Said told the "Times" before his departure that Tunisia and Morocco were advanced in adult education and the visit would provide him a chance to study their systems.

In Somalia he will visit Arabic classes organised for citizens following a switch from Somali to Arabic as the official language.

Ali Mohammad Said will apprise officials there on the progress made by Oman in eliminating illiteracy and spreading adult education to remote areas of the country.

Algiers talks

Oman's Ambassador to Algeria, Ahmed bin Omar ba-Omar, has met the Secretary-General of the Algerian Presidency, Al Arabi Bilkhair to hold cooperation talks, according to the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

assistant.

The Brain of Dhofar quiz competition has a slightly different question format to the one followed in Muscat. They have ten categories of questions covering geography, nature, odd ball questions, literature, science, entertainment, sports, history, current affairs and music. Some of the music questions involve listening to the music itself.

There are nine team questions and one individual question chosen from one of the categories. There are also four team questions on music and four team questions on current affairs and one individual question, making up a set of 18



Co-Optimists' captain Eddie Scoular with the Muscat Mastermind Cup. Now they have set their sights on the Mastermind Grand Prix Trophy.

questions.

The overall winners of the British Council/"Times of Oman" Mastermind 1986 contest will win a weekend for four in Singapore, donated by British Airways and OUA Travel. The losing finalists get eight meal vouchers at the

Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel.

The competition is sponsored by British Airways, OUA Travel, Ruwi Hotel, Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel, The Family Bookshop, "Times of Oman" The British Council and Loay Printing Press.

The sign of good taste



Made in England

Fresh warning on prices

Weather

Cloudy skies and scattered rain were experienced throughout the country with Ibri reporting 13mm, Jebel Dhofar region 1mm, and Nizwa, Saiq, Masirah, Thumrait, Salalah, Mina Raysut recording traces.

The Capital Area recorded normal day maximum and night minimum temperatures averaging 26C (79F) and 19C (66F) respectively.

The Sultanate is likely to experience yet another spell of rain and shamaals during the week to come.

	Max	Min
Seeb	29C (84F)	16C (61F)
Mina Qaboos	30C (86F)	18C (64F)
Khasab	25C (77F)	16C (61F)
Buraimi	27C (81F)	09C (48F)
Ibri	26C (79F)	10C (50F)
Nizwa	26C (79F)	10C (50F)
Sohar	28C (82F)	10C (50F)
Saiq	18C (64F)	03C (37F)
Sur	31C (88F)	17C (63F)
Masirah	29C (84F)	15C (59F)
Thumrait	31C (88F)	14C (57F)
Salalah	31C (88F)	19C (66F)
Mina Raysut	31C (88F)	20C (68F)
Jebel Dhofar	24C (75F)	13C (55F)
Haima	32C (90F)	13C (55F)
Ghaba	28C (82F)	10C (50F)

Meeting in Malaysia

In Malaysia, Oman's Charge d'Affaires, Ahmed bin Ibrahim bin Kasim, met the Malaysian Minister of Information, Datou Raees, to discuss ways to enhance relationship between the two countries.

MINISTER SPEAKS OF PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENDERS

Traders who charge higher prices for their goods despite repeated warnings from the Government will be dealt with sternly, Minister of Commerce and Industry Colonel Salem bin Abdulla al Ghazali said on Saturday.

Money measures 'sufficient'

The devaluation of the rial and a ten per cent cut in expenditures announced by the Government were sufficient to overcome the present crisis following the fall in oil prices in the world market, Dr Sherif Lutfi, Advisor to His Majesty the Sultan and Secretary-General of the State Development Council, has said.

Dr Lutfi said the devaluation was a necessary and timely step, adding that he personally did not feel that any further measures were called for to meet the situation.

He said that Oman's economic and financial position had now become very strong making it confident to face the situation until the end of this year.

He added that the third Five Year Plan would be implemented as scheduled, however, the country must be prepared to face any new developments next year.

Dr Lutfi said his personal prediction for 1986 was that oil prices would settle nearer to \$US20 per barrel.

Punishments contemplated, Colonel Ghazali said, includes putting a ban on imports by the errant traders, withdrawal of their trading licences and a reconsideration of their commercial registration.

He was speaking to reporters after a meeting with the AGCC Directors-General of Stores and Supplies at the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Colonel Ghazali issued his first warning to traders not to increase prices on 2 February following a meeting with the directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On the previous day, Commerce and Industry Under-Secretary Ahmed bin Abdulnabi Macki held a meeting with the OCCI directors and local businessmen.

Colonel Ghazali said on Saturday "After the meetings we told the traders that we are giving them a chance to bring down prices already hiked, especially of foodstuffs.

"I told the Press at that time that the Ministry meant what it said.

"Today, after two weeks, we still find some of the traders charging unreasonable prices."

The Minister said the Government appreciated, however, the large number of businessmen who responded to its call positively in the interests of the nation.

About those who did not had the Ministry's advice, Colonel Ghazali said: "They are known to us by their names. We are compiling the names now in order to take the necessary action against them."

Oman, he said, had adopted the free enterprise economic system and was determined to follow it. "This policy does not mean that the consumers can be exploited," Colonel Ghazali warned.

He also admonished the traders not to misuse the 25 January devaluation of the Omani rial as an excuse to raise prices, adding the Government knew that international factors were to some extent responsible for the increase.

The international prices, however, went up three months before the devaluation, the Minister pointed out.

He said that Oman's economy was in very good shape as compared with several other countries.

Import duties levied by the Government did not exceed five per cent on any commodity while in some other countries the duty ranged from 30 per cent to 100 per cent.

Colonel Ghazali said a survey carried out by the Ministry on market trends in the country during the last two weeks revealed that prices in the Southern Region had gone up by eight to 11 per cent and those in the Capital Area by between 15 to 20 per cent and more.

The Minister also used the occasion on Saturday to warn Omanis on the dangers of depending on foreign business partners. The foreigners, he said, were here only for a short period and might not give enough importance to Oman's national interests.

U.S. reception

Mr. G. Cranwell Montgomery, the United States Ambassador, held a reception at his residence on Monday to mark George Washington's birthday anniversary. It was attended by Government and diplomatic dignitaries and prominent people in Oman's business community.

Batinah projects inspected

The Director-General of Public Works at the Housing Ministry, Abbas bin Jaffar bin Hussein, has completed a tour of the Batinah Region. He inspected various projects supervised and executed by his office for the Ministries of Health, the Interior, Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Regional Municipalities.

The projects Mr Hussein visited included the wali's office in Nakhl; mini health centres in various stages of construction in Wadi Mistal, Wadi Bani Kharus, Wadi Hamli and Wadi al Hawasinah, the Rostaq market and the Sharia Court in Musanah.

He was accompanied on the tour by Bob MacLain from the second unit of the Directorate-General, George Mansour, in-charge of follow up, and engineers from public works offices in Sohar and Musanah.

Girl Guide certificates presented

The wife of the Housing Minister, Ahmed bin Abdulla al Ghazali, presented certificates to the participants of a one week Girl Scouts and Guides camp held in Seeb.

The camp, organised by the Arab Girl Guides Bureau, was attended by 40 Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the country.

If focussed mainly on leadership training and community development projects, the Advisor for Programmes at the Omani Girl Guides Association, Rayya al Riyami said.

The main lectures were the Chairwomen of the Arab Girl Guides Bureau, Kamaria Amia and a number of the AGGB, Afaf Fateh.

GTO course success

The General Telecommunications Organisation's executive President, Noor bin Mohammed Abdul Rehman, presented certificates to GTO employees on completing training course in "Transmission and Power supply" at the GTO training Centre in Ruwi.

Eight employees received certificates for successfully completing the course.

An expert from Siemens Company of West Germany gave training on equipment-oriented transmissions.

Five-vehicle crash

Five vehicles were badly damaged, and their passengers injured in an accident on the Seeb Airport road on Saturday. At Ibri, a saloon car overturned after one of its tyres blew out and injured the driver who was being treated at a hospital, according to the ROP. In another accident, the driver of a speeding vehicle hit the road barrier running alongside the Maldah-Masanaa road.

Pick-up crash

At Sumail, the driver and passengers were seriously injured when a pick-up overturned.

**MR. GORDAN K. ADANAI
&
BROTHERS DEEPLY MOURN
THE SAD DEMISE OF
SHRI GOKALDAS KHIMJI**



RUWI SALALAH DUBAI
703569 293434 531489

Top priority – the people

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has stressed his determination to maintain the living standards of his people in the present world recession conditions.

In an interview with two international journalists, representing the Dutch Brabant Press and United

Syndicate His Majesty said that this consideration was foremost in his planning.

His Majesty also said that diversification of the economy would be energetically pursued in order to reduce the Sultanate's heavy reliance on oil revenues.

On international affairs, His Majesty called for an all-out effort to bring about a peaceful end to the Iraq/Iran war. The region, His Majesty said, could not afford it, and it was a tragedy that the loss of life should continue.

Recent events in the People's

Democratic Republic of Yemen, His Majesty said, were a matter solely for the people of PDRY.

His Majesty added that assurances given by the new regime that the friendly relations established with the Sultanate would be further developed, were welcomed.

Oman will host Jamboree

The Sultanate will host the Arab Scout Jamboree in July, according to Hussain Macki, the councillor of the Arab Scout Organisation, who attended the 16th Arab Region Scout Committee meeting at Amman recently.

Mr. Macki said that the committee in its meeting held from 5 to 7 February, also decided to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the scout movement in the Arab world.

He added that since the first Arab Scout Association was formed in Syria and Lebanon in 1911-12, it was decided to hold the opening of the 75th anniversary celebrations in Damascus in the middle of next year.

Mr. Macki will head the committee, formed to work out the celebration plans.

The committee also accepted recommendations by the medal committee and decided to present Arab Scout medals to four members, Mohammed Hassan Faima of Libya, Hussain Macki of Lebanon, Dr Hamid al Khafif of Egypt and Jordan's Samir Issikender.

Mr Hussain Macki, who is also member of the World Scout Organisation Committee, is working as an adviser with the Directorate of Youth Affairs.

Foreign Ministry posts

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah, has issued an order appointing Abdul Hafeez bin Musallam al Kalam as the Assistant Chief of Arab Affairs at the Ministry. Another order appoints Rashid bin Obeid al Ghuraibi as assistant Chief of Information and Studies.

She becomes a Muslim

Kusum Tavis, an Indian woman living in Oman, has embraced Islam. She was administered the oath in the presence of the Judge of the Bukha Court. Her new name is Aisha.

Invitation

Dr Mubarak bin Saleh al Khadouri, the Minister of Health, has accepted an invitation to visit Tunisia. The invitation from his Tunisian counterpart Dr Suaad al Yaqoubi was conveyed to Dr Khadouri by Tunisia's Ambassador in Muscat Abdul Malick al Areef.

Course end

The Director of the Technical Training Institute, Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan al Busaidi, was the guest of honour at a function held to mark the end of two training courses on secretarial work and book-keeping at the institute.

Khoulia Hospital extension opened

An extension of the Khoulia Hospital's Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology was formally opened on Thursday by Dr Mubarak bin Saleh al Khadouri, the Minister of Health.

The ceremony was attended by several Ministers, Under-Secretaries, senior Government officials and members of the medical profession.

The Under-Secretary for Health, Dr Salem bin Hamdan al Akhzami, made a

speech highlighting the intensive development programme launched by the Government in the field of health services.

The extension of the hospital coincided with Oman's absorption of medical advancements and up-to-date health services, Dr Akhzami said.

Later, Dr Khadouri cut the ribbon at the entrance of the extension, marking the formal opening.

Dignitaries were taken on a tour of the two-storeyed building and Dr Waheed al Kharousi, the head of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, explained facilities.

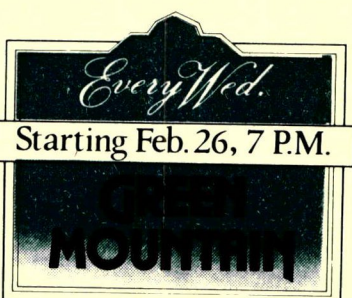
The new extension, which took two years for construction, provides a 160-bed facility with separate wards for males, females and children. It has four clinical rooms and separate sections for fracture and orthopaedics.

Catch all the pleasure.

NEPTUNE'S
KINGDOM
SEAFOOD BUFFET

Famous in
the Gulf,
now in
Oman
Sheraton

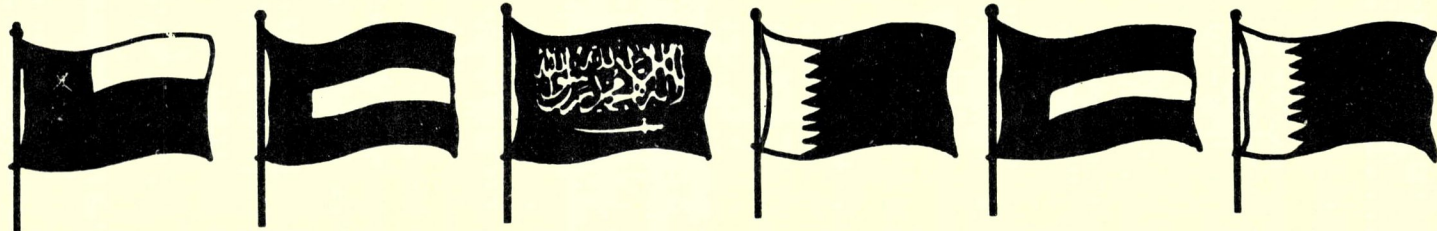
A big hit with seafood lovers in the Gulf, Neptune's Kingdom now comes to you every Wednesday at Green Mountain. Oman Sheraton's international restaurant, serving you a full ocean of savoury delights. R.O. 7,500 only plus tax per person. For reservations, dial 799899 ext. 5127.



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TLX 3353-3358 SHERATON ON

Gulf roundup



The technical committee of credit banks and funds in the six-member AGCC states held a meeting in Riyadh last week. A working paper prepared by the organisation's secretariat on closer policies in credit facilities for the industrial sector was discussed.

The UAE

- The UAE's Seventh Annual Cleanliness Week will begin on March 11, officials of all municipalities decided at a meeting in Dubai last week. The Abu Dhabi Municipality has offered to supply saplings and seeds to other municipalities.

- A conference on the care of old people in accordance with Islamic teachings, will be held from April 21 to 24 in Abu Dhabi.

- A total of 55 tankers have been "anchored idly" off the east coast of the UAE on account of a sharp drop in oil shipments out of the Gulf countries, the Sharjah newspaper "Al-Khaleej" reported. Several company spokesman said the total had risen from about 30 during the past two years to 55 in the last quarter of 1985.

- The first plastic arts exhibition for juniors (5 to 16 age group) will be held at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi on February 22. The foundation will also organise the first UAE fair for women on March 8.

- A children's centre was formally opened at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi last week by the President's Representative Ahmed Khalifa al Suweidi. The centre has a library of religious and scientific books in Arabic and English for the six to 12 age group.

'Women only' beach in Abu Dhabi

The Abu Dhabi Municipality has restricted an area along the beach to serve as an exclusive resort for women and children below the age of six years. A special police contingent is to keep watch and guard the beach against intruders. Coast Guard vessels will keep all pleasure boats away from the resort.

A mini-waterfall is being completed on the beach. The cascade will be lit by coloured lights, a municipal spokesman said.

UAE health strategy

The UAE Minister of Health, Hamad Abdul Rahman al Midfa, last week approved the new health strategy and working plan for achieving health care for all by the year 2000.

The strategy, worked out in co-operation with the World Health Organisation, includes a five-year national plan for health development.

The plan calls for providing the best medical services to entire population

through the utilisation of advanced systems of treatment and detection of diseases at the primary stages.

The strategy aims at combating paediatric diseases, malaria and others as well as vocational hazards. The plan stipulates a reorganisation of the Health Ministry's structure and the medical zone in the country to facilitate first aid programmes and follow-up and research schemes.

Great fountain

A spectacular fountain with a 90-metre plume of water is now the centre of attraction in the Sharjah emirate.

Ordered by the Ruler Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al Qassimi, from Weir Pumps of Scotland, the fountain cost over \$1.44 million. It has been erected to symbolise the emirate's progress and is floodlit at night.

Sharjah gift to Exeter University

A gift of £650,000 has been given by Sharjah towards the cost of a postgraduate student centre to be built at the University of Exeter, south west England.

The gift comes from commercial interests close to Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah. He is a former Exeter graduate and takes a close interest in the University and recognises the importance of postgraduate student education.

The postgraduate centre will provide self-catering accommodation for over 50 postgraduates and their families. The balance of the cost will be raised by an appeal and a loan. Building is expected to commence at the end of this year.

Commenting on the gift, Vice-Chancellor Dr David Harrison, said: "This gift is especially important to Exeter now. It enables us to press forward with our exciting and imaginative plans to develop a much-needed postgraduate centre. This generous donation will spur us on to raise the remaining money required."

Exeter University is noted for its flourishing Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies and for its Centre for Arab Gulf Studies. The Centre is the only institution outside the Arab world devoted to the study of the Arabian Gulf.

Saudi Arabia

- Prince Faisal ibn Fahd, Chief of the Saudi Presidency of Youth Welfare, last week signed a contract for the implementation of the Majma, Sports City Project.

- A sum of SR 1.196 billion has been allocated for municipal projects during the fiscal year 1985-86 in Saudi Arabia's Northern Province Ibrahim Khileif, Director-General of Municipal and Rural Affairs in the province said.

- Saudi Arabia has been praised by the World Health Organisation for the efficient manner in which it had almost eradicated a number of diseases through an intensive immunisation programme.

- The Saudi Arabian Government has donated \$1 million to the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur to ease the financial problems of overseas students there.

- A new fish and shrimp-breeding project is to be set up under the Saudi Fisheries Company's expansion plans. The scheme will be joint venture with the Moram agricultural establishment, Saudi Agriculture and Water Minister Dr. Abdul Rahma al Sheikh said.

- The Governor of Jizan, Muhammad ibn Turki al-Sundairi, last week opened a new hospital at Farasan island. The SR 150 million hospital is a gift from King Fahd to the area's citizens.

- The Arabian American Oil Company witnessed significant improvements in its safety records in 1985 and officials claimed that in certain categories the company's safety performance had surpassed US petroleum industry's records.

- The Dammam Municipality is implementing projects worth SR 708 million, Zaid Fahd al-Sikeibi, its president, said.

Computer for Jeddah jails

A computer system has been installed to maintain all records of convicts in Jeddah prisons, according to the weekly "Saudi Economic Survey".

The system, which has been installed at a cost of SR 300,000, will be run by Saudi officers who have been trained for the job. Some of the prison inmates will also be trained - as part of the rehabilitation programme, the weekly said.

Saudis to make toys

Saudi Arabia, a hot market for toys, is planning for its first local manufacture of the commodity, industry officials said.

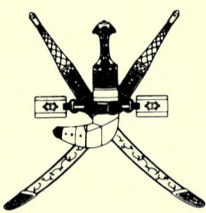
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has undertaken studies to determine the feasibility of manufacturing toys within the Kingdom, the officials said.

One licence has been issued for a factory in Dammam with an estimated output of 32,000 toys.

Three other plants - in Riyadh, Jeddah and another in Dammam are waiting for permission to begin operations.

Officials estimated that toys worth a total of about \$65 million were sold in the Kingdom last year.

Thailand has asked Saudi Arabia to drop a requirement for Thai workers to provide certificates guaranteeing them free from Aids, the "Saudi Gazette" said. It quoted Thailand's new Ambassador to the Kingdom Vibhak Bhinyoying, as saying that only six Aids cases had been reported in Thailand, four of whom were among foreigners. The tests at 500 baht (\$20) were expensive for the workers, he said.



1. The Ministry of Defence invites the following tenders:

Sr. No.	Description	Commodity	Tender Control	Closing Date
1.	Contract to Supply	Concrete Hollow & Solid Blocks	819	26.2.86
2.	Contract to Supply	Cement	820	26.2.86

2. Tender documents may be obtained on payment of RO 10.000 (Rials Omani ten only), each in cash, from the Secretary to the Tender Board, JSWO Building, MAM between 0800 am and 1100 am from Saturday to Wednesday inclusive.

Saudi curbs on wheat production

Saudi Arabia has imposed production curbs on large Saudi wheat farmers to head off a massive wheat surplus it cannot store or is willing to pay for, according to 'Financial Times' reporting from Riyadh.

The Government has informed the Kingdom's largest wheat farming operations that it will buy only 60 per cent of the wheat they produced during last year's harvest.

Smaller operations, which produced over 2,000 tonnes during last year's harvest, are also hit by quotas. The Government has said it will only take 70 per cent of their harvests. Farms smaller than this are unaffected. They account for less than 50 per cent of the Kingdom's output.

The projected harvest this year, according to officials, is 1.7 million tonnes, double the estimated domestic consumption of 800,500 tonnes.

There are only 900,000 tonnes of storage available for wheat, in which 500,000 tonnes are already being stored.

The new harvest follows a record harvest last year of 1.3 million tonnes - threatening to overwhelm the Government silos.

Plan for first aid centres on highways

The Saudi Red Crescent Society is planning to set up one first aid centre every 10km on the Kingdom's highways.

The society is co-ordinating its plans with the traffic department and the Ministry of Transport. Dr. Hammad Al Sugair, President of the Society, said all the pre-hospital emergency services in the Kingdom are the responsibility of his society.

The society has at present 110 first aid centres all over the Kingdom. The centres are manned by skilled staff and includes basic equipment, including ambulance.

Qatar

Qatar and Turkey last week exchanged in Doha the ratification instruments of the technical and economic agreement the two countries signed during the Emir's visit to Turkey in March last year.

Qatar's Advisory Council met last week to discuss a memorandum from the Amir's office on the Council's recommendations on a new maternity hospital.

A two-day computer fair was held at the Doha Club last week. Several computer gamesets and word-processing packages were exhibited by local companies.

Mr. Otto Joseph, President of the International Youth Hostel Federation was in Doha last week on a four-day visit.

The Qatari Minister for the Interior, Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani last week met the Moroccan Interior Minister, Idris al-Basri, in Casablanca.

Currency in circulation in Qatar in January totalled QR 1,201,774,350, an increase of QR 16,748,300, compared with December 1985, the Qatar Monetary Agency said.

Gulf roundup

Doha street names

Doha Municipality is to start putting up street names and building numbers in Doha on February 22, a project for which citizens have waited a long time, Doha's 'Gulf Times' reported. Doha will be the first area where some 50 metal boards will be installed on main streets.

This will be followed by posting boards with building numbers.

There were 93 fatal road accidents in Qatar last year and more than 800 victims were admitted to hospitals with moderate to serious injuries, authorities said in Doha.

The Qatari Cabinet last week approved a bill on procedures and provision of the law on births and mortality records. The Cabinet also approved the holding of the 16th session of the Arab Centre for Studies on Arid Land in Qatar in April.

Exploration agreement

Qatar on Saturday signed a 25-year exploration agreement with the US company Amoco, formerly Standard Oil in Indiana. The production-sharing agreement covers most areas of the peninsula, except Dokhan onshore field in the west and an area in the north-east.

Amoco is to bear all exploration, development and production costs.

Some 300 foreign pharmaceutical firms have applied through their local agents in Doha for registration with Qatar's Pharmaceutical and Drugs Control Department at the Qatar Health Ministry.

The final stage of population census in Qatar begins on March 16 and will end on March 25. Preliminary forms with the required data - in English and Arabic - are being distributed throughout the country.

The Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani, last week received the former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who was visiting the country. The meeting was attended by the Rector of Qatar University, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Kazem, the university's Assistant Rector, Abdullah Jumaa Al Khubaisi and the West German Charge D'Affaires in Doha.

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Gulf roundup

Bahrain

• The General Manager of the Bahrain Aluminium Company, Faisal Mirza, has resigned for 'personal reasons', Manama's "Gulf Daily News" reported.

• Gulf Air is to shortly open a new BD 1.25 million central stores in Muharraq, Bahrain. The massive building is constructed on a ground floor area of 3,434 square metres and a mezzanine floor area of 1,670 square metres.

• A seminar on family welfare was held recently in Bahrain. Topics included 'Development plans in Bahrain for the year 2000' and "Health components in family welfare".

• The Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman al Khalifa on Thursday presented medals to a number of officers of

No plan to cut petrol price

Bahrain has no plans to follow the UAE and bring down the price of petrol, Bahrain National Oil Company has revealed.

The Emirates have reduced the price by 8 per cent in response to the oil price drop, but a Banoco spokesman said petrol was still cheaper in Bahrain.

"The UAE price was 15 to 20 per cent higher than ours, said deputy general manager, marketing, Ardil Khalil Almoayyed.

the island's defence forces for spending 15 years in military service.

• Aluminium Bahrain last week announced plans to expand production capacity by more than 25 per cent over the next five years. The expansion will cost \$160 million and would add roughly 45,000 tonnes per annum capacity.

• Bahrain National Gas Company has started a \$5 million development plan to boost production of refrigerated gas from 145 million cubic feet a day to 170 million. The work involves the construction of new 60-tonne towers to absorb associated gas and a link up with existing and new facilities.

Bahrain training drive for hotel industry

A massive manpower plan to introduce 1,800 more Bahrainis into the island's hotel industry by 1990 is to be launched soon, according to a visiting expert.

The island's Specific Council for Training in Hotel and Catering has said it wants the industry to be 60 per cent Bahraini within the next five to eight years.

Dutch Hotel School executive director Dr. Ewout Cassee said two separate training workshops, one for apprentices and one for managers, could be run within the hotels themselves, in collaboration with Bahrain's Hotel and Catering Centre and the government.

"The proposal, which aims to utilise expertise which is already available, has been received very positively by the hotels and the Specific Council."

"What is needed now is simply a brainstorming session between the three parties to design an educational programme which can begin in six months."

Dr Cassee said specific courses for management trainees could involve traineeships in other Gulf states and even Europe through the international hotel chains.

"Given the present similar manpower demand all over the Gulf, Bahrain's Hotel Training Centre could easily become a prestigious and central institution," he said.

• An international conference on solar energy was held in Bahrain this week.

Kuwait

• The newly streamlined Mina al Ahmadi oil refinery in Kuwait will be officially inaugurated soon. The refinery built on an 800,000 square metre plot, will be producing high-quality oil by-products.

• The Kuwait Ministry of Public Health and Planning organised three programmes last week on: Planning for foreign trade, housing, and manpower.

• Kuwait is to cut Government cost in fiscal 1986/87 by 15 per cent because of falling revenue, officials said. Kuwait suffered a deficit of KD315 million in 1985/86.

• The Foreign Minister of Malta, Dr. Alex Trigona, was in Kuwait last week to discuss with Kuwaiti Government officials on ways of boosting co-operation.

Compulsory insurance for Kuwait traders

Social security insurance for all Kuwaiti businessmen will be made compulsory beginning March this year, an official spokesman said.

Owners of factories, workshops, restaurants, taxis, fishing boats and all categories of traders who practise their trade which needs a licence from the Government will be brought under the scheme, the spokesman for the Public Institution for Social Security said.

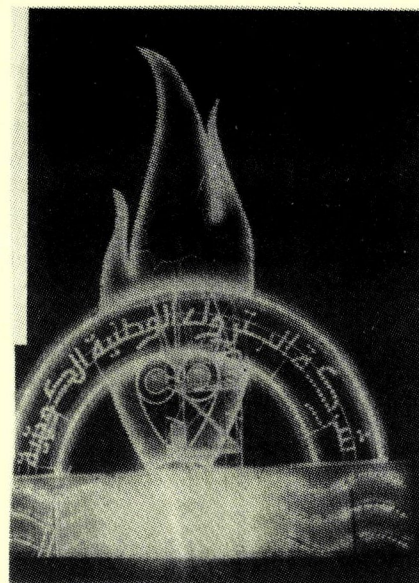
Members of the Kuwait Municipal Council, who were not covered earlier will be also brought under the new scheme, the official added.

With the 25th anniversary of the country's Independence, all Kuwaitis in public or private sector service, will be covered by the social insurance scheme, the spokesman added.

The subscribers can select any slab ranging from KD 200, KD 950. Altogether 16 slabs are open. Payments should be affected in instalments from five to 15 per cent of the subscription slab.

Maturity of the scheme is classified into three classes. Any person who attains the age of 60, even if he continues to practise his trade, will be entitled for full benefits. Those who have discontinued practising their business will be eligible for benefits at the age of 55. Both these categories should have covered a subscription period of 20 years.

The third category includes mostly men who attain the age of 65 and here the institution stipulates only 15 years of subscription period.



Illuminated roundabout — preparation for Kuwait's National Day.

'Slow down' will be theme of 'Traffic Week'

'Slow down' will be the theme of a media campaign which will be launched in March to curb traffic accidents and promote drivers' understanding of traffic regulations in the six states of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council.

Director of Kuwait Traffic Department Brigadier Fouad Al Salem last week chaired a meeting of a committee entrusted with the task of drawing the media campaign and preparing for the AGCC Traffic Week starting on March 16.

The decision to launch the campaign was taken during last December's meeting of AGCC traffic directors.

Kuwait duty on 12 items

The Kuwait Oil and Industry Ministry has decided to increase customs duties on 12 products, a spokesman said.

The items include raw and processed aluminium, various types of paints, carpets, refrigeration units used in supermarkets, central air-conditioning units weighing more than 20 tonnes, electric and telephone cables and synthetic sponge.

Most of the items are produced locally and the Government is keen to protect the country's infant industries, the spokesman said.

• The Kuwait Institute of Banking studies held a five-day programme last week on 'branch management'. The programme was aimed at equipping branch managers of commercial banks with the newly-emerging technological and managerial concepts.

Security belt

The Kuwait Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Abdul Rahman al Hoti, last week signed a contract with a local company to establish a security belt and control towers at Kuwait airport.

The contract is valued at KD 293,101 and will be completed in 270 days. The work also includes the installation of sewage pipes, electrical stations and air-conditioning and telephone systems.

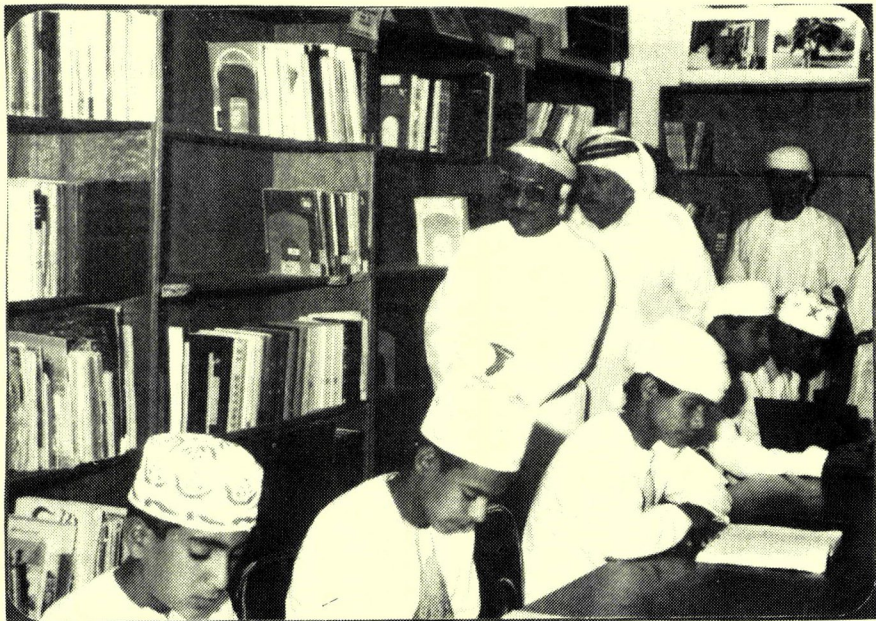
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The Minister in a school's library



The Minister in a girls' classroom

Minister sees schools in the Interior

The Minister of Education and Youth Affairs, Yahya Mafhoudh al Manthery, visited schools in the Interior to see the progress of education there.

The Minister met students and teachers and saw methods of teaching.

He was accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry and also inspected libraries and laboratories.

The Minister also discussed with official problems faced by students and teachers.

During the three-day visit which was the Minister's second inspection tour he visited schools, youth clubs and adult education centres.

With members of youth clubs in Ibra and Bediya the Minister discussed ways of promoting social and cultural activities.

The schools inspected by the Minister were: Mahout School, Abu Malik School in Wadi Bani Khalid, al Ghobra School, Mehlaal School, Osman bin Affan School, Seif bin Hamed al Aghbari, al Mohanna Boys' School; al Mudeibi School for Girls, Sinao Prep. School for Girls; Quran School in Sinao, Imam Salem School, Khadra, al Azhar bin Ali, al Ashkara, Samad School for Evening Studies, al Rodah School for Girls, al Jalendi Prep. School, Ruqiah Secondary School, al Hawayeah Primary School, Saleh el Din School, al Mutared School, al Mutanaby School, Sumayah Secondary School, Ibra, Al Wasel Primary School, Binat Abra School, al Qabel School, Mazoon School, al Zaher School.

Master Jury for Aga Khan award chosen

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture this week announced the Master Jury of the 1986 award at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Master Jury's role will be to designate a limited number of projects from over 200 projects worldwide that have been nominated for the 1986 award. These will be reviewed on-site by the experts and specialists who comprise the award's technical review team.

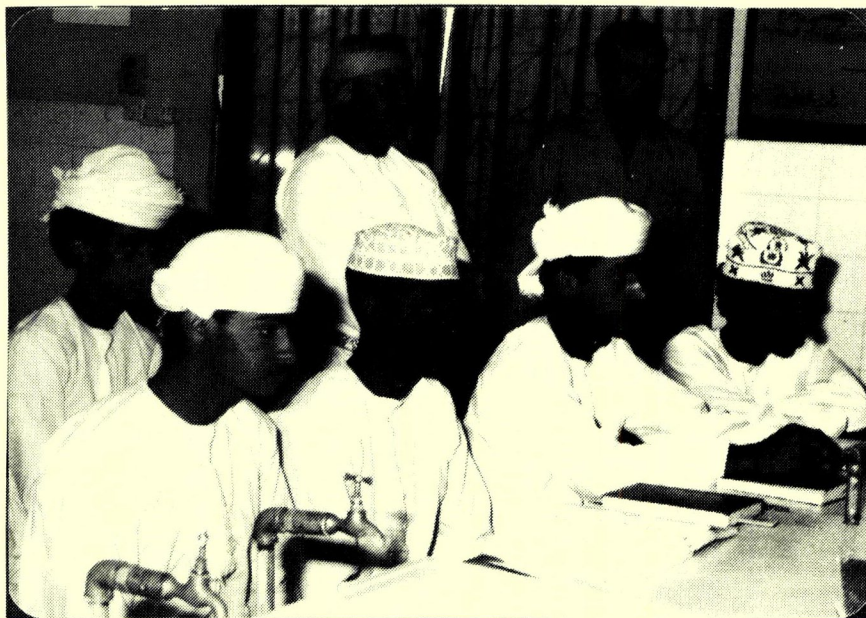
The Master Jury of nine members is made up of Mahdi Elmandjara of Morocco, economist and member of the Club of Rome and professor of international affairs at Rabat University, Abdel Wahed el-Wakil of Egypt, noted architect and himself winner of a 1980 award, Hans Hollein of Austria, practising architect, professor at the Academy of Applied Arts and head of the Institute of Design in Vienna, Zahir-ud-Deen Khwaja, of Pakistan, architect and planner formerly director of planning in the Capital Development Authority Islamabad, Ronald Lewcock, Australian architect, Professor of Design in Islamic Cultures at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology also currently technical coordinator of two international campaigns for the conservation of Sana'a in the Yemen Arab Republic and the City of Shibam and Wadi Hadramaut in the People's Democratic Republic of

Yemen, Fumihiko Maki, noted Japanese architect in private practice and Professor at the University of Tokyo and Robert Venturi, the influential American theoretician, architect and planner.

The Master Jury convened in Geneva at the end of the end of January to begin the selection process for the 1986 award. It will reconvene in June to discuss the findings of the technical review team and select the prize winners. The Master Jury will apportion the US Dollars 500,000 prize among the winners.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Marrakesh in November in the presence of His Majesty King Hassan II and His Highness the Aga Khan, the founder of the award.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture established in 1976, is the largest architectural award in the world. It seeks to recognise architectural excellence for Islamic cultures. Through the awards themselves and through activities such as seminars and publications, the award programme seeks to identify issues affecting the contemporary built environment of Muslims and highlight possible solutions. A seminar, the tenth in the series, entitled "Architecture Education in the Islamic World", is due to be held in Granada, Spain, from 21st to 25th April.



The Minister watching science students conducting an experiment in a laboratory

Riyadh meeting

A delegation from the Capital Municipality will attend the Eighth Conference of the Organisation of Arab Cities to be held in Riyadh on 22 February.

Advanced city planning and exchange of expertise are the main topics to be discussed at the conference, according to a spokesman for the Capital Municipality.

Ghallah project

Interior Minister Sayyid Badr bin Saoud bin Hareb signed a RO 500,000 agreement with Nasser Lashko and Sons for the construction of a workshop, warehouses and staff quarters at Ghallah. The project, covering an area of 12,600 square metres, is expected to be ready by the beginning of next year.

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Experts to visit Oman

A number of educationalists and academicians from abroad will visit Oman this month, according to the Foreign Relations Department at the Education Ministry.

The Cultural Adviser at the Kuwait Embassy in Washington, Dr Saif Abbas Abdulla, is to arrive in Oman on Thursday for a four-day stay to study problems of education and manpower with emphasis on the needs of AGCC countries.

On 21 February the Head of the

Directors of the Trinity College, Ireland, Joseph Grace, who is also the Academic Secretary of the Royal College for Surgeons, is due to arrive in Muscat, accompanied by a committee of the Irish Export Board.

Mr Grace will be in Muscat for four days and will meet senior officials of Sultan Qaboos University, and Ministries of Health and Education.

Another delegation, from Tresham College in Northamptonshire in the UK, consisting of the dean of the college,

Charles Keith Rowland, and the Head of the Faculty of Engineering, Noel Anthony Parkin, is also to visit during the last week.

This delegation will discuss the question of admission of more Omanis at Tresham and will try to solve the problems faced by Omani students now studying there. Thirty-six Omanis are studying under various vocational and agricultural programmes of the college.

