

# TIMES OF OMAN

VOL. 4, NO: 1

MUSCAT, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1978—RABI-AL-AWWAL 15, 1398

PRICE BAIZAS 200

## EGYPT, CYPRUS BOTH PUT BLAME ON THE OTHER MANY DEAD IN "BATTLE OF LARNACA"

Relations between Egypt and Cyprus continue strained after Cypriot forces intervened to prevent an Egyptian commando rescuing hostages held in a hijacked aircraft at Larnaca airport.

In what is becoming known as the Battle of Larnaca, 15 Egyptian soldiers were killed, some 16 more wounded and around 40 captured.

Egypt says that President Kyprianou himself was informed of the rescue operation in advance. Cyprus says that no permission to make the raid was given.

The incident arose from the murder in Cyprus earlier in the week of the Egyptian editor and former minister, Youssef al-Sebai. He was in the island in his capacity as Secretary-general of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation. It's presidium was meeting in the Hilton hotel, where two gunmen, one said to be Jordanian and the other Kuwaiti, killed him.

They then seized hostages and were allowed to take them in an aircraft belonging to Cyprus Airways. With the hostages aboard

(Continued on Page 14)



Something made these little girls smile. Turn to Page 2 to find out what they were up to in Ruwi this week.

## U.S. ENVOY RENEWS EFFORTS TO REVIVE MID-EAST PEACE TALKS

The US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Atherton, has arrived in Israel to hold discussions on the renewal of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. He is also visiting Cairo for further talks there.

### Oman celebrates Prophet's Birthday

Scholarly orators throughout Oman on Monday stressed that the teachings of the Holy Prophet Mohamed were the only means of solving the problems of the modern age.

The main ceremony, at al-Khor Mosque in Muscat, was presided over by Sayyed Thwaini bin Shehab, Governor of the Capital and Personal Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan. It was attended by members of the Royal Family, Government ministers, envoys of Moslem countries, ulema, and a large gathering of the general public.

Possible moves to resolve the impasse over Israeli settlements in Sinai have so far come to nothing. The Israeli Cabinet, however, held a long meeting during the week, at which this was the main subject discussed. No statement was issued except that the debate would be continued at the next Cabinet meeting.

Reports, still unconfirmed, have been received, however, that further settlements are planned on the West Bank. This seems to reflect some division of opinion within the Israeli Government.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Peres, who had a meeting last week with President Sadat, this week attacked the Israeli Government for its mishandling of negotiations with the Egyptians.

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### WHAT'S NEW IN THE TIMES

Like a little light relief? You would. Well, we have it for you. This week we start a whole new series of features, which will inform you as well as amuse you.

No apologies are offered for producing the first of the new features this week, rather than last week or next. As can be seen from the dateline at the top of this page, this is Issue No. 1, of Volume 4. What better way to begin a new year

Let's start with what we have this week:

#### Seven Day Stars

Whether you really believe in what the astrologers foretell, or whether you just read forecasts for the fun of it, we bet that each week from now on you will turn to Page 5 for our great new feature starring your Horoscope.

#### Business News in Oman

Week by week, starting today, we will give you the very latest news about business and economic developments in the Sultanate. Outside events which will have effects here will not be forgotten either. A feature of real value to the man and woman of affairs.

Those are the new ones for this week, but there is more to follow. From next week, we start many more new features:

#### In Camera

If you have got any kind of camera, and you are not as satisfied with the results as you would like to be, this series by Eric W. Sykes, noted British writer on photography, is for you. Each week he deals with a separate problem, and shows you how to deal with it. The whole series provides you with a first-class, written so-you-can-easily-understand, course in photography. And when you have read it for a few weeks, watch out for our great photography competition. That will

(Continued on Page 8)



Meet the men who flew into Oman on Sunday to tackle the sheer rock face of the Jebel Misht. They are leading French Alpine climbers who know the perils of the mountains better than most. How will they fare? We'll report back next week with a full story on the climb, which started on Tuesday.



## Oman team back after bankers' meet in Abu Dhabi

Oman's delegation to the meeting of central bankers from the Gulf states held in Abu Dhabi returned to Muscat on Saturday. The delegation included the vice-president of the Central Bank of Oman, Mr. Hamoud Sango Hashim and the director of research in the bank, Mr. Abdul Dawood Abdullah.

The Gulf central bankers held their two-day meeting to discuss co-operation between the participating countries in the economic and monetary fields.

The central bankers also exchanged views on ways to co-ordinate the activities of the Arab and the International Monetary Funds besides measures to improve banking services in the Gulf.

## French jets for U.A.E.

France will supply 25 F1 Mirage jets to the UAE according to the Arabic magazine Al Watna al Arabi. The supply would be made under the terms of an agreement to be signed by the two countries shortly. Negotiations in this regard are currently under way.

The magazine also reported that France and Morocco would sign an agreement under which the Moroccan army would receive 24 fighter planes.

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### NOTICE

#### ZUBAIR ENTERPRISES

The automotive, electrical and furnishing divisions of Zubair Enterprises will be closed to the public on the 1st and 2nd of March 1978 for annual stock-taking.

We apologise to all our customers for any inconvenience caused.



We salute you—the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Muscat Brownies at their party on Saturday.

## GIRLS OF SEVEN NATIONS MEET AT BROWNIES' THINKING DAY

There was a cosmopolitan flavour to a rather special party in Ruwi on Saturday, when nearly 60 Brownies got together for the first time.

The 1st 2nd and 3rd Muscat Brownies were celebrating the Guide Movement's Thinking Day, officially on Wednesday, when everyone thinks of all the other Brownies and Guides in the world.

Seven nationalities were represented at the party, hosted by the 1st Muscat Brownies at the English Speaking School. Guests of honour were Madam O'Morchoe and the school's deputy headmistress, Miss Marie Archibald, who welcomed the 3rd Muscats, who travelled to Ruwi specially for the occasion. They all belong to the Royal Flight School, while the other two are members of the English Speaking School.

It was a special day for seven year old Jacqueline Love, too,

### EDUCATION MINISTER ON SUDAN VISIT

The Minister of Education, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah al-Ghazali, on Monday left for a six day official visit to the Sudan. He is responding to an invitation extended by the Sudanese Minister of Education, Mr. Dafullah al-Haj Youssef.

On his way to Khartoum, Mr. Ghazali stopped over in Riyadh. He held talks there with his Saudi counterpart on educational relation between the two countries.

The Education Minister is accompanied by a delegation which includes several officers from his ministry.

who was enrolled in the 1st Muscats during a special ceremony at the party.

## Tunis conference to discuss capital flow in Arab world

Oman is participating in the conference of Arab ministers of finance and economy which opened in Tunis on Monday. A four-member Omani delegation, headed by the under secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ali Daoud, is attending the conference. The other three are officers from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

On the agenda of the five-day conference are problems confronting the flow of capital in the Arab world, and measures to systematise co-ordination in the various financial organisations in the Arab world.

### German students here

A delegation of University students from West Germany arrived in Muscat on a six-day visit. The visit comes in the framework of the Government's programme of exchange of students missions with other countries.

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## RUWI HOTEL



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WILL YOU FIND

venison pate  
cucumber and mint soup  
chicken shahjahani  
pipi ding ho?

ON THE NEW MENU AT THE  
RUWI HOTEL



# TIMES OF OMAN

Founder : Essa Mohamed Essa, Managing Editor : G. Reid-Anderson.

VOL. 4, NO: 1 MUSCAT, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1978

## NATIONS MUST UNITE TO STOP VIOLENCE FOR POLITICAL ENDS

For far too long the use of violence as a political weapon has been connived at by people who should be ashamed of such opportunism. This connivance has led to a cancerous multiplication of acts of assassination kidnapping, hijacking, arson and many other crimes against innocent people. This week again, with the murder of a notable Egyptian at one end of the world, and the forced flight of the Malaysian Prime Minister to avoid kidnapping at the other, the comity of nations has seen to what weakness and vacillation has led.

Crimes of political violence cannot always be prevented, but they certainly can be punished, and they can be frustrated, as the Germans showed at Mogadishu. If punishment were known to be assured, and severe, the psychopathic fanatics might not be deterred, but many others, now using violence to further their extreme political beliefs, most certainly would be. Particularly if the nations of the world made certain that murder could never find sanctuary, and that there would be no refuge anywhere for kidnappers and torturers.

The time has come for all peoples to unite, so that the maintenance of law and order, on which each insists within its own boundaries, may apply equally throughout the entire world.

## PIVOT OF YOUTH ACTIVITY

The Ministry of Youth is one of the country's newest authorities, but in the few years of its activity it has had a great impact on but in the few years of its activity it has had a great impact on the life of the young people of this country. Not only has it acted as a coordinating body for many activities which previously had no centralised direction, but it has broken into fields perhaps otherwise unconsidered.

How many would have thought a few years ago that "adventure" training courses would become a feature of the life of our young people? Yet, already they have their own sail training ship, sports grounds and many other facilities, and the latest development in rock climbing and mountaineering, although one for which Oman is admirably equipped by nature, might not have developed as it is doing but for the efforts of the ministry at the centre. This does not mean that credit is not due to others also, particularly the services, for the movement which culminates this week in the visit of notable mountaineers from France, but without the central guidance the efforts of others would have been limited.

## NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

The new features, introduced this week and next, mark a further stage in the development of this newspaper. For the past three months we have modernised appearance to the extent mechanically possible at present. We have tried, with mixed success perhaps, to improve the quality of the English used, and have sought to widen the scope of our reporting. The picture features in the centre pages, and the news from the southern region, from our correspondent in Salalah, are examples. The introduction of a special feature for business people will, we hope, provide a valuable service. The next few weeks will see a widening of reporting of local sport.

This newspaper hopes that the new features will give you real enjoyment. Some of them certainly will widen your knowledge, but we trust, painlessly. Further improvements are in store, including better typography. We will tell you about these as we come to them.

Meanwhile, what do you think? What do you want? Please write and tell us in which way we can better fulfil your needs from a newspaper. All suggestions will be given the fullest thought, and if they can be carried out they will be. If you do not wish us to publish extracts from your letter, please say so.

Meanwhile, remember the old slogan—don't shoot the pianist; he's doing his best!

## VIETNAM'S AIM IN CAMBODIA IS PROBABLY GRADUAL MOVES TO POLITICAL TAKE OVER

(By A South-East Asia Correspondent)

The continuation of the Vietnamese-Cambodian border war spells the end of another internationally-held illusion about Indo-China, say many expert observers.

This disillusionment, they add, first set in when Hanoi ignored the promises made of a gradual unification of the North and South after the ending of the Vietnam conflict in 1975. It grew as the outside world became aware of the scale of the atrocities committed in Cambodia as she, too, finally succumbed to Communist rule. In mid-1977, it was estimated that more than a million people had died since the takeover two years earlier.

Now two of the victors in the long struggle for Indo-China are openly fighting over the spoils—and in the process are not only reviving old doubts and fears about the balance of power and stability in Asia, but also giving rise to concern that the region is becoming a flashpoint for Sino-Soviet rivalry.

Cambodia's breaking off of diplomatic relations with Vietnam followed several months of increasingly fierce fighting, ostensibly over disputed territory, including offshore islands. These have since become open undeclared war. But clashes are known to have been occurring since the historically antipathetic Vietnamese and Cambodians stopped fighting their non-Communist enemies in 1975.

The ensuing "war of words" also escalated. Cambodia, accusing Vietnam of launching an invasion and of harbouring "colonialist designs" against her, added that the invading forces were far more barbarous than those of the former South Vietnam.

Hanoi's reply, given by Premier Phan Van Dong himself, rejected the accusation and said that Vietnam had been forced to take action in self-defence. But in the course of the statement he amply confirmed that the conflict had been growing since 1975.

He claimed that immediately after the takeover there the Cambodian authorities had turned on Vietnamese nationals, killing thousands and driving thousands more back into Vietnam. Since May, 1975, the Cambodians had committed countless violations of Vietnamese territory, killing wounding or abducting thousands of civilians as well as indulging in large-scale looting and the burning of homes.

However, observers were reluctant to accept Hanoi's more moderate public stance, including the offer of negotiations, at face value in view of the many previous instances in which its actions have differed markedly from its words.

It has been noted, for instance, that the Cambodian leadership has been airing its grievance over lost territory, not only that of the

last century, but also what it calls its recently "reduced frontiers". Moreover, Hanoi has publicly resurrected its idea of an Indo-China Federation, composed of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

With the latter already under strong Vietnamese influence, the present situation has been seen as a reflection of the Cambodian regime's determination not to become a satellite of Hanoi. Ironically, one of the basic issues behind the Vietnam conflict was whether the conquest of the south represented the limit of the North Vietnamese leadership's ambitions, or merely a stage in its drive for hegemony over the whole of Indo-China.

This question is still highly relevant for China and many South-east Asian governments. For China, now embarked on a more pragmatic course with the emphasis on her own internal development, the main desire must be for stability in her southern hinterland. But she cannot be unconcerned about Hanoi's intentions, especially as the latter has tended to side with the USSR in the ideological dispute and power rivalry between the two communist giants.

Peking is therefore generally seen as being sympathetic to the Cambodians in the current conflicts while the Soviet camp is openly siding with the Vietnamese. With its overwhelming superiority both in numbers and in firepower, there is little doubt that Hanoi could easily annex Cambodia. But observers think that the Vietnamese will stop short of this because of the international repercussions, and instead will seek to achieve their aims more gradually.

