Times of Oman

YOL. 6, NO: I

MUSCAT, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1980-RABIAL-THANI 5, 1400

PRICE BAIZAS 200

OMAN'S BUDGET UP BUT SHOWING

GOOD SURPLUS

MORE CASH FOR DEFENCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The huge increase in oil prices has helped to give this year's national budget a R.O.22 million surplus, with more cash for development, defence and oil exploration. Last year's budget was in deficit by R.O. 108 million.

Income from oil revenue will this year go up from R.O. 482 million to R.O. 941 million. Fifteen per cent of this is now paid into the new state reserve fund recently created by His Majesty, leaving R.O. 800 million for the general Budget.

Income from miscellaneous other sources totals R.O. 71 million, committed aid R.O. 48 million and loans R.O. 74 million, giving a total revenue of R.O. 993 million, compared to R.O. 652 million last year.

Spending on defence and national security will total R.O. 304 million, with R.O. 250 million going on recurrent and capital and R.O. 54 million on development

No U.S. Bases Will Be In Sultanate

The granting of bases to the United States, or the stationing of American forces on Omani territory, are excluded from any facilities which the Sultanate might grant to the United States, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said this week.

The full statement was as follows:

"In view of the speculation that has been aroused regarding the discussions that have been taking place between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the United States, it is necessary to clarify the Sultanate's position. The Sultanate is considering what facilities it might grant to the United States in the light of the dangerous situation that exists in the area, created by the threat posed by the increased Soviet military presence in South Yemen, the recent pact concluded between South Yemen and the Soviet Union, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"The facilities under discussion exclude the granting of bases to the United States, or stationing of American forces on Omani territory", the spokesman said. spending. Last year the total was R.O. 238 million.

Civil expenditure shoots up from R.O. 379 million last year to R.O. 460 million this year.

Cash for development totals R.O. 245 million. Last year it stood at R.O. 217 million.

Petroleum Development (Oman) operations are allocated R.O. 30 million, with R.O. 85 million going on development compared to R.O. 66 million for development in 1979.

Loan repayments in 1980 are R.O. 62 million and credits and government investments in the private sector amount to R.O. 30 million.

GROMYKO TRIES ANOTHER SPLIT

In a strong attack on the United States, the Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko has repeated that the USSR will not allow the US to gain military superiority. But he also said his Government was prepared to continue talks on disarmament in Europe, provided the West met certain conditions.

Among those was the cancellation, or at least postponement, of the deployment of new American medium range nuclear weapons in Europe.

Speaking near Moscow, he appears to have been conciliatory towards Europe and severe on what he called American overreaction on Afghanistan. Observers see this as another attempt to weaken the free world by driving a wedge between America and her European allies.



Mr. G. I. Greig, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Research Institute, London, and Mr John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, currently on a visit to Oman, were received on Saturday by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. Photo: Mohamed Mustapha.



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Tuesday visited the SOAF Technical Training School where young Omanis are trained in the technical skills needed to maintain an expanding air force. Here His Majesty is seen presenting an award to one of the students. Photo: Mohammed Mustapha.

U.S., IRAN AGREE TO FIVE MAN COMMISSION OF NOTED JURISTS

A United Nations spokesman said on Tuesday that the United States and Iran have accepted the composition of a five man commission to investigate the alleged crimes of the former Shah.

The Secretary-General, Dr. Waldheim, was awaiting Iran's formal confirmation before announcing the names of the jurists involved.

The spokesman also said that the five man commission would investigate American grievances over the hostages at the American embassy in Teheran, as well as Iran's complaints about the Shah.

The Commission, he added, will be composed of Jurists from France, Algeria, Syria, Venezuela and Sri Lanka. They would meet first in Geneva and then go to Teheran.

It is hoped their report will lead to the release of the hostages.

The students holding the hostages have had a meeting with the son of Ayatollah Khomeini. It was believed to concern the hostages, but the students refused to say what was discussed.

President Bani Sadr said this week that any solution must take account of Iran's honour and independence. Condemnation of the United States would not in itself be enough to secure the hostages' release.

The American Secretary of State, Mr. Vance, had a long meeting on Monday with the United Nations Secretary-General to discuss the commission. He also had talks with the men who expect to be named as its co-chairmen.

Deadline Ignored

Iran has ignored a deadline set by the World Court for presenting its defence of the occupation of the American Embassy in Teheran. The Court said the case would continue even if Iran was not represented.

The date for the next hearing, which is expect to take place next week, will be announced soon.

Iran has boycotted the 15-judge Court which ruled unanimously that the hostages held in the embassy should be released immediately.

The Weather

Dry weather was the story this week over the whole of the Sultanate, with some patches of cloud. Temperatures were slightly above normal, with an average daytime high of 22.3 degrees and night low of 18.1 degrees in the Capital area.

FORECAST

The dry weather is likely to continue over the whole of the country during the coming

Regional Temperatures

| | Max | Min |
|----------|-----|-----|
| Seeb | 33 | 22 |
| Khasab | 28 | 20 |
| Buraimi | 31 | 20 |
| Sur | 33 | 20 |
| Masirah | 27 | 18 |
| Salalah | 27 | 19 |
| Saig | 27 | 19 |
| Sohar | 26 | 14 |
| Thomroit | 31 | 16 |

Special Japanese Envoy **Coming Next Month**

The Japanese Prime Minister's special envoy will visit Oman next month for talks with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos.

This is the first time such a visit has been staged and envoy Mr Sunao Sonoda will also be holding talks in Abu Dhabi, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan.

'The purpose of this visit to the Middle East countries is to have an in-depth exchange of views on a bilateral basis," said Mr Junzo Yamada, the head of the advance party which arrived at the Inter-

R.O. 10m. Agricultural **Bank Likely to Start** Operation Next Year

Government's proposed agricultural bank could have a starting capital of R.O.10 million, it was announced this week

Agriculture and Fisheries Undersecretary Hassan Abdulla al Morazza said this week that the bank would probably start with R.O.10 million capital, which would be raised to R.O.20 million.

As reported in the Times of Oman in January, the bank could provide loans of varying terms to get projects moving and could be in operation by 1981

Mr. Al Morazza has stressed that the Government feels no quick changes will take place in the agricultural sector without support and assistance to farmers.

The bank would have branches in all parts of the Sultanate, including rural areas. Fishing would also be helped with loans for boats, motors, nets and other equipment

Continental Hotel this week to finalise arrangements.

"In the official party there will be 18 officials and there will also be 19 pressmen from Japan. That is very clear evidence of the strong interest and concern that Japan has about Oman.

"We have not sent such a large delegation to Oman before, it will be covering wholly political issues, not trade or oil.

The party arrives on March 24 and leaves on March 27. The goup will meet His Majesty, and will also hold talks with senior ministers including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Qais Abdulmunim al Zawawi.

"There is no single objective for the visit, but we hope that it will increase the understanding between our countries," Mr Yamada said

Mr Sonoda was the Japanese Foreign Affairs minister from 1977 to 1979, and Minister of Health and Welfare from 1967 to 1976. In previous years he has acted as a special envoy on missions to the United States and Poland.

Khadhouri to Lead Team to Tunis

Minister of Health Dr. Mubarak al Khadouri will lead Oman's delegation to the Conference of Arab Health Ministers in Tunis from March 3 to 12. The meeting's agenda includes proposals to increase health co-operation, and the Gulf ministers will meet separately to approve unified salary scales for doctors and other medical workers.

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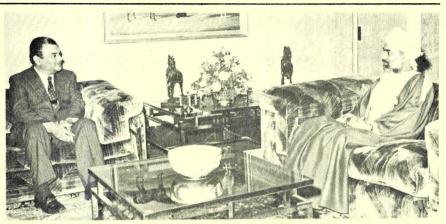
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Outgoing Indian ambassador to the Sultanate Mr. A. K. Budhiraja was granted audience by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos this week. The ambassador is leaving Oman after over three years. See report on Page 4. Photo Mohammed Mustapha.

MUSCAT TO HOST INFORMATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Gulf Information ministers will hold their next annual meeting in Muscat, it was decided this week.

Ministers finished this year's conference in Doha last Tuesday with Information, Minister Abdul Aziz Rowas attending for Oman.

Measures recommend to put forward Arab view in the world included establishing a

Oman Arab African Bank Thinking of doubling Capital

Shareholders will meet next month to consider doubling the capital of the Oman Arab African Bank.

The bank began operations on January 1 last year and its first annual ordinary general meeting will be held on March 2.

Immediately after this an extraordinary meeting will be held to consider a motion to increase the bank's capital from R.O.2 million to R.O. 4 million, once the present issued and subscribed capital becomes fully paid up on June 30 this year.

It is not the immediate intention of the board to call up the increase this year. The board intends to request the Arab African International Bank, the major shareholder, to furnish an R.O.2 million guarantee to the Central Bank of Oman in respect of the uncalled capital.

Travel Agents to Meet Regularly

A new series of meetings to keep the local travel trade in touch is being organised by the Inter-Continental Hotel

"The aim of these gatherings is to maintain close contact between airlines, embassies and travel agencies," a hotel spokesman said. "Each airline in conjunction with the corresponding embassy in rotation will show a travel film, if available.

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permanent Gulf Information Bureau, a feasibility study of foreign language radio broadcasts and a comprehensive oil information plan.

Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq also attended the conference. Included in Oman's delegation were Abdulla al Najjar, Oman's Ambassador to Qatar and Salem Said al Siyabi, Director-General for Television and Radio

Shortly before his departure, Mr Rowas met his Qatari counterpart, Issa Ghanim al Kawari, to discuss increased media cooperation between the two states.

The conference also approved plans for more exchange visits of journalists and urged more foreign correspondents to come to the Gulf for in-depth reporting.

Cultural events will also be stepped up. A poetry week will be held in Muscat, a drama week in the UAE, a children's art week in Saudi Arabia, a week of books in Baghdad and a television production week in Kuwait.

Muscat was approved as the setting for the sixth annual conference at the same time next year

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SULTAN VISITS SOAF TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos presented the awards at the annual prize giving at the S.O.A.F. Technical Training Institute on Monday, and saw some of the work lying behind them.

Omani Official Attends Islamic Conference in Washington

An Islamic conference in Washington was attended this month by the Director General in the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mr Ali Ibrahim Shunoon al Raisy.

Scholars from the United States, Europe and throughout the Muslim world took part in the meeting, sponsored by the Islamic Centre of Washington to commemorate the fourteenth centennial of Islam.

It included a series of six seminars, which began by focussing on the role of the faith in science, technology and the arts.

Successive days featured sessions on economics, law, politics and Islamic humanism in world social changes. The American University was host for the seminar

New Man at the Top



THF — Trusthouse Forte Hotels has recently appointed Mr. Howard Meredith as Sales Director for the Middle East based in Bahrain at the Al Jazira Hotel. His main areas of responsibility are for outbound traffic from the Middle East to other regions of the world where THF currently have over 800 hotel properties. Prior to joining THF, Mr Meredith was employed by British Caledonian Airways in various positions in the UK and overseas.

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Stevens Travel 94 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 IPA, England. 01-977 2117. Telex: 929502. His Majesty arrived in the morning accompanied by senior ministers and officers for a visit which gave him a close view of what the institute at Seeb does.

There are some 220 cadets there, most come from the air force but there are also some from the army and navy.

They are given comprehensive training so they can take up skilled jobs as engineers and technicians maintaining modern aircraft and weapons.

On arrival, His Majesty inspected a guard of honour provided by the air force and then went to the institute's library for a briefing on the training programmes.

He then started his tour, beginning with a close look at the English department, one of the biggest in Oman.

Next came the mathematics and phyics departments, where cadets are given the background knowledge needed for today's complex engineering work.

In the workshops where basic metalwork techniques are taught, he saw traditional Omani copper ware, made by the cadets in their spare time after developing their new skills.

But the cadets do not spend all their time in the classrooms and His Majesty also saw weapon training sessions which ensure they do not lose their soldiering skills.

He also saw the institute's new building which has four basic engineering workshops, four trade classrooms and associated workshops as well as other facilities. When it is in full use the unit's strength will rise to about 300.

Later His Majesty presented awards to 25 cadets as well as to nine others who graduated earlier and are now qualified air mechanics, servicing No. 1 Squadron's strikemasters at Masirah.

Saudi Official Leaves

Saudi Undersecretary for Agriculture and Water, Mohammed Ali Makki, left on Thursday after a three day visit to Oman.

Mr Makki is also Secretary General of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Agriculture Ministers' Conference and during his stay here he finalised arrangements for its meeting in Muscat on March 10.

Presents Credentials

Oman's new Ambassador to North Yemen, Abdulla Said Rashid al Baluchi, presented his credentials on Saturday to the country's President, Colonel Ali Abdulla Saleh.

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HM PRAISES HIGH STANDARD OF ARTILLERY



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos this week watched a shooting display at the Sultan's Armed Forced artillery contest.

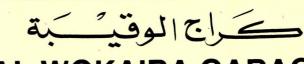
Entries came from each of the army's artillery batteries and many hits were scored on the targets with the modern field guns.

His Majesty later presented the prizes and praised the troops for their efforts in

reaching such a high standard

He emphasised that artillery is one of the army's most important weapons and an important tool in the defence of the Sultanate.

The contest was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence and Security Affairs, Sayyid Fahr bin Taimur as well as high-ranking army officers.



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OUTGOING INDIAN ENVOY PRAISES FAST PACE

OF DEVELOPMENT

India's Ambassador to Oman, Mr Arun Kumar Budhiraja, is moving on to a new post in New Zealand.

This week he praised the development he had seen in his three years here and hoped that relations and trade between the two states would grow even more in the future.

When Mr Budhiraja, 42, came to the Sultanate in 1977 it was his first assignment as an ambassador. His first posting in India's diplomatic service was to Switzerland in 1960 as a Third Secretary.

In 1963 he went to San Francisco in the United States and a short spell in the Foreign Ministry in New Delhi followed before he went to Sri Lanka in 1968, staying there until 1972.

He went back to New Delhi for a year and then joined the Indian mission to the United Nations in New York in 1973 and remained there until he came to Oman.

"The changes during my time here have been fantastic," he told the Times of Oman. 'There have been improvements in all areas and in every field at which one looks.

"This is one country where you know that

all the time things are improving year by year.

Many Indian people have come to Oman and have played an important role in the development, there are currently around 60,000 working here.

"Oman is an under-populated country for its wealth," said Mr Budhiraja. "I feel that to maintain the tempo of development expatriate manpower is needed

"In Oman they look towards south Asia and we in India are very glad to supply the manpower. The Indian population here is certainly making a major contribution to the development of the country

There was an Indian presence in Oman even before the present development started - one family has been here for over'a hundred years.

"I think the number here may increase as it seems to me that there is going to be economic activity in Oman during the next oil and the second five-year plan.

The large number of Indians in the country makes the Indian Embassy in Ruwi one of the busiest missions with a huge amount of consular work and dealing generally with problems that come up.

He said relations between the two states are "very friendly and cordial

"Relations on the ground level are direct people-to-people contact," he went on. 'Many individual Omanis go to India, especially to the west coast.

"In a way travelling to Bombay is like travelling to Salalah, it is only a matter of half an hour extra flying time. Some people here can afford to go to Bombay for weekends.

"There are some Omanis who know Bombay better than I do because I am a Delhi man

"Now I am leaving this country my feeling is that relations have not reached a plateau,

there is scope for developing them more and I hope that in due course they will strengthen further and become even closer.

India is now the fifth largest supplier and Indian goods imported to Oman include building materials, textiles and foods which are particularly strong in the local market.

"I feel that there should be even more business between us," he said. "I hope that in the future there will be more visiting trade delegates to show what products we have. Our prices are very competitive.

About one-third of India's oil comes from home production, the rest is imported from such Middle East states as Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Kuwait

'We would be quite willing to buy oil from Oman but I do not think there is any to spare."

Meanwhile dates are still exported to India as they have been for many years.

India has not made any official statement on the protection of the Straits of Hormuz, though many of the tankers carrying her oil imports sail through them.

'We are a non-aligned country and we would like to see peace and stability in this region," he said.

Mr Budhiraja is married and has a son and a daughter, he expects to be leaving the Sultanate around March 10.

Flats for Police **Getting Ready**

A £620,000 block of flats for the police is being built at Tayun.

The block will be built in Islamic type with an arch facade and is designed in a U-

It will have 24 self-contained flats each with two bedrooms, a sitting room/dining room, kitchen and bathrooms and is being built by Taylor Woodrow-Towell

Pharmacies

CAPITAL AREA PHARMACIES

Night Duty

Thursday: Al Hashar, opp. Mezoon building, Ruwi.

Friday: National, Talib Building, Muttrah. Saturday: Suleiman Gharib, opp. Ministry of Health, Ruwi.

Sunday: Ibn Sina, Amar Centre, Ruwi. Monday: Muscat, opp. Plaza cinema, Ruwi.

Tuesday: Al Hashar, opp. Rahma Hospital, Muttrah

Wednesday: Oman, Muttrah suq, Muttrah.

Day Duty

Thursday: Muscat, Muttrah Suq, Muttrah. Friday: Oman, Interior suq, Muscat; and Oriental, Walja entrance, Ruwi.

Saturday: Muttrah, Muttrah suq, Muttrah. Sunday: Oman, Talib building, Muttrah. Monday: Al Farabi, near taxi stand, Muttrah

Tuesday: Mezoon, near old taxi stand, Muttrah

Wednesday: Muscat, Muttrah suq, Muttrah

SALALAH PHARMACIES

Night Duty

Thursday: Modern, Sharug Street, Salalah. Friday: Muscat, Nahda Street, Salalah. Saturday: Al Manara, Nahdha Street, Salalah.

Sunday: Modern, Salaam Street, Salalah. Monday: Bin Hamran, Karz Street, Salalah. Tuesday: Al Manara, Salaam Street,

Salalah. Wednesday: Modern, Sharug Street, Salalah.

Day Duty

Thursday: Al Manara, Salaam Street,

Friday: Bin Hamran, Karz Street, Salalah Saturday: Bin Hamran, Karz Street, Sunday: Muscat, Nahda Street, Salalah.

Monday: Modern, Sharug Street, Salalah. Tuesday: Al Manara, Nahdha Street,

Wednesday: Modern, Salaam Street, Salalah



DUBAI-MUSCAT MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP



The Rothmans Dubai-Muscat Motocross Championships will be held on Friday 22nd February at the track 3 KM east of the Airport Roundabout to the right of the dual carriageway.

> Practice starts at 12.00 noon Racing starts at 1:00

business times

OMAN'S TRADE SURPLUS TOUCHES NEW PEAK

Oman's balance of trade for 1979 increased by 172.5 per cent to R.O.309.8 million compared to 113.7 million in 1978, with increased crude oil prices compensating for the fall in the volume of export.

Tenders

Tender No. 31/80: Electrical contractors registered with the Tender Board are invited to bid for electrical work in low cost housing at Wattayah. Tenders should be submitted to the Tender Board at Muscat by 10.00 am on March 18

Proposal to Form Arab Insurance Group

Representatives from Omani insurance companies will attend a meeting in Abu Dhabi to discuss a proposal for an Arab insurance group to counter Lloyds of London.