The Tresham delegation will be in Oman for ten days.

Books of facts and figures available

Members of the public have access to a number of books giving facts and figures covering the development of Oman and other countries.

This follows the transfer of the library of the Development Council's Directorate-General of National Statistics from its old cramped quarters at Muscat to more spacious premises at the Council's new headquarters at Al Khuwair behind the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture.

Visitors can now refer to books on statistics and development during office hours, but will not be allowed to take them from the library.

Librarian Jawad bin Baqer bin Suleiman did say, however, that exceptions to this rule would be made for Government employees.

The council releases statistical information on all aspects of development from time to time and these are given free to those who request them.

There was a big demand for the Socio-Economic Atlas, the first of its type to be published by the Omani Government and which was released last November during the National Day celebrations.

Preparations for the atlas were supervised by Mrs Rajiha bint Abdul Ameer, acting Under-Secretary for Planning and Director-General for National Statistics.

Mr Suleiman said the council's publications were being sent to some 70 organisations abroad, including universities.

He said the library's stock of books would gradually be increased and the mailing list for the council's publications would also be expanded.

Southern Region campaign

A nine-day campaign is being launched by the Southern Region's Directorate-General of Social Affairs and Labour from 21 February to make people aware of the various programmes initiated by ministries for their benefit.

The campaign will cover all villages and towns of the region's western part. As part of the campaign, lectures symposiums, home visits and video and cinema shows have been organised.

It will enable people to know how and where to avail of facilities offered by the government in different areas for development.

More mosques for Kuwait

The Under-Secretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammed Nasser al-Hamdan has said that his Ministry was going ahead with plans to build more mosques in the country.

There are now 600 mosques in Kuwait. He pointed out that the construction cost of a mosque was about KD 250,000 "which was a big amount in view of the present economic circumstances."

Meeting of the DGs

The Under-Secretary of Administration and Finance at the Interior Ministry, Abdulla bin Sakhr al-Amri, chaired a meeting of the Directors-General of the Ministry.

Measures to help the disabled recommended

Social Affairs and Labour Under-Secretary Sheikh Amor bin Shuwain al Hosni last week chaired a meeting of the Oman National Committee for the Welfare of the Disabled.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Royal Oman Police, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Defence, Education and Youth Affairs, Information, Health, Social Affairs and Labour.

The committee made a set of recommendations for the benefit of the disabled, which included getting a reduction in prices of vehicles specially built for the disabled; special car parking areas for them; literacy and adult education classes; and setting up of a rehabilitation centre for the disabled.

New Deputy Walis

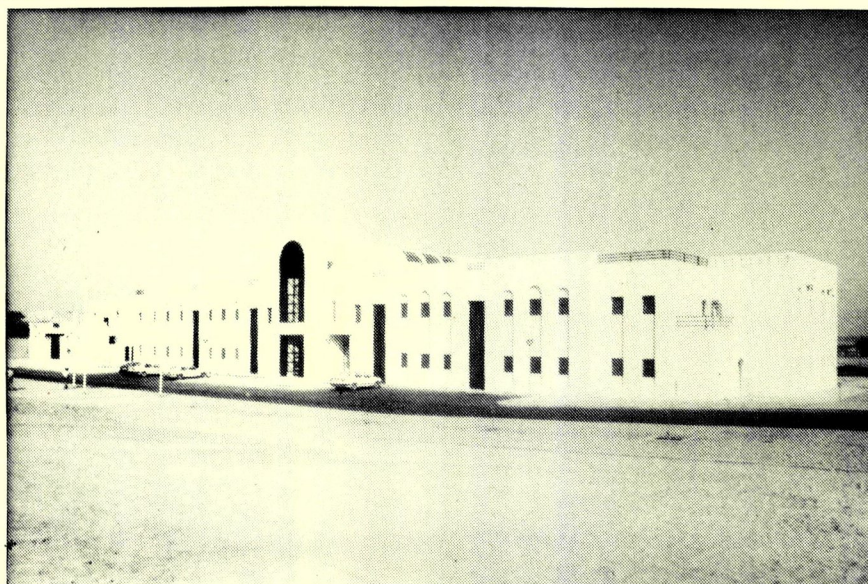
The Minister of State and Wali of Dhofar, Sayyid Hilal bin Saud bin Hareb, issued a Ministerial decision appointing three Deputy Walis for Jihif, Hasik and Kuria Muria Islands.

They are Suleiman bin Hamad al Ghaffri, Salem bin Said al Naqsh and Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed bin Omar.

Djibouti message

Djibouti's Minister of Industry, Fahmi Ahmed al Haj received a message from his Omani counterpart, Colonel Salem bin Abdullah al Ghazali.

The message was delivered by Oman's Charge D'Affaires in Djibouti, Saif bin Mohamed al Rizeiqi.



The new PDO Training Centre at Mina Al Fahal where classes began on February 1. An official opening is planned for later this year.

GTO study of overseas tariffs

The Chief Executive of the General Telecommunication Organisation, Noor bin Mohamed, has said that it is studying overseas communication tariffs from the Sultanate.

He said the study, in co-operation with the World Bank, is expected to be completed by the middle of this year.

Mr Noor said the study is expected to reveal how feasible it would be to either reduce or maintain tariffs at the present levels.

He said that by the beginning of May new exchanges would be opened throughout the country as part of a project to develop rural communications.

The project covers 40 towns and villages and will be completed in October.

Certificates for nursing course

Four assistant nurses who completed a training course in mother and child health care were presented with their certificates at a ceremony at the Health Ministry.

They are Dalilah bint Issa al Mugheiri; Sakina bint Hussain al Ghabshi; Sameera bint Obeid al Kharbush and Mukhtar bint Juma al Battashi.

They received the certificates from the Director of Nursing at the Ministry, Asia bint Ali al Kharusi, in the presence of Dr Musallam bin Saif al Buali, head of Al Nahdha Hospital's paediatric department.

The course was conducted by Pauline Wright and organised by the Health Ministry in association with Omani-American Joint Commission for Technical and Economic Cooperation. It was held at the Institute of Health Sciences in Wattayah.

New recruits pass out

Lt Colonel Suleiman bin Ali al Khadouri, the Commanding Officer of the Second Signals Regiment of the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces, took the salute at a passing out parade of a batch of new recruits at the Sultan's Armed Forces Training Regiment in Ghallah.

Lt Colonel Khadouri also presented the top recruits with merit certificates and medals.

The Commanding Officer of the training regiment, Colonel Mohammed bin Said al Awfi and senior officers were present on the occasion.

Delegation to Singapore

An eight-member Government delegation from Bahrain was in Singapore this week holding talks with officials and representatives of the private sector on trade, industrial and technical co-operation.

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Students doing well in S. Arabia

Omani students studying in Saudi Arabia and Morocco are showing good progress in their studies, according to Director-General of Scholarships and Foreign Relations Murad bin Ali bin Murad.

Mr. Murad, who has just returned from a two-week tour of Saudi Arabia and Morocco, said that he had met several Deans of Universities during his trip, besides meeting the Omani students and was satisfied with the current state affairs.

Students faced no difficulty in these countries as they pursued their studies. Mr. Murad said and added that Omani students, the Deans had told him, were faring well in studies.

His tour of Saudi Arabia, where 182 Omani students including 30 girls are studying, covered Riyadh, Dammam and Jeddah.

During the second leg of his tour Mr Murad visited Morocco, where 247 Omani boys and one girl are studying, and held discussions with the Moroccan Under-Secretary of Education and several Deans.

Earlier, Mr Murad had made similar tours of universities in Qatar, Bahrain and Tunis.

Latest ways in war on pests

The latest methods of combating the pests that infest such structures as warehouses, hospitals, and ships as well as the family home will be discussed by experts meeting for a three-day session in Guernsey, Channel Islands, from 29 May to 1 June.

The seventh conference organised by the British Pest Control Association is expected to attract up to 300 delegates, including a substantial number from overseas. The last BPCA conference three years ago was attended by representatives of 14 nations.

Change in pest control legislation, the hospital pest situation and developments in fumigation procedures are among the papers to be presented. Other important topics of concern to the industry which will figure prominently are developments in mosquito and bird control and the use of pheromones and hormones in eradication.

The speakers at the conference, which will be held at the St Pierre Park Hotel, will include senior government specialists in the field, representatives of the pharmaceutical industry and large retailing firms.

A trade exhibition will be staged at the hotel.

Jebel Regt

Sultan of Oman's Land Forces' Jebel Regt celebrated its founding day on Thursday among those present on the occasion were Commander of SOLF Major General Naseeb bin Hamad al Rawahi; Assistant Chief of Defence Staff Major General Hamad bin Said al Awfai and the Wali of Nizwa, Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed al Busaidi.

Qatar visitors

A student delegation from Qatar arrives in the Sultanate on 26 February on a 14-day visit. During their stay, the Qatari students will hold talks with the Under-Secretaries of Education and Youth Affairs and will tour around the Qaboos University Project and other Educational Institutions.

Exhibition of books opened at Institute

The Minister of Information, Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed al Rowas, on Saturday opened an exhibition of books at the Institute of Public Administration in Khuwair.

The ceremony was also attended by the Minister of Royal Diwan Affairs, Sayyid Hamad bin Hamour, who is also the Chairman of the institute. Others present on the occasion include the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Mustahil bin Ahmed al Mashani, the President of the Sultan Qaboos University, Sheikh Amor bin Ali bin Omeir al marhoobi, Under-Secretaries and senior Government officials.

The exhibition, consisting mainly of books on administration and management, will last for a week.

The first of its kind, the exhibition is organised by the Documentation and Publications department of the institute.

Sayyid Hamad, Mr Rowas and the other guests were taken round the exhibition by Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan al Busaidi, the Director-General of the institute.

Earlier, the Information Minister formally inaugurated the institute's newly expanded library in the presence of Sayyid Hamad and the other dignitaries.

Mr Rowas was also the chief guest at the IPA at a ceremony held to present prizes to 62 Government employees who were ranked first in various courses organised by the institute during the 1984-85 academic year.

The prizes were presented by Sayyid

Mountain road opened

A new 6.5km mountain road linking Maql town with several areas in Wadi Bani Khalid has opened to traffic.

During the last fortnight several vehicles used the road to carry construction material to the town.

Earlier, military aircraft had to be used to carry such material there.

The Communications Ministry said the 3,000 people of the town were happy over the road link which took seven months to build.

Invitation to Minister

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah received an official invitation to visit Algeria from Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb al Ibrahim.

Mr Alawi accepted the invitation for a date to be fixed later.

The invitation came in a message delivered to Mr Alawi by Algerian Ambassador to Oman Abdul Meguid Faslah who also discussed with Mr Alawi bilateral relations and issues of joint interest.

Message from S. Arabia

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah received a written message from Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al Faisal dealing with bilateral relations and the current regional developments.

The message was delivered by Saudi Ambassador in Muscat Abdul Mohsen Saleh al Ballaa.

Health Minister's tour

Health Minister Dr Mubarak bin Saleh al Khadouri visited the health centres at Musanaa and Suwaiq, and the hospitals at Rostaq, Saham and Sohar to check the facilities available.

Dr Khadouri, who was accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry, met the health authorities at the establishments and urged them to pursue vigorously enhanced preventive and curative medical services.

He also heard about the difficulties faced by health authorities while providing the services and assured adequate assistance.

Drive on rats

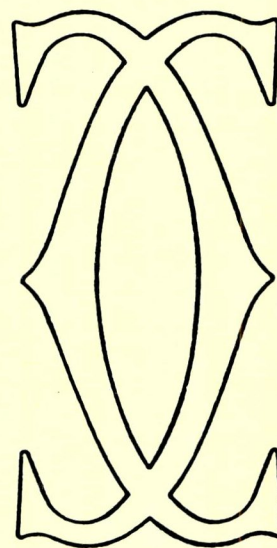
The Capital Municipality has stepped up its rat eradication campaign and rat traps and poison are being distributed free of charge as part of the programme. A spokesman for the Capital Municipality said fumigation of houses has also been intensified.

Koran course

The Islamic Department at the Education Ministry this week began five-day Koran recital course for 40 Omani teachers at the Ruwi Secondary School.

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Woman's world

Summer fitness for your skin

With "Fresh-up Mask", Juvena of Switzerland is extending its popular programme of special facial masks, which includes a regenerative mask (Honey Mask), a moisturising mask (Active Moisture Mask), a peeling mask (Scrub Mask) and a cleansing mask (Clarifying Mask).

Each season brings its own skin problems and the long sunny days of summer and the hot summer nights also leave their traces on face and skin.

Yet, summer skin is supposed to look radiantly fresh and more and more of it is exposed from year to year.

So how about a wonderfully refreshing mask that quickly restores tired, slack skin to fitness after exposure to sun and water?

There's a brand-new, practical answer to this question. It comes from Juvena of Switzerland and is called "Fresh-up Mask".

The mask is a veritable 'life-saver' after a strenuous day if this is followed by a jolly garden-party, an evening tete-a-tete or a midsummer-night's celebration. A skin quickly revived with "Fresh-up Mask" is the best way of ensuring that your summer evening is a complete success.

The light, fresh, blue mask-emulsion should be applied generously to the face and neck. The eye parts are left out and freshened separately with "Relaxing Eye Care", another new product of the Juvenance range. The mask is allowed to act for three minutes and is then gently removed with tissues.

Freya Stark, a remarkable wanderer

Freya Stark has been described as one of the twentieth century's most remarkable women.

She was born in Paris in 1893 and by the time she was five years old, she could speak three languages.

The wandering life of her childhood left her precocious and fairly tough and equipped her for what was to be more than 40 years of travel, exploration and writing.

Freya Stark was fearlessly independent and unconventional. She nearly always

travelled alone without money or support. She was not the first explorer in many of the regions she travelled through, yet people began to regard Freya as something unique. She began developing her own style of observing, more lively and detailed and often very personal, unlike that used among explorers before.

Biographer Caroline Moorhead states: "There was something about her vision of things that singles her out, a certain quality to her observations, so that she appeared to relate landscape, people and their history, and make them all accountable for each other in some way peculiarly her own."

It was not until after the war, despite many trips and climbs, that Freya was able to mount her first expedition. In 1931, having spent most of her money on emerald beads, Freya set off from Hamadan, then in Persia, through mountains and villages. She was struck down by malaria in a lonely mountain village and for a week was near death. She was nursed back to health on a diet of egg whites and sour milk. After four weeks of travelling she reached Teheran.

Throughout her life ill-health shadowed every adventure, but her grim determination always pulled her through. She was always conscious of her appearance. When she arrived in Baghdad she was 36, small, somewhat dumpy and determinedly eccentric.

She lamented her appearance but believed clothes could help. Between 1929 and 1934 she earned £272 by writing of which £155 was spent on dress. She would order clothes from Paris and delighted in finery and a love of fabrics and colour.

In 1935 Freya travelled to South Arabia. She paused at Aden but her goal was Shabwa in the Hadhramaut, said to be the centre of the incense trade and Himyarite capital. It was seven days' hard ride without water, never before visited by Europeans.

She set out on a donkey, with compass and camera, accompanied by guides.

She wrote almost daily at times to her mother when alive, and later her husband (a short, unsuccessful marriage at age of 54 to life long friend Stewart Perowne) and friends. Almost 60 years of correspondence was finally to be drawn together as a diary of her adventures over the years and as a basis to many of her books. She once suggested that selection of essays she was working on in 1971 should be called "After Eight" (like the chocolates). Her life is possibly one of the most fully documented.

During the journey she caught measles and then by the time she reached Shibam, known later as 'skyscraper town of the desert' for its many-storied mud-and-brick houses, she again fell ill.

Books written by Freya Stark include: "Traveller's Prelude", "Beyond Euphrates", "The Coast of Incense", "Dust in the Lion's Paw", "Valley of the Assassins", "Ionia", "A Quest".

Extracts taken from "Freya Stark" by Caroline Moorhead in the Penguin Series "Lives of Modern Women."

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What's new?

Putting all the sounds on record

Users from other countries will soon be able to gain easy access to a centralised comprehensive data base giving details of all sound recordings commercially available in Britain.

Called the National Discography, it aims to cover all United Kingdom singles, long-playing records, compact discs and music videos, together with imported material.

The information needed for the National Discography will be compiled from a number of sources, including record sleeves and labels, music journals and catalogues produced by the recording companies.

Software will offer rapid access and will enable information such as record companies and labels, catalogue numbers, titles, publishers and key individuals to be tracked down speedily.

The National Discography, launched on 24 January, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Mechanical Copyright Production Society, an influential music industry organisation representing the copyright interests of more than 10,000 composers, lyricists and music publishers.

Exchange

It is being funded jointly by the MCPS and the British Library's National Sound Archive which already holds Britain's largest collection of sound recordings - more than 500,000 discs and over 35,000 hours on tape.

Acting as a single point of exchange for all information about readings, the discography will help improve the overall efficiency of the music industry.

Record retailers will be able to trace at one source what recordings are available in a whole variety of fields. There will be information on hand to help collect and distribute royalties.

Device to prevent cot deaths

A device which could prevent cot deaths has just won 20-year-old Michelle Richmond the Mary George Memorial prize awarded annually by Britain's Institution of Electrical and Electronic Incorporated Engineers.

Miss Richmond, a micro-wave technical engineer with Plessey Radar, competed against 51 young women for the award which was instituted to encourage a greater feminine participation in the electrical industry.

The young lady, who last year was named Plessey Radar Technician of the Year, began working on the alarm system after several of her colleagues had lost children, all under one year of age, through cot deaths.

The device features a pressure pad in a cover blanket which is placed beneath the sleeping baby. When breathing stops, the alarm is triggered alerting parents that something is wrong.

A spokesman for Plessey said that the alarm could be marketed for around £80. "During the tests we carried out on employees' children, it has worked very satisfactorily and I understand Michelle has been approached by a British concern who are keen to put it on the market."

Kangaroos spring a surprise

Researchers have found that Australia's kangaroos have such economy of movement that makers of artificial limbs and running shoes could learn something from them.

Scientists at Flinders University, Adelaide, have discovered that each time a kangaroo hops it gets back 90 per cent of the energy it used for that

hop for use in the next one.

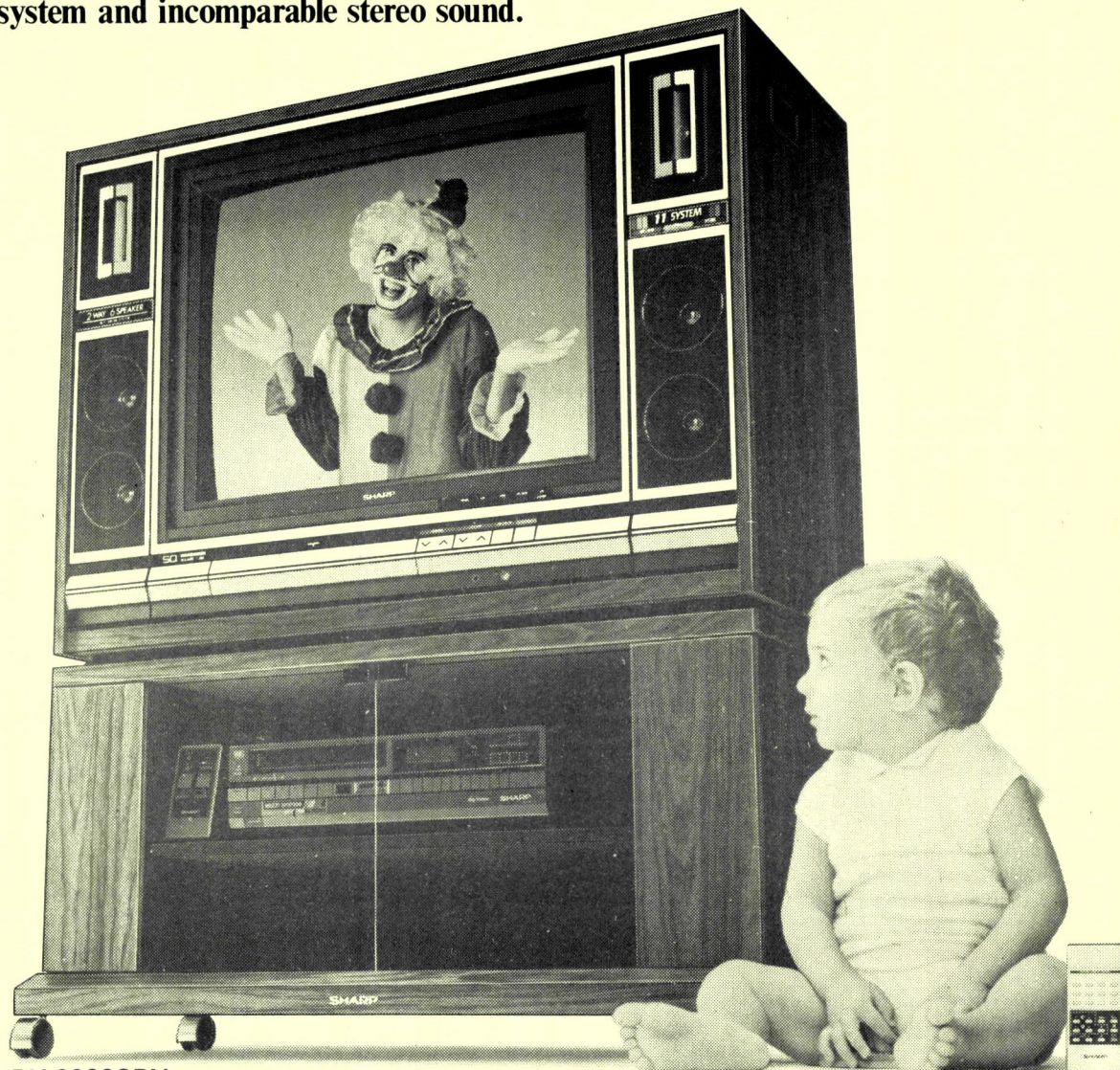
Dr Russell Baudinette, associate professor of biological sciences, said a kangaroo merely lengthened its hop when it wanted to cover ground quickly. This lessened the frequency of contact with the ground and therefore the retarding effect of friction.

"We've had correspondence with

makers of running shoes and artificial limbs interested in the structures of a kangaroo's muscles and tendons. They are interested in the possibilities of using materials which will produce something approaching the extraordinary springing capacity of these unique marsupials," Dr Baudinette said.

Larger than life.

Sharp introduces the 71cm (28") luxury colour TV with genuine wooden cabinet, 11-system and incomparable stereo sound.



DV-2800SPN Optional TV stand (TT-2800E)

It's big and beautiful. And it makes all other televisions pale in comparison. It's Sharp's new DV-2800SPN. Encased in a luxurious wooden cabinet, its 71cm (28") square picture tube and 2-way 6-speaker system deliver a larger-than-life image, with enhanced colour resolution and awesome high fidelity sound. Moreover 11-system compatibility* and full-function remote control give you the freedom and flexibility to move around. Like a concert hall, stadium and movie theater all rolled into one, Sharp's DV-2800SPN makes television look and sound better than it ever has before.

- 71cm (28") "Linytron Plus" high contrast, fine-pitch, square picture tube
- 15-watt dynamic stereo-capable sound through 2-way 6-speakers
- On-screen digital channel/off timer/mode display (Receiving channel is displayed on the screen in either English or Arabic.)
- 32-function, 24-key infrared remote control
- Audio/Video input/output jacks for system expansion
- Auto voltage selector
- Front located RF game terminal

*Compatible with 6 broadcast systems (PAL-B/G, PAL-I, PAL-D/K, SECAM-B/G, SECAM-D/K and NTSC-STD), the DV-2800SPN can also be used for multi-system playback (NTSC-4.43/5.5, NTSC-3.58/5.5) as well as with video disc systems (PAL-60, SECAM-60, NTSC-50).

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Watch TV.

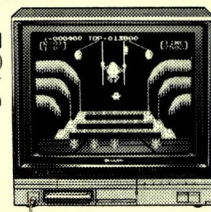


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What's new?

Leprosy - trial for a vaccine

The first African trial of an anti-leprosy vaccine is now getting under way in northern Malawi.

The trial is being carried out by the British Leprosy Relief Association, known as LEPRO, in association with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Malawi government and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In the past 20 years, LEPRO has treated more than 45,000 leprosy victims in Malawi with considerable success, but treatment with drugs alone is not enough to secure the eventual eradication of the disease.

Some years ago scientists predicted the day when a one-only injection of a vaccine given to children when they went to school from isolated rural areas would overcome the problem of repetitive drug injections and lead to eventual world eradication.

But the latest hope is that a combination of drug treatment and a vaccination programme, in areas the disease is established, will lead to the end of the scourge that affects as estimated 15 million people throughout the world.

It has proved extremely difficult to develop suitable leprosy vaccines for reasons that include the impossibility of growing the leprosy organism under laboratory conditions. Scientists have now overcome this problem by growing the organism in armadillos. These have been found to be the only animals in which it will multiply easily. A two-year old nine-banded armadillo is said to be able to produce an estimated 25,000 vaccine doses.

By using this *Mycobacterium leprae* organism, scientists have been able to produce a vaccine that stimulates the body's natural defence sys-

tem to combat and protect against the invading disease. Much of the pioneering work on this vaccine was carried out at the UK National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill.

Encouraged

Initial trials with the vaccine are being carried out in Venezuela and producing good results. Indications are that it not only gives protection against leprosy but when used with drugs can combat established leprosy more effectively than drugs alone.

This has encouraged LEPRO and the WHO to go ahead with large-scale vaccine trials in Malawi where some 100,000 people will be vaccinated over the next four years. There are also plans to test the vaccine in India.

Scientists believe that the best area in Africa for the trial is the Karonga district of northern Malawi. This is because use can be made of the large amount of information that has emerged from a LEPRO-funded scientific survey of the population of the area that has been carried out over the past five years to track down what factors are important in the transmission of the disease.

LEPRO said in London last month, that the vaccination programme in Malawi will run concurrently with the second phase of this study. Another vaccine "sweep" will start in the area in 1990 and it is hoped the first indications of the success of the vaccine will be seen by 1994.

The total cost of the first three years of the vaccination programme is estimated at £300,000 a year. This will be met by LEPRO, other members of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Association (ILEP) and the WHO.

Cutting down on defects in cars

A new generation of small, robust and indestructible electronic components has begun to make its presence felt in automobiles, as well as in many industrial machines and plants.

"Smart Sipmos", just unveiled by Siemens, switch high electrical energy and tension, integrate logical functions and, according to the company, are practically beyond destruction.

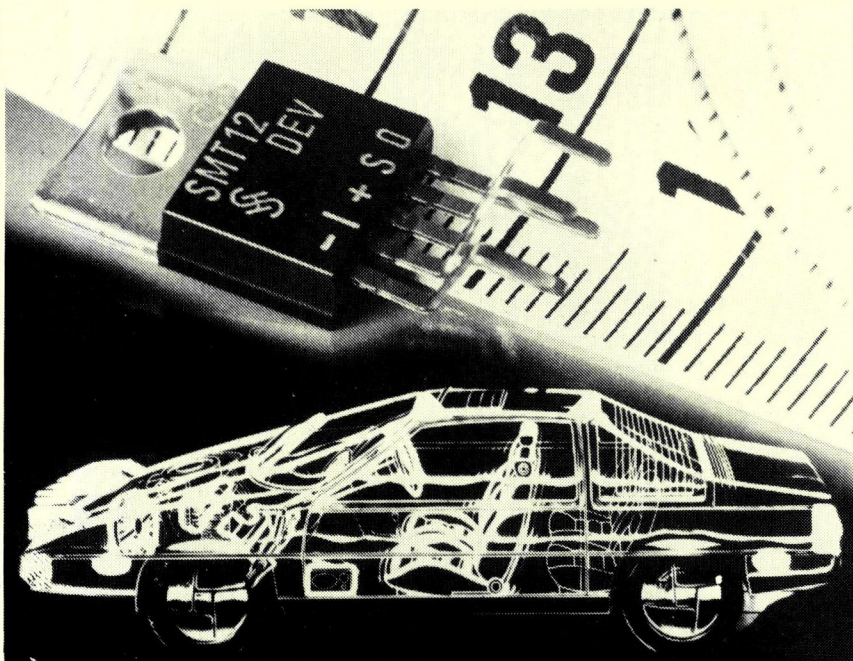
Conventional electronics were not up to switching a windshield wiper or a cooling ventilator - "chips" are not normally strong enough to handle the electricity involved and more robust high-performance electronics components either need too much power for switching, cost too much or are not reliably able to withstand overloading.

For this reason, the electro-mechanical relay has remained the best-proven switching element in automobile construction for some decades, with the disadvantage that more and more wiring has become necessary with the increase in the number of electrical drive elements.

An electronic switching concept for automobiles could make automotive electrics more simple and less fault-prone in the future.

A key feature of the new Siemens components is the integrated safeguard against overloading, short-circuits and over-heating which cause automatic cut-off.

The first component from this new electronic "family" - which will go into series production in 1987 - functions between six and 50 Volt and can cope with a maximum of 12 Amperes.



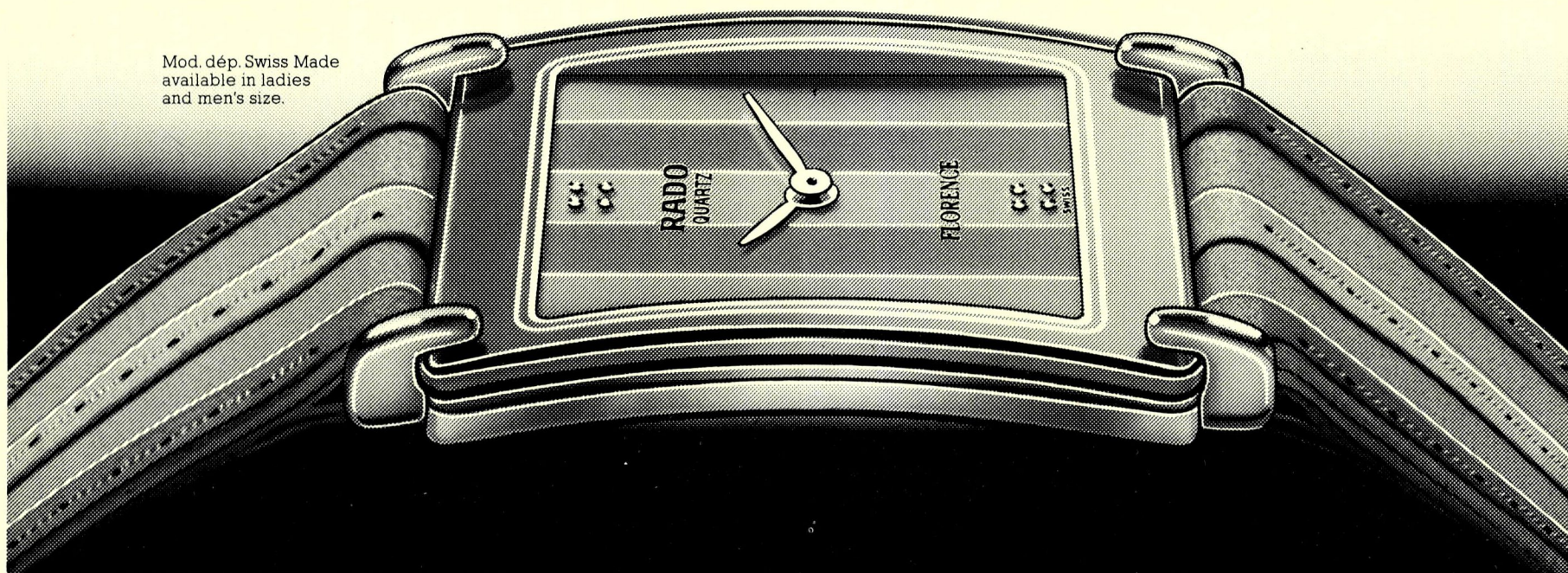
New electronic components from Siemens make the electrical features of automobiles less prone to defects and failure.

The shape of excellence.

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Mod. dép. Swiss Made
available in ladies
and men's size.



Business Times

NEWS FROM THE COMMERCIAL LIFE OF THE SULTANATE

Times of Oman, February 20, 1986.

CBO circular on bank funds abroad

All licensed banks in the Sultanate have been asked to comply by the end of March with the Central Bank of Oman's resolution on placement of bank funds abroad.

From that date the banks have been granted a two-month grace period to adjust their positions according to the provision of the regulation published in the Official Gazette on January 15.

CBO's president and deputy chairman Dr Abdul Wahab Khayata last week sent a circular to this effect to all licensed banks.

The Board of Governors decided at its meeting in August last year that local branches of foreign banks should be allowed to maintain foreign currency balances up to 100 per cent of their net worth in Oman with their head offices, branches abroad or head office affiliates.

Locally incorporated banks are also allowed to maintain the same amounts of foreign currency balances with non-resident banks that are principal shareholders of the local banks, or affiliates of shareholders or branches of local banks abroad.

The ceiling stipulated refers to the total of all balances booked in the head office, branches, affiliates abroad, and for locally incorporated banks, all principal

shareholders, affiliates and branches abroad.

In addition, locally incorporated banks issuing letters of credit in large amounts (over RO 1 million for a single L/C) for which they require confirmation from their principal shareholders or affiliates, are authorised to deposit a maximum of 50 per cent of the L/C amounts above the prescribed limits.

UK energy mission coming

Oil and gas companies operating in the Sultanate and other countries in the region will be the targets of a trade mission organised by Britain's Energy Industries' Council from April 6 to 24. The mission will cover Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Oman.

Apart from representing the interests of its members, the mission will report back on the latest developments in the markets.

Skills represented on the mission cover flanges and hinged closures, electric motors and generators, non-asbestos gland packagings, management services and feasibility studies, gaskets, geology, switchgear and safety walls.

The Energy Industries' Council draws together British manufacturers, contractors and financial institutions serving the oil, petrochemical, natural gas, coal, power and process industries. It gives its members an opportunity to exchange views, represents them to the Government and other bodies and helps them market their wares. It keeps capability registers, a catalogue of what each member-firm can do.

Leading the mission will be Mr. Tony Taylor, who started with Rubbaglas Petroseals 23 years ago, sweeping the factory floor and is now Managing Director. He is a member of the executive committee of the EIC and founded its London and South-East regional offices.

Rubbaglas Petroseals started after the First World War, when seals really were made of rubber and glass. Materials have changed and sales have rocketed but the firm, selling primary and secondary seals for floating-roof storage tanks, still make basically same products for the huge storage tanks usually seen on hilltops near refineries. It is the oldest established company in this business in the United Kingdom.

Ring the Business Editor Bala Menon on 701953, 700296, and 701468 with your company news.

World Bank loan for Sultanate

Oman on Saturday signed an RO 30 million loan agreement with the World Bank in Washington.

The loan will be used to finance the third phase of the Sultanate's road maintenance project under the supervision of the Directorate-General of Roads at the Communications Ministry.

Oman's Ambassador to the United States Ali bin Salim al Hina'i signed the agreement for his country, while the Deputy President of the bank for Europe, Middle East and Africa, signed for the bank.

Positive signs in oil market, says Oteiba

UAE's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mana Said al Oteiba on Monday spoke of the "positive signs" in the world oil market, the effects of which, he said, would be felt very shortly.

"There are positive signs which will be felt very shortly, especially after the OPEC Oil Ministers' emergency meeting in Geneva on March 16" Dr Oteiba said in Salalah.

He arrived in Oman on Monday morning to convey a verbal message to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, the President of the UAE.

Dr Oteiba said the oil industry was currently passing through a crisis, but added that the petroleum producing countries were taking the necessary steps to minimise the hardships.

The Gulf countries, he said, had been negatively affected because they depended on oil revenues for their development and social projects.

"We hope the crisis will not last long," he added.

Dr Oteiba said his visit to Oman came as part of OPEC's efforts to keep in touch with non-OPEC oil



Dr. Oteiba

producing countries on the world oil situation.

He said the UAE and the other AGCC countries gave top importance to cooperation and coordination with Oman in these difficult circumstances.

Ties between his country and the Sultanate in the sphere of petroleum, he said, were continuous, historical and everlasting.

Dr Oteiba was received at the Salalah Airport by Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Said bin Ahmed al Shanfari, his Under-Secretary Salem bin Mohammed bin Shaban and the Director-General of Petroleum and Minerals in the South, Ali bin Taher Mukibel. Dr Oteiba was accompanied by a delegation from his Ministry.

UK mission sees good prospects

A group of British businessmen now on their last leg of a tour of the Gulf states, have found conditions to be much better than they expected following the crash in oil prices recently.

The 18 members of the trade mission from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry found traders in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and now Oman reacting positively to the variety of goods and services they displayed. But the emphasis was on different products in each state. In Oman the emphasis is on joint ventures.

"The mission is delighted with the response and we are very optimistic for the future despite falling oil prices," said mission

leader Alfred Taylor.

He said they were glad to be in the region when changes were taking place because by coming here they could see for themselves the changing requirements.

Exports to the Gulf area states was actually increasing, he said, due mainly to aggressive promotion. Oman is the fourth largest export market for Britain in the region, he said.

The group began their tour on January 31 and arrived in Oman on Monday for a four-day visit.

Europe visit by trade team

A trade delegation led by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki is now in Europe - covering three countries, Belgium, Holland and Austria.

The mission is to confer with Government officials of the three countries on ways of promoting commercial and economic ties.

The Under-Secretary is accompanied by Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Sheikh Aflah bin Hamad al Rawahy, Dr. Hamad bin Isa al Taie, an Adviser at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abdullah bin Mohammed al Lamki, and the Director-General of Commerce, Ali bin Mohammed bin Mirza al Ajmi.

Willine services to Gulf

Willine of Norway, Orient Overseas Container Line and the United Arab Shipping Company have signed a co-ordinated sailing agreement. Under it, the "Willine Taiko" will operate under the UAE flag and will begin loading in Japan on February 26 to mark the start of the service.

The agreement will allow Willine to offer space on any of the group's container vessels on a direct call basis, with Muscat still the port of call in the Gulf.