## GERMANS, BRITISH, IRISH ARE MOST OPTIMISTIC

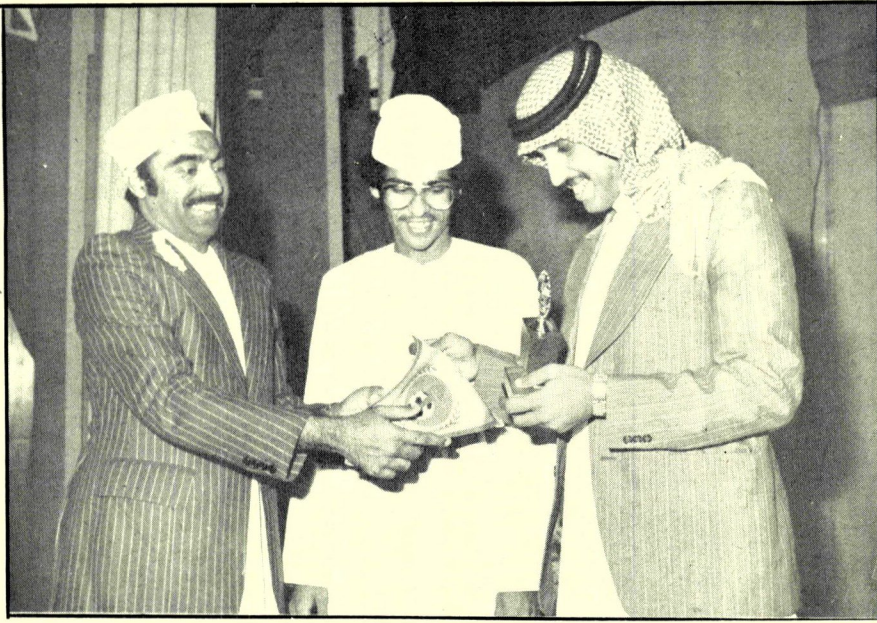
People in West Germany take a more confident view of the future than any other Common Market country. The British and Irish are only slightly less sanguine in their expectations. This is revealed in a series of polls by the EEC Commission in Brussels.

Asked whether they expected living-conditions to improve over the next five years, 57 per cent of the sample questioned in Germany felt they definitely would, although 49 per cent did not expect the improvement to prove spectacular.

With the exception of Britain and Ireland, where North Sea oil is expected to deliver the goods, people in other member-countries of the European Community are much less confident as to their personal prospects in the years ahead.

(Continued on Page 4)





Mr. Hassan Said (left), secretary of Al Ahli Club in Darseit, presents the club's pennant to members of a Saudi Arabian club who visited Oman this week.

## LONDON AIRPORTS TO DOUBLE PASSENGER CAPACITY IN 80s

Further major expansions at London's two main airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, are proposed to cope with a predicted doubling of air passenger traffic over the next 12 years.

In a new airports policy White Paper, setting out plans for meeting air travel growth up to the 1990s, the UK Government says it is forecast that in 1990 the number of passengers using airports in Britain will be between 86 and 117 million.

Of these, between 66 and 89 million will be handled by Heathrow, Gatwick and two other airports in the London area, Stansted and Luton. By comparison, 44 million passengers used UK airports in 1976, 31 million of them passing through the four London airports.

On the basis of the latest air

traffic forecasts, the Government concludes that plans for a fourth terminal at Heathrow, to raise the airport's capacity from 30 to 38 million passengers a year, should be examined at a public inquiry. In addition, plans should be brought forward by the British Airports Authority for a second terminal at Gatwick Airport, to raise capacity from the present 16 million passengers a year to 25 million.

It is also urged that BAA plans be brought forward to extend capacity at Stansted airport to handle four million travellers annually, but the Government says Luton airport should be restricted to the maximum capacity of a single terminal, which is put at five million passengers per year. Luton airport is said to be unsuitable for development beyond this size.

The airports policy document states: "The four airports together would thus provide a total capacity for the London area of about 72 million passengers.

However, the Government recognises that longer term additional capacity will almost certainly be needed in the London area.

Instead, the document says extra demands beyond 1990 might be met by major expansion of Stansted, the development as a civil airport of an existing military airfield, or the construction of a new airport.

Outside London and south east England, the Government says there is no need for a new airport.

### GERMANS OPTIMISTIC

(Continued from Page 3)

Fifty-four per cent of people in the Common Market as a whole (54 per cent of the samples questioned, at any rate) reckoned unrest might well occur in the wake of burgeoning social tension.

On the other hand an average of 32.5 per cent feel there will be no serious risk of a world war. Oddly enough, the Germans are less optimistic on this point: only 21 per cent of them feel there will be no danger of a world war occurring over the next ten years.

Yet the Germans are more satisfied with the state of their democracy than people in any other EEC country. Seventy-eight per cent reckon their democratic institutions are in good order—a figure which has remained constant over the years. The Italians are least satisfied on this score: only one in five give their system of democracy a clean bill of health.

The popularity of ecology and women's lib were put to the test for the first time. Roughly half the people questioned approve of environmental conservation. Germans are less enthusiastic about women's libbers than their counterparts elsewhere in the Common Market, however.

## People drive a Volvo for the best of two worlds.



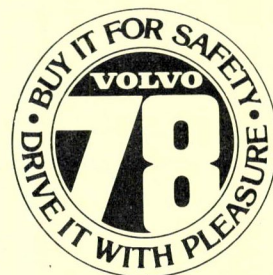
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# Seven-day Stars

(For week beginning Sunday February 26)

## Aquarius Jan 21 to Feb 19

Aspects are varied this week. There will be moments of gloom and others of happiness. Give priority to settle an account. Your instincts will guide you in a tricky matter. Lucky colour purple; lucky number 5.

## Pisces Feb 20 to Mar 20

You may have to take sides in a dispute. A worrying time is indicated early in the week, but things will improve later. Romance is under mixed influences. Lucky colour yellow; lucky number 4.

## Aries March 21 to April 20

Something unforeseen could put a different aspect on a personal relationship. Be gentle with an older person who can be rather demanding. An exciting incident is indicated. Lucky colour green; lucky number 1.

## Taurus April 21 to May 21

Don't let your love of novelty run away with your good sense. You may find yourself in debt if you do so. This isn't a good week for tackling anything new. Lucky colour blue; lucky number 4.

## Gemini May 22 to June 21

You will be delighted when a difficult task is completed early. Use your extra leisure in doing something that relaxes you. Surprising news is likely, perhaps on Thursday. Lucky colour blue; lucky number 9.

## Cancer June 22 to July 23

One occurrence will make life easier for you. Tact may bring good results in a money matter. You will find that

people are more aware of you than you realise. Lucky colour green; lucky number 6.

## Leo July 24 to Aug 23

If you need advice on an important matter, it would pay you to seek professional help. One hot-headed friend may suggest a course of action that could land you in trouble. Lucky colour green; lucky number 5.

## Virgo Aug 24 to Sept 23

It's a good week for dealing with younger people. You will get satisfaction in what you are doing, and especially in activities involving a group. Spending is heavier than you expected. Lucky colour blue; lucky number 3.

## Libra Sept 24 to Oct 23

When buying things, don't let another person influence you back your own judgement over this. You'll find pleasure in a leisure activity during the evening. Lucky colour orange; lucky number 7.

## Scorpio Oct 24 to Nov 22

A journey is likely, but make sure the arrangements are all right. You may arrive late, unless you take care. It's a good period for answering important letters. Lucky colour green; lucky number 2.

## Sagittarius Nov 23 to Dec 20

Someone may try to be witty at your expense. You will say just the thing that will turn the laughter heavily against the joker. A surprise parcel in the post is likely. Lucky colour orange; lucky number 9.

## Capricorn Dec 21 to Jan 20

Take things a little less seriously, or you will find that you are  
(Continued on Page 12)



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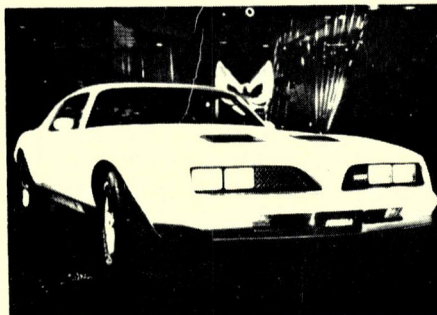
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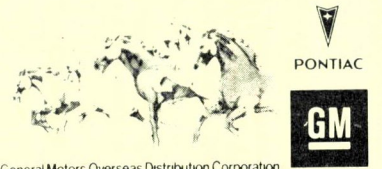
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**HELLO SALALAH....****HELLO SALALAH....**

## BISHOPS AT LAUNCHING OF FUND FOR SALALAH CHURCH BUILDING

(From Alexi Maddocks)

The Rt. Rev. Leonard Ashton, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Cyprus and the Gulf, visited southern Oman recently. He was accompanied by the Rt. Rev. John Daly, formerly a bishop in West Africa and also in South Korea.

Bishop Ashton conducted a service of Holy Communion at the Indian Club in Salalah, while Bishop Daly preached the sermon. The service was attended by about 90 people.

Bishop Ashton designated the offering taken at the service as the opening deposit in the Protestant Church Building Fund, looking toward the eventual construction of a church building in Salalah.

One of the reasons for Bishop Daly's visit to Oman is the interest that All Hallows Church in London has in participating in a mission with the church in this area.

The two bishops were able to meet several people from the community both in Salalah and Thumrait during their visit. They are in the area to attend the Synod meeting of the Episcopal Church in Cyprus and the Gulf,

**We Shouted :**

**HELLO SALALAH!**

but there was only a faint reply.

Owing to the holiday, and a breakdown in communications, copy for the weekly feature "Hello Salalah" has not been received in full. We will be back to normal next week, and meantime apologise to readers for the lapse.

## ITTIHAD BEAT NASR 2-1 IN CUP TIE

Nasr and Al Ittihad football clubs played another round of the championship cup on Al Ittihad home ground on Monday. This is the southern region division of the tournament played for a cup presented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs.

The two clubs were well supported and the spectators enjoyed a very close and exciting game. Al Ittihad won 2-0.

## Trouble at Tabriz, Teheran University

A group of saboteurs pretending to be national university students and shouting anti-state slogans attacked two guards of the university, the guard booth, and four university staff cars, and smashed a number of windows on Monday, according to the Pars News Agency from Teheran.

The saboteurs were dispersed by loyal students, it added.

On Saturday, Pars reported that several groups of citizens of Tabriz, set a number of shops and cars on fire and smashed shops windows.

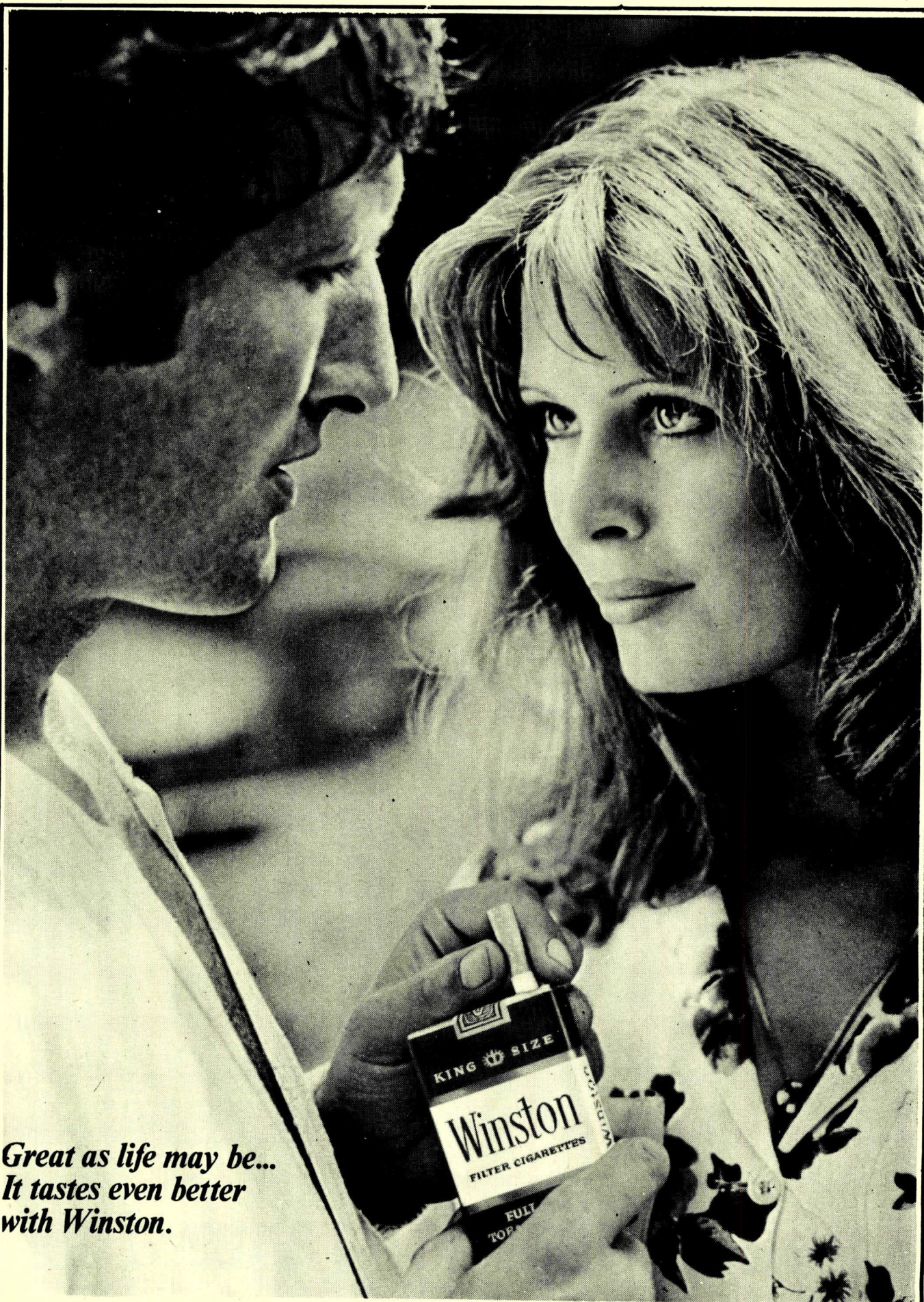
to be held in Bahrain this weekend.

The Rev. Harvey Staal from Salalah, and the Rev. Rodney Koopmans of Ruwi have been invited to attend the synod meeting.