Lloyds have increased premiums on ships entering the Gulf and the idea is to set up an Arab group to underwrite risks of war in the

Representatives from companies in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE Qatar and Bahrain are also expected to attend the meeting, to be held on February 23 and 24.

Proposals are that the group will also underwrite risks to ships flying the flags of Arab countries. Half the group's profits would be distributed to members and the rest kept in reserve.

New Freighter Calls in at Mina Qaboos

A new freighter finished her maiden run at Mina Qaboos this week and her captain was presented with a painting of Omani dhows to mark the occasion.

The 12,213 gross ton Pike Bank is a Bank Line freighter, and for this run she was on charter to P & O on the Japanese, Far East and Gulf trade routes.

She was built in England and arrived in Oman carrying general cargo from Japan after calling in at other Gulf ports.

Her crew numbers 52 and her special features include up to date navigation gear including equipment to receive information from satellites.

She left Oman in ballast for a short call in Singapore before going on to Japan for another charter.

The value of crude oil exports reached a record R.O.745.7 million during the year though the volume of exports had declined from 115.9 million barrels during 1978 to 107.5 million barrels.

The sale price of crude oil which was \$14 per barrel in January rose to \$28.26 in December. After that it has gone up further to \$30.20.

Japan maintained its position as the Japan maintained its position as the imported nearly one third of the total production in 1979. The share of the US, declined in the last two years from 15.8 per cent to 13.1 per cent. Norway's share has fallen from 6.5 per cent to 4.8 per cent. The only country which increased its share was the UK, which went up from 0.7 per cent to 4.6 per cent.

Export of non-oil items, during the first half of the year was nearly double of those in the same period in 1978, with dried lime exports to the UAE still occupying the first place followed by dried dates. As reported earlier in these columns, exports of fish is becoming increasingly more significant.

It is estimated that the total non-oil exports reached R.O. 5 million for the whole year as against R.O.3.32 million for 1978. The level of re-exports jumped by 70.5 per cent from R.O.26.91 million in 1978 to R.O.38.16 million in 1979. Beverages and tobacco registered the biggest increase.

Total imports during the year increased by R.O.40.8 million to 479.1 million. This was spurred by the increased level of government expenditure. Imports of food and live animals during the year amounted to R.O.52.8 million, compared to 42.4 million in the previous year.

The value of beverages and tobacco imports also went up significantly by 80.9 per cent to 20.8 million. The largest group of imports was in the form machinery and transport equipment which went up by R.O.44.5 million to R.O.170.4 million during the year.

Britain continued to be the largest exporter to Oman though its share fell from 20.7 per cent to 17.1 per cent followed closely by Japan with 15 per cent. The US increased its share from 6.3 to 9 per cent and the Netherlands from 2.5 to 6.7 per cent.

A leading Indian tour operator will be visiting Oman in March as part of a business-boosting tour of the Gulf.

Mr. K.B. Sarwal, General Manager of Cox and Kings, will arrive on March 3 for a twoday stay and will meet executives from local travel agents and airline operating here.



The presentation at the end of Pike Bank's maiden voyage (left to right) Mr Graham Bog, shipping manager of Oman United Agencies, the ship's agents; Capt. N.J. Munro; port operations manager Mr David Collier; port general manager Mr Awad Salim al Shanfari, O.U.A. port officer Mr Reza Bhacker and boarding officer Mr. Fida Hussain.

EXCHANGE RATES

The most recent exchange rates, issued by the National Bank of Oman include:

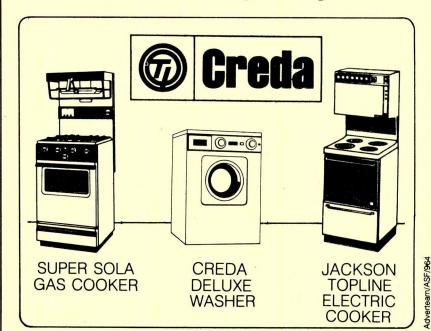
| | Foreign | Rial Omani | per one unit |
|-------|------------------|------------|--------------|
| | Currency per | of Foreign | Currency |
| | One Rial Omani | | |
| | Selling | | |
| 1.081 | Bahraini Dinars | 0.911 | 0.925 |
| 43.48 | Ceylonese Rupees | 0.0223 | 0.0230 |
| 4.99 | Deutsche Marks | 0.1976 | 0.2006 |
| 5.49 | Dutch Guilders | 0.1795 | 0.1823 |
| 11.66 | French Francs | 0.0845 | 0.0858 |
| 22.68 | Indian Rupees | 0.0434 | 0.0441 |
| 0.842 | Jordanian Dinars | 1.170 | 1.188 |
| 0.780 | Kuwaiti Dinars | 1.263 | 1.282 |
| 9.44 | Lebanese pounds | 0.1043 | 0.1059 |
| 28.17 | Pakistan Rupees | 0.0348 | 0.0355 |
| 10.48 | Qatari Rials | 0.0935 | 0.0954 |
| 9.62 | Saudi Rials | 0.1024 | 0.1039 |
| 1.25 | Sterling pounds | 0.791 | 0.803 |
| 10.72 | U.A.E. Dirhams | 0.0919 | 0.0933 |
| 2.87 | U.S.A. Dollars | 0.342 | 0.348 |
| | | | |

SHIPPING NEWS

| Noorjehan | Pax | 21.1 | Dwaraka | Pax | 25.2 |
|---------------|------------|------|----------------|------------|------|
| Ardenhall | General | 21.2 | Australia Star | Containers | 25.2 |
| Cherry Sindia | General | 22.2 | Evermore | | |
| Strathmuir | General | 23.2 | Bloom | General | 26.2 |
| Bribir | Containers | 23 | Sun Horse | Vehicles | 26.2 |
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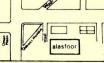
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business

SPECULATORS SEND COMMODITY PRICES UP

Speculators rushed to buy rubber, copper, sugar and other raw materials and sent prices to record levels as the latest craze – commodity buying – took firmer hold on world markets.

A London dealer said "first they fled from paper money to gold. Now they are fleeing to commodities." Most dealers have agreed that the sudden surge in prices of certain commodities is caused by speculative buying as people try to find safe forms of investment in times of international political uncertainty and inflation.

Copper on the London market last week touched an all time record high of £1391 a tonne. Aluminium touched £966. The European Commom Market had to cancel some export rebates for sugar because its price on world markets went above the EEC intervention

price. These rebates are subsidies paid to EEC exporters to make them competitive by filling the gap between expensive community prices and the usually lower world market prices.

An EEC spokesman said the current flare-up was not caused by a scarcity but seemed to have been fuelled by speculation.

Meanwhile, the price of gold fluctuated comparatively quietly at around 698 dollars, well below its peack of 875 dollars reached during the height of gold craze last month.

The dollar eased slightly on foreign exchange markets but remained fairly steady, as it has done in recent weeks. The pound sterling was strong, buoyed up by Britain's current high interest rates.

UK Industrialists Seek Tax cuts in New Budget

British industrialists are seeking further tax cuts amoung to £1.5 billion in the next budget — due on March 26 — to be paid for by government spending cuts of between £1.5 and two billion, Confederation of British Industry president John Greenborough told a press conference.

A CBI delegation is to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer Geoffrey Howe to put its case, he said.

The package, assuming an unchanged monetary policy, would result in a public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) in the next financial year of £10 billion or 4.5 per cent of GDP, Mr Greenborough said.

In a document setting out its proposals, CBI said they implied a slightly tighter fiscal stance than in the current year.

Its PSBR forecast is approximately in the middle of the range of predictions made by other leading U.K. private forecastors. It is also consistent with a downward trend in the PSBR as a proportion of GDP allowing for recession in 1980-81, the CBI said.

In the current financial year the official PSBR forecast is £8.3 billion or 4.25 per cent of GDP. But Mr Howe recently told a press conference the outturn was approaching £9 billion

The tax cuts proposed by the CBI are aimed at benefitting he lower paid and are in addition to the expected indexation of income-tax allowances worth about £2 billion, Mr Greenborough said.

Other fiscal changes would relieve financial pressure on firms, reduce capital taxes and encourage the development of smaller firms, he added.

New UAE Firm to Supply Low-priced Food Items

A national company has been set up in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to provide all kinds of food articles to citizens at reduced prices. Set up at the directive of crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the armed forces Gen. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed the company has a capital of Dh. 20 million.

The company's managing director Al Haj Abdulla al Miharibi said the company's capital stands fully paid up with the co-operation of UAE nationals who subscribed 90 per cent and the government subscribed the remainder. Sheikh Khalifa provided the company with a loan of Dh 40 million to be repaid over 15 years, at a very low interest.

He has also agreed to allocate lands inside Port Zayed area for the construction of warehouses for the storage of large quantities of food articles. The warehouses will be built during this year.

A special quay attached to Port Zayed is being constructed to receive the ships meant for the company. He said studies had been made in international markets to ensure supply of products at the cheapest possible rates directly from the producers.

Al Miharibi said that 50,000 tonnes of rice will arrive from Pakistan during the next two months. Agreements have also been reached to import 60 tons of coffee from Kenya in March and 6000 tons of sugar from international markets. He said the company plans to provide 50 per cent of the needs of consumers this year which will go up next year.

The company will deal in meat, poultry, cereals, vegetables, fruit, sugar, coffee, rice, dairy products and animal feed.

Among the company's objectives are the import of all food articles construction of warehouses and cold stores and the setting up of a factory in Abu Dhabi to repack some of the commodities such as sugar and rice in small packages.

New Video System Introduced

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd and Victor Japan Ltd introduced a new video disc system they produced jointly and hope to sell on the US European and domestic markets.

The video high density (VHD) system has a disc 26 cms in diameter, slightly smaller than the rival system used by RCA and Philips, which cuts production costs by about 25 per cent, Matsushita said.

The two companies plan to start commercial production next year and sell the player for about \$500, with the discs selling for about 15 dollars.

Matsushita estimated that about 40million systems could be sold by the end of this decade. The system's single basic design will be suitable for home and industrial

be suitable for home and industrial use, while the disc can use either diamond or sapphire needles.

The two companies might be able to start commercial production before next year if they can get support from other prospective Japanese video disc player manufacturers, it said.

Japanese government policy at present is to encourage standardisation of video systems on the domestic market.

Rise in Oil Output

Oil production in developing countries will probably rise to around 500 million tonnes a year by 1990 from 200 million now Exxon Corp. subsidiary Esso Ag said in Hamburg on Thursday.

Japan Reports Record Rise in Imports

Japan's declared and approved imports in January rose 9.9 per cent to \$14.2 billion from 12.96 billion in December and up 75.9 per cent from 8.10 billion a year ago, the International Trade and Industry Ministry said.

The ministry said the value of January imports was a record, surpassing a previous high of 12.96 billion dollars in December. The total involved imports of large aircraft and enriched uranium totalled 2.18 billion dollars.

Besides the so-called special factor involving large aircraft and enriched uranium, there were sharp increases in January in imports of fuel and raw materials and manufactured goods, the ministry said.

The imports of crude rose 161.9 per cent to \$5.36 billion from a year earlier and imports of copper ore were up 58.8 per cent to

176.63 million dollars.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Japan governor Haruo Maekawa said the Bank will maintain its tight money policy to help curb rising domestic prices. He said that the country's current account deficit will continue to narrow although it will still show a considerable deficit in calendar 1980.

Higher crude oil and primary product prices accounted for about one half of an 18 per cent rise in Japanese wholesale prices in 1979, but prices of manufactured goods increased only by four per cent indicating Japanese industries absorbed increased raw material costs with higher productivity or lower profit margin, he said.

While the effects of sharply higher crude oil prices must partly be passed on to consume. It is hoped that restraints on wage increases and the continued tight money policy will curb a rise in consumer prices as much as possible.

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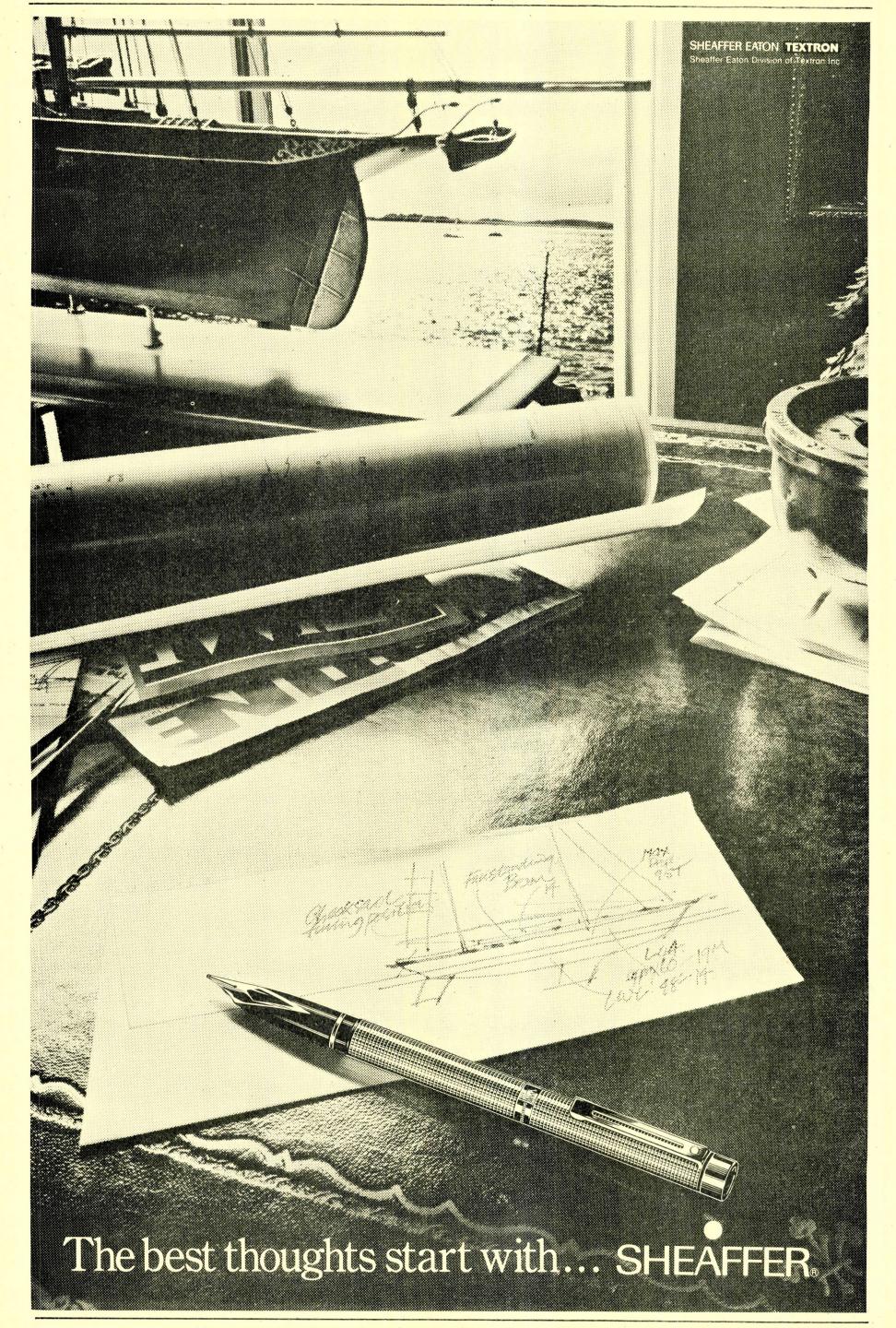
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FOREIGN NEWS

TITO'S CONDITION VERY SERIOUS

Doctors were fighting to maintain a slight improvement in 87-year-old President Josif Broz Tito's condition and word of the apparent stabilisation triggered speculation Yugoslavia might be in for a long death watch such as that four years ago for Spain's Francisco Franco.

A well-informed Communist Party source, however, said President Tito was not being kept alive by life-support machines although machines had been used to get him through a critical period on Wednesday night.

He said that now President Tito was not in a coma. But the President's condition was still described by government sources as 'extremely serious' and other party sources said they doubted very much whether Yugoslavia would try to prolong the iron-willed leader's life artificially.

"Everything is prepared for his death," one confided.

A medical bulletin said 'a certain improvement of the general health condition of President Tito which occurred on Thursday morning is further being maintained.

"Intensive medical measures are being carried out aimed at continuing and stabilising this tendency," it said.

Well-informed party sources said the improvement involved the functioning of the kidneys, which apparently had started working better, and a stabilisation of the weekening heart condition.

The heart and kidney troubles cropped up over the weekend, turning right around President Tito's apparently trouble-free recovery from a leg amputation on January 20

Wave of Explosions Rock Salisbury

Three bombs exploded in Salisbury and police found and defused a fourth early on Friday.

Three of the bombs, including the one which failed to go off, were planted at churches. The fourth blasted apart a car in a Black suburb killing at least two people.

The night of bombing injected a new tension into the capital, already shaken by a series of violent incidents in the run-up to pre-independence elections in which Blacks will vote in less than two weeks.

The latest attacks overshadowed the results of the White poll in which Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front Party won at least 17 of 20 White seats in the new parliament.

While Salisbury authorities cleaned up the debris, a major mobilisation of reservists began. British Governor Lord Soames is assembling a huge force of police and military to protect the election.

Streams of civilians arrived at military barracks for a call-up which could put up to 100,000 Rhodesian government forces in the field for the election period.

The first bomb to explode tore apart a car in the southern Black township of Harare, blasting limbs and sections of the car along the street.

Police believe two people were in the car, but damage was such they could not be sure.

Shortly before midnight (Thursday) two bombs went off at a church in the centre of town, which shattered windows in a nearby crowded luxury hotel, and at a chapel in the wealthy northern Borrowdale suburb.

Extensive damage was caused and four people were slightly injured.

The unexploded bomb was found in a briefcase by a priest.

A spokesman for nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo told a press conference he believed the Rhodesian security forces had planted the bombs in an attempt to discredit the guerrillas.

Cable and Wireless Celebrates Jubilee

The story of Cable and Wireless, whose representatives in Oman recently celebrated the group's jubilee, has been published by Heinemann in London.

It is called "Girdle Round the Earth" by Hugh Barty-King and includes a reference to the building of a line to Gwadur "on the north coast of the Gulf of Oman for which permission of the Sultan of Muscat, would have to be obtained".

Transfer Resources to Third World, Rich Urged

A large-scale transfer of resources from rich to developing countries to avert an "economic catastrophe" has been urged by an international commission headed by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The independent commission on International Development Issues also called for a world summit to draw up an emergency programme for 1980-85 and discuss other proposals in their report, North - South, a programme for survival.

The commission was established in 1977 to study economic and social disparities between developed and developing countries and suggest solutions.

Its latest study said that the world was facing an "economic catastophe" which threatens world peace unless emergency action was taken.

"The functioning of the world economy has deteriorated to the point where it harms both the immediate and long-term interests of all

countries," the report warned.

Proposals it put forward to solve this threatened crisis include a reform of the world monetary system with the creation of an international currency for settling outstanding balances between central banks. A yearly transfer of \$4,000 million from rich to developing nations would also be needed.