The first sailing will be from Yokohama and the 'Willine Taiko' will touch at Shimizu, Nagoya, Kobe, Busan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore for discharge in Colombo, Muscat, Dubai, Dammam, Kuwait, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

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CONTACT TIMES OF OMAN
701468/701953

Delegation to visit Djibouti

A four-member delegation from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry will leave for Djibouti on February 23 to attend a meeting of the Association of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

Headed by the President of the OCCI, Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Omeir, the team includes Khamis bin Ali al Hashar, Mansoor bin Talib Mohammed and Ibrahim bin Hilal al Busaidy.

The two-day meeting, which begins on February 24, will discuss ways of encouraging local production and means of curbing imports.

Other topics on the agenda include the setting up of joint ventures and promoting mutual economic co-operation, an OCCI spokesman said.

Business Times

Gulf will continue to offer opportunities

The seven Gulf states - Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE remain the single largest concentration of commercial opportunities in the developing world, according to "Gulf Economic and Financial Report", a monthly publication of the Gulf International Bank, the first issue of which has just been released.

The bank, which is owned by the seven Gulf states, said the Gulf states have been a consistently stable region and, coupled with their sizeable oil reserves and ambitious development plans, they will continue to offer opportunities for foreign business throughout the 1980s and beyond.

The states are at different stages of development, but in general their future plans concentrate on diversifying their industrial base and providing essential services for their people, all of which would require advanced technology, expertise and equipment.

Development of infrastructure has levelled off, while capital intensive products, high technology items, maintenance and various services, especially health, human resources development and communications, are expected to continue to do well in the future, the General Manager of Gulf International Bank, Ghazi Abdul Jawad, said in the report.

Gulf markets are in a way unique. While the institutions and the nomenclature are the same as in the developed countries, they function somewhat differently and must be interpreted with skill. Those foreign enterprises which

are able to understand the region and position themselves for a long-term commitment in this part of the world would find the Gulf countries to be quite rewarding, the report said.

The report added that the double digit growth rates witnessed in the Gulf region in the 1970s were not normal and could not, therefore, have been sustained for a much longer period of time. The normalisation process of the Gulf economies that began three years ago is expected to prevail in the coming few years.

Report on education, training services

The Arab-British Chamber of Commerce has published in its Economic Report series the papers presented at the seminar on "Education and Training: Equipment and Services", which the Chamber organised last year.

The first paper delivered by Mr Dominic Savage, Director of the British Educational Equipment Association of London, was about the export opportunities in Arab school markets, particularly in the Gulf. He gave specific examples - the main one being the Bahrain-based Gulf University, whose first phase (apart from the Medical Faculty) is scheduled to be ready by September 1986.

He also pointed out that various Arab markets place education very high on their expenditure lists. He put Kuwait first, as the country not only enjoying the world's biggest per capita income, but also the Arab countries' highest per capita spender on education. In Saudi Arabia education spending is only second to that on defence.

He advised more participation in exhibitions, which he thinks are a good way of obtaining first-hand experience of the market as well as developing and creating contacts.

Mr Richard Ware, publishing manager of the Arab World Division of the Longman Group, talked of fitting English language textbooks to Arab needs. He advocated customising teaching materials for an individual ministry as much as possible. He detailed the process of working out the best text books as a joint project between the author, the ministry, teachers and the local experts.

Mr Ware has worked on text book schemes in Oman, Sudan, Egypt and Bahrain. Longman text books had for long been used in these and other Arab countries.

The work of the British Council in Arab States was explained by Edmund Marsden, director of Educational Contracts Department of the Council. Mr Marsden has visited many Arab countries and was the Council's representative in Algeria and Syria.

The last paper was by Mr David Booth, Educational Technologist from the Sussex Overseas Services in Brighton and Vice-Chairman, Marketing Committee Industrial Council for Educational and Training Technology, of London. From 1976 to 1979 Mr Booth worked at the English Language Centre, King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. He advocated package deals. "This requires close cooperation between consultants, project contractors, manufacturers and suppliers." The ICETT is the only British trade association which has a contracting department. It was through this organisation that with the help of the British Overseas Trade Board, a consortium of UK firms was formed to supply equipment to the new Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. "The university was entirely designed and built by British firms and much of its equipment is supplied by UK companies."

The report ends with a profile of the British Council in Arab States and a number of appendices, such as the number of teachers and students at British Council English - language teaching centres in Arab countries; Overseas Development Administration aid to Arab countries for technical cooperation; and Arab students in UK universities, polytechnics and other further education establishments.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION AND EARNINGS IN THE GCC COUNTRIES

	1983		1984		1985*		1986**	
	Production (mb/d)	Earnings (\$ blns)	Production (mb/d)	Earnings \$ blns	Production (mb/d)	Earnings (\$ blns)	Production (mb/d)	Earnings (\$ blns) (3)
Saudi Arabia	4.54	51.50	4.00	42.60	3.22 (1)	32.77(2)	3.80	30.63
Kuwait	1.05	9.56	1.00	9.10	0.90	7.84	0.90	6.27
U.A.E.	1.15	12.90	1.06	11.79	1.00	10.62	0.95	8.16
Qatar	0.30	3.60	0.35	4.20	0.30	3.47	0.28	2.53
Oman	0.32	3.90	0.40	4.50	0.45	5.06	0.50	4.44
Bahrain	0.05	1.10	0.04	0.98	0.04	0.98	0.04	0.78
Total	7.41	82.56	6.85	73.17	5.91	60.74	6.47	52.81

* Estimates

** Projections

(1) Based on an average production of 3.7 mb/d in first quarter, 2.8 mb/d in second, 2.5 mb/d in third and 3.9 mb/d in fourth.

(2) This reflects the 25% drop in crude oil production and an average drop of 5% in oil prices. The drop in prices was due mainly to the "net back" deals introduced in the fourth quarter of 1985.

NON-COMMUNIST WORLD OIL SUPPLY AND DEMAND (m b/d)

	1984	1985*	1986**
Consumption	46.3	45.7	46.9
Industrial Countries	34.8	34.0	35.0
Developing Countries	11.5	11.7	11.9
Stock Change	-0.2	0.5	—
Non OPEC Production	26.2	27.2	27.4
Communists Net Exports	1.9	1.8	1.7
Requirements from OPEC	18.4	17.2	17.8
Natural Gas Liquids	1.2	1.3	1.3
OPEC Production (Crude Oil)	17.2	15.9	16.5

* Estimates

** Projections assuming a 30% drop in the dollar price per barrel of Arabian Light Oil in 1986, generating a 2.5% increase in total crude oil consumption for that year.

Source: Gulf International Bank

Emirates Data Network

Etisalat's 'Emirates Data Network' has become operational and also international by linked and is expected to provide the most advanced technique for data communication.

The network services will officially become available to the public by the end of March and subscription from potential customers will be accepted from mid-February. UAE subscribers would be provided with inter-emirate traffic free of charge for the first six months, Mr. K.P. Steinruck, project consultant, said.

The technique will provide connections between subscribers within the emirates and subscribers abroad, connected by similar data networks. These networks are primarily located in the UK, the US, Canada, Western Europe and the Far East. At present, the connection with West Germany has become operational.

Business Times

Demand for OPEC oil to rise

Demand for Opec oil will be around 179 million bpd in the first quarter of 1986, according to Interfinance, a Paris based firm of oil analysis.

However, it predicts the demand will decline by two million barrels in the second quarter, partly as a result of the recovery of exports of the centrally planned economies combined with higher non-Opec output.

The analysts say Opec oil demand jumped from less than 16 million bpd in the third quarter of 1985 to 18.3 million bpd in the final quarter because of abnormally cold weather and a stock build-up in OECD countries.

World consumption in the first quarter of the current year is projected at 47.3 million bpd, some 600,000 bpd higher than in the last quarter of 1985, but 200,000 bpd below the first quarter of 1984.

Stock drawdowns are estimated at one million bpd during the first quarter, which would reduce actual demand to 46.3 million bpd.

World demand in the second quarter is forecast at 45 million bpd.

MEFEX '86

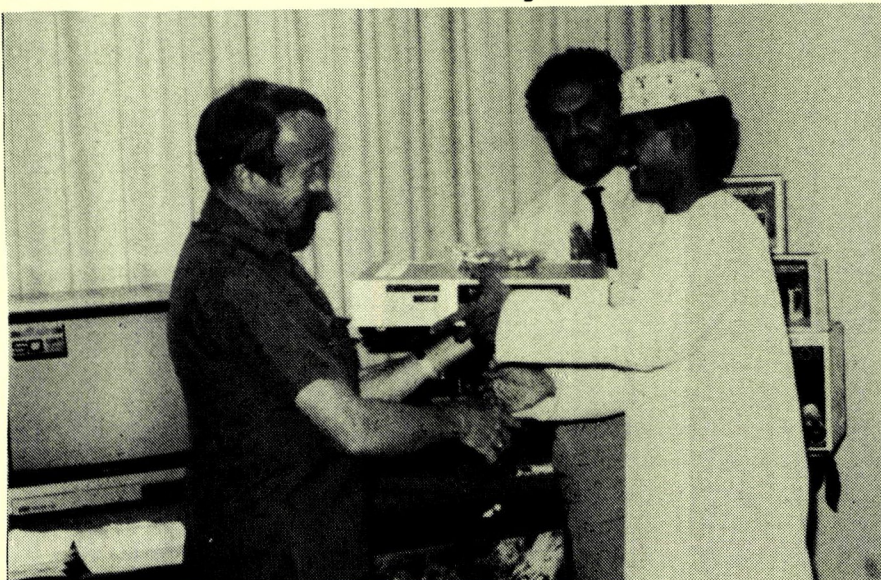
MEFEX '86, the 4th Middle East Food and Equipment Show will officially open at Exhibition Centre, Bahrain on February 22. MEFEX is well established as the largest international food, catering and equipment show for the Middle East.

Over 300 exhibitors from 31 countries will be displaying a range of food and beverages, including meat, poultry, confectionary, dairy produce and gourmet food products.

Exhibitors will also display the latest technology in food processing and manufacture. With food production growing at an unprecedented rate and agriculture now a priority, processing is becoming increasingly important.

The Salon Culinaire, which runs alongside the exhibition is a major attraction of the show for the region's top chefs to compete their culinary skills.

Tanuf lucky draw



Mr. Khasim bin Suleiman al Rawahi of Sumail has won the first prize in the monthly Tanuf lucky draw. He is pictured here receiving his prize from Mr. Alfon J. Eberle, General Manager of National Mineral Water Company, at a function at the Tanuf offices on Monday.

The draw was held in the presence

Indian firms to exhibit their products in April

The International Trade Fair Authority of India is to organise India's first-ever exhibition in Muscat in April - at the Oman Exhibition Centre in Seeb.

More than 80 leading Indian companies are expected to put up stands in the 10-day exhibition.

The chief of the fair authority, Mr. Krishna V. Rajan, who was Muscat last week said the exhibition would be aimed

at projecting India's engineering capabilities and 'we attach a lot of importance to it.'

"India's trade links with the Sultanate are centuries old. However, the present volume of trade is quite insignificant

compared to the potential We hope the exhibition will herald a new era in commercial ties between the two countries."

Indian exports to Oman last year were valued at around RO 30 million - mostly food and light manufactures. The corresponding figures for the preceding two years were RO 21.5 million and RO 20 million, respectively.

India's imports from the Sultanate rose to RO 7.2 million in 1984 from RO 700,000 the preceding year.

Oman began exporting oil to India for the first time in 1984 following an agreement between the two Governments. India imported 4.6 million barrels of oil that year. During the first three quarters of 1985, for which figures are available, imports were about 2.6 million barrels.

India, however, remains an important market for Oman's dates - accounting for nearly 60 per cent of all date exports. In 1984, dried dates exported to India were worth RO 340,808.

Mr. Rajan felt there was great scope in Oman for Indian industrial vehicles, machine tools, light engineering goods and consumer durables like sewing machines and ceiling fans, agricultural machinery, telecommunication equipment and sports goods.

The exhibition, he said, would provide an opportunity for Indian businessmen to get a feel of the Omani market and to explore possibilities for setting up joint ventures.

Two new products from Jotun

Two exciting new products are being introduced in the Muscat market on February 26 by Jotun, a recently opened paint manufacturing company in the Rusayil Industrial complex.

Jotafibre and Textotile will be offered to local architects, interior designers, ministry engineers and specifiers from professional companies at a launch at Al Bustan Hotel.

Jotafibre, a glass fibre, therefore non-flammable, combines the best of paint and wallpaper to make handsome, textured, durable wall covering. An added advantage is that it also hides minor surface cracks and acts as surface reinforcement.

Once painted it is easily washable and can be repainted if a colour change is desired.

Textotile is a long lasting, textured paint system which can be applied on many different surfaces. Chiefly intended for exterior use, it also gives a handsome finish when used internally.

High gloss retensio, weather resistant, durable and washable, textotile will look like new long

• The Abu Dhabi Government is launching an ambitious project to increase the availability of desalinated water by ordering four Italian-made plants, each with a capacity of one million gallons a day.

after ordinary paints have faded and chipped. It comes in an exciting range of colours and a variety of textures. The Jotun company of Norway has long been one of the world's major producers of paints and coatings for decorative, marine and industrial uses, as well as anti corrosives and chemicals for the oil industry. Jotun's experience in the Middle East goes back more than twenty years.

In Muscat the Jotun company is under the direction of General Manager, Helge Sorseth, who is assisted by Sales Manger Ross Ireland.

The ALFAIRUZ Trading and Contracting Co offer their heart-felt condolences to the family and relatives of the late
Shri GOKULDAS KHIMJI



ALFAIRUZ

TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. L.L.C.

P.O. Box 330, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Cable: ALFAIRUZ, Muscat, Telex: 5324 ALFAIRUZ ON
Phone: 561399, 561626, H.O. 561183, 561568

Business Times

AGCC crude oil reserves

Crude oil reserves in the six member-states of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council were reported as standing for 42.7 per cent of the world reserves for 1984.

According to the Economic Bulletin of the AGCC General Secretariat, the Gulf crude reserves in 1984 stood for 298.6 billion barrels, or 24.3 billion barrels more than the confirmed reserves for 1983.

Saudi Arabia occupied the first place in the world oil reserves confirmed by the end of 1984 as totalling 169 billion barrels, according to the bulletin.

Saudi reserves formed 42.2 per cent of the world reserves and 56.6 of the AGCC's, it said.

Kuwait came in the second place with a 90 billion barrels reserves, or 12.9 per cent of the world reserves and 30.1 per cent of the AGCC's. The UAE held 11 per cent of AGCC reserves, it said.

Metering equipment

A rush contract was completed in just 48 hours for the Qatar Electricity Authority.

Watson Norie and Tegrel Engineering, both of Tyneside, north east England, supplied a prototype service cabinet for metering equipment - and were awarded an initial contract for 100 units.

Mr John Bremner, Watson Norie's managing director, said: "The Electricity Authority had decided that every customer needing electricity supplies into their premises would require a special design of service cabinet.

"A draft design was provided to us with a request to speedily submit proposals for the final design and for the manufacture and supply of the cabinet boxes."

The prototype, measuring 914 mm by 508 mm by 304 mm, was made by Tegrel and air-freighted to Watson Norie representatives in Qatar.

The company is hoping that further orders will follow.

The AGCC Secretariat reported a drop in AGCC oil revenues of 27.1 per cent in 1983 as compared with 1981, and 63 per cent between the years 1981 and 1985.

AGCC oil revenues in 1983 were \$82.74 billion as compared with \$155.8 billion in 1981, it said. A retreat to \$57 billion was reported in 1985.

Bahrain reported the highest drop in oil revenues in 1983, reaching 46.2 per cent of its oil revenues in 1981. Saudi Arabia faced a 31.9 drop from \$11 billion in 1981 to \$51.5 billion in 1983.

Kuwait was the least affected among the six AGCC states with an 8.5 per cent drop in the same period, according to the bulletin.

The recession, the bulletin reported, also affected the natural gas production in the AGCC member states.

A drop of 25.1 of the AGCC gas production in 1982 was mentioned in the bulletin, as compared to the previous year, from 83.6 to 62.6 billion cubic feet.

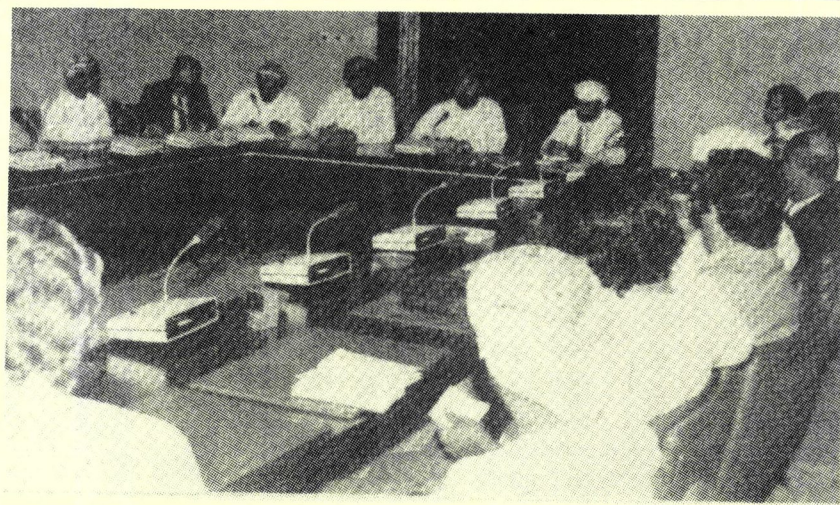
The natural gas reserves in the AGCC member states in 1983 also reported an increase of 1.6 per cent as compared to 1981, from 7,003 billion cubic metres in 1981 to 7,235 billion cubic metres in 1983.

Saudi Arabia has the largest natural gas reserves among the AGCC member states with 3,446 billion cubic metres or 47.4 per cent.

Dubai sports clubs' order

The Dubai Trading Company has awarded a spectator seating contract worth £750,000 to supply for 10,000 people at four sports clubs being built in Dubai.

Audience Systems, of Westbury in south west England, is to supply telescopic seating for 2,500 people at each of the indoor sports clubs, for completion by October.



Omanisation talks

The Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Amor bin Shuwain al Hosni last week reviewed the progress of Omanisation in the petroleum industry with executive of oil companies operating in the Sultanate.

Sheikh Amor heard the problems of the companies faced in the implementation of the Omanisation programme.

Sheikh Amor stressed that the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry was giving great attention to training local labour, especially at the different vocational training institutes and the Oman Industrial Technical College. He asked the oil industry executives to fill in a questionnaire which the Ministry had sent to them to ascertain

the details of local people employed and the type of staff they required.

Sheikh Amor also explained in detail the functions and activities of the labour offices around the country. The offices, he said, were computerised and offered quick service.

The Under-Secretary will hold similar meetings with executives of companies in different sectors of the economy - with a view to enhancing co-operation between the Ministry and the private sector.

Last week's meeting was attended by the Director-General of Labour, Ahmed bin Ali Rajab, and the Director-General of Vocational Training, Ali bin Hassan bin Ali.

Casio executives



Mr. Misunobu Murakami and Mr. Atsushi Goto, senior executives of the Casio Computer Company Limited of Japan were in Muscat this week to study design aspects of a new series of Casio analogue watches.

Casio is already the largest manufacturer of digital watches in the world and though they introduced analogue watches only recently, they have succeeded in cornering a sizeable chunk of the market, local agents Taiseer Electronics reported.

The Japanese executives, who have completed a tour of the other Gulf countries as well, will present a report to their company on the shape and shades of future Casio watches to be sold in the region.

Casio's leading brand in Oman today are databank watches which can memorise up to 50 telephone numbers and 50 schedule reminders.

Our picture shows (from left) Mr. Vijay Sejpar, General Manager, Taiseer, Mr Murakami, Mr Saeed Mubarak Bahwan, Taiseer, Administrative Manager. Mr. Goto and Mr. Sunil Soni, Manager Watch Division of Taiseer.

Kuwait decision

• The Financial Affairs Department of the Kuwait Ministry of Communications will soon begin collecting outstanding amounts from telephone subscribers by deducting the due amount from their salaries - whether they are employed by the Government or in the private sector, the Ministry said in a statement.

Exchange rates

	Buying	Selling
U.S. Dollar	0.3840	0.3850
Saudi Rial	0.1051	0.1054
Qatari Rial	0.1055	0.1058
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1045	0.1048
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.354	1.359
Bahraini Dinar	0.0172	0.0212
Jordanian Dinar	1.064	1.079
Egyptian Pound	0.510	0.551
Indian Rupee	0.0308	0.0310
Pakistani Rupee	0.0242	0.0244
Kenya Shilling	0.0239	0.0241
Australian Dollar	0.2692	0.2703
Canadian Dollar	0.2751	0.2759
Singapore Dollar	0.1797	0.1803
Hong Kong Dollar	0.0491	0.0493
Pound Sterling	0.545	0.547
Belgian Franc	0.00800	0.00803
French Franc	0.0533	0.0535
Swiss Franc	0.1977	0.1984
Italian Lira	0.000241	0.000243
Netherlands Guilder	0.1449	0.1455
Deutsche Mark	0.1638	0.1643
Swedish Krone	0.0516	0.0518
Norwegian Krone	0.0524	0.0526
Danish Krone	0.0443	0.0445
Japanese Yen	0.002118	0.002124

Business Times

Australian firms are doing good business in Gulf

Australian companies have been doing good business in the Gulf states and exports have been rising in all countries — with the possible exception of Kuwait.

The highest importer of Australian products last year was Saudi Arabia which bought about A\$ 700 million worth of goods. The next biggest buyer last year was the UAE which imported A\$200 million worth.

For the ten months up to October last year, Oman imported A\$40,629,000 worth of items and Australia's Abu Dhabi based senior trade commissioner John Butler estimated it would go up to A\$ 50 million for the whole year.

He said the value of exports to Bahrain was A\$ 130 million, Kuwait was A\$ 140 million and Qatar about A\$ 30 million.

However, Australia's imports from Oman have been dropping mainly because Australia has been buying less Omani crude and refined petroleum for the last three years.

From a high of A\$ 63 million worth of crude oil in 1982, imports dropped to A\$ 29 million next year. The graph continued to dip over the next year with crude imports falling to A\$ 17 million in 1984. But imports picked up last year with imports of crude rising to A\$ 21 million up to October.

Australia also imported over A\$ 10 million worth of refined petroleum products last year, almost doubled the amount it last bought in 1983.

Mr Butler said the value of oil imports had fallen partly because the cost of oil had gone down in recent years, but also because Australia began producing more oil while implementing energy saving plans.

Australia, he said, currently produces about the same amount of oil as Oman while it has developed advanced techniques to harness energy from the wind and the sun, both in plentiful supply Down Under.

The country, one of the world's largest food exporters, has been supplying the Sultanate with most of its basic food requirements, especially flour and meat.

Wheat is still the largest exported item to Oman as it has been for the last few years. Up to October, over A\$12 million worth had been sold to Oman last year. The figures for the previous two years were over A\$ 14 million.

Next highest has been meat and live animals for food. Live Australian sheep are imported in large numbers every year as well as mutton, beef and veal. In 1985, over A\$ 2 million worth of live animals were exported, up from A\$ 80,000 in 1982.

Now Australia is planning to boost its substantial non-food products in a region where it has traditionally been known as a food exporter.

The signs are there that it can be a seri-

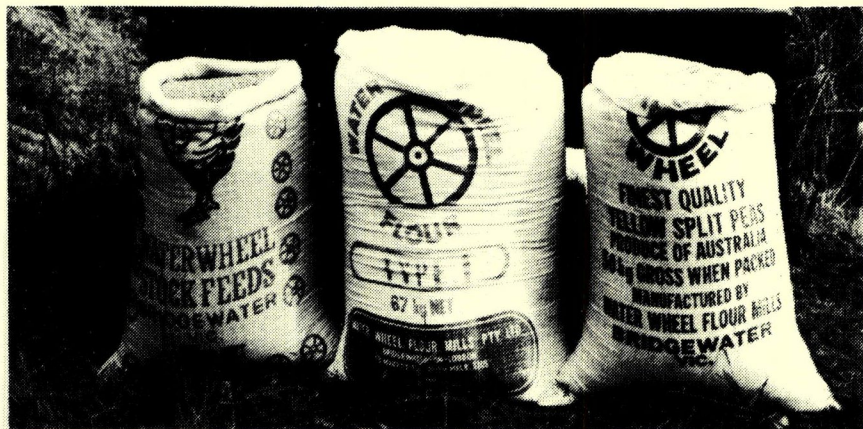
Northern UAE power output

Power stations in the northern emirates generated 1,605,000,000 Kw of electricity per hour last year as against 1,267,000,000 Kw per hour in the preceding year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Dubai.

The energy consumed stood at 1,155,000,000 Kw per hour as against 1,219,000 Kw per hour in 1984. Diesel used by the power stations totalled 16.7 million gallons, along with 559.6 million cubic metres of gas.

ous contender in manufactured industrial products. Last year Australia sold over A\$ 3 million worth of aircraft handling and service equipment to Oman.

And next month it will mount its biggest trade show in the Middle East right here in the Sultanate to show local companies its range of industrial goods. About 40 Australian companies will have displays of their products ranging from building material and medical equipment ranging from building material and medical equipment to solar and wind energy devices.



A range of food products



One of the largest companies in the Australian food industry, Allied Mills Ltd, has an annual turnover of above \$A750 million and employs more than 5000 people.

The company will be exhibiting here in March an exhibitor at the Australian Trade Display a big range of diversified food products.

Allied Mills is Australia's largest producer of polyunsaturated margarines and oils.

Industrial products available include flour, starch, glucose, edible oils, essences, shortenings, specialised fats for biscuit baking and food processing, cake mix and premixes.

Household consumer products available from the company include margarine, cooking and salad oils, nuts, mayonnaise, frozen baked foods, pasta and the newly acquired Pampas pastry range.

The company has factories in six Australian capital cities. This decentralisation is an advantage to overseas trade as goods can be shipped from any one of the ports.

Irrigation products

Four Australian companies involved in irrigation and water supply will display their products on the Aquatrade Export Pty Ltd stand at the Australian trade display in Oman.

Aquatrade Irrigation which is a subsidiary of Aquatrade Export will exhibit products manufactured for drip irrigation.

A working model of a wind turbine pump manufactured by Clyde Draper will be exhibited together with a hand operated unit.

Both Aquatrade and Clyde Draper will be seeking agents for Commando Chemline and Finsbury Pumps.

Chemline manufactures domestic water softeners and filters and a complete range of Epoxy and GRP pipe

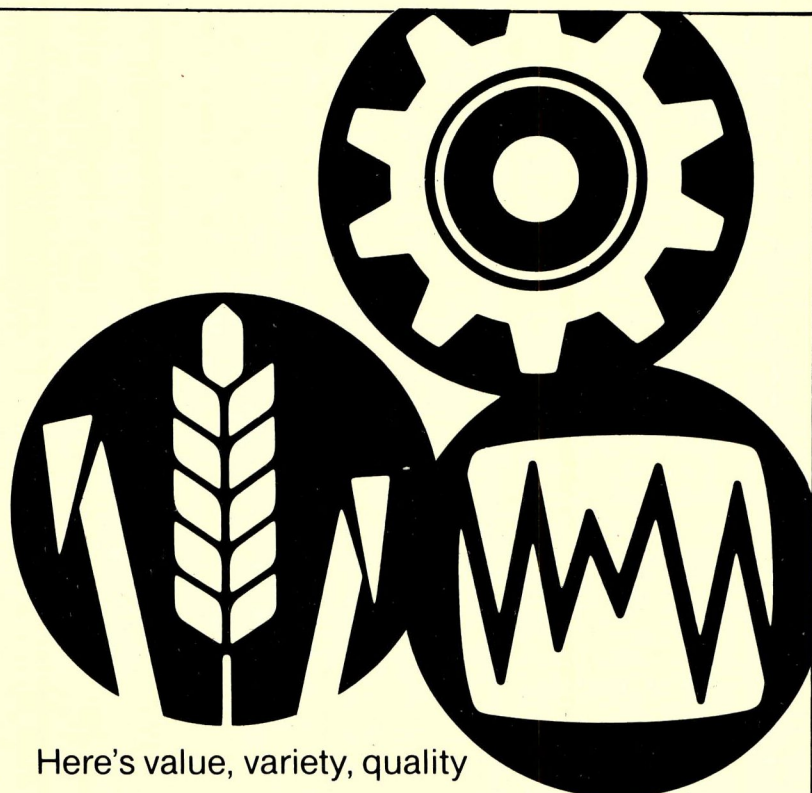
Flour and split peas

Flour and split peas have been supplied to the Gulf area by Australian company Water Wheel Exports Pty Ltd for many years.

At the Australian trade display in Muscat Water Wheel Exports will exhibit flour, yellow split peas, feed barely, sorghum and lucerne meal.

Water Wheel Exports is also involved in the marketing of solar hot water panels manufactured by Somer Solar.

The panels are mostly suited to existing hot water systems but a total system is also manufactured by the company.



Here's value, variety, quality

Australian Trade Display

Muscat Intercontinental Hotel 2-5 March 1986

Hours: 2 March, 7.00-9.00 p.m., 3-5 March, 4.00-9.00 p.m.

Australia produces most kinds of foods, makes most kinds of goods. Come and see these Australian products which have been specially selected for Oman. Meat. Wheat. Packaged foods. Grocery products. Fresh and canned fruits and vegetables. Milk powder. Butter. Ghee. Cheese products. Honey. Gelatine. Jelly crystals. Food stabilisers and emulsifiers. Home electrical appliances. Cookware. Hot water heating systems. Housewares and Leisurewares. Pharmaceuticals. Seeds. Pumps. Irrigation equipment. Revegetation machinery. Plant growth technology. Agricultural services. Agricultural and industrial chemicals. Biological waste treatment. Surgical and household gloves. Hospital and medical equipment. Maintenance products. Welding equipment. Power tools. Shopfitting equipment. Radio communications equipment. Text graphics display system. Office equipment. Contract furniture. Security products. Airfreight and passenger services.



For more information ask the Australian Trade Commissioner.
P.O. Box 559, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Phone 82 1800. Telex 23309 Austem EM.

Business Times

Tenders - the company bids

The following bids were opened on February 17:

2/86 Qaboos University water supply link.

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Al-Adnani Co.
2. Al-Matar Trading & Contg.
3. Kassim Contractors.
4. Shanfari Birse (Oman) LLC.

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 197,111/376
2. RO 197,633/510
3. RO 201,093/270
4. RO 215,523/-

The following bids were opened on February 9:

1/86 Exploration & Evaluation programme of selected Chromite occurrences in Rajmi district of Northern Oman.

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Bishimetal Exploration Co. Ltd.
2. Bureau de Recherches Geologiques Et Minières.
3. Seltrust Engg. Ltd.

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 176,000/-
2. RO 256,000/-
3. RO 397,000/-

The following bids were opened on February 10:

96/85 Women's Association building at Qurm.

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Abu Abid Trad. & Cont. Enter-

prises.

2. Ahmed Nasser Associates
3. Al Ahmedi Trad. & Cont. Est.
4. Arabian Contracting Co.
5. Al Hassan Trad. & Cont. Est.
6. AME - Qais Omani Est.
7. Bakeer Trad. & Cont Co.
8. Omani Contracting Est.
9. Salim & Juma Al Khaduri.
10. United Trad. & Cont. Co.
11. Union General Enterprises.

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 171,824/400
2. RO 180,950/-
3. RO 184,376/-
4. RO 191,400/-
5. RO 191,939/-
6. RO 198,517/-
7. RO 212,850/-
8. RO 215,600/-
9. RO 233,871/-
10. RO 235,426/-
11. RO 255,200/-

97/85 Rumais Livestock Research Facility:

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Abdulla Al Jawi Trad. & Cont. Est.
2. Ahmed Nasser Associates & Partners.
3. Al-Moubarak Co.
4. Al-Zawra Trading Co.
5. AME - Qais Omani Est.
6. Arabian Cont. Co.
7. Babud Cont & Trad.
8. Nasser Saeed Al-Wuhaibi Est.
9. Salim & Juma Al-Khaduri Trad. & Cont. Co.
10. United Trading & Cont. Co.

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 498,695.300
2. RO 565,549.530
3. RO 608,689.000
4. RO 649,921.860

5. RO 670,651.728
6. RO 689,424.922
7. RO 699,374.380
8. RO 730,100.000
9. RO 893,420.933
10. RO 1,280,973.810

The following bids were opened on February 3:

95/85 Saiq at Sham

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Al Adnani Co.
2. Al Aman General Trading & Cont Co.
3. Al Hilal Trading & Contracting.
4. Al Jadawil Trading, Industrial & cont. Est.
5. Al Omran Construction Est.
6. Ambola Contracting & Trading.
7. AMCO General Trading & Contracting Co.
8. Century Contracting Co. SAO
9. Darbat Trading & General Contracting Co.
10. Hamed Hilal Hamad Al-Saadi Trading & Cont. Est.
11. Hasan Haji Juma Backer Corp.
12. Hydromatic Construction Company.
13. Modern Construction.
14. Nasser Lashko & Sons Trading & Contracting Co.
15. National Services Est.
16. Oman Engineering & Contracting Est.
17. Omani Establishment.
18. Rasmia Enterprises.
19. Salalah Construction & Trading Co.
20. Ziadfleet Traders & Contractors.

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 461,143/-
2. RO 465,000/-
3. RO 471,064/-
4. RO 478,100/-
5. RO 500,000/-
6. RO 509,500/-
7. RO 512,000/-
8. RO 519,160/-
9. RO 550,900/-
10. RO 570,128/-
11. RO 572,541/-
12. RO 590,266/-
13. RO 590,630/-
14. RO 654,436/-
15. RO 662,769/-
16. RO 667,000/-
17. RO 671,946/920
18. RO 684,300/-
19. RO 877,040/-
20. RO 1,089,744/-

The following tender bids were opened on January 20:

93 / 85 Supply of medicine equipment.

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Al Farabi Pharmacy
2. Al Hashar Pharmacy
3. Ebin Rushed Pharmacy
4. Ibn Nafees Pharmacy
5. Ibn Sina Pharmacy
6. Mazoon Pharmacy
7. Muscat Pharmacy
8. Muttrah Pharmacy
9. National Pharmacy
10. Waleed Pharmacy

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 40,413.000
2. RO 41,662.000
3. RO 43,000.000
4. RO 50,860.500
5. RO 52,550.880
6. RO 53,732.500
7. RO 55,957.800
8. RO 70,715.200
9. RO 100,231.550
10. RO 122,490.750

94 / 85 Primary health Care Centre at Al Juwaif.

Tenderers in alphabetical order:

1. Al Jawi Trading & Contracting Est.
2. Al Mubarak General Trading & Cont Co.

3. Al Seyyari Enterprises
4. Al Zawra Trading Co.
5. Nesser Saeed Al Wahibi Trading & Contracting Est.
6. Oman Contracting Establishment

Bids in ascending order:

1. RO 122,100.000
2. RO 124,400.000
3. RO 137,230.000
4. RO 161,150.000
5. RO 212,100.000
6. RO 240,000.000

The following tender bids were opened on December 23:

90/85 Supply of medicines

Tenderers in alphabetical order

1. Al Hashar Pharmacy
2. Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
3. Ibn Nafees Pharmacy
4. Ibn Sina Pharmacy
5. Mazoon Pharmacy
6. Muscat Pharmacy
7. Muttrah Pharmacy
8. National Pharmacy
9. Oasis Pharmacy
10. Waleed Pharmacy

Bids in ascending order

1. RO 27,920.000
2. RO 31,525.000
3. RO 40,126.075
4. RO 45,194.500
5. RO 70,052.500
6. RO 86,000.000
7. RO 115,930.000
8. RO 119,954.875
9. RO 127,993.750
10. RO 129,794.000

The following tender bids were opened on October 9:

81/85 Operation and maintenance of Masirah Island power and desalination plant.

Tenderers in alphabetical order

1. Global Chemical and Maintenance System.

2. International Electric Co.

3. Oman National Electric Co.

4. Sogex Oman.

5. Voltamp Electricals Ltd.

Bids in ascending order

1. RO 569,297.000
2. RO 1,097,280.000
3. RO 1,143,029.000
4. RO 1,672,886.000

New tenders

The following tenders were announced by the Tender Board. Bids should be in by the date in brackets.

3/86 Supply of medicines (24.2.86).

4/86 Operation and maintenance of Rusail Power Plant (3.3.86).

5/86 Consultancy services for Barka power project (17.3.86).

6 / 86 Construction of District Office complex for P.A.W.R. at Mudairib (10.3.86)

7 / 86 Office building for Ministry of Commerce and Industry at Sur (10.3.86)

8 / 86 Supply of livestock during the month of Ramadhan 1406 H (24.2.86).

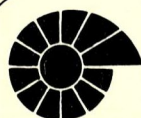
9/86 Medinat Qaboos sub station (17.3.86).

10/86 Supply and installation of medical equipment and furniture for Haima hospital (10.3.86).

11/86 Masirah Island desalination and power plant — new sea water intake (24.3.86).

12/85 Supply of medicine (24.3.86)

13/86 Supply of equipment, apparatus and furniture for offices, schools, houses for 1986-87 (17.3.86)



Petroleum Development Oman TENDER NOTICE

Construction of Road off Fahud-Lekhwaier to Tawi Mazrouk Tender No. 68004

Tenders are invited from Contractors registered with PDO as Grade 'F1'.

The Works:

Construction of Road approx. 35 Km length and 10 m width.

Commencement: 20th April 1986

Time for completion: 72 days

Tenders may be obtained from the Engineering Construction Offices, PDO, Mina al-Fahal during office hours between **22nd February 1986 and 26th February 1986** inclusive.

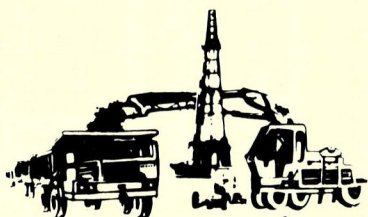
Price of the Document is **R.O.30/-** payable by cheque.

Tenders shall be returned by 12.00 Hours on 15th March 1986.

For visiting PDO Offices at Mina al-Fahal, Tenderers shall ensure that a Security Pass is obtained at least 24 hours prior to the visit. Security Pass arrangements for collection and delivery of Tenders can only be made during working hours Saturday to Tuesday inclusive and up to 12.00 hours on Wednesdays, telephone 678547.