Protestant church services will be held at the home of Dr. George Mattai, house H9 on the Qaboos hospital compound, Salalah, at 7.30 p.m. on February 26, March 12, April 9 and April 23.



The Oman Housing Bank has now moved into new premises in the old Mutrah Road (See report on Page 9).



*Great as life may be...  
It tastes even better  
with Winston.*

The Ministry of Health warns of the dangers to health arising from smoking



# M.E. action plan soon to co-ordinate health education

A summit meeting on health services and manpower development to be held in Teheran from February 26 to March 2, is expected to bring together health and education ministers from 22 Middle East countries including Oman who will recommend health manpower policies responsive to the requirements of national health services in keeping with the people's needs.

The Teheran meeting, convened in response to a resolution of WHO's Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, is expected to formulate an action plan for improved co-ordination between the "producers" and the "consumers" of health personnel.

The WHO director for the eastern Mediterranean region, Dr. A. H. Taba, said medical training and practice were often out of step with one another. He said many medical schools cling to an "ivory tower" state, out

of contact with the real and urgent needs of today's society.

"Inordinate emphasis is being given to speciality care or to esoteric research into problems of interest only to individual professors, rather than to developing competence in basic care," he commented.

Asked about the degree of irrelevance of medical studies to people's needs in the Middle East, Dr. Taba pointed to the curriculum of a medical school in one country of the area where

tuberculosis is rife: "barely 10 hours, out of a total 5,000 hours of formal instruction, are being devoted to its study", he said.

Up to 80 per cent of the population in rural and marginal areas of the Middle East remain uncovered or poorly cared for, according to WHO estimates.

To bridge the gap, Dr. Taba said, the countries in the region must effect a radical change in health manpower development through the setting-up of a needs-based system.

The house in which the members of the Russian imperial family were executed on the night of July 16, 1918, has been demolished by the Soviets, according to a London newspaper. No reason was given for the demolition of the house in Sverdlovsk in which Czar Nicholas, his wife Alexandra and their five children were killed by a Bolshevik group.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE TIMES

(Continued from Page 1)

be fun for even the novice.

### Just Desserts

This new series will start on the Women's Page.

Learn how to make desserts which are just that little bit better. A short cut to a great reputation as a hostess.

### Crosswords, Quick and Cryptic

Two crosswords here for the price of one. First the quick one, which you may not find quite as quick as you first think. Then another set of clues which fit into the same grid, only this time you have to think a little harder. If you are doing both, do the first in pencil, so that you can erase. If you are learning English, by the way, this is a fun way of learning new words.

### Picture Puzzle for the kids

Don't bother to thank us, Mum! Just give your little jewel a pencil and the puzzle, and hope for an hour's peace and quiet. Unless, of course, you hear! Mummy, what's this four letter funny hairy animal? Mummy, what's this five

### Drive in

Like to do more yourself with your car, but are not quite sure how? Then read this weekly picture strip series on the things anyone can do to keep a car in better running condition.

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An educational, but entertaining picture strip that everyone will love. All about wild life the world over. If you are a teacher, you will want to show it to your students after you have read it yourself.

And here and there too, a little cartoon for those who like to break up the serious reading with a laugh. All this then, plus the usual features, in next week's Times of Oman... And more to come in the future, so make sure you get to the bookshop early. Remember, although dated for Thursday,

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## اورينت ORIENT



# BUSINESS WEEK

The Latest Information From  
Our Own Correspondent

## Oman Housing Bank expects loan disbursements to pick up momentum

After the first six months' of its operation the Oman Housing Bank has moved into new premises in the old Muttrah road.

Set up by Royal Decree last July, the Bank has a paid up capital of R.O. 10 million, half of which is available for housing loans to Omani nationals.

So far only about R.O. 2 million have been disbursed as loans, but the Bank's General Manager, Mr. Robin Scoular, feels that the momentum will pick up, as more people get to know about the Bank's services.

Loans are given for low cost residential development, and the current rate of authorisation is about one loan a day, or 300 a year. The average loan is R.O. 7,000 to 10,000 repayable over a period of nine or 10 years.

The size of the loan depends on income, say, up to a maximum of three times the annual salary with a maximum repayment time of 20 years.

**Low wage earners get the best deal: those earning less than R.O. 150 per month have the compound interest of 10 per cent paid by the Government.**

### METHOD

While applying for the loan, one has to produce a passport or age certificate from the Ministry of Health, title deeds of the land and planning permission, both from the Ministry of Land Affairs, a building permit for the Municipality and a salary certificate from the employer.

Loans are also given to self employed people such as taxi drivers or fishermen, provided that they insure their cars or

### MARGINAL FALL IN EXPORT FROM OMAN

Oman's oil and non-oil exports showed a slight decline in 1977 compared to the previous two years.

According to the recently published quarterly bulletin of the Central Bank of Oman, oil exports at 122 million barrels in 1977 was 12.3 million barrels lower than in 1976 and 2.9 million barrels lower than in 1975.

In spite of this, the oil revenue was marginally higher by R.O. 15.2 million than anticipated in the annual budget. Roughly half

(Continued on Page 12)

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boats. For every borrower the Housing Bank then takes out a life insurance policy and the premiums are included in the monthly repayments to the Bank. All loans must be fully paid before the borrower reaches the age of 60.

The cost of the house is estimated by the Bank's surveyor after a site visit and from the plans submitted by the borrower. House plans must include septic tanks, electrical wiring and a water tank. The Housing Bank will only advance 80% of this valuation, and the borrower has to raise the rest.

### REGIONAL OFFICES

Plans are under way for four regional offices, the first to be set up within the next six months. These will be in Sur, Sohar, Nizwa and Ibri. Each regional office will have a resident surveyor to supervise the site and building work and an administrative manager. The Bank does not have a branch in Salalah now.

Statistics of the Bank's operations are not directly available



Sayyid Sultan Bin Hamoud Bin Faisal, head of tribal affairs in the Ministry of Diwan Affairs, opening the Ruwi branch of the Bank of Baroda. On his right is the Indian Ambassador in Oman, Mr. Budhiraja.

as it inherited the business of the Oman National Housing Development Company. Of the houses built under both organisations, 410 are now completed and 525 loans are outstanding. Nearly half of the completed houses are in the Capital area. The management plans to compile a report for the period July 1977-December 1978 and to issue annual reports after that.

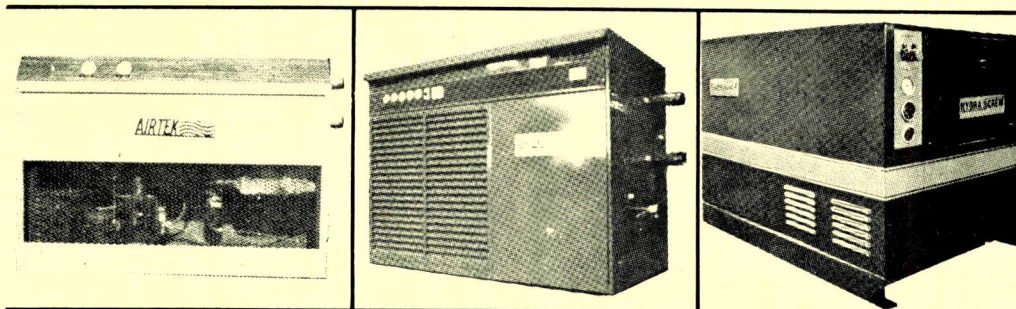
Through the Bank has provi-

sion to foreclose on defaulters there have been very few problem cases, only 2 per cent of the total.

Soon borrowers will be able to open savings accounts with the Housing Bank, and this will be specially useful for those whose income varies. It will also bring more money into the Bank which can be used to give more loans to the lower income group of Omanis.

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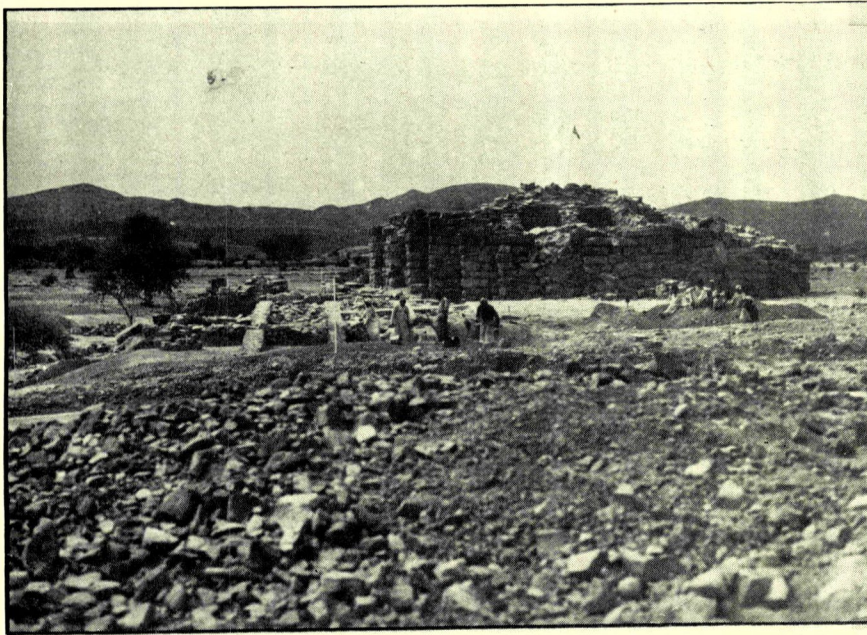
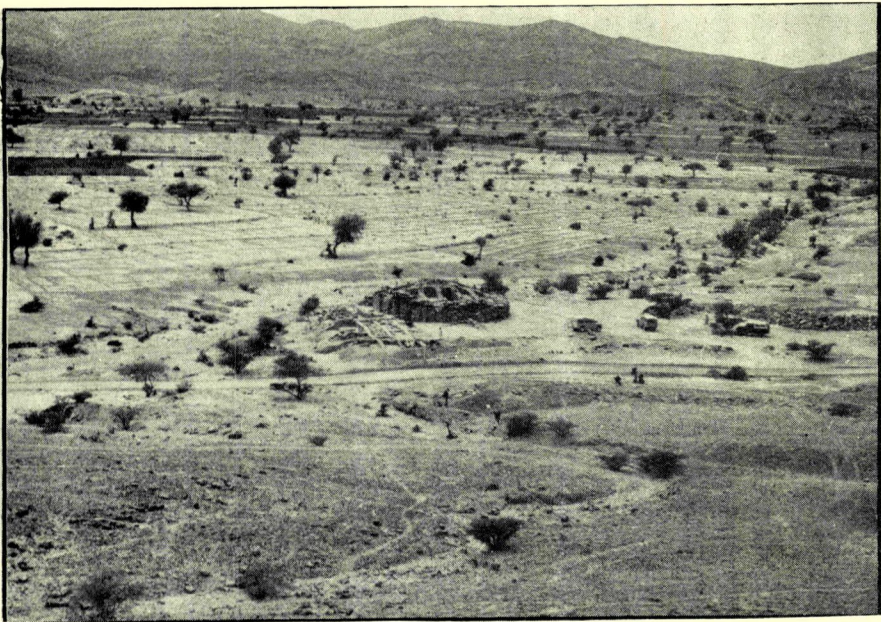


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The remains of the tower (top) seen amid the Bat landscape. Above: the tower, thought to be about 10 metres high.

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# DIGGING THROUGH TO FILL THE HOLE

Archaeology always rather defeats its own popular appeal. So rarely are the discoveries and their revelations put across in a way that we of little brain can appreciate.

It's not surprising, therefore, that so many people on the outside unkindly dub it a pastime for crusty old eccentrics delving in the crusty old past, simply because they don't understand what it's all about.

Archaeologists can be their own worst enemies, somehow unable to bring it all down from the lofty esoteric heights of specialised study.

So, it's refreshing, not least exhilarating, to meet two members of this club who gently remove the dust covers and describe what's underneath in monosyllables.

Presenting Dr. Karen Frifelt and Mr. Bo Madsen, who are quietly and unassumingly uncovering the legacy of ancient Oman, doing their bit for archaeology and for the Sultanate's history books.

They have set up camp near Bat, just east of the market town of Ibri, where the old caravan tracks meet.

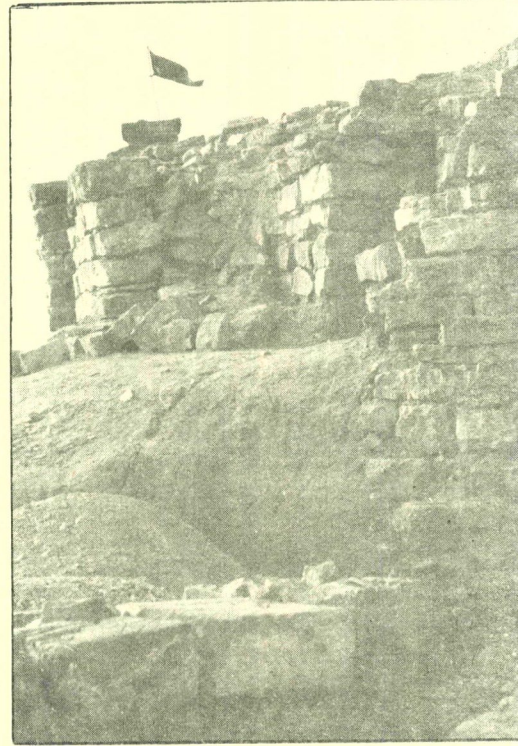
To you and me, the remains at Bat look like great mounds of rubble. We'd probably run up and down them playing "I'm the King of the Castle" or make a comfortable niche for our thermos and sandwiches.

Little would we know we were sitting on 5,000 years worth of Omani culture. Our careless desert boots tramping on fragments of early civilisation. Our unseeing eyes never focusing on this archaeologist's dream.

For Bat boasts one of the most fascinating examples in the world of ancient life nearly 5,000 years ago: the remains of a settlement dating back to 2000-3000 BC, "the Third Millennium, as the pros call it.