It urges a greater role for developing countries in the staffing, management and decision making of the International Monetary Fund and says a new international financing institution should be considered to supplement existing institutions and diversify lending.

A world energy strategy should also be created to ensure regular oil supplies, and the development of alternative energy

sources are also called for

A global food programme to increase production, especially in the Third World, and an "international tax" for raising aid contributions for under-developed countries were other points in the report,

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim welcomed the study. "Prosperity is essential for peace, just as peace is essential for prosperity," he said.

Calling the issue "the challenge of our time" he said he was firmly convinced of the need to overhaul the world economic system.

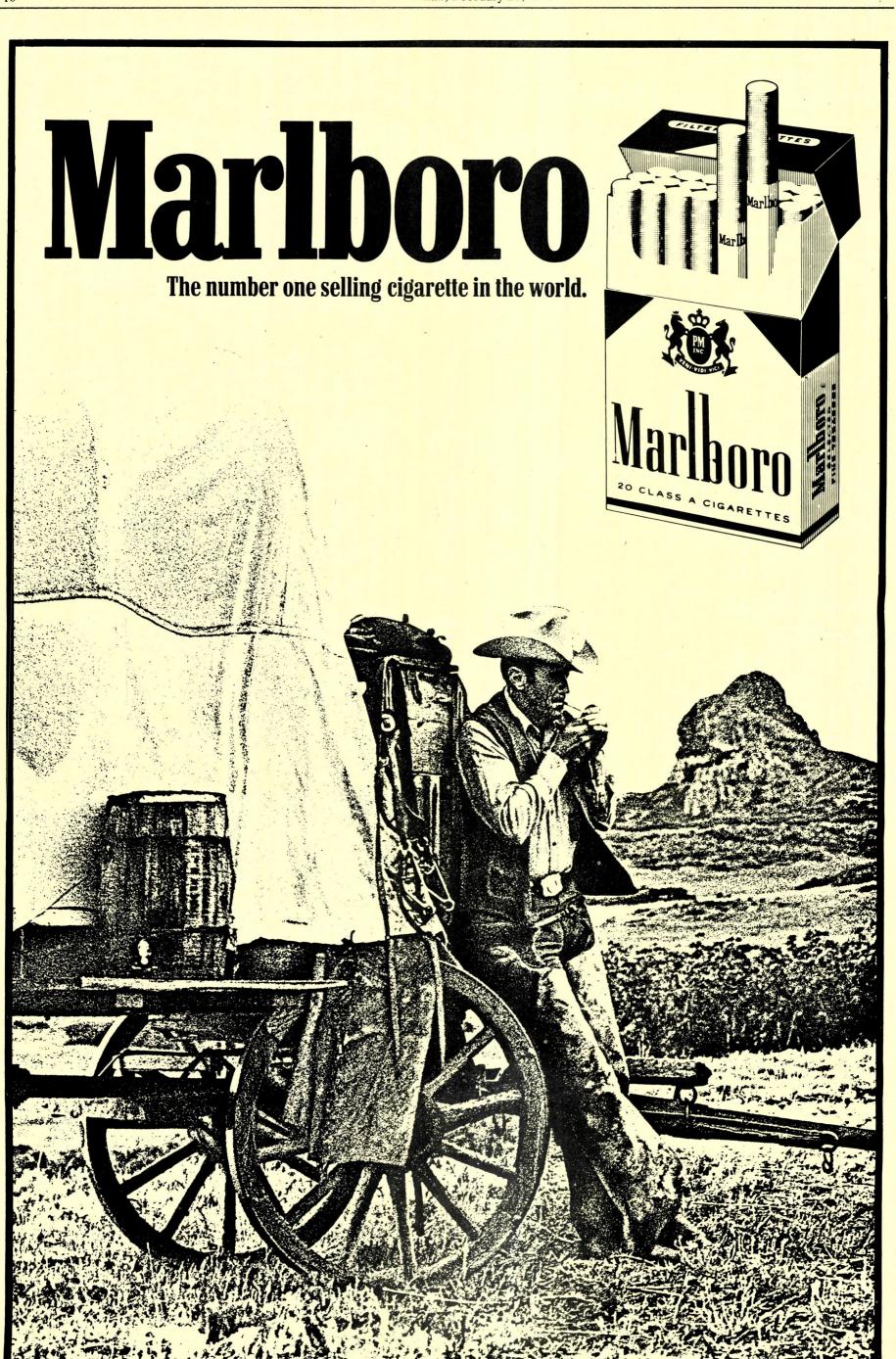
OPEC committee to Meet in London

A six-man committee formed by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), will meet privately in London this week to discuss a long-term strategy report, a spokesman said in Vienna.

The committee, headed by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, will examine the report drafted by Opec experts which covers future oil supply and demand and ways of improving cooperation

A final version of the report is expected to be presented to an Opec summit in Baghdad next November.





FOREIGN NEWS

NEW AID PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

Marry Ann Dubs, widow of U.S. Ambassador Adolph Dubs, killed in Afghanistan last year, and former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Robert G. Neuman have announced the formation of the Afghanistan Relief Committee, Inc.

The Committee will launch a major campaign to raise more than \$10 million in urgently needed relief to aid destitute Afghan refugees who have fled to Pakistan.

Ambassador Neumann said, "I know the Afghan people too well not to be certain of their resilient spirit and independence. They will fight to the death. Only a disaster of the most extraordinary magnitude could have succeeded in driving out so many." He noted that when Afghanistan was beset by famine in 1970-71, the starving Afghans refused to leave their country.

"Now," he said, "with their homes bombed, their crops destroyed, facing starvation, attacked with rockets, napalm, and, according to some reports, poison gas, and shelterless against the bitter cold of winter, they have trudged across the high passes. We cannot wait," Ambassador Neuman said, "until starvation and mass death set in."

Mrs. Dubs explained that taking part in the formation of an Afghan relief committee was a necessary though sad occasion for her "but the need exists and therefore the Afghan Relief Committee has been formed to try to help those people who have been forced to flee their homeland."

She said she was supporting the Afghanistan Relief Committee to "assist as I believe my husband would have done if he had lived."

"It is our hope," Mrs Dubs continued, "that current conditions in Afghanistan will soon change and that all these people will be able to return to their homeland. But right now they need our help and it is for this reason that we are asking for your assistance."

According to recent reports, more than half a million Afghan refugees have already fled to Pakistan and more continue to arrive at a rate of 10,000 a week. An unknown number are in Iran and a few have reportedly even made their way across some of the world's highest mountains into Western China. The total number of refugees may reach one million by late

spring

An estimated 100 million dollars is needed to enable the refugees to survive through this year.

The Relief Committee is in the process of organizing local committees throughout the U.S. to assist in its fund raising effort. The Committee also plans to coordinate and cooperate with other relief groups, including public organisations and charitable groups in the United States and other nations to ensure the establishment of an effective aid programme.

He said the aid will be distributed through organizations such as the International Rescue Committee, the church world services, the Catholic relief services and, if necessary, it will establish its own distribution programme.

Neumann also assured a questioner that the Afghanistan Relief Committee did not plan to exert any influence on United States policy making concerning Afghanistan. "We are a purely humanitarian organization," he said. The organization is presently working to raise \$55 million for Afghan relief.

Soviet Fleet Enters Indian Ocean

A fleet of 10 Soviet naval ships was spotted cruising out to the East China Sea on February 4, possibly on its way to the Indian Ocean, according to a report appearing in the Chinese publication Ta Kung Pao.

The report said it was the largest number of Soviet warships after World War II to pass the Tsushima Strait between the southern Japanese island of Kyushu and the Korean peninsula, which is used by Soviet fleets for their passage into the Pacific from the Naval base of Vladivostok.

The ships, spotted by Japanese patrol planes, included a Kresta-11 class missile cruiser, a missile destroyer, an allegator class landing ship a polnocny class landing boat, a Natya class minesweeper, a T-58 type minesweeper, a Sophia-class refuelling ship and a UDA-class oiler.

The report quoted Japanese Defence Agency as saying that the Soviet Union has deployed about 30 warships in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea against the United States' 25.

The US, joined by 49 countries, has begun a search for a series of alternative sites for its counter Olympic games this summer. The US has set audeadline, Wednesday, for the Soviets to withdraw their estimated 95,000 troops from Afghanistan. If it is not done by that deadline, the US and the 49 nations, will boycott the Moscow Olympics.

GROMYKO'S DELHI TALKS END IN FAILURE

The Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko's visit and subsequent talks in India ended in failure because India refused to endorse the Soviet claim that they were in Afghanistan to protect that nation from outside threats.

While Mr Gromyko repeated the old claim that the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan would come when there is no further threat to the Soviet installed Kabul regime, India stuck to the position that no nation in the area should become pawns in a super power cold war.

The Indian authorities insisted that the Soviet troops should be withdrawn from Afghanistan immediately. "There was no deviation on India's demand for withdrawal", said an Indian spokesman. But the Soviet Union has refused to set a timetable for removing its forces.

Mr Gromyko accused the United States of trying to "convert Pakistan into a hotbed of tension, a springboard for further escalation of aggression against Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, made India's stand clear and told Mr Gromyko during a luncheon meeting that Soviet troops must leave Afghanistan, but again the latter defended the intervention.

Mr Gromyko also accused Pakistan

making what he said were intrusions into Afghanistan. Pakistan has denied the charges that its air force planes had violated Afghanistan's airspace.

A foreign office spokesman in Islamabad described the charge as "entirely baseless" and said that a similar fictitious story circulated a few weeks ago and had also been contradicted.

Pakistan has also turned down a proposal from the Soviet-backed Afghan regime for talks on 'mutual problems' saying they could not be held as long as foreign troops were stationed in Afghanistan.

In Peshawar, the Afghan rebel group Hizbe Islami claimed to have captured 40 government soldiers, including officers in an attack on a Jalalabad military airfield. It also captured weapons.

Meanwhile according to a report in new York Times some Moslem rebels from Afghanistan are receiving military training in Egypt and will be armed and sent to their homeland to fight against the Sovie-backed government, Egypt's minister of defence said.

Lieut. Gen. Kamal Hassan Ali, who gave this information would not say how many Afghans were in Egypt, at what sites they were being trained or what they were being trained to do. But he confirmed that some training camps were in operation.

The defence minister's remarks provide the first confirmation that Egypt had followed up on an offer early last month to help Afghan rebels against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Soviet Charges Baseless, Say US Officials

Recent Soviet statements blaming the United States for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan are a "complete fabrication" designed to "blunt international criticism" of the Soviet Union, U.S. officials say. The claim is that "outside interference" by the United States and others in some way justified the invasion.

The Soviet "disinformation campaign" has been described as "replete with false justifications for Soviet aggression and the resultant crisis in East-West relations." The campaign was instituted, they said in response to the international condemnation that greeted the invasion of Afghanistan.

They questioned the claim that the Soviets responded to a request for assistance from a legitimate Afghan "leadership". President Taraki, "was overthrown in a violent coup in mid-September. His successor, Amin, could have invited Soviet aid but, if he did, he clearly did not do so to precipitate his own execution."

President Babrak Karmal, it is noted, did not arrive in Afghanistan until after the coup had occurred and the invasion was in progress. "The first announcements that Babrak had replaced Amin came from transmitters using frequencies purporting to the Radio Kabul but located in the Soviet Union.

Referring to the charge of "external threat" from base camps in nearby countries where foreign advisors are providing military

training to Afghan refugees, U.S. officials point out that over 500,000 Afghans, many of them women and children, have fled to Pakistan to escape political oppression and religious persecution.

"While it cannot be denied that refugees from these camps may have returned to fight in Afghanistan, these camps in no sense constitute military training bases and present no threat to Afghanistan or to the security of the Soviet Union."

They said the decisions to establish a quick reaction military force and to seek access to military facilities in the Middle East were made in response to the Soviet threat to the area. These actions were taken to defend our interests, those of our allies and our friends from Soviet expansionism, they said.

Explaining the position, President Carter said the United States "has responsibility to take strong action to impress upon the Soviet Union the cost of its behaviour and the determination and will of the American people."

Soviet actions in Afghanistan constitute a clear violation of international law and the U.N. Charter which forbid the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

The attempt to shift the blame "can only be regarded as a self-serving distortion designed to divert attention from the real cause of the present tension: the brutal and cynical Soviet aggression against a non-alingned country," the official said.

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FOREIGN NEWS

UAE EXTENDS GRACE PERIOD FOR TRANSFER OF SPONSORSHIPS

The UAE President Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, has directed the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr Said Al Jarwan, to extend the grace period for the 'transfer of sponsorships' by another four months. The current grace period is due to expire on February 21.

The President's decision has been warmly welcomed by the President of the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Said al Oteiba, who is also President of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce. In a statement he said the time given by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to regularise the legal status of employees was too short. It would not have been possible for the employers and the employees to straighten out everything within that period.

Mr Oteiba pointed out that traders contractors and other employers were not opposed to the new labour regulations but felt that the time allowed for the regularisation process was insufficient.

He said it would now be possible to properly follow the procedures laid down in the Labour Ministry's directives. he particularly mentioned the regularisation process for labour employed in the agricultural projects.

Mr Oteiba had some time back submitted a nine-point memorandum to the Abu Dhabi Executive Council suggesting that the grace period be extended by another six months

Cubans Hijack Ship To United States

Eight Cubans who stowed away aboard a Liberian freighter while it was docked in Havana, emerged from hiding on Saturday hijacked the ship at gunpoint and forced it to sail into Key West.

The coast guard said it received a call from the 75-metre Lissette about 1200 GMT saying the Cubans wanted to come to the United States. It was first reported 16 Cubans were involved, but US immigration and naturalisation officials later said there were just eight male hijackers, ranging in age from 18 to 32 years.

Officials said they hid in a container that was loaded on the ship on Thursday and climbed down a knotted rope and overpowered the crewmen after the Lissette left the port of Havana later Friday night.

OIL HELPS NIGERIA'S 'GREEN REVOLUTION'

The latest oil price rise sent a shiver through the governments of most Black African countries but in oil rich Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation, an ecnomomic boom is resuming.

After 13 years of military rule, Nigeria's new experiment in democracy under the civilian government of Shehu Shagari has been given a flying start.

This month Nigeria raised the price of its highly valued 'sweet' crude by four dollars to \$34.20 a barrel. Estimated oil revenue will soar from 10 billion dollars in 1978 to nearly 30 billion in 1980.

Some 45 per cent of Nigeria's 2.2 million barrel daily production goes to the US, making it the second biggest US supplier after Saudi Arabia. Only 18 months ago western experts were writing that the

Special Trees to Check Spreading of Desert

A goat-resistant tree that, it is believed, could check the spread of deserts, was mentioned by a Cambridge scientist at a gathering in London.

The tree was long-lived and could provide a major key to the threat of world starvation by helping to check desert expansion not only in the Middle East and North Africa but in other arid regions of the world, Dr John Larmuth told a London Chamber of Commerce forum.

Dr Larmuth — Director of Research Programmes at the Cambridge-based Desert Research Project — outlined preliminary studies of the tree in question.

A major cause of desert expansion, he said, was overgrazing by ever-increasing herds of sheep and goats and by demands for domestic firewood. Local populations needed a plant which could provide food, forage and firewood and yet survive overgrazing.

"Since 1974 the Desert Research Project has been aware of a strong candidate for this role," Dr Larmuth went on. The tree which was currently being studied provided oilseed, forage and fodder for sheep and goats, and fuel. It was immune from goat deprivation and would seem to be the ideal plant for stabilising open land and providing protection against wind and erosion.

The UAE will take part in a meeting of the Arab mining company's board of directors being held in Amman on March 5. The meeting will discuss the current year's budget of the company and is next five year plan.

economy had taken a sharp downturn and the military government instituted a period of belt-tightening, wage freezes and import curbs.

In the last months before the civilian government took over last October, Nigeria's role of previous years was suddenly reversed. It joined those Opec members making the running in price increases, surcharges and market premiums while foreign oil companies had to accept an increase in state participation from 55 to 60 per cent bringing Nigeria in line with other Opec members.

Proven reserves in Nigerian fields are estimated at about 18 billion barrels but large areas, especially offshore, have yet to be explored and concessions are only now being offered in these regions. Nigeria's refining capacity, at present 160,000 barrels a day, is due to be increased this year by 100,000 barrels with the completion of a second refinery.

A synthetic detergent plant, a polypropylene plant and a large fertiliser complex are also planned. President Shagari told a news conference after his first 100 days in office that he inherited a deficit of 830 million dollars but within three months we have been able to reverse this trend."

Much oil revenue has been earmarked for a 'green revolution' to restore food selfsufficiency in five years and make Nigeria an exporter again by 1987.

Strike May Cause Heavy Loss to British Steel

The strike by the production workers is likely to cause a loss of £200 million to British Steel. The managing director of the firm said he feared they will lose their market share over a period of several months.

It will be a tough task to win back the confidence and business of the customers who have already made alternative arrangements. The state corporation estimates that orders placed abroad by customers during the stoppage will mean its share of the market will drop from a pre-stike 54 per cent to about 49 per cent.

To attract long-term orders, foreign salesmen have been active among major customers offering cut price steel using the strike to back up their arguments for offering supply security.

There is also concern that rapidly rising costs, the strength of sterling and the final cost of the pay settlement will make British Steel more uncompetitive against imports and mean the loss of more export business.

Financial help offered to cattle breeders in Al Ain last year amounted to Dh.11,243,450 the undersecretary of the department of Agriculture and Cattle Production said this week in Abu Dhabi. The assistance went to 2902 citizens having 102,149 sheep and 30,680 camels.



GRINDLAYS BANK S.A.

Mr URS B. Heinis, Account Manager of Grindlays Bank S. A., Geneva Branch, will be visiting Oman from 11th to 14th March 1980 and may be contacted through Grindlays Bank Ltd., Ruwi Branch, Telephone Numbers 702024/701102.

Sniper Fire Leads to Closure of Beirut Port

Lebanon's Cabinet met in a special session on Saturday as north Lebanon was ripped apart by fierce fighting between supporters of former Lebanese President Suleiman Franjieh, backed by Syrian artillery, and Rightist militiamen in which scores of people were reported killed during the past week, police sources said in Beirut.

The Lebanese capital was the scene of a different kind of voices — sniping — which closed the Beirut port and one of the main crossing between Christian east Beirut and predominantly Muslim western sector of the capital.

Initial reports from the north indicated an estimated 40 to 60 people have been killed and a similar number wounded in the clashes which began on Monday, police sources saic

The Phala nists said that the clashes had spread to in hills overlood the main coastal highway connecting beirut and Lebanon's second largest city, Tripoli.

Police sources said traffic on the road was blocked when the clashes resumed shortly after dawn.

The state-run Beirut radio said the fighting "expanded to include the nearby village of Amyoun" The Beirut port, one of Lebanon's most vital public utilities, was closed early last week by sniper fire, the Phalangist radio said, but it mentioned no casualties.

The radio said the Fuad Chehab bridge, shortest and most jammed crossing point between the east and west sectors of the city, remained cut all day beacuse of intermittent sniper fire.