**Petroleum Development Oman
P.O. Box 81, Muscat,
Sultanate of Oman**

**Telephone : 608547
Telex : 5212 ON**



Business Times

Abdulla looks forward to the challenge

PDO has a new petroleum engineering manager. Abdulla Lamki, the fourth Omani member of the management team, is setting in and looking forward to what he describes as "a new challenge; a much bigger job."

Abdulla returns to the company fresh from a two-year spell in the chilly climes of Norway, where he was chief petroleum engineer for Norske Shell.

"Of course it was very different from Oman," he commented. "In fact, in many respects, almost as different as you could get."

"Nevertheless, it was useful experience and on enjoyable two years."

Most petroleum engineers enter the oil business straight from university, often after taking a higher degree. Abdulla, however, joined Shell only in 1973 after some years in the world of academe.

Having graduated as a Bachelor of Science at Trinity College, Dublin, in physics, he went on to take his PhD and to become a lecturer at the university.

Staying in academic life, he moved after a while to the Regional Technical Institute just outside Dublin where he was responsible for setting up the Physics Department.

An appointment at the University of Baghdad followed where he lectured in electron physics for two years. "Then," said Abdulla self deprecatingly, "I saw the lighter and went into the oil industry."

Joining Shell in 1973, he spent several months in The Hague on various courses before returning to Oman in early 1974. During the following 12-month stint as a well site petroleum engineer, he became familiar with Interior locations — Natih,

PROFILE

Fahud, Saih Nihayda, Saih Rawl and Amal among others.

A three-year spell in production technology followed. In 1978, Abdulla was posted to Nigeria, initially to petroleum operations engineering. By the end of 1979, he had become head of department and another move was in the wind.

The importance of language as an everyday tool of communication cannot be over-stated and, although English is the lingua franca of the oil industry, Arabic is assuming greater and greater importance within technology in the Arabian peninsular, particularly in terms of communication with Government. Reaching back to his academic roots and, at the same time, forward to his current position, Abdulla went to Cairo to study Arabic.

Having completed his course, he came back to PDO as head of Production Technology at the end of 1980. In 1983, he was transferred to Norway.

His spare time is much taken up with his family, although he enjoys swimming for exercise. Married with three sons aged 12, 10 and 4 years, his wife is expecting a fourth addition to the family very soon. "It would be nice to have a daughter," he said. "But only time will tell."



Abdulla Lamki

'Superbank'

The Islamic Conference Organisation is considering the formation of a 'superbank' along Islamic lines and a final decision is due to be taken soon, the Jeddah newspaper "Saudi Gazette" reported.

The paper said the ICO Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada, has to approve the idea and then submit it to the 46-member conference at the 1988 summit.

"Certain people within the ICO perceive there is a need to fill the void for Islamic banking which currently exists in many Muslim countries", the paper said.

Those saving money to make the Haj currently let their money lie fallow. The bank could free an estimated \$250 billion of idle capital in the Islamic world, the paper said.

New COMET chairman

Lord Jellicoe, Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board (BOTB) has appointed Mr David Douglas-Home as Chairman of the Committee for Middle East Trade (COMET). Mr Douglas-Home is a director of Morgan Grenfell and succeeds Lord Selsdon who is standing down after seven years in office.

Mr Douglas-Home joined Morgan Grenfell in 1966 and assumed responsibility for the bank's involvement in the Middle East in 1972. He was appointed a director in 1974 and head of Morgan Grenfell's International Division in 1983. Mr Douglas-Home's other directorships include the Arab Bank Investment Company, the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation; the Economic Forestry Group and Credit for Exports. He is also a governor and member of the

council of management of the Ditchley Foundation and a director of Morgan Grenfell (Scotland).

The Committee for Middle East Trade is one of BOTB's 16 area advisory groups. It was established to help increase British exports to the Middle East. COMET maintains a continuous review of economic and commercial opportunities in the region and runs a programme of seminars and conferences to promote interest in the area. Members of COMET are drawn from companies which trade regularly with the Middle East, banks and other organisations.

The British Overseas Trade Board guides and directs the export promotion services of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Gas pipeline

The Arab Gulf-Cooperation Council's Secretariat is actively studying a proposal to instal a pipeline at the regional level to feed gas from the source to consumers.

Preliminary studies have revealed that it would be feasible to supply unaccompanied dry gas to consumers from various gas fields in Saudi Arabia.

Studies are also being undertaken with respect to gas supplies from Qatar, whose reserves are considered as one of the largest in the world. Also experts are considering the possible supplies of ethylene from Kuwait and Bahrain to industries in the AGCC countries. It is expected that the gas from Kuwait and Bahrain could be utilised as feedstock for power plants in the area.

MEFEX 86

The 4th Middle East Food & Equipment Show - Bahrain

The Gulf's only International Trade Exhibition for the Food Industries...including Food & Beverages, Hotel & Catering Equipment, Food Processing & Packaging

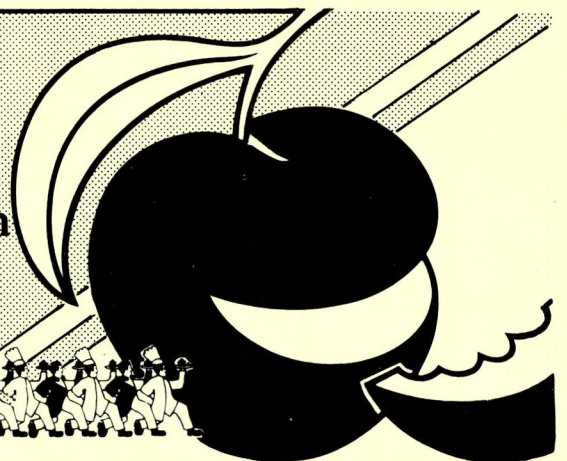
22-26 February 1986

BUSINESS VISITORS ONLY

For Visitor brochure & complementary tickets, please contact:
P.O. Box: 20200, Manama, Bahrain. Tel: 250033, Telex: 9103 EXHIB BN.

Children under 16 not admitted

الهيئة العامة للغذاء والدواء
GULF AIR
OFFICIAL CARRIER



Business Times

Dubai International Trade Centre

Dominating the Dubai skyline from its location alongside the highways to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain is the Dubai International Trade Centre. Inspired by the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al Maktoum, whose Zabeel Palace is close by, it is only ten minutes from Port Rashid and the airport, and even nearer to the principal residential area and beaches of Jumerah.

The spectacular complex consists of a 39-storey tower housing more than 100 companies, the Hilton International Hotel, two exhibition halls and three blocks of luxury apartments.

The centre's Exhibition Hall 1, fully air-conditioned with superb lighting, underfloor grid systems for electricity and telephones and a range of VIP suites, set new standard of efficiency in the region. Some 20 exhibitions were held

there before the much larger Hall 2 (7,000 square metre) was opened in 1982 to serve the growing number of exhibitions and visitors.

Exhibitions are now an important and established part of the region's commercial life. The programme consists of specialised trade exhibitions national shows and public consumer fairs. The total gross space in the two halls comes to more than 10,000 square metres, with ample space surrounding it, providing an additional 5,000 square metres of exhibition area.

Regular events include the Arab Health Exhibition, Motexha and Childexpo the Gulf Computer Exhibition, Arab Water Technology, the Gulf Safety, Security and Fire Equipment Exhibition and the Gulf Sports and Leisure Exhibition. New events are continually tailored to the region's fast-changing opportunities.

The programme schedule for the coming months

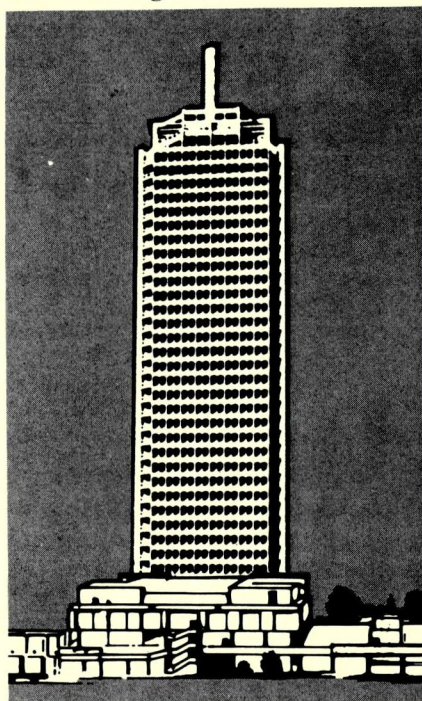
Mar 2-6: Gulf Communications '86 — International exhibition of electronic communications, information technology, broadcast equipment and services. Organised by Industrial & Fairs International.

Mar 16-20: 2nd Arab Gas Technology Exhibition — Exhibition and conference serving the Gas, Oil and Energy industries of the Arabian Gulf. Organised by International Conferences & Exhibitions.

Apr 7-11: Gulf Furniture Show — Exhibition for residential, office and contract furniture, and carpets. Organised by Trade Centre Management Company.

Apr 24-28: Arab International Toys, Games and Amusements Trade Fair — Trade fair for a wide range of children's and adults' products for play, leisure and enhancement. Organised by World Trade Promotions Ltd and Al Fajer Information & Services.

May 2-11: International Gulf Trade Fair — General trade and public exhibition including food, home



and household, fashion, machinery, cars and vehicles. Organised by AGEMO.

Oct 12-16: 4th Arab Water Technology Exhibition — International exhibition and conference for the water and sewage treatment industries of the Middle East. Organised by International Conference & Exhibitions.

Oct 12-16: Arab Municipal Service

Exhibition — Exhibition serving public works, renovation and maintenance projects in the Gulf. Organised by International Conferences & Exhibitions.

Oct 23-26: Arab International Mining and Mineral Recovery — Exhibition devoted to all forms of mining, mineral processing and extraction, underground development, together with associated products, technology and services. Organised by World Trade Promotions Ltd and Al Fajer Information & Services.

Oct 26-29: 3rd Gulf Safety, Security & Fire Equipment Exhibition — Exhibition for products, materials, systems, technology and related services for public, corporate and private applications. Organised by Fairs and Exhibitions.

Oct 26-29: 2nd Middle East Refrigeration, Ventilation, Air-conditioning and Heat-

ing Exhibition — The Middle East environmental, refrigeration, ventilation, airconditioning and heating exhibition. Organised by Fairs and Exhibitions.

Nov 3-6: 6th Gulf Computer Exhibition & Conference — Exhibition and conference for computer hardware, software, services and office equipment. Organised by Trade Centre Management Company.

Nov 5-8: Motexha & Childexpo Trade Fairs — Trade fairs for men's and women's wear, fabrics, home textiles, fashion accessories, children's wear, child care products and toys. Organised by SEIMA in co-operation with INTERFAIRS.

Nov 16-4 Dec: 27th Chess Olympiad — International chess matches under the auspices of the Federation Internationale des Echecs. Organised by the Supreme Organising Committee.

US trade fairs

The National Association of Broadcasters' 64th Annual Convention and International Exposition, is to be held at Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas on April 12-16, 1986.

More than 740 exhibitors will display their product categories: Equipment for broadcast transmission, satellite uplinks and downlinks, program and transmission automation and control, computer videographics, video cameras, lenses and accessories, production switches, audio and video editing equipment, eng and mobile systems lighting systems, recorders, studio equipment, tape and film, testing and monitoring cable and fiberoptics, digital audio, computer systems and hardware, power conditioning, microwave links, antennas, videodisc and many other applications.

Details are available from: Harold Niven, Vice President, National Association of Broadcasters, 1771, N Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036-2898, Telephone: (202) 293-3540, Telex: 710 882 NAB-PDCSTR 2-WSH.

The American Ceramic Society Exposition is to be held at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on April 27-30, 1986.

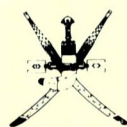
More than 180 U.S. and 20 foreign exhibitors will display raw ceramic materials; machinery and manufacturing equipment for brick, tile, whitewares and glass; high performance electronic and structural materials and components; process and control systems; equipment and technology for batching, forming, firing, decorating, and finishing; systems and equipment for handling, weighing, shipping, and storage; industrial gases and chemicals; abrasives; engineering services, laboratory testing and analytical instrumentation.

Details are available from: Robert C. Craft, Director of Expositions, American Ceramic Society, 65 Ceramic Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43214, Phone: (614) 268-8645.

French show

The Fifth Fast Food Exhibition is to be held in Paris at the Porte de Versailles Exhibition Park from April 11 to 14.

Omani businessmen interested in the exhibition can get details from the organisers: Equip'Hotel Collectivite Internationale, 13 Rue de Liege, 75009 Paris. Telex: 640 572 F. Tele: (1) 42 80 64 00.



1. The Ministry of Defence invites the following tenders: :

SR. NO.	DESCRIPTION	COMMODITY	TENDER CONTROL	CLOSING DATE
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1.	Supply of	Packing Material	822	22-3-86
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2. Tender documents may be obtained on payment of R.O. 10.000 (Rials Omani Ten Only), each in cash from the Secretary to the Tender Board, JSWO Building, MAM, between 0800 am and 1100 am from Saturday to Wednesday inclusive.

Business Times

A Catnic seminar at Sheraton

A seminar was to be held yesterday at the Oman Sheraton by Catnic - one of the world's leading manufacturers of lintel, a product which saves great time in the construction industry.

Three executives of the company, Mr. Bob Reid, Export Business Development Manager, Mr. John Davis, Export Manager and Mr. Richard Brown, Sales Executive, were at the hotel to explain the uses of the company's products and to meet potential customers.

Catnic has 2,800 stockists throughout the UK, Europe, Africa, Middle and Far East and manufactures 18km of lintels per day and is the largest user of galvanised steel coil in Europe, consuming 40,000 tonnes per annum.

• Meeting on commodities

Minister receives AGCC officials

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Colonel Salim bin Abdullah al Ghazali, on Saturday received the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council Directors-General of Stores and Supplies.

Colonel Ghazali said after the meeting that he exchanged views with the Directors-General on various subjects.

The AGCC officials, he added, were meeting in Oman to coordinate policies on the purchase of various commodities, especially foodstuffs.

The Minister said he also reviewed with them the international market scene and the world economic situation in general which affected the Sultanate and the other countries in the region. The views were identical, he added.

Colonel Ghazali said he also explained to the Directors-General the present situation in the Omani market

and the increase in prices of certain commodities charged by some traders.

The Omani delegation to the Directors-General's meeting was led by Mahmood bin Mohammed bin Ali al Jarwani, the Director-General of the Public Authority for Stores and Food Reserve, and Hilal bin Amor al Kyumi, the Director of International Trade at the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

The UAE was represented by Saif Khalfan bin Sabt.

Bahrain's delegation included Mohammed Bakir Mohammed Ali and Abdul Bakir Mohammed Ali and Abdul Bari Abdulla Abdul Ghaffar, while the Saudi team was headed by Abdulla Ibrahim al Hamed.

Kuwait was represented by Tariq Mohammed al Barraq and Abdulla Mulla Ahmed.

A delegation from the AGCC Secretariat-General, comprising Abdul Latif Ibrahim, Abdul Malick Salah and Hamoud Kamas, also attended the meeting.

The meeting ended on Sunday.

Pakistan urged to reconsider rice price

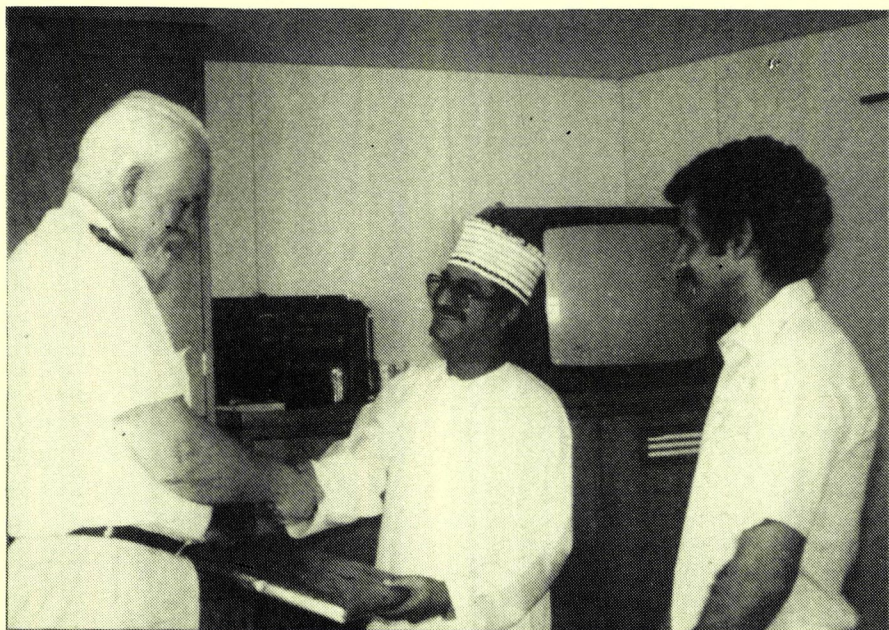
The Arab Gulf Co-operation Council states have urged Pakistan to reconsider its decision to increase the price of 'Basmati' rice it exports to the Gulf.

The AGCC Directors-General of Stores and Supplies, who ended their meeting in Muscat on Sunday, also set up a committee to negotiate with the Pakistan Government on the issue, the head of the Omani delegation to the meeting, Mahmood bin Ali al Jarwani, said.

The committee members are from Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the AGCC Secretariat-General.

Other topics discussed by the officials included the proposal for a strategic food reserve for the member-countries.

'Cool Carriers' vessel



Mr. Anwar Ali Sultan, Director of W.J. Towell and Company LLC, on Monday presented a commemorative plaque to Captain Willy Toennessen to mark the inaugural call of the Cool Carrier Lines vessel mv 'Hidlefjord' at Mina Qaboos.

Cool Carriers will have a monthly call at Mina Qaboos and other ports in the Arabian Gulf in their regular monthly liner service from Europe and the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and the Gulf.

Cool Carriers are today one of the largest reefer cargo operators in the world and their fleet comprises 80 ships trading all over the world. Local agents are W.J. Towell, Shipping Division.

Vessels operated by the company on the Middle East run are capable of accommodating a wide range of refrigerated and frozen food simultaneously - either breakbulk or palletized in the vessels' separately insulated compartments.

• Our picture shows: Mr. Anwar Ali Sultan presenting the plaque to Captain Toennessen. Looking on is Mr. Harith bin Soud al Omeiri, Assistant Operations Manager (Conventional) of the Port Services Corporation.

Bahrain plan

Bahrain will drill 100 oil wells during the current five-year development plan period, Mohammed Saleh Sheikh Ali, Director-General of the Bahrain National Oil Company, told the 'Middle East Economic Survey'.

He said 20 wells would be drilled each year

Manufacture for survival, says Bahrain Minister

Bahrain's Minister for Development and Industry have advised the Gulf states that the only chance for survival of their nascent petrochemical industries was to turn to manufacture of advanced byproducts like ammonia, urea and chemical fertilisers.

Yousef al Shirawi told the weekly newspaper 'Al Adwaa' that even if EEC settled a controversy with the Gulf by waiving all tariffs on petrochemicals from the region, the Gulf countries could not expect the EEC to develop into a good market.

"We face competition and restric-

tions", he said. He advocated the spread of industries so that the region would not continue to depend on oil as its sole source of revenue.

He referred to Bahrain's efforts to develop energy-intensive industries as aluminium, capitalising on the oil wealth of the Gulf region.

The Minister expected oil prices on the world market to take an upward slide over the coming 10 years because demand was expected to rise.

He said the current downside was 'nothing more than psychological warfare'.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that "SOLO SUSICE, NARODNI PODNIK", a Corporation organized and existing under the laws of Czechoslovakia, located at SUSICE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, is the sole owner and only proprietor in the SULTANATE OF OMAN of the trade mark shown herebelow:



which is used upon or in connection with: "Matches".

Notice is also hereby given that:

1. This advertisement is made in confirmation of previous one published in "TIMES OF OMAN", dated January 22, 1981, Vol. 6, No. 46.
2. The above owner claims all rights in respect of the above trade mark and will take all legal proceedings against any person or company infringing the said rights of the owner.

GOLC effort comes

The first major project promoted by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting, an organisation comprising the Governments of the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates became operational yesterday after the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill was officially inaugurated by the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa.

Financed by Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar, GARMCO is expected to significantly boost industrial output in the region and make a significant contribution to Bahrain's industrial diversification.

The metal for the GARMCO rolling mill will be supplied by the Alba aluminium smelter which when the mill reaches full capacity, will be purchasing 20 per cent of Alba's total production.

Annually, some 40,000 tonnes will be rolled to produce sheet and coil aluminium in the entire range of non heat-treatable

alloys.

The maximum width of the GARMCO aluminium sheet is 1600 mms and the minimum thickness is 0.2 mms.

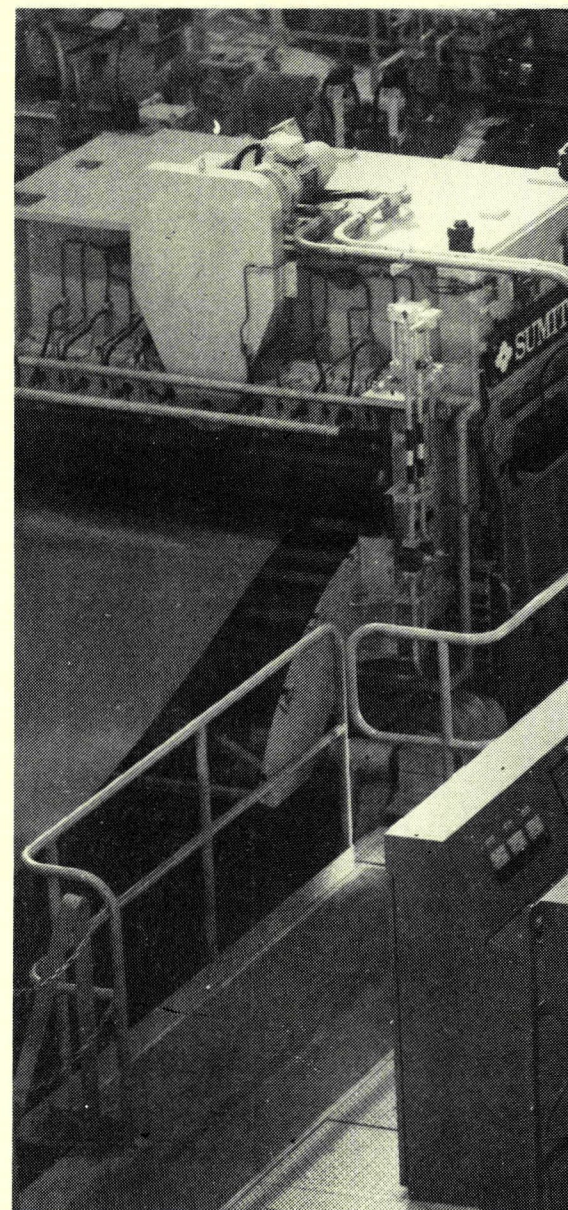
GARMCO will take aluminium

slab up to 10 tonnes and ingot for remelting if required. Apart from the remelting, the operations at the plant will include hot and cold rolling, annealing and finishing.

GARMCO will launch its products on the world's packaging, building, transport and general engineering industries during the first quarter of 1986. Export will be to end users in the region and around the world. The company is claiming to meet the price aggressive market with 'sensible' prices.

Bahrain was chosen as the loca-

**Aluminium
rolling mill
becomes
operational
in Bahrain**



The Control Panel adjacent to

tion for the rolling mill due to its proximity to the Alba smelter, less than 10 kilometres away, and the large pool of skilled local labour available. The mill also has easy access to gas, electricity and water.

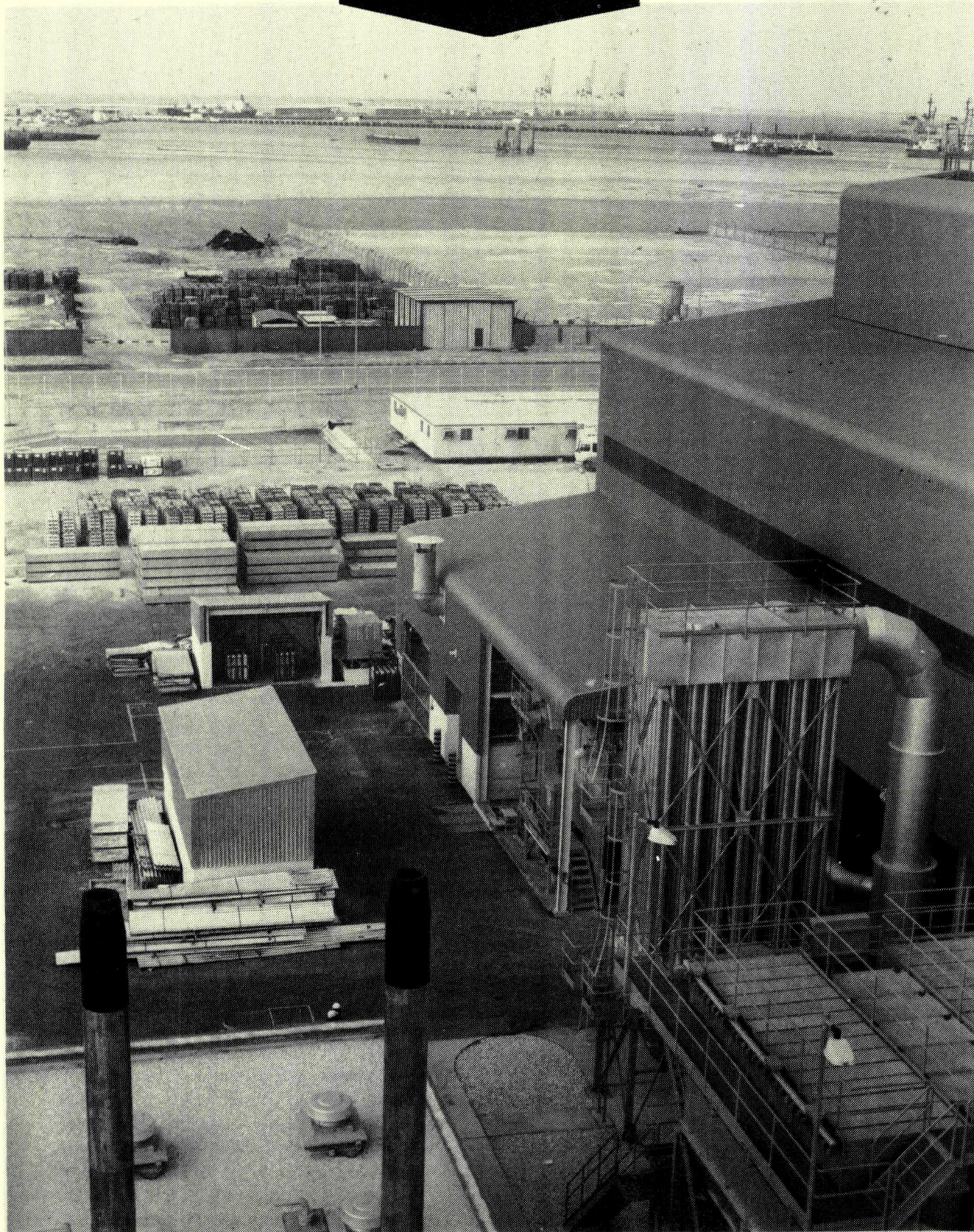
Having the distinct advantage of being the only aluminium rolling mill in the Middle East, GARMCO can satisfy its Middle East customers by making deliveries within a matter of a few weeks.

The opening of the Bahrain Saudi causeway, which will become operational during 1986, will bear great importance to GARMCO, enabling the company to deliver orders even quicker.

Although the initial sales thrust will be the AGCC countries with Saudi Arabia as the biggest possible market, studies reveal the GARMCO's future possibilities are equally strong in the Americas, Europe and the Far East.

The prospect of future orders are looking promising with the potential of 20,000 tonnes already a possibility from an interested company in North America and the US\$ 10 million contract has already been awarded by major can producers in Saudi Arabia.

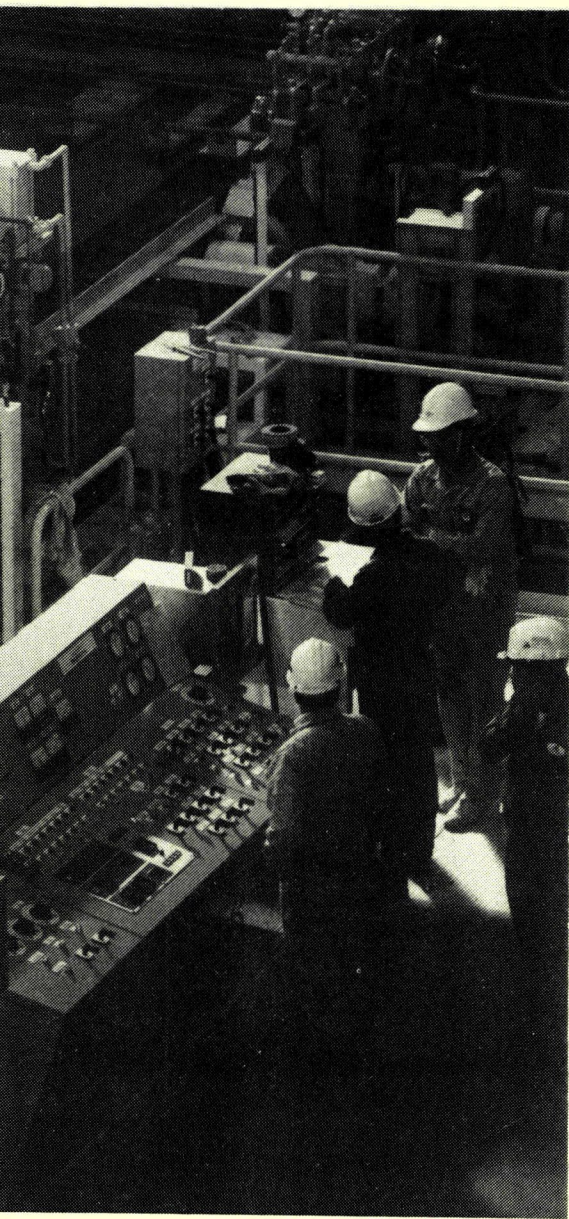
GARMCO will become the largest downstream aluminium indus-



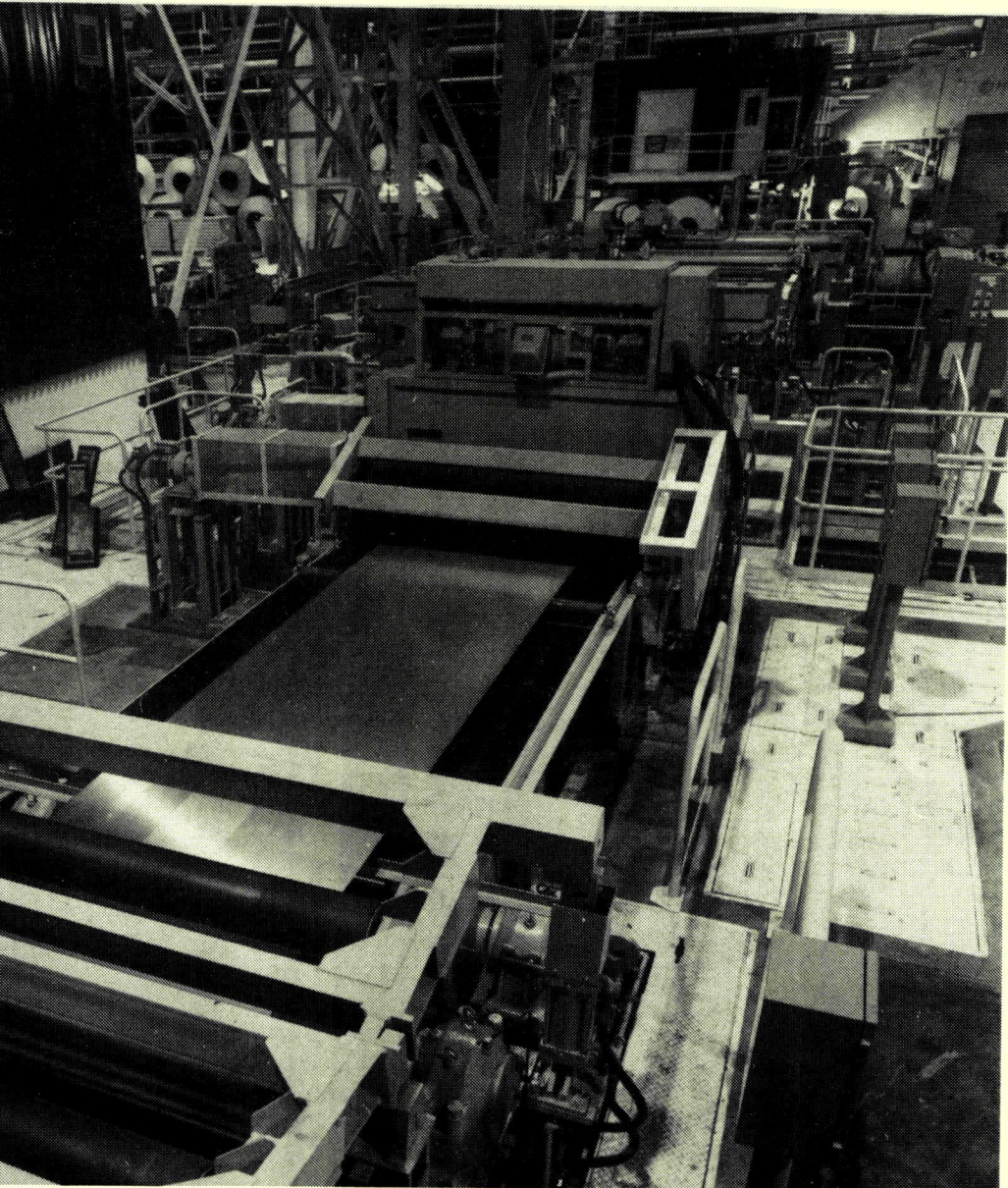
Bahrain's port, Mina Salman, can be seen in the background of part of the GARMCO plant.

Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill is confident it can meet the demand

es to fruition



GARMCO's 'cut-to-length' line.



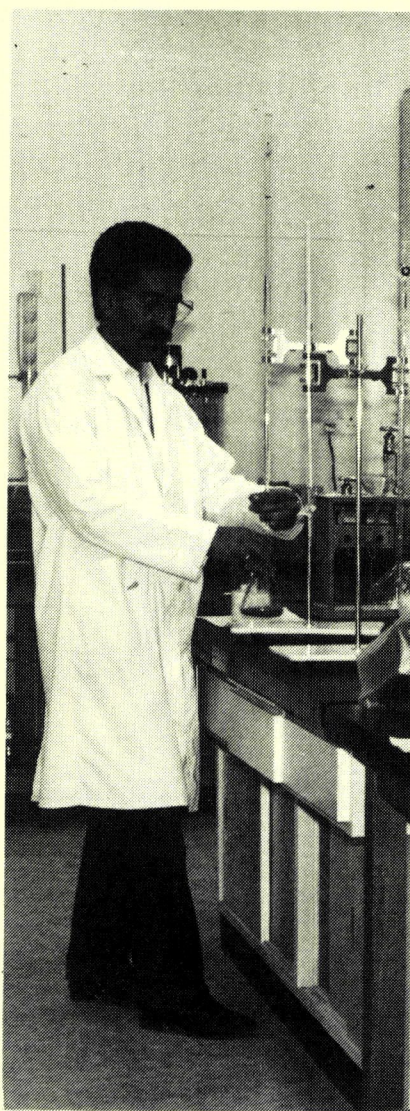
Coil sheet being tension-levelling at GARMCO's tension-levelling line.

Percentage of total investment

The percentage of total capital invested in GARMCO is as follows: State of Bahrain: 20 per cent; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: 20 per cent; Republic of Iraq: 20 per cent; State of Kuwait: 20 per cent; Sultanate of Oman: 10 per cent; and State of Qatar: 10 per cent.

The company's Board of Directors comprise: Mr. Ahmed al Mana (Chairman), Mr. Khalid Ashoor (Managing Director), Mr. Zamil Al Jowiser, Mr. Jaffar Abbas, Mr. Mohammed al Alawi and Mr. Rashid Abdul Mohsin al Sharhan (Directors). The General Manager of GARMCO is Mr. John Kay.

try in the Gulf and intends to assist investors and entrepreneurs in the development of the private sector of additional



A view of the Oil Control Laboratory downstream activities to create new aluminium fabrication activities for products currently being imported into the region, such as agricultural, electrical, transportation and general engineering.

Additionally, further downstream development is planned with the building of an aluminium foil mill project which will be built as an expansion to the rolling mill. The foil plant, which will be located adjacent to the rolling mill will use rolled aluminium as raw material and will have a capacity of 6,000 tonnes per year.

The major products of the new plant will be : aluminium foil (plain and converted), aluminium finstock and semi rigid containers.

The foil mill is scheduled for completion in 1988 and will become an integral part of the GARMCO rolling mill operation.

Work commenced on the GARMCO plant in 1983, whereby a turnkey contract was awarded to Kobe Steel of Japan with a completion date set for the latter part of 1985.

Kobe steel has also been responsible for the training of personnel, and the supply of the necessary process and product technology.

U.S. company, Raymond Kaiser Engineers and Constructors Inc., were retained to provide project management and consultancy services.

Expansion plans on anvil

During the first two years of its operation, GARMCO expects to meet the extensive requirements of the Gulf market for flat rolled aluminium products.

The company's commitment — and that of the owning states — is further evidenced by the recent decision to proceed with further expansion. This entails another downstream development — the building of an aluminium foil mill adjacent to the rolling mill which will use GARMCO's rolled aluminium as raw material.

The foil mill is scheduled for completion in 1988 and will become an integral part of the GARMCO operation.

Furthermore, additional private downstream industrial activities are likely to be spawned and encouraged by GARMCO's arrival in the region.

While AGCC member-state Governments will actually advise and foster such downstream private enterprise, GARMCO will itself assist wherever it can.

"For example," they point out, "there is no major bus building industry in this region at present. Now, with local capabilities for supplying aluminium sheet and extrusion product, this and other fabrication activities for products currently being imported into the region offer distinct opportunities."