(Continued on Page 12)

Throughout the world, gangs have been carelessly destroyed. Here in Oman, a country preoccupied with the need to keep a balance between modernisation and tradition, it is important to keep a balance between the old and the new. The Times of Oman will continue to report on the Interior to see what they have to offer.



Above left: Close-up of the tower. Above right: The tower, thought to be about 10 metres high.



Above: a young village boy entranced by the leader Dr. Karen Frifelt. Below right: Dr. Karen Frifelt and Mr. Bo Madsen at the excavation site.





# E SANDS OF TIME HISTORY BOOKS

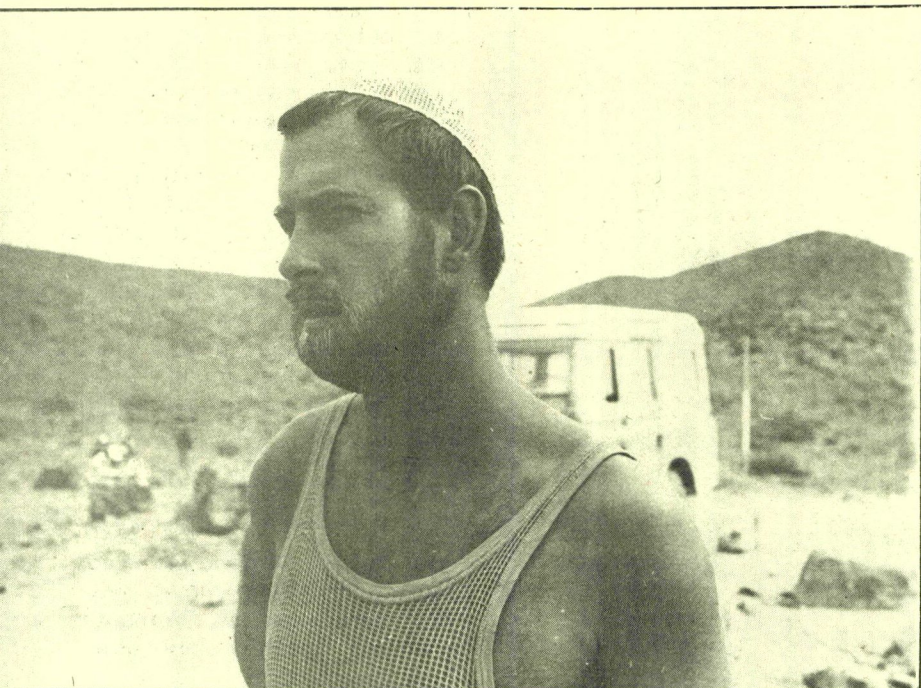
ders, bulldozers and demolition  
hitecture of years gone by.  
velopment, it's all the more  
hands of progress and preser-  
rent Danish expedition in the  
ut. Meredith Taylor reports



bour is recruited to help with the



covered of Bat. Below left: Expedition



Here is a huge burial ground rich in tombs, some still standing. In fact, they are so sturdily built you can actually crawl in and look see. Beyond the burial chambers are the remains of a tower and homes—precious relics of an ancient society.

It's Dr. Frifelt's third expedition here. And she was actually the first person ever to lead an archaeological team into Oman. That was five years ago, and she arrived in Bat for the first time in January, 1973.

As her Landrover pulls into Bat each time, the local children run out to welcome her. Dr. Frifelt's expeditions are now well-known—and they have made their mark. One day, she was greeted by a little boy who thanked her again for the orange she had given him two years earlier.

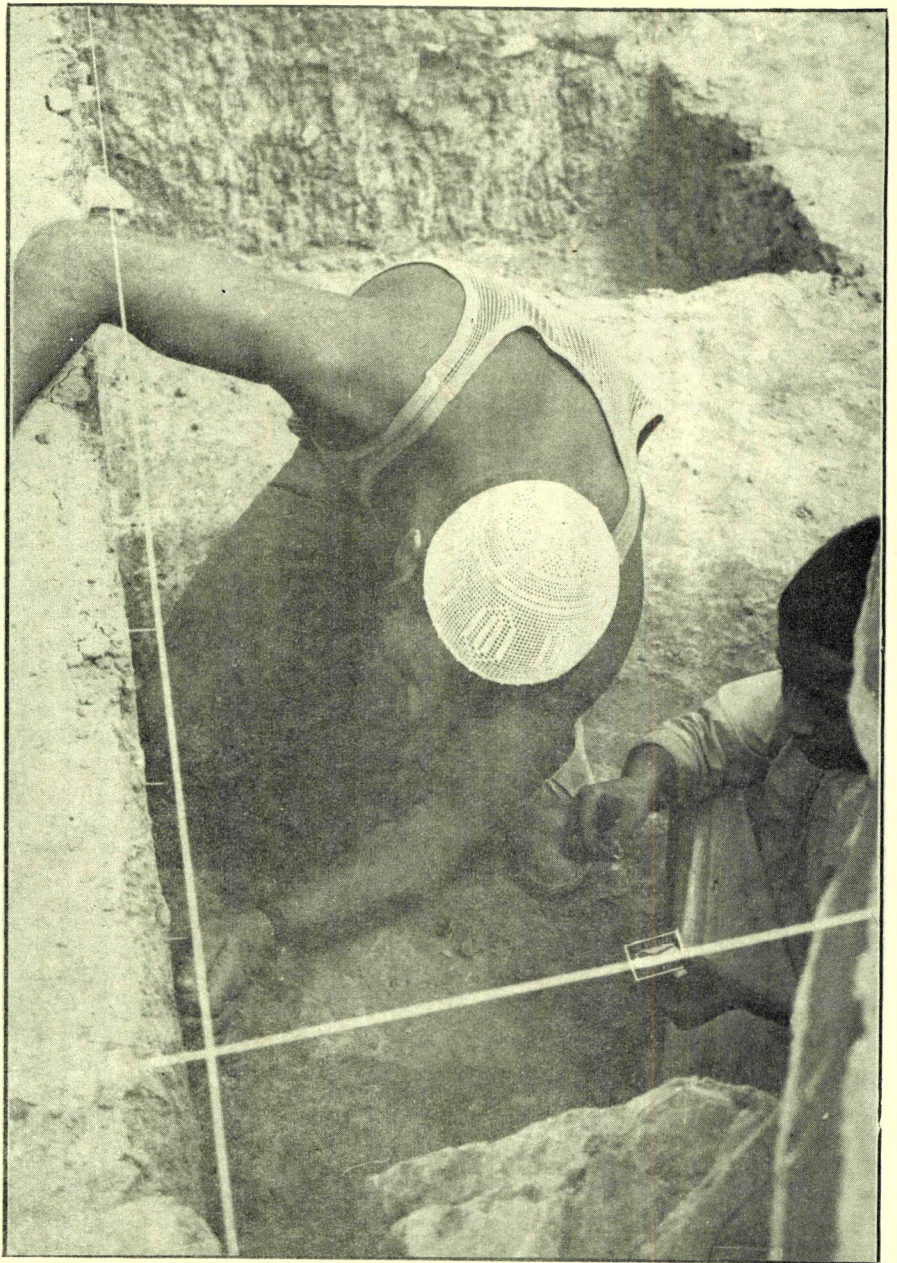
The two archaeologists—she the professor, he the student—work from seven till one each day. Diligently scraping away tiny sections of earth and stone, methodically recording their progress, with local labour recruited to help with the dig.

In the afternoons, they record the whole day's work, writing up their discoveries by the light of a kerosene lamp in their tents as evening falls.

The basic aim of this expedition is to make a plan of every inch of the site. They plot in detail the position of everything they find, recording it all on film and with sketches.

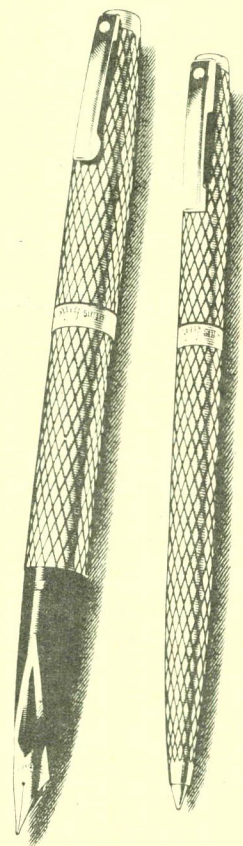
A surveyor has mapped out the area, and an American geologist has taken soil samples to discover the basis of the ancient agriculture. As Dr. Frifelt explained: "You can't do anything to soil without it showing."

The eternal problem is preservation. "We can't put a policeman on every tomb," Dr. Frifelt said. "What we can do is make sure a record is made of everything. Then at least we can say 'This was here even if it isn't any more'."



Bo Madsen at work on the tower—with a little help from a friend. Bo Madsen and Dr. Karen Frifelt study the plans and work out their next step.

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# DIGGING IN THE SANDS OF TIME TO FILL HOLES IN HISTORY

(Continued from Page 11)

There are remains of 300 or more tombs in and around the burial ground, though each and every one has been plundered long since. Sadly, about half have almost completely disappeared now, leaving just faint traces of their former glory.

In the north of the actual burial ground are Beehive Tombs, two or three metres high, each built from local stone and faced with limestone. Each block was carefully shaped, no doubt with sharpened copper or stone instruments.

The limestone would have shone like marble against the dark hillsides. But people have taken most of it away now. Nice white stones, they probably thought. Just the job for our home.

The tombs in the south are Umm an-Narr Tombs, named after those found near Abu Dhabi. Specious, collective tombs for a family or even a tribe, a stage on from the Beehives.

Their discovery back in 1973 was exciting. If the ancient people buried their dead here, where did they live? Was there a settlement perhaps just yards away staring them in the eyes?

"Once you start on something like this, you can't leave it alone," confessed Dr. Frifelt with a smile. "I had to come back."

So in the winter of 1975-76, she returned with another ex-

pedition to find out just exactly what was at Bat.

Bo Madsen was with her on that campaign and together they searched for the remains of a settlement. The first hint of something was a large pile of stones, just south of the burial ground. It seemed a good place to start.

This "pile of stones" turned out to be the remains of a circular tower, now the focus of their attention on this expedition.

Scraping away the dirt and debris of centuries past revealed a well in the centre of the tower, and the remains of what would have been rooms around it.

Fragments of pottery scattered about date the building back to the same period as the tombs. They look the same as the remains of the burial vessels—black horizontal or wavy lines on a red or buff background.

"We are still in the dark about this tower," explained Bo Madsen. "There are so few clues as to what the building could have been used for. But we think it was probably at least 10 metres high, so it had a special purpose."

It is similar, in fact, to a building excavated at Buraimi, also by Umm an-Narr tombs. Pottery around it also dates back to 2000-3000BC. Again there are remains of rooms around a well, but in addition, a deep ditch or moat surrounding the tower.



Bo Madsen at work—fragments of pottery or "shards" jut from the earth.

"It is tempting to call it a watch tower or some kind of fortification," Dr. Frifelt added. "But we just don't know yet. It could even be something connected with water supply or irrigation."

Not far away on a slope there are fragments of pottery—a harder kind than the fine funereal ware. There are remains of walls, too, made of large blocks of stone, some with door sockets.

It all suggests that people lived along the slope beside the wadi. Heaps of clay at the foot of the slope indicate they used mud bricks to build their homes, as well as stone.

Overall, there is no difference between the pottery from the houses and near the tower. Some similar in design to the fragments found in the tombs, and at Buraimi.

So the evidence—a large burial ground and substantial buildings—points to a town in fact, rather than a village. A stable community obviously, living in stone-built homes along the wadi banks, perhaps relying on flood irrigation to water their crops.

It looks like being part of a widespread culture, first recognised on the island of Umm an-Narr off Abu Dhabi, where this type of settlement has been found.

The search for clues ends early next month, when the expedition returns to Denmark. Their discoveries will be recorded by the Ministry of National Heritage, which has financed the visit, assisted by a grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation.

The Department of Antiquities, which coordinates all the work of any visiting expedition, will study the results and meticulously catalogue the finds.

And it is right that so much time and energy is put into these projects. Because, if a country is undergoing a rapid and deep process of modernisation, then for that reason alone you must safeguard her historic legacy. Uncover it. Record it. And put it in the history book before it disappears for ever.

Few archaeologists could honestly say they are against progress *per se*. They just want to get in on the act first.

## FALL IN EXPORT

(Continued from Page 9)

the oil exported went to Japan.

Imports of building and construction materials came down by 50 per cent, and cement by 24 per cent compared to the previous year. Import of vehicles was up by 16 per cent while frozen foods shot up by 144 per cent.

The bulletin says that new income generating projects such as the soft drinks factory, flour mill and poultry farms were a beginning in helping the nation diversify its economy away from oil. But, it adds, it is too early to say whether income from these projects will offset the declining oil revenues.

## Seven Day Stars

(Continued from Page 5)

over-tense. A good week for social activities is shown, with the emphasis on romantic matters. Lucky colour blue; lucky number 6.



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**YOUR HEALTH****FORMER CANCER TREATMENT IS NOW SURE CURE FOR THAT BALD PATCH ON YOUR HEAD**

'Before' and 'after' pictures captioned 'This is not an advertisement', and published in *The Lancet*, the leading British medical journal, first told the tale of a new cure for baldness developed by two specialists at Muenster University Hospital, Germany.

Dinitrochlorbenzole, or DNCB for short, is a drug originally used in the treatment of certain kinds of cancer, but the Muenster medics claim it not only boosts the metabolism and blood circulation in the skin, but also puts paid to bald patches.

A two-per-cent solution of DNCB has worked wonders on

**ALCOHOLISM IN MOTHERS CAN CAUSE DEFORMED BABIES**

Although it has long been suspected that there is a link between a mother's alcoholism and infant deformity, careful clinical observations in the past few years have clearly proved that alcoholism on the part of the mother—especially in the critical phase between the first and the third months of pregnancy—leads to retardation in the infant's development.