At the opening of the Cabinet session, President Sarkis called on his countrymen to realise "how delicate and sensitive the situation is."

The meeting was briefed by Premier Selim Al Hoss on his talks in Damascus earlier this week on Syria's plans to redeploy an estimated 8,000-man force in Beirut and the suburbs.

Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam confirmed that Syrian troops withdrawn from Beirut would be stationed around Lebanese capital, adding that Syrian forces would remain in Lebanon "as long as Arab interests dictate."

Meanwhile, American U.N. Ambassador Donald McHenry wrapped up a 24-hour visit to Lebanon and flew to Amman the fifth stop on his fact-finding mission in the Middle East.

Before his departure, Mr McHenry told reporters he had had "useful" discussions with Lebanese officials.



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Times of Oman

VOL. 6, NO. I MUSCAT, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1980

Budget Shows Progress Sultanate Is Making

Emphasis on the great progress being made by our country is given by the figures in the Budget for the current year, issued this week. Despite heavy spending, both on the development of the national resources, and the protection of them, this year's budget shows a handsome estimated surplus. This surplus is available even after 15 per cent of oil revenue has been deducted, and allocated to the new State General Reserve Fund. This is a healthy situation, and if there is a cause for regret, it can only be that it is necessary to spend so much on defence, which might otherwise go towards building the future. Oman is not alone, however, in having to spend heavily on defence, since many nations must do so or fall victims of Soviet colonialism. As we do, they work for a better future but they have also to ensure that there will be a future, in which they and their children can live as free people, and not as the slaves of Moscow. Occupying, as the Sultanate does, a position of the greatest strategic importance, and having had practical experience of attacks by the USSR's satellites, not to spend all we can afford on strengthening our defences would be simple folly. Obviously we cannot on our own hold back the Soviet Union, but with our brothers and friends we can unite for strength, and in the event of any emergency, play a valuable and perhaps a vital role.

An Advt. For Freedom

If any readers are not quite clear about the difference between "freedom" as it obtains in the United States and in the Soviet Union, they might like to consider a recent episode in the Russian attempt to whitewash their blatant invasion of Afghanistan. Among the many attempts to blame the United States for causing them to go to the "rescue" of the Afghans was an editorial which appeared in the Soviet official newspaper Pravda, on January 29. This masterpiece of deception claimed, among other things, that the "assistance" provided by the Soviet Union was in "response to a request from the legitimate leadership of Afghanistan, and was aimed at protecting the country from an external threat". The fact that the present leadership, Babrak Karmal — was in the Soviet Union when President Amin was overthrown, and did not go to Afghanistan until after the Soviet invasion was well under way, was conveniently overlooked. But that apart, the content of the Pravda editorial is less important than what happened to it in the United States. Shortly after it appeared in the USSR, the Soviet Novosty Press Agency placed an advertisement in the Washington Post. The advertisment consisted of Pravda's editorial on the invasion of Afghanistan. Can anyone imagine an advertisement attacking the Soviet Union being printed in either Pravda or Izvestia, or for that matter any publication anywhere behind the Iron Curtain? Some might argue that, in present circumstances the Washington Post might have been more patriotic to refuse the advertisement. The Post would very probably reply that freedom to publish is indivisible, and that only in a state of war would there be reason to refuse an advertisement of this type. In any case, the Russians did themselves far more harm than good, for the advertisement aroused widespread criticism and did more to underline Soviet duplicity than to conceal it. And for the world the episode underlined the American commitment to true freedom.

Polish Upheaval

The sacking of the Polish Prime Minister, and a number of his colleagues, and the frank, if unavoidable admission by President Geirek that the country's economy is in dire straits, is not only one of the biggest leadership reshuffles in Communist East Europe for many years, but proof once again that, in any world economic recession, the Soviet-type economic system suffers more, and more quickly, than the capitalism of the free world. With more than 50 years in which to put their system into operation in the USSR itself, and ample time to export it to the European satellites, the advocates of the Marxist-Leninist economy are time and again shown up as fumbling incompetents. Much that goes on in western economies is far from perfect, but at least all the people are well cared for and have a standard of living far ahead of that in the countries of the eastern bloc. Naturally, it is always the satellite states such as Poland which suffer most, since if there is anything to be shared out the lion's share goes to the USSR. The sacking of the Polish Prime Minister may have been an attempt by Gierek, and his Russian masters, to stave off riots such as marked the food shortages in 1970 and 1976. There is a point beyond which the Poles cannot be pressed, for they have preserved a fine national spirit, and the practice of their religion, despite Soviet attacks on it, as they showed during the return home of the Pope. With the problem of Afghanistan on their hands, the Russians have no great need of an uprising.

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AFGHAN INVASION FIRES COOK CASTRO'S GOOSE

By a Latin American Correspondent

There is mounting evidence that the Castro regime in Cuba is coming under increasingly serious strains. The drastic government reshuffle recently announced in Havana is being seen as yet another attempt to halt the side to economic bankruptcy, while Fidel Castro has been dealt grievous blow by his super-Power patron, the USSR.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has highlighted the patent absurdity of having Cuba as the chairman of the non-aligned movement, and the Cubans are already paying a heavy price for Moscow's military adventure, as their failure to gain elections to the United Nations' Security Council showed so decisively.

Latest reports from Cuba speak of the widespread discontent being expressed over worsening food shortages and other austerities. Protests are said to have been voiced over the sending of food supplies to Nicaragua while Cubans themselves were being so severely rationed.

Security has been tightened and many arrests reported after a spate of explosion and outbreaks of fire in public buildings. Anti-Castro slogans have been daubed on walls and leaflets have been circulating.

Another manifestation of unrest has been the increase in attempts by Cubans to gain admission to Latin American embassies in Havana to seek asylum. The most popular of these missions is the Venezuelan.

While thousands of Cubans have already 'voted with their feet', many more applications for permission to leave are still being submitted. But some who either fear that their request may not be granted or grow impatient with bureaucratic delays, resort to more desperate measures.

Thus, in mid-December, a truck containing five Cubans crashed through the front gate of the Venezuelan envoy's residence. The vehicle was fired upon by the Cuban armed guard when inside the premises, and one of the occupants was fatally wounded. His companions were granted asylum.

It is thought that those who are prepared to take such risks — a similar incident occurred about six months earlier — include young Cubans who know that they cannot leave the country until they have completed their military service.

Expert observers regard the scale of the government purge — 11 Ministers lost their posts in the reshuffle — as a sign of the regime's awareness of the extent of public discontent over the growing economic hardships. This had earlier been hinted at by the unprecedented decision not to publish a speech by Castro to the National Assembly in which he denounced maladministration.

A frank admission of the parlous state of the economy was also made recently by the Cuban leader's younger brother, Raul, regarded as occupying second place in the hierarchy.

In a speech in the eastern provincial capital, Santiago, he spoke of Cuba being faced with the threat of "economic disaster and bankruptcy, with its sequel of starving people and hundreds of thousands of unemployed." But he added that with foreign aid, especially that from the Soviet Union, the regime would be able to avert such a distaster.

Cuba is already heavily dependent on the USSR. It has been estimated that propping up the Cuban economy is currently costing Moscow at least \$8 million a day. Consequently, Castro had no real option but to line up with the other Soviet satellites and defend the aggression against Afghanistan when this was denounced by an overwhleming majority in the UN.

By this action, however, he appears to have destroyed whatever vestige of credibility he had to be regarded as a true spokesman for the non-aligned nations.

In view of her economic crisis, observers say that Cuba's extensive presence in the African region is explicable only if it is being underwritten by the USSR — and because it is furthering Soviet arms. There are about 40,000 Cuban troops in the region — the largest contingents being actively engaged in fighting in Ethiopia and Angola — as well as thousands of civilian personnel.

History Is Repeating Itself

Events in Afghanistan have inevitably tended to divert world attention from that other crisis point, Indo-China.

Ironically, the Soviet Union mounted its invasion of Afghanistan on the first anniversary of a similar incursion into Kampuchea by its protege, Vietnam – and the puppet regime installed in Phnom Penh organised celebrations to mark the occasion.

Morevoer, history is repeating itself in the wake of both these acts of aggression. Just as the USSR is now defying international opinion by refusing to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, so Vietnam is continuing to ignore a similar United Nations call to leave the former Cambodia. And on both occasions in the Security Council the Russians exercised their power of veto.

As expert observers and commentators have repeatedly stressed, if the Vietnamese invasion is allowed to succeed it would mean that Hanoi had fulfilled its ambitions of achieving hegemony over the Indo-China region. In the process, however, the indigenous people of Kampuchea could be brought to near extinction.

In 1970, before their country became engulfed in the Vietnam conflict, the Khmers were a nation of around eight million, but within a decade their number had been reduced to about half that total. There are now fears that three million of the survivors could die of starvation and disease before the end of this year.

This is despite last October's UNsponsored conference at which 51 countries pledged more than \$200 million in relief aid for Kampuchea to avert what the Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, described as a "national tragedy, the proportion of which may have no parallel in history."

Spokesmen for the International Red Cross and UNICEF, the United Nation's Children's Fund, have been quoted as saying they have concluded that their joint aid programme for the Kampucheans is being deliberately hampered by the regime in Phnom Penh. Although more than 50,000 tonnes of supplies from these sources had arrived in Kampuchea by the end of December, only about 500 tonnes is known to have been distributed.

This has reinforced suspicions that the provision of food and medical assistance is being systematically used to speed up the Vietnamese occupation and 'pacification' of Kampuchea.

More than 200,000 Vietnamese troops are

(Continued on P. 30)



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| Dubai | KL 836 | Monday | 02.55 |
| Dubai | KL 812 | Tuesday | . 01.25 |
| Dubai | KL 862 | Wednesday | 01.25 |
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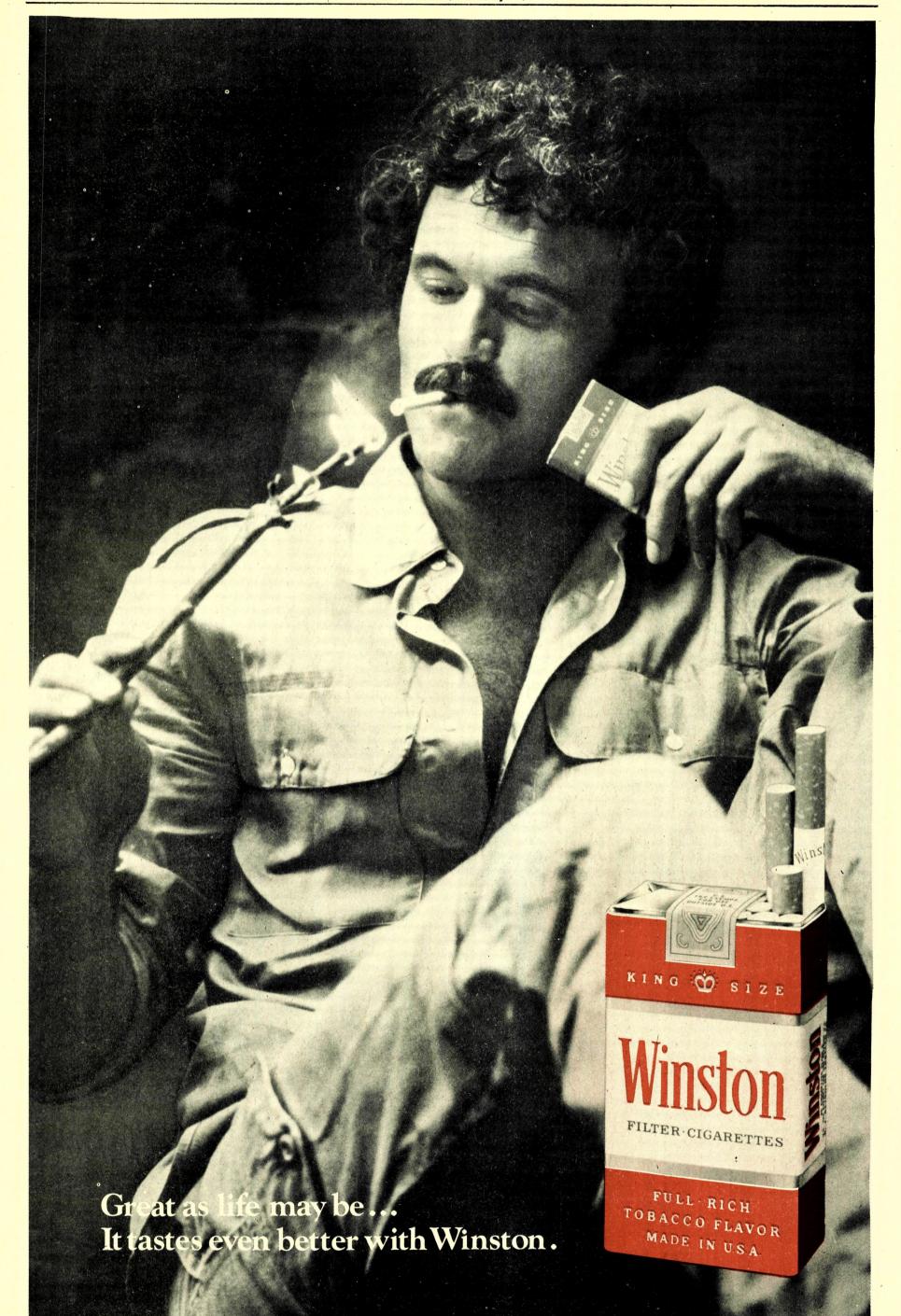
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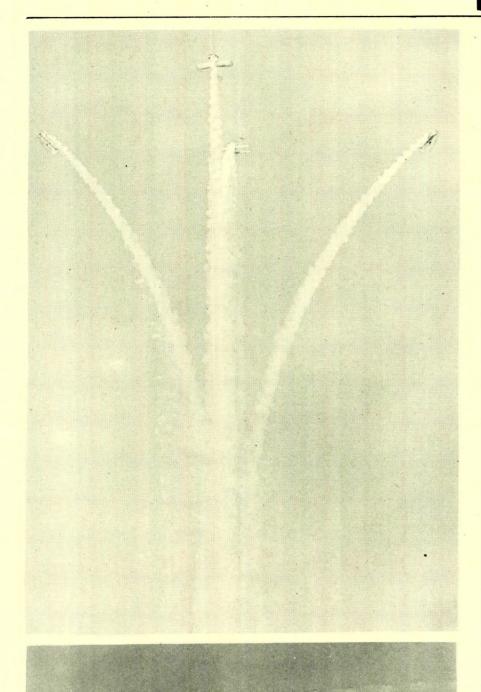
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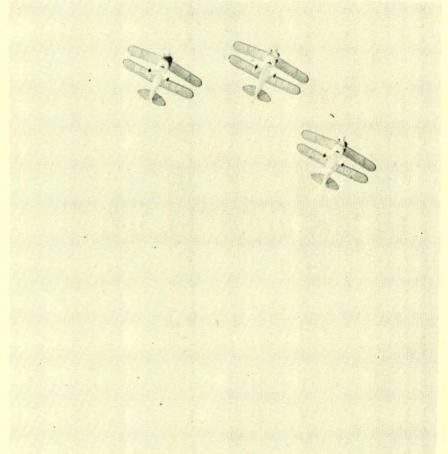
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TO 103



FOCUS ON OMAN





High Jinx Up In The Sky

Thousands of people turned up to watch the Rothmans Aerobatic Team in action at the week-end, including motorists who pulled off the highway in astonishment as the four pilots swooped low over the Muscat Inter-Continental Hotel beach on Friday afternoon.

The team put on four displays altogether – over the Muttrah Corniche which attracted crowds often six deep on Thursday, and at the Inter-

Continental beach, where some of the spectators had camped since early morning.

A large gathering of VIP's were invited to watch the Friday lunchtime display from the hotel lawn, among them senior government officials and ambassadors.

The team flew to Dubai on Saturday to continue their Gulf tour, which includes Doha, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Pictures: Jim Burlison



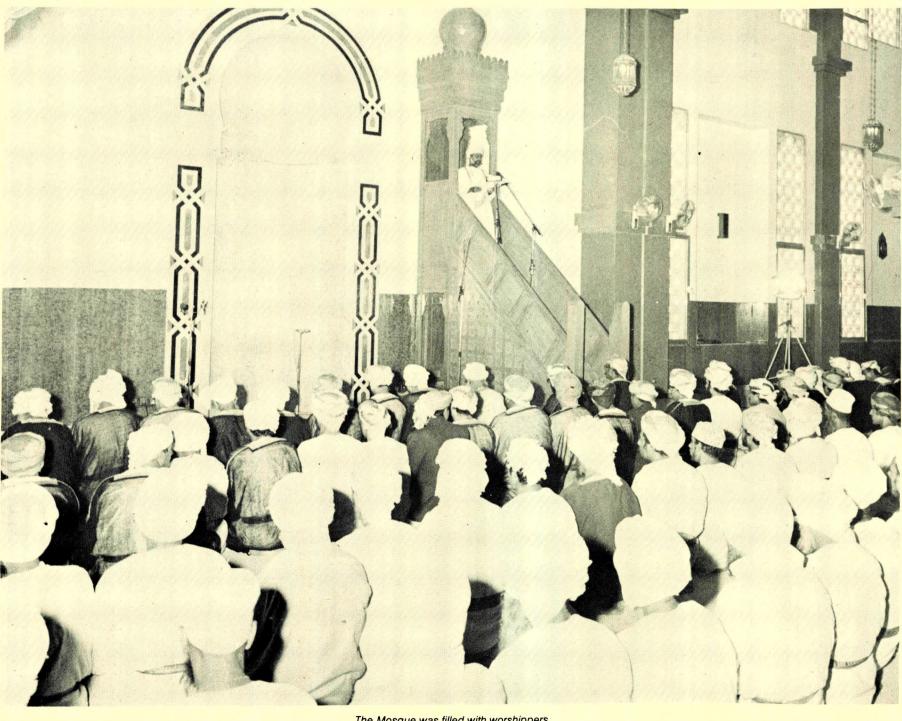
FOCUS ON OMAN



His Majesty arrives for the ceremony.

His Majesty speaking to

His opene Nizwa worshi On a by the Saud the Sheikh Harthi. The memb senior religior crowd In h



The Mosque was filled with worshippers.

FOCUS ON OMAN





Pictures by Mohammed Mustapha and Amor Arabi.

Royal Day MNizwa

Qaboos on Friday aboos Mosque in all to capacity with a morning prayers. jesty was received a Interior, Badr bin I the Wali of Nizwa, bin Ahmad al

vas attended by Il Family, ministers, officials, prominent and a large

the beginning of

prayers, His Majesty said the mosque was like a stage. Voices of instruction and guidance rose from it. It was a forum, too, for Moslems to meet to teach and learn, worship and thank God.

His Majesty also paid tribute to the town and people of Nizwa which, he said, had produced many well-known religious figures.

The opening of the mosque came at a time, he added, when Islam was struggling against communism. But Islam was a power, he said, and would not surrender either to communism or atheism



His Majesty stressed that Islam would not surrender to communism or atheism:



Members of the Royal Family and Ministers offer prayers.