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Col. Salem bin Abdullah al Ghazali, was attending the official opening of the mill.

Another area in which GARMCO intends to place great importance is training, according to the firm's management. Because of the existing pool of trained labour in Bahrain they have started operations with a substantial percentage of Bahrainis on their work force.

But training will be a continuous process — both for operations and maintenance functions. A substantial number of our staff have had on-the-job courses with Kobe Steel in Japan, and, of course, all our key operators have years of experience. But our medium-term goal is to train Bahrainis to do every job in the organisation.

"That, combined with our state-of-the-art plant and technology, low cost energy and other resource facilities, will provide us with a competitive advantage."

The industrial process of rolling is unlikely to change but the company is determined that it will stay abreast of any new developments or innovations that do occur.

"With a 25-30 year working life for a facility such as ours with appropriate periodic reviews, we look forward to being a competitive force in our industry worldwide for many years. Indeed, in this regard our situation is probably unique, in that we are operating a brand new, "green field" site," the management says.

As far as the overall situation of the aluminium industry worldwide is concerned, GARMCO believes that overcapacity problems exist mainly on the primary side — that is in the smelting and production of aluminium.

"As far as the rolling business is concerned there is not a great deal of overcapacity," they point out. "Indeed, in some areas there is a shortage of capacity."

But depressed prices of primary metal have a knock-on effect which will likely result in significant structural changes in the primary business with high cost smelters being closed.

complete demand of all Middle East customers

Your TV and radio

Oman Television

WEDNESDAY

3.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme review
3.40 Cartoons.
4.30 Childrens Programme.
4.55 Arabic Programme.
6.05 Police Programme.
6.12 Arabic serial.
7.00 Local News.
7.20 Sports Magazine.
8.10 Cultural Programme
9.00 Arabic News.
9.30 Arabic serial
10.30 English News.
11.00 English Film.
12.55 News headlines, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem

THURSDAY

3.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme review
3.35 Cartoons.
4.05 Childrens Programme.
4.30 Arabic Programme.

5.30 Arabic serial

6.15 Arabic Programme.
7.00 Local News
7.20 Special Programme.
7.50 World in a week.
8.10 English serial "Knight Rider".
9.00 Arabic News.
9.30 Arabic serial.
10.30 English News.
11.00 Programme Preview.
11.05 Local Songs.

12.30 News headlines, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem.

FRIDAY

10.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme review
10.30 Cartoons.
11.00 Children's Programme.
12.00 Holy Koran and Friday Prayers, Religious Programme.
12.50 News headlines
1.00 Football.
2.30 Indian Film
5.25 Prayers
6.00 Living Planet
7.00 Local Programme.
7.10 Arabic serial
9.00 Arabic news
9.30 Wrestling.
10.30 English news
11.00 Programme Preview
11.05 Historical serial in Arabic
12.00 News headlines, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem.

SATURDAY

3.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme review
3.40 Cartoons
4.30 Science Programme.
5.45 Traffic Programme.
5.50 Arabic serial

7.00 Local news
7.20 Arabic Programme.
8.10 English serial
9.00 Arabic News
9.30 Arabic serial
10.30 English News
11.05 Arabic Cultural Programme, News headline, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem.

SUNDAY

3.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme review.
3.40 Cartoon, Children's serial, Prayers.
4.30 Science Programme.
5.35 Arabic Programme.
6.00 "Stop".
6.05 Arabic serial.
7.00 Local News.
7.20 Police programme.
8.30 Cultural Programme.
9.00 Arabic News.
10.30 English News.
11.00 Programme preview.
11.05 English feature film
12.35 News headlines, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem.

MONDAY

3.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme Preview.

3.45 Cartoons.
4.30 Arabic Programme.
5.30 Science Programme.
6.00 "Stop"
6.05 Arabic serial.
7.00 Local News.
7.20 Local Programme.
8.20 English serial "Starsky & Hutch".
9.00 Arabic News.
9.30 Arabic serial.
10.30 English News.
11.00 Arabic Programme.
12.55 News headlines, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem.

TUESDAY

3.00 Royal Anthem, Holy Koran, Religious talk, programme review.
3.45 Cartoons.
4.30 Arabic Programme.
5.30 English series "Webster".
6.00 "Stop".
6.05 Arabic Serial.
7.00 Local News.
7.20 Arabic Programmes.
8.00 Local Programme.
8.40 Science Programme.
9.00 Arabic News.
9.30 Arabic serial.
10.30 English News.
11.00 Programme Preview.
11.05 Arabic Programme.
12.35 News headlines, Holy Koran, Royal Anthem.

Radio Oman

WEDNESDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview of Programmes and news headlines.
1.08 Stop and Think
1.15 Mohammed, Prophet of Islam.
1.30 A Focus on Qatar.
1.45 Qatari Music.
1.58 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programme and Announcement.
2.00 Feminine Focus.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Gulf News Round Up/Spotlight on A.G.C.C. countries - Saudi Arabia.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music details and Preview of next day's Programme.
3.00-4.00 Easy Listening Music.
4.00-5.00 Classical Music.
5.00-6.00 Easy Listening Music.
6.00-6.30 A Focus on Qatar (in English)/and Qatari Music.
7.00-8.00 Easy Listening Music.
8.00-8.45 Omani Symphony II/ Omani Music.
9.00 Closedown.

THURSDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview of Programmes and News Headlines.
1.08 Taking Care of Business.
1.30 A Focus on Saudi Arabia.
1.45 Saudi Music.
1.58 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programme and Announcements.
2.00 Merry-Go-Round.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Gulf News Round Up/Spotlight on A.G.C.C. Countries - Oman or Bahrain/Kuwait.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music

details and Preview of next day's programme.

3.00-4.00 Classic Music.
4.00-5.00 Easy Listening Music.
5.00-6.00 Classical Music.
6.00-6.30 A Focus on Saudi Arabia (in English) and Saudi Music.
6.30 News Bulletin/Weather Forecast/Gulf News Round Up/Spotlight on A.G.C.C. countries - Oman or Bahrain/Kuwait.
7.00-8.00 Easy Listening Music.
8.00-8.45 Omani Symphony III/ Omani Music.
8.45 Koran Karim.
9.00 Closedown.

FRIDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview of Programmes and News Headlines.
1.08 Lunch Date.
1.30 Weekend Special.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Radio Newsreel.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music Details and preview of next day's programmes.
3.00-4.00 Classical Music.
4.00-5.00 Easy Listening Music.
5.00-6.00 A Guide to the Classics.
6.00-6.30 Instrumental Gulf music.
6.30 News Bulletin/Weather Forecast/Radio Newsreel.
7.00-8.00 Easy Listening Music.
8.00-8.45 Light Classical Music.
8.45 Koran Karim.
9.00 Closedown.

SATURDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview and Headlines.
1.08 Footlight Parade.
1.30 Great Heroes of Islam.

1.45 Country Music.
1.58 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programme, and announcement.
2.00 Lifespan.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Arab Traditions and Customs.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music details and Preview of next day's Programmes.
3.00-4.00 Easy Listening Music.
4.00-5.00 Classical Music.
5.00-6.00 Easy Listening Music.
6.00-6.30 Instrumental Music.
6.30 News Bulletin/Weather Forecast/Arab Traditions and Customs.
7.00-8.00 Classical Music.
8.00-8.45 Instrumental Music.
8.45 Koran.
9.00 Closedown.

SUNDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview and Headlines.
1.08 Aspects of Arab Civilisation.
1.30 Jazz Time.
1.58 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programme, and announcements.
2.00 In and Around Salalah.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Mirror of the Nation.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music details and Preview of next day's programme.
3.00-4.00 Classical Music.
4.00-5.00 Easy Listening Music.
5.00-6.00 A Guide to the Classics.
6.00-6.30 Instrumental Music.
6.30 News Bulletin/Weather Forecast/Mirror of the Nation.
7.00-8.00 Easy Listening Music.

8.00-8.45 Light Classical Music.
8.45 Koran.
9.00 Closedown.

MONDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview and Headlines.
1.08 Album Tracks.
1.30 The Young Muslims.
1.45 Songs and Music from France.
1.58 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programme and Announcements.
2.00 Dateline.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Letters from Oman.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music Details and Preview of next day's programmes.
3.00-4.00 Easy Listening Music.
4.00-5.00 Classical Music.
5.00-6.00 Easy Listening Music.
6.00-6.30 Jazz Club (In Arabic).
6.30 News Bulletin/Weather Forecast/Letters from Oman.
7.00-8.00 Classical Music.
8.00-8.45 Instrumental Music.
8.45 Koran.
9.00 Closedown.

TUESDAY

1.00 Opening, Koran Karim, Preview and Headlines.
1.08 Stop and Think.
1.15 Play: Al Muhalab bin Abby Sufrah.
1.30 Discovering Music.
1.58 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes and Announcements.
2.00 Oriental Panorama.
2.30 News Bulletin.
2.40 Guest of the Week.
2.55 Weather Forecast, T.V. Programmes, F.M. Stereo Music details and privity of next day's programme.

Weekender

'TIMES' MAGAZINE SECTION FOR YOUR LEISURE READING

A new rig joined PDO last month, bringing the Company's fleet to 13, the biggest in its history. The pace of work is increasing in the Interior with new fields coming on stream and the roads and camps which make up the support infrastructure being built. To develop existing fields and drill the exploration wells that find new accumulations, the drilling rigs have to be moved. PDO photographer Mohammed Salim went to Rig 5 watch a rig move in progress.

Desert giant on the move

A drilling rig is moved once every 30 hours in the Petroleum Development Oman concession area. Last year, this complex operation was carried out about 280 times, requiring close co-operation between Drilling and Supply, the two departments mainly involved, and, where new wells are concerned, Construction — who build the drilling cellars.

For a newcomer to rig camp on the move, the scene is one of noisy confusion. Shouted orders, the growl of heavy truck engines, the whine of winches and the clank of metal on metal characterise the operation.

Almost imperceptibly, the rig mast starts to telescope inside itself and then tilts to one side until it is lying horizontal and ready to

be linked to the massive prime mover.

The rig, in fact, travels in two parts, the mast unit and the draw works.

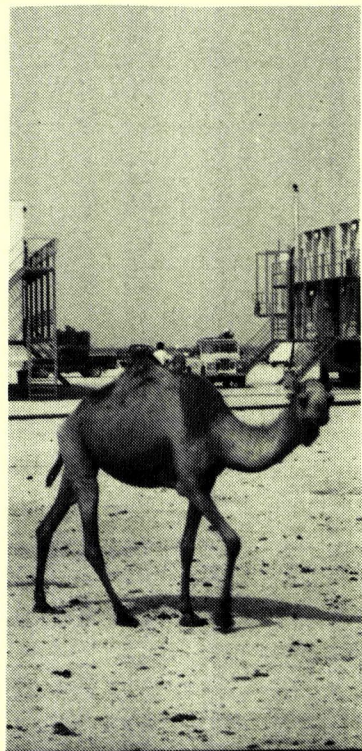
But, in addition, there are the other parts such as water tanks, pumps, mud tanks and generators — each massive on their own — which are essential parts of the working whole. Giant oil field trucks lumber into position to winch these skid-mounted units onto their backs for the journey to the next site.

Once they are on the road, headed by a transport supervisor from one of the Interior bases and by a police vehicle if they are to travel on the main road, it is time to move the camp.

The sheer size of a drilling rig is hard to grasp unless you have seen it. But the police escort is needed for blacktop travel simply because a rig takes up the whole width of the main Muscat to Thumrait highway.

And though the rig works on the move are impressive, the mobile camps of the two PDO Rig, 5 and 11, are nothing less than huge. Prefabricated in four units each in three decks, the new camps make moving day much simpler than the previous process of moving the portacabins which are the more familiar style of accommodation of these high-tech nomads.

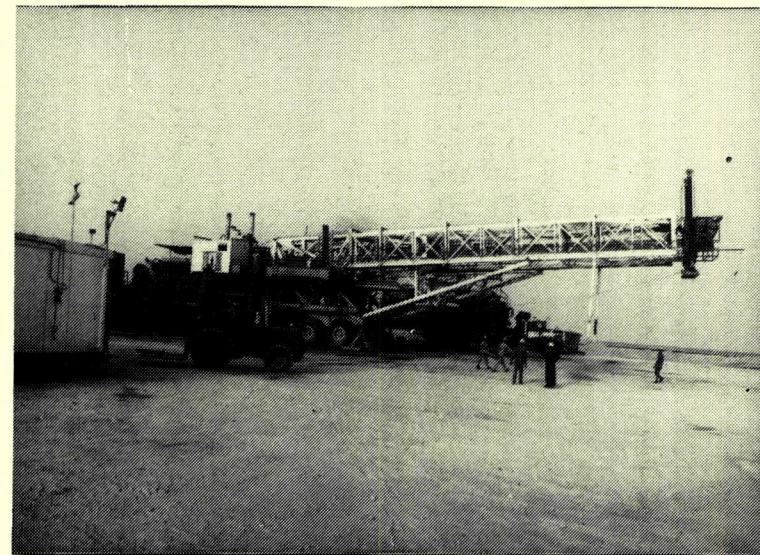
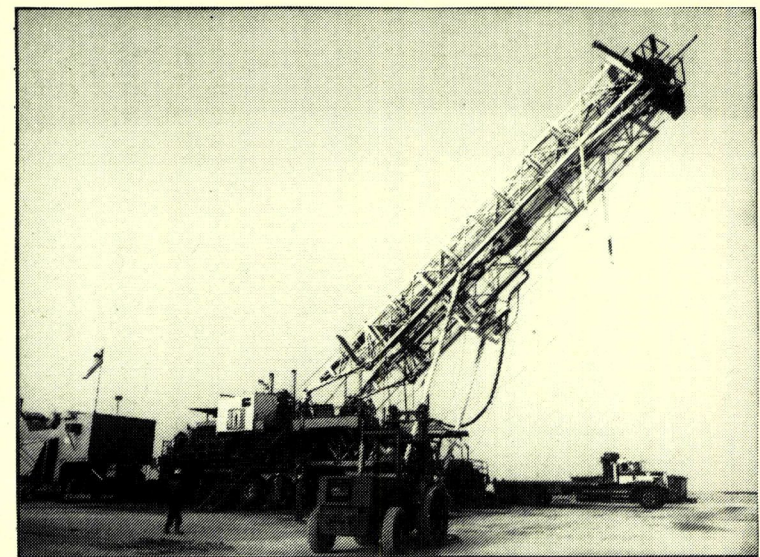
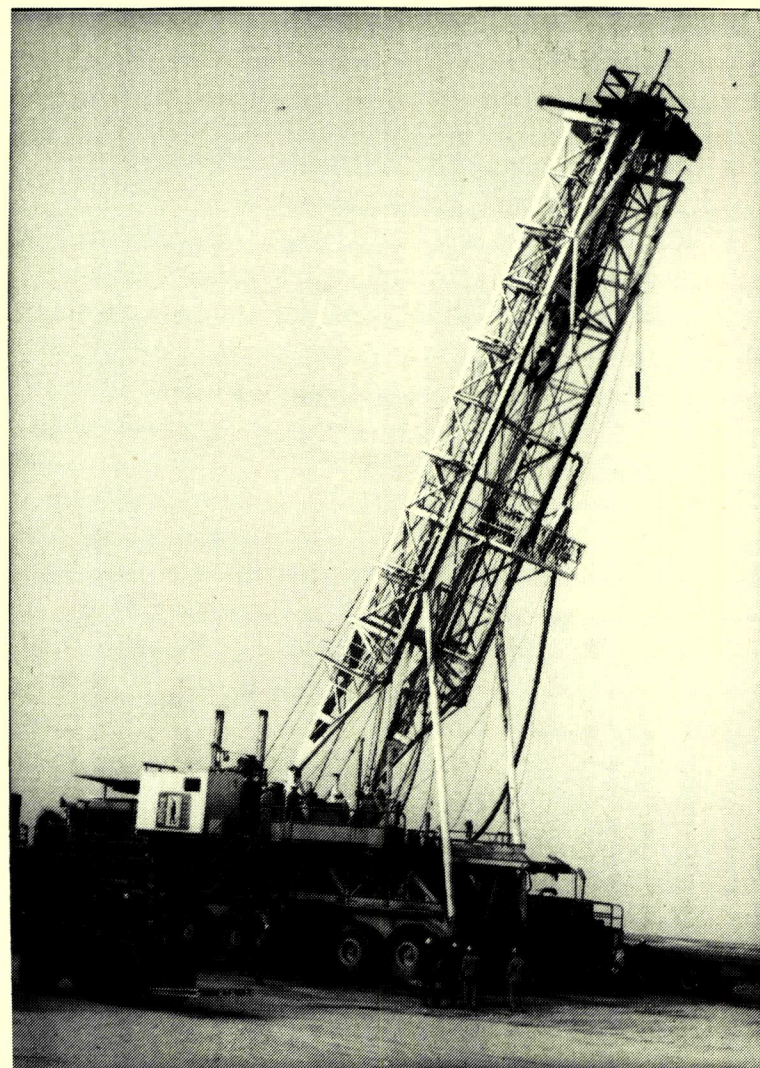
And in an hour, it's all over. The rig has already arrived at another site and is getting ready to drill again.



Desert dweller.....



A truck takes the load.....



At its full working height the drilling mast towers over the surrounding landscape, apparently immovable. Then slowly, almost casually, the mast starts to shorten, telescoping inside itself until it is half its working height. Using its own winches and motors, the rig section now performs an even more remarkable feat, lowering itself onto its side ready for the huge truck which will take it to its next location to be hooked up. The pins connecting the mast section to the draw works are knocked out and the two units are ready to roll. Article courtesy: 'Al Fahal'.

Super 'Times' holiday offer

Following the success of the 'Times' P&O - OUA Supercruise competition, won by Mr. Mohammed Hassan Oshiba and Ms. Sara Sol the 'Times' is offering its readers a chance to go on a super holiday aboard the luxury P&O liner "Sea Princess" this summer on a special cruise, sponsored by the newspaper — at very special prices.

All you have to is to tear out this page and to take it to any office of OUA Travel, agents in Oman for P&O lines, to get up to 15 per cent reduction in fares.

To make the cruise extra special, the 'Times of Oman' will offer its readers two nights in a top London hotel (Holiday Inn, Chelsea, or similar free) plus cruise cheques valued at £50 for on-board spending per adult.

The full package will include flight from Muscat to London and back (most probably on British Airways) two nights at the Holiday Inn (or similar), all transfers in the UK including Southampton London, via Windsor and meeting

service London.

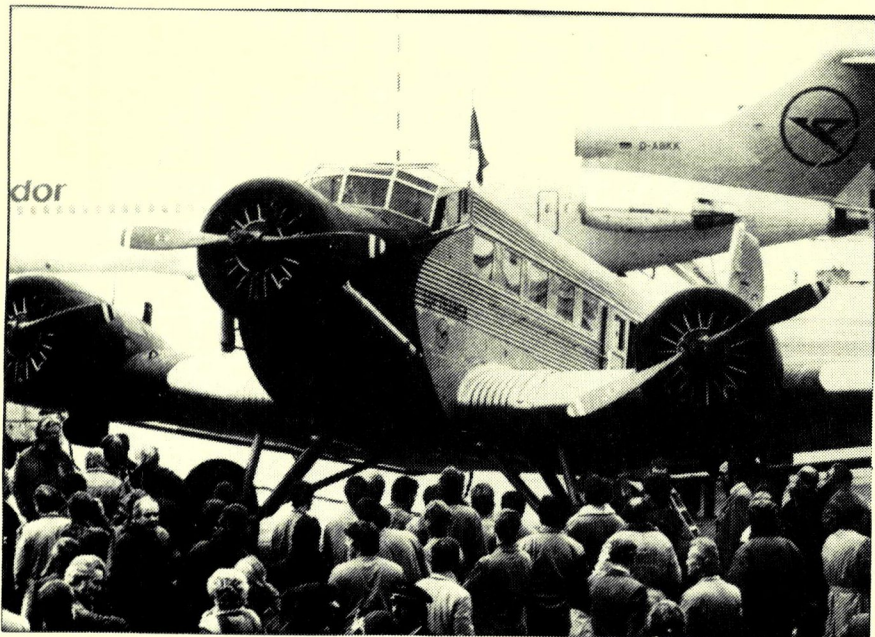
The itinerary will be : Saturday, June 14: Fly BA to LHR, Sunday, June 15: Meet and greet at LHR, Transfer to hotel for two nights. Tuesday, June 17: Transfer to Southampton. Board

'Sea Princess'. Tuesday July 1: Arrive Southampton. Transfer to Windsor for sight-seeing etc. Transfer to London in time for flight to Muscat. Wednesday, July 2: Arrival Muscat.

ITINERARY : JUNE 17 - JULY 1, 1986 (14 NIGHTS)

- Tuesday, June 17 - Sail from Southampton.
- Thursday, June 19 - Arrive in Oslo; stay 23 hours.
- Saturday, June 21 - Arrive in Copenhagen; stay 29½ hours.
- Wednesday, June 25 - Arrive in Leningrad; stay 12 hours.
- Thursday, June 26 - Arrive in Helsinki; stay 9½ hours.
- Friday, June 27 - Arrive in Stockholm, stay 10 hours.
- Saturday, June 28 - Arrive in Visby (Sweden), stay 6 hours.
- Tuesday, July 1 - Arrive in Southampton.

Lufthansa restores an oldtimer



The Junkers Ju 52

To mark 60 years in the air the German national airline Lufthansa has restored a pre-war Junkers Ju 52, showing how keen the airline is on tradition. The oldtimer painstakingly restored at Lufthansa's Hamburg workshops, a pioneer of international civil aviation, is an original and image-boosting present Lufthansa has made itself to mark the anniversary.

The Junkers will be flying again this year, but only at special, promotional events and not on regular services. Few aircraft could be better suited for keeping up traditions. The Ju 52 played a leading role in the history of German civil aviation and came to symbolise the quality of German-made planes. Its reputation for reliability was second to none.

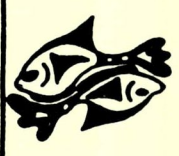
The 50-year-old veteran was bought in America, where it took pas-

sengers on joyrides in Florida and was known as Iron Annie. It arrived at Hamburg airport after an adventurous flight across the North Atlantic in December 1984. After restoration the plane now looks as though it had just taxied out of the Junkers works hangar in Dessau.

Once the Federal Aviation Office in Brunswick has licensed the plane and jet pilots have been taught how to handle it, Lufthansa's oldest and newest aircraft can look forward to logging a new lease of life. European airports where it will be seen alongside modern jet airliners such as the Airbus and the Jumbo, the Ju 52 will remind plane-spotters and others of Lufthansa's contribution toward the development of international civil aviation in the 1920s and 1930s.

The stars and you

Pisces



20 February - 20 March

Your natural curiosity could serve you well this week. Get involved in some interesting new project starting up or meet some new people - you will enjoy the stimulation and challenge they have to offer.


Virgo



24 August - 23 September

Just because you are always right try not to smother other people's ideas, and split hairs with them all the time. Occasionally let other's have their own way.

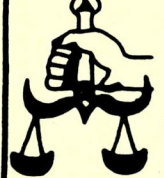
Aries



21 March - 20 April

Other people may get tired of covering up for your slap-dash methods and let you trip over your own mess. Take things more slowly this week and try to be methodical in your work.

Libra



24 September - 22 October

Read all the small print and don't be rushed into anything without your usual Libran logic being applied first. Relax with some sporting activities. Lucky day Sunday.

Taurus



21 April - 20 May

Change is definitely in the air, whether it is a new job, a trip, or a change of home. Start planning for a new prospect and make sure it's taking you in the direction you want to go.


Scorpio



23 October - 22 November

You are under great pressure and don't seem to have enough hours in the day for all the jobs you have to do but draw on your reserves and don't waste energy needlessly.

Gemini



21 May - 21 June

Try to keep those quick-silver changes of mood under control as other will need some support from the organised side of your Mercury character. Children are in the forefront this week.

Sagittarius



23 November - 22 December

Try to avoid going off at a tangent and keep your thoughts firmly pointing in one direction. Carelessness now could cost you a great deal more than you first realised.


Cancer



22 June - 23 July

You have been neglecting to do a lot of little jobs, even though your intentions were good. Try to clear the decks a little this week and finish some letters as a few people may be starting to feel forgotten.

Capricorn



23 December - 20 January

Others may seek you advice and common sense so unbend a little and don't be afraid of prying into others' problems. They want your help and your sympathy as well as a shoulder to cry on.


Leo



24 July - 23 August

Pamper yourself with a visit to the hairdresser's or a candlelit dinner for two and push aside the doldrums that have been hanging over you recently.

Aquarius



21 January - 19 February

You can be pretty stubborn when you want to be but make sure you are backing the right horse before firmly planting your feet and refusing to budge. Even you can be wrong occasionally.

Birthday Stones

January Garnet
February Amethyst
March Aquamarine
April Diamond or white sapphire
May Jade or emerald
June Alexanderite or blood stone

July Ruby or green sapphire
August Sardonyx or tourmaline
September Sapphire or fancy sapphire
October Opal or moonstone
November Topaz
December Star sapphire or turquoise

Did you know?

David Meinheir of Finland (1714-1749) was reported to be 2.83 metres tall, according to measurements taken by Paul Topinar, a French specialist. However, German professor Karl Linger re-measured the skeleton in a museum in The Netherlands - and it measured only 2.22 metres.

The Russian giant Lochkin was reported to have measured 2.53 metres, but his skeleton in the Leningrad Scientific Academy measured only 2.39 metres.

Iranian Siah Khan bin Kashmir Khan (born 1913), stood 2.70 metres tall. Robert Waldo, born in 1918 in the United States, is regarded to have been the tallest man in the human history. When born, he weighed four kg, but then began to grow abnormally until at the age of five he weighed 48kg and stood 1.63 metres tall. Eighteen days before he died in 1940, a Dr. Charles of Washington University measured his height at

2.72 metres. Other giants recorded have been John Carol - 2.63 cm, John Rogan - 2.49 metres - all Americans.

Among women the tallest recorded have been Jane Binford, born in 1895. She measured 1.98 metres when she was 11 years old and she reached a height of 2.41 cms before she died in 1922. American women Ella Ewing and Delorice Johnson measured 2.49 m. and 2.27 metres, respectively. The tallest living woman today is Tilia from India - at 2.26 metres.

Exchange of AGCC radio announcers

The secretariat of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) has worked out a schedule for the exchange of announcers by the AGCC radio stations which has been implemented as of January 1, a press release by the secretariat in Riyad said last week.

The release said this exchange of announcers plan has been carried out in implementation of the first and second meetings of the AGCC radio directors.

The release also said that the AGCC member states had provided the secretariat with list of the radio programmes they are having, which have been conveyed to the council states.

On the Voice of the AGCC Radio the release said, correspondents have been appointed in order to supply the radio with daily news of interest of the AGCC citizens.

'Birds of Oman'

The lavishly illustrated compendium of the Sultanate's bird life, "The Birds of Oman" by Michael Gallagher and Martin Woodcock, has now been published in Arabic.

Bavarian festival

The Seeb Novotel will be organising again Bavarian Festival in the La Rotisserie Restaurant.

A Bavarian band will be flown in and the 'Chiemgauer Buam' will entertain diners every evening from February 27 to March 10 - in a uniquely Bavarian atmosphere.

The executive chef of Novotel Dusseldorf, Juergen Buschhausen will be returning to Oman to supervise the delicacies he intends having on the buffet - a large one with 15 starters, ten main courses and 15 deserts. For only R.O. 6.000 per person.

Ras al Hamra dramatic society is now awake

Close voting and a full committee could be signs that the ailing Ras-al-Hamra Amateur Dramatic Society is back on its feet and kicking.

At the annual general meeting held last week at P.D.O., it was decided to extend the committee, by bringing in special interest members, to accommodate some of the large number of people and keen to put "the show back on the road".

R.A.H.A.D.S until recently, one of the most consistently successful amateur dramatic group suffered badly by changes of personnel and an influx of newcomers who take time to become involved in activities, in the latter part of 1985.

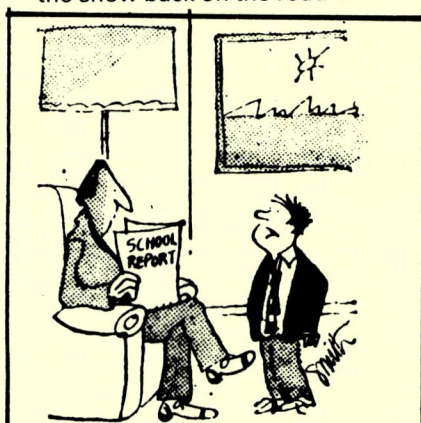
But the society has got off to a positive start this year with rehearsals for a cabaret night and an Agatha Christie "Who Dunnit" already underway.

Chairlady, Ruth Watts, warned the society that enthusiasm, commitment and volunteers, were essential to any amateur production, especially in an ever-growing community.

"Hard work is needed if we are going to flourish this year," she said. "But I think the effort is worthwhile".

Any members of the Ras-al-Hamra recreation centre interested in taking part, helping or starting a production of their own were all warmly invited to "have-a-go".

"People are surprised how much they enjoy themselves once they get on a stage. One man started off by just coming to watch and by the end of the year he was taking part in all our productions," said Mrs Watts.



"Well, I think it shows what rotten teachers I've got."

Leisure

Gujarati drama



The cast of Kalabhavan's latest Gujarati play 'En, Ghen, Diva Ghen' to be staged at the Al Ahli Club on February 28 and March 7. From left (front row): Nayana Mistry, Jeetendra Shukla and Lata Asher. From left (standing): Kaushik Mehta, Nizaumuddin Saiyed, Kishori Dutia, Ashok Bhavsar and Suhas Sathaye. The play written by Tarek Mehta and directed by Jeetendra Shukla, is sponsored by Sahil Enterprises (Rado) and Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives.

MEXICAN NIGHT

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and simply, the best.

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Pool Terrace... with an array of live
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Eating Out

Whatever your taste, there's a restaurant just for you in Muscat's growing Capital Area.

Here we give you an at-a-glance guide so that you can make a selection for that family evening out, a cosy dinner for two or that all important business lunch. To help you, restaurants have been grouped depending on their predominant style of cuisine — many serve more than one style of dish, however. For special promotions and further details refer to the newsy ad-panels.

La Rotisserie

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BUFFET EVERY
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Arabic Style

Le Muscat : Rooftop Seeb Novotel. Arabic dishes served from 19.30 to midnight. Wednesday from 20.00 Lebanese barbeque fondue buffets. Tel 510300. Car park

Coffee Shops

Al Bustan Cafe: Al Bustan Palace Hotel lobby level, Arabic and international specialties including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks, open from 5.30am to 2am. Special daily buffets for lunch (noon 3pm), dinner (7pm-11pm), breakfast (5.30am-10.30am).

Al Makha Coffee Shop: Ground floor Al Falaj Hotel Renovated with beautiful new interior decor. Open 24 hours for snacks, tea and coffee. Buffet lunch and buffet dinner from 19.00. Tel: 702311. Parking.

Cork's Bistro: Lobby level Seeb Novotel. Snacks and light meals from 6am to midnight. Tel: 510300.

Musandam Coffee Shop : Inter-Continental Hotel. Extensive menu for breakfast, lunch, dinner and in-between snacks. Open 5.30 am to 2 am. Tel : 600500. Car parking.

Gulf Coffee Shop : Gulf Hotel, overlooking poolside. Variety of lunchtime buffets changing daily. Served 13.00 to 15.00. Snacks and

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Opp. Zubair Automotive
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sandwiches. Open evenings. Thursday buffet. Tel : 560100. Car park.

Green Mountain: Sheraton Hotel business buffet lunch (daily except Friday) table d'hote and vegetarian choices for dinner. Open 24 hours.

Indian Restaurants

Taj Restaurant: Greater Muttrah near Oman House. Mughlai non-vegetarian and vegetarian meals for lunch and dinner. Tel: 714880.

Mumtaz Mahal : Off Qurm Roundabout. North Indian dishes (Mughlai) lunch and dinner Live Indian Classical music in the evenings. Complete outdoor party catering undertaken. Tel: 563850.

Hind Restaurant : Opp. Zubair car showroom. Traditional Mughlai and Punjabi dishes including Tandoori. lunch and dinner. Limited parking.

Tel 709155.

Omar Khayyam : Off Ruwi High Street near Ruwi roundabout. Indian dishes. Chinese selection. Tel 703035.

Samrat : Corniche Road at Riyam. Cafe style Indian dishes.

Tandoor : Near Peugeot showroom. Indian delicacies including tandoori specialties. Lunch and dinner. Parking.

International Cuisine

Al Marjan Restaurant: Al Bustan Palace Hotel lobby level, French and continental cuisine, open only for dinner daily from 7.30pm to midnight. Entertainment by pianist and violinist daily except Friday. Necktie and jacket required. Reservations essential on 799666.

Al Inshirah : Off Corniche at Riyam. Daily a la carte lunch and dinner. Sea food specialties. Tel 713062.

French Corner : Al Falaj Hotel ground floor. New menu of International cuisine open daily for lunch and candlelight dinner from 12.30 to 15.00 and 19.00 to 23.30 a la carte. Tel: 702311. ext 032 Car park.

Qurm Restaurant : Lower floor Muscat Inter Continental Hotel. French and International cuisine. Open for lunch and dinner. Evening tunes from Andrew Cushing on the piano. Tel : 600500. Car park.

The Carvery : Ruwi Hotel lobby level, carvery and a la carte menu, open 12.30pm to 3pm and 7.30pm Tel : 704244. Parking.

Al Bahr : First floor restaurant at Mina Hotel on Corniche. Indian, Western and vegetarian meals a la carte. Seafood a speciality. Noon until 15.00 and 19.00 to 23.00. Tel 711828.

Mutrah Hotel : Near Oman House. Lunch table d'hote. Evening a la carte. Western special cuisine. Snack menu in the lounge. Tel: 798401. Parking.

Nizwa Motel : Arabic, Indian and Western dishes. 13.00 to 15.00 and from 19.00. Tel 410500. Carpark.

AL FALAJ HOTEL

"FRENCH CORNER"

- The Elite Restaurant of Muscat
- French and International Cuisine
- A La Carte Service

OPEN DAILY

(Fridays and Holidays included)

Luncheon - 1200 to 1500

Dinner - 1900 to 2400

Table bookings : 702311 Extn. 032

La Rotisserie : Recently re-opened at Seeb Novotel, serving French and international cuisine plus special buffets on Sunday and Tuesday. Tel: 510300.

Le Bourgeois: Sheraton hotel, gourmet French restaurant, food specially prepared by master chef Janady. Open evenings Saturday to Thursday from 7pm to 11pm. Table reservation advised.

The Airport Restaurant: Seeb International Airport, full a la carte menu, lunch 12.00pm to 2.30pm and dinner 7pm to midnight, last orders 10.30pm. Gentlemen requested to wear ties or national dress after 7pm. Reservation advised. Tel: 519418.

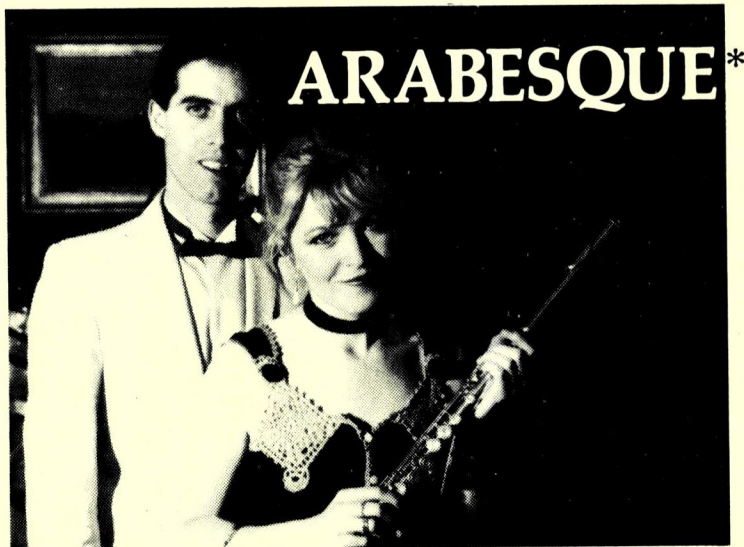
Italian Food

La Terazza: Qurm Heights, near mosque. Italian dishes including pizza and pasta. Tel 562291. Limited parking.

La Mamma: Sheraton hotel, Italian style lunch or dinner, a la carte or chief's daily specials, pizzas Friday and Tuesday, Aurelio's table cooking Sunday and Wednesday, pasta specials Monday and Thursday. Open from noon to 3pm and 7pm to 11pm.

Pizzeria: Near Ruwi Roundabout, first floor restaurant. Pizza, lasagne, cannelloni etc.

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& A LA CARTE RESTAURANT

Every Thursday Dine & Dance

Saturdays & Mondays
Dining pleasure set to music

Timing : 8pm - midnight

RUWI hotel

Reservation: 704244

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Caroline on 701468
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of our menu

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Shawarma Turkey too!

the
Tandoor

Restaurant and Cafeteria
Al-Falaj Roundabout, Tel : 701184

Eating Out

THURSDAY

LE MUSCAT

A sumptuous buffet of rich-flavoured, authentic Arab dishes in the cool and quiet evening comfort of the roof-top, open-air Terrace at Le Muscat Restaurant. Wide range of mezze, traditional dishes and bar-b-q. Every Thursday from 8:00 in the evening R.O. 6,000 per person. Reservations: 510300; Ext. 261.

novotel السبب نوفوتيل
seeb novotel

Pub Grub

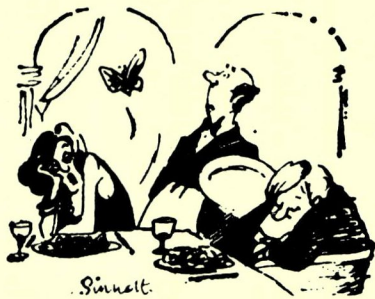
Al Sindbad Club: Al Bustan Hotel level one, snacks and refreshments, open 8pm to 1am every night except Friday features Light and Shadow showband and London Town Discoteque DJ Julia Gibson. For members and hotels guests only.