Even light or moddling alcohol abuse during early pregnancy can lead to a high percentage of miscarriages or serious malformations. About one half of all children could conceivably sustain such damage.

The thalidomide tragedy affected only about 600 children within a two-year span. But alcoholism, which is on the rise even among very young women in many countries, could easily cause the same amount of damage in numerical terms.

It must therefore be feared that the number of children born with handicaps attributed to the mother's alcohol consumption will continue to increase. As a result there may be already a genuine wave of malformation, the social and economic consequences of which are still unfathomable.

**Research may lead to robots replacing mineworkers**

Mines where robots take the place of workers and coal is brought to the surface in gas or liquid form have been forecast at a London mining conference.

The director of the UK National Coal Board's research and development centre, told a meeting of mining engineers that in 15 to 30 years, it was possible that coalfaces would be worked without the elaborate roof support systems used now.

"As mechanisation of coal-faces reach the fully automatic stage, it should be possible to remove men entirely from the face area, and we have a project for developing a system of supportless coal mining.

There was also a prediction that coal could be mainly used for conversion to gas or oil.

some 70 Westphalian pates so far, 14 of which started treatment as bald as a golfball. The solution, applied at weekly intervals, causes contact dermatitis followed, over a period of between five and eighteen months, by the growth of a fresh head of hair.

It is only fair to add that the treatment does not work in all cases but only in cases of alopecia areata, which starts with a bald spot on the crown of the head. This form of hair loss is frequently found among

young people. Little is known about it except that it has been known to disappear as suddenly as it occurred.

Even so, baldness is baldness however it occurs, and the DNCB treatment successfully developed at Muenster has been shown to deliver the goods in cases where the patient had been bald for up to five years, although the sooner a specialist is consulted the better.

To prove the point the Muenster doctors treated 21 men and women on one side of the head only, with the result that bald patches receded, giving way to reassuring growths of tonsorial splendour—but only on one side of the head.

DNCB treatment is still at the experimental stage, however, and will not be given the go-ahead until toxicological research has proved that there are no harmful side—or after—effects. Even then it will only be provided under strict medical supervision.

**ARAB MEDICAL INFORMATION CENTRE IN OFFING**

The under secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Salem Hamdan, arrived in Kuwait to lead Oman's delegation to the Arab health ministers conference.

The conference, which began on Monday, will last six days. Two of the major decisions it is expected to take are for the setting up of a modern Arab medical information centre and an Arab blood transfer organisation.

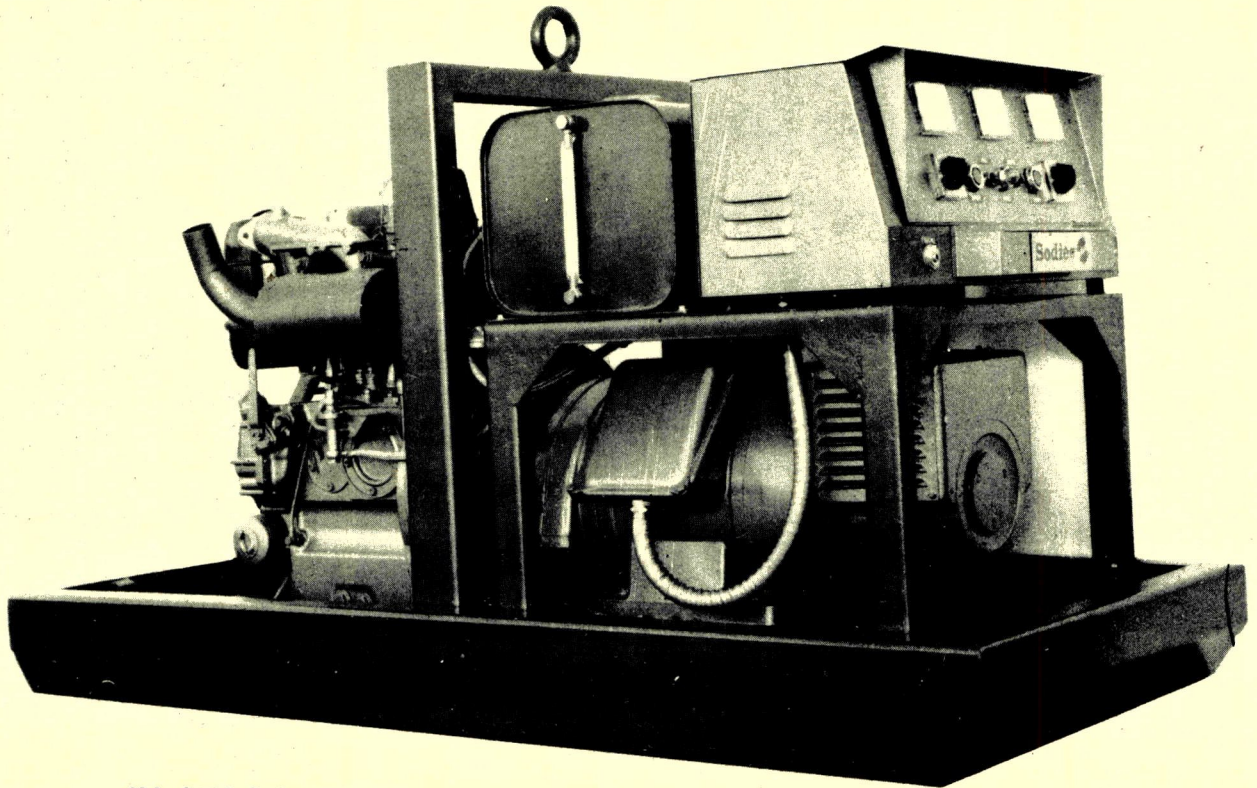
The conference will take steps for the adoption of Arabic as one of the official languages of the World Health Organisation. Medical aid to the victims of drought in Mauritania and Somalia is also expected to be approved by the conference.

The Omani delegation also included the Director of general health and the Officer in Charge of the External Treatment Division.

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The Family Bookshop spread its wings this week with the opening of their new branch at the Muscat Intercontinental Hotel on Sunday.

Mrs. Anne Petersen, wife of Oman National Dairy Company general manager Jorgen Finn

Petersen, will run the shop, which will cater for hotel guests as well as local people in the Qurum area.

Above: Mrs. Petersen with her assistant, Mr. Dominic Fernandes.

## MANY DEAD IN LARNACA AIRPORT BATTLE

(Continued from Page 1)

they attempted to find a refuge in a number of Arab countries. This was refused, and after refuelling at Djibouti, when only a few minutes fuel was left, the plane returned to Larnaca.

There, following negotiations the gunmen released all the Arabs among the hostages, but held some 16 others, including a noted Greek Cypriot politician. Among those released were two PLO representatives.

The murder of Mr. Sebai, who was editor-in-chief of the Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, aroused great indignation in Egypt. The government there promised revenge on the perpetrators.

What happened when the commando flew into Larnaca is the subject of conflicting reports.

One from a Cypriot source said

that the raiding Egyptian aircraft declared itself to be arriving with the Egyptian minister of Commerce who would join the negotiations with the hijackers.

In an apparent reaction to this, the Cyprus Government has demanded the recall of the Egyptian air attache for the part he played in the raid arrangements.

The Egyptians, whose views were put forward by the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Butros Ghalli, on a brief visit to Cyprus, have demanded that the Cypriots hand over the hijackers. Observers in the island, although they report that Mr. Ghalli's visit did something to calm the situation, think this is unlikely to be granted.

On Monday, the two men appeared before a Cypriot court and were charged with the premeditated murder of Mr. Sebai. They were remanded in custody for a week, and it is expected that they will be tried in Cyprus where the murder was committed.

Indignation about the Cypriot National Guard intervention is extreme in Egyptian official circles. One official said the Cypriot action had "turned a humanitarian rescue operation into a violent tragedy".

The Cypriot president, on the other hand, blamed the Egyptians for intervening "at a time when negotiations were on the point of conclusion".

Involved in an attempt by telephone to stop the fighting at Larnaca airport was the U.N. Secretary-General, Dr. Waldheim. He is still mediating to cool tempers on both sides.

## Mid-East peace talks

(Continued from Page 1)

The Egyptians themselves have been heartened by American assurances of supplies of needed weapons, both to themselves and to Saudi Arabia. Although the Israelis are also to be sold American arms, they have attacked the promises given to the Arab states as upsetting the power balance in the Middle East.

## THREAT TO KIDNAP MALAYSIAN P.M.

The Malaysian Prime Minister has abandoned the private visit he was making in Australia after a warning that an attempt would be made to kidnap him.

The Prime Minister was attending the regional conference of Commonwealth heads of government in Sydney. He has flown back to Kuala Lumpur instead of travelling on to Melbourne as planned.

The kidnap threat came in a phone call to a newspaper in Sydney.

The police said members of the kidnap gang had arrived in Australia separately in the past few days. The authorities said that there was no suggestion of the threat being linked to the bomb attack a week ago outside the hotel where the Commonwealth leaders were staying.



## the only daily direct flight to London from Muscat

At 07.00 hours every morning, there is a Gulf Air TriStar departure from Muscat to London Heathrow — the only **daily** direct service. Also extra flights departing at 08.25 hours every Tuesday and Thursday, with just one stop to London. Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, our 07.00 departures from Muscat provide fast one-stop services to Paris and on Mondays to Amsterdam. On every flight, you can enjoy the spacious comfort of the TriStar and the five-star quality of Golden Falcon service. And every flight enables you to arrive in London at a convenient, comfortable hour of the afternoon. Nine TriStar flights each week, direct from Muscat to London ... just one of the features which have made Gulf Air the No. 1 choice for travellers between the Gulf and London.

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# 20 millionth low priced book presented to India

A scheme which has put books into many shops in Egypt and Sudan at a price people can afford is approaching an impressive milestone: the production of its 20 millionth volume.

## Jail for Pakistan's striking TV workers

Seven striking Pakistani television workers have been jailed for a year by a military court. They also received the added punishment of up to 15 lashes of the whip. The workers were among 27 arrested for occupying their television station in Lahore to press demands for more pay. Dozens of other strikers were detained at TV stations in Islamabad, Quetta and Peshawar.

## Communist plot to overthrow Sadat?

Thirty-four members of a secret communist organisation are to be tried by a military court in Cairo on charges of trying to overthrow the administration of President Sadat.

The military prosecutor general said the leaders had confessed that they had been instructed to carry out sabotage and to incite workers and students to foment disorder.

Large quantities of anti-government leaflets have also been seized by the police.

This month the British Government's Low-Priced Book Scheme will produce "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth" by Prof. E. Walter Russell of the University of Reading. It will sell at £ 3.50 which, like all prices in the scheme, is between half and two thirds of the cost in Britain.

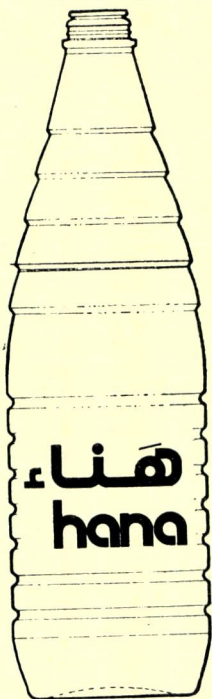
In 1973 the scheme's ten millionth book was handed over to the Kenyan Minister of Education. The 20 millionth was presented to India's Minister of Education at the World Book Fair in New Delhi last week.

The scheme started in India and now operates in some 80 countries. The emphasis nowadays is on books to assist rural development such as agriculture, veterinary subjects, nutrition, medicine and sociology.

The director of the British Council's Low-Priced Book Department, Mr. John Bayliss, returned to Britain in 1959 from Africa to start the scheme. And in 1961 the first book was issued "University Algebra" by D. E. Littlewood, published Heinemann Educational Books at 60 pence.

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which is used upon or in connection with "Table water, mineral water, gaseous or non-gaseous water, various non-Alcoholic beverages".

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(Due to owner's departure)

**SHETLAND 535 :**

In perfect condition (8 months old).

For sale—Boat and Equipment

**Boat :**

Ideal for pleasure sails : swimming, fishing, diving etc.

**Length :**

5.372 metres.

**Breadth :**

2.018 metres.

**Equipment :**

One engine 70 hp Johnson, plus one 10 hp spare engine Johnson. Tractor, Honda Generator (providing electricity), small cabin fan, four tanks of petrol, compass, speed meter etc. Also included in equipment barbecue fishing and diving equipment.

For Further information, please contact :

**MR. PAPAYANIS**

Telephone : 702311 extension 062,066,  
working hours (Fridays included)

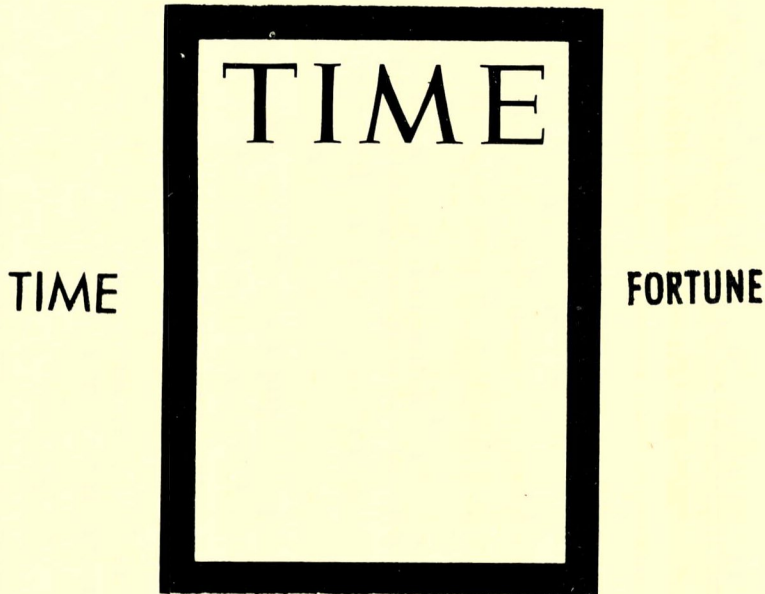
**German Festival** at the  
**Inter-continental Hotel (pool side)**  
in conjunction with : **Middle East Airlines**  
from 2 to 12 March 1978 & the  
every evening 1900 to 1.00 hrs **German Embassy**  
Music, Dance & Song by  
the **Berchtesgaden**  
folklore group





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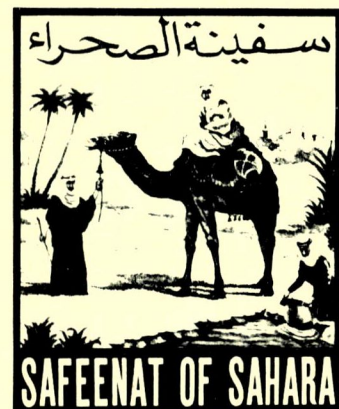
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**KOKESHI**  
BRAND



**Botan**

**GOLD RING**

**CherryStar**

**Daisha** BRAND

which are used upon or in connection with "Canned meat, canned fish, canned shellfish, canned fruits and canned vegetables".