JUNIOR TIMES

Foolish Youngsters Who Went In Search Of Adventure

Written By VIJAYA GOPAL

Bardeka was a prosperous village in a mountain valley. The land was very fertile and got water from a smooth flowing river. There never was a crop failure and so the villagers lived happily with nothing to trouble them.

But some young people were not satisfied. There was not enough to do in the village, they compalined. What type of fun could one have by sowing and reaping throughout the whole year.

They had a few enjoyable activities like dancing and singing after the harvest, but that came after a long time. What could one do in the interval? They yearned for real adventure in some distant place.

They soon formed a group and decided to go in search of adventure. One young man said, "Let us go to the king because we may get what we want there". All of them agreed to it.

For a few days people in the

village spoke about this departure and on the appointed day, special prayers were offered to the gods for their safe return. Thus all the young men started in a big group on their way to the capital.

On the way, they came across a flock of birds flying up and down the trees. "What a pity we cannot fly like the birds", said one of them. At this another said "what we need is courage. One has to go high on the tree, stretch the arms and fly off like the birds and there is nothing more to it"

All the youngsters liked the idea and they followed the brave one on to a tall tree and climbed to the top. They were so high they could hardly see the ground. Then stretching out their arms they jumped out. And one by one those who jumped fell to the ground only to die.

When a few had died in this adventurous way, one of the remaining said "there is no fun in dying for nothing. Flying is for birds and not for men" he said. All others

agreed and consoled themselves by saying that the others had died after proving that only birds can fly. So they are martyrs."

After this they again started their journey to see the king. When they reached the capital they lost no time and met the king himself. Proudly they told him what they had come for

"Oh Great King, we have come all the way from our village. Only tell us what you would like us to do."

The king was very amused and said "thank you, my young people. We have plenty of work for you." He then called his minister and asked him to give the young men some work to do. The minister put them to work in the palace. They were asked to look after the palace gardens.

"What is the fun in tending gardens?" complained one after some time. "We could do this in our village too", said another. "But this is the king's own garden," said another.

"So what, a garden is a garden," they all shouted. They were bored and decided to leave. The king agreed and rewarded them for their services. And gave them salt, butter and an ox's head.

Packing them up in a neat bundle the men began their journey back to the village. All the way they dreamt of the beautiful maidens who will be dancing with them if they reached before the harvest time. And each of them thought of an adventurous story of his own to tell his girl.

When they were tired they took rest near the riverside and decided to cook and eat something. They made a fire and after boiling water, put the salt in it thinking that it was rice. Another put an iron plate over the fire and decided to bake some bread. He thought that the butter was well-kneaded dough and put it on the fire to make bread. A third one took the ox's head to break it and cut into pieces. He kept the head on a stone and struck it with a large stone. The head slipped and flew off into the water and went down the fast current.

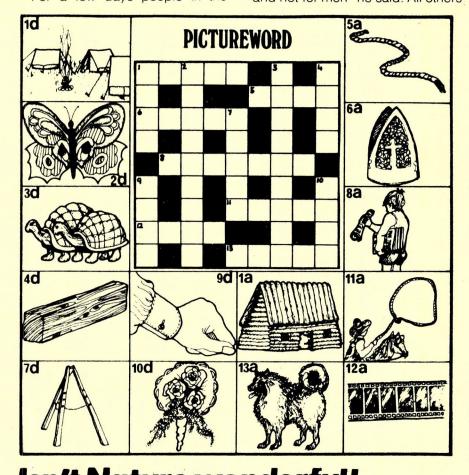
"One can't do anything with a lost head" said one of them. "Alright, we will go without it consoled another. But they were sure that something will be ready in their camp but when they reached there, nothing was there either. The salt had disappeared in water and the butter had melted.

Now there was nothing to look forward to. So they sadly walked back to their village, a little wiser.

PICTUREWORD SOLUTION

Down: 1 Camp, 2 Butterlly, 3 Tortoises, 4 Beam, 7 Easel, 9 Cuff, 10 Posy.

Across: 1 Cabin, 5 Rope, 6 Mitre, 8 News-boy, 11 Lasso, 12 Film, 13 Husky.





LEISURE

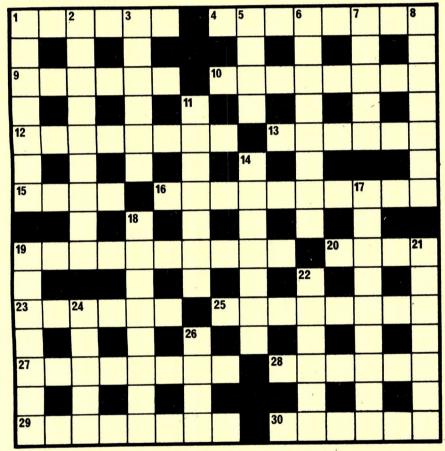
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across:

- Not his sort of cult (6)
- I'd be so slow getting in as to be cut off (8)
- Possibly united, though separated here (6)
- State of a dilapidated coal door (8)
- 12 Cutting off a lady making a call (8)
- 13 Man goes to the Spanish place of worship (6)
- Father is not out to cause distress (4)
- What those going down have seen ? (6,4)
- Joining in, but not seizing the lot (6,4)
- 20 Practise boxing in the yard (4)
- 23 This boat may be tied up (6) 25 People decline to be so
- described (8) Sort of key found in a
- cupboard? (8) A new paper to be pub-
- lished (6) A dearth, but not for a long 29 time (8)
- Occupation requiring some extra desks (6)

Down:

- Imprisons and reduces to silence (5,2)
- Fit description for those who are going to meet (2,3,4)
- He interrupts a politician with a supposition (6)
- Possibly pots one billiardball (4)
- A demand for attention (4,4)
- Ship, possibly a drifter (5)
- Idly follows one's fancy as a scribbler (7)
- Rough number United Nations kept outside (7)
- Ceased to be a consumer (7)
- 17 Catch and understand what's said (9)
- 18 Capital charges may well arouse it when reported (8)
- Key members of the office staff (7)
- Stops work and goes to bed (7)
- 22 Impede with a basket (6)
- It is sung in church, I be-
- 26 As a medal it's unbeatable (4)



QUICK CROSSWORD

Across:

- Classification (6)
- Valuable (8)
- Self-possession (6) 9
- Filled with emotion (8)
- Arriving on time (8)
- 13 Spiritualist session (6) 15 Weaving machine (4)
- When actually done (2,8)
- 19 Strictly honest (10) 20 Slight quarrel (4)
- 23 Plump (6)
- 25 Gracious (8)
- 27 Gap (8)
- 28 Fanatical supporter (6)
- 29 Enrolled for military service (8)
- 30 Actor (6)

Down:

- Surgical knife (7)
- Magnificence (9)
- Hostility (6)
- Uncommon (4) 5
- Begin (8)
- Frequently (5)
- To hide (7) 11 Indistinctly (7)
- 14 Fetched (7)
- 17 At first (9)
- 18 Protesting hotly (2,2,4)
- 19 Outlive (7)
- 21 Boxer (7)
- 22 Painful experience (6)
- 24 Full amount (5)
- 26 Speed of walking (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Solomon, 5 Matches, 9 Absence, 10 Section, 11 Prove, 12 Solitaire, 13 On the spot, 15 Bogus, 16 Reset, 18 Operation, 21 Champagne, 24 Sharp, 25 Long Tom, 26 Imagine, 27 Sirloin, 28 Takings.

Down: 1 Shampoo, 2 Lash out, 3 Mincemeat, 4 Needs, 5 Mistletoe, 6 Tacit, 7 Hailing, 8 Sonnets, 14 Ploughman, 15 Beanstalk, 16 Recalls, 17 Spanner, 19 Italian, 20 Nippers. 22 Patio, 23 Evict.

QUICK SOLUTION

Across: 1 Rasping, 5 Ill-used, 9 Crumple, 10 Playful, 11 Utter, 12 Electrify, 13 Terminate, 15 Plead, 16 Impel, 18 Untainted, 21 Faultless, 24 Chess, 25 Average, 26 Apprise, 27 Entreat, 28 Delight.

Down: 1 Recount, 2 Stutter, 3 Impartial, 4 Geese, 5 Implement, 6 Least, 7 Suffice, 8 Delayed, 14 Amusement, 15 Principal, 16 Inflate, 17 Prudent, 19 Teeming, 20 Dessert, 22 Tease, 23 Staid.

Seven-day Stars

For week beginning Sunday February 24



You should be able to get on with ideas for making your life brighter. Good news from a distance should come as a pleasant surprise. You can enjoy shopping for this is a week for bargains. Lucky colour: pink. Lucky numbers: 9 and 29



A friend of long standing seems to be about to spring a surprise on you. One commitment won't be entirely to your liking. Better buckle down and get on with it, then pass to pleasanter things. Lucky colour: mauve. Lucky numbers: 3 and 40.



You must try and give yourself a little more privacy as there are signs of nervous strain. An adventurous journey indicated. Someone will tell you an astonishing piece of news. Lucky colour: yellow. Lucky numbers: 2 and 12.

aurus April 21 to May 21

personal wish stands a good chance of coming true. Someone very close is going to see a wish granted. A celebration would seem to be called for. The adventurous spirit is favoured this week. Lucky colour: red. Lucky numbers: 7 and 37



You will be popular when something you've done is made known. You may have to alter an arrangement to suit a change of commitments. This is a good time for enterprises connected with public welfare. Lucky colour: blue. Lucky numbers: 1 and 21



A letter should clear up a mystery about someone else's strange actions. Be wary of a new contract, because this person isn't very discreet. Keep your private business to yourself just now. Lucky colour: green. Lucky numbers: 4 and 14.



Your situation seems to be a little difficult due to another person's laziness. You'll need to have a clear understanding that you are not going to do all the disagreeable jobs. Try to relax more. Lucky colour: white. Lucky numbers: 5 and 50.



A small disappointment is indicated but other matters will soon crowd this out of your mind. An opportunity to broaden your social horizon should be taken. Romance shows signs of stress. Lucky colour: violet. Lucky numbers: 8 and 13.



Don't let a quick temper cause a quarrel with a valuable friend. Aim at getting down to business as early as possible, because this looks a very busy time. News of a younger person should please you. Lucky colour: black. Lucky numbers: 6 and 26.



Don't be afraid to voice an opinion that is different. Your ideas are very clear and you are sure to find someone who will agree with you. An unusual and exciting event is indicated. Lucky colour: red. Lucky numbers: 2 and 41.



Your mail seems interesting and there is one letter which will make you think more constructively about your future. Get out and about in the later part of the week. You deserve some fun. Lucky colour: orange. Lucky numbers: 3 and 23.



Now is the time to ask for favours because the stars are on your side. If you are asked to help with a community scheme do so; it will be fun as well as work. Lucky colour: blue. Lucky numbers: 9 and 48.





A BIRDSEYE VIEW

Recipe Book

Ideas For A Canny Cook

For all you cooks working hard to think up new ways of serving the same thing, here's a tasty, quick to prepare chicken

It's also a delicious way to use up left-over chicken and is fairly cheap, too.

When cooking with garlic, by the way, it should be remembered that it burns easily. This makes for a rather acrid taste

So in any recipe using garlic, fry it only for a short time and at a low temperature. And if a recipe includes onions, they should be fried first.

Far better to use fresh garlic because dried garlic powder loses many of its curative powers during processing apart from anything else.

CHICKEN WITH ALMONDS

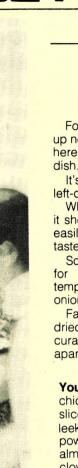
You Need: 600g of chopped cooked chicken; 150g of peeled and thinly sliced mushrooms; 1 finely chopped leek; 1 teaspoon flour; 1 pinch, of powdered ginger; 100g of flaked almonds; 1 tablespoon of cooking fat; 1 clove of garlic; pressed or finely chopped; chicken stock; 2 tablespoons of sova sauce, salt and pepper to taste. What To Do: Heat the fat and fry the chicken for about two or three minutes. Add the mushrooms, leek and garlic. Cover and allow to cook gently for about five minutes

Dissolve the flour in the stock and add the powdered ginger, the soya sauce and seasoning, to taste.

Add to the contents of the pan and allow to simmer for a few minutes with

Brown the almonds a little in hot oil and add to the chicken mixture.

Serve hot with rice and a tossed green



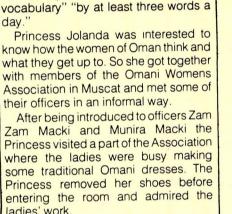


Healthy Hair Tips

Following our Birdseye feature on hair care, Mrs. D.V. Thompson of Medinat Qaboos has written in thanking us for the tips and giving us a recipe for a useful "homemade" conditioner to help put some goodness back in damaged

texture and tone," she wrote. "I beat two eggs together and mix them with a tablespoon of olive oil or corn oil.

"After I have shampooed my hair and rinsed it, I apply the egg and oil, leave it for 20 minutes and then rinse off with lukewarm water. It's really very effective." Thank you Mrs. Thompson.



When asked how she saw the life and role of Arabic women she said, "I see them happy... I feel that is the main thing

A Princess

Visits Oman

Belgium's Princess Jolanda came to

Oman on a private visit this week. It was

her first visit to Oman though she has

now completed a year in the Arab world.

is applying herself to Arabic in a

practical way, asking the staff around

her to speak it and building her

their officers in an informal way.

Speaking already six languages, she

Asked what European women might learn from them she added: "To be

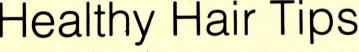
She also remarked that her year in the Arab world showed her "their intense religion... in Europe that is a bit lost, so it is refreshing.

She enjoyed being able to walk a couple of hours by the sea and not meet a soul nor see signs of a polluted environment, something not so possible any more in Europe.

She found a tremendous charm in Oman's landscape and towns. Oman, she said emphatically was "very romantic'

Her husband is Ambassador to the Netherlands in Jeddah and they will probably be there for another two years. In the few short days she spent here, she visited Nizwa, Misfa, Bahla and the areas around Muscat.

She came accompanied by Mrs. B. van Nispen tot Sevenaer, wife of the Dutch Ambassador in Jeddah. Both were guided on their tour here by Mrs. Lygia Jacobs, wife of Oman's Dutch Consul, Frans Jacobs.



"Eggs are very helpful in restoring

The Fitness Test

Can you pinch with thumb and finger more than a 1-inch fold of fat around your waist or 11/2 inches on your upper thighs? Do you find it difficult to touch your toes?

Do you smoke more than 20 cigarettes a day? Drink more than six whiskies a day? Over-eat? Sleep less than six hours a day?

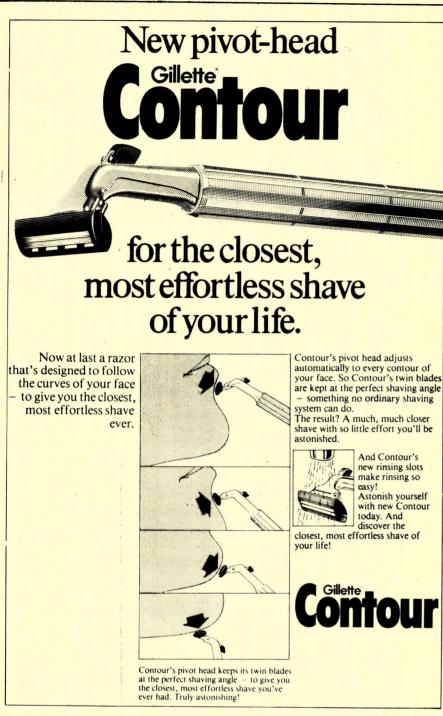
If the answer to more than two of these is YES, then you've failed. And miserably, if you're under 30. Watch this page over the next few weeks to see how you can get fighting fit again.

Now there's a genuine drive towards keeping fit, we should all be taking care of ourselves. Exercise helps you stay slim but it also protects against coronary heart disease, improves circulation, keeps neck, back and joints supple, tightens muscles and combats stress.

Three Cheers For Yasin

Young Yasin Mustapha celebrated his third birthday in style this week, with his best friends on hand to help him blow out those three candles.

And there to put them all in the picture about birthday celebrations was Royal photographer Mohammed Mustapha, Yashin's daddy, who caught the atmosphere of the party with his picture above



Your pictures look best when Kodak paper is behind them.



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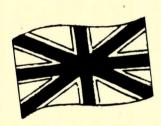
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AL FALAJ



HOTEL



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"BRITISH NIGHT"

BUFFET DINNER & DANCE

THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY 1980

FROM 8.30 P.M.

- Superb Traditional British Specialities...
- Dine & Dance until early hours Friday!

DISCOTHEQUE

TOP WORLD HITS SELECTED BY OUR RESIDENT DISC JOCKEY

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R.O. 4 PER PERSON Plus Service and Tax.

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SCOTCH BROTH HOME-MADE COUNTRY TERRINES SMOKED SCOTCH SALMON

FRIED FILLET OF DOVER SOLE
ROAST PRIME SIRLOIN OF BEEF, YORKSHIRE
PUDDING

BAKED WILTSHIRE GAMMON BRAISED OXTAIL IN RED WINE STEAK, KIDNEY & OYSTER PIE SHEPHERD'S PIE

> CORNISH PASTIES SCOTCH EGGS VEAL, HAM & EGG PIE

ASSORTED SALADS BAKED JACKET POTATOES

FARMHOUSE APPLE PIE WITH CREAM
SHERRY TRIFLE
SPICED STEWED PEARS
JAM DOUGHNUTS
BAKEWELL TART
FRESH FRUIT SALAD

SELECTION OF ENGLISH CHEESES

ENTERTAINMENT

Oman Disco 20



| | Compagnitude of the state of th | |
|------|--|-------------|
| 1 (3 |) Its My House | iana Ross |
| 2 (|) Que Sera Mi Vida | n Brothers |
| 3 (2 | | |
| 4 (| Rapper's Delight | |
| 5 (| 7) Dont Ston Till You Get I | nouan |
| 6 (| 4) You Can Do It | Al Hudson |
| 7 (| 8) Please Dont Go | |
| 8 (| 5) I Had A Dream | |
| 9 (| 2) Watch Out For The Boo | ogieman |
| 10 (| 3) He's The Greatest Dan | cer |
| 11 (| 11) MusicSi | |
| 12 (| 15) Strut Your Funky Stuff | |
| 13 | 9) Bad Girls (Album) | |
| 14 (| 17) I Only Want To Be With | 1 You |
| 15 (| 10) Cora | I ourist |
| 16 | 20) JealousyFlee | |
| 17 | 10) Enough Is Enough | Ami Stewart |
| | Barbara | Streisand & |
| 18 | (16) Get Up And Boogie . | eddy James |
| 19 | (14) My Simple Heart | |
| 20 | (18) Is It Love You're After | Rose Royce |
| | | |

Composed by 'Grease' Band Leader Vincent Rodricks.

Grease Aim To Stay No. 1

If travelling half the world will keep Grease on top as Oman's No. 1 rock group...then band leader Vincent Rodricks will do it.

This week he is off to Singapore to buy new equipment for the group and get the latest records for the Inter-Continental Hotel's disco, where he is curently disc jockey.