Al Maha Lounge: Al Bustan Palace Hotel lobby level, snacks and refreshments, open daily noon to 3pm and 6pm to 11pm. Folk-singing duo Paul and Earlene entertain evenings. For facility card holders and hotel guests only.

Al Ghazal Pub: Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel. Chuck and Jean are behind the bar to provide hot and cold snacks or the daily special to order for lunch or evening visitors. Membership.

Nell Gwyn: Al Falaj Hotel 8th floor, Traditional British pub food. Lunch and evening. Open to hotel residents, card holders and guests.

Arbaq Room: Ruwi Hotel, Traditional pub menu. Pub Lunch Thursdays. Open noon to 3pm and 6pm to



"Originally we intended to complain about a caterpillar in the salad."

11pm, card holders and hotel guests only.

Oriental Choice

Tokyo Taro: Al Falaj Hotel 8th floor. The only Japanese restaurant in Oman. Food cooked, served and managed by Japanese. 12.30 to 15.00 and 19.00 to midnight. Tel: 702311 ext 021. Parking.

Golden Oryx: Mazin bin Ghadoobah Street (Rex Road), opp. National Bank of Oman. Cantonese and Mandarin dishes from China. Lunch time and evening. Tel: 702266. Parking at side.

Mandarin: Near ONTC bus station on Ahmed bin Saeed Street (Oman Plaza). Cantonese cooking. Open lunch and evenings. Limited parking to side.

Noha Restaurant: CBD Area near Chamber of Commerce. Chinese, Mughlai and Filipino dishes.

Quick Bites

Sohar Poolside Snack Bar: Inter-Continental Hotel, light snacks in the open air. Open 10am to 7pm, Thursdays until 11 pm for Tandoori Night.

Lobby Tea Lounge: Inter-Continental Hotel, tea and other refreshments, Andrew Cushing entertains on the keyboard from 5pm to 7pm.

Princes' Restaurant: (Behind Qaboos Mosque), next to Rasmia Travels. Indian & Chinese cuisine. Take away service is available. Tel: 798787.

Al Khiran Pool Terrace: Al Bustan Palace Hotel level one, overlooking the sea and beach, serves snacks and grilled specialties, open daily 11 am to 7pm. Friday Brunch 10am to 3pm, Sunday Barbecue 8pm to midnight with entertainment by Light and Shadow showband. Reservations required. Tel: 799666.

Aries Restaurant: Medinat Qaboos near Khimji stores. Thai, Chinese take-away meals, pizzas, burgers, snacks. Tel: 69920.

Crusty Patisserie: Sarooj petrol station. From 8 am snacks, savouries and cakes bistro style.

Dish-Dash: The best for burgers and kebabs. Qurum Heights Shop-

ping Centre. Open from 11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. and from 5.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Fried Fish: Near Rex cinema. Snacks with chips or rice.

Penguin: Sarooj filling station. Southern fried chicken, beefburgers etc.

Texas Fried Chicken: Ruwi Roundabout. Special recipe chicken and chips.

Four Foods: MBD area near telegraph office. Chinese, Indian, American and Continental snacks and meals. 12.00 to 15.00 and 18.30 to 23.30 daily except Friday from 13.00. Tel. 709548.

Tiffins: Part of Inshirah complex on Corniche. Snacks and soft drinks on the terrace. Tel 713062.

Broasted Chicken: Near National Printers, Ruwi. Special recipe chicken with French fries.

Pizzeria Cafe: Medinat Qaboos.

Indoors or out pizzas and kebabs.

The Atrium: Al Bustan Palace Hotel lobby, snacks and light refreshments from 11am to 11pm, traditional afternoon tea from 6pm. Evenings harpist Fausto Franco entertains.

Set Point Lounge: Al Bustan Palace Hotel's tennis village, light snacks and fresh fruit juices, open daily 6pm to 10pm.

Sindbad: Rear of Ruwi Shah Nagar-das. Indian meals and snacks. Lunch and dinner. Tel: 707600.

Airport Cafeteria: Seeb International Airport, open 24 hours, 186 light snacks, burgers, chickens and fires, Indian specialties.

Vegetarian

Woodlands: CBD area near Chamber of Commerce. Vegetarian meals. Indian style. Snacks or thali. Tel: 700192.

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Behind the Mosque
Medinat Qaboos
Shopping Complex
Phone 699200



PRINCES' RESTAURANT

After the popularity and success of our Al Khuwair Restaurant, now we take pleasure to announce the opening of PRINCES' RESTAURANT in Ruwi (behind Qaboos Mosque) next to Rasmia Travels. Visit us for fine Indian & Chinese cuisine. Take away service is available. TEL: 798787 (RUWI), 602213 (AL KHUWAIK).

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M.H.D. Gas Plant
SHAH NAGARDAS
RUWI Municipality
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Outdoor Specialities
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Get a taste of Bavaria in Seeb at La Rotisserie

GERMAN FOOD FESTIVAL

27th February — 10th March.

Daily buffet includes 12 starters, 12 main courses and 12 desserts prepared by our German Chef Jurgen Buschhausen specially flown in from Novotel Dusseldorf by Gulf Air.

Exhilarating live music by the Oomph Pah German band, CHIEMGAUER BUAM.

Raffle draw on last day
Win return air tickets plus 2 nights stay at Frankfurt Novotel.
From 8 pm onwards. RO: 6/- per person.
For reservations, contact 510300 Ext. 261.

In association with

novotel Some great moments for the entire family!

Leisure



Julie Dawn Cole, Gerald Harper, Jacqueline Pearce and Jo Kendale

'Private Lives' - sparkling and stylish

With the lines coming on like rifle-fire and the cracking fun throughout, Sir Noel Coward's "Private Lives" is a sparkling and tremendously stylish comedy that remains as contemporary as it was when produced some 55 years ago.

It is the hallmark of a classic when a play can be revived at any point of time and still retain the ebullience and charm that the playwright intended when he summed up his environs and times.

At the Jabrin Ball room of the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel, "Private Lives" has been running to the delighted applause of diners from last Saturday. The play, put on by the British Airways Playhouse is the 19th in the Inter-Con's Dinner Theatre series, produced by Derek Nimmo.

The story line is simple: a romantic hotel balcony on the French Riviera is the setting for the surprise reunion of a divorced couple - Elyot and Amanda - who are horrified to discover that they are both honeymooning with their new partners Cybil and Victor, in adjacent suites.

It takes little time for both to realise they are still very much in love with each other - warts and all! And the same night, they elope together to Paris with Cybil and Victor in pursuit, the latter "for some reckoning to be done".

The rekindled love affair produces some of the wittiest lines written by Coward and the whole production seethes and bubbles with joy. The play is almost nine-tenths conversation - and flows with such effortless ease that the audience must feel that Coward must have spent days on it polishing and amending! In fact, the entire play was

written in four days flat - while Coward was convalescing in Singapore after a bout with influenza.

Central character Elyot Chase is played by the handsome and debonair Gerald Harper - for whom the role appears to be specially written. Jacqueline Pearce, in the sterling rôle of Amanda Prynee, is the perfect foil for Elyot as the tempestuous and passionate former wife. Both are perfect together - neither faltering a moment in the 'word war'.

The pompous Victor Prynee, is played with ease by Geoffrey Davies - especially when he is reluctantly pushed forward to a fight and then backtracks - ably assisted by the beautiful Julie Dawn Cole playing the vapid Sybil Chase.

Jo Kendall as the French maid in Amanda's Paris apartment lends strong support. The sets and costumes are designed by Terry Parsons and the superb lighting effects are by Stan Davies. Direction by Gerald Harper.

"Private Lives" is one of the greatest classic of our times and a great part for Gerald Harper. Coward's lines retain all their barbs, giving an insight into what we call love and the highlight of the play is undoubtedly the excitingly staged fight between the lovers.

"Private Lives" ends tonight at the Inter-Con. Don't miss it, if you can still get tickets.

— by Bala Menon

• Where fun is work...

Julia's world at Al Bustan

You've got to really like music to enter the upside-down world of a disc jockey which turns entertainment into work, and night into working day, all for moderate earnings.

At least that is the message you get from Oman's first woman disc jockey, Julia Gibson who livens up the evenings at Al Bustan Palace Hotel's Sindbad club.

Julia has been a professional DJ for seven years working mainly in Europe except for a short time in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong has some of the best discoteques in the world, certainly better than Denmark," she said, having worked in Germany, Switzerland, Spain, England and Denmark where she now lives.

Coming to Oman is a new experience for her. Here for the first time she has to work with a slightly older crowd who lean towards the slow, romantic numbers. However, there are still enough youngsters to fill the club's dance floor and demand more energetic music.

Julia, who was brought up in Cheadle, in the north of England, turned professional almost by accident. She graduated as a computer operator but couldn't reconcile herself to straight office life so she took up outdoor promotional work in the UK.

Her brother, a part-time DJ, persuaded her to take over at their local country club on normally quiet Sunday nights.



Julia Gibson

She proved to be a success, went on to work in London and later was invited to work in Denmark. Then began an almost nomadic life. She toured Norway up to the very north, worked in Germany, Switzerland, and Spain before going back to Denmark.

After Hong Kong, she decided to quit but the attraction of the flashing disco lights lured her back to Denmark's discoteques.

Working for the well-known London Town Discoteque, who normally provide the equipment, music and a disc jockey to clubs almost anywhere in the world, is different from her early days when she had to buy her own records.

"You have to really like people and music and be able to play that people like," she advises budding DJs, because tastes differ everywhere, she explains.

In England, where the music is mostly new wave rock and funk, DJs have to be very selective. In Denmark and most of Europe except Germany, it's disco pop. And in Oman she discovered it to be a mixture of English and American music.

— by Fermin D'Souza

'Endgame'

Curtains rise for the second performance of Globe Theatre's 'Endgame' by Samuel Beckett at 8.00pm at the Muscat English-Speaking School in Madinat Qaboos tonight. Tickets, available at the door, are priced at R.O. 1.000 and not R.O. 10.000 as mentioned in the 'Times' last week.

Diva range

Khimji Ramdas has pointed out that the Diva range to be launched by the store this year is the creation of Emanuel Ungaro and not Chanel as mentioned in the 'Times' Beautycare and Fashion supplement last week.

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Leisure

THIS WEEK'S BRIDGE BY SH

The following is one of the short listed hands for the Bols Brilliancy Prizes, from the Spring North American Championships 1985, as reported by Henry Francis in the IBPA Bulletin.

Gene Prosnitz knew the opponents' notrump game could be set but the problem was how to let his partner know. He found the answer in spectacular fashion on this Vanderbilt hand.

Dealers South; both vulnerable.

9875
KQ1043
Q
J72

KQJ3 1062
95 J862
8753 KJ96
Q98 104

A4
A7
A1042
AK653

West North East South
Falk Prosnitz

Pass 1H P 1C
P 3C P 2D
3NT

P P P —

Alan Falk led the king of spades which declarer won. South tried three rounds of hearts, but the jack did not fall, so he had to try clubs. It is true that declarer would have felt better had she tried clubs first, since spades were 4-3 but her contract was safe with the heart play if the jack fell, no matter how the spades were distributed.

Falk won the third round of clubs ... and Prosnitz had to find a discard. The fact that he did not have a small diamond was a problem, but suddenly he realized that he had a card in his hand that would transmit an urgent message to partner. He discarded the king of diamonds!!

It was clear that declarer had the ace of diamonds, so Falk quickly realized that spades had to be the key suit. He knew Prosnitz had the jack of hearts, so he inferred that Prosnitz' entry was in spades; it had to be ten. So he underled his queen-jack. Sure enough, Prosnitz took the ten of spades, cashed the jack of hearts and returned a spade for Falk to cash two more tricks to set what looked like a cold game.



Nitin Mukesh and Hema Malani. On left is music director Anandji

Nitin excels in Indian evening

Nitin Mukesh, son of the late Hindi film playback singer Mukesh stole the show at the Kalyanji Anandji evening at the Oman Exhibition Centre in Seeb on Thursday.

The nearly 5,000-strong audience repeatedly called for encores of Nitin's soulful rendering of his father's famous hits, especially the sing-along 'Dum Dum Diga Diga'.

The other star of the show was film star Rati Agnihotri - who surprised the audience with a song-and-dance performance of Amitabh Bachan's 'Angrezi mein kahti hai' from the film 'Khuddar'.

Singers Sadhana Sargam, Sapna Mukherjee and Alka Yagnik and mimic Johnny Lever impressed with their outstanding voices and talent. The failure of the evening was the much-vaunted 'Dream Girl' Hema Malani, who, despite an enchanting stage presence, did nothing to entertain the audience - though she got the most applause when she came on to the stage.

Compere of the show was Indian television star Tabassum.

Lack of organisation and a paucity of volunteers to control the crowd however, created some chaotic scenes before the programme began and several ticket-holders had to go away because of the crowds.

The evening, at which the chief



Rati Agnihotri and singer Suresh Wadkar.

guest was the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki, was sponsored by Century Contractors, Khimji Ramdas, Jamnadas Khimji and Brothers, Al Ansari Trading, Al Turki Enterprises, Laxmidas Tharia Ved and Company, OUA Travel, Lip-ton and Air-India. Sound was by Photocentre and lighting by Civilco.

— BM

Penfriends

Samuel Bismark Ampaw, 24 c/o P.O. Box 5, Mankessim, Ghana. Writing, travel, music and correspondence.

* * *

Aryishatu Abubakr, 18, P.O. Box 529, Oguua City, Cape Coast, Ghana. Cooking, handball, music, photography and postcards.

* * *

Abdullah Ali, P.O. Box 529, Cape Coast, Ghana. Reading, Islamic literature, travelling.

* * *

Joseph Taylor, 22, c/o Mr Augustine Taylor, P.O. Box 127, Ghana. Letter writing, travelling, reading.

* * *

Tabi Mercy, 16, Anglican Middle School, P.O. Box 197, Obuasi-Adansi, Ghana. Magazines.

* * *

Sampson Tabi, 17, Omess, Kokofu-Ashanti, P.O. Box 14, Ghana. Music.

'Reggae King' coming

The 'King of Reggae' Eddy Grant will perform at a show on the Seeb Novotel Pool Deck on March 3.

Tickets will be on sale in the hotel's lobby from February 22.

Following his amazing single success in 1982, when 'I don't wanna dance' was number one for three weeks on the British charts, he followed up with a highly successful world tour and his first British concerts for four years were widely acclaimed by the critics as being as entertaining as they were musical.

As his reputation soared, his early works have re-surfaced with Clash recording one of his early compositions 'Police on my back' and the New York Band Rockers covering 'Walking on Sunshine' which became a huge international hit for them.

KRT presents
Hot live entertainment by
Janet Brown & Richard Digance
at seeb novotel

1st and 2nd March 1986 by the swimming pool.
Entry 7.30 p.m.; show time - 9 p.m.
Ticket sales from today - Price RO: 12/-
includes seafood BBQ buffet.
For reservations contact 510300 Ext.171.

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Some great moments for the entire family!

APS-OMAN

Car talk

A new look for Escort

Mechanical and design improvements to the world's best-selling car, the Ford Escort, have been announced.

The car is to have a new "lean-burn" petrol engine, to improve performance and economy and reduce exhaust emission, and it will become the first in its class with anti-lock braking.

Its exterior is to be made smoother, for improved aerodynamics, while changes inside will include a rapid de-ice windscreen and high-security door and steering column locks. Steering, suspension and transmission will also be improved.

The Escort will have a choice of six "lean-burn" engines from 1.1 to 1.6 litres. The 1.4 and 1.6 litre units are Ford's CVH (Compound Value angle Hemispherical chamber) engines, one of the most efficient volume production automotive power plants. Nearly 2.5 million have been made at Ford's factory at Bridgend in Wales.

The new braking system, developed jointly by Ford and the UK company Lucas Girling, is especially for front-wheel-drive cars. It has been

tested over nearly five million kilometres by Ford engineers and police authorities in Britain and mainland Europe.

Since its introduction in 1980, worldwide production of the hatch-back Escort has exceeded four million. The car is made in Britain, West Germany, the United States, South Africa, Spain and Brazil, with designs varying from country to country.

In 1981 the Escort was voted European Car of the Year and it has won ten major national awards. The Escort range begins with the budget-priced Popular and moves upwards in specification through the L, GL and Ghia.

The range has been improved and expanded year by year with the introduction of five-speed manual and three-speed automatic transmissions, an advanced 1.6 litre diesel engine, a five-door estate car, the high-performance, fuel-injected XR3i, a cabriolet (now the best-selling convertible in Europe) and the RS Turbo.

Similar improvements are to be made to the Escort's sister car, the Orion.

Isuzu's design for the future



The COA-II prototype above, displayed at the Tokyo Auto Show, may be said to be Isuzu's design for the next generation of motorization. It features a DOHC 16-valve inter-cooler equipped turbo engine with a side-mounted radiator, and a transmission similar to Formula 1 race machines mounted in the centre of the unit. Its four-wheel drive system is designed to transit more power to the road.

As a highway cruiser it is designed to give top performance, especially on demanding surfaces such as winding mountain roads. Attractively styled with a Targa top for carefree open-air motoring, the COA-II reflects the ongoing trend toward electronic sophistication in the car. The cockpit incorporates both audio-visual and communications hardware, including stereo cassette and compact disc players, a CRT monitor and CB radio.

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Limousines in a wider range

Britain's largest producer of limousines has launched its widest product range. Coleman Milne has introduced new versions of its seven-seat Dorchester and Grosvenor limousines and two new versions of its seven-seat Dorchester and Grosvenor limousines and two new versions of its Minister executive car.

The range will include four- and six-door models, powered by either a 2.8 litre electronic fuel injection six-cylinder engine in V-formation or a 2.5 litre diesel engine.

Features of the new range will include anti-lock braking; automatic, electronically controlled self-leveling suspension; four-speed automatic transmission; and electronic engine management.

Coleman Milne believes the new range meets modern for lighter, more aerodynamic vehicles, confounding sceptics in the automotive industry who claimed that limousines not do so.

They say the new range has already brought interest from prospective buyers in mainland Europe, the Far East and North America. British prices for the range start at £22,400 for the Minister, £23,900 for the Dorchester and £27,000 for the Grosvenor.

Coleman Milne produces around 500 vehicles annually at factories at Bolton and Halifax in northern England. The Halifax plant was established in the 1820s, making it one of the oldest coachbuilding establishments in Britain.

Conversions

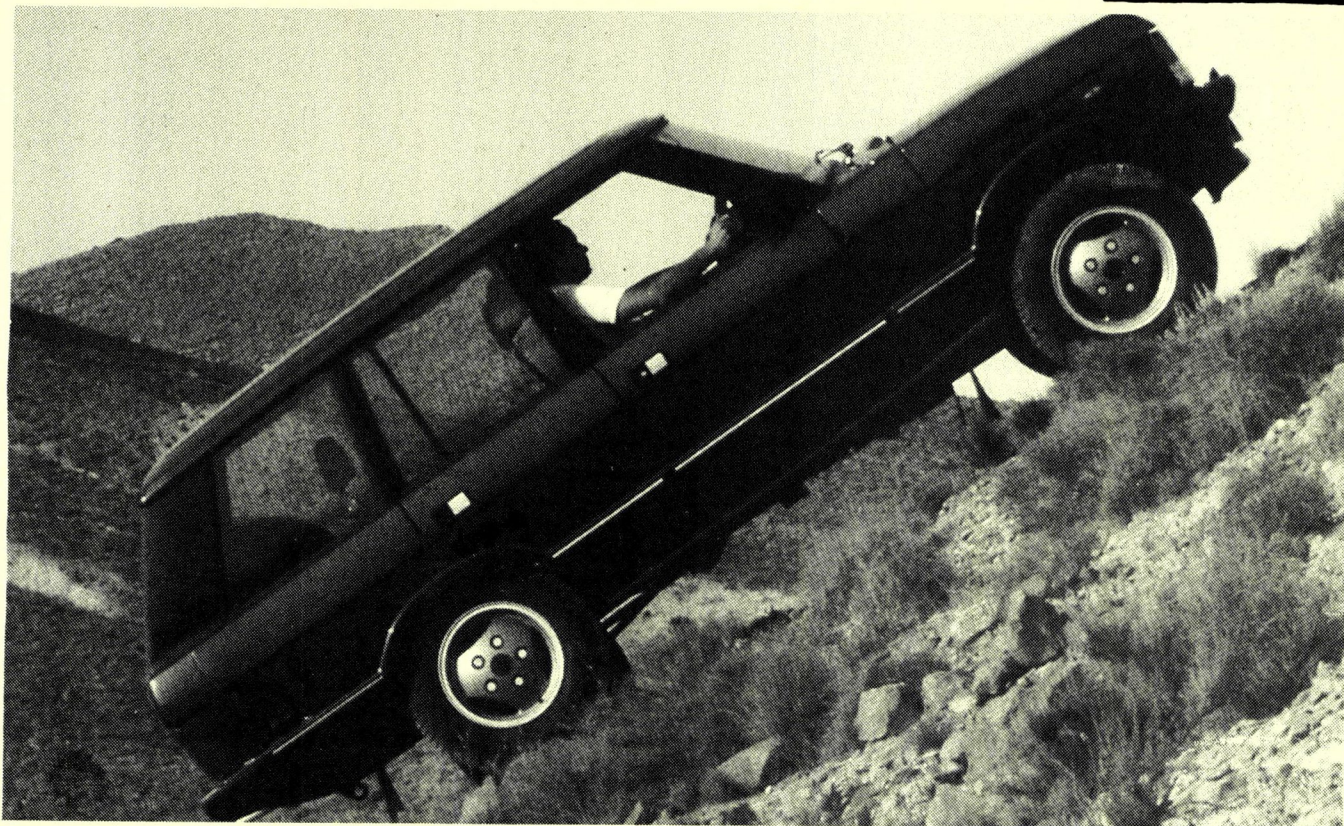
The company's customers include major corporations, financial institutions, state-owned industries, government departments, municipal authorities, funeral parlours and car hire companies. Members of Britain's Royal family use cars supplied by the firm.

Most Coleman Milne conversions are based on Ford cars, notably the large Scorpio saloon. The firm also converts cars made by Jaguar, Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin, Austin Rover and Mercedes, and the classic London taxi.

It has adapted ambulance and taxi versions of the medium commercial Sherpa and Trafic vehicles, built respectively by the British and French state vehicle companies BL and Renault.

The company also supplies armour-protected vehicles for use by diplomats, distinguished visitors to overseas territories, and business.

Car talk



The 1986 Range Rover — stylish good looks, and the practical qualities to match.

**A right
royal
feeling
as we
cruise
into the
sunset**

Riding the Range with 'king' Rover

The sun was setting slowly across the coastal plain as a small convoy sent dust clouds billowing up into the early evening air.

Most of the drivers and passengers looked weary, and ready for home after an invigorating yet energy-sapping weekend in Oman's great outdoors.

The wadi-bash had been spectacular, but now most were thinking ahead to a hot shower, and getting their feet up.

But inside the roomy 1986 Range Rover Vogue picking its way through the pack myself and two companions were savouring the last couple of hours of a memorable trip.

The graded road south of Quriyat was taking its toll on the rest, as they bounced along into the sunset.

We were the lucky ones. The Ranger Rover had surpassed all expectations, and was now in its element.

Convinced

Soon the road ahead was clear again, and we were back up to 120 km/h. Braking softly or changing down for each bend I picked my line, felt the vehicle begin to slide, and pulled gently on the wheel to let the power steering straighten us out in an instant.

By now all three of us were convinced - the Range Rover was the king of the four-wheel drives and this was a right royal experience.

Not that I can say much about the diff' lock facility of a vehicle with constant four-wheel drive. I barely needed to call for its help during approximately 300 kilometres of the most testing driving conditions I have encountered.

One little episode sticks in my mind. We were twisting up and around a particularly tricky stretch of graded road near Fins when the vehicle in front staggered to a halt on the incline, began to slip backwards, and the driver had to use all his extra power to reach the top at the second attempt.

I waited for him to make it, pressed my foot on the accelerator, and cruised up in second gear. It wasn't difficult.

In fact it was also so easy that we began feeling sorry for our two

friends behind who were struggling to stay with us and feeling the effects as they were tossed around in the process.

Under the bonnet the Ranger Rover's 3.5 litre fuel injection engine was taking the strain comfortably. Talking of comfort, and the three of us frequently were, it is difficult to imagine a smoother ride over terrain normally so conducive to sore backsides and headaches.

Credibility

When I picked up the Ranger Rover from the Moshin Haider Darwish showrooms - asking price RO 9,524 with a 15 per cent discount for cash - I had little idea what made this vehicle so popular with the well-heeled country types back home. Now I know!

It has the stylish good looks and accepted credibility to fit in to any social gathering, and has the practical qualities to match.

TEST DRIVE



By Tony Lewis

Settling behind the wheel you look down on all the popular saloons of the day, but stay on the same level in terms of leisurely driving.

One small complaint my front-seat passenger made was that the horn ought to be louder, considering that Ranger Rover drivers are likely to encounter many of the blind, narrow twists and turns we came across.

So we slid down our electric windows, listened again, and heard what the Ranger Rover's sound-proofing had muffled previously. There were no more complaints!

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Travel

Ancient wall a big 'find'

The north wall of a hitherto lost Roman basilica, thought to be 1,800 years old, has been found in the City of London, and is arousing world wide interest among archaeologists.

The remains of the basilica - the largest civic building of its day north of Alps and the largest in the Roman Empire - has been described by Brian Hobley, chief urban archaeologist at the Museum of London, as forming "an exceptional site."

Mr Hobley said: "I've had several enquiries from countries outside Britain,

including France, Canada and the United States.

"At the moment, we have about 60 fully-trained personnel on site, but in the summer, during the university vacations, we accept a flood of students from many countries. "For anyone starting a career in archaeology, it will offer a golden opportunity."

The discovery was made when a team from the museum was digging on Leadenhall Court in the City of London - a site being developed by the Legal and General Insurance Company.

Unique

Construction has halted so that the rich archaeological details of the complex can be investigated. The museum has until October to complete the work.

The dig is being carried out on a small section of the lost basilica, which once

dominated first century Londinium, on a hill-top site overlooking what is now London Bridge. The building was up to 10 metres high, 160 metres long and 50 metres wide and housed the Curia - the Roman town council - the magistrates' court, the Treasury, shrines and a prison.

It was on the north side of a 3.2 hectare square, the other three sides being lines with shops and offices, linked with colonnaded porticos, which enclosed a huge trading area.

The excavation provides a unique opportunity because over half of the basilica had been destroyed in Victorian times, and no other part of the area is earmarked for redevelopment in the foreseeable future.

During excavation, a surviving wall from the original Leadenhall, a private residence, was found incorporated into later building work and is still standing. By 1411, the site was a general market and in 1411, it was conveyed to the City Corporation, and a public market of international standing in the wool trade became a civic building almost as important as the Guildhall.

All the buildings were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. In 1881, the great glass and metal Leadenhall was built nearby.

Appeal

The excavation is also exceptional for other reasons - the freedom with which the archaeologists are allowed to go into what is essentially a commercial site. For the last 10 years, the museum has worked hard to build up the sort of good relationship with developers which is not equalled anywhere else in the world.

Legal and General has allowed one year for excavation, which started last October, for installing men and machines shorting up the excavation and removing soil and for work to be carried out beneath a plastic roof.

The company has also contributed £150,000, with the government-backed English Heritage conservation organisation providing another £150,000. But a further £140,000 is still needed and the museum is launching an appeal.

Explained Mr Hobley, "We realise that developers have an important job. A city with no development is a dead city. Equally, we try to persuade them that our activities are now part of a highly professional operation that is a valid part of the redevelopment process."

"We have established a good rapport over the years. In the last 11 years during which we have excavated 150 sites, we have recovered one million objects - and not one has been claimed by the developers."

The basilica is expected to produce spectacular relics over the next few months which will eventually be displayed at the Museum of London.

Airports get a new link

The Hong Kong Tourist Association has produced a new Taxi Communication Card that will make it easy for visitors to communicate with urban taxi drivers.

The card is written in English, Chinese and Japanese and lists names of hotels, hostels, guest houses, places of interest, major buildings and consulates, as well as useful phrases.

A similar type of card, designed to enhance the quality of service offered to visitors to Hong Kong by taxi drivers, was produced in 1983 and was well-received by both visitors and drivers alike.

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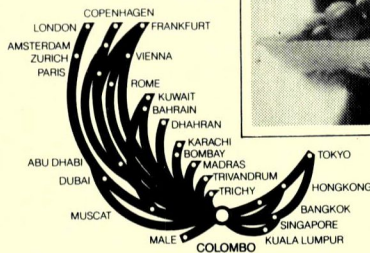


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Travel

Indonesia has two words for welcome

Indonesia is not just Bali. It is Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan (formerly Borneo), Irian Jaya — a total of 13,677 islands, the largest archipelago in the world.

It is a country of infinite scope and contrast, a land of volcanos and vast lakes, of white tranquil beaches and bustling cities, of age-old cultures and modern hotels. Each region is rich in traditions, art and crafts reflecting its own personality but with one thing in common: the Indonesian welcome-Selamat Datang.

Indonesia's most populated island, Java offers the visitor rich and varied sights. View the most famous volcano of them all. Krakatau, in the Sunda Strait. Yogyakarta, in central Java, is the island's cultural centre and from here you should visit Borobudur, a magnificent 8th century Buddhist temple complex. In east Java, witness sunrise over Mount Bromo, where villagers still make offerings to the God of Fire whom they believe lives in its steaming crater.

The capital city Jakarta, situated in west Java, has undergone dramatic changes since the days when, known as Batavia, it was the power base for the Dutch East India Company.

Today, the old harbour of Sunda Kelapas still plays host to hundreds of sailing ships that ply their vital trade among the islands. Modern Jakarta boasts fine hotels and towering skyscrapers in a sprawling metropolis housing some 6 million residents. Sightseeing include the Monas National Monument, exotic temples and mosques, wayang puppet theatres and teeming street markets. Further afield, you can visit the offshore islands of Pulau Seribu or the Thousand islands, the 'Indonesia in Miniature' cultural park and the marine park at Ancol.

Fabled Bali lies off the east coast of Java. The island of the God's or so the gentle Balinese believes as they perform, almost daily, religious rituals and exquisitely grateful dances in col-

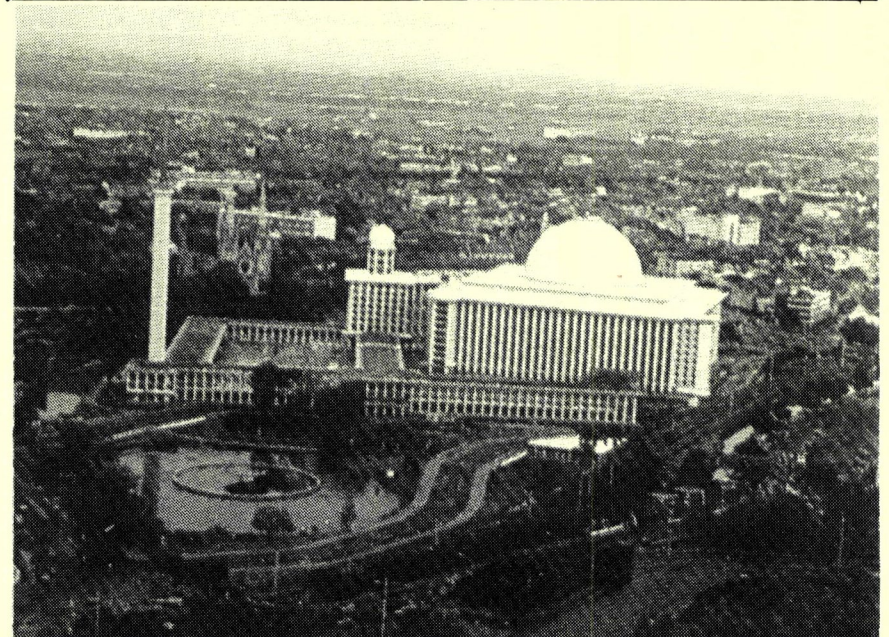
ourful costumes. Thousands of Hindu temples, rice-terraced hillsides and beautiful coral beaches — paradise for sightseers and beachcombers alike!

The main resort area of Bali consists of two beaches, Kuta and Sanur. Kuta's long beach is a surfer's dream and the casual and friendly village is fun to explore. By contrast, Sanur is more spread out and offers a wider choice of international resort hotels.

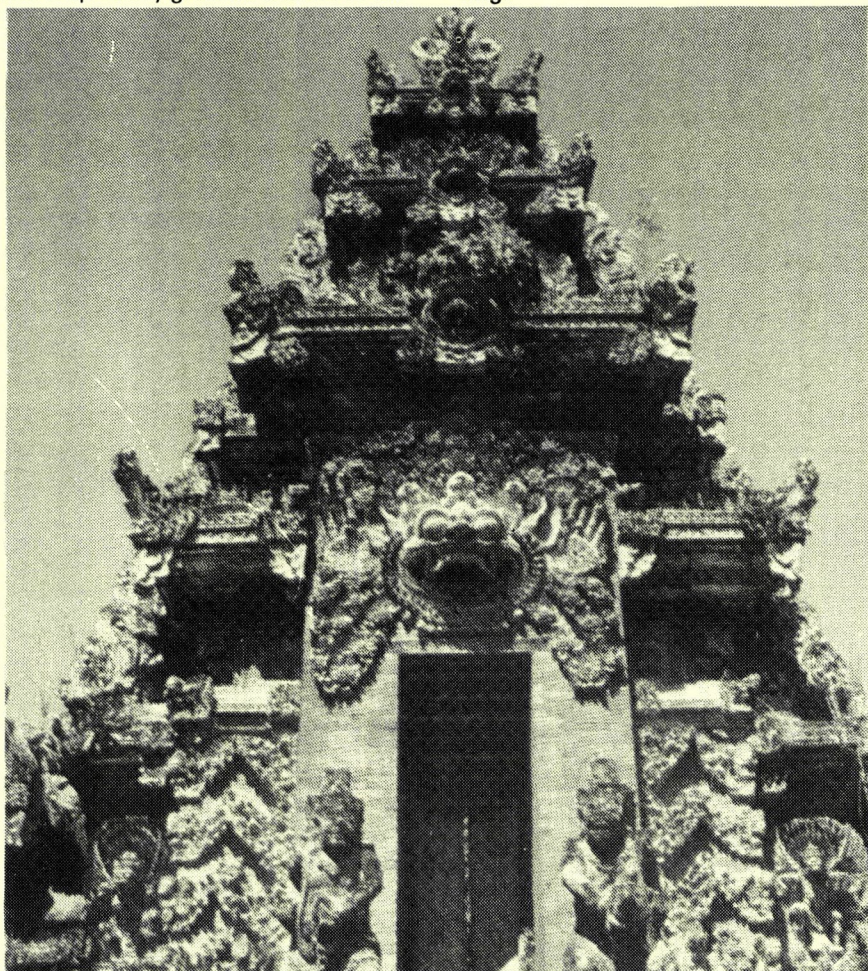
Other places in Indonesia worth a visit include, in North Sumatra, famous Lake Toba which surrounds the island of Samosir. Hotel accommodation and watersports facilities are offered in Prapat; a mountain and lake resort on Lake Toba's northern shore.

Adventurers could take a river trip in East Kalimantan to discover remote former headhunting tribes, or visit Komodo Island, famous for its giant 'dragon' lizards. In the southern part of Sulawesi, the orchid-shaped island once known as Celebes, you will find the ancient tribal people of Tana Toraja, dwelling in prow-shaped houses and buying their dead in mountainside 'hanging graves'.

Northern Sulawesi, known for its good beaches and beautiful coral reefs, is a diver's delight. Maluku (or the Moluccas, the fabled Spice Islands) is well worth the journey as most of the thousand islands have excellent beaches, reefs and lovely seascapes affording superb snorkelling.



Jakarta, the capital city, has undergone dramatic changes.



Thousands of Hindu temples are scattered across Indonesia.

My Timely Trips

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AI 862	TUE	1445	1830	B747

FLT.NO.	DAY	DEP.	ARR.	ACFT.
AI 864	WED	1120	1830	AB
AI 866**	THU	1320	1705	B707
AI 836	THU	2150	0135*	B707
AI 888	FRI	1750	2135	B707
AI 810	SAT	1900	2250	AB
AI 832	SUN	1020	1410	AB

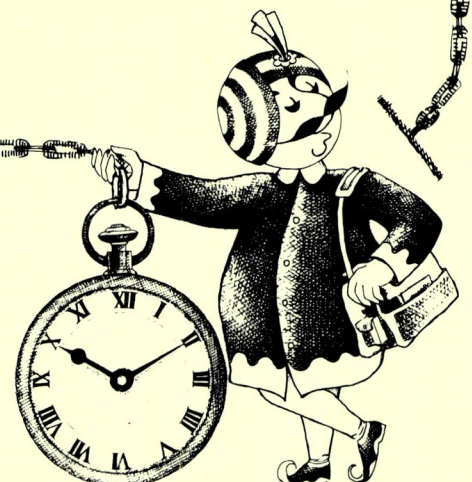
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Where you can get your 'Times'

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Tel: 704124, 745374.
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Tel: 739933
Majan Newspaper and Magazine Distributing Agency, P.O. Box 796, Muscat.

MUTTRAH

Three Star Book Shop, P.O. Box 4834, Ruwi. Tel: 772630.
Muttrah Hotel, P.O. Box 4158, Ruwi. Tel: 734401.
Khimji General Stores, P.O. Box 19, Muscat. Tel: 734762, 734061.
Al Bahini Supermarket, P.O. Box 3596, Ruwi. Tel: 712048.
Barkath Restaurant, P.O. Box 4095, Ruwi.
Maher Supermarket, Near Muttrah Hotel.
Ramniklal B. Kothary (Near Star Cinema).
Angara Supermarket, P.O. Box 7192, Muttrah.
Abu Arif Moosa Trading, Muttrah.
Ocean Supermarket, P.O. Box 3845, Ruwi. Tel: 772352.
S. Dhirajlal Departmental Stores and Supermarket, C.B.D., P.O. Box 7605, Tel: 708808.
Haridas Nensey, opp. Sanyo Showroom.
Al Marifa Bookshop, Muttrah. Tel: 713607.