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# A BIRDSEYE VIEW

With Meredith Taylor

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Omani Women's Conference, which begins on March 4 and not March 3 as some people think, will mean a fresh look at the role of women in society here.

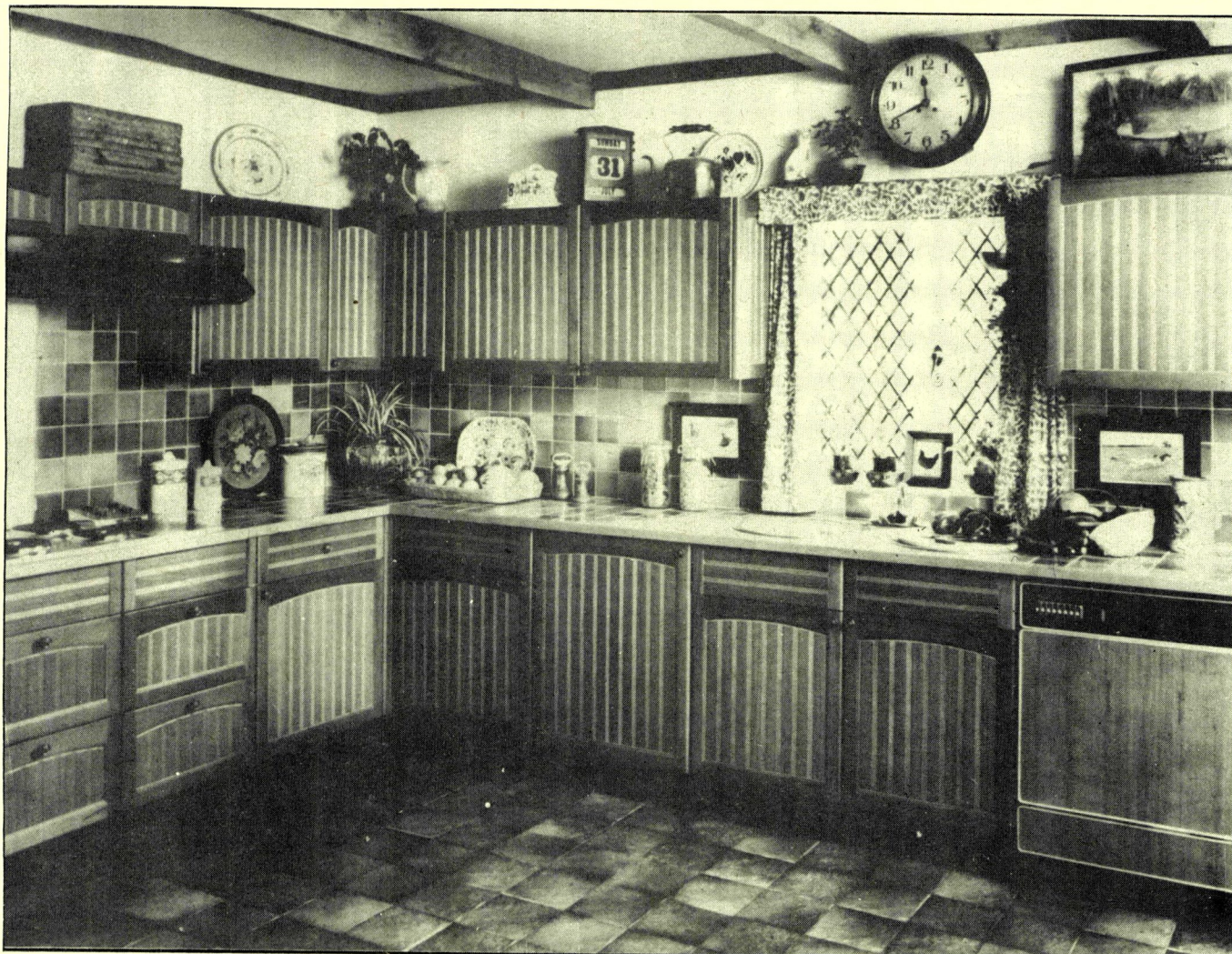
The nine-day conference is the first of its kind in Oman and has been welcomed by many as an encouraging sign of things to come.

It is hoped that working parties will be set up to study the problems Omani women face in day-to-day living, with emphasis, too, on how wives and mothers in the rural areas cope.

The conference will be chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Mr. Khalfan bin Nasser Al-

Waheibi, and government and United Nations delegates will attend as well as leading members of Omani women's organisations.

The public-men and women, that is—are invited to go and listen. It starts at 9 a.m. at the Social Service Training Centre in Ruwi and will of course be in Arabic.



The kitchen is the heart of your home. And since you spend so much time there, you might as well keep it looking good. The housewife's "workshop" should be nice and bright, but thoughtfully organised and tastefully designed.

Traditionalists might go for Agas, russet tiles and dressers stacked with pretty porcelain.

Mods will go for the clean-cut 20th century look with their split-level cookers, deep freezers and dishwashers.

Well, Hygena, the kitchen people, have unashamedly set out to woo the lot of us with their new top-end-of-the-market 2000 luxury kitchen range, now available here in Oman.

Natural oak and subtle work-tops. And behind those sculpt-

ed doors is kitchen technology de luxe.

The different units have been designed to make the most of every inch of space. There are little perks, too, like a fold-away ironing board, a spice rack and a wine rack to store bottles at the right angle.

It all makes for a neat kitchen that earns its living—for a neat price of course.



### Standing order

Sitting in the same place all day means pins and needles in your posterior, backache and boredom at your desk.

Moving about is far better for you. So work physiologists have developed the Standing Stool which they say will mean better posture.

All designed to make you dynamic, creative and healthy. So content, in fact, you almost forget you're working.

### Last Chance For Ticket

There are still some tickets left for tomorrow's piano recital by the popular Richard Deering at The British Council in Muttrah.

Tickets, price R.O. 2.500, are available from there or The Family Bookshop.

### Paperback Exchanges

Try swapping those books you've read and re-read a dozen times for something new at the Paperback Exchange now in full swing at the British Council Library in Muttrah.

There are lots of swaps on the shelves. Just take some of your own in exchange if they're in good condition.

## Margaret and I-by the man she didn't marry

The man the world thought would marry Britain's Princess Margaret has broken his 20 year wall of silence over their romance.

Group Captain Peter Townsend has chosen to go back over the poignant events which led to their break-up in his autobiography "Time and Chance", now in the bookshops.

The Group Captain was an equerry to her father King George VI when he fell in love with the Princess, whom he describes as "a girl of unusual, intense beauty".

They declared their love one afternoon at Windsor Castle when "everyone had gone to London for some ceremony". He told her how he felt about her and she replied simply: "That is exactly how I feel, too."

The romance developed at a gentle pace. "Our love took no heed of wealth and rank," he writes. "All we saw was one another, man and woman, and what we saw pleased us."

He recalls the Queen's "moving, simple and sympathetic acceptance of the disturbing fact of her sister's love for me". The

Queen Mother, he says, listened with "characteristic understanding".

But the "Establishment" was not pleased. Peter Townsend had married in 1941 and there were two sons.

He was despatched to Brussels as an air attache—a year's separation was the immediate solution.

After his "exile", as Princess Margaret celebrated her 25th birthday, everyone expected a marriage to be announced.

Instead came a moving statement which began: "I would like it to be known that I have decid-

ed not to marry Group Captain Townsend. Mindful of the Church's teaching..."

He had written these words for her. And after he had handed her the piece of paper, she looked up at him, he remembers, and very quietly told him: "That's exactly how I feel."

Their love story had started with those words... "Now with the same sweet phrase," he says, "we wrote finis to it."

Group Captain Townsend, now 63, left Britain and later married a Belgian girl.



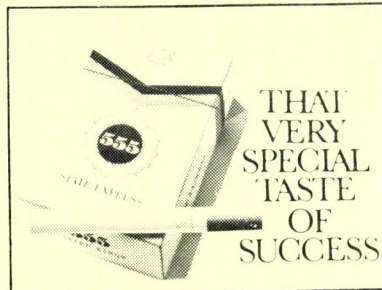
GET THE TASTE



STATE EXPRESS

# 555 STATE EXPRESS Motoring Feature

February 1978



## Car of the Year

The Car of the Year Award is always selected about January. Although the title may be a little misleading the prestige that comes with it is certainly a valuable addition to any manufacturers marketing aids.

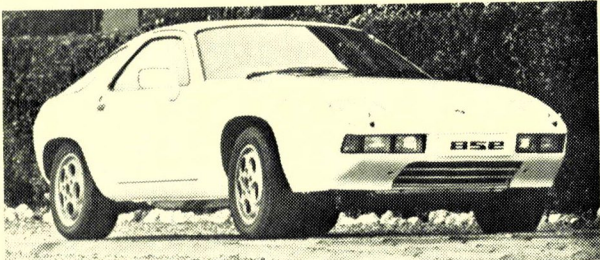
The Award is now firmly established and over the years much has been done within the motor industry to give the title more authority. The Award is organised by six highly respected European Journals and they take turns to organise the detailed running of the competition and the presentation ceremony.

The jury, made up of fifty members of the best known and respected European motoring journalists, select the car for general design, comfort, safety, handling and general road worthiness. Performance, practicality,

car for the competition except by marketing it in the normal way.

The 1977 selection was the BMW 7 series, Datsun 160/180 B, the new Ford Granada, the Honda Accord, Matra-Simca's Rancho, the Mazda 323 Hatchback, the Mitsubishi (Colt) Sigma, the Opel Rekord, the Porsche 928, the Skoda 105/120 L (Estelle) and the Toyota Cressida.

Surprisingly, or perhaps not so for it is certainly the most mouth watering of all the cars on the list, the Porsche 928 won convincingly with 261 points from BMW's 7 series with 231 points. The Ford Granada and Matra-Simca Rancho came a close third and fourth, followed by Opel with their Rekord and the Honda Accord. From there it was a list of Japanese



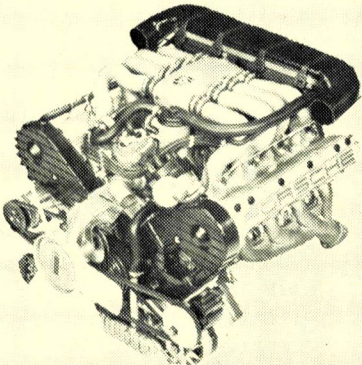
driver satisfaction and price are also major points, as is value for money. Each has twenty five points to spread between a minimum of five cars with no more than ten points given to any one entry. Voting is restricted to general production cars preferably those which have been available for motoring journalists to test and obviously come to their own conclusions.

In the late autumn a list of eligible cars is selected by a special committee and after this, voting takes place. Obviously, in some cases this provides several problems as new cars are announced late in the year, particularly at the London Motor Show. Whether they are listed for that year or held over is an important factor. Few of the huge range of US models ever reach Europe and as journalists seldom get the chance to try them the Award virtually excluded these cars.

manufacturers with Mazda, Mitsubishi, Toyota and Datsun finishing with Skoda's Estelle with zero points. This last placing for Skoda must be a great blow, for although the car may not be everybody's favourite the Czechs are superb engineers, and in terms of price the Estelle is extremely good value for money.

For Porsche selection as Car of the Year must be a gratifying surprise. Regular readers of the 555 supplement will have read about it when it was announced.

It marks a complete change of idea for the Porsche factory. Up to now their highly desirable range of sports/touring cars have been rear engined. The 928 is the first car designed by Porsche for their production with a front engine and conventional rear axle drive. The 924 originally being designed for Volkswagen. It also marks a



Japanese cars however are now reaching Europe in ever increasing numbers so they feature highly in the voting. Whilst the competition is run by journalists, strict rules exist to protect manufacturers from automatic exclusion and at the same time no manufacturer can "enter" a

departure from the well known air cooled aluminium flat engines which Porsche have previously built. Their new aluminium 4.5 litre V8 is a masterpiece of economic and intelligent design. The Porsche is a worthy winner, but for BMW it is a shame they had such tough competition.

## Motor Show Dubai 1978

For the first time in the Gulf from April 9-14 there is to be an International Motor Show. It will be held in the centre of Dubai at the Dubai Exhibition Centre where there will be some 8,500 sq. metres of exhibition space.

The Middle East has always been an interesting market for car manufacturers. Local agents have for a long time been selling the products of companies from England, Europe, United States and Japan but this is the first time that they have decided to exhibit on a large scale in the Gulf region.

Running at the same time as the Motor Show will be a Middle East transport exhibition showing the latest models from commercial vehicle manufacturers. These will include heavy trucks, buses, earth movers and cargo handling equipment.

Many of the large manufacturers have shown an interest in this exhibition and these include Rolls Royce, Chrysler, Pontiac, Datsun,

Saab, BMW Peugeot Mercedes, Volkswagen/Audi Panther cars whose fascinating six wheeler was featured in this supplement recently, and Aston Martin who will almost certainly show their ultra luxurious and technically sophisticated Lagonda.