"Singapore is about the cheapest place to buy equipment," said Vincent. "We have checked the prices in some of the other places where you can get it, like Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and they are much more expensive and you do not get the selection.

"I would much rather fly to Singapore and be able to choose what I want than to just have to buy what I can get in the Gulf."

One piece of equipment he is after is called a strings. "It is used with the organ," explained Vincent. "It gives an effect like violins in an orchestra.

"It is used for backgrond music and you often hear it in numbers played by groups these days. It costs about R.O.300 in Singapore and as much as R.O.500 in the Gulf."

Also on the shopping list will be a new bass amplifier and speakers for Sunny D'Souza, the group's bass player.

"I will also be looking at the music charts to see what the latest hits are," he added. "And I will be coming back with some of the singles at least."

News From Radio Oman

Jim Stewart Hosts The Thursday Show

Disc Jockey Jim Stewart, who récently arrived at the Qurum Private Club, has taken to the airwaves. He is now presenting his own pop music show on Radio Oman.

It goes on the air on alternate Thursdays between 2.00pm and 2.30pm and you can catch it by tuning in today (Thursday).

It is not Jim's first venture into radio. He previously presented a show on the BBC's local radio station in Leicester in the English Midlands.

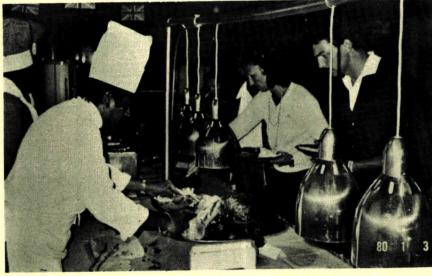
"That was a Saturday morning show

which lasted about an hour and I did it for about three months," he said.

"Basically, for my show now, I am trying to create a mixture of music," he explained. "It will not be solely disco. I am trying to cater for other styles as well.

"A lot of the music will be based on the charts but I will be trying to include a couple of new records that people may not have heard yet.

"The majority of the records that I will be playing will be mine and I am getting regular deliveries of the latest releases from the U.K. and the States."



A Taste Of Old Blighty

There will be a taste of home every two months from now on at the Al Falaj Hotel for any homesick Britons.

The hotel has decided to stage an evening of British foods as a regular part of its international promotions, and today (Thursday) another one will be held.

This follows on from the very popular British evening held in January. "This was a tremendous success and we decided to make it a regular event," said a hotel spokesman.

Tonight's menu includes the inevitable roast beef and Yorkshire pudding as well as steak, kidney and oyster pie, braised oxtail in red wine and fried fillet of Dover sole.

Less exotic but nevertheless truly British dishes, include shepherd's pie and cornish pasties.

Concert Dates

The date for the British Council's BBC Singers concerts have been announced. They will be giving performances at the Sultan's School on March 2, the Catholic Church on March 3, the Inter-Continental Hotel on March 4

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- * R.O. 2/- all inclusive per head.
- * Daily except Fridays.



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MA HOTEL at the Corniche

A Sell-Out

Derek Nimmo's production of *Blithe Spirit* at the Muscat Inter-Continental this week was a complete sell-out, playing to packed houses for each of its five nights.

RUWI HOTEL

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EVERY FRIDAY

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5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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BUFFET DINNER & DANCE

FROM 8.30 P.M.

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FRIDAY

Yawning Wife to Husband:

"Darling today is my off day, let us drive to SAMRAT for Tempting Thali."

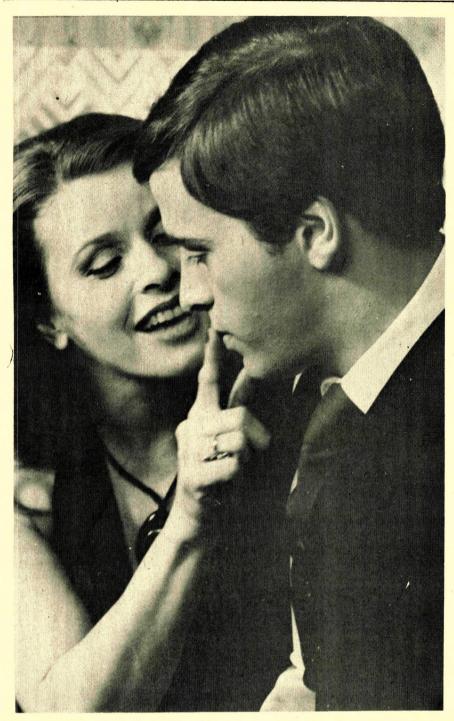
"Oh! it has fantastic South Indian and Gujarati Bites. Yah come to us and feel the difference."

SAMRAT

Your Host in the Town, Opp. Takia Garden, Muscat

Phone Message 745654.

ENTERTAINMENT 2



"A Second Hand Woman".

Blood And Thunder Mercenary-Style

Two excellent thrillers go out at the Star this week, both with very different

Noon Sunday is a blood and thunder movie about the world of mercenaries. Three professionals take on a contract to carry out a do-or-die mission on a heavily guarded tropical island.

Mark Lenard, John Russel; Linda Avery and Keye Luke appear among the flying bullets and the picture goes out on Monday.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Avenging Eagle one of the better karate films, is being screened. There are some excellent scenic settings and a plot with a fair bit of suspense. It appears in a double bill with Fugitive Girls, another action film about an escape from an American prison.

Topping the horror bill is Zombie, telling the story of how the United States is attacked by a hoard of monsters in human form.

The drama starts with strange happenings in a hospital when one of the patients, who is medically dead, starts moving.

He is only one of a terrifying sect and whoever is killed by him joins the "undead". Richard Johnson, lan McCulloch and Tisa Farrow star and the film goes out on Thursday and Friday.

Another offering from the Italian film studios goes out on Sunday, Second Hand Woman.

It traces the life of a beautiful young



Action from "Zombie".

girl, played by Senta Berger, from early innocence in the countryside to harsh life on the city streets.

Rena Niehaus, Enrico Maria Salerno Bruno Valente also make apperances.

If you want to unwind at the end of the week, the Star is showing a documentary about easily the most graceful form of manned flight - hang-

Joy of Flying goes out on Tuesday and Wednesday and has some breathtaking pictures of the closest man can come to flying like a bird.

Cinema Preview

English Films

THE RETURN OF THE LAST TANGO

Old classics and new releases provide a mixture of films at the Rex this week

The golden oldies that have come round are Enter the Dragon and Last Tango in Paris.

Enter the Dragon goes out on Thursday and Friday and is perhaps the ultimate martial arts movie, with Bruce Lee's adventures in the forbidden island of Han inspiring countless imitations.

Last Tango is screened on Wednesday and will no doubt be shown to packed audiences as before.

The film aroused much controversy in Europe and America when it was first released. It's about a middle aged

American, played by Marlon Brando, who is deeply depressed after his wife's suicide in Paris.

While hunting for a cheap flat in one of the city's seedier quarters he meets up with an attractive young girl, played by Maria Schneider, who is trying to break out of a stifling relationship she has with a film director.

Both find comfort and a new sense of identity in a friendship where they make love without knowing each other's names or background.

One of the more recent films at the Rex this week is Sky Riders, a thriller about the daring rescue of a group of hostages held by terrorists.

TV and Radio

World Service

The Short-Sighted Optimist by Hugh Steadman Williams is the radio theatre presentation on World Service this

Sir Stanley Pickton, an industrialist, is faced with a takeover bid and knows he is beaten. His son Cliff, expelled from school, has also been defeated in his attempts to win a scholarship to Oxford.

And George Morris, a history master, won't accept defeat even when he is sacked from his post at the grammar

Everyone else, including his wife, thinks that he is finished but George is confident that there is still a purpose to his life. The question is, can he convince the rest of those around him that he is not past it?

Wilfred Pickles and Betty Baskcomb star and you can tune in on Sunday at 11.15 pm.

On Monday the leading historian Asa Briggs continues his 12-part social history of Britain, Land and People. Not since the memorable lectures of the great Colin Legg has history been presented in such a fascinating way.

This week he examines order and change in mediaeval society when Britain, now absorbed into the Norman Empire, develops the law as an instrument of freedom and paves the way for concepts of human rights.

You can tune in at 2.00pm and again on Wednesday at 8.15 pm.

Radio Oman

THURSDAY

1.00pm Pops, 1.15 Merry Go Round, 1.45 Oman Sports Round Up, 2.00 Tony B. Show, 2.30 News, Classical Music, 2.55 Closedown.

FRIDAY

1.00pm The Arab Saga, 1.10 Request Show, 2.30 News, Radio News Reel, Classical Music, 2.55 Closedown.

SATURDAY

1.00pm Shaping of Modern Arab Thought, 1.15 Lifespan, 1.30 Hits in Germany, 2.00 Spectrum, 2.30 News, Classical Music, 2.55 Closedown.

SUNDAY

1.00pm String Sounds, 1.15 Radio Theatre, 1.45 Muscat City Sounds, 2.00 Dateline, 2.30 News, Classical Music, 2.55 Close-

down.

MONDAY

1.00pm Centre of Arab Civilization, 1.15 World of Sport, 1.30 Top of the Pops, 2.00 Rendezvous at Two, 2.30 News, Classical Music, 2.55 Closedown.

TUESDAY

1.00pm Disco Date, 1.15 Faces & Places, 1.30 "A Funny Thing Happened", 2.00 Aspen Music Festival, 2.30 News, Band Music, 2.55 Closedown

WEDNESDAY

1.00pm Looking Back, 1.15 Sugar & Spice, Cliff Richard Story, 2.00 Jazz Beat, News, Classical Music, 2.55 2.30 Closedown.

Oman TV

THURSDAY

5.00 National Anthem. 5.02 Koran. 5.12 Programme Review. 5.15 Cartoons. 6.15 Little House On The Prairie. 8.30 Arabic News followed by Arabic programme. 10.00 English News. 10.30 Arabic Series. 12.15 Closedown.

FRIDAY

3.00 National Anthem. 3.02 Koran. 3.12 Programme Review. 3.15 Cartoons. 4.15 Children's Foundation. 5.35 Football. 6.45 Project U.F.O. 8.30 Arabic News. 9.00 Kung Fu. 10.00 English News. 10.20 Hindi Feature Film. 12.15 Closedown.

SATURDAY

5.00 National Anthem. 5.02 Koran. 5.1? Programme Review. 5.15 Cartoons. 5.45 Lost Island. 6.30 The Odd Couple. 8.30 Arabic News. 10.00 English News. 12.15 Closedown.

SUNDAY

5.00 National Anthem. 5.02 Koran. 5.12

Programme Review. 5.15 Cartoons. 5.30 Arabic Programme. 6.45 Wild Cargo. 8.30 Arabic News. 10.00 English News. 10.20 English language feature film.

MONDAY

5.00 National Anthem. 5.02 Koran. 5.12 Programme Review. 5.15 Cartoons. 6.30 Funny Face. 8:30 Arabic News. 9.00 Telematch. 10.00 English News. 10.20 Arabic film. 12.15 Closedown.

TUESDAY

5.00 National Anthem. 5.02 Koran. 5.12 Programme Review. 5.15 Cartoons. 5.45 Arabic Programme. 6.15 Trails to Adventure. 8.30 Arabic News. 10.00 English News. 12.15 Closedown.

WEDNESDAY

5.00 National Anthem. 5.02 Koran. 5.12 Programme Review. 5.15 Cartoons. 5.45 Counte de Monte Cristo. 6.15 Chopper Squad. 8.30 Arabic News. 10.00 English News. 10.20 Bestseller.

ENTERTAINMENT 3

Cinema Review







Jill Clayburgh in "An Unmarried Woman".

The Plight Of An **Unmarried Woman**

Alan Bates at his earthy best provides solid support in An Unmarried Woman, the brilliant portrayal of a woman whose neatly packaged life falls apart, which was screened at the Star this week.

Jill Clayburgh gives a most convincing performance as the woman rejected by her husband and plunged into the depths of despair as her emotional life crumbles around her.

Her uncertain steps as she gradually puts the pieces together again, helped and hindered by friends and new lovers, are beautifully drawn.

And the discovery that her previously well-ordered life was perhaps not such a great loss after all (and nor was her antiseptic husband) is subtly suggested in a most plausible way.

Traditionally, British humour looks daft and limp to those who can't under-

But for those who can, Tiffany Jones, last week's film at the Al Falaj, was a scream from beginning to end.

Anouska Hampel played the model from the Daily Mail's cartoon strip who always seems to be able to find trouble.

This time she was caught up in the loonie battles between revolutionaries and spies from an obscure European state as they fought to set up an arms

Cinema Guide

Star Cinema: Thurs, Fri - Zombi with Richard Johnson, Ian McCulloch and Tisa Farrow; Sat - Fugitive Girls and Avenging Eagle, Karate. Sun - Second Hand Woman starring Rena Niehaus, Enrico Maria Salerno, Bruno Valente and Senta Berger. Mon - Noon Sunday with Mark Lenard, John Russell and Linda Avery. Tue, Wed - Joy of Flying.

Rex: Thurs - Mighty Peking Man, karate film, and Enter the Dragon with Bruce Lee, John Saxon, Jim Kelly and Bob Wall. Fri - Enter the Dragon and Driver starring Ryan O'Neal, Bruce Dern and Isabelle Adjani. Sat - Driver and Girls are for Loving with Cheri Caffaro, Timothy Brown and Jocelyn Peters. Sun Girls are for Loving and Death Lady, karate film. Mon - Death Lady and Every Which Way But Lose, starring Clint Eastwood, Sondra Locke, Geoffrey Lewis, Ruth Gordon and Beverly D'Angelo. Tue - Sky Riders with James Coburn, Susannah York, Charles Aznavour and Robert Culp, and Night Call Nurses with Patricia Byrne, Alana Collins and Mittie Lawrence. Wed -Night Call Nurses and Last Tango in Paris with Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider.

Al Falaj Hotel: (Free to members of the swimming pool complex and hotel guests only) Fri — Schizo with Lynne Frederick, John Leyton and Stephanie Beacham.

Inter-Continental Hotel: guests only) Thus - It Shouldn't Happen To A Vet; Fri - Henry VIII and His Six Wives; Sat - Cat and Mouse; Sun - Aces High; Mon - It Shouldn't Happen To A Vet; Tue – Henry VIII And His Six Wives; Wed – Cat And Mouse.

deal in London. The spies, of course, were disguised as cooks.

looked Hampel Miss throughout and there was some excellently witty dialogue. For instance when she rang her friends at 3.00am after being missing for ages they asked her where the hell she was.

"I'm in a call box in Lewisham dressed as a cook," came the reply...stupid to ask really.

Cinema Preview

A Broken Romance

Sanjeev Kumar takes the lead role in "Mausom", a delicately drawn love story with some unusual twists, screened this

He plays a medical student who falls in love with a girl and then finds himself in jail over a medical slip-up. He is sentenced to 14 years and his girlfriend, sudden at his heartbroken disappearance, marries someone else.

She has a daughter who she is determined is going to study medicine. The girl, with an uncanny resemblance to her mother, goes to the city and pretends she is studying to become a doctor but ends up on the streets.

The old doctor finds her and takes her home, desperate to help her and anxious to find her mother. She is a strong-willed young woman and several times he nearly gives up with her.

The girl it seems is also determined to kill her father, whoever he is and whereever he disappeared to, leaving her mother alone.

She has a photograph of him, but it is old and it is hard to identify anybody from it...

How they resolve the family dilemma and how they all get together again makes an entertaining story which is slow-moving but subtle, with a very good supporting performance from Sharmila Lagore





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We offer you the best seafood in town, and in addition a very selective range of continental dishes.

For reservations ring 734880. l p.m.—3.15, 7 p.m. — 11.15 p.m.



Showing at al Nasr this week: Raghunandan's "Chambal Ki Raani."

Cinema Preview

Indian Films

Woman At The Top Of The Underworld

This week at al Nasr Bindu takes the lead role in "Chambal ki Raani," the story of a gang of criminals led by a woman. Dara Singh plays the police inspector and that villain of the screen Amjad Khan still revelling in the glory of his performance in "Sholey", once again plays the baddie

It has been released in Bombay but this is the first showing in Oman.

Also this week, Basu Chatterii's "Prem Vivah", starring Asha Parekh, Bindiya Goswamy, Mithum Chakravorty and Utpal Dutt, at the Plaza.

HEW PRELUDE

It could change your life style by adding new style to your life.

When Honda makes a new car people take note. When you drive the new Prelude people notice. The classic lines tempered with quiet strength. The luxurious interior topped by a sensational sunroof/sunshade combination. And an instrument panel that could have been innovated only by Honda. Even the radio is totally different!

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OMAN MINING & CO. MINE DEVELOPMENT

PREQUALIFICATION FOR MINE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COPPER PROJECT, SOHAR DISTRICT, SULTANATE OF OMAN

OMAN MINING & CO., INVITES CONTRACTORS, WHO HAVE THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS, TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY 10th March 1980 FOR THE FOLLOWING WORK.

Drivage of Tunnels in the sterile rock as well as in the orebody, all in accordance with the existing, completed design of the Mines, for the purpose of bringing three sulphide copper mines into production by sub level caving methods.

- 1) MAIN RAMP ACCESS TUNNELS OF 4.25 METRES HEIGHT AND 5.00 METRES WIDTH.
- 2) TUNNELS (FOOTWALL DRIFTS) OF 3.5 METRES HEIGHT AND 4.0 METRES WIDTH.
- 3) TUNNELS (ORE CROSSCUT DRIFTS) OF 3.2 METRES HEIGHT AND 4.0 METRES WIDTH.

Total metres for all tunnels could approximate to 10,000 metres. Inclination of the tunnels will vary from a maximum of 15% down gradient to 15% up gradient, with major portion of the meterage being on level gradient.

 VERTICAL SHAFTS OF 2.40 – 3 METRES DIA-METER AND 100 METRES DEPTH; APPROXI-MATELY 600 METRES.

Contractors should be familiar with diesel powered mobile equipment as normally used in Ramp Access Mining, such as L.H.D. equipment and low profile trucks. The owner will use electro hydraulic drills for production.

The location of the Mine units is Lasail 3 Kms south of the International Highway, between Falaj al Qabail and Buraimi, at Km 25 from Falaj al Qabail and approximately 278 kms from Muscat. Aarja & Bayda are situated 6 & 7 kilometres to the north, from the same reference point.

Companies interested must furnish the following details:

- Organisation of Company, in Oman and overseas, with staff available and relevant resumes; numbers and classification of workmen normally on company's payroll.
- Work recently completed, or in progress in RELATED PROJECTS ONLY, with particular reference to Middle East Projects, if any. State total cost of these projects and give percentage of company involvement in total cost.
- Provide data showing experience in PLANNED MAINTENANCE and further experience, if any, in the establishment of Planned Maintenance in new projects.
- 4) Provide data showing experience in TRAINING PROGRAMMES and further experience, if any, in establishing of Training Programmes in new projects.
- 5) Give details of productivity in other recent projects.
- 6) Reference list of present and recent clients.

All prequalification proposals must reach Oman Mining & Co., P.O. Box 758, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, not later than 10th March 1980.