RUWI

Khalid Information Book Shop, P.O. Box 901, Muscat.
Al Saqafa Book Shop, P.O. Box 4000, Ruwi.
Mahboob. Book Shop, P.O. Box 5716, Ruwi.
Al Ansari Supermarket, Tel: 704124.
Sabir Supermarket, Near Softy Ice Cream. Tel: 702049.
Fair Trade, P.O. Box 1436, Muttrah. Tel: 701767.
Ruwi Hotel Book Stall, P.O. Box 5195, Ruwi. Tel: 704244.
Ever Ready Trading Co., P.O. Box 3717, Ruwi. Tel: 703275.
Haridas Nensey & Co., P.O. Box 152, Muscat.
Family Bookshop, P.O. Box 3376, Ruwi (near Rex Cinema). Tel: 706816.
Matrah Cold Stores, P.O. Box 4158, Ruwi. (near Rex Cinema). Tel: 704333, 704539.
Consumer Co-operative Society of the Capital Ltd., P.O. Box 5156, (near Rex Cinema). Ruwi. Tel: 706826.
Al Marifa Book Shop, Ruwi. Tel: 794149.
Al Daser Cold Stores.
Capital Stores Book Shop (Al Falaj Hotel), P.O. Box 570, Muscat. Tel: 702311 ext. 019.
Fair Trade (Al Falaj Hotel).
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Ramniklal B. Kothary, P.O. Box 66, Muscat.

Valoo Supermarket, P.O. Box 5812, Ruwi.
Tel: 772551, 703281.
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Al Itfaq Trading and Contracting, P.O. Box 4003, Ruwi. Tel: 793272/708775.
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Nadan Trading, P.O. Box : 6060, Ruwi, Tel : 798971.
Noor and Aamal, Opp Khalijana, P.O. Box : 4918, Ruwi. Tel : 797235.
Alolom Bookshop, near Softy. P.O. Box : 3474, Ruwi.
Al Aktham Est. P.O. Box 8299, Muttrah. Tel : 698700.
Abdul Rahman al-Abri, opp Habib Bank, P.O. Box : 4701, Ruwi.

CORNICHE

Yaseen Foodstuff Division, P.O. Box 7581, Muttrah, Corniche, Near Al Nahda Hotel.

QURM

Sharikat Fanniya Omaniya L.L.C., P.O. Box 4949, Ruwi. Tel: 704400.
P.N. Gandhi & Co., P.O. Box 185, Muscat.
Al Fair Supermarket, P.O. Box 5636, Ruwi.
Catering and Supplies Co. L.L.C., P.O. Box 311, Muscat. Tel: 607696.
Haridas Nensey & Co., P.O. Box 152, Muscat.
Family Book Shop (Muscat Inter Continental Hotel).
Muscat Pharmacy (Gulf Hotel).
Shah Nagardas, Manji and Co. Qurum. P.O. Box : 5908. Tel : 562656.
Angara Shop No; 16: Sabco Centre, P.O. Box : 7192. Muttrah. Tel: 562474.

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Matrah Cold Stores.
Ramniklal B. Kothary and Co., Tel. 602515.
Samosha Supermarket.
Safeway Supermarket.

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SEEB

Family Book Shop, Movotel.
Seeb Airport Cold Stores, P.O. Box 3014, Ruwi. Tel: 705177.

RUSAIL

Matrah Cold Stores. Tel: 610288.

SALALAH

Family Book Shop & Co., P.O. Box 8884, Salalah. Tel: 460027.
Al Fawaz Cultural Library. P.O. Box 12242, Tel: 292946.

WADIKABIR

Al Fair Supermarket, next to BP Filling Station.

Embassies

Algeria, Mr. Abdelmajid Fasla; P.O. Box 6942, Ruwi.

Austria, (Consulate), P.O. Box 223, House 2, Road 4, Medinat Qaboos West. (Tel 600307/701921).

Bangladesh, Mumtaz area, near Ruwi Hotel, Ruwi. P.O. Box 6959, Ruwi. (Tel: 707462).

Belgium, (Consulate), Shaikh Aflah Hamed Salem Al-Rawahi, P.O. Box 4102, Muscat. (Tel: 602033, 603011).

China, P.O. Box 3315, off Al Khalid bin Ahmed Street, Ruwi (Tel: 702451).

Cyprus, (Consulate), Mr Andreas Liassis, J and P Camp, P.O. Box 603, Muscat. (Tel: 590200).

Denmark, (Consulate), Hans Hugo From — vice-counsel-, P.O. Box 4040, Towel Admin building, (opp. Central Bank), Ruwi. (Tel: 708304).

Egypt, P.O. Box 5252, Diplomatic Quarter, Al-Khuwair. (Tel: 600411/60982).

France, P.O. Box 591, Muscat — Sidab Road, Muscat. (Tel: 737421/737495 Culture Section).

Germany, P.O. Box 3128, Qaboos Street, Ruwi. (Tel: 702482).

Greece, (Consulate), P.O. Box 5031, Al Falaj Hotel, Ruwi. (Tel: 702311).

Iran, P.O. Box 6155, off. Al Khalid bin Ahmed Street, Ruwi. (Tel: 722668).

India, P.O. Box 4727, (Near Qaboos Mosque, Ruwi. (Tel: 702997).

Iraq, P.O. Box 4848, Jabreen Street, off. Rex Road, Ruwi. (Tel: 701349).

Italy, P.O. Box 6727, Marbat

House, Ruwi. (Tel: 703202).

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Jordan, P.O. Box 5281, Diplomatic Quarter, Al-Khuwair. (Tel: 602561).

Korea, P.O. Box 5220, opp. Old Oman Chamber of Commerce. (Tel: 702322).

Kuwait, P.O. Box 4798, Ruwi, Qaboos Street, Al Falaj Roundabout. (Tel: 706444).

Malaysia, Opp. Al Falaj Hotel, P.O. Box 6939, Ruwi. (Tel: 706116).

Morocco, Behind Ruwi Hotel, P.O. Box. 6125, Ruwi. (Tel: 701977, 701706, 702281).

Netherlands, P.O. Box 6302, Ruwi, 7th Floor, OK Centre. (Tel: 705410, 705420).

Norway, (Consulate) Mr. Svend Longem, P.O. Box 3286, Ruwi. (Tel: 704473, 704671).

Pakistan, Villa No. 7-B Road No. 3, Medinat Qaboos (Behind British Council), P.O. Box 4302, Muscat. (Tel: 603090).

Portugal, (Consulate), Dr Ali Mohammed Moosa (Honorary), P.O. Box. 496, (Tel: 704981, 702772).

Qatar, P.O. Box 802, Government Flats, Ruwi. (Tel: 705820).

Saudi Arabia, Behind Ruwi Hotel. P.O. Box 4411, Ruwi. (Tel: 701111).

Somalia, P.O. Box 4767, Nara Street, Ruwi. (Tel: 701322).

Sudan, Mr Ali Abdul Rahman Al Mumeiri, P.O. Box 6971, Ruwi. Mumtaz Area. (Tel: 703666).

Sweden, (Consulate), Mr. Suhail Salim Bahwan (Honorary), P.O. Box 169, Muscat. (Tel: 714201).

Switzerland, (Consulate), Bosch, showroom, Qaboos Street, Ruwi. P.O. Box 696. (Tel: 701548).

Tunisia, P.O. Box 5755, Near Hassan Bin Thabit School, Muttrah. (Tel: 704859).

United Arab Emirates, P.O. Box 355, Diplomatic Quarter, Al Khuwair. (Tel: 601372).

United Kingdom, P.O. Box 300, near Al Alam Palace, Muscat. (Tel: 738501).

United States of America, P.O. Box 966, Near Al Alam Palace, Muscat (Tel: 738233).

Yemen Arab Republic, P.O. Box 3701, Khamis Al Shaqai Street, Govt. Flats, Ruwi. (Tel: 706445).

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Nedlloyd Rouen	Containers	28.2
Theodor Fontane	Containers	28.2
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Pharmacies

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Thursday — Mazoon, Muttrah;
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Friday — Muttrah, Muttrah; al
Waha, Hamriya Roundabout; Al
Jabry, Seeb.

Saturday — Muscat, Muttrah
Souk; Suleiman Gharib, Walja.

Sunday — Mazoon, Muttrah; Al
Waha, Hamriya Roundabout.

Monday — Al Razi, Wadi Hattat;
National, opp. Masjid Qaboos.

Tuesday — Mazoon, Muttrah;
Faiz, Hamriya.

Wednesday — Muttrah, Muttrah;
Al Wadi Kabir, nr. Ruwi
School.

(Night Duty)

Thursday — Al Farabi, Muttrah;
Ibne Sina, Ammar Centre; Ibn
Nafirs, Medinat Qaboos.

Friday — National, Muttrah;
Fanja, Seeb; Muttrah, nr. Housing
Bank.

Saturday — Muscat, Gr. Muttrah;
Al Khalij, opp. Nahda Hospital;
Al Shiradi, Seeb.

Sunday — Ibne Rushed, opp.
Bahwan Centre; Al Hashar, Ruwi
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Monday — Muscat, Muscat;
Oriental, Walja; Al Neil, Seeb

Tuesday — Al Hashar, nr.
Arrahma; Reem, nr. BCC, Ruwi;

Capital, Wadi Kbair.

Wednesday — Mazoon, OK
Centre; Al Farabi, Sabier, Walja;
Muscat, Medinat Qaboos.

SOUTHERN REGION

(Day Duty)

Thursday — Salalah, Nahda
Street.

Friday — Muscat, nr. Police
Centre.

Saturday — National, Salam
Street.

Sunday — Ibne Imran al Ansi,
opp. Shanfari Masjid.

Monday — Al Mashoor, Salalah
Est.

Tuesday — Bassam, nr. Veteri-
nary Clinic.

Wednesday — Dhofar, nr.
Works department.

(Night Duty)

Thursday — Mazoon, opp.
Police Fire Station.

Friday — Al Arabia, Salalah
West, Salam Street.

Saturday — Khalij Oman,
Salam Street.

Sunday — Al Haditha, Sharouq
Street, Hafa.

Monday — Al Imaan, Main Entr-
ance, Al Sharouq Street.

Tuesday — Salalah, Nahda
Street.

Wednesday — Muscat, nr.
Police Centre.

Emergencies

Fire	999
Police	560099
Al Rahma Hospital	712281
Khoula Hospital	560455
Al Nahda Hospital	701255
Muscat Hospital	738036
Police Hospital	560435
Force Base Hospital	614334
Assada Hospital	736088
Water	712774
Electricity	773140/701821
Telephone Faults	192
Flight Information	519223
Telex Faults	703344
Directory Information	198
Operator	195
Time in English	140
Time in Arabic	141

information

Airline timetable

Weekly schedule (international and domestic) through Seeb International Airport by courtesy of Oman Aviation Services Co.

Flt. No.	A/C	From	Arr.	Dep.	To.	Flt. No.	A/C	From.	Arr.	Dep.	To.
WEDNESDAY											
GF744	B737	EX-GF744 Tue		0015	KHI	AI811/810	AB4	BOM/DEL	1745	1900	BOM
KL813	B747	Ex-KL813 Tue		0040	KHI/KUL/SIN	WY716	DHC6	RMB	1755		
GF002/2002	L1011	LHR/BAH/DXB	0010	0130	DEL	WY410/GF365	B737	SLL	2110	2200	DXB/DOH/BAH
GF030/1030	L1011	LHR/AUH	0035	0135	BOM	TG512	DC10	CAI	2130	2230	BKK
GF072	L1011	CAI/DOH/DXB	0035		Ops GF1701 Wed	PK233/234	B707	KHI	2140	2255	KHI
BA12	B747	SYD/MEL/PER/SIN	0050	0155	LHR	TC760	B737	DAR/JIB	2205	2250	DXB
TG511	DC10	BKK	0240	0340	CAI	GF1031/031	L1011	BOM	2300	2359	AUH/LHR
GF1701	L1011	EX-GF072 Wed		0700	AUH/DOH/JED/KRT	GF146	L1011	BAH/DOH	2355		Ops GF3146 Sun
ME437	B707	Ex-ME438 Tue		0715	AUH/BEY	KL521	A310	AMS	2359		Ops KL522 Sun
WY255	DHC6			0730	KHS						
WY253	F27			0800	MSH	GF168	B737	RUH/DOH	0010		Ops GF185 SUN
BA11	B747	LHR	0730	0835	SIN/SYD/BNE	GF3146	L1011	Ex-GF146 Sat		0100	CMB
GF1003/013	L1011	BOM	0745	0845	DXB/BAH/LHR	GF006/1006	L1011	LHR/BAH/SHJ	0010	0110	BOM
GF973-843	B737	Ex-GF366 Tue		0850	BAH/AMM-LCA	GF1156/156	B747	BAH	0015	0115	DAC/BKK
GF388/237	B737	AUH	0820	0920	SHJ/KWI	KL522	A310	Ex-KL521 Sat		0125	AMS
PK205/206	B707	KHI	0825	0940	KHI	GF134	L1011	BAH/AUH	0020	0130	DEL
AI865/864	AB4	BOM	1005	1120	DEL/BOM	UT567	DC10	SIN/CMB	0030	0140	CDG
WY253/855	F27	MSH	1030	1130	SLL	WY224	DHC6			0630	KHS/BYB
WY255/254	DHC6	KHS	1050	1320	RMB	GF787	L1011	KHI	0655	0750	SHJ/BAH
GF2022	L1011	LHR/CDG/DOH/AUH	1120	1215	BOM	GF1073/073	L1011	BOM	0715	0830	DXB/DOH/CAI
GF356/738	B737	BAH/DXB	1130	1215	KHI	BA11	B747	LHR	0730	0835	SIN/SYD/ADL
TL231/232	B707F	BEY	1130	1300	BEY	GF131	L1011	DEL	0845	0945	AUH/BAH
WY254	DHC6	RMB	1610			AI835/836	AB4	BOM	0850	1020	BOM
WY856	F27	SLL	1645			GF3035/035	L1011	CMB	0950	1100	DOH/LHR
GF739/WY409	B737	KHI	1630	1715	SLL	GF352/738	B737	BAH/AUH/SHJ	1050	1215	KHI
GF238/355	B737	KWI/SHJ	1620	1715	BAH	GF2022	L1011	LHR/CDG/DOH/AUH	1120	1215	BOM
GF974-844/387	B737	LCA-AMM/DOH/DXB	2110	2210	AUH/DOH	PK501/502	F27	GWD	1145	1225	GWD
WY410/GF363	B737	SLL	2110	2225	SHJ/BAH	WY224/225	DHC6	BYB/KHS	1125	1300	SUH/MSH
TG512	DC10	CAI	2130	2330	BKK	TL231/232	B707F	BEY	1130	1300	BEY
GF036/1036	L1011	LHR/AUH	2235	2330	BOM	SD224/225	B707	KRT/DXB	1325	1425	KRT
GF144/3144	L1011	BAH/DOH	2225	2335	CMB	GF739/WY409	B737	KHI	1630	1715	SLL
BG023	DC10	DAC	2320		Ops BG024 Thu	WY225	DHC6	MSH/SUH	1810		
GF1037	L1011	BOM	2345		Ops GF037 Thu	WY410/GF367	B737	SLL	2110	2150	DXB/BAH
THURSDAY											
KL814	B747	SIN/KUL/KHI	0030	0120	AMS	GF2025	L1011	BOM	2100	2210	AUH/BAH/CDG/LHR
BG024	DC10	Ex-BG023 Wed		0100	DAC	GF940/185	B737	LCA/BAH	2015	2200	DOH/DHA
GF037	L1011	Ex-GF1037 Wed		0115	LHR	GF185	B737	Ex-GF186 SUN		2200	DOH/DHA (EFF 12 JAN)
BA12	B747	AKL/PER/SIN	0145	0245	LHR	GF396/041	L1011	BAH	2110	2220	DOH/BAH/ATH/FRA
GF1702	L1011	KRT/JED/DOH/AUH	0205		LHR	PK225/226	B707	KHI	2240	2355	KHI
RJ080/081	B707F	AMM	0220	0350	Ops GF971 Thu	TG507/508	AB4	BKK/KHI	2305	2359	KHI/BKK
LH610/639	A300	FRA/CAI	0155	0510	DOH/AMM	TC771	B737	DXB	2330		Ops TC771 Mon
KU671	B727	KWI/DOH	0255		KWI/FRA	KL811	B747	AMS	2340		Ops KL811 Mon
RJ600	L15	AMM/DXB	0345		Ops KU672 Thu						
WY263	DHC6			0630	Ops RJ601 Thu	GF008	L1011	LHR/DOH/DXB	0010		Ops GF007 Mon
GF971	L1011	Ex-GF1702 Thu		0640	KHS/BYB	TC771	B737	Ex-TC771 Sun		0015	JIB/ZNZ/DAR
KU672	B727	Ex-KU671 Thu		0650	DXB/BAH/LCA/AMM	GF1234	B737	KWI/AUH	0020		Ops GF975 Mon
RJ601	L15	Ex-RJ600 Thu		0645	DOH/KWI	KL811	B747	Ex-KL811 Sun		0030	KHI/CMB/SIN
BA149	L12	LHR/DXB/0840			DXB/AMM	BG039	B707	DAC	0005	0105	DXB/DHA/DAC
GF3145/145	L1011	CMB	0820	0920	Ops BA148 Thu	BA12	B747	MEL/SYD/SIN	0050	0155	LHR
GF1011/011	L1011	BOM	0830	0930	BAH	LH610/639	A300	FRA/CAI	0155	0510	KHI/FRA
GF372/WY407	B737	DOH/DXB	1010	1110	AUH/DOH/LHR	RJ600/601	L15	AMM/DXB	0315	0645	DXB/AMM
GF026/1026	L1011	LHR/CDG/BAH	1005	1115	SLL	WY236	DHC6			0630	RMB
GF398/081	L1011	BAH/AUH	1025	1130	BOM	WY235	F27			0700	KHS
WY263/264	DHC6	BYB/KHS	1125	1300	AUH/CAI	GF157/1157	B747	BKK/DAC	0630	0730	BAH
PK5012/5022	F27	GWD	1145	1225	SUH/MSH	GF975	B737	Ex-GF11234 Mon	0700	0750	AUH/DOH/AMM
TL231/232	B707F	BEY	1130	1300	GWD	BA11	B747	LHR	0700	0800	SIN/MEL/SYD
AI867/866	B707	BOM	1205	1320	BEY	GF780/730	B737	DOH	0810	0900	KHI
SV228/233	B737	JED/RUH/DOH	1335	1420	BOM	GF007	L1011	Ex-GF008 Mon		0930	DXB/DOH/LHR
WY408/GF734	B737	SLL	1500	1545	DOH/RUH/JED	WY235	DHC6	RMB	0920	0950	SUH
MS906/907	B737	CAI/SHJ	1535	1620	KHI	WY235	F27	KHS	1015		
PK219/220	B737	KHI	1740	1855	SHJ/CAI	AI881/880	AB4	BOM	1350	1505	DEL/BOM
WY264	DHC6	MSH/SUH	1810		KHI	GF346/351	B737	BAH/SHJ	1010	1100	BAH
GF065	L1011	BOM	1845	1945	BAH	GF012/1012	L1011	LHR/BAH/AUH	1120	1215	BOM
GF735/377	B737	KHI	2005	2045	DXB/DOH	TL231/232	B707F	BEY	1130	1300	BEY
AI837/836	B707	BOM	2035	2150	BOM	WY237/238	DHC6	SUH	1200	1500	RMB
BA148	L12	EX-BA149 Thu		2230	DOH/KWI/LHR	GF731/WY401	B737	KHI	1315	1400	SLL
GF044/031	L1011	FRA/ATH/BAH	2240	2359	AUH/LHR	WY838	F27	DAR/JIB	1735	1820	DXB
TG 507/508	AB4	BKK/KHI	2305	2359	KHI/BKK	WY238	B737	SLL	1750	1845	DOH/BAH
GF360	B737	BAH/DXB	2335		Ops GF945 Fri	WY839	DHC6	RMB	1755		
FRIDAY											
GF082/1082	L1011	CAI/AUH	0010	0110	BOM	GF354/369	B737	BAH/DOH/DXB	2145	2225	DXB/AUH
GF004/391	L1011	LHR/DOH	0040	0145	BAH	PK225/226	F27	KHI	2240	2355	KHI
GF945	B737	Ex-GF360 Thu		0740	DXB/DOH/LCA	GF038	L1011	LHR	2310		Ops GF1038 Tue
GF384/WY411	B737	AUH	0650	0745	SLL						
GF376/975	B737	SHJ	0705	0750	AUH/DOH/AMM						
GF3003/003	L1011	DEL	0700	0830	AUH/BAH/LHR	GF1038	L1011	Ex-GF038 Mon		0030	BOM
BA11	B747	LHR	0730	0835	SIN/SYD/MEL	GF042/2042	L1011	FRA/ATH/BAH/DOH	0925	0125	DEL
GF034/1034	L1011	LHR	0810	0915	BOM	KL812	B747	SIN/CMB/KHI	0030	0120	AMS
GF1087											

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Please insert the following advertisement.

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Sit. Wanted

Qualified lady journalist, formerly working with leading Indian English news agency seeks suitable opening in newspapers, magazines or information agencies. Contact: Bal S Gan-joo, P.O. Box 3587, Ruwi. Tel: 696242.

Steno office assistant knowledge of secretarial duties, telex, computer operation, seeks employment. Contact Kuttan, Tel: 700604, P.O. Box 7280, Visa expires shortly.

Young energetic Indian clerk-cum-storekeeper with four years' experience seeks employment. Contact Ivan Pinto, P.O. Box 7518, Muttrah.

Mature Philippine nanny, good command English, seeks immediate change. Visa expires shortly. Contact Lina, P.O. Box 1110, Seeb.

Accountant, 10 years' experience, conversant with stores and purchase control seeks employment. Contact: R. Pillai, P.O. Box 5148, Ruwi.

Commerce graduate, hockey player represented State team four times for National Championships, seeks suitable employment. Contact Ranjith, Box 7675, Muttrah.

Bank clerk, five years' experience seeks suitable position. Contact: M.T.A. Rifai, Bank of Ceylon, Hospital Street Branch, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Nine years' experience chartered accountant available for senior position in finance internal audit. Contact immediately Bharat, Bahrain. Tele-phones 729226, 727875.

Steno-secretary office assistant, knowledge of word processing programming, all office routines seeks employment. Visa expires shortly. Contact: P.O. Box 8299, Muttrah.

Young energetic Indian clerk with wide experience in shorthand, typing and telex seeks suitable employment. Please Contact Mr. Rajan on 799425/6.

An Economics graduate with diploma in secretarial practice, travel agency procedures and ticketing with typewriting, short hand telex experience requires suitable position. Visa Expiring within one month. Contact Mr. T.A. Mukundan, P.O. Box : 6271, Ruwi, Tel : 704021.

British administration manager, visit overseas experience construction/oil industries seeks suitable position. Available immediately: 5, Marquesa I, Denia, Province Alicante, Spain.

Automobile engineer, eighteen years' experience. In-charge two hundred buses requires suitable position. Contact: M.A. Jiffry, Depot Engineer Ceylon Transport Board, Udahamulla, Sri Lanka.

Salesman with experience of storekeeping, pricing, data-entry, administration, and typing. Seeks employment. Contact: Xavier Pinto, Box 9980, Seeb. Tel: 620144.

Wanted

Wanted: Second-hand car in good condition. Please contact urgently Lynette on telephone 696797 after 2pm.

Wanted: Used music system/component television video in good condition. Expatriates leaving Oman. May write to: Chandhok, Box 8998, Muttrah.

Urgently wanted: Diesel saloon cars Mercedes or Jetta, preferably right-hand drive. Contact after 3pm 701321.

Wanted: A second-hand car, preferably Mazda or Toyota, in good condition. Please contact Vaz 713783 between 1.30-4.30 pm or after 7.30pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The organisers of the Kalyanji Anandji Nite, Muscat, thank the general public for the great response to the programme whilst sincerely regretting inconvenience caused to them due to unexpected crowds.

For Sale

Hitachi VCR VT-640E brand new honestly sparingly used. R.O. 130 for sale; current market price R.O. 155. Contact 10-18 & 5-7 Ashok 712166.

Sale: Toyota Corona good running condition. Rare bargain! Don't miss it. Call no. 704621. R.O. 200/- only.

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COURSE NO. 2 - INTERMEDIATE DBASE II/BASIC - 4 WEEKS

COURSE NO. 3 - ADVANCE DBASE II/BASIC - 8 WEEKS

COURSE NO. 4 - COMBINED INTRODUCTION - 5 WEEKS

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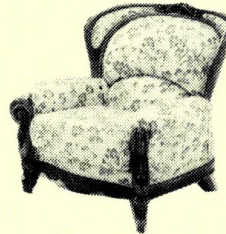
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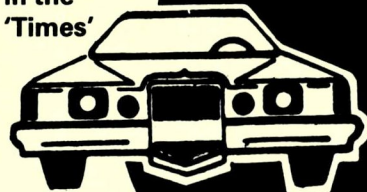
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Flowers of Saudi Arabia

An "Illustrated Guide the Flowers of Saudi Arabia" is the title of a lavishly produced book published by Scorpion Publishing of Buckhurst Hill, near London.

The pictures are beautiful. Except for a few photographs of her own herbarium specimens, all photographs were taken in the field, and all but three by the author herself, Sheila Collette. The book contains more than 1700 full-colour photographs.

Where the plant has not been in flower, fruity or vegetative branches have been photographed instead as an aid to further identification and in order to establish the presence of the species in Saudi Arabia.

The volume includes maps identifying the main collection areas, brief introduction to each family and detailed description of each plant, as well as full index of plants collected, with their authorities and herbarium number.

Miss Collette has visited Saudi Arabia over a period of 12 years and has collected and photographed more than 1500 species belonging to 115 families. Many of the species are recorded for the first time from the Arabian Peninsula. Each photograph is of a numbered plant subsequently prepared as a herbarium specimen. These have been identified and named and are preserved at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, with an almost duplicate set at Edinburgh, in Scotland and a further set at the National Herbarium of the Ministry of Agriculture in Riyadh, where the collection is available for study.

Saudi Arabia is a meeting point of three photo-geographical regions - the Mediterranean, the Oriental and the African - and Miss Collette's collection reflects this variety. Because of the support she received from the Directorate of Mineral Resources and contacts established with various geologists and mining companies, Sheila Collette was able to conduct much of her field work in often remote and largely inaccessible areas.

Lube oil plant in Dubai

An Anglo-Dubai joint venture is to carry out civil work connected with a new lube oil blending and packing plant at Jebel Ali Port in Dubai.

Costain Dubai Company, comprising Costin International and H E Humaid bin Draï, has been awarded a £1.1 million contract for the work by BP Arabian Agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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P.O. BOX : 385, MUSCAT.
Phone : 711404, 711405, 713035.

SERVICES

Attention Keralites! Clearing of personal baggage at Cochin port is simple. Air/Sea, we specialise in vehicle clearance. Teem-M Business centre, XXXV/953, 1st Floor, Church landing cross road, Pallimukku, Cochin 682016. Tel : 367229. Remember to collect the landing certificate.

For fresh Indian vegetables Alfonso mangoes, cashew nuts, provisions, contact Manjunath Exports, Tirupati Apts 10th FLR B Desai Road, Bombay 36.

We are undertaking construction and maintenance of building works. Contact - Yahya Rashid Construction Co. Mobaila P.O. Box 9672, Seeb Tel. 550017.

Indian vegetables, and produce available for export, Contact : R. Perumal, 10. Mathuram Ground, Thil-lai Nagar, Trichy 620018, South India.

For Highly reliable skilled, unskilled office engineering and other employees from Sri Lanka please contact. Lanka Services Consultants, 60 Green Path, Colombo 1. Sri Lanka. Tel: 574165, Telex 22082, 22291 Point Ce. Attn Mr Raouf/LSC.

For manpower supplies such as engineers, technicians, skilled, unskilled workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Thailand, England, Sri Lanka. Please contact: 700 445.

Manpower supplier - construction and non construction workers from Philippines. Please contact Agustin Esteva, Telex 14708 UNBH PS, Telephone : 474665, Manila.

Clearing of personal baggage at Cochin port — Aspin Agencies, Jifri & Kareem Building near road, Willingdon Island, Cochin 3, Kerala.

Matrimonial

Nair boy, thirty years working with leading group in Oman, seeks suitable alliance. Details to: K.J. Nair, P.O. Box 879, Muscat.

Personal

Repairs to TV/VCR, radio and electric appliances please visit shop - 16 Al-Ahli Bank building Seeb.

Repair and making of family Jewellery, ear piercing and gold watch, chain, repairs. Mohammed Abdulla Siddiq Est (Gold & Silver Smiths) Walja - Ruwi, Tel : 798276.

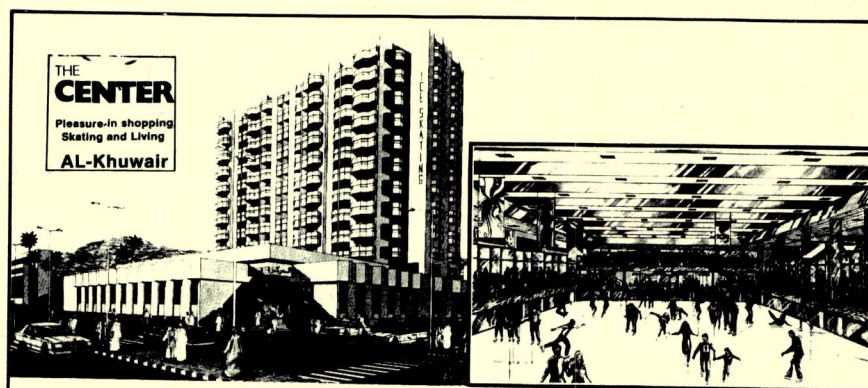
Ladies' tailor, reasonable rate, latest fashions, please visit shop-14, Al Ahli Bank building, Seeb.

For signboards, oil portraits, stickers, screen printing, banners, glow signs contact: Tariq, P.O. Box 4296, Ruwi.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Good news for Sri Lankans in Oman. Now available STC quality Samba rice. Also await for spices, pickles very shortly.

Contact:
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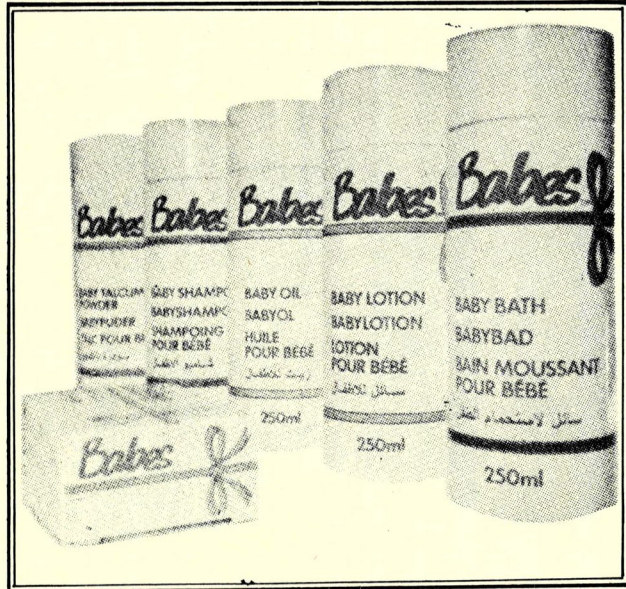
Lost on February 17, in Seeb Area one brown/white Spaniel Dog. If found R.O. 50/- reward will be given.

Tel : 535410

BEAUTY CARE

For all your beauty care contact BENNY AT **ESSA SALEH'S BEAUTY PARLOUR** (Hamriya), Near Khamis Shoe Shop, opp. Gulf Overseas Exchange. Tel: Res. 795151 for appointment.

Timesquiz



The Babes range of baby oil, cleansing lotion, shampoo, talc, soap and bath foam is gentle and very effective. The Babes baby care range is a secret shared by the world's most caring mothers.

Just write the answers on the coupon below (no photo-copies) and send in your entry/entries to the Competition Department, Times of Oman, P.O. Box 3770, Ruwi. The closing date for entries is March 5.

Salah Abdulla Trading and Cold Stores is emerging as a leading supermarket chain in Oman, with branches being opened in several locations in the country, the latest being the one in Muttrah, near Oman House.

Salah Cold Stores is sponsoring Quiz No: 48 with the prizes being offered in the form of shopping vouchers. The values are RO 35 for the first prize, RO 20 for the second and RO 10 for the third.

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Tel : 796423/793577

Tlx : 3802 SALAH ON

P.O. Box 7838 Muttrah, Sultanate of Oman

Quiz-46

RO 35 worth of shopping fun, the first prize in Timesquiz No. 46, sponsored by Salah Cold Stores of Muttrah, has been won by Ibrahim Said Salim al-Abri, P.O. Box 5327, Ruwi.

The second prize, a shopping voucher for RO 20 and the third prize, a shopping voucher for RO 10, have been won by Mr. Justin D'Souza, (ETH/6412), PDO, P.O. Box 81, Muscat, and Mrs. Molly Mathew, P.O. Box 8159, Muttrah.

They all answered that the Misti Volcano is in Peru, that Elia Kazan directed the film classic "On the Waterfront" and that Springfield is the capital of the US state of Illinois.

48

Answers:

-
-
-

Name :

Address :

Signature :

- Who wrote the prize-winning novel "Dragon's Teeth"?
- In which country is the Pilcomayo River?
- In which country is the Goesgen nuclear reactor?

Moghul Restaurant

The Moghul Restaurant, a pioneer in popularising Mughlai cuisine in several countries - is making its debut in Oman.

The restaurant, to be inaugurated by Hamed Hammad al Ghafri, Under-Secretary of Youth Affairs at Wattayah this evening is owned by Moghul Hotels Ltd. of Pakistan and is the fourth in the international chain of Moghuls - after Pakistan, the UK, and South Korea.

The Moghul has hosted some very prestigious dinners around the world. In

Lahore in 1974 it served the Islamic Summit, conference and in Korea the Moghul Restaurant hosted the King of Malaysia in 1982. Recently, the restaurant entertained President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan during his visit to South Korea.

In Oman, the Moghul Restaurant has used local Omani flavour in architecture and interior decor.

Mirza Ikram Baig, General Manager, said the restaurant will offer specialised Mughlai cuisine.

New make-up from Christian Dior

Ms. Theresa Loyer is back at the Capital Stores for her sixth visit to Muscat - with Christian Dior introducing a new range of makeup.

"Les Coloniales" excites her a lot, as it would any woman fond of adventure and nature, because the shades of this range are inspired by the mystery of the African continent. The eye shadows are named "Mid-day Moon" and "Midnight Sun".



Ms. Theresa Loyer

Close your eyes and imagine you are on a safari and this journey imparts your eye lashes the contrasting colours - green and pink or blue and yellow - from two separate palettes. Whether these are the shades of scorched chaff, green grass, blue lagoons or those of the Khakis of a Safari, is left to your imagination.

And when you are on a safari, the routines do not exist and hence "Les Coloniales" mascara is no longer the classic deep blue, black or brown, but water blue, sail boat blue, and mermaid green. These shades are the first time available in Diormatic Waterproof.

The two palettes of the blush are very striking at first sight - modulations of blue and coral to give the face cheerful subdued glow.

The lipsticks are "Acid drop" bright toned harmonies called Siesta, Palmtree, Sunshine, Colonel and Hammock, with matching lip gloss shades of subdued light, sunshine and parasol.

There are pencils also, for the fine contouring of eye lashes and lips in Aure blue and Rose respectively.

Ms. Loyer is available at the Capital Stores until today and at the Noor and Amal (Ruwi, opp. Khalijana) on February 22, 23 and 24.

BBC World Service

"Pride and Prejudice". Perhaps one of Jane Austen's best known novels and the heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, one of best loved characters in English literature.

Set in the early 19th century, it was first published under the title First Impressions. Nearly 15 years later it was re-named and thoroughly revised by the author before publication in 1813 of the classic we now know as Pride and Prejudice.

In this 12-part dramatisation, Elizabeth Counsell plays the heroine Miss Bennet, Frank Barrie is Darcy and Alan Moore plays Bingley. Sunday, 1830 hrs, Monday 2230 hrs, Tuesday 1430 hrs, Wednesday 0630 hrs.

"In Holy Contemplation". In the second of five programmes featuring different religious communities in Britain, Bernard Jackson visits a

Buddhist monastery of monks and nuns to see how they live and pray. Sunday 1345 hrs, Wednesday 1915 hrs, Friday 0930 hrs.

"Saturday Special". Could be called Cricket Special this week with commentary and reports on the first Test match series featuring West Indies v England in Kingston, Jamaica and reports on the first Test series in which New Zealand meet Australia in Wellington. Saturday 1830 hrs, 1915hrs, repeat 2015 hrs.

"King of Swings". Malcolm Laycock presents another half hour of swinging toe-tapping sounds from the 1930's, 40's and 50's. Featuring Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glen Miller alongside items by the talents performers who emerged to work in the court of the 'Kings'. Monday 1730 hrs, 1400 hrs, Friday 2230 hrs.



A troupe from Pakistan recently entertained at the Oman Sheraton, in a programme sponsored by Hamid Ghaylani Establishment, in association with Dixi Cola and PIA.

Among the performers were 'tabla' artiste Sattar Tari, Sabiha Kannum who sang old songs from Pakistani films, Pervez Mehdi ('ghazals') comedian Moin Akhtar and singer Nahid Akhtar.

Times Sport

The toughest and richest...

The richest tennis tournament to be staged in Oman gets under way tomorrow boasting the strongest field ever assembled in the Sultanate.

The seventh Al Falaj Hotel Open Championships break a number of records with 272 players producing 324 multiple entries in a chase for more than \$13,000 worth of prizes.

Competition will be stiff in all five singles and doubles events, and the battle for the men's crown will be the most intriguing.

The seedings committee found it impossible to split the top two players in the Sultanate - John Hament and Krishna Bhupathi.

Tough

So Hament, the Al Falaj professional and defending champion, and Bhupathi, who beat his big rival in last week's Muscat Inter-Continental Open final, share the

No. 1 spot.