The Middle East market today is a major one for large corporations. The motor manufacturers see the Gulf region of the Middle East as a growth area. Japanese manufacturers are already well established, but European cars are catching up slowly as more and more people visit Europe in the summer months and try the cars for themselves.

The market place or souk is very much a Middle Eastern way of life. In effect a motor show is rather like a souk. The 555 supplement will devote its next issue entirely to this important event and we hope that you will take this opportunity of seeing the world's cars under one roof.



## World Topics

### U.K.

Ford Motor Company in the U.K. who sponsor a comprehensive rallying programme in Europe are on the look-out for a top woman rally driver. They are to hold a special course in their Rally school especially for the ladies. Why? Well, European girls seem to be more enthusiastic than U.K. women and what's more one young lady Michele Mouton who drives a fearsome Porsche Carrera even wins events outright, beating top male European stars!

### GERMANY

West Germany was Europe's strongest motor manufacturer and produced 3.8 million vehicles last year - this was three per cent up on the 1971 all-time boom. Since then Daimler-Benz AG has experienced more than 40 per cent growth. Last year production of Mercedes Benz cars topped 400,000 for the first time.

### U.S.A.

Chrysler Corporation plan to offer Japanese-built four and six-cylinder diesel units on some of their light trucks in the US this year. The engines are being imported from Mitsubishi, in which Chrysler has a 15 per cent holding.

## Alfa Duo

Alfa Romeo is a name in the sports car world that holds a lot of respect. For years they have produced delightful motor cars and many a young man has desperately wanted to own a blood red car of this make.

Today's cars from Alfa are no longer the match for the

reaches 119 mph with remarkable economy. The interior is beautifully finished and of course the dashboard contains all the right instruments as standard.

Another of the Alfa range is the superb Alfasud Sprint Coupe. The Alfasud was first introduced as a small 4 seat



Ferraris and Maseratis of the world but then they have not placed themselves in this market.

The Alfa Romeo appeals to the middle range of car buyers and in this range they have an enviable selection of cars.

Two of the most successful cars in their range are the Alfetta GTV coupe and the Alfasud Sprint.

The GTV coupe is powered by a 2 litre engine, and

saloon with front wheel drive powered by a 1200 cc engine. More recently Alfa produced the Sud Sprint, a 2 door, hatchback version of the car with 1300 cc engine and 5 speed gearbox which is so pretty that we had to print it's picture.

If ever there was an ideal combination of his and hers sporting car then the Alfetta GTV and Alfasud Sprint would be hard to beat.



## Grand Prix 1978 Andretti Leads



The 1978 Grand Prix season got under way in mid-January in Argentina and Brazil.

At the end of 1977 most of the pundits felt that Mario Andretti in his Lotus should have won the World Championship. This was not to be. Andretti took the pole position on the grid in Argentina and was never headed during the race.

Niki Lauda the 1977 champion also showed that his new team Brabham together with his team mate John Watson will be a major force in this year's Championship. Watson was faster than the champion during the race although Lauda nursed his car to the finish to finish second. The Ferraris of Reutemann and Villeneuve running on Michelin tyres for the first time proved that they were fast but fragile. The Brazilian race was altogether a different affair. Reutemann won the race with ease having outpaced Ronny

Peterson's Lotus from the start line.

Whilst Andretti finished in the points to keep him at the head of the World Championship the surprise of the race was ex-champion Emerson Fittipaldi. May be he was trying extra hard in front of his local crowd, nevertheless Fittipaldi drove the new Copersucar into second place amazing most of the motor racing circus and if Fittipaldi's car and performance is anything to go by in future this brilliant driver could well be in the running.

The World Championship standings are Mario Andretti - Lotus 12 points, Niki Lauda - Brabham 10 points, Carlos Reutemann - Ferrari 9 points, Emerson Fittipaldi - Copersucar 6 points.

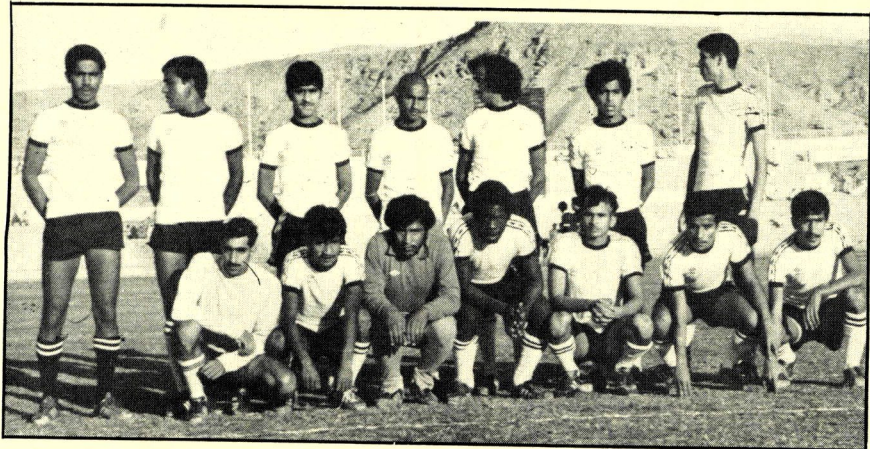
## Any Suggestions?

or for further information contact ECLAIR-KAZAN offices

Kuwait P.O. Box 5827/Safa Tel. 424890 414218 U.A.E. Al-Owais Bldg. A Wahda Str. P.O. Box 509 Tel 57860 - Sharjah.

Edited by  
BARRY BOARDMAN





Although beaten by Ruwi, the Samail side, seen here, were not disgraced, and certainly not by the two goal margin.

## World of Sport

# It is spinners not speedsters who most often bowl Boycott in test matches

Geoff Boycott, the new England captain following Mike Brearley's broken arm in Pakistan, has little to fear from the verbal bumpers which were hurled at him by his former colleague Tony Greig, writing in a Sydney newspaper. The articles have so incensed cricketing authorities in the United Kingdom that any respect Greig might have commanded previously has been dissipated, and his own county, Sussex, have relieved him of the captaincy. In any case his allegations make little sense when one remembers that Boycott made centuries against West Indians Hall and Griffiths when both were at their fearsome peak.

The accusations also rankle when recalling the staunch alliance between Greig and Boycott in the West Indies only four years ago. They engineered victory between them against all the odds in the final Test in Trinidad, and Boycott's contributions were 99 and 112.

Mr. Derek Lodge, the Cricket Society's statistician, has just

finished a survey on Boycott, undertaken when the Yorkshireman was out for the 100th time in Test cricket in Pakistan recently.

This shows that no fast bowler has taken Boycott's wicket more than six times in Test cricket and that figure was achieved by Dick Motz of New Zealand and Graham Mackenzie of Australia.

## AGE, MORE THAN SPINKS TOOK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FROM ALI

"Ali is the Greatest—But Spinks is the Latest" said the banner carried by supporters of Leo Spinks at the Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas, and added "So Ali's Gotta Give It Up". And that's really all it added up to—age, rather than Spinks, beat Mohamed Ali.

Apart from that it was a real upset, because few gave Spinks much of a chance. His rise to professional stardom from the Olympics had not yet provided him with much experience. But experience or no, he hung on during the early rounds and took the last three to win the world heavyweight title. It was a split decision, two judges for Spinks and one for Ali.

The 24-year-old Spinks, who won the Olympic light-heavyweight championship at Montreal in 1976 showed surprising stamina over the final five rounds and had Ali close to a knock-out in the last 20 seconds of the match. The big question about Spinks, who had only gone ten rounds twice, was his ability to go the 15-round championship.

(Continued on Page 20)

## POLICE CRICKETERS MAKE GOOD START IN SKANSKA TOURNAMENT

The Royal Oman Police, entering the Skanska Cricket Cup Tournament for the first time, registered a convincing win against Port Services Sports Club, on Friday.

The Police, taking first lease of the wicket, rattled up 159 for 7. Vijay contributing a hard hit 61 with 7 fours and 3 sixes, Rex Fernando 25 with 5 fours, Suhail 20 and Mazhar Qureshi 18.

Port Services replied with only 100 all out, against the accurate medium pace bowling of Mazhar Qureshi who took 6 for 46. Rex Fernando took 2 for 16 and Shariff 1 for 24. Qureshi

excelled for the Police with a fine all round performance.

The third Skanska Cup Cricket Tournament started on February 10. The Official opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Goren Ekereth, of Skanska, who faced the first ball, bowled by Mr. Ted Hissey.

On the P.D.O. ground on Friday **TELLICHERY XI** met Petro-

(Continued on Page 20)



This is the winning team at Wattayah—the Ruwi side pictured before last Thursday's game with Samail.

The best feat was that of Gary Sobers who got him out seven times, two of them when bowling slow spinners.

If anything, the survey reveals that Boycott is most vulnerable to leg spin. He has been out 14 times to this type of attack which is surprising when considering how few there are.

And in Boycott's 100 dismissals his stumps were hit only 18 times.

### INDOOR ATHLETICS

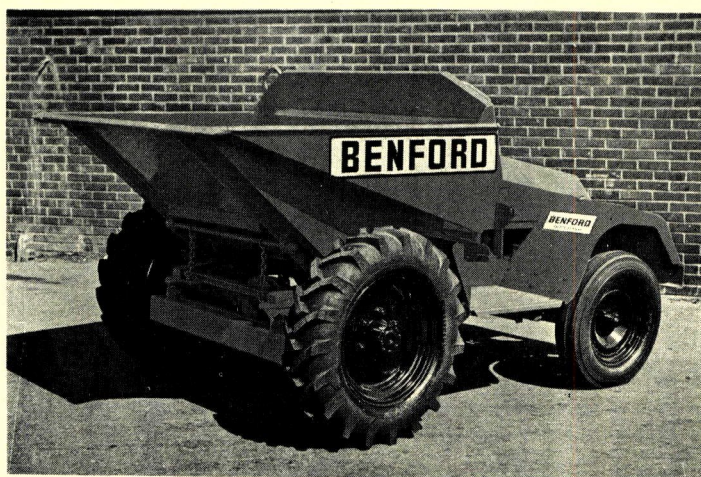
Britain's athletics prospects were given a boost by performances in the National Indoor Championships at Cosford. Four record-breakers were Brian Hooper in the pole vault, Denis Coates in the steeplechase, Judith Oakes

in the shot and Keith Connor in the triple jump.

Hooper and Coates are both aged 24 and still improving. Miss Oakes and Connor are 19 and 20 respectively.

The last-named pair deserve special praise for they set marks which have never been bettered, indoors or outdoors. Miss Oakes putt the shot 16.41 metres compared with Mary Peter's outdoor record of 16.31, which was set almost 12 years ago. It is all the more surprising as Miss Oakes is some six or seven inches shorter than the average international female shot putter.

Connor's mark of 16.54 metres was an improvement of three-quarters of an inch on Aston Moore's outdoor British record.

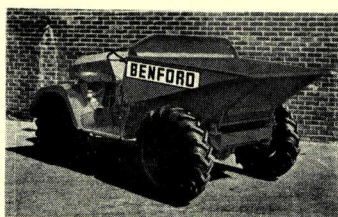


Two-wheel drive

## BENFORD '1750'

35 cwt. Diesel Dumper, TWO or FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE

With forward gravity tipping skip and choice of air-cooled diesel engine



Four-wheel drive

### TWO-WHEEL DRIVE and disc brakes

- with Pether PH2, 16½ h.p. twin-cylinder engine at 1800 r.p.m. ... **OGP**
- with Lister ST2, 17.8 h.p. twin-cylinder engine at 2000 r.p.m. ... **OGLX**

### FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE and disc brakes

- with Pether PH2, 16½ h.p. twin-cylinder engine at 1800 r.p.m. ... **OMP**

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## Al Haythem Trading & Contracting Co

Ruwi, Tel: 702349

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Suppliers of Construction Machinery  
(Sales & Services)



# CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SPINKS

(Continued from Page 19)

He kept up constant pressure on Ali in almost every round, yet he was still comparatively fresh at the end. Ali used his pattern of recent title defences by alternately dancing and fighting flatfooted as the bout unfolded.

There were signs that Ali's age was showing when he barely scraped through with points decision against Ken Norton in September 1976 and Ernie Shavers in September 1977. In between those two matches, he was unimpressive in outpointing Spain's Alfredo Evance over 11-rounds in May, 1977.

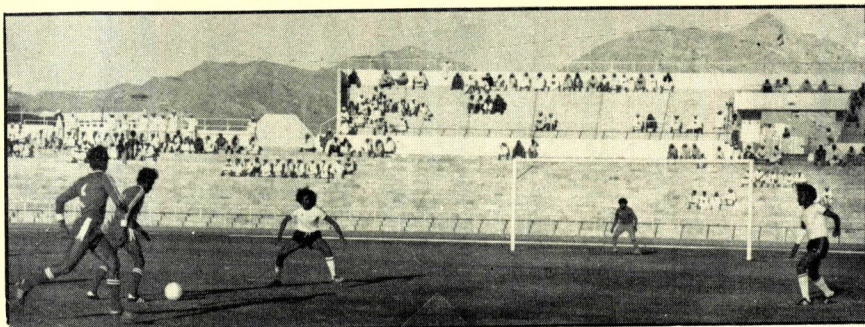
Trainer Sam Relomon had done a masterful job in conditioning Spinks for his big chance. Though outweighed by 224½ pounds to 197½ pounds, Spinks did not have Ali's weight advantage. Every time, Ali came out

of his shell with a flurry of punches, Spinks took them well and usually roared back with a rally. Ali often laid back against the ropes, in a sort of semi-rope-a-dope manoeuvre, initiating Spinks to extend his energy to get through Ali's guard.

After losing the 13th, Ali came out dancing for the 14th. But Spinks was relentless in his attack and would not give the champion any room to set-up for punches as he kept on the pressure.

Both men were staggered repeatedly in the last 30 seconds. The final four punches were all Spinks, three left-hooks to the head and a crashing right to the chin that almost had Ali on the canvas as the bell rang ending the match.