Companies which have previously tendered documents MUST RESUBMIT. Submission to be sealed and identified by Ref. No. M-5.



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OUTLOOK

ANCIENT CITY IS CRAFT HISTORY

Archaelogy Throws New Light On Old Customs

By Louise Creese

The City, an area of a square mile, lies in the east of London, bounded on one side by the Thames on the other by the remains of an ancient wall built by the Romans at the end of the third century. Its maze of narrow winding streets is by day teeming with people, but at night silent and deserted.

The names of the streets evoke the crafts practised there probably by late Saxon times following the Roman occupation, perhaps even by the Romans themselves: "Cornhill", "Poultry", "Swan Alley", "Watling Street", "Bread Street", among others.

After the craftsmen came the bankers who, in their tun, gave their names to streets: Throgmorton Street" commemorates a Lord Chamberlain and Ambassador to Queen Elizabeth I to the kings of France; "Gresham

Street", named after the famous banker, merchant, courtier and diplomat who died in 1579. Gresham founded the London Stock Exchange and was intrumental in making the City a centre of Eruopean trade. "Lombard Street" recalls the bankers from northern Italy who came and settled here.

Crowded within the confines of the city, too, are the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street", the Bank of England, the Mansion House where the Lord Mayors of London reside during their year of office, as well as St. Paul's Cathedral and many other churches designed by the great architect, Sir Christopher Wren, after the Fire of London razed the City in 1666.

New discoveries are constantly being made about London's past, but historians and archaeologists are engaged in a race



A Roman kitchen, on exhibit at the Museum of London, made up from objects found in

against time to beat the building contractors, always ready with their bulldozers to dig out the foundations for some new block.

The excavations, organized by the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London, are carried out by volunteers supervised by professional archaeolotists.

One of the most recent digs was in Newgate Street, not far from the famous debtors' prison, at a site where it is proposed to erect the new General Post Office headquarters. So far, excavations have brought to light remains of Roman structures, a building dating from Saxon times, the ruins of a mediaeval church and the courtyard of a building destroyed in the Great Fire.

In 1975, on the same site, fragments of Bronze Age pottery were unearthed, dating from about 1500 B.C., as well as shreds of pottery, jars and urns, many imported from Gaul, and the remains of two timber-framed shops dating from the late 1st and early 2nd

More recent finds have been shown that Newgate Street, one of the main thoroughfares leading out of the city in Roman times, was bordered by dwellings in the first century. One group of buildings seems to have been destroyed during the revolt of the iceni tribe led by Queen Boadicea who, in the year 61, tried to drive the Romans out. Defeated, she poisoned herself.

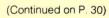
As the excavations proceed, more

vestiges of London's past are pieced together and interesting data are emerging. For example, in 1975, 313 skeletons were discovered beneath the foundations of Saint Nicholas' church in Newgate Street. This was the first time that such a large assemblage of skeleton dating from mediaeval times has been found in the City of London.

An examination of the teeth threw light on the diet of Londoners in those days. Apparently, they suffered from an iron deficiency which caused bone deformities, osteo-arthritis and rickets. One skeleton was that of a woman who had died in childbirth and her child was buried inside her.

Walting Street was an old Roman road, and mosaics have been uncovered there belonging to Roman houses probably built after the ravages caused by Queen Boadicea's army. Remains of Saxon habitations suggest that a late Saxon settlement had existed there, possibly founded by King Alfred, who rebuilt London after driving out the Danish invaders in 866.

Another archaeological discovery in the City that excited great interest in 1954, is that of a temple of the late Roman period, dedicated to the Persian god Mithras, whose cult spread throughout the Roman empire. The sculptures on this temple had been carefully hidden during the reign of Constantine to prevent their destruction when



Cultural Centre

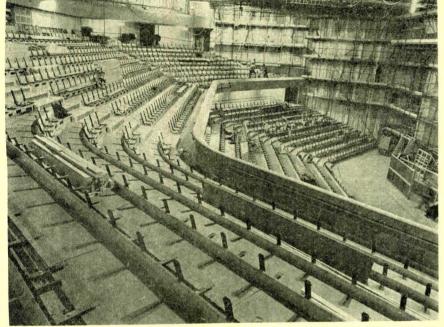
The ancient City of London is all set to contain one of the world's great cultural centres. Work is going ahead rapidly on the huge £80 million Barbican Centre which will provide a permanent London home for both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra when it opens in autumn, 1981.

The Centre's facilities will not be confined to the 2023-seat hall for conferences and concerts (initially the L.S.O. will play three four-week seasons a year), and the 1,166-seat theatre to which the R.S.C. are due to

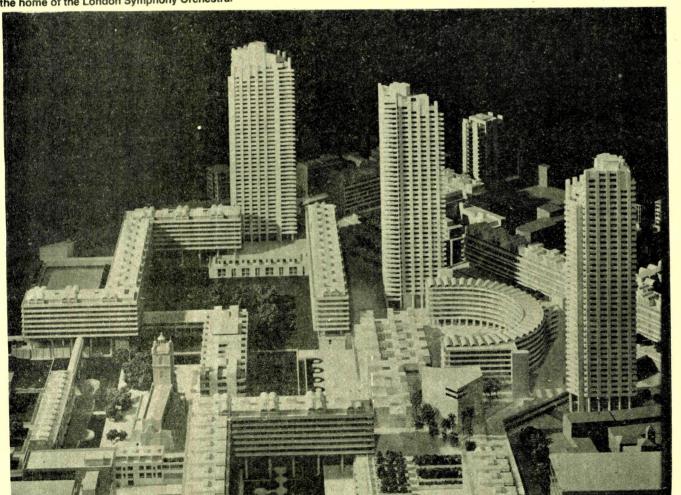
There will also be a 200-seat studio theatre, three small cinemas (which can also be used for conferences), restaurants; an art gallery and scupiture court; five 80-seat meeting rooms; and two trade exhibition halls with 35,000 and 28,000 square feet of space.

Mr. Anthony Camden, Chairman of the L.S.O., said the orchestra were planning to stage as many as 33 events per month at the Barbican, including evening concerts, lunchtime recitals, chamber concerts and master classes. They also intend to work closely with the other resident company, the Royal Shakespeare, and to invite other worldfamous orchestra to play in the hall.

Mr Henry Wrong, the Centre's Administrator, hopes that the Barbican will be active "18 hours a day, seven days a week", and plans to start up the first performances in March, 1981, with the official opening.



Work goes ahead on the 2,000-seat concert hall at the Barbican, which in 1981 becomes the home of the London Symphony Orchestra.



Model of the completed Barbican development which includes the arts centre. The concert hall is beneath the crescent-shaped

block.

OUTLOOK

EVEN THE OLD TAXIS MAY BE RELICS

Take a good look at that stately black taxi lumbering round London — its days may be numbered.

Surprising as it'sounds, the men who drive London taxis are thinking of trading them in for a sporty new continental model or making big changes in the one they have now.

"No other city in the world uses such an outmoded old monster," says an association representing the 17,000 drivers of London's 12,500 cabs.

And yet - the drivers themselves say they keep on getting, along with their tips customer comments about London cabs being supremely quaint, roomy, efficient and highly manoeuvrable.

They can "turn on a tanner" (sixpence) as even their critics admit.

But on the debit side, it seems, the box-like awkward-seeming Austin FX4, the standard London cab, can be noisy, subject to draughts and vulnerable in case of holdups.

So the drivers are casting around for a continental replacement-possibly a French Peugeot or Citroen, Swedish Volvo, Italian Fiat or Ford Granada.

Criticism of the "good old London cab"

comes as something of a shock to Ronald Ainsworth, head of the public licensing office for London's taxis.

"We have been in this business since 1850," he told Reuters, "and we are certainly unaware of any widespread criticism. In fact, we are quite proud of our reputation.

"Occasionally people do say the taxis is a bit noisy, but that is the only adverse comment I have heard."

But his colleague Stewart Bryk listed a catalogue of complaints - rattling windows, troublesome diesel fumes, lack of a compartment for maps, and difficulty of communication. A glass partition separates driver and passenger.

Mr Bryk also growls about Common Market regulation reported on way to restrict London drivers - and asks "why should we let some bloke from the European Common Market interfere with our way of doing things?

Despite antipathy to Common Market intervention, real or fancied, Mr Bryk and another cabbie, 35-year old David Barnes, like the idea of a continental car. Mr Barnes has already been inspecting a few foreign models and expects to visit Brussels to look at others.

Complaints aside, the drivers take unabashed pride in the taxi service. They know tourists, especially Americans, have a fondness for the distinctive, somewhat old-fashioned vehicles, ranking them in their affections with the London police force and the afternoon cup of tea.

Cabbies derive gruff pride from their own professionalism. All drivers have to go through a "knowledge school" before getting their licences - a process involving training rides and intensive study so they know every street within a seven-mile radius in Central London.

"We are an elite," said Mr. Barnes. "There is nobody in the world just like us. That's why we don't want the European Economic Commission telling us what to do."

Acknowledging there might be draughts, discomfort vibration and noise, he said he would certainly miss the ungainly old Austin if it had to be replaced.

"It is easy to get into and very individual in appearance," he said. "But that doesn't mean there cannot be improvements."

The box-like design of the London cab appears to have evolved from the old horse carriages, landaus and broughams of a

previous century. According to motoring folklore, they were designed to accommodate top-hatted gentlemen who wanted to sit upright without a low roof disturbing their headgear.

"Everything's done for the passengers," one taxi operator said. "Now let's have some thought for the drivers."

ANCIENT LONDON

(Continued from P. 29)

Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire. These sculptures, including a marble head of Mithras in a Phrygian cap, are now in the Museum of London.

The Romans had been quick to recognize the importance of Londonium as a sea port. It seems probable that they built a bridge across the Thames slightly further down river from where London Bridge stands today. But excavations, carried out in 1973 on the river banks in the area of Billingsgate fish market failed to uncover any trace of it.

Numerous structures and objects, however, have been found where the ancient quay-sides existed, 15 metres below the pavements. Oaken balks and fragments of wall have been discovered as well as terraces dating from the first and second centuries.

Already at that time the port of London was a very busy place. On the quaysides, merchandise transported to and from the country by sea was loaded and unloaded. Finds have included pottery brought from southern Gaul between 100 and 200 A.D. but never used. Damaged perhaps at sea or during unloading, it had been jettisoned in the river.

Figurines of Venus, too, have been discovered, doubtless destined for temples or domestic shrines.

Botanical tests have proved that the Romans imported ornamental plants – roses and violets in particular – as well as foodstuffs; olives, walnuts, grapes, apples, plums, peaches and cherries. There are still fig trees and grapewines growing in Britain that are a reminder of the Roman's nostalgia for their homeland. Lentils and carrots were also imported.

Nowadays, trade with the European continent is carried on by huge international trucking companies, with all the dangers of pollution this implies. So it is timely that the current programme of archaeological research is recording what remains of the period of maritime expansion that has given the port of London — and London itself — its own particular character. — **Unesco.**

KAMPUCHEA

(Continued from P. 14)

now estimated to have been committed to this task. They are equipped with Soviet weapons ranging from fighter and bomber aircraft to missiles, tanks and helicopter gunships.

Poison gas bombs are also reported to have been used against the remaining of guerrillas resistance.

The planting, harvesting and distribution of food is said to be strictly controlled in an attempt to starve the guerrillas into submission. Cultivation of rice has been restricted to ensure that the harvest goes to the occupation forces and the regime for selective distribution.

Thus, only an estimated ten per cent of arable land was sown for the December rice harvest, and steps were taken to prevent unauthorised harvesting. Vietnamese troops not only guarded the fields, but also conducted house-to-house searches and confiscated harvesting tools and hidden stores of rice.

Grain was reportedly being distributed to the Kampucheans only after the needs of the occupation forces and Vietnamese "settlers" and civilian officials had been met. Anyone trying to smuggle food to guerrillas risks is being shot on sight.

Frustrated international aid experfs have warned that because of the deliberate curtailing of sowing for the Spring harvest, about two million Kampucheans would be dependent on relief food aid by March. It has also been estimated that at least 1,000 tonnes of food a day will be needed in the next few months to avert a catastrophic national famine.





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7

OUTLOOK

New Dams Can Damage Ecosystem

From a UNEP Correspondent

Some 100,000 Tanzanians will benefit considerably from a proposal to construct a dam on the Rufiji River at Stiegler's Gorge, 230 km from the river mouth. Construction of the dam, part of a hydro-power complex, is planned to begin in 1982 and will provide Tanzania with increased electric power.

The complex will also reduce the devastating floods that take place every five years or so, causing great loss to the national

The Rufiji is Tanzania's largest river, the Basin itself covering about 20 per cent of the country with nearly 10 per cent of the population living there.

It has been established that many environmental problems arise when large-scale dams or reservoirs are constructed, as it inevitably alters the ecosystems. There are many negative aspects to dam construction which, if not taken into account, right from the start, can result in serious problems. Dams

can often mean great socio-economic upheaval for the inhabitants, and the new habitat may seriously affect plant and animal life in the region.

For this reason, at the request of the Rufiji Basin Development Authority (RUBADA), the United Nations Environment Programme has provided over \$17,000 to carry out preliminary ecological studies on the Rufiji Basisn. These will provide a basis on which environmental measures can be incorporated in the plans to build the dam. The Government of Tanzania is providing an additional \$10,000 for the pre-construction

Three UNEP experts visited Tanzania last year and carried out both ground and aerial surveys in the lower Rufiji River Basin, including the Delta. They worked in cooperation with national experts and officials of RUBADA which is responsible for managing multi-purpose projects within the

Rufiji Basin.

According to the preliminary study of the team which was headed by Prof. D. Ratkovitch, the building of the new dam may affect the animal population of Tanzania's largest game reserve, Selous, which less in this region. A wide variety of game — 90,000 elephants, 20,000 hippos, as well as lion, leopard, zebra, impala and crocodile have to be protected from people who may have easier access to the area as it becomes more developed.

Reduced soil fertility may result from the greatly reduced flow of slit to the flood plain. Salinizations of the land must be prevented.

There is also the possible danger of aquatic weeds spreading as a result of the increased supply of organic nutrient matter in the reservoir from the catchment area.

The team points out that this has, in fact, been the sad experience of other African reservoirs. At Kariba in Zambia, excessive growth of the water fern (Salvinia) had taken place within a few years of construction of the dam and covered much of the lake. On Volta Lake in Ghana, floating plants, mainly the water lettuce (Pistia) covered large areas of the shore.

At Jebel Aulia, Sudan, on the White Nile, water hyacinth (Eichhornia) has been present for 22 years on the dam and expenses to fight it go up to \$500,000 per year. Aquatic weeds do not only obstruct the dam itself, but are also associated with the spread of water-borne diseases such as schistosomiasis.

When the Rufiji dam is built, the present river ecosystem will also be disturbed. Some of the species of fish will not be able to migrate from downstream into the dam. Migration is vital for the life cycle of some indigenous species, as local fisherman are well aware. The mangrove forests which abound in the Rufiji valley and provide local timber, may also be seriously affected, since the drying up of the Delta will drastically disturb the ecosystem and may even affect the thriving prawn industry.

To forestall most of these problems precautions have to be taken at the planning stage, says Dr Ratkovitch.

"The hydro-power complex at Stiegler's Gorge goes far beyond an ordinary project. It should solve not only technical and engineering problems but it should also be based on awareness of the ecological problems concerning the impact of the dam on the environment," he adds.

CHINESE HOMES USE GAS MADE FROM RUBBISH

By Li Shao

Pao Su-yuan and his tamily who live in a remote village in China's southwestern province of Szechwan, use neither firewood nor charcoal to cook their meals. Instead they have two mud rings.

Pao Su-yuan's wife turns a tap, strikes a match, and a blue flame appears. There is no trace of smoke and the meal is quickly cooked.

The Pao family is using marsh gas produced in a sealed stone fermentation pit in their own courtyard and conducted by a plastic pipe to the mud rings. The Paos drop crop residues, weeds, tree leaves and barnyard manure into the pit which has a volume of 10.8 cubic metres, and add water.

When this mixture ferments, the gas produced can be used for lighting as well as cooking. A marsh gas lamp lighting the Pao familiy's home is a bright as a 100-watt electric bulb. The fermented compost is regularly removed from the pit for use as fertilizer.

In Szechwan there are now four to five hundred thousand gas generating pits serving peasant households, and commune members in other provinces are beginning to install similar pits.

A national conference held in Szechwan to popularize their use, was told that such fuel is a inexhaustible resource which can be a substitute for firewood, coal and kerosene and thus bring about important changes in China's rural fuel consumption.

In making marsh gas, the Chinese are experimenting with different methods to meet local conditions and a number of different types of pits have been evolved. The earliest were mostly rectangular. Later ones are in the shape of boats, cauldrons

and tunnels, to suit the topography, soil and underground water level in different places.

Rings for cooking may be made of mud, stone, pottery, porcelain, iron, and even discarded food tins or paint containers. As for lighting, there are hanging lamps, desk lamps and multi-purpose fittings which can be used for both cooking and lighting.

Bigger pits can turn out enough methane gas to drive small internal combustion engines, water pumps, rice threshers, flour mills and electric generators.

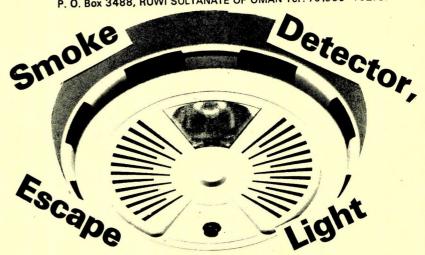
Production of this new fuel frees the peasants from collecting firewood or carrying coal and increases the available quantity of organic fertiliser. Using marsh gas also releases coal and kerosene for industrial use, and part of the crop residues formerly used as fuel is now processed for fodder.

Marsh gas production provides an effective method to deal with human waste, helping to improve sanitation and prevent infection. Chemical analysis made in the area around Tungting Lake in central China shows that schistosome eggs in excreta are killed in the gas pits after a week's fermentation and bacillus coli reduced by 50 per cent within three months.

Experiments are being carried out to improve the composition of the materials used, and to select and propagate bacterial strains that assist fermentation, so as to increase gas production and maintain normal fermentation during the cold winter months. Methods have been worked out to achieve normal year-round marsh gas production in Hunan in northeast China, where winter temperatures crop to 30 degrees Celsius below zero and where there is ice for half the year.

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This is to announce that Mr. GULABSI RATANSI & CHAITANYA GULABSI have transferred their interest in the above mentioned companies to the existing members as from 29/31st Jan., 1980.

Mr. GULABSI RATANSI as from the date mentioned above is no longer authorised to act on behalf of the companies and any liabilities or contracts undertaken by him on behalf of the companies will not be valid.

Any person/persons having any objections to the transfer of the above shares must within 30 days of the publication of this notice notify the company in writing at their registered office, P.O. Box 72, MUSCAT.

The above companies are now 100% Omani owned and principle members are Mr. ALI MOHAMMED AKEEL & Mr. ABDUL SAEED BADR.