"It was simply down to the fact that we have played each other in two major tournaments in the past year and we have both won one match," said Hament, who defeated Bhupathi to take the Al Falaj top prize last year.

Sandy Connolly, winner of three titles at the Inter-Continental tournament, has been given top seeding in the same three events, but she can expect a tough time over the next five weeks.

"I think she is going to have a little more competition this time," said Hament, when the seedings were announced at Tuesday's press conference.

"The Inter-Continental field was the strongest in the history of Oman, but if you look at the players here this tournament will be even stronger."

The full tournament draw is available from Al Falaj Hotel, the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel, Al Bustan Palace Hotel tennis shop, and PDO.

Reflecting that point Allison Edwards, losing finalist to Connolly last week, is seeded third behind Fran Vincent who did not play in the Inter-Continental event.

The tournament has attracted considerable backing and the support of main sponsors Gulf Air has brought in eight air tickets for the singles and doubles champions.

Among the various trophies and prizes on offer are four special awards for Omani players.

The tournament finals will be spread over three days at the Al Falaj tennis stadium from March 26 to 28.

Seeds - men's singles: 1 John Hament; 2 Krishna Bhupathi; 3 Gul Khan; 4 Chandra Das; 5 Greg High; 6 Don Caprio; 7 Gajendra Singh; 8 George Chidiac.

Ladies' singles: 1 Sandy Connolly; 2 Fran Vincent; 3 Allison Edwards; 4 Livya Hament; 5 Marites Leitgeb; 6 Stella Hanley; 7 Heather Brand; 8 Susan High.

Men's doubles: 1 High/Khan; **ladies' doubles:** 1 Connolly/Julia Bridges; **mixed doubles:** 1 Chidiac/Connolly.



John Hament (left) and tournament co-ordinator George Hook show off some of the Al Falaj Open silverware.

Muscat are left out in the cold

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Muscat have been denied an immediate chance to bounce back from their first Gulf Merit Table disappointment of the season.

Tomorrow's scheduled home game with championship rivals Kuwait has been postponed because of travel problems, and will now be played towards the end of March.

The switch denies Muscat the opportunity to get back on the winning trail following last weekend's 26-6 defeat in Bahrain, which wrecked their 100 per cent Merit Table record.

With Bahrain coming to the Sultanate tomorrow week Muscat plan to put their players through their paces this weekend.

Setback

"We tried to organise another game this weekend but it was impossible," said skipper Lloyd Williams. "It is a bit of a blow because we needed one as preparation for the Bahrain match. Now we will have to train this weekend."

While the senior players train the second team will be attempting to wipe out the disappointment of their first setback of the

season in the Second Division.

They also fell to their first defeat in Bahrain last weekend but hope to stay in the title race with a home victory over Dubai

• **PDO now have the definite look of champions in Division A of the Ladies Netball League.**

They moved within reach of the title by pulling off a nail-biting 12-10 victory over rivals Pan-Am.

First Division: Omani Nurses 10, Wimpey Wasps 22; Desert Swingers 11, Zubair A 17; Pan Am 10, PDO 12.

Second Division: Sinha 8, Oryx 12; Elles Belles 6, Cementation 10; Zunair B 15, Wimpey Bees 11.

• Omani squash players in two minds about entering a new tournament in Muscat have been urged to take the plunge.

The first Al Falaj Hotel Oman Closed tournament runs from February 27 to March 14 and the organisers think some players may be put off entering because they are novices.

But Al Falaj health and sports club manager George Hook said, "We are encouraging all Omani players to enter, regardless of their skill. This is a new sport for many of them and we want them all to take part. It's not just winning that counts."

Entries close tomorrow for the tournament which looks certain to become an annual event.

Have no fears Oman are told

Oman have been told that they have nothing to fear in next month's Gulf Cup tournament in Bahrain.

That was the message delivered by Oman Football Association president Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq al Said before a squad of 22 players flew out to Brazil on Tuesday morning for a one-month long training camp.

Sayyid Haitham, who plans to step down from his position following the Gulf Cup, told the players they were as good as the other teams who will be lining up in the tournament starting on March 22.

Oman will play around ten warm-up games in Brazil, return to the Sultanate on March 16 and fly to Bahrain three days later ready for their opening tie against Qatar on March 23.

OFA officials are convinced that the tournament will go ahead, and that Kuwait will compete.

It was feared that the Gulf Cup, already put back a fortnight, would be cancelled

following FIFA's threat to kick Kuwait out of international football.

But OFA secretary Shaban bin Barman said he expected Kuwait to end the administrative row by agreeing to appoint new officials.

Al Nasr's Salem Khasboob went on the trip to Brazil despite a leg injury. But Fanja's Abdullah Jumrah, another midfielder, missed out after being dropped by national coach Jose Antonio Clemente.

Ideal

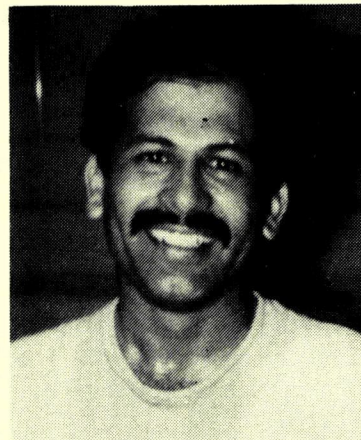
On returning from his native Brazil with the squad Clemente is likely to officially install Al Nasr schemer Hamtout Juman as team captain.

Hamtout has led the team in recent friendlies and looks the ideal man for the job in the Gulf Cup.

• Fanja and Al Nasr both made winning starts in the Super League play-offs.

Results: Super League: Fanja 2, Al Ittihad 0; Al Aruba 0, Al Nasr 1. First Division: Muttrah 2, Sohar 2; Majis 2, Seeb 2; Sohar 1, Seeb 0.

Sardar shocked by his cousin



Akbar Khan: "I didn't expect to win."

Sardar Khan suffered a shock defeat in only his second outing in the Muscat Squash League - and his cousin was to blame.

The new Al Falaj professional and No. 1 fell 3-1 to MOD Mam's Akbar Khan and was the A Division champions' only loser in Monday night's 4-1 victory.

The two players, first cousins, had never played before and until recently had not seen each other for at least ten years.

Akbar won the first game 9-6, but the Sardar looked as though he had taken control when he cruised through the second 9-1 and went 7-1 ahead in the third.

Mistakes

But a series of errors allowed Akbar to fight back and win that game 9-7, and the MOD player produced some glorious winners to clinch the next 9-3.

Akbar could hardly believe it. "I'm quite sure I can't beat him," he said afterwards, shaking his head. "I didn't expect to win. I was tired after the first game but he started making a lot of mistakes and got angry with himself."

Sardar said, "I thought he wasn't fit and so I wanted to make him tired. But I made too many simple mistakes and became a little bit angry with myself."

Sardar now plans to push himself hard in training before meeting Gulf Champion Yousef Khan in next Monday's clash with GTO/Al Ahli.

A treble chance!

Ton-up batsman Peter Smith has the chance to complete a rare hat-trick when the Oman Cricket Association Super League programme resumes tomorrow after a three-week break.

The Muscat A skipper hammered his way to centuries in his last two outings against Al Ahli and ONEC.

And the opportunity will be there for him to make it three in a row when his side meets lowly Sinha A in the opening match at the PDO ground.

Smith has an extra incentive to do well as Sinha won when the two sides met earlier in the

season, their only victory so far.

Skipper Ashley Rodrigo will be determined to help his side improve on that dismal record - he has managed only 32 runs in seven innings.

Something must give when relegation-threatened Al Ghubrah and PDO meet at the MODED ground in an A Division clash, as both sides are still seeking their first win

Fixtures - MODED (8am) Al Ghubrah v PDO; **(1pm)** Al Hassan v ICS; **Garrison 2 (8am)** Muscat B v MODED 2; **(1pm)** Shaheen v National CC; **OAS (8am)** OHI v Zubair Enterprises; **(1pm)** Assarain A v ICA; **TWT (8am)** Assarain B v Shaheen; **(1pm)** Youth CC v Fairtrade; **PDO (8am)** Muscat A v Sinha A; **(1pm)** ONEC v Al Ahli.

Times Sport

Omanis set to cue off with world's best

Two Omani snooker players will share the limelight with the game's biggest stars in Muscat next month.

Ahmed bin Youseff bin Hassan al Baluchi will come up against reigning world champion Dennis Taylor while Said bin Mohammed bin Said Al Busaidi will face three times former title holder Steve Davis.

By Tony Lewis

The pair from Al Medinat Club, two of the best Omani players, get their big moments as a build-up to the main action in the Al Falaj Hotel World Snooker Champions' Tournament.

Packed houses of between 600 and 800 spectators are expected for the two-night attraction at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher on March 4 and 5.

Welshman Terry Griffiths, the 1979 world champion, and Lonooner Tony Meo, the world No. 10, are the other two stars who will displaying their skills in the sports hall at the complex.

Auction

Said al Busaidi will play a one-frame exhibition match against Davis, world champion in 1981, 1983 and 1984, on opening night (7pm start).

Davis will then meet Meo while Taylor will take on Griffiths, the two winners going on to compete for the Al Falaj Champion of Champions Trophy all in best-of-three frames contests.

Ahmed al Baluchi goes to the table against Taylor the following night (6pm). Later Davis takes on Griffiths

while Taylor comes up against Meo, with the winners playing for the Yahya Nasib Champion of Champions Trophy.

After that match the Riley Aristocrat table, being flown in from London especially for the event will be auctioned, along with a full range of accessories.

Trick shots

A Riley technician will stay on in Muscat for two days to install the table-fitted with a plate to be signed by the four stars - in the home or club of the buyer.

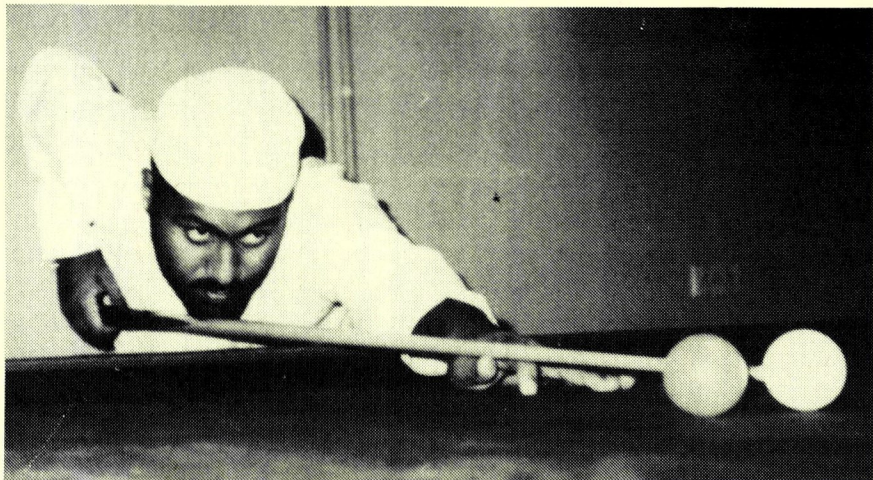
To complete the performance on both nights Taylor, Davis, Griffiths and Meo will put on an exhibition of trick shots, which is always a big crowd-pleaser.

Backing

Al Falaj general manager Toli Papayannis says the backing for the event, costing around £40,000 to stage, has been so great that prospective sponsors have had to be "politely" turned down.

Tickets, at RO 5 per night, went on sale from Al Falaj, and Northern Oman Snooker League officials, on Tuesday.

Chief referee will be Ron Anderson from the Northern Oman League. The tournament is being organised by the Al Falaj in association with Yahya Nassib-Sansui, Gulf Air, Wimpey Alawi LLC, Oman Catering Co LLC, Diners Club Oman, Shawki Sultan, Bahwan Travel, Pepsi Cola, Oriental Printing Press, and Delta Limited, with Khimji Rolex the official time keepers.



Said al Busaidi who takes on Steve Davis (below left) while Dennis Taylor (right) also faces Omani opposition.



Champs reach final

OHI are now just one step away from completing the first part of their double bid in the Northern Oman Snooker League.

They reached their first team knockout final with a 3-1 victory over Concorde.

Only 24 hours earlier the two sides and met in First Division action and Cocorde put up a brace fight before going down 3-2 to the champions, who now lead the table by 17 points.

Cementation climbed into second position as a result of a 4-1 victory over relegation-haunted Taylor Woodrow, while Falcon claimed third spot after a 3-2 win

over OUA.

RAHRC boosted their chances of finishing runners-up by whitewashing PDO rivals MAFRC.

Sharqiya eased their relegation fears by coming from behind to beat fellow-strugglers Dolphin 3-2.

Second Division title favourites Batinah reclaimed top place with a 5-0 demolition of OHI(2).

Team knockout semi-final: OHI (1) 3, Concorde 1.

First Division: Concorde 2, OHI(1) 3; Sharqiya 3, Dolphin 2; Cementation 4, Taylor Woodrow 1; RAHRC 5, MAFRC 0; OUA 2, Falcon 3.

Second Division: OHI(2) 0, Batinah 5; Gulf 3, Shabab Al Madinah 2; Wimpey 2, ORC 3; TTI 3, Indian Club 2; Wimpey 1, TTI 4.

Hamad, Phil in victory

Hamad Hamdan and Phil Todd formed a winning combination during the annual Zubair Kilpatrick LLC golf day at the Ghallah Wentworth club.

They came in with 42 points to win the stableford event which attracted a record entry of 76 competitors.

Runners-up on 41 points were Peter Brunton and Udo Nordbrink with David Rastall and Berti Samarawickrema third on 40.

The hidden prize was won by Brian Tresham and Yasmane Lyons.



Winners Hamad Hamdan and Phil Todd are congratulated by Zubair Kilpatrick general manager Bill Flood and his wife Maura, watched by club captain Alistair Napier (centre).

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Times Sport

Muscat's record cracks

Muscat Rugby Football Club's 100 per cent record in the Gulf Merit Table was shattered by arch-rivals Bahrain.

The 26-6 away defeat means that Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait have now lost one Merit game each.

Muscat suffered a pre-match blow when captain Lloyd Williams pulled out after receiving news of his father's sudden illness in New Zealand.

A Gary Owen penalty kept Muscat in touch after Bahrain had opened the scoring with a try, but a converted try gave the home side a 10-3 interval lead.

Control

The crucial moment in the game early in the second-half when Bahrain scored again to take control.

Two more tries late in the match rubbed salt into Muscat's wounds, and another two conversions made up the Bahrain total.

Muscat's acting skipper Cliff Wilson said, "It was disappointing because we felt at half-time that we were in with a good chance."

"But they got that try early in the second half and the two tries late on made the score look a bit ridiculous."

To complete a miserable day for Muscat the Seconds, in the hunt for the Second Division championship, were also brought down to earth in Bahrain, losing 25-7.

Ten-pin bowling is set for a revival

The stage is set for a ten-pin bowling revival in Oman.

The sport has a new base at the Oman Sheraton Hotel in Muscat and the prospects for the future seem bright.

A new-look Oman Ten-Pin Bowling League is being formed at the hotel's immaculate Bowling Centre which has six fully-automatic lanes, and is the only one of its kind in the Sultanate.

A national ranking system is already being planned and a national championship is expected to follow.

"At the moment we are looking for teams to take part in the league and we hope to start by April," said Sheraton Recreation Manager Simon Windsor.

"Anybody interested should contact myself. Five players are needed for each team. I won't be putting a limit on the number of teams at the moment. We will just let the applications come in and when I think the league is big enough we will stop."

Expatriates have normally dominated the ten-pin bowling scene but Windsor said, "I have seen a few young Omanis playing who are very good and we are hoping to encourage more."



Simon Windsor tries his luck at the Oman Sheraton Bowling Centre

The league is likely to operate on three nights a week to start with. "If the demand increases we will probably go to four nights a week, but I want to keep some evenings free for open bowling because players will want to practice," said Windsor.

Beginners will be encouraged by the fact that Bowling Centre staff are available to give free lessons.

League players will be offered special membership rates at the Centre which is open from 3pm to 11pm every day.

Teams interested in joining the league will be given a free night of bowling to try out the facilities at the Centre where shoes, score-sheets as well as the balls are provided.

Hettige hits out to put Sinha on victory trial

Upali Hettige and Desmond don Paul took on key roles to guide Sinha B to a 39-run victory over CCC in their Oman Cricket Association A Division clash.

Hettige top-scored with 72 runs, hammering eight boundaries in the process and putting together an open stand of 92 in 11 overs with skipper Romesh de Silva.

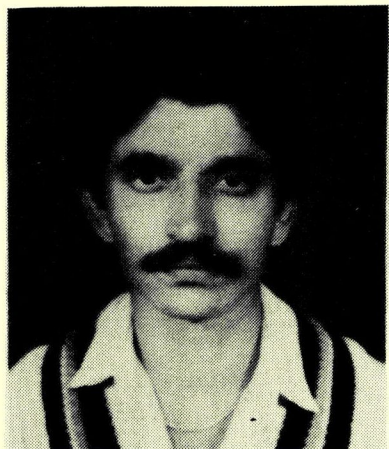
And after Sinha had finished on 206-4 don Paul did the damage with the ball to send CCC tottering to defeat.

CCC had looked in a strong position after plundering 38 runs in the first three overs and reaching 103 after 12 overs.

But then don Paul struck, first removing Paroo for 63 with his fourth delivery, diving to his right to hold on to a brilliant catch.

Next he accounted for Moinuddin in his second over and CCC's challenge folded at 167.

Fine knocks by skipper Upatissa Tennekoon and Praneeth Fernando lifted



Iqbal Shaikh: 74 for OMASCO

Oman Aviation Services to the top of the C Division with a five-wicket win over fancied Muscat Pharmacy A at the OAS ground.

Pharmacy batted first and Kirti Jani and Kamdar took them to 190.

But Fernando and Tennekoon produced a fine opening stand and Praneeth

was unfortunate to miss his third 50 of the season by four runs when he misread spinner Bharat. But Tennekoon played a captain's innings to see his side through with one over to spare.

A sparkling 87 from SOAF's Barry Nott and a hostile spell of pace bowling by Treveen (4 for 38) shattered Mina Hotel's hopes at the Garrison 2 ground.

Nott stroked the ball around fluently while Lalith was also among the runs, clubbing his way to 41 in SOAF's total of 214.

When Mina Hotel replied they were unable to master the bowling of Treveen, Bultjens and Anthony and folded for 93.

Elegant

Modern Colour Printers thrashed Muscat Pharmacy B by seven wickets in the E Division.

Pharmacy batted first and Mani and Nandu put on 70 for the opening wicket. But when Qaiser and Quyyum took up the attack they collapsed to 122.

Qaiser then stroked his way to an elegant 41 to lead his side to victory.

OMASCO finished their E Division engagements with a nine-wicket victory over Al Hassan which gave them third place in the league.

League Scoreboard

Sinha B 206-4 (U. Hettige 72, R. De Silva 33, R. Mendis 38, L. Perera 30); CCC 167 (Paroo 63; D. don Paul 3-32).

Muscat Pharmacy A 190 (K. Jani 66, Kamdar 42 n.o.); OAS 191-5 (P. Fernando 46, U. Tennekoon 63).

SOAF 214 (Nott 87, Lalith 41; Liladhar 3-34); Mina Hotel 93 (Treveen 4-38).

Modern Colour Printers 122 (Mani 44, Nandu 33; Qaiser 3-17); Muscat Pharmacy B 123-3 (Qaiser 41 n.o. Altaf 38, Venugopal 33; Rajeev 3-30).

Al Hassan 118; OMASCO 119-1 (I. Shaikh 74).

Salim the hero in a Wimpey surprise

Salim Sayed is the toast of Wimpey in the Capital Area Football League.

He scored both goals in his side's shock 2-1 DHL Trophy quarter-final victory over Oman Refinery - Wimpey's first was since December 1984.

Fosters went through after a bad-tempered clash with Desert Line, winning 3-1 after extra time thanks to two goals from debutant Pete Howard.

Three Desert Line Players and one from Fosters were sent off. And there was one dismissal on each side as Siemens clinched a semi-final spot with a 2-1 win over Airworks.

League leaders MOD had a big scare before consolidating their position with the help of opponents Fosters.

MOD trailed 0-2 after an hour but a Brian Clark penalty and own goals from Colin Geddes and Phil Miller brought them the points. Desert Line maintained their challenge in second position by crushing BBME 7-2 while third-placed J & P won 4-2 against Britannia.

DHL Trophy quarter finals: Fosters 3, Desert Line 1, (aet); Wimpey 2, Oman Refinery 1; Siemens 2, Airworks 1.

League:

Airworks 1, J & P 3; Britannia 2, J & P 4; MOD 3, Fosters 2; Desert Line 7, BBME 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOD	13	11	1	1	77	10	23
Desert Line	12	9	1	2	41	16	19
J & P	13	8	3	2	39	20	19
Oman Refinery	10	7	2	1	33	12	16
Ras al Hamra	12	6	4	2	40	26	16
Foster	15	7	1	7	35	27	15
Siemens	10	5	0	5	22	29	10
BBME	11	4	0	7	27	34	8
Airworks	14	3	0	11	26	62	6
Britannia	15	2	0	13	19	59	4
Wimpey	10	0	0	10	11	71	0

Sri Lankans ahead

The Hochtief Sri Lankans have gone one up in their five-Test series against the Hochtief Indian XI.

They pulled off a five-wicket victory in the third Test at the Sohar ground thanks largely to a fine all-round performance by Upali Warnapura who scored an unbeaten 47 and took 2-27.

The Indian team were at sea against the bowling of Sumith Fernando and Kamal and slid to 68-6 until Ronnie and Narain rescued them with a 34-run stand

for the seventh wicket. But then Warnapura took over to bundle them out for 127.

The Sri Lankans started badly when Sumith Fernando lost his off stump in Shoaib's opening over before a run was scored. Imbuldeniya and Manjula Ratnapala then batted sensibly before three quick wickets left the Sri Lankans on 54-4. Warnapura then took over, clubbing his way to an unbeaten 47.

Indian XI 127 (Narain 23; Kamal 3-24); Sri Lankan XI 128-5. (U. Warnapura 47 n.o.)

Times Sport

Krishna set to get up a real sweat

Krishna Bhupathi is ready to sweat it out in an attempt to overcome a challenge from five more of the Gulf's top tennis players.

The former Indian international believes fitness holds the key to his bid to complete a hat-trick of tournament triumphs in the next two months.

The new Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel Open champion will next attempt to snatch the Al Falaj Hotel Open crown away from big rival John Hament.

Then he hopes to win the Champion of Champions tournament being staged by Air France at Avienne in the French Alps from April 15 to 18.

Bhupathi booked his ticket to that event, in which he will line up alongside tournament champions from Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Dubai, by outplaying Hament in the Inter-Continental men's singles final.

Important

"I am going there to win, and for a change I am going to train," said a determined Bhupathi.

"Normally I just go out and rely on my ability rather than my physical fitness. But we are going to be playing on slow clay courts in France, fitness will be important, and I have got to train."

Fitness had nothing to do with Bhupathi's 6-4, 6-4 Inter-Continental victory over Hament, which avenged his defeat in last year's Al Falaj final.

Hament admitted, "Krishna played a very good match. He was attacking from beginning to end obviously with a clear game plan in mind. I felt I was under pressure from the start."

Bhupathi already knows what to expect from two of the men he could face in France. The Dubai representa-

tive will be British professional Steve Riley, the man he beat in the semi-finals of the first Gulf Indoor Championship in Abu Dhabi last year.

And Frenchman Thierry Clemençon, who defeated him in the final of the same tournament, will be there as the Abu Dhabi champion. "That time I wasn't fit at all," said Bhupathi.

Bhupathi said, "My basic plan was to put him under pressure and take the net as soon as I could. My service return worked very well on the day allowing me to put more and more pressure on him."

The two are now strongly fancied to clash again in the final of the Al Falaj tournament, which runs from February 21 to March 28, although Bhupathi is taking nothing for granted.

"I don't take anybody lightly", he declared. "We have Gul Khan, who I almost lost to in the semi-finals - I was lucky to get out of that. Greg High is a very good quality player, and if John or I have an off day anyone can beat us. Competition is far superior this year compared to last year."

Bhupathi's hopes of completing an Inter-Continental double alongside his talented 11-year-old son Mahesh ended after a brave attempt in the men's doubles final.

The No.2 seeds battled for just over an hour before going down 7-6, 6-2 to top seeds Gul Khan and Chandra Das.

The Inter-Continental tournament overall was a big success, attracting record crowds with more than 500 spectators crammed around the court for the two singles finals.



Champion! Krishna Bhupathi shows off his men's singles trophy

Sandy has the winning habit

The First Lady of tennis in Oman is collecting titles like other players run up double faults.

And Sandy Connolly, a bubbling 29-year-old mother-of-two, is unlikely to lose her winning habit for some time to come.

She emphasised her superiority in the Sultanate by notching a hat-trick of success in the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel Open Championship.

Toughest

The Rhodesian-born No. 1 seed saw off Alison Edwards 6-0, 6-2 in just 45 minutes on Friday to clinch her fourth successive ladies' singles crown.

Earlier she teamed up with Julia Bridges to confirm their top seeding by defeating the No. 2 pair Lillian de Rozario and Stella Hanley 6-0, 6-4 to win the ladies' doubles.

Connolly had passed her toughest test of the tournament two days earlier when she and partner George Chidiac surprised top seeds Greg High and de Rozario in the mixed doubles final.

Threat

"We were not expected to win as we were not seeded and playing against such a strong couple," she said. "Greg High is ranked in America and is so clever. That service of his is wicked. I have never

come across anything so horrible in my life."

Of her singles triumph she admitted, "I don't think my opponent was up to her usual form. I know she plays a lovely game from having watched her a couple of times before."

"But she didn't get her act together, and I think the crowd put her off. It can be all very different when there are 500 pairs of eyes staring at you."

Connolly believes Edwards could still be a threat to her hopes of landing the Al Falaj Open title next month to make up for her defeat in last year's final by Liz Ward, who has now left the Sultanate.

Cheering

"If she gets through in my section she may cause me some problems," she declared, before naming another serious challenger. "Fran Vincent will be playing and she is about the closest to me."

"But there are newcomers arriving in the country all the time, and it will be different ball game at the Al Falaj. The court is much slower, and I just hope I can come through again."

Cheering every point she wins will be the usual Connolly fan club, - sons Donovan (4) - "I'm hoping to make a good player out of him" - Ryan (7) and husband Charles, an air traffic controller who is "a good watcher from the sides."



Champions! Julia Bridges (left) with Sandy Connolly who notched a hat-trick of titles.

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Times Sport

Champ makes his move

Hugh Hayden is making a late bid to hold on to his title in the Royal Oman Police Kart Club drivers' championship.

After languishing in the minor positions for most of the season Hayden burst back into top form to win the sixth round of the championship at the weekend.

And although he has a lot of ground to make up on leader Richard Hayward he has not written off his chances saying "You never know".

On a day of thrills and spills at the Seeb circuit Hayward increased his

championship lead - despite losing a wheel in one heat - while Alan Pringle and Johan Kwant, his closest rivals, both ran into trouble.

But there were no problems for Hayden in the OUA-sponsored meeting as he won the first heat to earn pole position on the grid and powered his way to victory in each of the three finals.

Hyden has been held back this season while adapting to a new kart frame, and he said, "It's quite a different piece of equipment."

"It is much more temperamental and you have to be much more precise."

"It looks like we have more or less got it right now, but I wrote off part of

the frame in the team race."

Hayward had one moment of drama before going on to finish third on the day, and stretch his lead to 360

"An axle stub snapped off at the base as he was driving along," said ROP club chairman Barry Cheverton. "The front wheel came off and he drove on for above 40 yards before he realised it."

Serious

The hopes of Pringle and Kwant were dented in a five-kart pile up at the start of the second final.

The shunt left Pringle with no brakes, while the frame of Kwant's kart was twisted, with the seat touching the ground. None was injured in the collision.

Frenchman Rene Legonnet had another good day, taking second

place overall and is now a serious championship contender in fourth spot.

For the second time in succession Hayward and his Zubair partner Neil Wragg won the team race, with Wragg leading from start to finish, while the new ROP pairing of Nigel Heath and Keith Weetch were runners-up.

Results - Heat one: 1 Hayden; 2 Kwant; 3 Ray Hodgson; Heat two: 1 Hayward; 2 Alan Shaw; 3 Pringle.

First final: 1 Hayden; 2 Pringle; 3 Kwant; second final: 1 Hayden; 2 Hayward; 3 Legonnet; third final: 1 Hayden; 2 Legonnet; 3 Hayward.

Overall positions: 1 Hayden 1,200 pts; 2 Legonnet 596 pts; 3 Hayward 525 pts; 4 Pringle 383 pts; 5 Bert Voor de Poort 338 pts; 9 Kwant 225 pts.

Championship standings: 1 Hayward 4,098 pts; 2 Pringle 3,738 pts; 3 Kwant 3,497 pts; 4 Legonnet 3,305 pts; 5 Hayden 2,227 pts; 6 Voor de Poort 1,747 pts.

MATCH POINTS



By Greg High

The Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel's tennis professional

All shots in tennis, no matter how much you practice them, some times fall apart. What can you do when this happens?

If you are not actively competing when a breakdown occurs the solutions are not too difficult.

First you can gain help from a professional or knowledgeable player. This is a good solution when you cannot figure out what you are doing wrong.

If you are already an experienced lesson-taker experimentation is the key.

The critical concept is one of adjustment. Try not to continue making the same error repetitively. For example if hitting a forehand into the net, it's better to lob than simply trying to hit several feet higher.

Serious

Confidence can instantly return just by hitting a few balls in the court, even if your opponent returns them.

But you may find a stroke failing when you are in the middle of a serious match. It is especially disconcerting if the shot is normally sound or even a real strength. Again, be willing to change. If you normally hit powerful deep volleys but they all seem to be flying long, try aiming at the service line.

Although you may hit few a short volleys at least your opponent will have to make passing shots rather than happily watch your ball sail out.

You may experience a real nightmare when an entire area of play disintegrates. Don't panic. Your opponent must have weaknesses and you may successfully change gear and exploit them. For example you have planned to hit top spin but suddenly all you can do is chip the ball.

Well, try chipping the ball you may find it works too. Remember, adjustment determines both strokes and strategy.

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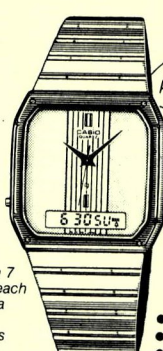
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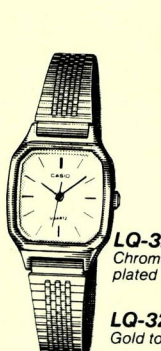
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Conference call on local material for building houses

The conference on standardisation of housing in Arab states has urged all member states to make optimum use of local building material and give special consideration to the element of conservation of energy in future buildings through heat insulation.

The meeting organised by the Department of Housing of the Arab League was attended by engineers and town planners from Oman, the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, Sudan, Mauritania, Morocco and Iraq.

By Muzaffar Mohammad

The Omani delegation at the conference, held in Baghdad from 10 to 12 February, consisted of Ali Mohammad al Mahfouqi, Chief of Technical Units at the Directorate General of Public Works; Ali Masood al Falahi, Town Planner and an engineer from the Ministry of Housing.

Ali Mohammad al Mahrouqi said the conference agreed that the future houses in Arab countries should be provided with at least water and electricity and a proper sewerage system.

The conference stressed the need to use architectural techniques to keep houses cool without resorting to the use of electrical appliances.

The future buildings must also be architecturally capable of absorbing much sunlight during summer.

Ali Mohammad al Mahrouqi disclosed that Oman has already

started to implement the element of heat insulation in all Government buildings while there is a plan to extend the feature to all commercial buildings in future.

The conference heard several papers on Arab housing delivered by experts from Baghdad University.

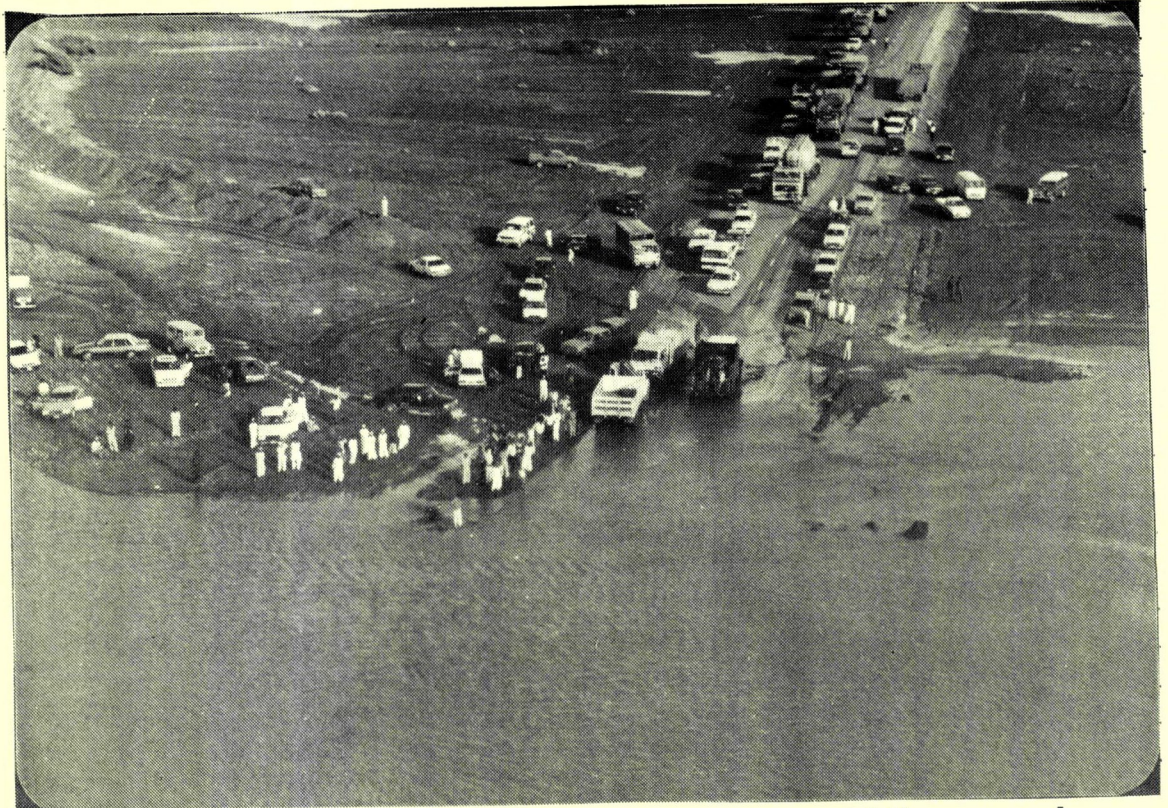
In reply to a question he said since Oman started construction late its buildings are free from many architectural defects in buildings in other Arab countries.

He said there is no plan to change the traditional pattern of Omani houses but efforts are continuing to improve the design of these houses.

"Peninsula Shield"

The Commander of the "Peninsula Shield" force, Colonel Salim Sa'oud Sorour, arrived in Muscat on Tuesday with a delegation on a few days' visit.

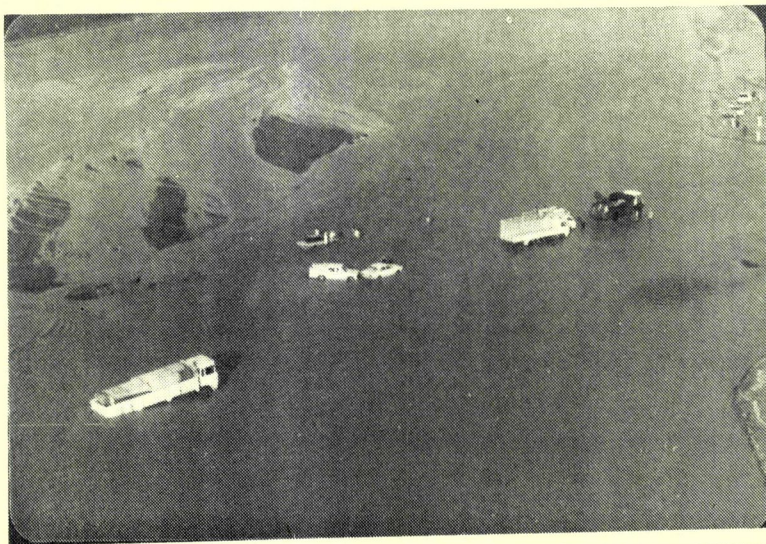
He was received at the airport by Commander of the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces Training Regiment, Colonel Mohammed bin Said al Oufi, and a number of senior Army officers.



When rains came...

Rains in Ibri and surrounding areas last week caught motorists unawares. As these aerial photographs show, the main road was cut off by flood waters at some places stranding motorists. Others who braved the water found themselves in a sticky situation when their vehicles bogged down.

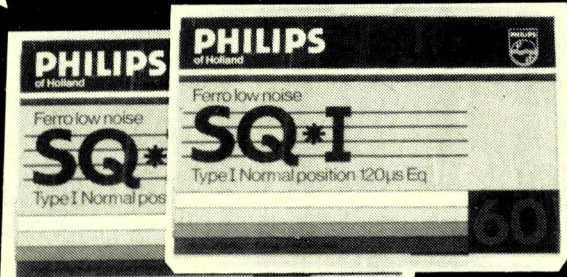
The Royal Oman Police reported no major mishaps and were on hand to guide motorists around the main affected areas and warn others when it was considered too dangerous to cross. — Pictures by Saeed Suleiman al Baluchi.



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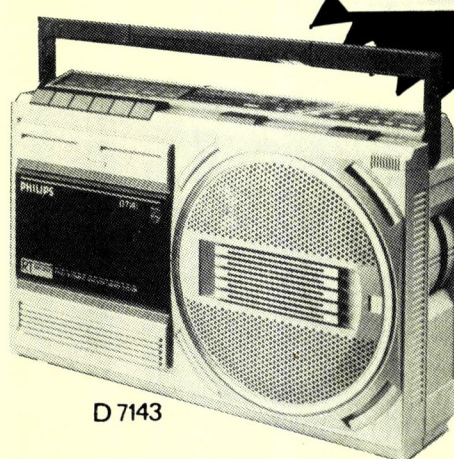
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