With this the undefeated Spinks has won eight professional fights.



Ruwi won by two goals to nil when they clashed with Samail at the Wattayah stadium last weekend. The game was a lively one, full of incidents.

## SKANSKA CRICKET TOURNAMENT

(Continued from Page 19)

lium Development (Oman) in the Skanska Tournament. Tellicherry won by 64 runs.

For Tellicherry, Illiccal Razak and C. P. Aboo, and Sand Aroun played well and made 20, 44, and 36 runs respectively.

Veteran Macky (Indian Ranji Trophy player) and P. K. Rashid

were mainly responsible for the rout of P.D.O. Macky bagged 5 wkts for 20 runs and Rashid 3 for 30.

P.D.O. were all out for 62 runs. and I. A. Kureshi played well to make 16 runs.

The following is the result of the first six matches played:

**Mutrah Cricket Club** (Won) 130 for 5 in 25 overs—Usman (Capt) 36 not out, Veer 33, Jaleel 2 for 57. **Gulf Contractors XI** 111 for 7 in 25 overs—Khader Hussaini 45, and Veer 4 for 45.

**WIMPEY XI** 80 for 8 in 25 overs—Satish 18, Macky 4 for 33, and Rashid 3 for 36. **TELLICHERRY XI** (won) 85 for 2—Razaq 33, Basheer 30.

**Seeb Cricket Club** (Won) 182 for 5 in 25 overs—P. Fonseca 62, Satish 47, Hamid 52. **B.O.D. (SOAF) XI** 66 all out—P. Thompson 16, Rafiq 15, Bamdin 3 for 4 and Pitly 3 for 29.

**Habib Bank XI** (Green) 433 all out. No one could score double figures against the accurate bowling of Jagdish (5 for 14), Dickerson (2 for 17) and Rao (2 for no score). **O.I.S. CRICKET CLUB** (Won) 44 for no loss—Kingsley 20 (not out) with 2 Sixes and 2 fours, and N. Nair 19 (not out) with 4 boundaries.

### QURUM CRICKET GROUND

**MUNICIPALITY XI** (Won) 102 all out—Vijay 39, A. Dawood 17; Jerry 5 for 56, Leo 3 for 14. **QURUM CONTRACTORS XI** 82 for all out—Raja 34; Basheer 5 for 35.

**HABIB BANK XI** (White) Won 121 all out—Naqi 31, Ishaq 24, Aftab 22. **TAJ CRICKET CLUB** 58 all out—Vijay 16, Naqi 5 for 29, Rashid 4 for 16.

## Kuwait to get U.K. know-how for bus management

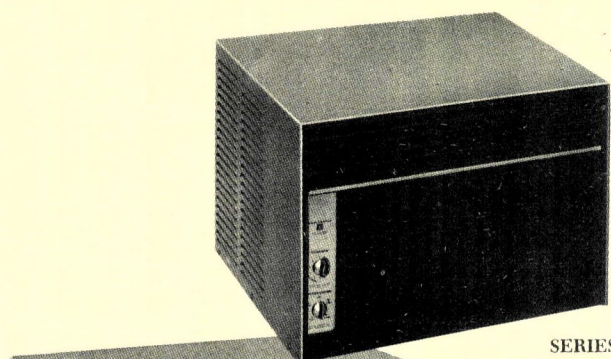
Kuwait City, where the number of buses is expected to double to 2,000 over the next five years, has sought know how from Britain for running and maintaining its bus network.

Under a £750,000 contract, London Transport is to advise the Kuwait Transport Company over the next 13 months on all aspects of managing its fleet.

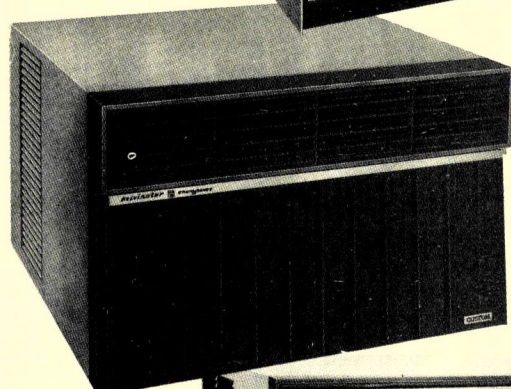
Experts from the consultancy company will not only provide know-how on ways of making maximum use of buses but also advise the Kuwaitis on training and other essential support services.

## KELVINATOR Room Air Conditioners

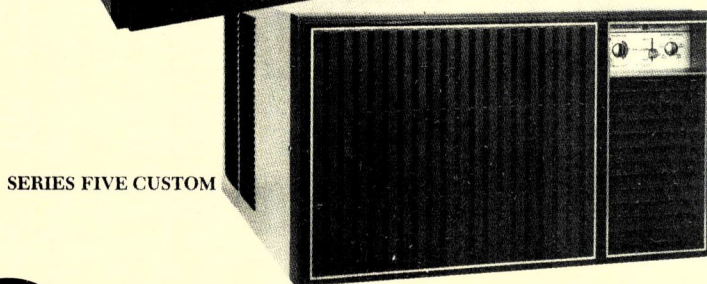
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## Saudi official leaves after one-day tour

The Saudi Arabian under-secretary of Foreign Ministry, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Kayan left Muscat on Sunday at the end of a one-day visit.

During his stay, he delivered a letter from HM King Khalid addressed to HM Sultan Qaboos. The letter dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East and Omani-Saudi co-ordination in various fields.

The Saudi under-secretary visited Oman in the framework of a tour which took him to several Arab countries to enlighten their leaders on Jeddah's efforts to reunify the Arab world.

The Under-Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Yusif al Alawi, was at the airport to see the Shaikh off.

## Ties to be resumed

The central African country of Chad has agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Libya, which were suspended earlier when Chad accused Libya of aiding rebels in northern Chad, a charge which the Libyans have denied. The decision was announced after talks in Tripoli between Libya, Chad and Sudan and according to the Libyans, a meeting between Col. Gaddafi and the President of Chad is to be held in Libya.

## EXCHANGE RATES

The most recent exchange rates issued by the British Bank of the Middle East, include:

	Buying	Selling
U.S. Dollars	0.342	0.348
Sterling Pounds	0.669	0.679
Bahrain Dinars	0.883	0.898
U.A.E. Dirhams	0.0883	0.0898
Qatar Rials	0.0883	0.0898
Kuwait Dinars	1.223	1.250
Jordanian Dinars	1.090	1.120
Saudi Rials	0.0984	0.103
Pakistan Rupees	0.0340	0.0357
Indian Rupees—Draft etc.	—	0.0431
Dutch Guilders	0.1538	0.1578
Deutsche Marks	0.1645	0.1685
Swiss Francs	0.1795	0.1835
French Francs	0.0702	0.0727

## Solar conference to be held in Bahrain

Solar energy applications in the Middle East will be the theme of a four-day conference to be held in Bahrain in April.

"Soltech 78", sponsored by the Bahrain Ministry of Development is receiving the support of various Middle East oil ministries, research institutes, universities, and oil companies including Petroleum Development (Oman) Ltd.

The conference will discuss all major aspects of solar technology in relation to their future employment in the countries of the Middle East.

The conference assumes added importance in view of the fact that regional oil resources are expected to run out in some

60—100 years, if they continue to be exploited at the present rate.

## SHIPPING NEWS

### Forward Arrivals:

City of Muscat	General	23.2
Concordia Viking	General	23.2
Bacat I	Barges	24.2
Arya Kay	General	25.2
Nedlloyd Leuve	General	25.2
Nipponham Maru	Reefer	25.2
Atlantic Forest	Lash	25.2
Strathalvie	General	25.2
Nedlloyd Eems	General	25.2
Kostos	Cement	25.2
Mercandian		
Skipper	General	25.2
Blue Polaris	Vehicles	26.2
United Concorde	Rice	27.2
Mercury Bay	General	27.2
Jalakendra	General	27.2
Rheinfels	Containers	28.2
Royal Sapphire	General	28.2
Al Mansouriah	General	28.2
Hans Kruger	Containers	1.3
Concordia Star	General	1.3
Nedlloyd Elbe	General	1.3
Hazel Bank	General	1.3

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## IRA BOMB ATTACK KILLS 12 IN BELFAST SUBURB

Security forces in northern Ireland have arrested at least 20 people after one of the worst terrorist incidents, a bomb attack which killed 12 people, there for years. Those arrested are said to include suspected senior members of the IRA.

At least 12 people died when the bomb exploded and set fire to restaurant near Belfast. Most victims were burnt beyond recognition. Police believe five more could be there in the wreckage.

The authorities said that the IRA admitted the attack and claimed that the deaths were caused because the bomb went off too soon.

The police had received two anonymous telephone warnings earlier but these had come too

### Zubair off to Egypt for trade talks

Oman's Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohamed Zubair flew to Egypt on Tuesday for talks with his Egyptian counterpart, aimed at exchanging views and strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The delegation, due to return tomorrow, included the Director of the Minister's Office, Mr. Mohamed Rahman Faqeer, Director General of Commerce Mr. Abdullah Al Suhilay, and Mr. Mohamed Jamaly and Mr. Ahmed Said Al Marhoon of the Oman Chamber of Commerce.

late. Within minutes of the explosion, the restaurant was in flames. People were seen running from the building with their clothes on fire.

The prime minister of the Irish Republic, Mr. Lynch said it was hard to believe that human beings could be responsible for such carnage. The police have assembled the biggest ever detective team to investigate the incident.

### Reddy call to remove distortion in Statute

The President of India, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, has appealed to both houses of Parliament to support legislation to remove what he called distortion in the Indian Constitution introduced during Mrs. Gandhi's emergency rule.

He told the new session of Parliament that there was a need to safeguard against any future attempt to use the Constitution to subvert the basic principles of democracy.

Mr. Reddy said the bill would provide for a declaration of business interests by all members of Parliament, would also be introduced.

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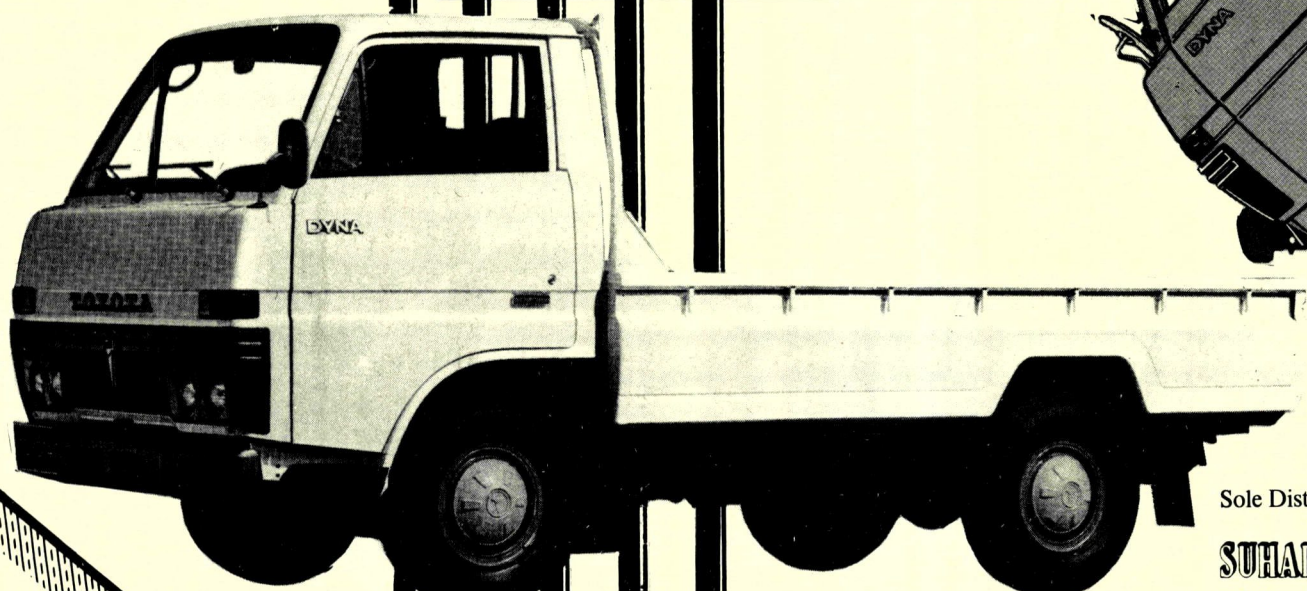
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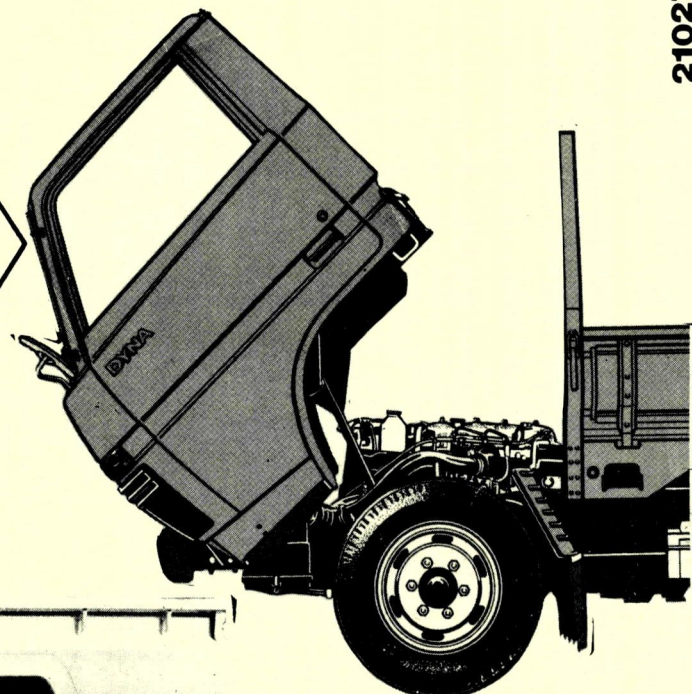
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