For & on behalf of CEMENT MARKETING CO. L.L.C. RUWI TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. L.L.C. AL-AKEEL CO. L.L.C. ALI MOHAMMED AKEEL ABDUL SAEED BADR

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Volleyball Sports Times On P. 34

Cricket And Squash P. 35

FOOTBALL

Al Nasser Win Puts Them In 2nd Place

Al Nasser beat Sidab comfortably in their league match at the Al Itihad ground in Salalah on Thursday.

First half goals by Rajab Sangoon in the 28th minute, and Ali Mohammed Mokaabil minutes later, gave Al Nasser a-2-0 lead at halftime.

The pace of the match seemed to slow down in the second half with Al Nasser relaxing their grip on the game.

Sidab pulled a goal back through Khalfan Haidar in the 42nd minute but within a minute of this Hamtut Jaman scored for Al Nasser to put the issue beyond any doubt, giving Al Nasser a fine-3-1 victory.

This win puts them in second place on goal average above Ruwi, Fanja, Seeb and Oman, all of them having eight

Sur still head the table 3 clear points

Results

| Ahli 4 Seeb | Wahdha Dhofar Ahli | 2 | Sur Massona Seeb | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
|-------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------|--|

Fixtures

Mon 25th: Seeb v Oman at Muttrah. Tues 26th: Dhofar v Ahli at Muttrah. Wed: 27th: Sidab v Wahdha at Muttrah. Thu: 28th: Ruwi v Al Nasser at Al Itihad, Salalah, All matches have a 3.30 K.O.



Action from the Massona-Dhofar game.

GOLF

Dianne And Gary Win The Zubair Trophy

Friday saw members of the Ras Al Hamra Golf Club and Royal Ghallah at Ghallah to compete in one of the most popular competitions of the year, the Zubair Kilpatrick Trophy.

A mixed field of 44 players took part in this mixed greensome trophy and the winning pair was Dianne White (R.A.H.R.C.) and Gary Chapman (R.G.W.G.C.) who returned a total of 39

points. Terry Musgrave (RAHGC) and Jim Treloar (RGWGC) were runners-up on a countback from Anne Wood (RGWGC) and Bob Colby (RAHGC) both pairs having returned 36 points.

There were other prizes as well and the award for nearest the pin on the 18th hole went to Gary Chapman whose tee shot ended up only 1.36 metres from the

Four players tied for the most gross number of birdies and the eventual winners were Sandy Allen (RGWGC) and Bob Wilkinson (RAHGC)

The team with the largest number of 'Pick-ups' were Ian Gibson and Brian Clarke who faled to complete six holes.

The splendid array of prizes and the hospitality afforded to the competitors was the cause of much comment and

the sponsors are to be congratulated for

Ras al Hamra Golf Club played their February Monthly Medal on Thursday and this produced one of the best results to date with three players returning a nett 68.

The winner on countback was Keith Sisson with Terry Musgrave runner-up and George Smith having to be content with third place.

George had a tremendous round which included four birdies. He birdied the difficult dog leg 3rd hole twice and should in fact have won had it not been for an error which cost him a stroke.

As a result of this performance, these three players will now be receiving handicap cuts.

Tomorrow (Friday) the Ladies Oman Championships will be played at Royal Ghallah Wentworth. This is a 36 hole event and last year's winner Jennifer Locke will be defending her title, although she can expect some very stiff opposition from golfers who have recently arrived in the Sultanate.



Too late, It's his ball - Al Wahda v. Sur, who lead the points table.

RUGBY

Muscat Teamwork Pays Dividends

Sharjah3pts Muscat had another convincing win on Friday when they beat Sharjah in an

away league tie by 27 points to 3 points. Muscat took a 6 point lead in the very first minute of the game through a try by

Fowler, playing at scrum half, had a big hand in the making of this try and Anderson had no problems in converting it.

Sharjah were quick to pull back 3 points from a penalty kicked by following infringement in the line out.

However Muscat's forwards were soon back on the attack with some good charges by Golding and Berry

They dominated the rucks and loose mauls and from the second phase play were able to feed good clean balls to the backs who found the narrow Sharjah ground very restricting.

Fowler scored Muscat's second try from a well won maul very near the. Sharjah goal-line to put Muscat futher

Only some very good tackling by the Sharjah left winger, Coffin kept Muscat from scoring any further tries and at half time the score was still 10 points to 3 points in Muscat's favour.

Muscat went on the attack straight from the whistle and Sharjah had to depend on good long clearances by their full back who was under considerable pressure from the Muscat breakaway forwards Berry, Golding and Puccinelli.

A series of five yard scrums made life difficult for the Sharjah defence and Puccinelli was able to take advantage of one of these to score Muscat's third try of the match.

Muscat's forwards continued to push ahead but the backs let them down time and again.

Sweetnam, playing full back, was able to field Sharjah's high probing kicks and often linked in the back movements to form the overlap.

He kicked a penalty to make the score 17-3 and from that stage on, the final outcome was never in doubt.

Muscat's best try was scored straight from the kick-off when the ball was passed out to Winter on the right wing and his crosskick found Fernie in the centre who fed the ball out to Sweetman before Berry went over the line.

Muscat27pts

The last try was scored by Golding following a good piece of work by Fowler and with Sweetnam converting the final score was 27 points to 3 in favour of Muscat.

Tomorrow (Friday) Muscat have no fixture as they will be busy preparing for their Annual International Seven-a-side Tournament which will be held at the centre at Wattayeh over the weekend of February 28 and 29.

DARTS

| | ne | Suits | |
|--|----|--|-------|
| A" League SL Concorde S.L. ubair Kilpatrick | 5 | Sgts Mess No. 1 Marconi Khunjar Arms | 4 4 4 |
| B" League | | | |

A.S.L. 'X' R.A.O.B Sgts Mess No. 3 Duke of Montrose 5 Ras al Hamra Lansab Officers Royal Flight Costains

| , | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| S.S.L. | V | Sgts Mess No. 1 |
| ASL Concorde | V | Zubair Kilpatrick |
| Marconi | V | ASL Pirates |
| Duke of Montrose | V | Costains |
| Royal Flight | ٧ | Sgts Mess No. 3 |
| | | |

First named team is 'home team'

BRIDGE

Bridge Results

Results of the monthly Bridge Tournament held at the Indian Cultural Association hall on Friday were as follows: 1 Mr V.K. Jaitley & S.C. Panda. 2. Dr. Rakesh Mathur & Mr Sukesh Hoogan. 3. Mr A. K. Gupta and D.S. Vasudevan. 4 Mr. S. M. Shafi and L.L.

Sports Times 2



The Navy Captain tosses for the start with the M.O.C. "B" captain.

O.S.C.O. Win Muscat **Volleyball Title**

The host team O.S.C.O. won the Oman Shapoorji Construction Company Volleyball Tournament in fine style in Muscat on Friday

Ten teams took part in the competition which was organised on a knock-out Oman Shapoorji, Telephone Operators, the Sultan of Oman's Navy and Municipal Corporation of Oman "A" reached the semifinals, with O.S.C.O. and the Municipal side going into the final.

Prizes for the tournament, which was organised by Mr. A.P.J. Reddy, were presented by Mr. R.P. Sangwan, chief engineer of H.M.'s Properties, Muscat Area, who was guest of honour.

Teams taking part: Alasfoor, Municipal Corporation of Oman "A" and Palace Telephone Operators, Mayabeen, Navy, Defence (Lansab),

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Royal Rangers, International Electric, Oman Shapoorji Palace Maintenance

Awards For Oman Golfers

Some of Oman's top golfers were in Abu Dhabi at the weekend for the Open there

Jim Copland (RAHRC) had a very good first day's golf coming in with a nett 67, but he faded on the second day.

Jim's nett 67 did win him the award, however, for the best nett score of the tournament.

Salim Hamdan, one of Oman's up and coming golfers, had a good week-end there and he came back with the runnerup award in the Plate competition

VACANCY FOR AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE MANAGER

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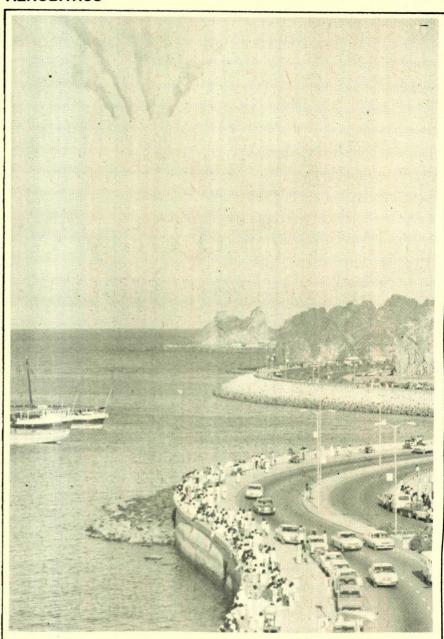
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VOLLEYBALL



Mr Sangwani presents the trophy to the winners.

AEROBATICS



Aerobatics Over Muscat

Four smoke trails high in the sky aboye Muttrah Corniche - and the Rothmans Aerobatics Team do their

A large crowds lined the harbour wall

to watch Thursday's display and they were treated to entertainment.

For more pictures, see Focus on Oman on Page 17.

CRICKET

NBO Bowlers Knock Sinha For Six

Bandula and Chumley putting up any

Sinha were bowled out for only 57 in

Saleem Dara was aptly rewarded for

20 overs for one of the lowest totals of

his fine effort and his score read five

wickets for 33 in 10 overs. Raja had 4 for

20 in 10 overs in a equally five sustained

In the final, NBO meet the winners of the other semi-final between Al Ahli and

Muscat to be played tomorrow (Friday)

Innings of NBO: Mairaj run out 48. Dara

ct Jayasanghe b Chumley 10. Khalid

bowled Chumley 0. Hussain Khan

bowled Bandula 11. M Sadiq ct Lazarus

b Benjamin 4. Tabet ct Jayasinghe b

Chumley 23. Mukhadhar ct Kumar b Chumley 8. Abid run out 9, Moin not out

8. Khurshed ct Ratnam b Chumley 6.

Raja bowled Bandula extras 18. Total all

Innings of Sinha 'A': Lazarus bowled

Raja 1. Jayasinghe bowled Raja 12.

Philip run out 2. Kumar Buel bowled

Dara 9. Bandula ct Sadiq b Raja 12.

Benjamin ct Mairaj b Dara 2. Chumley

bowled Dara 12. Ratnam ct Mairaj b

Dara 9. Desmond ct Sadig b Raja 3. L

De'Silva ct Mairaj b Dara 0. T Pereira not

out 0. extras 4. Total all out 57.

at P.D.(O).

resistance; each scoring 12 runs.

Some accurate seam bowling by Saleem Dara and Raja helped NBO defeat Sinha 'A' to enter the final of the OCA tournament on Friday

Winning the toss of this key and very tense semi-final NBO, batting first, started off well with Mairaj and Dara putting on 40 runs for the first wicket against some quick bowling by De'Silva and Chumley Abeysooriya.

Mairaj helped himself to four boundaries in one wild over from Chumley. But from 40 for 1, they slid to 68 for 4, with Khalid Hussain Khan and Sadiq, the skipper, getting out cheaply cheaply.

a stubborn 5th wicket Then partnershp between Mairaj and Talat brought up the hundred. But with the total at 104, Mairaj was run out for 48, due to some fine fielding and throwing in by De'Silva.

Chumley and the off spinner Benjamin bowled very tightly and runs came in a trickle with the batsmen getting out at regular intervals with the result that NBO were all out for 145 in exactly 40 overs.

For Sinha, Chumley bowled well to take five for 54 with Bandula and Benjamin getting two for 24 and one for

The entire Sinha team put on a magnificent exhibition of fielding and accurate fast throw ins to the wicket keeper with Vijitha Jayasinghe snapping up two excellent catches.

Sinha had a none too difficult target of 3.6 runs per over to win the match but disaster struck in Raja's first over when Clifford Lazarus swung wildly and was bowled

Incoming batsmen Philip was run out at 11 which brought star batsman Kumar Buel on the scene. But due to some accurate bowling, the rate was slow thus putting pressure on the batting.

Both Jayasinghe and Buel were bowled with only 27 on the board ad thereafter Sinha gave in, with only

SQUASH

| | Res | ults | |
|---|----------|---|--------------------|
| 'A' League Airworks 'A' J & P 'A' Nomads M.O.D. | 14 20 | RAHRC 'A' Al Ahli 'A' Solfive 'A' R.O.P. 'A' | 19 6 1 3 |
| 'B' League British Aero Defence Engs Costains 'A' RAHRC 'C' | 17 | RAHRC 'B' Qurum/Tarmac A Khunjar Arms Airworks 'B' | 18 10 6 3 |
| 'C' League Solfive 'B' Al Ahli 'B' | | Costains 'B' B.B.M.E. | 4 15 |
| 'D' League | 3 6 | J & P 'B' | 19 |

R.A.H.R.C. 'D' 20 Wimpey Muscat Monday February 25

v M.O.D. Airworks 'A' Al Ahli Solfive 'A' J&P'A' Nomads R.O.P. 'A' R.A.H.R.C 'A' R.A.H.R.C. 'C' British Aero Qurum/Tarmac 'A' Khunjar Arms Defence Engs. Costains 'A' Airworks 'B' R.A.H.R.C. 'B' SOAF Masirah SOAF Lansab Costains 'B' B.B.M.E Solfive 'B' Al Ahli 'B' Al Madinah Club S.O.N. R.A.H.R.C. 'D' R.O.P. 'B' Wimpey Muscat J&P'B' Dolphin Centre Qurum/Tarmac 'B'

Gulf Hotel

First named team is 'hometeam'.

R.A.H.R.C. 'E'

Sports Times 3

GOLF



Keen sportsman Sayyid Abbas bin Faisal, who is to be the new President of the Royal Ghallah Wentworth Golf Club. He is pictured at a cricket match with the Indian Ambassador, Mr. A. K. Budhirajah.

Sayyid Abbas To Be Ghallah's President

His Highness Sayyid Abbas bin Faisal, senior member of the Royal Family, has agreed to become the President of Royal Ghallah Wentworth

He takes over from John Cooper who

left the Sultanate recently.

Sayyid Abbas is a keen golfing enthusiast and has been a trustee of the club for some years.

Last year he donated the Sayyid Abbas Trophy which appropriately enough was won by one of the leading Omani golfers here, Salim Hamdan.

In his letter of acceptance, he thanked the committee and said that he was honoured to accept the post. He hoped that he would be able to further promote the sport here, particularly among Omani players.

At a committee meeting held this week, Royal Ghallah confirmed the membership of two more local players, Hamid Hamdan and Sheikh Faisal al

Hamid is showing tremendous potential and it probably won't be long before he will be adding to the Hamdan family's achievements in the same way as his brother.

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Saturday's Run

Saturday's run starts from the Ghallah roundabout, beginning promptly at 5pm.

Times of Oman

MOTOCROSS



Oman at Home To Dubai

The Oman Motorcycle Club is staging its first international at Seeb tomorrow (Friday) when they take on Dubai for the Rothmans "Bone of Contention."

racing from 1pm onwards.

There will be a series of eight races for

the title and for local championship

Spectators are very welcome. To get to the track from Muscat drive to the Scrutineering starts at 11.30am with airport roundabout and come back on ractices beginning at 12 noon and yourself 3km towards the capital area again. The track is clearly signposed from the highway

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NATIONAL FISHERIES COMPANY SET UP

Oman's new R.O. 1 million fishing corporation was formally set up this week with over 30 founders.

Commerce and Industry Minister Mohammed Zubair issued a ministerial decision naming it the National Fisheries Company (SAO).

The Government will be providing 20 per cent of the capital and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is one of the founders. Ordinary fishermen will provide another 20 per cent and the rest will come from the private sector. Its paid up capital will total R.O. 851,000.

All unsold shares will be put on the market towards the end of next month, and the public subscription will continue throughout the year

The company will catch, store and market fish. It will have its own boats and the Government will provide buildings and other

Great emphasis will be placed on marketing and the company will buy catches, store them and finally transport fish to all areas of the country for sale.

A detailed list of shareholders will be published in the next issue of the official

Trade Mission Here

A trade mission from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce in Britain was this week meeting businessmen in Oman.

Products they are promoting include cement and concrete pigments, switchgear and electrical accessories, children's clothing, quilted bedspreads, rubber goods, vinyl wall coverings and footwear

OUA to Sign Pact for New Sales Agency

Oman United Agencies Travel department has fixed up a major new sales agency with Grand Metropolitan Hotels, one of Britain's largest hotel groups.

The new agreement means that anyone booking an airline ticket will be able to instantly confirm a hotel reservation in one of the scores of hotels owned by Grand Metropolitan all over the world.

General holiday and travel bookings can also be speedily confirmed and OUA will sales facilities in Brussels, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Paris, Madrid, Rome London Dubai and Greece.

"I think it is the first time here that you can get an instant confirmation for your hotel with your airline ticket," said an OUA spokesman.

Previously this used to be done by telex and you constantly got back replies saying negative before you got your confirmation.

Grand Metropolitan are mounting a sales drive in the Gulf, and are seeking similar arrangements with travel agencies in other

Education Minister Continues Tour

Education Minister Yahya Mahfoudh al Mandheri continued his tour of the interior this week with visits to the boys and girls schools in Buraimi and Mahza.

He opened an exhibition of paintings by the pupils and also visited night classes, chatting with the students and teachers. He also met young people from Oman taking their higher education in the UAE



Chief Executive of BA Visits Muscat

British Airways Chief Executive Mr Roy Watts called into Oman on a factfinding visit this week, and held talks with the Minister of Communications.

He was accompanied by Mr Sandy Shaw, general manager of the airline's Eastern Division. They met British Ambassador the Hon. Ivor Lucas and later saw BA's local staff and agents.

They also discussed the airline's future operations and developments with Communications Minister Salem bin Nasser al Busaidi, and afterwards saw local travel agents and companies dealing with BA.

The Communications Ministry provided a helicopter for the executives to take a short flight over the Jebel Akhdar to Nizwa.

BA managers from all over the Gulf came to Oman on Sunday for a business meeting with Mr Watts and to discuss summer flights and revenue targets. On Monday Mr Watts met executives at Seeb airport before continuing to Karachi, Delhi and Bombay.

Picture shows (left to right) Mr Watts, BA Oman Manager Mr Peter Cross and Mr Shaw chatting together after the meeting for BA Gulf managers on Sunday



Khadhouri Calls for **More Cooperation Among Gulf States**

Health Minister Dr Mubarak al Khadhouri has called for more cooperation among Gulf States to solve their common health problems.

He told the fortnightly Al Usra magazine that the constantly growing exchange of visits will go a long way in improving coordination.

Last month he told the Gulf Health Ministers' Conference in Baghdad that diseases were one of the foremost enemies of regional development.

He said this week that Oman was keen to take an active role in World Health Organisation activities, and is already involved in scores of joint ventures with it.

The Minister said the Sultanate's health needs were being carefully studied for the preparation of the next five year plan.

The instructions from His Majesty the Sultan health centres are being set up all over the country and a nursing school and medical equipment maintenance centre are also being established.

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